

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held May 12, 2021 (Including Copy of Warrant)

Moderator Harland Smith called the Meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. after those waiting to be checked in were seated. There were 35 Registered Voters present which satisfied the quorum requirement of 20 according to our bylaws. Four guests were also present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; the call of meeting and return of service was read and found to be in order.

Joseph Fish, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, then greeted those in attendance and asked for a moment of remembrance to honor some of our well-known residents that we lost since our last Annual Meeting held in September 2020: Ruth McNeaney, Jeanne LeBeau, Robert "Nicky" Worthington, and Harry Blaisdell. He then thanked outgoing Chairman, Ted Boulay, and introduced our two new Selectmen, Robert Button and Braedon Hatt. The Water Project is moving forward, but there is still a lot to do. Committees, especially Finance and the Anniversary, were thanked and Mr. Fish commented that hopefully our 100th Anniversary celebration will take place "before we're too much older."

Those in attendance were asked if they had received all three handouts (the Finance Committee's recommendations, the budget and the Milestone Schedule for the DPHS Project), and the reading of the separate articles by the Moderator commenced.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Worcester SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of East Brookfield in the County of Worcester
GREETING.

IN THE NAME OF *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the **Memorial Town Complex, 122 Connie Mack Drive** in said East Brookfield on **Tuesday** the **11th** day of **May** next at **7:00** o'clock a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and to meet at an Adjourned Town Meeting at the **East Brookfield Elementary School** on **Wednesday**, the **12th** day of **May, 2021** at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, in said East Brookfield, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To elect on one ballot: One (1) Selectman, three year term; One (1) Selectman, one year unexpired term; One (1) Board of Assessors, three year term; One (1) Board of Health, three year term; One (1) Cemetery Commissioner, three year term; One (1) Trustee of Shade Trees and Cemetery Funds, three year term; Three (3) Planning Board Members, three year terms; Two (2) Trustees of Public Library, three year terms; One (1) Finance Committee Member, three year term; One (1) Tree Warden, one year term; One (1) Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, East Brookfield Representative, three year term; Two (2) Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, Spencer Representative, three year term.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town adopt the results of Article 1. The Moderator asked the Town Clerk if the election results had been posted at the Town Hall to which the Town Clerk replied in the affirmative.

Article 2: To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following purposes: Town Accountant, Board of Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Town Collector, Board of Assessors, Town Clerk, Elections, Registrations, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Board of Appeals, Municipal Properties, Police Department, Fire Department, MEMA, Animal Control Officer, Insurance & Unemployment Compensation Fund, Tree Warden, Gas Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, Building Inspector, Board of Health, Highways & Sidewalks Fund, Street Lighting, Water Department, Cemeteries & Depot Square Upkeep, Interest Fund, Maturing Debt Fund, Public Library, Veterans' Services, Recreation Committee, Town Reports, Historical Commission, Memorial Day Expense, EB Pride Committee, Reserve Fund, Retirement System, Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Park Commission, Council on Aging.

Finance Committee Clerk, Mark Carpentier, read the section totals of the FY2022 Budget advising those in attendance to raise their hand if they had a question on any section. The Finance Committee then recommended that the amounts shown hereafter in “Summary Budget Recommendations” and in the column entitled for “FY 2022 Recommend” be raised as indicated to defray Town Expenses for the twelve months ending June 30, 2022 and that the annual salaries of elected officers of the Town for the ensuing year be set as follows:

	FY2021 Budget	FY2022 Recommend
Town Clerk	\$26,000	\$26,650
Selectmen (3 members)	\$8,667	\$8,884
Chairman (additional)	\$505	\$518
Treasurer	\$17,182	\$17,612
Collector	\$15,843	\$16,239
Assessors (3 members)	\$4,254	\$4,463
Chairman (additional)	\$205	\$210
State Certification (additional)	\$750	\$750
Board of Health (3 members)	\$1,747	\$1,791
Chairman (additional)	\$253	\$259
Tree Warden	\$349	\$349
Planning Board (5 members)	\$2,008	\$0
Chairman (additional)	\$205	\$0

(See attached budgets and summary)

Motion to accept was made and seconded. By way of explanation, Mr. Carpentier noted that the Planning Board members and Chairman have voted to forego their compensation in order to employ a former member as a consultant. There being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer a sum of money for maintenance of Town roads, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to the Highway Department for the maintenance of roads. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 4: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Chapter 90 Highway Construction & Improvement, the same to be used separately, or in addition to sums contributed by the State and County under Chapter 90, providing such contributions are made, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for Chapter 90 Highway Construction & Improvement, the same to be used separately or in addition to sums contributed by the State under Chapter 90, providing such contributions are made. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to accept all Cemetery Trust Funds received and turned over to the Town Treasurer during the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2021, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to accept all cemetery trust funds received and turned over to the Town Treasurer during the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2021. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 6: To comply with the provisions of Chapter 41, Section 4A of the General Laws, will the Town vote to:

- (a) Authorize the Recreation Committee to employ any of its members on Recreation work and fix the rate of pay?
- (b) Authorize the Board of Assessors to employ any of its members to perform Cyclical Inspections and to set the pay rate.
- (c) Authorize the Board of Assessors to employ any of its members as Working Assessor and fix the rate of pay?
- (d) Authorize the Cemetery Commissioners to employ any of its members on Cemetery work and fix the rate of pay?

- (e) Authorize the Library Trustees to employ any of its members on Library work and fix the rate of pay?
- (f) Authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members as Agent and fix the rate of pay?
- (g) Authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members as Clerk and fix the rate of pay?
- (h) Authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members to perform clerical services and fix the rate of pay?
- (i) Authorize the Conservation Commission to employ any of its members as Clerk and fix the rate of pay?
- (j) Authorize the Park Commissioners to employ any of its members on Park Commission work and fix the rate of pay?
- (k) Authorize the Planning Board to employ any of its members to perform clerical work and fix the rate of pay?
- (l) Authorize the Finance Committee to employ any of its members to perform clerical work and fix the rate of pay?
- (m) Authorize the Cemetery to employ any of its members to perform cemetery work and fix the rate of pay?

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to comply with the provisions of Chapter 41, Section 4A of the General Laws as listed above. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 7: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Town Counsel for the ensuing year, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Town Counsel for its ensuing year. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 8: To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes therefor, 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 General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes therefor, 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 General Laws Chapter 44, Section 17. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money in anticipation of reimbursements on Chapter 90 Maintenance or Chapter 90 Construction, for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2021, in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 6A, and Acts in amendment thereof, and including in addition thereto, Chapter 849 of the Acts of 1969 as amended, and to renew any note or notes as may be given under this Article for a period of less than one year, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money in anticipation of reimbursements of Chapter 90 Maintenance or Chapter 90 Construction, for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2021, in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 6A and the Acts in amendment thereof, and including in addition thereto, Chapter 849 of the Acts of 1969 as amended, and to renew any note or notes as may be given under the Article for a period of less than one year. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to hear all reports of committees appointed at any Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to hear all reports of committees appointed at any Town meeting. Motion was made and seconded; the Moderator called for any reports; there being none and no discussion, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any gifts of property or money which might be given to the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any gifts of property or money which might be given to the Town. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer from Available Funds, a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund Account, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town pass over this article at this time. Motion to pass over the article was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as passed over.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to pay the expenses of the Town Representatives to the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$400 to pay the expenses of the Town representatives to the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Committee. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and the Conservation Commission to take any action on present or impending grants on Lake Restoration, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission to take any action on present or impending grants on Lake Restoration. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Ambulance Fees Reserved for Appropriation Fund to the Ambulance Operational Expense Account for the Fiscal Year 2022, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to transfer \$242,572 from the Ambulance Fees Reserved for Appropriation Fund to the Ambulance Operational Expense Account for the Fiscal Year 2022. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted. (The Finance Committee had thought to recommend passing over this article, but after the Warrant had closed realized there would be sufficient funds to approve it.)

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer a sum of money to the Regional School Apportionment account for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2022 Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District assessment or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,222,987 to the Regional School Apportionment Account for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2022 Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District assessment. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer a sum of money to fund Capital costs associated with the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District for Fiscal Year 2022 or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to pass over this article at this time. Motion to pass over the article was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as passed over. Mark Carpenter,

Finance Committee Clerk, invited Michael Ethier, Chair of the School Building Committee, to update those present on the progress of the David Prouty High School Project. Things are moving along well and we are in Phase II: Feasibility Study.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer a sum of money to the Vocational School Account for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2022 costs associated with the education and transportation of East Brookfield Vocational School students, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$164,500 to the Vocational School Account for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2022 costs associated with the education and transportation of East Brookfield Vocational School students. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer a sum of money to the Special Fire Engine Stabilization account, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to the Special Fire Engine Stabilization Account. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer a sum of money to the Special Ambulance Stabilization Account, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to the Special Ambulance Stabilization Account. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer a sum of money to the Municipal Capital Equipment Stabilization Account or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to the Municipal Capital Equipment Stabilization Account. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted. Mr. Carpentier explained the reason for these three articles, 19-21, is so that if there was a need for repairs or purchases beyond what the usual budget could fund, there would be money set aside for just such an occasion – they are in essence, savings accounts.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c 44 Section 53 E½, as most recently amended, to establish annual expenditure limits for Fiscal Year 2022 for all revolving funds listed in Article 17 of the General Bylaws, as set forth below;

Animal Inspector	\$500
Treasurer	\$1,000
Town Collector	\$15,000
Town Clerk	\$3,000
Wire Inspector	\$10,000
Board of Health	\$10,000

Or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to pass over this article at this time. Motion to pass over the article was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as passed over. It was noted that it is necessary to confirm that Article 17 in our General Bylaws is valid in order to adopt this Warrant Article and Article 28.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer a sum of money for maintenance of Private roads for Fiscal year 2022, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for maintenance of Private Roads for Fiscal Year 2022. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Solid Waste receipts and/or transfer from retained earnings to operate the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from retained earnings the sum of \$214,741 to operate the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted. Mr. Carpentier explained that the operations of the various Enterprise Funds are funded by the fees, not by taxes.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Water receipts and/or transfer from retained earnings to operate the Water Enterprise Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from retained earnings the sum of \$341,861 to operate the Water Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise, borrow or appropriate a sum of money, not to exceed two hundred twenty thousand (\$220,000.00) dollars, for the purpose of funding water system planning efforts, including all costs incidental and related thereto; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said sum pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8 or M.G.L. c.29C, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and that the Chair of the Select Board, acting as Chair of the Select Board or the Board of Water Commissioners is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote; and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount, or take any action related thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to borrow a sum of money, not to exceed two hundred twenty thousand (\$220,000) dollars, for the purpose of funding water system planning efforts, including all costs incidental and related thereto; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said sum pursuant to MGL c.44, sects.7 or 8, or MGL c.29C, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and that the Chair of the Select Board, acting as Chair of the Select Board or the Board of Water Commissioners is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote; and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with MGL c.44, sect.20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount. While any debt issued pursuant to this vote shall be a general obligation of the Town, payable from all sources of revenue, it is the Town's intent that debt service be paid, in the first instance, from the East Brookfield Water Enterprise Fund. Motion to accept was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 27 To see if the Town will vote to establish a stabilization fund for educational costs and to further appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from free Cash, or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to establish a stabilization fund for educational costs and to further appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from Free Cash to said account. Motion to accept was made and seconded. Pam LeBeau inquired as to what sort of education this would be meant to fund. Mr. Carpentier replied these funds could be used to buffer insufficient funds like the Regional School Apportionment. Leo Fayard, Chair of Finance, explained we don't have much of a choice with regard to the School Budget so this will help should an insufficiency occur. There being no further discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as adopted.

Article 28 To see if the Town will vote to charge for each written demand issued by the Town Collector a fee of \$20.00 to be added to and collected as part of the tax, as authorized by M.G.L. c.60 §15, effective May 13, 2021 or take any action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended the Town vote to pass over this article at this time. Motion to pass over the article was made and seconded, and there being no discussion and no opposition, the Moderator declared the Article as passed over.

AND YOU ARE DIRECTED TO SERVE THIS WARRANT, BY POSTING UP ATTESTED COPIES THEREOF, AT THE TOWN HALL, POST OFFICE and PODUNK CHAPEL IN SAID TOWN, SEVEN DAYS AT LEAST BEFORE THE TIME OF HOLDING OF SAID MEETING.

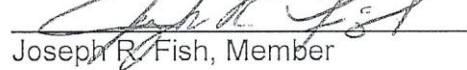
HEREOF, FAIL NOT, AND MAKE DUE RETURN OF THIS WARRANT, WITH YOUR DOINGS THEREON, TO THE TOWN CLERK, AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING, AS AFORESAID.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS THIS **TWENTY-SIXTH (26TH) DAY OF APRIL** IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, **TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



Theodore A. Boulay, Jr, Chairman



Joseph R. Fish, Member

SELECTMEN OF EAST BROOKFIELD

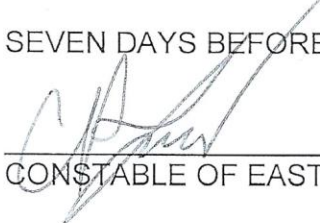
A TRUE COPY, ATTEST

CONSTABLE OF EAST BROOKFIELD

WORCESTER, SS:
EAST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

PURSUANT TO THE WITHIN WARRANT, I HAVE NOTIFIED AND WARNED THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD BY POSTING UP ATTESTED COPIES OF SAME AT THE U.S. POST OFFICE AT **12 P.M.**, THE EAST BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL AT **12 P.M.** AND THE PODUNK CHAPEL AT **12 P.M.** ON THE SAME DAY.

SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING, AS WITHIN DIRECTED.



CONSTABLE OF EAST BROOKFIELD