



Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

23 MAY 18 PM 1:13

RECEIVED-POSTED

Thursday, April 27, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

**TOWN HALL, 8 PARK STREET, ADAMS, MA 01220
1st Floor, Sun Room**

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date, the Board of Selectmen held a workshop at 6:00 PM at the Adams Town Hall. Chairman John Duval opened the meeting. Present: Chair John Duval, Vice-chair Christine Hoyt, Members Howard Rosenberg, Richard Blanchard, and Joseph Nowak. Also present were Jay Green, Town Administrator; Crystal Wojcik, Town Finance Director; Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary; Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk,

REVIEW FISCAL YEAR 2024 TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE

Please see attached articles

The meeting began with Jay Green, Town Administrator providing a brief overview of each warrant article. Articles 1-6 were considered relatively self-explanatory and did not necessitate further discussion regarding their nature.

Jay Green and Crystal Wojcik, Town Finance Director, explained to the Board some changes that were made to the Capital plan that had previously been submitted to the board as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. The DPW Capital Line item was reduced by \$100,000 and those funds were moved to the Community Development Capital Line item. The reason for this is that the DPW can use grant funding to purchase a piece of equipment that was previously going to be purchased with capital. The bottom line hasn't change and there will be no affect on the budget. The same amount of money is being spent, it just moved line items. The grant funding that the DPW is using to purchase the equipment was not able to be used to purchase equipment previously. That is why the funding was coming out of the capital budget. Recently, the State announced a change in the guidelines that would allow for the funds to be used on equipment purchases.

Article 8 required some discussion as it pertains to the School District budget. The Board of Selectmen are hopeful that the School District will not be requesting such a large sum of funding in the future due to their influx of funding this year.

Regarding Article 20, the Town Administrator clarified some of the language that is being used in the bylaw change. Right now, there must be an officer present at the police station at all points

in time. This takes a valuable individual who could be out in the community and puts them behind a desk in the police station. The Town of Adams uses emergency dispatching through the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office. For this reason, the Town is seeking a bylaw change that would allow the station to exist as a "dark station" while still maintaining at multiple on-duty officers in Town at all times. This is a change that many of our neighboring communities are trending toward and undergoing.



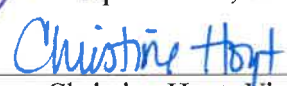
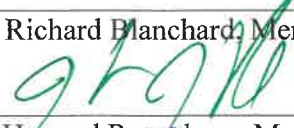

Article 21 pertains directly the General Government Review Study that is currently being conducted. At this time, the committee charged with this study has agreed on a recommendation to reduce the size of the finance committee from 15 individuals to 9. A 15-person finance committee is cumbersome and unnecessary for a community the size of Adams. Member Nowak asked why this is the only part of the study that has come before the Board. Member Nowak did not believe that it was appropriate to move this matter forward without seeing the other recommendations from the committee that is doing the study. Jay clarified that this is the only recommendation from the General Government Review Committee that can be implemented via Town meeting. The rest will require a home rule petition through the State Legislature. As such, this change will need to be made on its own, regardless of timing.

Article 23 of the Town meeting Warrant regards the surplus overlay that the Town Meeting members are being asked to release. Every year \$150,000 is appropriated to the board of assessors for abatements. Whatever is not given out in abatements is overlay excess (less the amount of outstanding taxes). That money will sit in that line item perpetually. In the past the board of assessors has vote to release those funds to free cash. This year, the board of assessor have voted to declare that sum of money as surplus. Then, Town meeting will be able to vote on the appropriation of those funds, which, in this case is for the Greylock Glen Outdoor Center. These funds will be coming from fiscal years 2013-2018. These funds will be used for the startup costs at the Greylock Glen.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Blanchard to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The Workshop was adjourned at 7:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary.

 _____ Joseph Nowak, Member	 _____ Richard Blanchard, Member
 _____ Christine Hoyt, Vice Chairman	 _____ Howard Rosenberg, Member
 _____ John Duval, Chairman	