

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes

Thursday, June 17, 2024

Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. with 53 registered voters and 7 guests in attendance.

A moment of silence was held for residents who passed since our last town meeting.

Moderator Howland requested four residents to act as counters if needed. The Town Clerk swore in Beth Olson, Dody Ayer, Renee Gregoire, and Hud Bennett.

ARTICLE 1: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to accept the results of the Annual Town Election held on May 6, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to nominate the following:

I nominate David Thompson as Measurer of Bark & Wood.

I nominate David Thompson as Measurer of Lumber.

I nominate the Rutland Animal Control Officer as Pound Keeper.

I nominate Brenda Wisnewski as director of Extension Service.

I nominate Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department to be Field Drivers.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 3. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to accept the reports of the several Town Officers and Committees as written in the Town of New Braintree Annual Report of Officers and Committees.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 4. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Appointed Officers' Salaries, General Government, Town Finances, Protection of Persons and Property, Highway Related Expenses, Insurance, Debt & Interest, Schools and Assessments.

Section A: APPOINTED OFFICERS SALARIES:

A-1	Animal Inspector - C	0
A-2	Fire Chief/Forest Fire Warden - C	23,000.00
A-3	Register of Voter's Clerk - C	250.00
A-4	Veteran's Agent - C	200.00
	Sub-Total A:	\$23,450.00

Motion carried unanimously

Section B: GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

B-1	Selectmen's Expense	2,500.00
B-3	Select Board Executive Secretary	56,000.00
B-4	Legal Fees	20,000.00
B-5	Printing Expense	1,000.00
B-6	Care of Clock and Bell	10.00
B-7	Town Hall/Library Oper. & Maint.	32,500.00
B-8	Town Hall O & M Payroll	4,500.00
B-9	Maintenance of Town Garage	29,000.00

B-10	Board of Appeals Expense	200.00
B-11	Council On Aging Expense	600.00
B-12	COA Transportation Expense	10.00
B-13	Conservation Commission Expense	1,020.00
B-14	Historical Commission	350.00
B-15	Agricultural Commission	200.00
B-16	Veteran's Agent Expense	200.00
B-17	Veteran's Relief	100.00
B-18	Board of Health Expense	300.00
B-19	Planning Board Expense	100.00
B-20	Moderator's Expense	50.00
B-21	Town Clerk's Expense	1,000.00
B-22	Elections & Registration	1,250.00
B-23	Elections & Registrations Payroll	4,000.00
B-24	Town Common Land & Cemeteries	15,000.00
B-25	Library Expenses	12,871.00
B-26	Library Payroll	12,357.00
B-27	Recycling	0
B-28	Web Site/Technology	9,500.00
B-29	Town Historian	100.00
B-30	Animal Control Expenses	3,700.00
	Sub-Total B:	\$208,418.00

Motion carried unanimously

Section C: FINANCIAL:

C-1	Assessors' Expense	14,210.00
C-2	Payroll for Assessor's Employees	33,600.00
C-3	Assessor's Re-Certification	2,000.00
C-4	Assessor's Comm. Legal Fees	0
C-5	Auditor's Expense	2,000.00
C-6	Finance Committee Expense	10.00
C-7	Fin. Comm. Reserve Fund	12,000.00
C-8	Tax Collector Expense	12,300.00
C-9	Treasurer's Expense	6,660.00
	Sub-Total C:	\$82,780.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Section D: PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY:

D-1	Civil Defense (MEMPA)	1,350.00
D-2	Equipment Fuel Expense - Diesel	15,000.00
D-3	Equipment Fuel Expense - Gasoline	25,000.00
D-4	Fire Department Expense	65,000.00
D-5	Fire Department Labor & Training	50,000.00
D-6	Forest Fire Equipment	2,200.00
D-7	Police Department Expense	47,250.00
D-8	Police Department Labor	183,409.00
D-9	Communications	13,000.00
D-10	Street Lights	600.00
D-11	Alarm/Security System	2,000.00

D-12	Emergency Services	20,000.00
	Sub-Total D:	\$424,809.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Section E: HIGHWAY EXPENSE:

E-1	Highway Labor	215,000.00
E-2	Highway Expenses	55,000.00
E-3	Road Materials	50,000.00
E-4	Road Materials - Winter	45,000.00
	Sub-Total E:	\$365,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Section F: INSURANCE:

F-1	Health Insurance	81,557.00
F-2	Insurance	60,000.00
	Sub-Total F:	\$141,557.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Section G: DEBT & INTEREST:

G-1	Temporary Loan Expense	0
G-2	Int. & Exp. Temporary Loans	0
G-3	<i>*Debt on Fire Truck</i>	0
G-4	Interest on Debt Exclusion	10,477.00
G-5	<i>*Debt Exclusion Air Packs</i>	0
G-6	<i>*Debt Exclusion Town Hall</i>	103,000.00
G-7	<i>*Debt on Broadband</i>	0
	Sub-Total G:	\$113,477.00

Motion carried unanimously

Sec. H-1 SCHOOL ASSESSMENT I:

H-1	Pathfinder Vocational	169,638.00
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Motion carried unanimously

Sec. H2 – H4 SCHOOL ASSESSMENT II:

H-2	Quabbin Regional	1,366,532.00
H-3	Quabbin/Debt & Interest	7,705.00
	Subtotal H-2 & H-3	\$1,374,237.00
H-4	Out of District Tuition	0
H-5	Out of District Transportation	0
	Sub-Total H:	\$1,543,875.00

Motion carried unanimously

Section J: ASSESSMENTS:

J-1	CMR Planning	311.00
J-2	Medicare Tax	7,200.00
J-3	Unemployment Insurance	600.00
J-4	Worcester County Retirement	77,434.00
	TOTAL	\$85,545

Motion carried unanimously.

TOTAL ARTICLE 4: \$2,988,911.00

ARTICLE 5. Motion made and seconded that the town vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town.

ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES:

Selectman #1	500.00
Selectman #2	450.00
Selectman #3	450.00
Assessor #1	235.00
Assessor #2	210.00
Assessor #3	210.00
Auditor	26,025.00
Tax Collector	12,485.00
Treasurer	12,485.00
Moderator	150.00
Town Clerk	12,485.00

Motion carried unanimously.

TOTAL ARTICLE 5: \$65,685.00

TOTAL ARTICLES 4 & 5: \$3,054,596.00

ARTICLE 6. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to appoint one or more of their membership to work for compensation and to establish an hourly rate to be paid from an Assessor's Clerical Expense Account.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 7. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 17.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 8. Motion made and seconded that the Town to vote to authorize the Library Board of Trustees to retain all monies received for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2024, by the Town Treasurer under Chapter 78 of the M.G.L. (State Aid to Libraries) and any other unexpected source, said sums to be held over and carried forward for the general use of the Library.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 9. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2025 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2025 Spending Limit
Conservation Commission	\$ 5,000.00
Parks and Recreation Commission	\$10,000.00
Inspection Services	\$25,000.00
Board of Health	\$10,000.00
Town Hall Committee	\$ 5,000.00
Deputy Tax Collector	\$ 5,000.00
Animal Control Officer	\$ 7,000.00
Planning Board	\$ 7,500.00

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 10. Motion made and seconded that the Town of New Braintree vote to increase the exemption amount to \$1,000 from \$500 for the Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens under MGL, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 11. Motion made and seconded that the town pass over Article 11.

ARTICLE 12. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote that Chapter 2, Town Meetings & Zoning of the Town of New Braintree, Massachusetts be amended by deleting the third sentence and replacing it with the following: “The annual meeting for the consideration of all other business shall be held on the first Monday of June or on a date to be determined by the Selectboard

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 13. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote that Chapter 2, Town Meetings, Section 4 of the By-Laws & Zoning to the Town of New Braintree, Massachusetts, be amended by deleting the first sentence and replacing it with the following: “The number of voters necessary to constitute a Quorum at the Annual Town Meeting shall be twenty-five (25) voters, except that part of the meeting devoted to the election of officers when a Quorum shall not be necessary.

Motion defeated

Motion made and seconded to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
Town Clerk