



TOWN OF BERNARDSTON

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING April 27, 2016

Moderator: Geoffrey Wilson
Check in Poll Workers: Louella Atherton
Janet Page
Wrist Band/Ballot Clerks: Salvatore Arnone
Judy Kromholz
Constable: Peter Shedd
Warden: Joanne Balzarini
Floor Vote Counters: Frank Kromholz
Linda Raymond

Town Officials Present:

Selectboard: Robert Raymond, Chair; Stan Garland, Andrew Girard.

Finance Committee: Jane Dutcher, Chair; Brian Hervieux, David Lorenz, Stephan Nestanpower, Michael Sharry.

Town Accountant: Joyce Muka. Town Coordinator: Hugh Campbell

Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol Town Clerk: Paul Luther

The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at: 7:05pm

100 voters checked in at 7:05pm.

105 voters checked in by close of meeting.

1487 registered voters.

- *The Town Clerk reminded those present about the reason for the wristbands and secret ballots distributed when people checked in.*
- *The Town clerk opened nominations for Meeting Moderator for the 2016 Annual Town meeting and a motion to nominate Geoffrey Wilson was made and seconded. No other nominations being made the **Town Clerk declared Geoffrey Wilson elected by a unanimous voice vote with no objections.***

Moderator read opening & notice of warrant confirming the proper posting of the warrant.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- The Moderator recognized Robert Raymond, Chair of the Selectboard, who welcomed those present and asked for a moment of silence in respect and memory of town residents D. William Pratt, Cliff Grover & Caryl Dyer who died since the last town meeting. He then introduced Town Officials and spoke about the budget process for this year and the effort invested by Department Heads, The Finance Committee & Selectboard in balancing the need to fund all town services fully and keep tax increases as low as possible.
- The Moderator recognized Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee Chair who spoke of the challenges involved in completing this year's budget and discussed important issues related to a number of articles. A detailed account of her remarks can be found in an addendum on file in the permanent records in the Office of the Town Clerk and on the Bernardston Webpage.

The Moderator Began reading the Warrant at 7:15pm

Article 1: *The Town voted* to act upon the reports of the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Selectmen, School Committees, all other Town Officers and Committees as contained in the Annual Town Report for 2015, and to hear an oral report from the Board of Selectmen on the status of the Charity Lot Trust Fund.

*The article was moved and seconded, the Charity Lot report was given by Robert Raymond indicating that the account had a balance of \$ 86,116.51 on January 1, 2015, earned \$ 50.02 in interest and expended \$ 93.59 leaving a balance of \$ 86,072.94 on December 31, 2015. He also indicated that work continues with the assistance of volunteers and John Lepore to make the lot safe and accessible to the whole town. After those present were given time to speak to the article **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

Article 2: *The Town voted* to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept state or federal monies and to expend any monies received as set forth in the appropriate application and/or document.

*The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

Article 3: *The Town voted* to authorize the Selectmen to accept and expend without further appropriation any monies, which may be made available from the Commonwealth through Massachusetts Department of Transportation for improvements to Town roads.

*The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

Article 4: *The Town voted* to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for the period of less than one year in accordance with provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17. *(This article required a 2/3 majority for approval.)*

*The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 2/3 majority requirement.***

Article 5: *The Town voted*, under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 41, §108, or any amendments thereto, to fix the salaries of all elected officials for Fiscal Year 2017, and raise and appropriate any sum or sums therefore, and further

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| transfer from FY16 Reserve Fund | \$10,000.00 |
| and raise and appropriate | \$622,385.14 |
| for a total of | \$632,385.14 |

for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table I).

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved as printed in the warrant by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Table I.

| Dept./Committee | * | FY2017 | FY2017 | FY 2016 |
|---|------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|
| * column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund L = Loan | T R N L | Recommended by Finance Committee | Requested | Appropriated |
| Moderator - Stipend | | | | |
| Annual Meeting | | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Special Town Meeting (3 @ \$60) | | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Total Moderator | | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| Selectmen | | | | |
| Selectmen's Stipends | | | | |
| Chairman | | 2,050.00 | 2,050.00 | 2,050.00 |
| 2 nd Member | | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 3 rd Member | | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Town Coordinator Salary | | 49,720.80 | 48,986.01 | 48,986.01 |
| Selectman's Expenses | | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Town Reports, Printing of | | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Newsletter Stipend | | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Newsletter Expense | | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| <i>Sub-Total Newsletter</i> | | <i>2,000.00</i> | <i>2,000.00</i> | <i>2,000.00</i> |
| Town Counsel | | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 7,000.00 |
| Town Hall Payroll | | 5,574.18 | 5,491.80 | 5,491.80 |
| Town Hall Operating & Other Expenses | | 27,150.00 | 27,150.00 | 27,150.00 |
| <i>Sub-Total Town Hall Expense</i> | | <i>32,724.18</i> | <i>32,641.80</i> | <i>32,641.80</i> |
| Total Selectmen's Department | | 99,994.98 | 99,177.81 | 101,177.81 |
| Assessor's Office | | | | |
| Assessors' Stipends | | | | |
| Chairman | | 1,050.00 | 1,050.00 | 1,050.00 |
| 2nd Member | | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 3rd Member | | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Assessors' Assistant Payroll | | 32,487.66 | 32,007.55 | 32,007.55 |
| Assessors' Expenses | | 8,825.00 | 8,825.00 | 7,150.00 |
| Total Assessor's Office | | 44,362.66 | 43,882.55 | 42,207.55 |
| Treasurer's Office | | | | |
| Treasurer Salary | | 21,161.23 | 20,848.50 | 20,848.50 |
| Treasurer Expense | | 5,275.00 | 5,275.00 | 6,995.00 |
| Town Officers' Bonds | | 577.00 | 576.00 | 576.00 |
| Tax Title Expense | | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Total Treasurer's Office | | 33,013.23 | 32,699.50 | 34,419.50 |

| Dept./Committee | * | FY2017 | FY2017 | FY 2016 |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| * column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund L = Loan | T R N L | Recommended by Finance Committee | Requested | Appropriated |
| Debt Service | | | | |
| Treasurer Borrowing | | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Fire Truck Debt Service (#10 of 10) | | 35,421.98 | 35,421.98 | 36,843.96 |
| Highway Truck & BES School Roof Debt Service (#4 of 4) | | 84,077.62 | 84,077.62 | 85,847.24 |
| Safety Complex Debt Service (#10 of 10) | | 28,650.13 | 28,650.13 | 29,806.56 |
| PVRS Principal & Interest (#4 of 4) | | 0.00 | | 170,698.81 |
| BES Gym Roof Debt Service (2nd installment). See Article 24 | | 0.00 | | |
| PVRS Tech. Loan (#2 of 4) | | 31,600.00 | 31,600.00 | 28,989.08 |
| Total Debt Service | | 179,849.73 | 179,849.73 | 352,285.65 |
| | | | | |
| Tax Collector's Office | | | | |
| Tax Collector Salary | | 18,092.85 | 17,825.47 | 17,825.47 |
| Tax Collector Expenses | | 7,000.00 | 7,000.00 | 7,000.00 |
| Total Tax Collector's Office | | 25,092.85 | 24,825.47 | 24,825.47 |
| | | | | |
| Town Clerk's Office | | | | |
| Town Clerk Salary | | 15,024.48 | 14,802.44 | 14,802.44 |
| Town Clerk Expenses | | 1,550.00 | 1,550.00 | 1,800.00 |
| Elections/Registration | | 7,695.00 | 7,695.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Registrars' Stipends | | | | |
| Clerk | | 120.00 | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| 1st Member | | 120.00 | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| 2nd Member | | 120.00 | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| 3rd Member | | 120.00 | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| Total Town Clerk's Office | | 24,749.48 | 24,527.44 | 23,082.44 |
| | | | | |
| Planning Board | | | | |
| Planning Board – Payroll | | 3,958.70 | 3,900.20 | 3,900.20 |
| Operating Expenses | | 860.00 | 860.00 | 860.00 |
| Total Planning Board | | 4,818.70 | 4,760.20 | 4,760.20 |
| | | | | |
| Board of Health | | | | |
| Board of Health Stipends | | | | |
| Chairman | | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| 2nd Member | | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 3rd Member | | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Board of Health Clerk | | 7,472.49 | 7,362.06 | 7,362.06 |
| Health Agent | | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| State Mandated Monitoring | | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| Board of Health Expenses | | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Total Board of Health | | 24,172.49 | 24,062.06 | 24,062.06 |
| | | | | |

| Dept./Committee | * | FY2017 | FY2017 | FY 2016 |
|---|------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| * column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund L = Loan | T R N L | Recommended by Finance Committee | Requested | Appropriated |
| Human Services | | | | |
| Powers Institute Payroll | | 7,003.24 | 6,899.75 | 6,899.75 |
| Powers Institute Operating Expenses | | 26,160.36 | 26,160.36 | 23,895.00 |
| Council on Aging Payroll | | 51,679.23 | 50,915.50 | 50,167.21 |
| Council on Aging Operating Expenses | | 2,250.00 | 2,250.00 | 1,890.00 |
| <i>Sub-Total Senior Center</i> | | 87,092.83 | 86,225.61 | 82,851.96 |
| Cultural Council | | 0.00 | | 100.00 |
| Veterans' Benefits | | 6,360.00 | 12,360.00 | 12,000.00 |
| Veterans' Services | | 3,017.01 | 3,017.01 | 4,167.00 |
| Veteran's Memorial Committee | | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| <i>Sub-Total Veterans Service</i> | | 10,377.01 | 16,377.01 | 17,1678.00 |
| Total Human Services | | 97,469.85 | 102,602.61 | 100,118.96 |
| | | | | |
| Cushman Library | | | | |
| Cushman Library Payroll | | 49,610.18 | 48,709.00 | 48,877.02 |
| Operating Expenses | | 15,946.00 | 15,946.00 | 15,353.00 |
| Transfer from Goodale Fund | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Oil Tank Project | | 0.00 | 6,000.00 | |
| Total Cushman Library | | 65,556.18 | 70,655.00 | 64,230.02 |
| | | | | |
| Other Boards & Committees | | | | |
| Agricultural Commission | | 925.00 | 925.00 | 1,100.00 |
| Appeals Board (Zoning) | | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Conservation Commission | | 1,250.00 | 1,250.00 | 1,250.00 |
| Historical Commission | | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Reserve Fund | | 20,000.00 | 20,000.00 | 20,000.00 |
| FY2016 Reserve Acct to FY2017 Reserve Acct | T | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| <i>Sub-Total Reserve Fund</i> | | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| Total Other Board and Committees | | 33,075.00 | 33,075.00 | 33,250.00 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL ARTICLE 5 | | 632,385.14 | 640,347.38 | 804,649.66 |

Article 6: *The Town voted to*

raise and appropriate: **\$3,034,834.00**

for Bernardston's share of the education expense in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table II) and as amended and reflected in changes in the same following table (Table II).

The Article was moved and seconded as read and printed in the warrant “to raise and appropriate \$2,997,783”, a motion was then made in writing by Debra Gilbert and seconded, “to increase the proposed Pioneer Valley Regional School District operating budget by \$37,051 for a total operating budget of \$2,778,344 [see appropriate line in table]. This is the budget amount that was voted by the Pioneer Valley Regional School Committee.” **The Moderator declared the amendment approved by a floor count of 47 in favor and 41 against. The Moderator then declared the article as amended approved by a secret ballot count of 52 in favor and 47 against.**

Table II is printed here in the minutes as voted by the Town.

Table II.

| Dept./Committee | * | FY2017 | FY2017 | FY 2016 |
|---|------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| * column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund L = Loan | T R N L | Recommended by Finance Committee | Requested | Appropriated |
| Education | | | | |
| School Committee Stipends | | | | |
| PVRS-1 st Representative | | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| PVRS-2 nd Representative | | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| PVRS-3 rd Representative | | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| FCTS Representative | | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| | | | | |
| Franklin Regional Technical School | | | | |
| Operating Budget | | 250,690.00 | 250,690.00 | 248,089.00 |
| Percent Increase over prior year | | 1.05% | 1.05% | 6.95% |
| | | | | |
| Pioneer Valley Regional School District | | | | |
| Operating Budget | | 2,741,293.00 | 2,778,344.00 | 2,699,476.00 |
| Percent Increase over prior year | | 1.55% | 2.92% | 4.51% |
| | | | | |
| High School Capital Projects | | | | |
| FY17 Entrance Road - Transfer from BES Roof project - see Special Article #10; FY16-Window Tint; FY14Faucet Hydrant | | 0.00 | 18,960.00 | 3,348.72 |
| FY16-2-way radio; FY14Replace well water pump | | 0.00 | | 229.60 |
| FY16-A/C tech room 276; FY14-AC backup for tech head end room; FY13-Phone & Bell System; FY11-Wells | | 0.00 | | 2,296.00 |
| FY16-Sidewalk Repair; FY13boiler | | 0.00 | | 1,399.41 |
| Sub-Total High School Capital Project | | 0.00 | 18,960.00 | 7,273.73 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

| Dept./Committee | * | FY2017 | FY2017 | FY 2016 |
|---|---|--|-------------------|------------------|
| * column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund = Loan | L | Recommended by Finance Committee | Requested | Appropriated |
| BES Capital Projects | | | | |
| Capital Improvements | | 5,000.00 | | |
| <i>FY17 Convection oven; FY16 Shades; FY14 carpet; FY12 boiler repair</i> | | <i>Already Purchased</i> | 3,250.00 | 9,594.00 |
| <i>FY17 Bleacher Renovations; FY16 2-way radios; FY13-roof; FY14 – Security/handicapped access door system</i> | | 0.00 | 5,500.00 | 2,400.00 |
| <i>FY17 Parking Lot – See Special Article # 20; FY16 Window Tint; FY13-Early Childhood Playground Equipment</i> | L | 0.00 | 100,000.00 | 300.00 |
| <i>Sub-Total BES Capital Projects</i> | | 5,000.00 | 108,750.00 | 12,294.00 |
| PVRS Central Office Capital Project(s) | | | | |
| <i>FY17 Remove & Pave Over Central Office Site; FY13 Deck & Stairs; FY12 Central Air</i> | | 0.00 | 41,238.00 | |
| <i>Sub-Total PVRS Central Office Capital Projects</i> | | 0.00 | 41,238.00 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Sub-Total PVRS | | 2,783,344.00 | 2,947,292.00 | 2,719,043.73 |
| Total Education | | 3,034,834.00 | 3,198,782.00 | 2,967,932.73 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL ARTICLE 6 | | 3,034,834.00 | 3,198,782.00 | 2,967,932.73 |

Article 7: The Town voted to

raise and appropriate: \$338,304.28

for Contracted Services, Pension and Insurance Expense in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table III).

The article was moved and seconded and after a few questions and comments about the increasing cost of employee health insurance, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Table III.

| Dept./Committee | * | FY2017 | FY2017 | FY 2016 |
|---|---|--|-----------|--------------|
| * column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund L = Loan | L | Recommended by Finance Committee | Requested | Appropriated |
| Contracted Services | | | | |
| FRCOG Statutory/Core Service | | 14,540.00 | 14,540.00 | 14,223.00 |
| FRCOG Fees for Service | | | | |
| FRCOG Accounting Program | | 23,105.00 | 23,105.00 | 22,917.00 |
| FRCOG Procurement | | 2,348.00 | 2,348.00 | 2,348.00 |
| FRCOG Regional Emergency Planning | | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 |

| Committee (REPC) | | | | |
|---|------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dept./Committee | * | FY2017 | FY2017 | FY 2016 |
| * column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund L = Loan | T R N L | Recommended by Finance Committee | Requested | Appropriated |
| FRCOG Building Inspection | | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 | 6,500.00 |
| FRCOG Emergency Communications | | 5,106.60 | 5,106.60 | 4,999.46 |
| <i>Sub-Total FRCOG</i> | | 52,749.60 | 52,749.60 | 51,137.46 |
| Franklin County Solid Waste District | | 7,099.00 | 7,099.00 | 6,802.00 |
| Street Lights | | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 | 4,000.00 |
| Cell phones (COA, Fire, Highway) | | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| Total Contracted Services | | 68,848.60 | 68,848.60 | 66,439.46 |
| | | | | |
| Pensions & Insurance | | | | |
| Franklin Regional Retirement System | | 84,756.00 | 84,756.00 | 81,061.00 |
| Social Security | | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Medicare | | 12,900.00 | 12,900.00 | 12,900.00 |
| Unemployment Insurance | | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Insurance: buildings, vehicles, equipment, liability town officers | | 60,511.58 | 60,511.58 | 57,863.93 |
| Employee health insurance | | 96,046.80 | 96,046.80 | 85,846.14 |
| Employee dental insurance | | 7,429.38 | 7,429.38 | 6,993.28 |
| Employee life insurance | | 702.36 | 702.36 | 787.56 |
| Share of Prior Employee Benefit (11.144%) | | 1,009.56 | 1,009.56 | |
| <i>Sub-Total Employee Insurance Benefits</i> | | 104,178.54 | 104,178.54 | 93,626.98 |
| Total Pensions & Insurance | | 269,455.68 | 269,455.68 | 251,551.91 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL ARTICLE 7 | | 338,304.28 | 338,304.28 | 317,991.37 |

Article 8: *The Town voted to*

transfer from the Landfill Receipts Account: \$66,250.00
transfer from Road Machinery Earnings Account: \$11,549.88
transfer from Transfer Station Recycling Account: \$1,600.00
and raise and appropriate: \$699,816.56
for a total: **\$779,216.44**

for Public Services in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table IV).

The article was moved and seconded and after a few questions and comments about fire department stipends and the landfill well replacement and repairs, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection)

Table IV.

| Dept./Committee | * | FY2017 | FY2017 | FY 2016 |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| * column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund L = Loan | T R N L | Recommended by Finance Committee | Requested | Appropriated |
| Public Services | | | | |
| Fire Department | | | | |
| Stipends | | 8,800.00 | 11,500.00 | 8,800.00 |
| Payroll | | 33,032.16 | 32,000.00 | 32,544.00 |
| Operating Expenses | | 46,565.00 | 46,565.00 | 44,415.00 |
| Pagers (see Article 14) | | 0.00 | 8,700.00 | |
| Total Fire Department | | 88,397.16 | 98,765.00 | 85,759.00 |
| Emergency Management | | | | |
| Stipend | | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Supplies | | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Total Emergency Management | | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Police Department | | | | |
| Payroll | | 200,133.60 | 198,346.41 | 197,175.96 |
| Operating Expenses | | 41,455.00 | 41,455.00 | 41,155.00 |
| Total Police Department | | 241,588.60 | 239,801.41 | 238,330.96 |
| Highway Department | | | | |
| Payroll | | 163,994.95 | 161,571.38 | 161,571.38 |
| Operating Expenses | | 142,785.00 | 142,785.00 | 141,285.00 |
| Total Highway Department | | 306,779.95 | 304,356.38 | 302,856.38 |
| Transfer Station | | | | |
| Payroll | | 26,086.32 | 25,700.40 | 25,700.81 |
| Operating Expenses (including Annual Recycling Roll- off replacement) | | 68,580.00 | 68,580.00 | 68,580.00 |
| Replace/repair Landfill Wells (transfer \$11,549.88 from Road & Machinery Earnings & raise and appropriate \$13,450.12) | T | 25,000.00 | 25,000.00 | |
| Landfill Testing (transfer from Landfill Receipts) | T | 6,250.00 | 6,250.00 | 5,565.00 |
| Total Transfer Station (FY17-Transfer \$66,250, \$11,549.88, \$1,600 and Raise & Appropriate \$46,516.44) | T | 125,916.32 | 125,530.40 | 99,845.81 |
| Other Public Works | | | | |
| Municipal Animal Inspector (including Barn Inspections & Animal Control) | | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Memorial Day | | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Tree Warden Payroll | | 3,284.41 | 3,235.87 | 3,235.87 |
| Tree Warden Operating Expenses | | 1,750.00 | 1,750.00 | 1,700.00 |
| <i>Sub-Total Tree Warden</i> | | <i>5,034.41</i> | <i>4,985.87</i> | <i>4,935.87</i> |
| Total Other Public Works | | 6,534.41 | 6,485.87 | 6,435.87 |
| TOTAL ARTICLE 8 | | 779,216.44 | 784,939.06 | 743,228.02 |

Article 9: *The Town voted to*

raise and appropriate \$70,000.00

for the Stabilization accounts in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table V) (*This article required a 2/3 majority for approval.*).

The article was moved and seconded and after a few questions and comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 2/3 majority requirement.

Table V.

| Dept./Committee | * | FY2017 | FY2017 | FY 2016 |
|---|------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| * column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund L = Loan | T R N L | Recommended by Finance Committee | Requested | Appropriated |
| Stabilization Accounts | | | | |
| Vehicle Stabilization Fund | | 40,000.00 | 40,000.00 | 40,000.00 |
| Bridge Repair Stabilization Fund | | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| Transfer to stabilization | | | | |
| Total Stabilization Accounts | | 70,000.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,000.00 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL ARTICLE 9 | | 70,000.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,000.00 |

Article 10: *The Town voted to transfer \$7,750.00* from the BES Roof Project Account for Bernardston’s share of repairing/reconstructing at the PVRS entrance driveway, and **transfer \$3,810.00** to the BES Capital Improvements Account for a **total of \$11,560.00**.

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 11: *The Town voted to Raise and Appropriate* the amount of **\$1,624.00** and **transfer** from the Barber Fund **\$6,200.00** for a total of **\$7,824.00** for the Recreation Commission Expense Account and **transfer** from the Kiwanis Expendable Interest Account the sum of **\$1,000** to be expended by the Recreation Commission for Recreation Programs and Field Maintenance.

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 12: *The Town voted to transfer \$6,800.00 from the Barber Fund to the Barber Recreation Fund to update the electric service at Pratt Recreational Field as requested by the Recreation Commission.*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 13: *The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200.00 to the Bernardston Cemetery Commission for maintenance at the Old Cemetery.*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 14: *The Town voted to transfer \$2,824.30 from the VFA Fire-Fighters Grant and \$5,875.70 from the Fire Department Off-Duty Drills Account for a total of \$8,700.00 to purchase papers for the Fire Department.*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 15: *The Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Renovate/Construct Town Buildings Account.*

The article was moved and seconded and after a few questions, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 16: *The Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$100.00 for the Flag Replacement Account.*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 17: *The Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$5,000.00, for the first of three installments, for a Town Audit.*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 18: *The Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$4,000.00, for the first of three installments, for the Board of Assessors FY19 revaluation.*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 19: *The Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow up to the amount of \$350,000.00 for replacement of the Turners Falls Road bridge inclusive of engineering design, environmental permitting and construction expenses. (This article required a 2/3 majority for approval.)*

The article was moved and seconded and after a few questions and comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a floor count vote of 88 in favor and 1 against and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 2/3 majority requirement.

Article 20: *The Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow up to the amount of \$100,000.00 for the paving of the Bernardston Elementary School entrance and delivery driveways, bus loop, and parking area. (This article required a 2/3 majority vote for approval.)*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 2/3 majority requirement.

Article 21: *The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$75.00 to pay Mr. James Bell, Bernardston School Committee member for FY15 compensation. (This article required a 4/5 voting majority.)*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 4/5 majority requirement.

Article 22: *The Town voted to transfer from the Vehicle Stabilization Account the sum of \$38,000.00 for the purchase of a new police cruiser. (This article required a 2/3 majority for approval.)*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 2/3 majority requirement.

Article 23: *The Town voted to transfer from the Vehicle Stabilization Account the sum of \$10,000.00 for the rehabilitation of Fire Engine #2. (This article required a 2/3 majority for approval.)*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 2/3 majority requirement.

Article 24: *The Town voted to transfer from the Stabilization Account the sum of \$45,000.00 for payment of the second of three installments for the BES Gymnasium Roof project. (This article required a 2/3 majority for approval.)*

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 2/3 majority requirement.

Article 25: *The Town voted to Pass Over* the request to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for a Fire Station/DPW feasibility study, and create a Fire Station/DPW Feasibility Committee appointed by the Board the Selectmen to report recommendations and findings to the Selectmen.

The Article was moved and seconded as read and printed in the warrant, after some questions and comments, the Fire Chief, Peter Shedd moved and it was seconded that the Article be PASSED OVER and the Moderator declared it passed over by a unanimous voice vote (without objection)

Article 26: *The Town voted to apply \$56,858.27* from the Overlay Surplus Account to reduce the FY17 tax rate.

The article was moved and seconded and after those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 27: *The Town voted to apply \$7,443.00* from Free Cash to reduce the FY17 tax rate.

The article was moved and seconded and after a few questions, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 28: *The Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file special legislation, and if said legislation is approved, to convey a parcel of land located off West Mountain Road, comprising approximately 2,457 square feet as shown on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land located in Bernardston, Massachusetts (West Mountain Road/Eden Trail) prepared for Peter F. Bagley and Elaine C. Bagley, dated April 28, 2015, prepared by Dale A. Merritt" to Peter and Elaine Bagley for consideration of \$1.00, contingent upon all expenses and fees required for said transfer of land to be borne by the Grantees. (This article required a 2/3 majority.)*

The article was moved and seconded and after a brief explanation, those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no additional questions or comments, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 2/3 majority requirement.

Article 29: *The Town voted to adopt a False Burglar Alarms bylaw with the following provisions:*

The Chief of Police shall cause an investigation to be made into all burglar alarms and keep a record of false alarms. For such false alarms, the following fees MAY be imposed:

- A. For the first and second false alarms in any given calendar year, a warning MAY be issued.*
- B. For the third and fourth false alarm in the same calendar year, a fee of \$50.00 MAY be paid to the Town of Bernardston.*
- C. For the fifth and subsequent false alarms in the same calendar year, a fee of \$100.00 for each occurrence MAY be paid to the Town of Bernardston.*

The Article was moved and seconded as read and printed in the warrant with the word "shall" where the word "MAY" appears above, a motion was then made and seconded to change the word "shall" to "MAY" as it now appears above. The Moderator declared the amendment approved on a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and the Moderator then declared the article as amended approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).

Article 30: *The Town voted to establish a revolving fund* in accordance with Chapter 44, section 53E½ for the Cushman Library for receipts from book sales and fundraising events with an expenditure limit of \$5,000.00. **The authority to spend is granted to the Cushman Library Trustees, the use of funds is for the Cushman Library to offset expenses.**

*The Article was moved and seconded as read and printed in the warrant ending with the words "limit of \$5,000.00." A motion was then made in writing by Jane Dutcher and seconded to add the words, "The authority to spend is granted to the Cushman Library Trustees, the use of funds is for the Cushman Library to offset expenses." as it now appears above. **The Moderator declared the amendment approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and the Moderator then declared the article as amended approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

Article 31: *The Town voted to establish a revolving fund* in accordance with Chapter 44, section 53E½ for the Agricultural Commission for receipts from fundraising events with an expenditure limit of \$5,000.00. **The authority to spend is granted to the Agricultural Commission, the use of funds is for the expenses of the Agricultural Commission.**

*The Article was moved and seconded as read and printed in the warrant ending with the words "limit of \$5,000.00." A motion was then made in writing by Jane Dutcher and seconded to add the words, "The authority to spend is granted to the Agricultural Commission, the use of funds is for the expenses of the Agricultural Commission" as it now appears above. **The Moderator declared the amendment approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and the Moderator then declared the article as amended approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

Article 32: *The Town voted to establish a revolving fund* in accordance with Chapter 44, section 53E½ for Town Newsletter advertising receipts with an expenditure limit of \$2,000.00. **The authority to spend is granted to the Board of Selectmen, the use of funds is for Newsletter expenses.**

*The Article was moved and seconded as read and printed in the warrant ending with the words "limit of \$2,000.00." A motion was then made in writing by Jane Dutcher and seconded to add the words, "The authority to spend is granted to the Board of Selectmen, the use of funds is for the Newsletter expenses," as it now appears above. **The Moderator declared the amendment approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and the Moderator then declared the article as amended approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

Article 33: *The Town voted to authorize the following revolving funds under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 53E½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016.*

*The Article was moved and seconded as printed in the warrant, a motion was then made in writing by Jane Dutcher and seconded to insert the words added to Articles 30, 31, and 32 into the table so it would conform to those changes. **The Moderator declared the amendment approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and the Moderator then declared the article as amended approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

Table below as amended.

| Fund | Revenue Source | Authority to Spend Fund | Use of Fund | Spending Limit | Disposition of FY17 |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Agricultural Commission | Fundraising event receipts | Agricultural Commission | Expenses of the Agricultural Commission | \$5,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Board of Health | Fees charged for inspections and permits | Board of Health | Pay for inspection fees and clerical staff | \$15,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Council on Aging Donations | Program Activity | Council on Aging | COA purposes | \$10,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Cushman Library | Receipts from book sales and fundraising events | Cushman Library Trustees | For Cushman Library to offset expenses | \$5,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Dog Licenses | <i>Fees & penalties relating to licensing</i> | Town Clerk | <i>Dog licensing including enforcement & related expenses</i> | \$3,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Fire Department | Fees charged for inspections | Fire Chief | Pay for inspection fees for personnel | \$2,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Newsletter | Advertising Receipts | Board of Selectmen | Newsletter expenses | \$2,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Planning Board | Fees charged for hearings and filings | Planning Board | Pay for costs associated with hearings | \$2,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Public Safety | Fees assessed and costs incurred in response to motor vehicle accidents | Fire Chief | Pay for public safety training | \$15,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Town Hall Restoration | Fees charged for Town Hall rentals | Board of Selectmen | Pay for Town Hall restoration | \$2,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Transfer Station Recycling | Revenue generated from recycled materials | Board of Selectmen | Pay for equipment upkeep at Transfer Station | \$37,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |
| Zoning Board of Appeals | Fees charged for hearings and filings | Zoning Board of Appeals | Pay for costs associated with hearings | \$1,000.00 | Balance available for expenditure |

Article 34: *The Town voted to amend the Zoning Bylaws by adding Section 3600 Solar Bylaw Allowing By-Right Siting of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations as described in the attachment provided herein titled Solar Bylaw Allowing By-Right Siting of large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations (Revised March 24, 2016), and to amend the Use Schedule, Section 2234 to reflect the size allowed by right of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations not larger than 5 acres in zoning districts R/A, R1, CV, B, I and EPD. And to insert into section 2234 another use for Large Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations larger than 5 acres requiring special permit and site plan review in the R/A, R1, CV, B, I and EPD districts. (This article required a 2/3 majority for approval.)*

*The Article was moved and seconded as read and printed in the warrant and as printed in the attachment Solar Bylaw Allowing By-Right Siting of large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations (Revised March 24, 2016) ending with the words “March 24, 2016).” A motion was then made in writing by Christina Wysk and seconded to add after the words “March 24, 2016),” the following paragraph, “and to amend the Use Schedule, Section 2234 to reflect the size allowed by right of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations not larger than 5 acres in zoning districts R/A, R1, CV, B, I and EPD. And to insert into section 2234 another use for Large Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations larger than 5 acres requiring special permit and site plan review in the R/A, R1, CV, B, I and EPD districts.” After a few questions and additional comments of clarification, **The Moderator declared the amendment approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and the Moderator then declared the article as amended approved by a floor count of 52 in favor and 2 against and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 2/3 majority requirement.***

Meeting Adjourned at 10:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul W. Luther, Bernardston Town Clerk