

# *Annual Town Meeting*

## *May 20, 2024*

**The Annual Town Meeting was opened immediately following the Special Town Meeting at 6:54 pm by the Moderator Lucia Casey.**

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote the following consent calendar of routine Annual Town Meeting Articles:

- A. To hear the report of the Town Officers and act thereon;
- B. To authorize the Collector to use the same means which a Treasurer may use when acting as Collector;
- C. To hear and act on the report of any Committee and choose any Committee the Town may think proper;
- D. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of any funds allocated or to be allocated by the Commonwealth and/or the County for the construction, reconstruction and improvement of Town roads, pursuant to the terms of said funding.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee has no recommendation on this article.**

**Motion Article 1: A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town Adopt Article 1, as written. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 1 carried by a unanimous voice vote in the affirmative.**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to establish expenditure limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law chapter 44, section 53E½ as shown herein, or take any action relative thereto:

	<b>Revolving Account</b>	<b>Spending Authority</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Allowed Expenses</b>	<b>Expenditure Limits</b>	<b>Year End Expenditure</b>
A	Town Nursing Program	Board of Health	Fees charged for flu clinics and other fee programs	The costs of purchasing medical supplies in conjunction with conducting flu clinics, rabies clinics and other departmental programs and for any purposes incidental thereto, and wages and associated costs	\$80,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025
B	Vacant & Foreclosing Properties	Board of Health	Funds collected for the administration of Town of Somerset By-law concerning Vacant and Foreclosing Properties	Costs associated with administering the By-law and remediation & maintenance work per the By-law	\$20,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025
C	Library's Lost and/or Damaged Materials Program	Board of Library Trustees	Fees charged for Lost and or Damaged library materials	Costs associated with the replacement of lost or damaged library materials	\$2,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025
D	Hazardous Material	Board of Selectmen/Fire Department	Fees charged for disposal of Haz-Mat materials	Purchase of equipment or any Haz-Mat related expenses	\$10,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025

E	Emergency Medical Services	Fire Chief	Fees charged for Emergency Medical Services	Purchase of Emergency Medical Services equipment, emergency vehicle payments, and salaries/wages of Emergency Medical Services Personnel and any other costs associated with the operation of Emergency Medical Services	\$1,600,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025
F	Early Childhood Program	School Department	Receipts, Tuition and Enrollment Fees	Nurturing, care and education of young children enrolled in the program	\$100,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025
G	Creative Arts Program	School Department	Receipts, Tuition and Enrollment Fees	Nurturing, care and education of young children enrolled in the program	\$20,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025
H	School Choice	School Department	Receipts, Tuition and Enrollment Fees	Nurturing, care and education of young children enrolled in the program	\$200,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025
I	Before & After School Care	School Department	Receipts, Tuition and Enrollment Fees	Nurturing, care and education of young children enrolled in the program	\$25,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025
J	Use of School Property	School Department	Receipts and Fees	Facilities rentals and operations	\$30,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025
K	Technology Revolving Fund	School Department	Fees charged for technology insurance and devices	Technology insurance replacement parts or full device replacement	\$25,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2025

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6 - 0)**

**Motion Article 2: A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to adopt Article 2, as written and recommended. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 2 carried by a unanimous voice vote in the affirmative.**

**Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to establish the annual salaries of its elected officers commencing July 1, 2024, as follows, or take any action relative thereto:**

Town Moderator	\$500.00
Board of Selectmen, Chairman	\$6,000.00
Board of Selectmen, (2 members-each)	\$3,000.00
Board of Selectmen, Clerk	\$2,500.00
Board of Health, Chairman	\$2,500.00
Assessors, Chairman	\$3,950.00
Assessors, (2 members-each)	\$3,450.00
Town Clerk	\$83,336.00
Planning Board, (5 members-each)	\$500.00
Planning Board, Chairman	\$275.00
Planning Board, Clerk	\$275.00
Library Trustees, (6 members-each)	\$400.00
Library Trustee, Chairman	\$275.00
Library Trustee, Secretary	\$225.00
Playground & Recreation Commissioners, (5 members-each)	\$400.00
Playground & Recreation Commission, Chairman	\$275.00
Playground & Recreation Commission, Clerk	\$275.00
School Committee (5 members-each)	\$3,450.00
Water & Sewer Commissioners, Chairman	\$4,000.00
Water & Sewer Commissioners, (2 members-each)	\$3,500.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommendations approval of this article. (6 - 0)**

Motion Article 3: A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to adopt Article 3, as written. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 3 carried by a nearly unanimous voice vote in the affirmative.

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***\*A motion was made by Kimberly Michaud -222 High view Ave and seconded by many on the floor to move Article 4b to be heard before Article 4A. Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator called for a standing counted vote. The Moderator declared this motion passed by a majority in favor.\****

**APPROPRIATION**

<b>4B. School Dept. Budget</b>	<b>Approved FY24</b>	<b>Proposed FY25</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>
	<b>\$23,882,809.00</b>	<b>\$24,950,123.00</b>	<b>\$1,067,314.00</b>

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$24,950,123.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

**Article 4B:**

Motion Article 4B: A motion was made by Brian Michaud- 222 Highview Ave and seconded on the floor to amend the article by 250,000.00 to restore the school budget to its original total of 25,200,123.00. Discussion followed by Brian Michaud, Victor Machado, Maria Monte- 70 Island Heights Ave, Natalie Thomas- 134 Valley Road, Jessica Machado-91 Washington Ave, A&F Committee member Michael Pasternak, Selectman Souza, and Lloyd Mendes- 48 Anawan Street who called asked for this amendment to be called out of order. The Moderator agreed and ruled this motion to be made out of order because the main motion was not presented on the floor. The Moderator called for the Selectmen to present the motion on the floor.

A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Sousa that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$24,950,123.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for the purposes of funding the Somerset Public School Department Budget as written in the article, and that said sum be raised from taxation. Discussion followed by School Committee Member Jennifer Ashley who made a motion and seconded by School Committee Member Victor Machado to amend the article with an increase of \$122,500.00 for a total of \$25,072,623.00 and that said sum be raised from taxation. Discussion followed by A& F committee member Michael Pasternak, Superintendent Jeffery Schoonover, Patricia Steele- 180 Yankee Peddler Drive, Maria Monte- 70 Island Heights Ave, Town Administrator Mark Ullucci, Selectman Smith, School Committee Member Jennifer Ashley, Jessica Machado- -91 Washington Ave, Paul Cogley- 159 Main Street, Joseph Fingliss- 121 Shand Court Cir., Maria De Costa- 84 Forest Ave, Selectman Souza, Melissa Terra- 102 Banville Ave, Brian Michaud- 222 Highview Ave who made a motion to move the question and seconded and seconded by several on the floor. The Moderator called for a standing vote. There were 301 votes – Yes – 216, No – 85. The Moderator declared the motion to move the question by a majority vote in the affirmative. The Moderator called for a vote on the motion of the amendment. The Moderator called for a standing vote. There were 285 votes – Yes – 218, No – 66. The Moderator declared that the amended article 4B carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

***\*Motion was made by Natalie Thomas- 134 Valley Road and seconded several on the floor to not reconsider Article 4B. The Moderator called for a voice vote. The Moderator declared this motion passed by a majority in favor.\****

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be considered necessary to defray the Town’s expenses for the ensuing 12 month period beginning July 1, 2024, as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

**A. GENERAL BUDGET**

APPROPRIATION	PERSONNEL SERVICES	EXPENSES	TOTAL APPROPRIATION
113 Town Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
114 Town Moderator	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
122 Selectmen	\$158,242.00	\$2,300.00	\$160,542.00
123 Town Administrator	\$289,000.00	\$16,550.00	\$305,550.00
124 Contingent	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
131 A & F Committee	\$3,350.00	\$300.00	\$3,650.00
132 Reserve Fund	0	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
135 Town Accountant/Finance Director	\$262,134.00	\$15,750.00	\$277,884.00
136 Annual Audit	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	\$44,000.00
137 Computer	\$0.00	\$194,700.00	\$194,700.00
141 Assessors	\$175,848.00	\$62,050.00	\$237,898.00
143 Tax Foreclosure	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
145 Town Treasurer/Tax Collector	\$330,754.00	\$79,662.00	\$410,416.00
151 Law Department	\$0.00	\$275,000.00	\$275,000.00
161 Town Clerk	\$157,371.00	\$6,800.00	\$164,171.00
162 Elec. & Regr.	\$31,273.00	\$48,137.00	\$79,410.00
171 Conservation Comm	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
175 Planning	\$111,550.00	\$1,450.00	\$113,000.00
176 Zoning Board of Appeals	\$3,025.00	\$3,800.00	\$6,825.00
181 Economic Dev. Comm.	\$0.00	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
184 Cable Advisory	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
192 Town Office	\$53,154.00	\$42,450.00	\$95,604.00
193 Old Town Hall	\$0.00	\$6,950.00	\$6,950.00
195 Town Reports	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
198 Insurance	\$0.00	\$10,317,000.00	\$10,317,000.00
199 FICA-	\$0.00	\$480,000.00	\$480,000.00
205 Fire/Police Station	\$58,264.00	\$126,280.00	\$184,544.00
210 Police Department	\$3,617,106.00	\$243,250.00	\$3,860,356.00
215 E-911 Dispatch	\$543,800.00	\$14,950.00	\$558,750.00
220 Fire Department	\$2,321,350.00	\$121,065.00	\$2,442,415.00
241 Bldg. Insp./Zoning Agent	\$150,782.00	\$3,400.00	\$154,182.00
242 Gas & Plumbing	\$22,750.00	\$1,000.00	\$23,750.00
244 Sealer of Standards	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
245 Wiring Inspector	\$22,000.00	\$550.00	\$22,550.00
291 Emergency Mgmt.	\$0.00	\$4,600.00	\$4,600.00
292 Dog Officer	\$0.00	\$72,182.00	\$72,182.00
294 Tree Warden	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
295 Harbor Master	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$11,000.00

296 Insect Pest Control	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
299 Inspector of Animals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
420 Highway Department	\$900,708.00	\$135,275.00	\$1,035,983.00
423 Snow Removal	\$98,760.00	\$85,100.00	\$183,860.00
424 Street Lights	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
425 Traffic Signal Maint.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
431 Landfill	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
480 Vehicle Maint. Facility	\$148,693.00	\$451,100.00	\$599,793.00
510 Board of Health/Conservation	\$94,661.00	\$11,400.00	\$106,061.00
522 Town Nurse	\$0.00	\$54,605.00	\$54,605.00
541 Council on Aging	\$96,843.00	\$60,035.00	\$156,878.00
543 Veterans Benefits	\$105,157.00	\$189,250.00	\$294,407.00
544 Graves Registration	\$750.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,250.00
610 Libraries	\$501,372.00	\$182,450.00	\$683,822.00
630 Playground & Rec.	\$138,560.00	\$4,000.00	\$142,560.00
633 Public Outdoor Facilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
691 Historical Comm.	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
692 Public Celebrations	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
693 Military Buildings/Groups	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
694 American Legion	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
695 VFW	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
696 Mun & Hist Bldgs.	\$0.00	\$34,150.00	\$34,150.00
710 Maturing Debt - General Government	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
710 Maturing Debt - School Department	\$0.00	\$1,045,000.00	\$1,045,000.00
752 Interest Appropriation – Short Term School Department	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
753 Interest Appropriation School Department	\$0.00	\$2,043,950.00	\$2,043,950.00
832 Contributory Retirement	\$0.00	\$4,488,836.00	\$4,488,836.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVT.</b>	<b>\$10,402,757.00</b>	<b>\$21,298,627.00</b>	<b>\$31,701,384.00</b>

	<b>Approved FY24</b>	<b>Proposed FY25</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>
<b>Personnel Services</b>	<b>\$9,929,507.00</b>	<b>\$10,402,757.00</b>	<b>\$473,250.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,369,467.00</b>	<b>\$3,403,841.00</b>	<b>\$34,374.00</b>
<b>Fixed Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,647,465.00</b>	<b>\$17,894,786.00</b>	<b>\$247,321.00</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$30,946,439.00</b>	<b>\$31,701,384.00</b>	<b>\$754,945.00</b>

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$31,701,384.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)**

**Article 4A:**

**Motion Article 4A: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$31,701,384.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for the purposes of funding the General Budget as written in the article, and that said sum be raised from taxation. The Town Administrator Mark Ullucci gave a brief presentation. Discussion followed by Nicole McDonald- 30 Admirals way, motion was made and seconded by several on the floor to put line item 175 on hold. Discussion continued on article 4A excluding line item 175 followed by Patricia Steele- 180 Yankee Peddler Drive, Town Administrator Mark Ullucci, Selectman Smith, Kimberly Michaud – 222 Highview Ave , Michael Pasternak A&F Committee Member. Hearing no**

further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on article 4A with the exception of line item 175. The Moderator declared that Article 4A with the exception of line item 175 carried by a unanimous voice vote in the affirmative.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion on Line 175 – Planning. Discussion followed by followed by Selectman Smith, Michael Pasternak A&F Committee Member, Rick Peirce- 15 Saddlebrook Terrance made a motion and seconded by several on the floor to adopt line 175 as originally proposed. Discussion continued by Lloyd Mendes-46 Anawan St , Patrick McDonald- 30 Admirals Way, and Denise St.Ives-110 Cheryl lane who made a motion and seconded by several on the floor to move the question. The Moderator called for a vote on moving the question. The Moderator declared that moving the question carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative. The Moderator called for a vote on line item 175 as written in the General Budget. The Moderator declared that line item 175 carried by voice vote a majority in the affirmative.

*\*Motion was made by Lloyd Mendes- 46 Anawan St and seconded by several on the floor to not reconsider line item 175. The moderator called for a voice vote. The Moderator declared this motion passed by a majority in favor.\**

**Article 4C:  
APPROPRIATION**

**4C. Water and Water Pollution Control Enterprise Operations**

	Personnel Services	Operating Expenses	TOTAL APPROPRIATION
1. Water Dept.	\$1,267,716.00	\$3,053,021.00	\$4,320,737.00
2. Water Pollution Control Dept.	\$1,204,418.00	\$2,700,386.00	\$3,904,804.00

**TOTAL** **\$8,225,541.00**

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,225,541.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be raised from the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Receipts. (6 -0)

**Motion Article 4C:** A motion was made by Water and Sewer Commissioner Steve Cadorette and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,225,541.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for the purposes of funding the Water and Water Pollution Control Enterprise Operations as written in the article, and that the sum of \$8,225,541.00 be raised from the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Receipts. Discussion followed by Water and Sewer Commissioner Steve Cadorette and Elizabeth Paskowski- 347 North Street. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 4C carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Consolidated Personnel By-law, adopted by the vote taken under Article 3 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of May 19, 1986, as last amended November 6, 2023, as follows:

Article II, section E, shall be amended by striking said section in its entirety and substituting the following:

“E. Longevity: Following the completion of the specified years of continuous service with the Town of Somerset, each regular full time employee and regular permanent part-time employee shall be eligible for weekly longevity payments in accordance with the following schedule:

Years of Total Service	Longevity Pay Rate Per Week
Five (5) Years	\$5.00 Per Week
Ten (10) Years	\$10.00 Per Week
Fifteen (15) Years	\$20.00 Per Week
Twenty (20) Years	\$30.00 Per Week
Twenty-Five (25) Years or more years	\$40.00 Per Week

, and further, Article II, section I.D, shall be amended by striking the second and third sentences thereof and substituting the following:

“Any employee who has been continually in the service of the employer for thirty (30) days or more shall be entitled to sick leave with pay at the rate of one and one half (1 ½) days per month accumulative at the end of each month.”

, and further, Article III, section 3.A., shall be amended by striking the last sentence thereof and substituting the following:

“For purposes of calculating overtime, holiday pay, sick pay, and vacation pay shall be considered as hours worked.”

, and further, Table I, under the caption entitled “Wage & Salary Groups General Government Positions,” shall be amended by striking said table in its entirety and substituting the following:

“Grade: A	
S	Superintendent of Streets & Sanitation
Grade B:	
C	Principal Assessor
C	Building Inspector / Zoning Agent
C	Director Council on Aging
S	Library Director
C	Board of Health / Conservation Agent
C	Recreation Director
C	Veterans Service Officer
C	Assistant to Town Administrator
Grade C:	
C	Assistant Assessor
C	Librarian
C	Assistant Tax Collector
C	Assistant Town Accountant
C	Assistant Town Clerk
C	Assistant Treasurer / Group Insurance Coordinator
F	Highway & Sanitation Foreman
F	Highway Vehicle Maintenance Foreman
C	Administrative Assistant – Town Administrator
Grade D	
C	Assistant to Council on Aging Director
C	Administrative Assistant - Fire Department
C	Administrative Assistant - Police Department

- C Administrative Assistant – Water Department
- C Administrative Assistant - Water Pollution Control
- C Administrative Assistant – Accounting
- C Administrative Assistant

Grade E:

- C Head of Circulation – Library
- C Head of Technical Services – Library
- C Head of Childrens – Library
- C Department Assistant – Permits / Board of Health
- C Payroll / Treasurer Clerk

Grade F:

- C Library Assistant
- F Custodian
- C Senior Floater
- C Office Clerk – Water”

and further, Table I, under the caption entitled “Public Utility Positions Wage & Salary Groups” shall be amended by striking said table in its entirety and substituting the following:

“GRADE A:

GRADE B:

- F Water Department Plant Manager & Chief Operator
- F Water Pollution Control Plant Manager & Chief Operator

GRADE C:

- F Water Pollution Control Collection & System Foreman
- F Water Department Distribution Systems Foreman

GRADE D:

- F Water Pollution Control Maintenance Supervisor

GRADE E:

- F Water Department Plant Shift Operator

GRADE F:

- F Meter Reader / Cross Connection Operator”

, or take any action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 5: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza the Town vote to approve the Consolidated Personnel By-law amendment as written in the article. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith, Nathan Wiebe- 776 Chace Street, Town Administrator Mark Ullucci, Michael Pasternak A&F committee member made a motion and was seconded by the floor asking for a standing vote for this article. The Moderator agreed to allow a standing vote. Discussion followed by Kimberly Michaud – 222 Highview Ave and Superintendent Jeffery Schoonover. Kimberly Michaud made a motion and seconded on the floor to make an amendment to change the longevity**

pay rate to not start at five years but to start at eight years. Discussion continued by Michael Pasternak A&F Committee member, Kimberly Michaud -222 Highview Ave, Tracy Costa- 73 Windward Drive, Christopher Godet 70 Dawns Terrance, Victor Machado- 119 Desmond Ave, Steve Cadorette Water and Sewer Commissioner, and Bob Lima -222 Connecticut Ave. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the amendment. The Moderator declared the motion failed by a unanimous voice vote. The Moderator opened the floor for discussion on the original article. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a standing vote on the article 5 as written and recommended. There were 115 votes – Yes – 115, No – 0. The Moderator declared article 5 passes by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 6 :** To see if the Town will vote to amend Table II Compensation Plan for General Government Positions and Public Utilities Positions, respectively, each as set forth in the Consolidated Personnel By-law adopted by the vote taken under Article 3 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of May 19, 1986, as last amended November 6, 2023, by adopting and substituting the following associated Tables effective as of July 1, 2024, or take any action relative thereto.

**Table II  
FY 2025 Compensation Plan  
General Government Positions**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
A	49.97	50.96	51.98	53.02	54.09	55.17	56.27	57.39	58.53	59.71	60.90	62.12	63.37	64.63	65.92
B	42.15	42.99	43.85	44.72	45.62	46.54	47.46	48.41	49.38	50.37	51.38	52.41	53.46	54.53	55.62
C	31.23	31.86	32.50	33.15	33.80	34.48	35.17	35.87	36.60	37.33	38.07	38.83	39.60	40.40	41.20
D	28.88	29.46	30.05	30.64	31.26	31.89	32.53	33.18	33.84	34.52	35.21	35.91	36.63	37.36	38.11
E	27.33	27.87	28.43	28.99	29.57	30.16	30.77	31.38	32.01	32.65	33.30	33.97	34.65	35.34	36.05
F	23.43	23.91	24.38	24.86	25.36	25.86	26.38	26.90	27.44	27.99	28.54	29.11	29.69	30.29	30.90

**Table II  
FY 2025 Compensation Plan  
Public Utilities Positions**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
A	51.47	52.49	53.54	54.61	55.71	56.83	57.96	59.11	60.29	61.50	62.73	63.98	65.27	66.57	67.90
B	43.41	44.28	45.17	46.06	46.99	47.94	48.88	49.86	50.86	51.88	52.92	53.98	55.06	56.17	57.29
C	32.17	32.82	33.48	34.14	34.81	35.51	36.23	36.95	37.70	38.45	39.21	39.99	40.79	41.61	42.44
D	29.75	30.34	30.95	31.56	32.20	32.85	33.51	34.18	34.86	35.56	36.27	36.99	37.73	38.48	39.25
E	28.15	28.71	29.28	29.86	30.46	31.06	31.69	32.32	32.97	33.63	34.30	34.99	35.69	36.40	37.13

F	24.13	24.63	25.11	25.61	26.12	26.64	27.17	27.71	28.26	28.83	29.40	29.98	30.58	31.20	31.83
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The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)

**Motion Article 6:** A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that that the Town vote to amend Table II (Wage & Salary Groups) of the Consolidated Personnel By-law, by adopting and substituting the provisions as written in the article, effective July 1, 2024. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 6 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 7 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds additional sums of money for the following Town Departments, Accounts, or purposes, or take any action relative thereto:

APPROPRIATION	PERSONNEL SERVICES
#122 Selectmen	\$7,444.00
#135 Town Accountant	\$2,538.00
#141 Tax Assessor	\$4,219.00
#145 Town Treasurer/Tax Collector	\$1,898.00
#192 Town Office	\$320.00
#205 Fire/Police Station	\$845.00
#210 Police Department	\$877.00
#220 Fire Department	\$1,059.00
#241 Building Insp./Zoning Agent	\$2,843.00
#420 Highway Department	\$3,685.00
#480 Vehicle Maintenance	\$643.00
#510 Board of Health/Conservation	\$1,444.00
#541 Council on Aging	\$12,607.00
#543 Veterans Benefits	\$1,370.00
#610 Libraries	\$6,307.00
#630 Playground & Rec.	\$1,034.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$49,133.00</b>

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$49,133.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

**Motion Article 7:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to adopt Article 2, as written and recommended. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 7 carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying the Town’s share of the operating and capital expenses of the Somerset Berkley Regional School District, said amount having been assessed to the Treasurer of the Town of Somerset and with said assessment subject to the provisions of the certain Amended Agreement approved by the vote taken under Article 6 of the May 17, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

**APPROPRIATION**

**8. Somerset Berkley Regional School District**

Approved FY24	Proposed FY 25	Increase/(Decrease)
\$10,128,209.00	\$10,919,920.00	\$791,711.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,919,920.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

**Motion Article 8:** A motion was made by Superintendent Jeffery Schoonover and seconded by School Committee Member Victor Machado that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,919,920.00 for the purpose of paying the Town’s share of operating expenses (\$9,286,039.00) and capital expenses (\$1,633,881.00) for the Somerset Berkley Regional School District, said amount having been assessed to the Treasurer of the Town and that said sum be raised from taxation. Discussion followed by Superintendent Jeffery Schoonover. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 8 carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

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**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds such sums of money for the purpose of paying the Town’s share of the operating expenses of the Greater Fall River Vocational Technical High School District as provided for by section 6 of chapter 697 of the Acts of 1962, said amount having been assessed to the Treasurer of the Town of Somerset, or take any action relative thereto:

**APPROPRIATION**

**9. Greater Fall River Vocational Technical High School District**

Approved FY24	Proposed FY25	Increase/(Decrease)
\$1,756,986.00	\$1,831,424.00	\$74,438.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,831,424.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

**Motion Article 9:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by several on the floor the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,831,424.00 for the purpose of funding the Town’s assessment for the Greater Fall River Vocational Technical High School District as written in the article, and that said sum be raised from taxation. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 9 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

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**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds such sums of money for the purpose of paying the Town’s share of the operating expenses of the Bristol County Agricultural School as provided for by section 82 of chapter 6 of the Acts of 1991, said amount having been assessed to the Treasurer of the Town of Somerset, or take any action relative thereto:

**APPROPRIATION**

**10. Bristol County Agricultural School**

Approved FY 24  
\$225,696.00

Proposed FY25  
\$329,901.00

Increase/(Decrease)  
\$104,205.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$329,901.00 for the purposes of the article and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

**Motion Article 10:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$329,901.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be raised from taxation. Discussion followed by Selectmen Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 10 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 11 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the expense of collecting and disposing of mixed solid waste, recyclables, yard waste, and white goods and to determine whether pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 44, section 53E, the appropriation for said expense will be offset, in part or in the aggregate, by the estimated receipts from the fees charged for rubbish bags pursuant to the vote taken under Article 10 of the February 8, 1993, Special Town Meeting, as well as funds raised by taxation or transferred from available funds in the Treasury, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,280,000.00 for the purpose of this article and that the sum of \$900,000.00 be raised from “offset receipts” and that the sum of \$1,380,000.00 be raised from taxation. (6-0)

**Motion Article 11:** A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,280,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that the sum of \$900,000.00 be raised from “offset receipts” pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 44, section 53E, and that the sum of 1,380,000.00 be raised from taxation. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 11 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

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**Article 12 :** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the PEG Access and Cable-Related Special Revenue Fund a sum of money to be expended during the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for necessary and expedient cable-related purposes consistent with the Town’s license agreement, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements of up to ten years or such lesser terms as the Board of Selectmen shall determine to be in the best interest of the Town for the expenditure of such funds for the provision of PEG community access television services, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)

**Motion Article 12:** A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the PEG Access and Cable-Related Fund the sum of \$375,000.00 for the purposes as written in the article. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith and Nathan Wiebe- 776 Chace Street, who made a motion to amend the article and was seconded on the floor to strike “and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements of up to ten years or such lesser terms as the Board of Selectmen shall determine to be in the best interest of the Town for the expenditure of such funds for the provision of PEG community access television services, or take any action relative thereto”. Discussion continued on the amendment with Selectmen Smith and Nathan Wiebe- 776 Chace Street, who decided to withdraw his motion and was seconded by the original resident on the floor. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 12 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the following bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, or take any action relative thereto:

APPROPRIATION	EXPENSES
#198 Insurance	\$179.00
Bristol County Agricultural High School	\$4,624.00
TOTAL:	\$4,803.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,803.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

**Motion Article 13:** A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,803.00 for the purpose of paying bills of a prior fiscal year as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith and Selectman Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 13 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 14 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the "Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund", or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Town Administrator	Appropriate Money to the "Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund"	\$400,000.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

**Motion Article 14:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza and Cheryl Crossley- Simons- 570 Main Street. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 14 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 15 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be used for the purpose of undertaking capital repairs and improvements at certain Town-owned buildings and grounds, including any incidental costs or expenses , or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Town Administrator	Appropriate Money for Capital Repairs and Improvements of Town-owned Building and Grounds	\$400,000.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of

**\$400,000.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 15:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum \$400,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 15 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 16 :** To see if the Town will vote to adjust the tax work-off programs established pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. chapter 59, sections 5K and 5N, as accepted by the vote taken under Article 15 of the Warrant of the Special Town Meeting of March 24, 2014, by increasing the exemption amount to \$1,000.00 and to allow an approved representative, for person physically unable, to provide such services to the Town, such adjustments to be effective beginning on July 1, 2024, with total annual funding of said program not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Town Administrator	Amend Tax Workoff Program	NA

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 16:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to adjust the tax work-off programs established pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. chapter 59, sections 5K and 5N, as accepted by the vote taken under Article 15 of the Warrant of the Special Town Meeting of March 24, 2014, by increasing the exemption amount to \$1,000.00 and to allow an approved representative, for persons physically unable, to provide such services to the Town, such adjustments to be effective beginning on July 1, 2024, with a total annual funding of said program not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), as written in the article. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 16 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 17 :** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s Revolving Fund By-law adopted by a vote taken under Article 3 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of May 15, 2017, as amended, by inserting a new revolving fund labeled “Recreation Program Revolving Fund” and to set expenditure limits for said revolving fund for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, of \$200,000.00, to be expended as authorized by the Recreation Commissioner, under the provisions of M.G.L. chapter 44, section 53E<sup>1/2</sup>, or take any action relative thereto.

	Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	Revenue Fees, Charges, or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expense Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Other Requirements / Reports	Fiscal Year
A	Recreation Program Revolving Fund	Recreation Director / Commissioner	Fees charges for recreation activities and use of facilities	Costs associated with administering services for recreation program, activity purchases and maintenance work and for any purposes incidental thereto.	NA	NA	Fiscal Year 2025 and subsequent years

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)**

Motion Article 17: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that that the Town vote to approve the Town’s Revolving Fund By-law amendment as written in the article. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 17 carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

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**Article 18** : To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of repairing, renovating and maintaining the Old Town Hall Building located at 1458 County Street in Somerset, MA, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any other action relative thereto. **The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

Motion Article 18: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith, Cheryl Crossley- Simmons – 570 Main Street who made a motion to amend the article. Further discussion followed by Selectman Smith. The Moderator asked for Town Council Matt Feher to explain why the motion to amend the article was not plausible, Mr. Feher explained that because the amendment would not have a cap amount it would run afoul of municipal finance laws. Discussion continued Michael Pasternak A&F committee Chairman, Denise Jordan- 159 Main Street, Cheryl Crossley- Simmons – 570 Main Street, Selectman Souza, and Norman Larsen- 265 Read Street. The amendment for the article did not receive a second. Hearing not further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the original article. The Moderator declared that Article 18 carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

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**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of replacing and / or installing playground equipment at Buffinton Park located at Buffinton Street in Somerset, MA, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Town Administrator	Replace and or Install Playground at Buffinton Park	\$225,000.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$225,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

Motion Article 19: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$225,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith and Cheryl Crossley- Simons- 570 Main Street. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 19 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

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**Article 20** : To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing two (2) Cardiac Monitors for the Fire Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Fire Department	Purchase Two (2) Cardiac Monitors for the Fire Department	\$50,000.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 20:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 20 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 21 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing a Sig Com TRX50 Radio Box Receiver for the Fire Department , including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Fire Department	Purchase a Sig Com TRX50 Radio Box Receiver for the Fire Department	\$125,000.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$125,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 21:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$125,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 21 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 22 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing and equipping two (2) Police Cruisers for the Police Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Police Department	Purchase of Two (2) Police Cruises for the Police Department	\$132,000.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$132,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

**Motion 22:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$132,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza, Victor Machado- 119 Desmond Avenue, and Selectmen Smith. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 22 carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 23 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding the costs of diagnostics testing and repairs of the solar panel control module located at the Somerset Highway Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Highway Department	Solar Panel Diagnostics / Repairs for the Highway Department	\$20,000.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 23:** A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 23 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 24 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding the replacement of the underground fuel tanks located at the Somerset Highway Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Highway Department	Replace Underground Fuel Tanks at the Somerset Highway Department	\$350,000.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$350,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 24:** A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$350,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 24 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 25 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding the replacement of the automatic generator switch on the emergency generator located at the Somerset Highway Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Highway Department	Replace Emergency Generator Auto Switch	\$20,000.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 25:** A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Souza that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 25 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 26 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding the repair of the roof and replacement of six (6) roof-top heating units located at the Somerset Public Library, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Library	Repair Roof and Replace six (6) Roof-top Heating Units	\$300,000.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 26:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$300,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza, Victor Machado-119 Desmond Ave, Denise Jordan- 159 Main Street and Nathan Wiebe -776 Chace St. Motion was made by Nathan Wiebe- 776 Chace Street and seconded by the floor to amend the article “ replacement of two of the six roof-top heating units”. Discussion followed by Selectmen Souza, Town Administrator Mark Ullucci, and Nathan Wiebe- 776 Chace Street who withdrew his amended motion. Discussion continued by Jeffrey Kardel- 52 Folsom Ave, who made an amendment to the article. Discussion followed by Town Administrator Mark Ullucci, Jeffrey Kardel, and Selectman Smith. Jeffrey Kardel made a motion to withdraw his current amendment. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote on the original article 26. The Moderator declared that Article 26 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 27 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing a ballot tabulator for the Town Clerk’s Office, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
1. Elections & Town Meeting	Purchase of Ballot Tabulator for Town Clerk’s Office for use at	\$7,975.00

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,975.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 27:** A motion was made by Selectman Souza and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,975.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza and Peter Pelletier- 13 Stoddard Street. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 27 carried by nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$40,000.00 of which \$27,900.00 will come from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve and \$12,100.00 to come from the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Fund for fencing and safety improvements for Fields #1, 2 and 3 at Ashton Field, located at 90 Olympic Road in Somerset, MA, including, but not limited to, site preparation, construction, equipment, materials, and any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)**

**The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (7-0)**

**Motion Article 28:** A motion was made by Community Preservation Committee Member Timothy Turner and seconded by many on the floor that the Town vote to adopt the article and appropriate Community Preservation Act funds for the purposes as written in the warrant. Discussion followed by Community Perseveration Member Timothy Tuner. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 28 carried by unanimous vote in the affirmative.

***\*A motion was made by Selectmen Smith that there be no reconsideration of Articles 1-28. The motion was seconded from the floor. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.***

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**Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$50,000.00 of which the full amount will come from the Community Preservation Housing Reserve Fund for funding of an engineering study of Route 6 land identified as Assessor's Map B6, Lot 341, that is owned by the Somerset Housing Authority, to allow for the expansion of the Somerset Housing Authority portfolio including, but not limited to, equipment, materials, and any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee by a majority recommends approval of this article. (5-1)**

**The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (7-0)**

**Motion Article 29:** A motion was made by Community Preservation Committee Member Timothy Turner and seconded by many on the floor that the Town vote to adopt the article and appropriate Community Preservation Act funds for the purposes as written in the warrant. Discussion followed by Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and Paul Cogley- 159 Main Street. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on Article 29. The Moderator was in doubt by a voice vote and called for a standing counted vote. There were 59 votes – Yes – 37, No – 22. The Moderator declared article 29 passes by a majority vote.

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**Article 30:** To see if the town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$14,374.00 of which the full amount will come from Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve fund for the construction of two rooftops on the dugouts located at Pottersville Baseball Field, located at 115 Wood Street in Somerset, MA, including, but not limited to, site preparation, construction, equipment, materials, and any incidental costs or expenses, or take action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)**

**The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (7-0)**

**Motion Article 30:** A motion was made by Community Preservation Committee Member Timothy Turner and seconded by many on the floor that the Town to so vote. Discussion followed by Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 30 carried by unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Article 31:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$22,413.00 of which the full amount will come from Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve fund for the construction of a shed located at the Pottersville Baseball Field, located at 115 Wood Street in Somerset, MA, including, but not limited to, site preparation, construction, equipment, materials, and any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)**

**The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (7-0)**

**Motion Article 31:** A motion was made by Community Preservation Committee Member Timothy Turner and seconded by many on the floor that the Town to so vote. Discussion followed by Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 31 carried by unanimous vote in the affirmative.

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**Article 32:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$5,700.00 of which the full amount will come from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve Fund for the third phase of beach sand replenishment to the beach area at or near Pierce’s Beach located at South Street in Somerset, MA, including, but not limited to, site preparation, construction, equipment, materials, and any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)**

**The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (7-0)**

**Motion Article 32: A motion was made by Community Preservation Committee Member Timothy Turner and seconded by many on the floor that the Town to so vote. Discussion followed by Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 32 carried by unanimous vote in the affirmative.**

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**Article 33:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and/or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund fiscal year 2025 estimated annual revenues the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative purposes and other expenses in fiscal year 2025, reservations for each of the three purposes of the law in accord with M.G.L. chapter 44B, section 6, and any other purposes recommended by the Committee, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation or reservation:

Appropriations:

Committee Administrative Expenses: \$11,880.00

Reserves:

Historic Resources Reserve: \$39,600.00  
Community Housing Reserve: \$39,600.00  
Open Space Reserve: \$39,600.00  
FY 2025 Budgeted Reserve: \$265,320.00

, or take any action relative thereto.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)**

**The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (7-0)**

**Motion Article 33: A motion was made by Community Preservation Committee Member Timothy Turner and seconded by many on the floor that the Town to so vote. Discussion followed by Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator declared that Article 33 carried by unanimous vote.**

**Article 34:** To instruct the Board of Selectmen to petition the State Legislature for a Home Rule Exemption to Massachusetts Fluoridation Law Chapter 111, Section 8C, so that the Town of Somerset, MA, can put into place an ordinance banning Community Water Fluoridation.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee has no recommendation on this article.**

**Motion Article 34: Citizen’s Petitioned Article motioned by Elizabeth Paskowski- 347 North Street (Petitioner) and seconded by many of the floor that the town accept this article. Discussion followed**

by Nathan Wiebe- 776 Chace Street, Elizabeth Smith- 43 Harrington Lane, Justin Lassiter-Tunney – 104 Watuppa Avenue, John Belche- 119 Berube Avenue, and followed by a brief presentation by Elizabeth Paskowski (Petitioner). Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on Article 34. The Moderator called for a standing vote. There were 57 votes – Yes – 20, No – 37. The Moderator declared article 34 the motion does not carry.

**Article 35:** To see if the Town will vote to: Approve and appropriate the sum of \$19,500 for the fireworks and other related expenses such as the barge service, police and fire details for the town’s annual Spirit of Somerset Celebration on Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The fireworks would include the display be shot off a barge on the Taunton River, which is Federally Recognized as a “Wild and Scenic Resource” We would hope that the citizens of Somerset would approve of this article.

**The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously does not recommend approval of this article, as written. (6-0)**

**Motion Article 35:** Citizen’s petitioned Article motioned by David Berube- 233 Forest Avenue and seconded by the floor that the town vote to approve and appropriate the sum of \$19,500 from free cash for fireworks of the related expenses such as barge service, police detail and fire detail for the towns annual Sprit of Somerset Celebration upon Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with a rain date the next day. Discussion followed by Selectman Souza who made a motion to amend the article and a second by Selectmen Smith. The amendment was noted as follows ” the town vote to appropriate 19,500 for the purpose stated in the article and that said sum be transferred from free cash and further to authorize the board of selectmen to enter into any agreement necessary to effectuate the purpose of this vote”. Moderator made a motion to accept article 35 as amended and seconded by the floor. Discussion followed by A&F committee member Michael Pasternak, Petitioner David Berube, Jessica Machado – 91 Washington Avenue, Selectmen Souza, Tracy Costa 73 Windward Drive, and Paul Cogley- 159 Main Street. The Moderator called for a vote on the amendment. The Moderator called for a standing vote. There were 45 votes- Yes- 12- No- 33. The Moderator declared that the amendment failed. Discussion followed on the original motion by Jeffery Kardel- 52 Folsom Avenue, Petitioner David Berube, Selectmen Souza, A&F Committee member Michael Pasternak, Victor Machado- 119 Desmond Avenue, Denis Jordan- 159 Main Street, and Cheryl Crossley- Simmons – 570 Main Street. A motion was made to move the question by the body and seconded by several on the floor. The Moderator called for a vote and declared the motion to move the question by a majority vote in the affirmative. The Moderator called for a vote on Article 35. The Moderator declared the majority to be in the negative.

The Moderator entertained a motion to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting of May 20 at 12:15 am on May 21, 2024 all articles having been acted upon. The motion was so moved and seconded by several from the floor. The Moderator declared the meeting dissolved by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Attendance: 375

A true copy attest;

Caitlin Hadala,  
Town Clerk