

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
MAY 21, 2018**

I, Dolores Berge, Town Clerk, hereby certify that the following action was taken at the Special Town Meeting held on May 21, 2018:

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by the Town Moderator, Lucia Casey, at the Somerset Berkley Regional High School Performing Arts Center, 625 County Street, Somerset, followed by safety announcements. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Moderator followed by a moment of silence for deceased Town employees and retirees.

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying expenses related to legal services, or take any other action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus.**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Selectman Moniz and seconded by Selectman Berube that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus. Discussion followed by Selectman Moniz.

**Vote:** Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying sick leave buy-back for a retiring Library employee.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$26,301.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus.**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Selectman Moniz and seconded by Selectman McNamara that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$26,301.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus. Discussion followed by Selectman Moniz.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying a Verizon bill from a prior year, or take any other action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$34.73 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus. (9/10 req.)**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Selectman Moniz and seconded by Selectman McNamara that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$34.73 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus. Discussion followed by Selectman Moniz. The Moderator reminds the body that this motion requires a 9/10 vote to carry.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying the costs associated with making emergency repairs to the Intake Tower Sluice Gates and related components at the Somerset Reservoir, including engineering, legal and construction costs, or take any other action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$475,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Account #35-3217-450 (Water Meter Replacement.)**

**A motion was made by Water & Sewer Commissioner Scott O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Benevides that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$475,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Account #35-3217-450 (Water Meter Replacement.) Discussion followed by Mr. O'Brien.**

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing a Front-end Loader for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$140,341.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus.**

**A motion was made by Selectman McNamara and seconded by Selectman Berube that the Town vote to appropriate the amount of \$140,341.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus. Discussion followed by Selectman McNamara.**

**Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying for additional security surveillance at the four Somerset Public School buildings for the period of March 2018 – June 2018, or take any other action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$36,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus.**

**A motion was made by School Committeeman Andrew Crook and seconded by Victor Machado that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$36,000.00 for the purposes of this article as designated, and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus. Discussion followed by Mr. Crook.**

**Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of Massachusetts General Law chapter 59, section 21A, to provide additional compensation for a Certified Assessor, effective retroactive to July 1, 2017, and to appropriate a sum of money for said purpose.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Undesignated Surplus.**

**A motion was made by Michael Correia and seconded by Donald Setters that the Town vote to accept Chapter 59, section 21A of the Massachusetts General Laws, effective retroactive to July 1, 2017, as set forth in Article 7 and to appropriate and transfer from Undesignated Surplus the sum of \$1,000.00 for the purpose of this article. Discussion followed by Mr. Setters.**

**Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to delete the current provisions of the Consolidated Personnel By-law, as originally adopted on May 19, 1986, and subsequently amended through December 4, 2017, and substitute in their place the provisions attached hereto, with the following changes and new language highlighted in bold in the attached draft:

-In Article I, Definitions, section 10, after the existing language concerning “Probationary Period”, add the words “unless otherwise stated at the time of hire”;

-In Article II, section B, a change in the number of vacation weeks granted to employees hired on or after July 1, 2018;

-In Article II, section E, elimination of Longevity Pay for employees hired on or after July 1, 2018;

-In Article III, section C.4, inclusion of language indicating that Step Increases in salary for steps 5 through 9 may be granted after 52 weeks (each) if recommended and elimination of language that indicated such Step Increases would be granted only after 104 weeks (each) if recommended;

-In Table I, reorganization of the General Government Wage and Salary Groups into five (5) grades, rather than the current sixteen (16) grades;

-In Table I, insertion of a separate chart reflecting the same five Wage and Salary Groups for Public Utility Employees (Water and Sewer Departments);

-Amendment of the format of the Compensation Plan voted annually to reflect the new five (5) grades for General Government Wage and Salary Groups and creation of a similar five (5) grade Compensation Plan for Public Utility Employees.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to approve this article.**

A motion was made by Christopher Godet and seconded by Selectman Berube to waive the reading of this article by the Moderator. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**A motion was made by Selectman Berube and seconded by Selectman Moniz that the Town vote to amend the Consolidated Personnel By-law as set forth in Article 8. Discussion followed by Selectman Berube.**

**Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Personnel Tenure By-law, originally adopted on March 10, 1969, and subsequently amended through May 21, 2001, by inserting in section A.1 before the existing language the words "For employees hired before July 1, 2018, " so that after amendment said section will read as follows:

For employees hired before July 1, 2018, every person in the hereinafter specified Town departments and offices who has held such office or employment under regular or permanent appointment in the official or labor service of the Town for a period of three years shall thereafter have unlimited tenure of office or employment, subject to the provisions hereof.

By adding in section B.2 the following sentence after the existing language: "This By-law shall also not apply to any employee hired after July 1, 2018."

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to approve this article.**

**A motion was made by Selectman Berube and seconded by Selectman Moniz that the Town vote to amend the Personnel Tenure By-law as set forth in Article 9. Discussion followed by Selectman Berube.**

**Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**A motion was made by Selectman Moniz and seconded by Selectman Berube to dissolve the Special Town Meeting of May 21, 2018 at 6:19 pm. Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Attendance: 200

I, Dolores Berge, Town Clerk of the Town of Somerset, hereby certify the above action was taken at the Special Town Meeting of May 21, 2018, and duly recorded.

***A true copy attest;***

***Dolores Berge, Town Clerk***