



Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Thursday May 2, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Adams Free Library, Annex Meeting Room
92 Park Street, Adams MA
Use Melrose Street Entrance

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. April 2, 2024 Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen Workshop
 - B. April 4, 2024 Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen Workshop
 - C. April 9, 2024 Finance Committee Workshop
 - D. April 11, 2024 Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen Workshop
 - E. April 18, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting
- 3. FISCAL YEAR 2025 CAPITAL REVIEW**
- 4. REVIEW AND APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2025 TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES**
Please see attached
- 5. ADJOURNMENT**

FIN FRK

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

24 APR 30 PM 3:42

RECEIVED-POSTED

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Adams

RECEIVED-POSTED

24 APR 30 PM 3:43

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

CLERK _____

Berkshire, ss.

To either of the Constables, of the Town of Adams in the County of Berkshire in said Commonwealth:

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Adams Memorial Building, Side Entrance, 30 Columbia Street, Adams, Massachusetts on Monday the 3rd day of June 2024, at 6:00 P.M., then and there to act on the following articles, to wit.

ANNUAL ARTICLES

- Article 1** To choose all other town officers not previously chosen by ballot.
- Article 2** To hear the reports of the Board of Selectmen and other town officers and act thereon.
- Article 3** To hear the reports of any committee and act thereon.
- Article 4** To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as amended, and to see if any of said salaries and compensation shall be increased, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen

Chairman.....2,000
Member.....1,200

Board of Health

Chairman.....1,386
Member.....924

Board of Assessors

Full-Time.....78,031
Part-Time.....1,800

Cemetery Commissioners

Chairman.....600
Member.....500

Treasurer/Collector.....78,031

Moderator.....300

Town Clerk.....78,031

OPERATING OMNIBUS ARTICLE

Article 5 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the ordinary expenses of the Town for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, or take any other action in relation thereto.

	Personal Services		Operating Expenses	
	FY2024 Approved	FY2025 <i>Recommended</i>	FY2024 Approved	FY2025 <i>Recommended</i>
EXECUTIVE				
Selectmen	6,899	6,899	15,475	15,475
Town Administrator	201,211	204,933	38,855	92,500
Town Counsel	47,051			
Moderator	305	305	205	205
Town Report			2,100	2,100
FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY				
Finance Committee	528	528	3,080	3,080
Employee/Retiree Benefits	1,633,108	1,716,786		
Accountant	149,704	170,092	43,555	50,355
Technology	7,100		182,310	262,608
Insurance			261,700	276,700
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
Assessor	138,541	156,771	10,200	11,950
Treasurer-Collector	137,676	143,184	33,150	39,510
Town Clerk	142,219	146,789	4,850	5,975
Elections			31,400	40,075
Registrar of Voters	1,699	2,004		
Codification			2,500	2,500
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT				
Community Development	151,144	176,299	132,175	146,585
Greylock Glen Outdoor Center	44,034	109,581	57,500	57,500
Conservation Commission			3,525	
Planning Board			5,600	
Zoning Board			4,835	
Historical Commission			450	
INSPECTION SERVICES				
Inspection Services	237,148	251,191	7,675	7,175
Weights/Measures Inspector			5,000	5,000
PUBLIC HEALTH				
Board of Health			16,800	15,300

	Personal Services		Operating Expenses	
	FY2024 Approved	FY2025 Recommended	FY2024 Approved	FY2025 Recommended
PUBLIC SAFETY				
Police Department	2,071,420	2,143,268	129,625	134,050
Animal Control Officer	26,679	27,952	4,225	4,225
Parking Management	25,726	27,000	4,950	4,950
Emergency Management	2,129	2,129	2,875	2,875
Forest Warden	3,829	3,829	12,965	14,465
PUBLIC SERVICES				
Council on Aging	201,726	216,136	24,160	25,030
Veterans Services	18,500	20,000	139,955	139,955
Memorial Day Remembrances			1,450	1,450
Library	258,228	261,118	88,585	97,985
PUBLIC BUILDINGS/PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
Police Station			28,850	28,910
Registry of Deeds			1,050	1,050
Town Hall			21,350	21,350
Public Building/Property Maintenance	101,955	110,191	192,000	195,000
Adams Memorial Building			116,300	116,300
Visitor's Center			12,400	12,400
PUBLIC WORKS				
Tree Warden/Insect Pest			19,000	19,000
Public Works Administration	21,823	63,082	3,200	3,200
Department of Public Works	1,608,449	1,324,172		
Highways			117,350	115,850
Snow & Ice Control			246,000	246,000
Flood Control			600	600
DPW Garage/Equipment Maintenance			202,000	212,400
Transfer Station			65,500	68,500
Wastewater Collection			5,000	5,000
Cemetery, Parks & Grounds			45,375	45,375
Celebrations - Seasonal			2,000	2,000
Totals		7,284,239		2,552,513

ARTICLE 5 - AVAILABLE FUNDS TO BE USED

DEPARTMENT	FUND	AMOUNT
Parking Department	Parking Meter Fund	10,000
Council on Aging	Council on Aging Fund	20,000

SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND ARTICLE

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the sewer enterprise or take any other action in relation thereto.

SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

	<i>FY2025 Recommended</i>
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT	
Personnel Expenses	554,507
Operating Expenses	406,025
Debt Service	240,724
Total Recommendation	1,201,256

The FY2025 Recommendation of \$1,201,256 will be raised as follows:

Tax Levy **\$1,201,256**

CAPITAL OMNIBUS ARTICLES

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary for the purchase, rebuilding and/or installation of certain departmental equipment; for the contracting for certain services; to pay interest and loans maturing during this period; for the repair, reconstruction and/or construction of streets, roadways, sidewalks, sewers, guard rails, retaining walls, buildings, and/or bridges within the Town; further, to authorize the trade-in of any presently owned equipment toward the purchase price thereof, or take any other action in relation thereto.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

	<i>FY2024 Approved</i>	<i>FY2025 Recommended</i>
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE		
Technology	28,000	28,000
Debt Service	644,678	389,481
Total Recommendation		417,481

ARTICLE 6 - AVAILABLE FUNDS TO BE USED

DEPARTMENT	FUND	AMOUNT
Technology	Technology Fund	28,000

TECHNOLOGY – TOTAL **28,000**

Technology 28,000

This request is for Town-wide computer network/system security updates to improve existing hardware and software infrastructure.

The above request is appropriated from the Technology Fund for no impact to the Tax Rate.

DEBT SERVICE – TOTAL **389,481**

PRINCIPAL ON MATURING DEBT

Town Hall/ Police Station/Library Bond Issue

This request represents the principal of the Town Hall, Police Station & Library borrowing. 150,000

Adams Storm Damage Bond Issue

This request represents the principal of the Storm Damage Bond. 135,000

TOTAL PRINCIPAL **285,000**

INTEREST ON MATURING DEBT

Town Hall/Police Station/Library Bond Issue

This request represents the interest of the Town Hall, Police Station & Library borrowings. 17,550

Adams Storm Damage Bond Issue

This request represents the interest of the Storm Damage Bond. 54,800

Old Wastewater Treatment Plant

This request represents the interest of the FY2007 WWTP borrowing. 131

TOTAL INTEREST **72,481**

FEES ON MATURING DEBT

Fees on Maturing Debt

This request represents the administrative fees of maturing debt. 32,000

TOTAL FEES **32,000**

INTEREST – TEMPORARY LOANS

BAN's; GAN's; TAN's; and related fees 20,000

Temporary borrowing can occur for the following reasons: Anticipation of issuance of long-term debt (Bond Anticipation Notes), receipt of grants (Grant Anticipation Notes), or if the Town needs money to meet its financial obligations and the tax bills have yet to be issued (Tax Anticipation Notes).

This request also represents fees associated with various loans.

This request includes the interest on the borrowings for the September 2018 storms.

TOTAL INTEREST – TEMPORARY LOANS/FEES **20,000**

Article 8 CAPITAL OUTLAY EXPENDITURE FROM STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, the Stabilization Fund, a one-time combined sum of \$336,859 for the final principal payment of the FY2007 Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade borrowing, and the first year of interest payments of the FY2024 Massachusetts Clean Water Trust borrowing for the Wastewater Treatment Plant or take any other action in relation thereto.

CAPITAL OUTLAY EXPENDITURES	
Final Principal Payment of FY2007 Borrowing	199,986
First Year Interest Payments of FY2024 Borrowing	136,873
Total Appropriation	336,859

The current balance of the Stabilization Fund is \$1,024,726. At the time of publication, it is expected that the entire amount of the Fiscal Year 2024 Reserve Fund, \$175,000, will be added to the Stabilization Fund, for an estimated balance of \$1,199,726.

This appropriation would leave an ending balance of \$862,867.

**Article 9 CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT OUTLAY
FROM FREE CASH**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, Free Cash, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary for the purchase, rebuilding and/or installation of certain departmental equipment; for the contracting for certain services; buildings within the Town; further, to authorize the trade-in of any presently owned equipment toward the purchase price thereof, or take any other action in relation thereto.

	FY2025
	<i>Recommended</i>
EXECUTIVE	
Selectmen – Technology Improvements	30,000
PUBLIC BUILDINGS/FACILITIES	
Various Improvement Projects	100,000
PUBLIC SERVICE	
Library Building	15,000
PUBLIC WORKS	
DPW Garage/Equipment – Post Mower	30,000
DPW Garage/Equipment - Truck Repair	32,000
TOTAL REQUESTED	207,000

EXECUTIVE	30,000
<i>Selectmen</i>	
<i>This request is for the design, purchase, and installation costs for technology improvements to the Selectmen’s Room of Town Hall.</i>	30,000
PUBLIC BUILDINGS/FACILITIES	100,000
<i>Various Improvement Projects</i>	
<i>This request is for a variety of small improvement projects for Town owned buildings. Based on the unpredictable nature of the bidding environment, not all projects listed here may be accomplished, but may include: building envelope improvements; masonry work; HVAC needs; roof repairs; painting and water infiltration repairs to Town Hall.</i>	100,000
PUBLIC SERVICE	
<i>Library</i>	15,000
<i>This request is for multiple capital maintenance items on the building including, but not limited to, replacement of the glass desktop for the Main Circulation desk; repairs to the Annex</i>	

door frame; repairs to the Trustee Meeting Room; electrical and plumbing work; and landscaping. 15,000

PUBLIC WORKS 62,000

DPW Garage/Equipment

This request is for the purchase of a hydraulic Post Mower for attachment to the existing equipment. This attachment will automate mowing under and around fence poles, along roadsides, etc. 30,000

DPW Garage/Equipment

This request is for the purchase of a replacement stainless steel dump body for the existing 2005 International Single Axle Dump Truck in the DPW fleet. Recent investments have been made to the turbo, transmission, clutch and hydraulics. This vehicle is used for winter and summer work. The stainless dump body can be transferred to another vehicle when it is retired. Estimated replacement cost for a similar vehicle is \$200,000. 32,000

REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT ARTICLES

Article 10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary for the operating and capital assessments of the Hoosac Valley Regional School District (HVRSD) for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, or take any other action in relation thereto.

	<i>FY2024 Approved</i>	<i>FY2025 Recommended</i>
<i>Hoosac Valley Regional SD</i>	6,526,955	6,354,380

The above assessment consists of four parts:

1) State Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Minimum Municipal Contribution (Foundation Budget),	\$ 4,059,349
2) Additional Operating Assessment (above Foundation),	\$ 1,192,913
3) Other Expenditures (Non-Foundation-Transportation),	\$ 440,507
4) Capital Assessment – HVHS Project Debt Exclusion	\$ 661,611
	<u>\$ 6,354,380</u>

The total Hoosac Valley Regional School District FY2025 budget is \$22,481,719.

Article 11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary for the operating and capital assessments of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District (NBVRSD) for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, or take any other action in relation thereto.

	<i>FY2024 Approved</i>	<i>FY2025 Recommended</i>
<i>No Berkshire Vocational RSD</i>	<i>978,048</i>	<i>1,063,774</i>

The above assessment consists of four parts:

1) State Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Minimum Municipal Contribution (Foundation Budget),	\$ 939,180
2) Additional Operating Assessment (above Foundation),	\$ 77,205
3) Additional Operating Assessment (Non-Foundation-Transportation),	\$ 44,640
4) Capital Assessment (Capital Budget)	\$ 2,749
	<u>\$ 1,063,774</u>

The total Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District FY2025 budget is \$12,092,886.

TRANSFERS TO SPECIAL FUNDS

Article 12 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, a sum of money to be used to lower the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

It is proposed that \$250,000 of Free Cash be utilized to offset this year's Tax Rate.

Article 13 To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be added to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

This article will transfer the balance of the Reserve Fund, currently \$175,000, to the Stabilization Fund.

Article 14 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to provide for extraordinary and/or unforeseen expenditures to be known as the Reserve Fund account, transfer from which may be made from time to time only by the Finance Committee, or take any other action in relation thereto.

This is an annual item that allows the Town the flexibility to meet operational difficulties, through the Finance Committee, and will eliminate the expense of calling a Special Town Meeting. Request: \$175,000.

Article 15 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of current or prior fiscal years, or take any other action in relation thereto.

At this time, there are no outstanding bills.

ANNUAL AUTHORIZATION ARTICLES

Article 16 To see if the Town will vote to authorize its Board of Selectmen to apply for and receive funds from the Community Development Block Grant Program under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, or take any other action in relation thereto.

This article will allow the Town to apply for and expend Community Development Block Grants.

Article 17 To see if the Town will vote to authorize its Board of Selectmen to apply for and receive funds from the United States Department of Agriculture under the Community Facilities Grant program, or take any other action in relation thereto.

This article will allow the Town to apply for and expend Community Facilities Grants.

Article 18 To see if the Town will vote to accept certain perpetual care funds that were received during the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for the care and maintenance of cemetery lots, such funds are in the custody of the Town Treasurer, or take any other action in relation thereto.

This article will allow the Town to accept the \$4,000 deposited with the Town for the care and maintenance of cemetery lots.

Article 19 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow in the event of a revenue shortfall to allow the Treasurer to borrow via Revenue Anticipation Notes (RAN's), Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN's), Federal Aid Anticipation Notes (FAAN's), Grant Anticipation Notes (GAN's), and State Aid Anticipation Notes (SAAN's), in an amount not to exceed the anticipated revenue shortfall, or take any action in relation thereto.

The law requires that the Town annually grant this authority to the Town Treasurer.

Article 20

AUTHORIZE REVOLVING FUND SPENDING LIMITS

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Ch. 44, §53E ½ to establish limitations on expenditures from the revolving funds established by Chapter 50 of the General Bylaws, entitled, “Revolving Funds”, as follows, or take any action in relation thereto:

Revolving Account	FY2025 Expenditure Limit
Bid Specification Revolving Fund	\$5,000
Sanitary Sewer Revolving Fund	\$30,000
Promotional Revolving Fund	\$5,000
Library Revolving Fund	\$7,000
Transfer Station Revolving Fund	\$90,000
Inspection Services Fund	\$25,000
Tax Title Revolving Fund	\$20,000
Adams Visitor Center	\$25,000
Adams Memorial Building	\$25,000

Article 21 *AMEND COMPENSATION PLAN*

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Compensation Plan as established by Section 10-5 of the Town of Adams Code of Laws or take any other action in relation thereto.

SALARY ADMINISTRATION PLAN - ANNUAL RATE TABLE - FISCAL YEAR 2025												
This represents a 2.0% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) over Fiscal 2024.												
Grade	Step 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	23,894	24,491	25,103	25,731	26,375	27,035	27,710	28,403	29,114	29,841	30,588	31,352
2	26,044	26,696	27,363	28,046	28,748	29,468	30,204	30,959	31,734	32,527	33,341	34,174
3	28,389	29,098	29,826	30,572	31,337	32,121	32,924	33,746	34,591	35,456	36,341	37,249
4	30,944	31,717	32,511	33,323	34,157	35,012	35,887	36,783	37,704	38,647	39,611	40,600
5	33,729	34,571	35,438	36,322	37,231	38,163	39,117	40,094	41,097	42,125	43,176	44,255
6	36,764	37,683	38,627	39,591	40,581	41,599	42,638	43,702	44,795	45,916	47,062	48,238
7	40,073	41,075	42,103	43,153	44,234	45,342	46,474	47,634	48,827	50,048	51,297	52,579
8	43,679	44,771	45,892	47,037	48,215	49,423	50,657	51,922	53,222	54,552	55,914	57,311
9	47,610	48,800	50,023	51,270	52,555	53,872	55,216	56,595	58,013	59,461	60,946	62,469
10	51,895	53,192	54,525	55,884	57,285	58,721	60,186	61,688	63,234	64,813	66,432	68,092
11	56,566	57,980	59,433	60,914	62,440	64,006	65,603	67,240	68,925	70,646	72,411	74,221
12	61,657	63,199	64,782	66,395	68,060	69,766	71,507	73,292	75,129	77,004	78,929	80,901
13	67,207	68,887	70,612	72,372	74,186	76,044	77,942	79,888	81,891	83,934	86,032	88,182
14	73,255	75,086	76,967	78,885	80,863	82,888	84,957	87,078	89,260	91,489	93,775	96,119
15	79,847	81,844	83,894	85,984	88,141	90,348	92,604	94,916	97,294	99,723	102,214	104,769
16	87,033	89,209	91,445	93,723	96,073	98,480	100,938	103,458	106,050	108,698	111,414	114,198

SALARY ADMINISTRATION PLAN - HOURLY RATE TABLE - FISCAL YEAR 2025												
Grade	Step 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	13.08	13.41	13.74	14.08	14.44	14.80	15.17	15.55	15.94	16.33	16.74	17.16
2	14.26	14.61	14.98	15.35	15.74	16.13	16.53	16.95	17.37	17.80	18.25	18.70
3	15.54	15.93	16.33	16.73	17.15	17.58	18.02	18.47	18.93	19.41	19.89	20.39
4	16.94	17.36	17.79	18.24	18.70	19.17	19.64	20.13	20.64	21.15	21.68	22.22
5	18.46	18.92	19.40	19.88	20.38	20.89	21.41	21.95	22.49	23.06	23.63	24.22
6	20.12	20.63	21.14	21.67	22.21	22.77	23.34	23.92	24.52	25.13	25.76	26.40
7	21.93	22.48	23.05	23.62	24.21	24.82	25.44	26.07	26.73	27.40	28.08	28.78
8	23.91	24.51	25.12	25.75	26.39	27.05	27.73	28.42	29.14	29.87	30.60	31.37
9	26.06	26.71	27.38	28.06	28.77	29.49	30.22	30.98	31.75	32.55	33.36	34.19
10	28.40	29.11	29.84	30.59	31.35	32.14	32.94	33.76	34.61	35.47	36.36	37.27
11	30.96	31.74	32.53	33.34	34.18	35.03	35.91	36.80	37.73	38.67	39.63	40.62
12	33.75	34.59	35.46	36.34	37.25	38.19	39.14	40.12	41.12	42.15	43.20	44.28
13	36.79	37.70	38.65	39.61	40.61	41.62	42.66	43.73	44.82	45.94	47.09	48.27
14	40.10	41.10	42.13	43.18	44.26	45.37	46.50	47.66	48.86	50.08	51.33	52.61
15	43.70	44.80	45.92	47.06	48.24	49.45	50.69	51.95	53.25	54.58	55.95	57.34
16	47.64	48.83	50.05	51.30	52.59	53.90	55.25	56.63	58.05	59.50	60.98	62.51

BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

Article 22 To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 14-3, “Dogs required to be leashed; exceptions,” of the General By-Laws to read as follows, or take any action relative thereto.

(Note: Italicized and underlined text is added language)

§ 14-3 Dogs required to be leashed; exceptions.

A. Dog owners, keepers and persons otherwise in charge are required to physically restrain their dogs by leash when they are not on the owner's property. Hunting dogs when being used for hunting or training shall be exempt.

B. This section shall not apply to property owned and/or controlled by the Town of Adams or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts where a separate set of rules and regulations applies.

C. Whoever being the owner, keeper or person in charge of said dog(s) fails to keep his dog(s) physically restrained by leash shall be punishable by a fine as provided in § 14-8 for each individual dog in each individual offense.

Additional Background: The Town’s new public park at 1 Cook Street (former Coal and Grain property) is under construction and anticipated to open later in 2024. Design of this park began in 2018 and was guided by a steering committee of town staff, members of the public, and public officials. The design includes a fenced area intended to be used as an off-leash dog park. However, the Town’s dog leash laws do not grant any leash exemptions for town parks. Without amending the leash bylaw, the new dog park will be unable to open or function as intended. By amending the current leash bylaw as outlined above, the Board of Selectmen, with recommendation from the Parks Commission, will draft and approve a set of park rules for 1 Cook Street, which among other things, allow dogs to be off-leash within the fenced area of the park. Town staff are reviewing rules established by other communities for off-leash dog parks and will present recommendations to both boards shortly after approval at Town Meeting. This revision to the general bylaws was reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on April 17th, 2024.

Article 23 To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 50 – Revolving Funds to add the following Revolving Fund:

Revolving Fund	Spending Authority	Revenue Source	Allowed Expenses
Greylock Glen Revolving Fund	Town Administrator	Rental Fees	Maintenance and upkeep of the Greylock Glen

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Article 24 *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND*

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Economic Development Fund, a sum of money to be used for Fiscal Year 2025 expenses: \$80,000 for the payroll expenses of the Executive Director of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Center from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The balance of the Economic Development Fund as of April 29th, 2024, is: \$161,883.

Article 25 *AUTHORIZATION TO ACQUIRE EASEMENTS*

To see if the Town will vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee to and/or permanent and/or temporary easements for public way purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, alteration, installation, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of rights of way, bridges, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, landscaping, and other appurtenances and/or facilities, to enable the Town to undertake the Quality Street/South Willow Street bridge replacement project and for any and all purposes incidental or related thereto, in, on and under certain parcels of land, and land adjacent to and within 200 feet of said parcels, said parcels located on Quality Street and South Willow Street in the locations more particularly depicted on plans entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of Quality Street/South Willow Street Bridge No. A-04-038 in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans”, dated August 10, 2022, prepared by BSC Group, said plans on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended and/or incorporated into an easement plan; (b) raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow or otherwise provide a sum of money for the foregoing and paying and any and all costs and expenses incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, the cost of and land/easement acquisitions; and, further (c) authorize the Selectboard to enter into any and all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes, or to take any action related thereto.

Additional Background: MassDOT is advancing plans to replace the Quality Street bridge. As is typical of projects involving federal construction funding, temporary and permanent easements needed for the project are acquired by the municipality in which the project is located. As the construction and right-of-way acquisition schedule for the project will not align with the Adams Town Meeting schedule, and to avoid unnecessary delays, this warrant article allows the Board of Selectmen to acquire easements for the project, rather than waiting for Town Meeting approval.

Article 26 *AUTHORIZATION TO ACQUIRE EASEMENTS*

To see if the Town will vote to (a) authorize the Selectboard to acquire, by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee to and/or permanent and/or temporary easements for public way purposes, including without limitation, for the construction, alteration, installation, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of rights of way, bridges, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding, landscaping, and other appurtenances and/or facilities, to enable the Town to

undertake the Jordan Street Culvert replacement project and for any and all purposes incidental or related thereto, in, on and under certain parcels of land, and land adjacent to and within 200 feet of said parcels, said parcels located on North Summer Street and Jordan Street in the locations more particularly depicted on plans entitled “Jordan Street Culvert Draft Easement Plan”, Dated October 23, 2023, Prepared by VHB, said plan on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended and/or incorporated into an easement plan; (b) raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow or otherwise provide a sum of money for the foregoing and paying and any and all costs and expenses incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, the cost of and land/easement acquisitions; and, further (c) authorize the Selectboard to enter into any and all agreements and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes, or to take any action related thereto.

Additional Background: Like the Quality Street bridge replacement project, the Town of Adams is advancing plans to replace the Jordan Street Culvert. As the construction and right-of-way acquisition schedule for the project will not align with the Adams Town Meeting schedule, and to avoid unnecessary delays, this warrant article allows the Board of Selectmen to acquire easements for the project, rather than waiting for Town Meeting approval.

Article 27 *ACCEPTANCE OF M.G.L. c.39, §23D; “THE MULLIN RULE”*

To see if the Town will vote to accept, for all boards, committees or commissions holding adjudicatory hearings in the Town, the provisions of M.G.L. c.39, §23D, which provide that a member of the board, committee, or commission holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to the member’s absence from one session of such hearing, provided that certain conditions are met, or take any other action relative thereto.

Additional Background: Currently, if a Board or Committee member is absent during a public hearing related to a special permit or variance, that board member cannot participate in any future deliberation or voting related to the hearing. This can make it difficult to obtain quorums needed for voting purposes. By approving this warrant article, board members will be required to certify that they have reviewed transcripts or recordings of previous meetings where they were absent prior to being allowed to participate in future voting or discussion related to the hearing.

Article 28 *RE-APPROPRIATION OF QUAKER MEETING HOUSE FUNDS*

To see if the Town of Adams will vote to reappropriate \$11,500 previously appropriated from the Quaker Meeting House fund in FY2022 and FY2020 for the purpose of inspecting sills and/or performing minor repairs, or for matching possible grant funding from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund or similar grants or take any action relative thereto.

Additional Background: This warrant article is needed so that the town can provide matching funds to support an application to the Mass. Preservation Projects fund for \$30,000 to develop a restoration plan for the Quaker Meeting House. Prior appropriations from the Quaker Meeting House fund did not include language allowing the funds to be used for grant matching purposes. This grant application builds on a 2020 study of the Quaker Meeting House which identified needed repairs. The restoration plan will develop a set of construction documents and specifications needed to implement repairs. Future grant funds will be sought for construction.

The prior appropriation from FY2022 was as follows: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$5,000 from the Quaker Meeting House fund for the purpose of inspecting sills and/or performing minor repairs or take any action relative thereto.

The prior appropriation from FY2020 was as follows: To see if the Town of Adams will vote to appropriate \$6,500 from the Quaker Meeting House Trust fund for the purpose of obtaining repair quotes and/or performing minor repairs or take any other action relative thereto.

*The balance of the Quaker Meeting House Trust Fund after the prior appropriations is
\$5,820.*

Article 29 To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.