

WARRANT

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, MAY 12, 2025
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION, MAY 17, 2025

HAMPDEN COUNTY, SS

TO ANY OF THE CONSTABLES OF THE TOWN OF WILBRAHAM IN THE COUNTY OF HAMPDEN,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of Wilbraham, who are qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at **Minnechaug Regional High School (PRECINCTS A, B, C, & D)** in said Wilbraham on **Saturday, the 17th day of May, 2025, when the polls will be open between the hours of 8:30 AM and 6:30 PM**, then and there to act on the following:

To give their votes to the election of officers on one ballot for the following Town Officers: One (1) Select Board Member for three (3) years; one (1) Assessor for three (3) years; one (1) Regional School Committee member for three (3) years; one (1) Cemetery Commissioner for three (3) years; one (1) Cemetery Commissioner for one (1) year; one (1) Water Commissioner for three (3) years; one (1) Water Commissioner for one (1) year; two (2) Library Trustees for three (3) years; one (1) Library Trustee for one (1) year; one (1) Planning Board Member for five (5) years; and one (1) Wilbraham Housing Authority member for five (5) years.

All business of said meeting, except the election of such officers and the determination of such matters as by law are required to be elected or determined by ballot, shall be considered at **6:30 PM, on Monday, the 12th day of May, 2025, at the Minnechaug Regional High School Auditorium**, in said Town, then and there to act on the following articles:

**Articles 1-14 are designated Consent Agenda (consent agenda) and are considered routine. They will be acted upon with a single motion. Articles may be removed from the Consent Agenda by the Moderator in order to address any voter questions.*

Second Night. If there is considerable business remaining as the clock approaches 11:00 PM, the Moderator will consider a motion to adjourn to a second session.

***ARTICLE 1. Hearing Reports (consent agenda).** To hear and act on reports of all officers and committees whose duties require them to report to said meeting.

Explanation: Under this Article, Town Meeting formally accepts the 2024 Annual Town Report.

***ARTICLE 2. Choosing Miscellaneous Officials (consent agenda).** To choose one Poundkeeper; two Surveyors of Lumber; two Measurers of Wood and Charcoal; two Field Drivers; two Weighers of Grain; all for a term of one year.

Explanation: The Town has a tradition that these positions be filled by election at each Annual Town Meeting.

***ARTICLE 3. Water Enterprise Fund Budget (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,374,747 (\$1,900,000 from Water Receipts, \$50,000 from other Department Receipts, and \$424,747 from Retained Earnings), or transfer from available funds a sum of money, to operate the Fiscal Year 2026 Water Enterprise Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article establishes the Fiscal Year 2026 budget for the Water Enterprise Fund and the funding sources for said enterprise fund.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 4. Water Enterprise Fund Reserve Fund (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from water receipts the sum of \$100,000 for a Fiscal Year 2026 Reserve Fund under the Water Enterprise Fund, determine how this appropriation should be provided for; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article would provide a special reserve fund, under the Water Enterprise Fund, to meet FY26 "unforeseen and extraordinary" costs to that fund.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 5. Wastewater Enterprise Fund Budget (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,360,861 (919,111 from Wastewater Receipts, \$281,376 from Other Department Receipts, and \$160,374 from Retained Earnings), or transfer from available funds a sum of money, to operate the Fiscal Year 2026 Wastewater Enterprise Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article establishes the Fiscal Year 2026 budget for the Wastewater Enterprise Fund and the funding sources for said enterprise fund.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 6. Wastewater Enterprise Fund Reserve Fund (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from wastewater receipts the sum of \$50,000, for a Fiscal Year 2026 Reserve Fund under the Wastewater Enterprise Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article would provide a special reserve fund, under the Wastewater Enterprise Fund, to meet "unforeseen and extraordinary" costs to that fund.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 7. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$408,048 (\$330,000 from Solid Waste Receipts, \$46,800 from Other Department Receipts, and 31,248 from Retained Earnings), to operate the Fiscal Year 2026 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article establishes the Fiscal Year 2026 budget for the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund and the funding sources for said enterprise fund.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 8. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Reserve Fund (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from solid waste receipts the sum of \$10,000, for a Fiscal Year 2026 Reserve Fund under the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article would provide a special reserve fund, under the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, to meet FY2026 "unforeseen and extra ordinary costs to that fund.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 9. Receipts Reserved for Appropriation for Ambulance (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money (\$1,286,130) from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026 Ambulance to Ambulance personal services, operating and capital costs, pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article appropriates funding from ambulance billing receipts to support the Town's ambulance service.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 10. Receipts Reserved for Appropriation for Cemeteries (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money (\$20,000) from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026 Cemeteries to Cemetery Expenses, pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 40 and Section 16 of Chapter 114 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article appropriates funding from cemetery receipts to support operation of town cemeteries.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 11. Receipts Reserved for Appropriation for Wilbraham Public Access Television (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money (\$195,216) from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026 Wilbraham Public Access Television, pursuant to Section 53F ¾ of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article appropriates FY2026 funding from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund receipts to support operation of Wilbraham Public Access Television

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 12. Appropriations for Ambulance Depreciation Account (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money (\$275,000) from Fiscal Year 2026 Receipts Reserved for Appropriation for Ambulance to be held in a depreciation account for vehicle and equipment replacement pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto
Explanation: This Article appropriates funding from ambulance billing receipts to a holding account which accumulates funding for the future replacement of the ambulance vehicle
Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 13. Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Equipment (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of damaged, obsolete or unneeded tangible personal property or equipment owned by the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.
Explanation: Each year, Town Meeting may authorize the Select Board to dispose of surplus equipment.
Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

***ARTICLE 14. Authorization to Enter into Lease/Purchase Agreements (consent agenda).** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to make contracts for the lease, with option to purchase, for terms which may exceed three years, of various municipal equipment, subject to annual appropriation, if in the opinion of the Board it is in the best interests of the Town. The Select Board shall identify within its budget submission to the Finance Committee any contract for the lease with an option to purchase; or take any other action relative thereto.
Explanation: This Article authorizes the Select Board to enter into lease/purchase agreements.
Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 15. Departmental Revolving Funds. To see if the town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2026 beginning on July 1, 2025 for the revolving funds established in Town By-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, the Town of Wilbraham shall authorize the following Revolving Funds; and to amend the Table in General By-laws Section 112 (e), as set forth below:

Revolving Fund	Department, Committee, Board, Agency or Officer	FY 2026 Spending Limit
Council on Aging	Director of Council on Aging	\$30,000
Compost Bins	Director of Public Works	\$5,000
Cemetery	Cemetery Commission	\$20,000
Community Garden	Conservation Commission	\$6,000

;or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article would set the maximum amount to be spent from these departmental revolving funds established by Town By-laws for FY 26, in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of these programs or activities. This Article ensures that revolving funds practices are consistent with M.G.L. c. 44 § 53E½.
Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 16. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Revolving Fund. To see if the town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2026 beginning on July 1, 2025 for the revolving funds established in Town By-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, the Town of Wilbraham shall authorize the following Revolving Fund; and to amend the Table in General By-laws Section 112 (e), as set forth below:

Revolving Fund	Department, Committee, Board, Agency or Officer	FY 2026 Spending Limit
SNAP Revolving Fund	Director of Council on Aging	\$2,500

Explanation: This article establishes a new Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) revolving fund, and the limit of the amount of funds that may be spent from the SNAP Revolving Fund in FY26. These funds are provided to the Town of Wilbraham by a grant from the University of Massachusetts, and are administered by Council on Aging. The funds are awarded to individuals in need of assistance for food, heating fuel, clothing, etc.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 17. Funding Transfers FY 2025. To see if the Town will vote to transfer sums of money previously appropriated but unexpended from certain FY 2025 budgets for the purpose of funding certain Fiscal Year 2025 budgets which are insufficient to meet needed expenditure levels for the balance of the fiscal year, pursuant to Section 33B of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article proposes to cover shortfalls in FY 2025 departmental budgets with surpluses identified in other departmental budgets.

Finance Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation at Time of Publication.

ARTICLE 18. Parliamentary Procedures. To see if the Town shall adopt special parliamentary procedures for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Chapter 580 of the Acts of 1980 (Proposition 2½) as amended, and as set forth in a document entitled "Exhibit D: Article 18, Parliamentary Procedures" on file with the Town Clerk; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Under this Article, Town Meeting agrees to accept the Finance Committee's revenue estimates for the FY 2026 budget, and to keep total expenditures in balance with revenues. A voter making a motion to increase spending must identify the funding source.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 19. Compensation for Elected Town Officials. To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation for all elected Town Officers for Fiscal Year 2026, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: State law requires Annual Town Meeting to set the compensation of elected officials.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 6-1.

ARTICLE 20. Budget Appropriations. To hear and act on the report of the Finance Committee together with the appropriations recommended by them; and to raise such sums of money as may be deemed necessary for defraying the expenses of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year and appropriate the same and vote how the same shall be raised or provided for; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article presents the Finance Committee's recommendations for the FY 2026 budget. Any amendment to increase any budget item may only be presented according to the guidelines set forth in Article 18, Parliamentary Procedures.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 21. Capital Projects from Free Cash. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer from available funds (Free Cash 2024) a sum of money, [\$1,777,063], to fund the following Projects; or take any other action relative thereto.

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	AMOUNT	DEPT. TOTAL
Facilities	Library Chiller	\$ 175,000	\$ 265,000
	Town Hall Parking Lot Paving	\$ 90,000	
Highway	Freightliner Dump Truck (plow & spreader) #8	\$ 296,500	\$ 1,149,500
	Freightliner Dump Truck (plow & spreader) #11	\$ 296,500	
	Freightliner Dump Truck (plow & spreader) #15	\$ 296,500	
	Ford F250 Pickup (shared with Enterprise W/S)	\$ 20,000	
	Volvo L90 Loader or Equivalent	\$ 240,000	

IT	MicroSoft Office and Email 365 Gov't Cloud	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Recreation	Turbo Vac TV40 Sweeper	\$ 27,563	\$ 27,563
Mile Tree School	Switch Upgrades – Technology	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000
Stony Hill School	Mini Splits for Classrooms Flooring (5 Classrooms per year) Switch Upgrades – Technology Wireless Access Points	\$ 35,000 \$ 35,000 \$ 55,000 \$ 23,000	\$ 148,000
Middle School	Wireless Access Points	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000

Explanation: This Article would fund capital projects from Free Cash instead of issuing debt to pay for these projects.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 6-1.

ARTICLE 22. Capital Projects for Minnechaug Regional High School from Free Cash —To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money (\$369,408), to fund the following projects at Minnechaug Regional High School; or take any other action relative thereto.

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	AMOUNT
MRHS	Add/Replace Split AC Units	\$ 28,188
CAPITAL	Internal 2-way radio repeater system upgrade	\$ 8,859
PROJECTS	Camera System Upgrades (Camera/Storage)	\$ 297,984
	Kubota RTV	\$ 34,378

Explanation: This Article would fund requests from the HWRSD for the Town of Wilbraham's portion of capital projects at Minnechaug Regional High School (\$369,408). The Total Amount requested by the HWRSD was \$459,000. Hampden's portion is(\$89,592).

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Does Not Recommend Approval. (Motion to Recommend Approval Failed, 3-4.)

ARTICLE 23. Special Projects from Free Cash. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer from available funds (Free Cash 2024) a sum of money, [\$25,000], to fund the following Projects; or take any other action relative thereto.

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	AMOUNT	DEPT. TOTAL
Select Board	Human Resources Management Software	\$25,000	\$25,000

Explanation: This Article would fund the purchase of Human Resources Management Software.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 6-1.

ARTICLE 24. Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from the following available funds (Free Cash, water receipts, wastewater receipts, solid waste receipts, receipts reserved for appropriation for ambulance) \$277,100 to be placed into the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, established under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20; or take any other action relative thereto.

FUND	SOURCE	AMOUNT
General Fund	Free Cash	\$250,000
Water Enterprise Fund	Water receipts	\$ 15,000
Wastewater Enterprise Fund	Wastewater receipts	\$ 5,000
Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	Solid waste receipts	\$ 2,600
Receipts Reserved for Appropriation for Ambulance	Receipts reserved for appropriation for ambulance	\$ 4,500

Explanation: This Article would provide further funding of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund established to continue prefunding the town's unfunded actuarial liability of health care and other post-employment benefits.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 25. Stabilization Fund: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from overlay surplus, (certified as excess by the Board of Assessors, pursuant to Section 25 of Chapter 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws,) or transfer from other available funds (Free Cash), \$400,000 to be added to the Capital Stabilization Fund in accordance with Section 5B of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article will fund the Capital Stabilization Fund, the Town's savings accounts.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 26. Water Enterprise Retained Earnings. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$150,000 from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings account to fund: (\$50,000 for two trucks; \$50,000 to fund Pump Station Improvements and Water Main Replacement; and \$50,000 to fund Water Meter Replacements); or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This funding is for the Fiscal Year 2026 Water Department's Operational Budget.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 27. Waste Water Enterprise Retained Earnings. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000 from the Waste Water Enterprise Retained Earnings account to fund: (\$30,000 Truck; and \$20,000 Pump Station Upgrades); or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This funding will fund the Fiscal Year 2026 Waste Water Department's Operational Budget.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 28. Authorize Borrowing for Water Infrastructure. To see if the town will vote to appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money up to \$4,000,000 from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Local Water System Assistance Program (LWSAP) for the completion of water infrastructure projects, including all associated costs of design, permitting, construction, and any other incidental costs related thereto; and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue bonds and notes, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44, s. 29 (c), of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other enabling authority; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This article would authorize the Town to borrow funds from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Local Water System Assistance Program (LWSAP) for water infrastructure projects including but not limited to replacing a 100 year old 10-inch cast iron transmission main located on Miller Street in Ludlow that supplies water to the Wilbraham water customers. All projects will be reviewed and approved by the Water Commissioners during their public meetings held monthly at Town Hall.

The funds would be borrowed at 0% interest, repaid over a 10 year period from the date of MWRA approval and, although these bonds and notes will be considered general obligations of the Town, the debt service on these obligations is intended to be repaid by the Water Enterprise Fund.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 29. Adopt an Increase in Annual Exemptions for Veterans—Optional Additional Veteran

Exemption Clause 22J. To see if the Town will vote to accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by 100 of the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Clause 22J, if accepted, provides an additional exemption up to 100% of the amount of the tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F.

Acceptance Clause 22J for FY26, based on a 100% exemption, is estimated to increase the Overlay Reserve Account by \$109,752.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 30. Adopt an Increase in Annual Exemptions for Veterans—Adjusted Exemption Amount

Clause 22I. To see if the Town will vote to accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Clause 22I, if accepted, would increase the amount of the tax exemption granted to veterans on their domiciles under Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F annually by a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) determined by the Department of Revenue (DOR) based on the consumer price index (CPI).

Acceptance Clause 22I for FY26, based on a CPI of 3.4%, is estimated to increase the Overlay Reserve Account by \$6,672.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 31. Accept Veteran Exemption Clause 22D for Surviving Spouses.

To see if the Town will vote to accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22D, which authorizes a full exemption of the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22D, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Adoption of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22D would provide a full exemption from personal property taxes to Surviving spouses (who have never remarried) of (1) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) who went missing in action during active duty and are presumed to have died, or (2) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) or veterans who died as a proximate result of injuries sustained or illnesses contracted during active duty service.

A surviving spouse must have lived in Massachusetts for at least 2 consecutive years before the tax year begins (or lived in Massachusetts for at least 1 consecutive year before the tax year begins, if the legislative body of your city or town has voted to accept this local option). If not, the deceased military or guard member or veteran had to have been domiciled in Massachusetts for at least 6 consecutive months before entering the service.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 32. Accept Veteran Exemption Clause 22H for Parents and Guardians. To see if the Town will vote to accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22H, which authorizes a full exemption of the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22H, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Adoption of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22H would provide a full exemption from personal property taxes to Surviving parents or guardians of (1) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) who went missing in action during active duty and are presumed to have died, or (2) military personnel (including members of the National Guard on active duty) or veterans who died as a proximate result of injuries sustained or illnesses contracted during active duty service.

A surviving parent or guardian must have lived in Massachusetts for at least 5 consecutive years before the tax year begins. If not, the deceased military or guard member or veteran had to have been domiciled in Massachusetts for at least 6 consecutive months before entering the service.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 7-0.

ARTICLE 33. Adoption of a Local Option Meals Excise Tax. To see if the Town will vote to adopt, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 4, §4, a Local Option Meals Excise Tax under M.G.L. c. 64L on the sale of restaurant meals originating within the Town by a vendor at the rate of .75 percent of the gross receipts of the vendor from the sale of restaurant meals; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Adoption of this Article would add .75% to the price of meals purchased in Wilbraham, from 6.25% to 7.0%. The funds collected will be distributed back to the Town from the Commonwealth on a quarterly basis. The estimated quarterly receipts are \$45,000 for FY26.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 6-1.

ARTICLE 34. Zoning By-Law Amendment – Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units. To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with Sections 7 and 8 of Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024, to amend the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law by revising multiple sections as set forth in a document entitled "Exhibit A: Zoning Amendment— Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units"; or take any other action relative thereto. (Majority Vote)

Explanation: This article seeks to amend the Zoning By-Law by deleting existing regulations related to Accessory Apartments and replace with new regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) consistent with recent changes in Massachusetts law. The proposed amendment defines and regulates ADUs consistent with the new law and allows attached and detached ADUs up to 900 square feet in gross floor area with Site Plan Approval from the Planning Board.

Planning Board Recommendation: Planning Board Recommends Approval, 4-1.

ARTICLE 35. Zoning By-Law Amendment – Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law Regulation of Large Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems by amending Section 10.7, as set forth in a document entitled "Exhibit B: Zoning Amendment— Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems" on file with the Town Clerk. (2/3rd Vote)

Explanation: This amendment to the Zoning By-Law seeks to update the existing use regulations governing Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems in Section 10.7 to require native vegetation for required plantings wherever feasible, re-forestation after decommissioning, and fire cisterns where recommended by the Fire Department.

Planning Board Recommendation: Planning Board Recommends Approval, 5-0.

ARTICLE 36. Zoning By-Law Amendment – Regulation of Used Vehicle Sales.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law Regulation Sections 3.4 and 6.5, as set forth in a document entitled "Exhibit C: Zoning Amendment— Regulation of Used Vehicle Sales" on file with the Town Clerk. (2/3rd Vote)

Explanation: Currently, retail sales of used vehicle sales is allowed only as an accessory use to new vehicle dealerships. This article seeks to make amendments to the Zoning By-Law in Sections 3.4 and 6.5 to allow and regulate small-scale used vehicle sales as an ancillary use to other automobile-related uses. The amendment also adds lighting standards for both new and used vehicle sales.

Planning Board Recommendation: Planning Board Recommends Approval, 5-0.

ARTICLE 37. Acceptance of Deeds. To see if the Town will vote to accept such deeds and grants of interests in land to the Town recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds or the Hampden County Land Registration Office since the date of the last Annual Town Meeting as filed by the Select Board with the Town Clerk as “Exhibit E: Acceptance of Deeds”; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Under this Article Town Meeting votes to accept certain interests in land that have been deeded or granted to the Town since the last Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 38. Community Preservation Program Budget. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues and fund balance in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative and operating costs, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation; or take any other action relative thereto.

APPROPRIATIONS	
FY 2026 estimated revenues for Administrative and Operating	\$20,000
RESERVES:	
FY 2026 estimated revenues for Historic Preservation Reserves	\$63,527
FY 2026 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserves	\$63,527
FY 2026 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserves	\$63,527
FY 2026 estimated revenues for Undesignated Reserves	\$444,692

Explanation: The Article provides funding to the local Community Preservation Committee for Administrative and Operating costs up to \$20,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance and must be voted upon annually. Additionally, the Community Preservation Act (CPA) requires Town Meeting to appropriate or reserve for future appropriation at least ten percent (10%) of the estimated annual CPA revenue for acquisition and initiatives for each of the following categories: Open Space 10%, Community Housing 10% and Historic Preservation 10%. Of the 70% remaining balance \$444,692 shall be appropriated to the Undesignated Reserves, from which additional funds may be awarded to Open Space, Housing, Historic and Recreation projects. Approval of this Article is intended to satisfy the requirement for Fiscal Year 2026. Currently the Department of Revenue FY2024 State Matching share is estimated at 15% of our estimated current year's local revenues; Local Surcharge \$540,659 and State matching share at 15%, \$81,099.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 9-0.

ARTICLE 39. CPA Project for Preservation of Historical Records in the Town Clerk’s Office. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from the FY2026 Community Preservation Historical Fund Balance to preserve historical records in the Town Clerk’s office; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The Article would provide funding for the preservation of historical records in the Town Clerk’s office.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 9-0.

ARTICLE 40. CPA Project for Exterior De-Leading and Restoration of the Old Meeting House and Hearse House. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$147,000 from the FY2026 Community Preservation Historical Fund Balance for exterior de-leading and restoration of the Old Meeting House and Hearse House; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The Article would provide funding for exterior de-leading and restoration of the Old Meeting House and Hearse House.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 5-4.

ARTICLE 41. CPA Project for the Spec Pond Recreation Complex Walking Path. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$25,000 from the FY2026 Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance for the Spec Pond Recreation Complex Walking Path; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The Article would provide funding to add 100 feet to the Spec Pond Beach Walking Path, connecting the current path to the existing ADA walkway and to the fishing dock.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 5-1.

ARTICLE 42. CPA Project for Updates and Improvements at Amy's Sparkle Park. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$51,861.20 from the FY2026 Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance to update and improve water features at Amy's Sparkle Park Spray Park; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The Article would provide funding to update and improve amenities at Amy's Sparkle Park Spray Park.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 6-2.

ARTICLE 43. CPA Project for Pavilion, Permanent Benches and Replacement of Kiosk for Crane Hill Disc Park. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$19,500 from the FY2026 Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance to add a pavilion, permanent benches and replace the existing kiosk at the Crane Hill Disc Golf Course; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The Article would provide funding for a new pavilion, permanent benches and the replacement of a kiosk for the Crane Hill Disc Park.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 5-4.

ARTICLE 44. CPA Project for Accessible Playground Equipment at Stony Hill School. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$100,000 from the FY2026 Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance to replace outdated playground equipment with new accessible playground equipment at Stony Hill School; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The Article would provide funding to replace outdated playground equipment with accessible playground equipment at Stony Hill School. The school district is providing \$2,500 in site work. Total project cost is \$102,500.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Recommends Approval, 6-0.

ARTICLE 45. Land Taking for the Springfield Street at Stony Hill Road Intersection Improvements Project. To see if the Town will accept, acquire by gift, purchase, take by eminent domain or otherwise acquire, permanent and temporary easements, , in portions of adjoining properties known as 717-719, 720, and 728 Stony Hill Road and 245V Springfield Street, and any other portion of said adjoining properties as may be necessary for all purposes and uses accessory hereto, including but not limited to intersection improvements, sidewalk installation, street widening, and traffic signal upgrading, expressly including the parcels E-1, E-2, TE-1, TE-2, TE-3, TE-4, TE-5, PUE-1, PUE-2, and PUE-3 as shown on a plan entitled "Springfield Street at Stony Hill Road Intersection Improvements" prepared by Beta, Inc. and dated April 4, 2025, a copy of which are on file in the office of the Town Clerk;

And, further, to authorize the Select Board and other applicable Town of Wilbraham boards and personnel to take all related actions necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this article, or take any other action related thereto;

Explanation: This Article authorizes the Select Board to take property necessary to improve the intersection and install sidewalks at the intersection Springfield Street at Stony Hill Road. A preliminary plan labeled "Exhibit F: Springfield Street at Stony Hill Road" is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office.

ARTICLE 46. Land Taking for the Stony Hill Road and Boston Road and Sidewalk Improvement

Project. To see if the Town will accept, acquire by gift, purchase, take by eminent domain or otherwise acquire, permanent and temporary easements, in a portion of the property known as 1979 Boston Road, and any other portion of said property as may be necessary for all purposes and uses accessory hereto, including, but not limited to intersection improvements, sidewalk and retaining wall installation, expressly including parcels E-1 and TE-1, as shown on a plan entitled "Stony Hill Road Sidewalk Improvements" prepared by Beta, Inc. and dated April 4, 2025, a copy of which are on file in the office of the Town Clerk;

And, further, to authorize the Select Board and other applicable Town of Wilbraham boards and personnel to take all related actions necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this article; or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This Article authorizes the Select Board to take property necessary to improve the intersection and install sidewalks at Stony Hill Road and Boston Road. A preliminary plan labeled "Exhibit G: Stony Hill Road Sidewalk Improvements" is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office.

ARTICLE 47. Adoption of a Town-Wide 25 MPH Speed Limit. To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 90, Section 17C of the Massachusetts General Laws, setting the reasonable and proper speed on municipally-owned streets within thickly settled or business districts at 25 MPH. This speed limit will apply to all town ways that do not have existing speed regulations; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article would set the town-wide speed limit at 25 MPH on all thickly settled municipally owned streets that do not already have speed limits set according to state statute. This would set the unposted zones from their current speed limit of 30 MPH to 25 MPH.

ARTICLE 48. PETITIONED ARTICLE—FLAG RAISING ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Bylaws by adding a new Section entitled:

SECTION XXX FLAG RAISING ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

1. Flags exhibited from Town-owned properties shall be displayed in conformance with applicable federal, state, and local policies, as stated in the Federal "Our Flag" publication of the Congress House Document Number 96-144, and the Massachusetts statutes and regulations for flags, including without limitations G.L. c 2, §§ 6A, G.L. c. 264, §§ 5, 8, 950 CMR 34.00 et seq. and this policy. The Select Board or the Town Administrator as its designee shall ensure the proper execution of this By-law.
2. The flying or presentation of flags are not intended to create, or serve as, a forum for free expression of speech by the public. The Town of Wilbraham may display the following flags, at the request of the Select Board or the Town Administrator or their designee:
 - a. The Flag of the United States;
 - b. The Flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
 - c. Flags of the Wilbraham Police Department, Wilbraham Fire Department, or any other flag emblematic of a Town Department;
 - d. Service Flags at Crane Park; and
 - e. Military Flags on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Purple Heart Day.
3. Nothing in this policy shall be constructed to restrict or in any way limit the display of flags on privately held cemetery plots consistent with cemetery regulations

; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article will establish a By-law for the raising of Flags on Municipal property.

Petitioned by: Dave Sanders and others.

ARTICLE 49. PETITIONED ARTICLE—Apply to the MA ABCC to Increase the Off-Premises All-Alcoholic Beverages Liquor Licenses. To see if the Town will vote to apply to the Massachusetts Alcohol Beverages Control Commission (the ABCC) to increase the Town quota of Off Premises All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor Licenses from three to four in order to expand The Guilty Grape’s existing Off Premises Liquor License from a Wine and Malt Beverages license to an All Alcoholic Beverages license

; or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioned by: Mark Pafumi and others.

ARTICLE 50. NON BINDING RESOLUTION—Plastic Bag Ban. To see if the Town will vote support a non-binding resolution to establish a Town-wide plastic bag ban for retail purchases.

; or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This Article would provide input to the Select Board on support for a plastic bag ban in Wilbraham.

and to transact such other business as may properly come before this meeting;

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the Town Office Building and the Library in said Town, seven days at least before the time of holding 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 (14th) day of April, two thousand and twenty-five.



Susan C. Bunnell

Susan C. Bunnell, Chair

Michael A. Squindo

Michael A. Squindo, Vice-Chair

Marc Ducey

Marc Ducey, Clerk