



## TOWN OF BERNARDSTON

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MAY 11, 2017

Moderator: Mark Fitzpatrick  
Check in Poll Workers: Kathleen Montiglio  
Janet Page  
Wrist Band/Ballot Clerks: Salvatore Arnone  
Judy Kromholz  
Kristina Costello  
Constable: Peter Shedd  
Warden: Joanne Balzarini  
Floor Vote Counters: Kathleen Montiglio  
Linda Raymond

#### Town Officials Present:

Selectboard: Stanley Garland, Chair; Robert Raymond, Brian Keir.  
Finance Committee: Jane Dutcher, Chair; Brian Hervieux, David Lorenz, Stephen Nestanpower,  
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: 7:10pm 87 voters checked in at 7:10pm.  
101 voters checked in by close of meeting.  
1548 registered voters.

- *The Town Clerk reminded those present about the reason for the wristbands and secret ballots distributed when people checked in and the need to use the appropriate form to make an amendment to any article under consideration.*
- *The Town clerk opened nominations for Meeting Moderator for the Annual Town Meeting and a motion to nominate Mark Fitzpatrick was made and seconded. No other nominations being made the Town Clerk declared by a unanimous voice vote Mark Fitzpatrick elected.*
- *The Moderator took the chair and then lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

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

**Article 1:** *The Town voted unanimously to accept 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 2016, and*

- a) heard an oral report from the Board of Selectmen on the status of the Charity Lot Trust Fund;
  - Stanley Garland reporting, see summary in appendices
- b) heard an oral report from the Chairman of the Master Plan Implementation Committee;
  - John Lepore reporting, see hand out in appendices.
- c) heard a presentation by Fire Chief Peter Shedd on behalf of the Fire Station Expansion Committee on the status of the findings from the Fire Station Expansion feasibility study;
  - Peter Shedd reporting, see handout in appendices.
- d) heard a report from Finance Committee Chair regarding the FY18 Town budget;
  - Jane Dutcher reporting, see summary and handout in appendices.
- e) heard a report from the Board of Selectmen.
  - Stanley Garland reporting, see summary in appendices.

**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, 2017, 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.*

*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) which satisfied the requirement that it be passed by a 2/3 majority vote.***

**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 2018, and raise and appropriate any sum or sums therefor, and further:*

<b>transfer from Free Cash:</b>	<b>\$135,500.00</b>
<b>transfer from Newsletter Revolving Fund:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>and raise and appropriate:</b>	
[Warrant amount of \$679,034.53 amended to account for 2 amendments from the floor to]	<b><u>\$ 680, 306.24</u></b>
<b>for a total of</b>	
[Warrant amount of \$815,034.53 amended to account for 2 amendments from the floor to]	<b>\$816,306.24</b>

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 labeled “FY 2018. Recommended by Finance Committee,” in Table I below.

*The article was moved and seconded as printed in the warrant. Brief questions and clarifications were made with regard to the Board of Health Clerk’s salary being now paid from the regular budget instead of from revolving funds and requirements to pay Veteran’s Benefits and alternative sources for wreaths for veteran gravesites. The article was then voted with the 2 amendments described below and with appropriate adjustments to article totals and **the Moderator declared it approved as amended by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

- 1. An amendment was moved and seconded to change the amount for line item “Town Officers Bonds” from \$576.00 to read \$652.00 with appropriate adjustments to article totals and after those present were given time to speak to the amendment to the article and hearing no questions or comments, **the Moderator declared the amendment approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

2. An amendment was moved and seconded to change the amount for line item “Cushman Library, Operating Expenses from \$16,938.05 to read \$18,133.76. with appropriate adjustments to article totals and after those present were given time to speak to the amendment to the article and hearing no questions or comments, **the Moderator declared the amendment approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).**

TABLE I.

Dept./Committee	*	FY2018	FY2018	FY2017
* column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash    T = Another account L = Loan            R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund	FTL RS	<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Moderator</b>				
Annual Meeting		<b>50.00</b>	50.00	50.00
Special Town Meeting (3@\$60)		<b>180.00</b>	180.00	180.00
<b>Total Moderator</b>		<b>230.00</b>	230.00	230.00
<b>Selectmen's Dept.</b>				
Selectman's Stipends				
Chairman		<b>2,050.00</b>	2,050.00	2,050.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Member		<b>2,000.00</b>	2,000.00	2,000.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Member		<b>2,000.00</b>	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town Coordinator Salary		<b>52,963.82</b>	49,720.80	49,720.80
Selectman's Expenses		<b>3,000.00</b>	3,000.00	3,000.00
Town Reports, Printing of		<b>1,500.00</b>	1,500.00	1,500.00
Newsletter Stipend	T	<b>500.00</b>	500.00	500.00
Newsletter Expense		<b>1,500.00</b>	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		<b>5,000.00</b>	5,000.00	5,000.00
Town Hall Payroll		<b>5,713.53</b>	5,574.18	5,574.18
IT Services		<b>3,200.00</b>	3,200.00	<i>zero</i>
Operating & Other Expenses		<b>27,150.00</b>	27,150.00	27,150.00
<i>Sub-Total Town Hall Expense</i>		<i>36,063.53</i>	<i>35,924.18</i>	<i>32,724.18</i>
<b>Total Selectmen's Dept.</b>		<b>106,577.35</b>	103,194.98	99,994.98
<b>Assessor's Office</b>				
Assessors' Stipends				
Chairman		<b>1,050.00</b>	1,050.00	1,050.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Member		<b>1,000.00</b>	1,000.00	1,000.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Member		<b>1,000.00</b>	1,000.00	1,000.00
Assessors' Assistant Payroll		<b>33,299.85</b>	32,487.66	32,487.66
Assessors' Expenses		<b>8,825.00</b>	8,825.00	8,825.00
<b>Total Assessor's Office</b>		<b>45,174.85</b>	44,362.66	44,362.66

Dept./Committee [Table I Continued]	*	FY2018	FY2018	FY2017
* column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account L = Loan R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund	FTL RS	<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Treasurer's Dept.</b>				
Treasurer Salary		<b>21,161.23</b>	21,161.23	21,161.23
Treasurer Expense		<b>5,625.00</b>	5,625.00	5,275.00
<b>Total Treasurer's Office</b>		<b>26,786.23</b>	26,786.23	26,436.23
Town Officers' Bonds [as amended]		<b>652.00</b>	576.00	577.00
Tax Title Expenses		<b>5,000.00</b>	5,000.00	6,000.00
<b>Total Treasurer's Dept.</b>		<b>32,362.23</b>	32,362.23	33,013.23
<b>Debt Service</b>				
Treasurer Borrowing		<b>100.00</b>	100.00	100.00
Turners Falls Bridge (Transfer \$80,000 from Free Cash & Raise & Appropriate \$60,504)		<b>140,504.00</b>	60,504.00	zero
BES Parking Lot (Transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash & Raise & Appropriate \$50,840)		<b>100,840.00</b>	50,840.00	zero
BES gym roof (3 of 3)		<b>56,278.80</b>	56,278.80	zero
Fire Truck		zero	zero	35,421.98
Highway Truck & School Roof		zero	zero	84,077.62
Safety Complex		zero	zero	28,650.13
PVRS Tech. Loan (#3 of 4)		<b>31,880.03</b>	31,880.03	31,600.00
<b>Total Debt Service</b>		<b>329,602.83</b>	199,602.83	179,849.73
<b>Tax Collector's Dept.</b>				
Tax Collector Salary		<b>18,545.17</b>	18,092.85	18,092.85
Tax Collector Expenses		<b>7,000.00</b>	7,000.00	7,000.00
<b>Total Tax Collector's Dept.</b>		<b>25,545.17</b>	25,092.85	25,092.85
<b>Town Clerk's Dept.</b>				
Town Clerk Salary		<b>15,400.09</b>	15,024.48	15,024.48
Asst. Town Clerk		<b>1,100.00</b>	1,100.00	
Town Clerk Expenses		<b>2,100.00</b>	2,100.00	1,550.00
Elections/Registration		<b>3,720.00</b>	3,720.00	7,695.00
Registrars' Stipends		<b>480.00</b>	480.00	480.00
ICP Tabulator Bundle (Voting)	F	<b>5,500.00</b>	5,500.00	zero
<b>Total Town Clerk's Office</b>		<b>28,300.09</b>	27,924.48	24,749.48
<b>Planning Board</b>				
Planning Board – Payroll		<b>4,057.67</b>	3,958.70	3,958.70
Operating & Other Expenses		<b>860.00</b>	860.00	860.00
<b>Total Planning Board</b>		<b>4,917.67</b>	4,818.70	4,818.70

<b>Dept./Committee</b> [Table I Continued]	*	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2017</b>
* column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash    T = Another account L = Loan            R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund	FTL RS	<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Board of Health</b>				
Board of Health Stipends				
Chairman		<b>1,200.00</b>	1,200.00	1,200.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Member		<b>1,000.00</b>	1,000.00	1,000.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Member		<b>1,000.00</b>	1,000.00	1,000.00
Board of Health Clerk		<b>13,364.98</b>	13,039.00	7,472.49
Health Agent		<b>5,000.00</b>	5,000.00	5,000.00
State Mandated Monitoring				3,500.00
Board of Health Expenses		<b>5,000.00</b>	5,000.00	5,000.00
<b>Total Board of Health</b>		<b>26,564.98</b>	26,239.00	24,172.49
<b>Human Services</b>				
Powers Institute Payroll		<b>7,848.43</b>	7,657.00	7,003.25
Powers Institute Operating Expenses		<b>28,090.00</b>	28,090.00	26,160.36
Council on Aging Payroll		<b>52,513.29</b>	51,232.48	51,679.23
Council on Aging Operating Expenses		<b>2,790.00</b>	2,790.00	2,250.00
<i>Sub-Total Senior Center</i>		<i>91,241.72</i>	<i>89,769.48</i>	<i>87,092.84</i>
Veterans' Benefits		<b>20,000.00</b>	4,750.00	6,360.00
Veterans' Services		<b>3,630.64</b>	3,630.64	3,017.01
Veteran's Memorial Com.		<b>1,000.00</b>	1,000.00	1,000.00
<i>Sub-Total Veterans Service</i>		<i>24,630.64</i>	<i>9,380.64</i>	<i>10,377.01</i>
<b>Total Human Services</b>		<b>115,872.36</b>	99,150.12	97,469.85
<b>Cushman Library</b>				
Cushman Library Payroll		<b>49,023.95</b>	47,828.24	49,610.18
Operating Expenses [as amended]		<b>18,133.76</b>	18,133.76	15,946.00
<b>Total Cushman Library [as amended]</b>		<b>67,157.71</b>	65,962.00	65,556.18
<b>Other Boards &amp; Committees</b>				
Agricultural Commission		<b>775.00</b>	775.00	925.00
Appeals Board (Zoning)		<b>500.00</b>	500.00	500.00
Conservation Commission		<b>1,250.00</b>	1,250.00	1,250.00
Historical Commission		<b>400.00</b>	400.00	400.00
Master Plan Implementation Committee		<b>1,000.00</b>	1,000.00	<i>zero</i>
Reserve Fund		<b>30,000.00</b>	30,000.00	20,000.00
<b>Total Other</b>		<b>33,925.00</b>	33,925.00	23,075.00
<b>TOTAL ARTICLE 5 [as amended]</b>		<b>816,306.24</b>	652,864.85	622,385.15

**Article 6:** *The Town voted to:*

<b>transfer from Free Cash:</b>	<b>\$35,087.60</b>
<b>raise and appropriate:</b>	<b><u>\$3,112,380.00</u></b>
<b>for a total of:</b>	<b><u>\$3,147,467.60</u></b>

for Bernardston's share of the education expense in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Board of Selectmen as shown in the second column labeled "FY 2018. Requested" in Table II below.

*The article was moved and seconded as printed in the warrant. The article was voted with the amendments described below with appropriate adjustments to article totals and **the Moderator declared it approved as amended by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

*An amendment was moved and seconded to change "The Operating Budget of the Pioneer Valley Regional School" from \$2,874,823.60 to read \$2,839,601.00 with appropriate adjustments to article totals. After a brief discussion in part to establish that this amended amount was the amount now requested by the PVRS District and now supported by the Board of Selectmen, **the Moderator declared the amendment approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

TABLE II.

Dept./Committee	*	FY2018	FY2018	FY 2017
* column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash    T = Another account L = Loan            R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund	FTL RS	Recommended by Finance Committee	<b>Requested</b>	Appropriated
<b>Education</b>				
<b>School Comm. Stipends</b>				
PVRS-1 <sup>st</sup> Representative		200.00	<b>200.00</b>	200.00
PVRS-2 <sup>nd</sup> Representative		200.00	<b>200.00</b>	200.00
PVRS-3 <sup>rd</sup> Representative		200.00	<b>200.00</b>	200.00
FCTS Representative		200.00	<b>200.00</b>	200.00
<b>Franklin Regional Technical School</b>				
<b>Operating Budget</b>		271,979.00	<b>271,979.00</b>	250,690.00
<b>Pioneer Valley Regional School District</b>				
<b>Operating Budget [as amended]</b>		2,778,344.00	<b>2,839,601.00</b>	2,778,344.00
<b>High School Capital Projects</b>				
FY17 Entrance Road		<i>zero</i>	<i>zero</i>	11,560.00
FY18 Gutters, Carpet 3 classrooms & library	F	11,767.60	<b>11,767.60</b>	<i>zero</i>
<i>Sub-Total High School Capital Projects</i>		<i>11,767.60</i>	<i>11,767.60</i>	<i>11,560.00</i>

Dept./Committee[Table II Continued]	*	FY2018	FY2018	FY 2017
* column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account L = Loan R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund	FTL RS	Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
<b>BES Capital Projects</b>				
Capital Improvements	F	5,000.00	<b>5,000.00</b>	5,000.00
BES Gymnasium Roof				45,000.00
FY18 Replace 17 windows & 1 door; FY17 Convection oven	F	13,080.00	<b>13,080.00</b>	zero
FY18 Replace Library carpet	F	5,240.00	<b>5,240.00</b>	zero
Parking Lot FY18 - see loan payment; FY17 Special Article		zero	zero	zero
<i>Sub-Total BES Capital Projects</i>		23,320.00	23,320.00	50,000.00
PVRS Central Office Capital Project(s)				
<b>Total PVRS</b>		2,813,431.60	<b>2,839,601.00</b>	2,839,904.00
<b>Total Education</b>		3,086,210.60	<b>3,147,467.60</b>	3,091,394.00
<b>TOTAL ARTICLE 6 [as amended]</b>		3,086,210.60	<b>3,147,467.60</b>	3,091,394.00

**Article 7:** *The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$352,038.82 for Contracted Services, Pension and Insurance Expense in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column labeled “FY 2018. Recommended by Finance Committee” in Table III below.*

*The article was moved and seconded as printed in the warrant 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).*

TABLE III

Dept./Committee	*	FY2018	FY2018	FY 2017
* column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account L = Loan R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund	FTL RS	Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Contracted Services</b>				
FRCOG Statutory/Core Ser.		<b>14,870.00</b>	14,870.00	14,540.00
<b>FRCOG Fees for Service</b>				
FRCOG Accounting Program		<b>23,618.00</b>	23,618.00	23,105.00
FRCOG Procurement		<b>2,348.00</b>	2,348.00	2,348.00
FRCOG Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC)		<b>150.00</b>	150.00	150.00
FRCOG Building Inspection		<b>7,500.00</b>	7,500.00	6,500.00
FRCOG Emergency Communications		<b>7,773.66</b>	7,773.66	5,106.60
<i>Sub-Total FRCOG</i>		56,259.66	56,259.66	51,749.60

Dept./Committee[Table III Continued]	*	FY2018	FY2018	FY 2017
* column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash T = Another account L = Loan R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund	FTL RS	Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
[Contracted Services Continued]				
Franklin County Solid Waste District		7,672.00	7,672.00	7,099.00
Street Lights		4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Cell phones (COA,Fire,Highway)		4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
<b>Total Contracted Services</b>		<b>72,931.66</b>	72,931.66	67,848.60
<b>Pensions &amp; Insurance</b>				
Franklin Regional Retirement System		91,359.00	91,359.00	84,756.00
Social Security		100.00	100.00	100.00
Medicare		13,000.00	13,000.00	12,900.00
Unemployment Insurance		6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Insurance: buildings, vehicles, equipment, liability town officers		60,864.10	60,864.10	60,511.58
Employee health insurance		99,057.78	99,057.78	96,046.80
Employee dental insurance		8,023.92	8,023.92	7,429.38
Employee life insurance		702.36	702.36	702.36
Share of Prior EE Benefit (11.144%)		zero	zero	1,009.56
<i>Sub-Total Employee Insurance Benefits</i>		<i>107,784.06</i>	<i>107,784.06</i>	<i>104,178.54</i>
<b>Total Pensions &amp; Insurance</b>		<b>279,107.16</b>	279,107.16	269,455.68
<b>TOTAL ARTICLE 7</b>		<b>352,038.82</b>	352,038.82	337,304.28

**Article 8:** *The Town voted to:*

<b>transfer from the Landfill Receipts Account:</b>	<b>\$74,030.00</b>
<b>transfer from Transfer Station Recycling Account:</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>
<b>and raise and appropriate:</b>	<b><u>\$715,233.16</u></b>
<b>for a total:</b>	<b>\$790,863.16</b>

for Public Services in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column labeled “FY 2018. Recommended by Finance Committee” in Table IV below.

*The article was moved and seconded as printed in the warrant 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).***



TABLE IV.

Dept./Committee	*	FY2018	FY2018	FY 2017
<b>* column designates transfers from:</b> <b>F = Free Cash      T = Another account</b> <b>L = Loan              R = Reserve Fund</b> <b>S = Stabilization Fund</b>	FTL RS	<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Public Services</b>				
<b>Fire Department</b>				
Stipends		<b>8,800.00</b>	8,800.00	8,800.00
Payroll		<b>34,850.00</b>	34,000.00	33,032.16
Operating Expenses		<b>50,865.00</b>	50,865.00	46,565.00
FY17 - Engine 2 rehab/repair (Vehicle Stabilization)		<i>zero</i>	<i>zero</i>	10,000.00
FY17 Special Article - Pagers		<i>zero</i>	<i>zero</i>	8,700.00
<b>Total Fire Department</b>		<b>94,515.00</b>	93,665.00	107,097.16
<b>Emergency Management</b>				
Stipend		<b>5,000.00</b>	5,000.00	5,000.00
Supplies		<b>5,000.00</b>	5,000.00	5,000.00
<b>Total Emergency Management</b>		<b>10,000.00</b>	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Police Department</b>				
Payroll		<b>212,650.51</b>	201,736.83	200,133.60
Operating Expenses		<b>42,050.00</b>	42,050.00	41,455.00
Police Cruiser (Vehicle Stabilization)	S	<i>zero</i>	<i>zero</i>	38,000.00
<b>Total Police Department</b>		<b>254,700.51</b>	243,786.83	279,588.60
<b>Highway Department</b>				
Payroll		<b>173,348.03</b>	163,994.95	163,994.95
Operating Expenses		<b>145,380.00</b>	145,380.00	142,785.00
<b>Total Highway Department</b>		<b>318,728.03</b>	309,374.95	306,779.95
<b>Transfer Station</b>				
Payroll		<b>26,738.48</b>	26,086.32	26,086.32
Operating Expenses (transfer \$1,600 from Transfer Station Recycling Account; \$66,980 from Landfill receipts)	T	<b>68,580.00</b>	68,580.00	68,580.00
Replace/repair 2 Landfill Wells		<i>zero</i>	<i>zero</i>	25,000.00
Landfill Testing (transfer from Landfill receipts)	T	<b>7,050.00</b>	7,050.00	6,250.00
<b>Total Transfer Station</b>		<b>102,368.48</b>	101,716.32	125,916.32

Dept./Committee [Table IV Continued]	*	FY2018	FY2018	FY 2017
* column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash      T = Another account L = Loan              R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund	FTL RS	<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Other Public Works</b>				
Municipal Animal Inspector (including Barn Inspections & Animal Control- see State description)		<b>1,000.00</b>	1,000.00	1,000.00
Memorial Day		<b>500.00</b>	500.00	500.00
Tree Warden Payroll		<b>3,701.14</b>	3,610.87	3,284.41
Tree Warden Operating Expenses		<b>5,350.00</b>	5,350.00	1,750.00
<i>Sub-Total Tree Warden</i>		<i>9,051.14</i>	<i>8,960.87</i>	<i>5,034.41</i>
<b>Total Other Public Works</b>		<b>10,551.14</b>	10,460.87	6,534.41
<b>TOTAL ARTICLE 8</b>		<b>790,863.16</b>	769,003.97	835,916.44

**Article 9:** *The Town voted to:*

<b>raise and appropriate</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>transfer from Free Cash</b>	<b><u>\$165,000.00</u></b>
<b>for a Total of</b>	<b>\$ 175,000.00</b>

for the Stabilization accounts in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column labeled “FY 2018. Recommended by Finance Committee” in Table V below.

*The article was moved and seconded as printed in the warrant and after a brief discussion of the balance in stabilization funds after the additions in this article which were reported to be about \$94,000 in vehicle stabilization about \$170,000 in Bridge Repair Stabilization and about \$409,641 in General Stabilization, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).*

Table V.

Dept./Committee	*	FY2018	FY2018	FY 2017
* column designates transfers from: F = Free Cash      T = Another account L = Loan              R = Reserve Fund S = Stabilization Fund	FTL RS	<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Stabilization Accounts</b>				
Special Purpose Stabilization Fund – Vehicle replacement. <b>Raise &amp; appropriate \$10,000; Free Cash \$40,000</b>	F	<b>50,000.00</b>	40,000.00	40,000.00
Bridge Repair Stab. Fund	F	<b>80,000.00</b>	30,000.00	30,000.00
Transfer to stabilization	F	<b>45,000.00</b>	<i>zero</i>	<i>zero</i>
<b>Total Stabilization Accounts</b>		<b>175,000.00</b>	70,000.00	70,000.00
<b>TOTAL ARTICLE 9</b>		<b>175,000.00</b>	70,000.00	70,000.00

**Article 10:** *The Town voted to amend its local room occupancy excise under MGL Chapter 64G Section 3A to the rate of 6.0%.*

*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 \$3,194.93 and transfer from the Barber Fund \$9,196.00 for a total of \$12,390.93 for the Recreation Commission Expense Account and transfer from the Kiwanis Expendable Interest Account the sum of \$1,000.00 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 raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200.00 for 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 13:** *The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Renovate/Construct Town Buildings Account.*

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

**Article 14:** *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 a brief discussion, the Moderator declared it approved [by a unanimous voice vote (without objection)].*

**Article 15:** *The Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$5,000.00 for the second of three installments, for the FY19 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 16:** *The Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$4,000.00 for the second 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 17:** *The Town voted to transfer from Vehicle Stabilization the amount of \$40,000.00 and transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$2,000.00 for a total of \$42,000.00 for the purchase of a new Squad Truck for the Fire Department.*

*The article was moved and seconded and after a considerable discussion with regard to the status of the vehicle being replaced, the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and therefore satisfied the requirement that it be passed by a 2/3 majority vote.*

**Article 18:** *The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash an amount of \$5,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a Mini-Split System for the lower level of the Senior Center/Powers Institute and \$2,450.00 for repairs to the sidewalks of the Senior Center/Powers Institute for a total sum of \$7,450.00.*

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

**Article 19:** *The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,000.00 for the purpose of joining a Mosquito Control District.*

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

**Article 20:** *The Town voted to accept MGL 32B, Section 20, authorizing the Town to establish an Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund to reduce the unfunded liability of health care and other post-employment benefits for which the Town of Bernardston is obligated.*

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

**Article 21:** *The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to fund the Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund.*

*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 22:** *The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000.00 to fund an employee retirement/separation account for the purpose of paying out benefited costs to employees to which they are entitled due to retirement or separation from the Town's employ.*

*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 23:** *The Town voted to amend the general by-laws of the Town of Bernardston by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E½.*

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

## **DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS**

1. **Purpose.** This by-law establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by General Laws Chapter 44 § 53E½.
2. **Expenditure Limitations.** An authorized department or agency head, board, committee or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law without appropriation subject to the following limitations:
  - A. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund (except for those employed as school bus drivers.)
  - B. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.
  - C. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by this by-law, or town meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the Selectboard and Finance Committee.
3. **Interest.** Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this by-law shall be credited to the general fund.
4. **Procedures and reports.** Except as provided in General Laws Chapter 44 § 53E½ and this by-law, the laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of town monies and the expenditure and payment of town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law. The town accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the town accountant provides the department, board, committee, agency or officer on appropriations made for its use.
5. **Authorized Revolving Funds.** The Table establishes:
  - A. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a town department, board, committee, agency or officer.
  - B. The department or agency head, board, committee or officer authorized to spend from each fund.
  - C. The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, agency or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant.
  - D. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used.
  - E. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund.
  - F. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund, and
  - G. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this by-law.

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Authority to Spend Fund</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Use of Fund</b>	<b>Spending Limit</b>	<b>Fiscal Years</b>
Council on Aging Donations	Council on Aging	Program Activity	COA purposes	\$10,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Board of Health	Board of Health	Fees charged for inspections and permits	Pay for inspection fees and clerical staff	\$15,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Zoning Board of Appeals	Zoning Board of Appeals	Fees charged for hearings and filings	Pay for costs associated with hearings	\$1,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Planning Board	Planning Board	Fees charged for hearings and filings	Pay for costs associated with hearings	\$2,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Fire Department	Fire Chief	Fees charged for inspections	Pay for inspection fees for personnel	\$2,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Town Hall Restoration	Board of Selectmen	Fees charged for Town Hall rentals	Pay for Town Hall restoration	\$2,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Dog Licenses	Town Clerk	Fees & penalties relating to licensing	Dog licensing including enforcement & related expenses	\$3,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Public Safety	Fire Chief	Fees assessed and costs incurred in response to motor vehicle accidents	Pay for public safety training	\$15,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Transfer Station Recycling	Board of Selectmen	Revenue generated from recycled materials	Pay for equipment upkeep at Transfer Station	\$37,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Cushman Library	Cushman Library Trustees	Receipts from book sales and fundraising events	For Cushman Library to offset expenses	\$5,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Agricultural Commission	Board of Selectmen	Fundraising event receipts	Receipts from fundraising events	\$5,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years
Newsletter	Board of Selectmen	Advertising Receipts	Newsletter expenses	\$2,000.00	FY19 and subsequent years

**Article 24:** *The Town voted to amend Section A) of the Delinquent Taxes Bylaw to read as follows:*

The Tax Collector shall annually and may periodically, furnish to each board, commission or division, hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority, that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that neglected or refuses to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges, and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for abatement of such tax, or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.

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

**Article 25:** *The Town voted to add one (1) associate member position to the Planning Board in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A Section 9 and said position shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.*

*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 therefore satisfied the requirement that it be passed by a 2/3 majority vote.***

**Article 26:** *The Town voted to revise the wording in the Bernardston Zoning bylaws Use Regulation Schedule Section 2230 from “Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations (<5 acres)” to “Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations (1 to 5 acres)” and add SPP (special permit planning board) to the R/A, R1 and CV districts. The aforementioned districts will require special permit planning board and site plan review for solar projects that will cover one (1) to five (5) acres.*

*The article was moved and seconded as printed in the warrant. The article was then voted on with the amendment described below and **the Moderator declared it approved as amended by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and therefore satisfied the requirement that it be passed by a 2/3 majority vote.***

*An amendment was moved and seconded to change the wording from and “add SP (special permit)” to “add SPP (special permit planning board)” and change the wording from “require special permit” to “require special permit planning board.” After a brief discussion **the Moderator declared the amendment approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

**Article 27:** *The Town voted to delete the line “Solar Electric Generating Facilities” from the Bernardston Zoning bylaws Use Regulation Schedule Section 2230.*

*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 therefore satisfied the requirement that it be passed by a 2/3 majority vote.***

**Article 28:** *The Town voted to change the wording of the Bernardston Zoning bylaws Use Regulation Schedule Section 2230 “MMTC” to “Medical Marijuana Treatment Center.”*


*The article was moved and seconded and after a brief discussion and some clarifications that there are no plans or proposals for a treatment center in Bernardston at this time, **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and therefore satisfied the requirement that it be passed by a 2/3 majority vote.***

**Article 29:** *The Town voted to revise the Bernardston Zoning bylaws Use Regulation Schedule Section 5350, “Expiration” which presently reads “Special Permits shall lapse 24 months following Special Permit approval” changing to “Special Permits shall lapse 36 months following Special Permit approval or as amended in MGL Chapter 40A.”*

*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 therefore satisfied the requirement that it be passed by a 2/3 majority vote.***

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10pm

Respectfully Submitted, June 6, 2017

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul W. Luther". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Paul W. Luther, Bernardston Town Clerk