



## TOWN OF BERNARDSTON

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – May 8, 2019

Moderator: Geoffrey Wilson

Check in Poll Workers: Patriciann Grover, Donna Newton, Janet Page,  
Joyce Roberts

Meeting Support: Salvatore Arnone, Kristina Costello, Val Luther

Constable: Peter Shedd

Wardens: Joanne Balzarini, Russell Deane, Christina Slocum-Wysk

#### Town Officials Present:

Selectboard: Brian Keir, Chair; Stanley Garland, Robert Raymond

Finance Committee: Jane Dutcher, Chair; Brian Hervieux, David Lorenz, Jody Coleman

Town Coordinator: Louis Bordeaux

Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol; Town Clerk: Paul Luther

Assistant Town Clerk: Christina Slocum Wysk

Non-Resident / Unregistered Voters Known to be Present: *See appendix 1*

70 voters checked in at 7:02pm

73 maximum number of voters checked in by close of meeting

1601 registered voters

- *The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:02pm by reading the notice of the warrant and confirming the proper posting thereof and then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.*
- *The Moderator then recognized The Town Clerk who reminded those present about the reason for the wristbands and secret ballots distributed when people checked in and verified everyone who had checked in had their wristband and one secret ballot to use if a secret ballot was required.*

**Article 1: *The Town Accepted*** the reports of the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Selectboard, School Committees, all other Town Officers and Committees as contained in the Annual Town Report for 2018.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after hearing the reports listed below it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared that the Town had Unanimously voted to accept the reports.*

- *heard a report from Brian Keir, Selectboard Chair, on the status of the Charity Lot Trust Fund; See appendix 2.*
- *heard a report Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee Chair regarding the FY20 Town budget; See appendix 3.*
- *heard a report from Stanley Garland, Member of the Selectboard. See appendix; See appendix 4.*

**Article 2: *The Town Voted to*** authorize the Selectboard to apply for and accept state and/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 no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

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

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 4: *The Town Voted to*** authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements for Fiscal 2020, commencing on July 1, 2019 pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 5: *The Town Voted to***, 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 2020, and raise and appropriate any amounts therefore, and further:

<b>Raise and Appropriate</b>	<b>\$488,414.60</b>
<b>Transfer from Newsletter Revolving Fund</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
<b>For A Total Of</b>	<b>\$489,214.60</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 column labeled “FY 2020, Recommended by Finance Committee” of the following table (Table I):

*The Article was moved and seconded and after everyone was given the opportunity to inquire about any of the line items in Table 1 and no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

<b>T A B L E I</b>	*	<b>FY 2020</b>	<i>FY 2020</i>	<i>FY 2019</i>
<b>* Column designates transfers: F = Free Cash, T = Another Account</b>		<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Appropriated</i>
<b>Moderator</b>				
Annual Meeting		50.00	50.00	50.00
Special Town Meeting (3@\$60)		180.00	180.00	180.00
<b>Total Moderator</b>		<b>230.00</b>	<i>230.00</i>	<i>230.00</i>
<b>Selectboard's Dept.</b>				
Selectboard Stipends				
Chairman		2,050.00	2,050.00	2,050.00
2nd Member		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
3rd Member		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town Coordinator Salary		53,045.00	51,500.00	54,022.26

<b>T A B L E I</b>	*	<b>FY 2020</b>	<i>FY 2020</i>	<i>FY 2019</i>
<b>* Column designates transfers: F = Free Cash, T = Another Account</b>		<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Appropriated</i>
Selectboard Expenses		3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Town Reports, Printing of		1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Newsletter Stipend	<b>T</b>	800.00	500.00	500.00
Newsletter Expense		1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
<i>Newsletter</i>		<i>2,300.00</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
Town Hall Payroll		6,002.63	5,827.80	5,827.80
Information Technology Services		2,000.00	2,000.00	3,200.00
Operating & Other Expenses		23,950.00	23,950.00	24,150.00
<i>Sub-Total Town Hall Expense</i>		<i>31,952.63</i>	<i>31,777.80</i>	<i>33,177.80</i>
<b>Total Selectboard Dept.</b>		<b>97,547.63</b>	<i>95,527.80</i>	<i>99,450.06</i>
<b>Assessor's Office</b>				
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		34,984.83	33,965.85	33,965.85
Assessors' Expenses		9,345.00	9,345.00	8,975.00
<b>Total Assessors Office</b>		<b>47,379.83</b>	<i>46,360.85</i>	<i>45,990.85</i>
<b>Treasurer's Dept.</b>				
Salary		22,231.99	21,584.46	21,584.46
Treasurer Certification		833.33	833.33	
Expense		5,925.00	5,925.00	5,650.00
<i>Total Treasurer's Office</i>		<i>28,990.32</i>	<i>28,342.79</i>	<i>27,234.46</i>
Town Officers' Bonds		576.00	576.00	576.00
Tax Title Expenses		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
<b>Total Treasurer's Dept.</b>		<b>34,566.32</b>	<i>33,918.79</i>	<i>32,810.46</i>
<b>Debt Service</b>				
Interest on Short Term Borrowing		100.00	100.00	100.00
Turners Falls Bridge (transfer from Free Cash)		Zero	Zero	89,379.31

<b>T A B L E I</b>	*	<b>FY 2020</b>	<i>FY 2020</i>	<i>FY 2019</i>
<b>* Column designates transfers: F = Free Cash, T = Another Account</b>		<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Appropriated</i>
PVRS Tech. Loan (2019-#4 of 4)		Zero	Zero	31,884.43
<b>Total Debt Service</b>		<b>100.00</b>	100.00	121,363.74
<b>Tax Collector's Dept.</b>				
Salary		19,483.55	18,916.07	18,916.07
Expenses		7,777.91	7,777.91	7,777.91
<b>Total Tax Collector's Dept.</b>		<b>27,261.46</b>	26,693.98	26,693.98
<b>Town Clerk's Dept.</b>				
Salary		16,179.24	15,708.00	15,708.00
Assistant Town Clerk		1,155.66	1,000.00	1,122.00
Expenses		1,800.00	1,800.00	1,990.00
Elections/Registration		9,060.00	9,060.00	8,557.50
Registrars' Stipends		480.00	480.00	480.00
<b>Total Town Clerk's Office</b>		<b>28,674.90</b>	28,048.00	27,857.50
<b>Planning Board</b>				
Payroll		4,263.09	4,138.92	4,138.92
Operating & Other Expenses		1,000.00	1,000.00	975.00
<b>Total Planning Board</b>		<b>5,263.09</b>	5,138.92	5,113.92
<b>Board of Health</b>				
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		14,041.24	13,632.27	13,632.27
Health Agent		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Wetlands		3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Board of Health Expenses		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
<b>Total Board of Health</b>		<b>30,241.24</b>	29,832.27	29,832.27
<b>Human Services</b>				
Powers Institute Payroll		8,364.03	8,026.41	8,005.40
Powers Institute Operating Expense		32,057.00	32,057.00	28,090.00

<b>T A B L E I</b>	*	<b>FY 2020</b>	<i>FY 2020</i>	<i>FY 2019</i>
<b>* Column designates transfers: F = Free Cash, T = Another Account</b>		<b>Recommended by Finance Committee</b>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Appropriated</i>
Council on Aging Payroll		58,072.25	57,904.53	57,545.87
Council on Aging Operating Expense		3,094.00	3,094.00	2,790.00
<i>Sub-Total Senior Center</i>		<i>101,587.28</i>	<i>101,081.94</i>	<i>96,431.27</i>
Veterans' Benefits		6,120.00	6,120.00	4,428.00
Veterans' Services		3,837.65	3,837.65	3,701.20
Veteran's Memorial Committee		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
<i>Sub-Total Veterans Service</i>		<i>10,957.65</i>	<i>10,957.65</i>	<i>9,129.20</i>
<b>Total Human Services</b>		<b>112,544.93</b>	<i>112,039.59</i>	<i>105,560.47</i>
<b>Cushman Library</b>				
Payroll		53,170.20	54,844.00	48,839.00
Operating Expenses		18,101.00	18,101.00	18,450.00
<b>Total Cushman Library</b>		<b>71,271.20</b>	<i>72,945.00</i>	<i>67,289.00</i>
<b>Appeals Board (Zoning Board of Appeals)</b>				
Payroll		309.00	300.00	300.00
Operating & Other Expense		300.00	300.00	300.00
<b>Total Appeals Board (Zoning Board of Appeals)</b>		<b>609.00</b>	<i>600.00</i>	<i>600.00</i>
<b>Conservation Commission</b>				
Payroll		618.00	600.00	550.00
Operating & Other Expense		882.00	900.00	950.00
<b>Total Conservation Commission</b>		<b>1,500.00</b>	<i>1,500.00</i>	<i>1,500.00</i>
<b>Other Boards &amp; Committees</b>				
Agricultural Commission		1,125.00	1,125.00	1,225.00
Historical Commission		400.00	400.00	400.00
MPIC (Master Plan Implementation Committee)		500.00	500.00	1,000.00
Reserve Fund		30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
<b>Total Other</b>		<b>32,025.00</b>	<i>32,025.00</i>	<i>34,125.00</i>
<b>TOTAL of ARTICLE 5 (Five)</b>		<b>489,214.60</b>	<i>484,960.20</i>	<i>596,917.25</i>

Article 6: *The Town Voted to:*

Raise and Appropriate	\$403,040.59
Transfer from Free Cash	\$34,209.04
<b>For a Total of</b>	<b>\$437,249.63</b>

for Bernardston's share of the education expense in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the column labeled "FY 2020, Recommended by Finance Committee" of the following table (Table II):

*The Article was moved and seconded and the Moderator reported that due to a typographical error the number listed in the warrant as "For a Total of \$437,277.45" should instead be as printed above "For a Total of \$437,249.63." After everyone was given the opportunity to inquire about any of the line items in Table 2 and no one asked to speak, the Article was put to a Voice Vote as corrected following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

TABLE II	*	FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2019
* Column designates transfers: F = Free Cash, T = Another Account		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Schools</b>				
<b>School Committee Stipends</b>				
PVRS-1st Representative		200.00	200.00	200.00
PVRS-2nd Representative		200.00	200.00	200.00
PVRS-3rd Representative		200.00	200.00	200.00
FCTS Representative		200.00	200.00	200.00
<b>Franklin County Technical School</b>				
Operating Budget		394,796.00	394,796.00	370,729.00
Capital Budget (1st payment)		7,444.59	7,444.59	5,894.94
<b>FCTS Total</b>		<b>402,240.59</b>	<i>402,240.59</i>	<i>376,623.94</i>
<i>% Operating Increase</i>		<i>6.49%</i>	<i>6.49%</i>	<i>3.63%</i>
<b>Pioneer Valley Regional School District</b>				
Operating Budget		<i>See Articles 7 &amp; 8</i>	<i>Amount to be determined</i>	<i>2,929,668.00</i>
<b>High School Capital Projects</b>				
FY19 Carpet Guidance Suite, KIVA & 2 classrooms		<b>Zero</b>	<i>Zero</i>	<i>3,918.71</i>
FY19 gym wall pads including installation		<b>Zero</b>	<i>Zero</i>	<i>2,689.66</i>

TABLE II	*	FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2019
* Column designates transfers: F = Free Cash, T = Another Account		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
FY20 Carpet in Rooms 111, 206 & 207	F	2,552.26	2,556.86	Zero
FY20 – WIFI Project	F	7,656.78	7,680.00	Zero
<i>Sub-Total High School Capital Projects</i>		<i>10,209.04</i>	<i>10,236.86</i>	<i>6,608.37</i>
<b>BES Capital Projects</b>				
Capital Improvements	F	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
FY19 communications		<b>Zero</b>	<i>Zero</i>	<i>42,120.00</i>
FY20 Sidewalk replacement;	F	19,000.00	19,000.00	Zero
<i>Sub-Total BES Capital Projects</i>		<i>24,000.00</i>	<i>24,000.00</i>	<i>47,120.00</i>
<b>Total PVRs</b>		<b>34,209.04</b>	<i>34,236.86</i>	<i>2,983,396.37</i>
<b>Total Schools</b>		<b>437,249.63</b>	<i>437,277.42</i>	<i>3,360,820.31</i>
<b>TOTAL of ARTICLE 6 (Six)</b>		<b>437,249.63</b>	<i>437,277.42</i>	<i>3,360,820.31</i>

**Article 7: The Town Voted to NOT** raise and appropriate \$47,282.40 to the Pioneer Valley Regional School District FY20 assessment for the first year of a five year contract for the Superintendent of Schools.

*The Article was moved and seconded. Selectman Robert Raymond began the discussion with a statement that in summary said that in his opinion to vote in favor of this article will be a vote in support of the five year contract signed by the School Committee with the School Superintendent Jonathan Scagel. He made it clear that he was not in favor of the five year contract but was not critical of Superintendent Scagel. Others spoke for and against the five year contract and after about ten minutes of considering the various concerns and no other people asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved by a Majority Vote.*

**Article 8: The Town Voted to PASS OVER any vote to** raise and appropriate the amount of \$2,964,523.60 for Bernardston's share of the PVRs Operating Budget.

*A motion to PASS OVER was immediately moved and seconded. After Jane Dutcher, Chair of the Finance Committee explained that we needed more details which were not available at this time and we would need a Special Town Meeting on probably June 17 to decide the amount of money to appropriate for the school district. After everyone who desired to speak, had been heard the motion to PASS OVER was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it PASSED OVER Unanimously.*

**Article 9: The Town Voted to:**

**Raise and Appropriate            \$430,408.69**

for Contracted Services, Pension and Insurance Expense in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the column labeled “FY 2020, Recommended by Finance Committee” of the following table (Table III).

The Article was moved and seconded and after everyone was given the opportunity to inquire about any of the line items in Table III and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

TABLE III	FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2019
	Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Contracted Services</b>			
FRCOG Statutory/Core Services	13,685.00	13,685.00	14,080.00
<b>FRCOG Fees for Service</b>			
Accounting Program	25,454.00	25,454.00	24,301.00
Procurement	2,348.00	2,348.00	2,348.00
Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC)	150.00	150.00	150.00
Building Inspection	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Emergency Communications	8,337.30	8,337.30	7,910.74
<i>Sub-Total FRCOG</i>	<i>57,474.30</i>	<i>57,474.30</i>	<i>56,289.74</i>
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District	7,807.00	7,807.00	7,645.00
Town Counsel	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Street Lights	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Cell phones (COA and Highway)	3,420.00	3,420.00	3,600.00
<b>Total Contracted Services</b>	<b>78,201.30</b>	<i>78,201.30</i>	<i>77,034.74</i>
<b>Pensions &amp; Insurance</b>			
Franklin Regional Retirement System	108,485.00	108,485.00	98,429.00
Social Security	100.00	100.00	100.00
Medicare	12,000.00	12,000.00	11,000.00
Unemployment Insurance	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Insurance: buildings, vehicles, equipment, liability town officers	64,616.83	64,616.83	62,905.88
Employee health insurance	151,117.02	151,117.02	149,301.90
Employee dental insurance	9,100.86	9,100.86	10,607.34
Employee life insurance	787.68	787.68	596.04
<i>Sub-Total Employee Insurance Benefits</i>	<i>161,005.56</i>	<i>161,005.56</i>	<i>160,505.28</i>
<b>Total Pensions &amp; Insurance</b>	<b>352,207.39</b>	<i>352,207.39</i>	<i>338,940.16</i>
<b>TOTAL OF ARTICLE 9 (Nine)</b>	<b>430,408.69</b>	<i>430,408.69</i>	<i>415,974.90</i>



**Article 10:** The Town Voted to:

Raise and Appropriate	<b>\$780,233.54</b>
Transfer from Transfer Station Landfill Receipts	<b>\$74,275.00</b>
Transfer from Transfer Station Recycling Revolving Account	<b>\$1,600.00</b>
<b>For a Total of</b>	<b>\$856,108.54</b>

for Public Services in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the column labeled “FY 2020, Recommended by Finance Committee” of the following table (Table IV).

*The Article was moved and seconded and after everyone was given the opportunity to inquire about any of the line items in Table IV and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

TABLE IV	*	FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2019
* Column designates transfers: F = Free Cash, T = Another Account		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Public Services</b>				
<b>Fire Department</b>				
Stipends		12,800.00	9,800.00	8,800.00
Payroll		52,537.00	50,800.00	50,000.00
Operating Expenses		57,930.00	57,930.00	53,000.00
<b>Total Fire Department</b>		<b>123,267.00</b>	118,530.00	111,800.00
<b>Emergency Management</b>				
Stipend		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Supplies		5,850.00	5,850.00	5,000.00
<b>Total Emergency Management</b>		<b>10,850.00</b>	10,850.00	10,000.00
<b>Police Department</b>				
Payroll		240,120.62	230,986.43	224,324.11
Operating Expenses		39,130.00	39,130.00	39,130.00
Police Cruiser (Vehicle Stabil.)		<b>Zero</b>	Zero	40,000.00
<b>Total Police Department</b>		<b>279,250.62</b>	270,116.43	303,454.11
<b>Highway Department</b>				
Payroll		176,991.97	171,836.86	172,987.80
Operating Expenses		146,380.00	146,380.00	145,380.00
<b>Total Highway Department</b>		<b>323,371.97</b>	318,216.86	318,367.80

TABLE IV	*	FY 2020	<i>FY 2020</i>	<i>FY 2019</i>
* Column designates transfers: F = Free Cash, T = Another Account		Recommended by Finance Committee	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Appropriated</i>
Transfer Station				
Payroll		28,257.46	27,227.63	27,227.63
Operating Expenses (includes \$1600 Annual Recycling Rolloff Replacement transfer from Transfer Station Recycling Revolving, transfer \$66,450 from Transfer Station Landfill Receipts and Raise and Appropriate \$3,700.00)	T	71,750.00	71,750.00	68,050.00
Landfill Testing (transfer from Transfer Station Landfill Receipts)	T	7,825.00	7,825.00	7,825.00
<b>Total Transfer Station (FY20-\$74,275 from Transfer Station Landfill receipts + \$1,600 from Transfer Station Recycling Revolving &amp; R&amp;A \$31,957.46)</b>		<b>107,832.46</b>	<i>106,802.63</i>	<i>103,102.63</i>
Other Public Works				
Municipal Animal Inspector		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Memorial Day		500.00	500.00	500.00
Tree Warden Payroll		4,686.50	4,550.00	3,775.16
Tree Warden Operating Expenses		5,350.00	5,350.00	5,350.00
<i>Sub-total Tree Warden incl. Pest Control</i>		<i>10,036.50</i>	<i>9,900.00</i>	<i>9,125.16</i>
<b>Total Other Public Works</b>		<b>11,536.50</b>	<i>11,400.00</i>	<i>10,625.16</i>
<b>TOTAL OF ARTICLE 10 (Ten)</b>		<b>856,108.54</b>	<i>835,915.92</i>	<i>857,349.70</i>

**Article 11: *The Town Voted to:***

**Transfer from Free Cash     \$100,000.00**

for the Stabilization accounts in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the column labeled “FY 2020, Recommended by Finance Committee” of the following table (Table V).

*The Article was moved and seconded. Selectman Robert Raymond reported that the money being moved in the Special Purpose Vehicle Replacement Fund was in effect paying ourselves back from having used some of that stabilization fund to reduce interest payments to purchase a loader in FY2019. After everyone was given the opportunity to inquire about any of the line items in Table V and after no one else asked to speak, the article was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

TABLE V		FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2019
* Column designates transfers: F = Free Cash, T = Another Account	*	Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
<b>Stabilization Accounts</b>				
Special Purpose Stabilization Fund - Vehicle Replacement	F	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Stabilization	F	50,000.00	50,000.00	Zero
<i>Total Stabilization Accounts</i>		<i>100,000.00</i>	<i>100,000.00</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<b>TOTAL OF ARTICLE 11 (Eleven)</b>		<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>

**Article 12:** *The Town Voted to Raise and Appropriate* the amount of **\$4,264.00** and transfer from the Barber Fund the amount of **\$11,008.00** for a total of **\$15,272.00** for the Recreation Commission Expense Account and transfer from the Kiwanis Expendable Interest Account the amount of **\$1,000.00** to the Kiwanis Recreation Equipment Fund to be expended by the Recreation Commission for Recreation Programs and Field Maintenance.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 13:** *The Town Voted to Raise and Appropriate* the amount of **\$1,200.00** for the Bernardston Cemetery Commission for maintenance at the Old Cemetery.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 14:** *The Town Voted to Raise and Appropriate* the amount of **\$ 300.00** for the Flag Replacement Account.

*The Article was moved and seconded. Selectman Robert Raymond said the money was for the flags flying from town utility poles. After no one else asked to speak, the Article was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 15:** *The Town Voted to Raise and Appropriate* the amount of **\$ 5,000.00** for the first of three installments, for the FY22 Town Audit.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 16:** *The Town Voted to Raise and Appropriate* the amount of **\$ 2,400.00** for the first of five installments, for the Board of Assessors FY24 revaluation.

*The Article was moved and seconded and the Moderator reported that due to a typographical error the phrase "Assessors FY 25 revaluation" in the warrant should instead be as printed above "Assessors FY 24 revaluation." After no one asked to speak, the Article as printed above was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 17: *The Town Voted to Raise and Appropriate*** the amount of \$ 4,000.00 for the first of five installments for the Board of Assessors Ten-Year Reinspection Program.

*The Article was moved and seconded and the Moderator reported that due to a typographical error the phrase “the first of ten installments” in the warrant should instead be as printed above “the first of five installments.” After no one asked to speak, the Article as printed above was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 18: *The Town Voted to Transfer from Free Cash*** the sum of \$ 5,000.00 to be added to the Employee Retirement/Separation Account.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 19: *The Town Voted to Transfer from Free Cash*** the amount of \$ 5,000.00 to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 20: *The Town Voted to Transfer from Free Cash*** the amount of \$ 7,000.00 for the Renovate/Construct Town Buildings Account.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 21: *The Town Voted to Transfer from Free Cash*** the amount of \$ 3,000.00 to the Mosquito Control Account.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 22: *The Town Voted to*** authorize the Selectboard to negotiate and accept, at its discretion, the property known as 12 Church Street, Bernardston, MA 01337, for an amount not to exceed \$1.00, and further to **Raise and Appropriate \$ 2,000.00** for any expense(s) relative to such a transfer.

*The Article was moved and seconded. Selectman Robert Raymond reported that this was the property next to the current fire station lot which “Bud” Foster has donated to the town for the expansion of the fire station and the \$ 2,000 appropriation was a guarantee that “Bud” Foster would not have to incur any expenses to make his donation. After no one else asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously which satisfied the requirement that this article be passed by a 2/3 majority.*

**Article 23: *The Town Voted to Transfer from Free Cash*** the amount of \$ 18,000.00 for Architectural Design Phase Services to increase the Fire Department’s garage, storage, and working space by 2,450(+/-) square feet.

*The Article was moved and seconded. Jane Dutcher, Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded to amend the amount of \$ 26,000 as printed in the warrant to \$18,000 as printed above and after no one asked to speak, the amendment was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved by a Majority.*

*The Article as amended and printed above was then put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 24:** *The Town Voted to Raise and Appropriate* the amount of \$ 31,400 and transfer \$8,600 from free cash for a total of \$40,000 for the demolition of two Town owned buildings located at 439 Brattleboro Road, formerly known as “The Hollywood.”

*The Article was moved and seconded. Jane Dutcher, Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded to amend that instead of reading “to raise and appropriating amount \$ 40,000” as printed in the warrant it should read “to raise and appropriate the amount of \$ 31,400 and transfer \$ 8,600 from free cash for a total of \$ 40,000 ” as printed above and after no one asked to speak, the amendment was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared amendment approved Unanimously.*

*The Article as amended and printed above was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 25:** *The Town Voted to* accept the fourth paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, which allows the dedication, without further appropriation, of all, or a percentage not less than 25 percent, of particular fees, charges or receipts to a stabilization fund established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, to be effective for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2019,

- Relative paragraph: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, paragraph 4:  
Notwithstanding section 53 of chapter 44 or any other general or special law to the contrary, a city, town or district that accepts this paragraph may dedicate, without further appropriation, all, or a percentage not less than 25 per cent, of a particular fee, charge or other receipt to any stabilization fund established pursuant to this section; provided, however, that the receipt is not reserved by law for expenditure for a particular purpose. For purposes of this paragraph, a receipt shall not include taxes or excises assessed pursuant to chapter 59, 60A, 60B, 61, 61A or 61B or surcharges assessed pursuant to section 39M or chapter 44B. A dedication shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the legislative body of the city, town or district, subject to charter, and may be terminated in the same manner. A vote to dedicate or terminate a dedication shall be made before the fiscal year in which the dedication or termination is to commence and shall be effective at least for 3 fiscal years.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 26:** *The Town Voted to* dedicate 100% of The Heirloom Collective Community Host Agreement fees to the Vehicle Stabilization Fund established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, effective for the fiscal year 2020 beginning on July 1, 2019.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously which satisfied the 2/3 majority required for this article.*

**Article 27:** *The Town Voted to* add to the Bernardston Revolving Fund Bylaw a revolving fund in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 53E½ for a Street Flag Replacement Fund for FY20 and subsequent years for receipts and expenses with an expenditure limit of \$ 5,000.00.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously which satisfied the 2/3 majority required for this article.*

**Article 28:** *The Town Voted to* authorize the following spending limits for Revolving Funds in accordance to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 53E½ and the Town of Bernardston [*Revolving Fund*] Bylaw for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.

*The article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously which satisfied the 2/3 majority required for this article.*

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Spending Limit</b>
Council on Aging Donations	\$10,000.00
Board of Health	\$15,000.00
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$1,000.00
Planning Board	\$2,000.00
Fire Department	\$2,000.00
Dog Licenses	\$3,000.00
Public Safety	\$15,000.00
Transfer Station Recycling	\$37,000.00
Cushman Library	\$5,000.00
Agricultural Commission	\$5,000.00
Newsletter	\$2,000.00
Street Flag Replacement Fund	\$5,000.00

**Article 29:** *The Town Voted to* authorize the Selectboard to enter into a ten (10) year contract with the option for a five (5) year extension, commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Selectboard’s determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to Town Meeting approval in the Spring of 2020 for funding for these services.

*The Article was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

**Article 30:** *The Town Voted to NOT* adopt the Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag and Seal of Massachusetts, as noted separately.

*The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator reminded those present that the full details of this article were included separately labeled “Article 30 . . .” with the Warrant they received when checking in to the meeting. After a brief presentation and after no one asked to speak, the Article was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it rejected by a majority vote (with significant voices in favor). The Moderator then asked if there were seven people who wanted to stand to ask for a count of the votes and no one stood which ended any further consideration of this Article.*

**Article 31: *The Town Voted to*** add to the Bernardston Zoning Bylaws section 2500 Accessory Dwellings, as noted separately (Section 2500 Accessory Dwellings).

*The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator reminded those present that the full details of this article were included separately labeled “Article 31 . . .” with the Warrant they received when checking in to the meeting. Chris Slocum Wysk, Planning Board Chair then briefly outlined the intent of the changes. After no one else asked to speak, the Article was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously which satisfied the 2/3 majority required for this article.*

**Article 32: *The Town Voted to*** add to the Bernardston Zoning Bylaws section 3450 Low Impact Development, as noted separately (Section 3450 Low Impact Development).

*The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator reminded those present that the full details of this article were included separately labeled “Article 32 . . .” with the Warrant they received when checking in to the meeting. John Lepore, Planning Board member then briefly outlined the intent of the changes followed by a brief discussion and a few questions. After no one else asked to speak, the Article was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously which satisfied the 2/3 majority required for this article.*

**Article 33: *The Town Voted to*** add to the Bernardston Zoning Bylaws Section 3800 Business and Industrial Design Standards, as noted separately (Section 3800 Business and Industrial Design Standards).

*The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator reminded those present that the full details of this article were included separately labeled “Article 33 . . .” with the Warrant they received when checking in to the meeting. John Lepore, Planning Board member then briefly outlined the intent of the changes and reminded everyone of the posters in the lobby demonstrating the results of having such design standards and the additional control these changes would give the town to preserve the the small town character of Bernardston. After no one else asked to speak, the Article was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously which satisfied the 2/3 majority required for this article.*

**Article 34: *The Town Voted to*** amend the Bernardston Zoning Bylaws Section 3600 Large Scale Solar by the revisions as noted separately (Section 3600 Large Scale Solar).

*The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator reminded those present that the full details of this article were included separately labeled “Article 34 . . .” with the Warrant they received when checking in to the meeting. Christina Slocum-Wysk, Planning Board Chair, then took the floor to explain that the article was clarifying a number of issues including changing the definition of “Large Scale Solar” from simply 5 acres to “one acre of land or more.” After no one else asked to speak, the Article was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously which satisfied the 2/3 majority required for this article.*

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting Adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted, May 23, 2019



Paul W. Luther, Bernardston Town Clerk