

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HARDWICK
WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
November 18, 2021
HARDWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ryan J. Witkos, Moderator called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at 76 Schoolhouse Drive, in the village of Gilbertville and stated that the warrant was duly posted and returned. Pledge of Allegiance made.

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 Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. then and there to act on the following articles:

Motion made, seconded, voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the 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 2019, pursuant to the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 64; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Motion made, seconded, voted unanimously to table this article.

Article 2. Amend Zoning Bylaws: Section 9.0 Solar Energy Facilities. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hardwick Zoning Bylaw Section 9.0 – Solar Energy Facilities by adding the following section: 9.2.1 – Up to one year moratorium will be in effect on all applications for ground mounted solar energy facilities over 10 kilowatts referenced in the Use Regulations Section 3.2.6.1.3; or take any action in relative thereto.

Sponsor: Planning Board

Eric Vollheim, Chairman of the Planning Board made the following report to the Meeting: “Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Hardwick Planning Board held a public hearing on November 9, 2021 and reports to the Meeting that its recommendation be to adopt the following motion: That the Town amend the Hardwick Zoning Bylaw Section 9.0 – Solar Energy Facilities by adding the following section: 9.2.1 - A one-year moratorium shall be in effect on all applications for ground mounted solar energy facilities over 20 kilowatts referenced in the Use Regulation Section 3.2.6.1.3.”

Motion was recognized by the Moderator, seconded and received a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 64N, section 3 which states in part: “A city or town that accepts this section in the manner provided in section 4 of chapter 4 may impose a local sales tax upon sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the city or town to anyone other than a marijuana establishment at a rate not greater than 3 per cent of the total sales price received by the marijuana retailer as a consideration for the sale of marijuana or marijuana products.” Or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Motion made, seconded, and voted unanimously that the Town accept this article and impose a local sales tax of 3% under the purposes of the article.

Article 4. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements by and through its designated agent for payment-in-lieu-of taxes (PILOT) pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 59, section 38H(b) and Chapter 164, Section 1, or any other enabling authority, for personal property attributable to a solar photovoltaic array in the Town of Hardwick or take any action in relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Motion made, seconded, voted 13 in favor, 9 opposed that the Town adopt the article as read in the warrant.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to 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 2022, or take any other action relative thereto. Upon the acceptance of this section by a city or town, the board of assessors may grant, real and personal property tax abatement up to 100 per cent of the total tax assessed to members of the Massachusetts National Guard and to reservists on active duty in foreign countries for the fiscal year they performed such service subject to eligibility criteria to be established by the board of assessors. The authority to grant abatements under this section shall expire after 2 years of acceptance unless extended by a vote of the city or town.

Sponsor: Board of Assessors

Motion made, seconded, voted unanimously that the Town adopt the article as read in the warrant.

Given under our hands this 25th day of October, 2021.

Kelly G. Kemp, Chair

Julie M. Quink, Vice Chair

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN OF HARDWICK

Motion made, seconded, and voted unanimously to dissolve the Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

This is a true copy. ATTEST. Eric Vollheim, Constable. DATE: November 4, 2021.

This day I have posted attested copies as directed. Eric Vollheim, Constable. DATE: November 4, 2021.

32 Voters in attendance.

No quorum required by town bylaw.

6 Non-registered persons in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan J. Witkos

TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF HARDWICK