

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Hardwick
Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

County of Worcester, s. s.

To the Town Clerk and Constables, Town of Hardwick

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hardwick qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Hardwick Elementary School, 76 Schoolhouse Drive, Gilbertville, on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at 9:00 AM then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from available funds in the treasury to meet overdrawn and unprovided for accounts in the Fiscal Year, pursuant to the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 64; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof a sum of money from available funds in the treasury to meet overdrawn and unprovided for accounts in the prior Fiscal Years, pursuant to the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 64; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of funds to purchase new oil tanks at the Town House located on Common Street; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of all officers and committees as printed in the 2021 Annual Report; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes therefore, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following FY2023 Revolving Funds in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, section 53E ½, to be expended under the authority and direction of the following agencies or officials, to be credited with the receipts from the following revenue sources, to be expended for the following stated purposes, not to exceed the following spending limits respectively:

REVOLVING FUND	DEPARTMENT, BOARD, COMMITTEE, AGENCY, OR OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SPEND FROM FUND	FEES, CHARGES OR OTHER RECEIPTS CREDITED TO FUND	PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY EXPENSES PAYABLE FROM FUND	RESTRICTIONS OR CONDITIONS ON EXPENSES PAYABLE FROM FUND	OTHER REQUIREMENTS OR REPORTS	FISCAL YEARS
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	INSPECTOR, ASST. INSPECTOR	PERMIT FEES & INSPECTIONS OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	WAGES	NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.	80% OF FEE PAID TO THE INSPECTOR, 20% RETAINED BY THE TOWN	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	INSPECTOR, ASST. INSPECTOR	PERMIT FEES & INSPECTIONS OF COMMERCIAL SOLAR PROJECTS	WAGES	50/50	50% OF FEE PAID TO THE INSPECTOR, 50% RETAINED BY THE TOWN	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS
RECYCLING COMMISSION	RECYCLING COMMISSION	FEES COLLECTED FOR HHW ITEMS, BULK WASTE	DISPOSAL OF HHW ITEMS, BULK WASTE	NOT TO EXCEED \$6,500.	NONE	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	INSPECTOR, ASST. INSPECTOR	PERMIT FEES & INSPECTIONS OF PLUMBING INSPECTOR	WAGES	NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000.	NONE	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS
GAS INSPECTOR	INSPECTOR, ASST. INSPECTOR	PERMIT FEES & INSPECTIONS OF GAS INSPECTOR	WAGES	NOT TO EXCEED \$750.	NONE	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS
YOUTH COMMISSION	YOUTH COMMISSION	USER FEES & CHARGES COLLECTED BY THE YOUTH COMMISSION RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF ITS PROGRAMS	TO MEET EXPENSES OF THE YOUTH COMMISSION	NOT TO EXCEED \$500.	NONE	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION	AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION	USER FEES & CHARGES COLLECTED BY THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF ITS PROGRAMS	TO MEET EXPENSES OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION	NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000.	NONE	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION	PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION	USER FEES & CHARGES COLLECTED BY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF ITS PROGRAMS	TO MEET EXPENSES OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION	NOT TO EXCEED \$500.	NONE	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS

CEMETERY COMMISSION	CEMETERY COMMISSION	FEES & CHARGES COLLECTED BY THE CEMETERY COMMISSION	TO MEET EXPENSES OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION	NOT TO EXCEED 5,000.00	NONE	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS
TOWN HOUSE COMMITTEE	TOWN HOUSE COMMITTEE	RENTAL FEES & CHARGES COLLECTED BY THE TOWN HOUSE COMMITTEE	TO MEET JANITORIAL EXPENSES OF THE TOWN HOUSE	NOT TO EXCEED \$500.	NONE	FY/2023 & SUBSEQUENT YEARS
PLANNING BOARD	PLANNING BOARD	SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS/ SITE PLAN REVIEW	TO MEET THE PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES AND PAYROLL RELATED TO PROCESSING APPLICATIONS	NOT TO EXCEED \$3000.	NONE	FY/2023& SUBSEQUENT YEARS

or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Assessors to appoint one of its members to a full-time position under its supervision as allowed by MGL Chapter 268A; section 21A; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Assessors

Article 8. To see if the Town will extend its acceptance of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, clause 56 as voted under Article 15 of the Annual Town Meeting held on June 18, 2011 to allow the Board of Assessors to continue to exempt up to 100% of real and personal property taxes assessed to Massachusetts National Guard and military reservists for any fiscal year they are serving in a foreign country by extending the effective beginning date of such extension to Fiscal Year 2023.

Sponsor: Board of Assessors

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sale of Lots Fund Account to the Cemetery Commission Expense Account for the care, improvement and embellishment or enlargement of Town cemeteries; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Cemetery Commission

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sale of Lots Fund Account to the Perpetual Care Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Cemetery Commission

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof a sum of money for the Reserve Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Committee

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof a sum of money for the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof a sum of money to be used in conjunction with, and in addition to, any funds allotted by the Commonwealth for the construction, and/or improvement of town roads, as requested by the Board of Selectmen, in their discretion, to be returned to the Treasury when reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Superintendent of Streets

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from sewer revenues a sum of money to the Water Pollution Control Facilities Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Gilbertville and Wheelwright Water Pollution Control Facilities and all supporting apparatus; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Sewer Commissioners

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the sewer retained earnings account, borrow or any combination thereof, a sum of money to purchase the necessary equipment for the maintenance of sewer lines, including all incidental and related costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Sewer Commissioners

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof a sum of money to pay the necessary Town charges for the Fiscal Year 2023 beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 17. SPECIAL LEGISLATION TO ABOLISH SEWER COMMISSION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to abolish the Sewer Commission and transfer its powers, duties and responsibilities to the Board of Selectmen, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to said special legislation, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments thereto prior to enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments within the scope of the general objectives of this petition;

AN ACT ABOLISHING THE TOWN OF HARDWICK SEWER COMMISSION AND DELEGATING TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN CONTROL OVER THE HARDWICK SEWER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law, or vote of the town of Hardwick Town Meeting thereunder, to the contrary, the town of Hardwick sewer commission is hereby abolished, and the tenure of any incumbent commissioner is hereby terminated.

SECTION 2. Upon the effective date of this act, the board of selectmen of the town of Hardwick shall have all the powers and duties of sewer commissioners provided for under any general or special law, town bylaw, or other applicable laws.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law, or vote of the Hardwick Town Meeting thereunder, to the contrary, the board of selectmen of said town of Hardwick shall have the authority to issue any approval required by any board, commission, committee, or officer of the town, for the completion of the upgrade of the Gilbertville and Wheelwright Water Pollution Control Facilities and the so-called Eagle Hill Pump Station and Force Main, as described in the letter of conditions for funding from the United States Department of Agriculture, and the decision of said board of selectmen shall prevail over any conflicting decision of any other board, commission, committee or officer of the town; provided, however, that the authority conferred by this section shall automatically cease upon final completion of said upgrades.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Massachusetts General Court for special legislation, as set forth below, to establish the position of Treasurer-Collector; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF TREASURER-COLLECTOR IN THE TOWN OF HARDWICK.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 1 of chapter 41 of the General Laws or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, there shall be a treasurer-collector for the town of Hardwick. The treasurer-collector shall have all the powers, perform the duties and be subject to the liabilities and penalties now or hereafter conferred and imposed by law on town treasurers and town collectors of taxes. The treasurer-collector shall be appointed and may be removed, after the opportunity for a hearing, by the board of selectmen of the town. The board of selectmen may establish an employment agreement with the treasurer-collector for salary, fringe benefits and other conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, severance pay, reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of office, liability insurance and conditions of discipline, termination, dismissal, reappointment, performance standards and leave.

SECTION 2. Upon the effective date of this act, the appointed offices of town treasurer and town collector shall be abolished and the terms of the incumbents of such offices terminated.

SECTION 3. The appointed treasurer-collector shall, in all respects, be the lawful successor of the offices so abolished or consolidated. All records, property and equipment of the offices of the appointed town treasurer and appointed town collector shall be assigned to the office of the appointed treasurer-collector.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to: (a) authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain and on such terms as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, the fee to and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on, under and over certain parcels of land for the Creamery Road bridge project over Ware Brook, as approximately shown on plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of Creamery Road/Unitas Road (Bridge No. H-08-003=N-07-002) in the Towns of Hardwick/New Braintree Worcester County," dated December 1, 2021, prepared by BL Companies, on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended from time to time and/or incorporated into an easement plan, and land within 200 feet of said parcels, including without limitation, for the construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of a bridge, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, retaining walls, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, construction, landscaping, wetlands replication, and other structures and/or appurtenances, to enable the Town to undertake the Creamery Road over Ware Brook project, and for any and all purposes and uses incidental or related thereto; (b) raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum of money to fund the foregoing project and any and all costs incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, the cost of any land/easement acquisitions, appraisals, and surveys; and (c) authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Article 20. To see if the Town shall pay fifty per cent of a premium for contributory group life, hospital, surgical, medical, dental, and other health insurance for employees retired from the service of the town, and their dependents; or take any other action relative thereto.

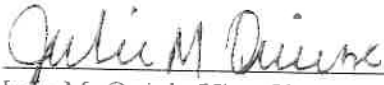
Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof in each of the Post Offices in said Hardwick, seven days at least before the time of said meeting. Hereof and fail not and make do return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk on or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 14th day of June, 2022.



Kelly G. Kemp, Chair



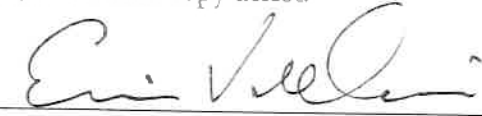
Julie M. Quink, Vice Chair

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF HARDWICK**



H. Robert Ruggles, Clerk

This is a true copy attest:



Constable

Date: 6/15/22

This day I have posted attested copies as directed.



Constable

Date: 6/15/22