

Annual Town Meeting May 19, 2025

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by the Town Moderator Lucia Casey at the Somerset Berkley Regional High School Performing Arts Center as called for by the Warrant, duly posted as required by Massachusetts General Laws followed by announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Moderator. A moment of silence was held for former Town employees who passed in 2024, following the list being read aloud by the Moderator.

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 on Article 1: A motion was made by Selectmen Smith and seconded by the floor that the Town adopt the article, as written in the warrant. Hearing no discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 172 votes- 160 Yes- 12- No. The Moderator declared that the article carried by a majority 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, 2025 to June 30, 2026, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law chapter 44, section 53E½ as shown herein, or take any action relative thereto:

	Revolving Account	Spending Authority	Revenue Source	Allowed Expenses	Expenditure Limits	Year End Expenditure
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 2026
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 2026
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 2026

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 2026
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	\$1,800,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2026
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 2026
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 2026
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 2026
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 2026
J	Use of School Property	School Department	Receipts and Fees	Facilities rentals and operations	\$30,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2026
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 2026
L	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.	\$250,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2026

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (5-0)

Motion Article 2: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to adopt Article 2, as written in the warrant. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 214 votes- 193 Yes- 21- No. The Moderator declared that Article 2 carried by a majority 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, 2025, 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	\$86,698.00
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 recommends approval of this article. (6-0)

Motion Article 3: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to adopt Article 2, as written in the warrant. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith and David Messier- 101 Euclid Ave. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 218 votes- 185 Yes- 33- No. The Moderator declared that Article 3 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

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, 2025, 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	\$219,401.00	\$5,850.00	\$225,251.00
123 Town Administrator Department	\$297,317.00	\$15,000.00	\$312,317.00
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	\$272,057.00	\$11,350.00	\$283,407.00
136 Annual Audit	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
137 Computer	\$0.00	\$204,700.00	\$204,700.00
141 Assessors	\$184,331.00	\$81,870.00	\$266,201.00
143 Tax Foreclosure	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
145 Town Treasurer/Tax Collector	\$292,759.00	\$86,950.00	\$379,709.00
151 Law Department	\$0.00	\$259,500.00	\$259,500.00
161 Town Clerk	\$180,112.00	\$7,050.00	\$187,162.00
162 Elec. & Regr.	\$21,000.00	\$43,850.00	\$64,850.00
171 Conservation Comm	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
175 Planning	\$91,770.00	\$26,650.00	\$118,420.00
176 Zoning Board of Appeals	\$3,025.00	\$3,800.00	\$6,825.00
181 Economic Dev. Comm.	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
184 Cable Advisory	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
192 Town Office	\$56,113.00	\$51,650.00	\$107,763.00

193 Old Town Hall	\$0.00	\$6,575.00	\$6,575.00
195 Town Reports	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
198 Insurance	\$0.00	\$8,999,650.00	\$8,999,650.00
199 FICA-	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00
205 Fire/Police Station	\$62,301.00	\$262,855.00	\$325,156.00
210 Police Department	\$4,012,101.00	\$317,226.00	\$4,329,327.00
215 E-911 Dispatch	\$571,471.00	\$16,750.00	\$588,221.00
220 Fire Department	\$2,509,648.00	\$188,641.00	\$2,698,289.00
241 Bldg. Insp./Zoning Agent	\$178,230.00	\$3,100.00	\$181,330.00
242 Gas & Plumbing	\$22,750.00	\$1,100.00	\$23,850.00
244 Sealer of Standards	\$0.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
245 Wiring Inspector	\$23,000.00	\$300.00	\$23,300.00
291 Emergency Mgmt.	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
292 Dog Officer	\$0.00	\$77,532.00	\$77,532.00
294 Tree Warden	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
295 Harbor Master	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
296 Insect Pest Control	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
299 Inspector of Animals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
420 Highway Department	\$940,436.00	\$192,826.00	\$1,133,262.00
423 Snow Removal	\$115,500.00	\$98,000.00	\$213,500.00
424 Street Lights	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
425 Traffic Signal Maint.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
431 Landfill	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
480 Vehicle Maint. Facility	\$154,255.00	\$455,000.00	\$609,255.00
510 Board of Health/Conservation	\$99,711.00	\$3,300.00	\$103,011.00
522 Town Nurse	\$0.00	\$60,254.00	\$60,254.00
541 Council on Aging	\$111,701.00	\$67,235.00	\$178,936.00
543 Veterans Benefits	\$110,614.00	\$178,500.00	\$289,114.00
544 Graves Registration	\$0.00	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00
610 Libraries	\$521,120.00	\$175,732.00	\$696,852.00
630 Playground & Rec.	\$143,685.00	\$3,975.00	\$147,660.00
633 Public Outdoor Facilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
691 Historical Comm.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
692 Public Celebrations	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
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	\$31,500.00	\$31,500.00
710 Maturing Debt - General Government	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
710 Maturing Debt - School Department	\$0.00	\$1,095,000.00	\$1,095,000.00
752 Interest Appropriation – Short Term School Department	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
753 Interest Appropriation School Department	\$0.00	\$1,991,700.00	\$1,991,700.00
832 Contributory Retirement	\$0.00	\$4,801,679.00	\$4,801,679.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVT.	\$11,203,258.00	\$20,874,200.00	\$32,077,458.00

	Approved FY25	Proposed FY26	Increase/(Decrease)
Personnel Services	\$10,402,757.00	\$11,203,258.00	\$800,501.00
Expenses	\$3,403,841.00	\$3,986,171.00	\$582,330.00
Fixed Expenses	\$17,894,786.00	\$16,888,029.00	(\$1,006,757.00)
Totals:	\$31,701,384.00	\$32,077,458.00	\$376,074.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$32,077,458.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for the purposes of funding the General Budget as written in the article, and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

APPROPRIATION

4B. School Dept. Budget	Approved FY25	Proposed FY26	Increase/(Decrease)
	\$25,072,623.00	\$25,958,017.00	\$885,394.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of 25,958,017.00 .00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for the purposes of funding the Somerset Public School Department Budget and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

APPROPRIATION

4C. Water and Water Pollution Control Enterprise Operations

	Personnel Services	Operating Expenses	TOTAL APPROPRIATION
1. Water Dept.	\$1,303,094.00	\$3,093,716.00	\$4,396,810.00
2. Water Pollution Control Dept.	\$1,407,004.00	\$2,800,169.00	\$4,207,173.00

TOTAL **\$8,603,983.00**

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,603,983.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for the purposes of funding the Water and Water Pollution Control Enterprise Operations as written in the article, and that the sum of \$8,603,983.00 be raised from the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Receipts. (6-0)

Motion Article 4A: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$32,077,458.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for the purposes of funding the General Budget as written in the article, and that said sum be raised from taxation. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith, The Town Administrator Mark Ullucci who gave a brief presentation and David Messier- 101 Euclid Ave. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 217 votes- 162 Yes- 55- No. The Moderator declared that Article 4A carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Motion Article 4B: 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 \$25,958,017.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for 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 Mr. Schoonover, Jeffrey Kornegay- 501 Mohawk Rd, Patricia Steele- 180 Yankee Peddler Drive, Brian Michaud- 222 High view Ave. and Patricia Buker- 11 Wamsutta Road. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 222 votes- 147 Yes- 75- No. The Moderator declared that Article 4B carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Motion Article 4C: A motion was made Water and Sewer Commissioner Steve Cadorette that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,603,983.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for the

purposes of funding the Water and Water Pollution Control Enterprise Operations as written in the article, and that said sum of \$8,603,983.00 be raised from the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Receipts. Discussion followed by Mr. Cadorette, Thomas Doherty- 1924 Read Street, John Silvia- 18 Perkins Street and Elizabeth Paskowski- 347 North Street. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 231 votes- 166 Yes- 65- No. The Moderator declared that Article 4C carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 5: 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 Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of May 17, 2021, or take any action relative thereto.

APPROPRIATION

5. Somerset Berkley Regional School District

Approved FY 25	Proposed FY 26	Increase/(Decrease)
\$10,919,920.00	\$11,029,731.00	\$109,811.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$11,029,731.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

Motion Article 5: 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 \$11,029,731.00 for the purposes of paying the Town’s share of operating expenses \$9,396,688.50 and capital expenses \$1,633,042.50, 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 Mr. Schoonover, Christine Soares- 111 Calvin Ave, Patricia Steele- 180 Yankee Peddler Drive and Jeffrey Kornegay- 501 Mohawk Road. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 231 votes- 164 Yes- 67- No. The Moderator declared that Article 5 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 6: 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

6. Greater Fall River Vocational Technical High School District

Approved FY25	Proposed FY26	Increase/(Decrease)
\$1,831,424.00	\$2,537,335.00	\$705,911.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,537,335.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

Motion Article 5: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,537,335.00 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 Smith. Hearing no further discussion,

the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 217 votes- 164- Yes 53- No. The Moderator declared that Article 6 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 7: 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

7. Bristol County Agricultural School

Approved FY 25	Proposed FY26	Increase/(Decrease)
\$329,901.00	\$332,704.00	\$2,803.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$332,704.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be raised from taxation. (6-0)

Motion Article 7: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and Seconded by Selectman Costa that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$332,704.00 for the purpose of funding the Town’s assessment for the Bristol County Agricultural School as written in the article, and that said sum be raised from taxation. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 221 votes- 196- Yes 25- No. The Moderator declared that Article 7 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

****Motion was made by Jennifer Ashley- 108 Lynch Ave. and seconded several on the floor to not reconsider Articles 1-7. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 213 votes- 173- Yes 40- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority 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 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 Warrant of the Special Town Meeting of February 8, 1993, 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 \$2,380,000.00 for the purposes of the article and that the sum of \$1,000,000.00 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. (6-0)

Motion Article 8: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Costa that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,380,000.00 for the purposes as written in the article, and that the sum of \$1,000,000.00 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 continued by Selectman Smith and Thomas Doherty- 1924 Read Street. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 211 votes- 164- Yes 47- No. The Moderator declared that Article 8 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

****Motion was made by Llyod Mendes- 46 Anawan Street and seconded several on the floor to move citizens petitioned Articles 45, 46, 47 and 48 forward to be heard immediately. The Moderator called for***

a vote. There were a total of 215 votes- 137- Yes 78- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.*

Article 45: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a petition with the General Court to enact legislation which would provide that notwithstanding any other general law or special law to the contrary, that at the next annual town election after passage of such legislation, but not earlier than the 2026 Annual Town Election, the Somerset Board of Selectmen shall consist of five (5) members, and which would provide, without limitation, a process for an election to fill the two (2) new positions, for no change to the term of office of then currently serving members, and for staggered terms of the five (5) members of the Board of Selectmen; provided that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; and to act on anything relating thereto. AN ACT increasing the membership of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Somerset, be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in the General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of any general or special law to the contrary, the number of members of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Somerset shall be increased from three (3) to five (5). The Board of Selectmen shall annually elect a chairperson from among its members. SECTION 2, At the first Annual Town Election following acceptance of the act by the voters of the Town, but in no event prior to the 2026 Annual Town Election, three (3) Selectmen shall be elected (voters will be able to choose up to three (3) candidates). The candidate receiving the highest number of votes in that election shall serve a three (3) year term, the candidates receiving the second highest number of votes in that election shall serve a two (2) year term, and the candidate receiving the third highest number of votes in that election shall serve a one (1) year term. Thereafter, as the terms of the selectmen expire, successors shall be elected for terms of three (3) years. SECTION 3. The terms of those members currently serving as selectmen at the time of adoption of this act shall be unchanged by the adoption of this act.

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

Motion Article 45: Motion was made by Resident Victor Machado- 119 Desmond Ave and seconded by the floor that the Town so vote. Discussion followed by Victor Machado, Jessica Machado- 91 Washington Ave, Michael Pasternak- 471 Fairway Drive, Denise Jordan- 159 Main Street, Kimberly Michaud – 222 High view Ave., Jeffrey Kardel- 52 Folsom Ave., Michael Martin- 35 Cobblestone Court, Tracey Costa- 73 Windward Drive, Denise St Yves- 110 Cheryl Lane, Brian Michaud- 222 High view Ave., Lloyd Mendes - 46 Anawan Street, Amy Rigtrup- 100 Pocasset Street, Jeffrey Kornegay- 501 Mohawk Road, John Ventura – 39 Walnut Street, Selectman Allen Smith, Shawn Oliveira- 274 O’Neil Road, Judith Conlon- 39 Cedar Street, Selectman Costa, and Jerome Waksler- 46 Cedarville Road.

A motion to move the article was made by Steve Moniz – 618 Brayton Point Road and seconded by several on the floor. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 188 votes- 172- Yes 16- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 208 votes- 68- Yes 140- No. The Moderator declared the majority to be in the negative.

A motion was made by Jessica Machado- 91 Washington Ave and seconded by the floor to not reconsider article 45. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 184 votes- 137- Yes 47- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 46: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 29, section 9A, to amend its vote under Article 17 of the March 10, 1975, Annual Town Meeting, and to amend its vote under Article 23 of the May 15, 2017, and adopt the following by-law regarding the holding of annual elections and the annual town meetings:

BYLAW REGARDING THE DATES OF TOWN ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETINGS:

Commencing in 2026, the annual election of Town officials and other matters to be determined by ballot shall take place on the first Monday in June and the annual town business meeting shall take place on the third Monday in May. As provided in Massachusetts General Laws chapter 41, section 1, the officers currently serving shall continue to hold their offices until the election and qualification of their successors.

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

Motion Article 46: Motion was made by Resident Victor Machado- 119 Desmond Ave and seconded by the floor that the Town so vote. Discussion followed by Victor Machado.

Victor Machado made a motion and was seconded on the floor to amend Article 46 to strike the following:

(Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 29, section 9A, to amend its vote under Article 17 of the March 10, 1975, Annual Town Meeting)

And to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to amend its vote under Article 23 of the May 15, 2017, and adopt the following by-law regarding the holding of annual elections and the annual town meetings:

BYLAW REGARDING THE DATES AND TOWN ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETINGS:

Commencing in 2026, the annual election for Town officials and other matters to be determined by ballot shall take place on the first Monday in June and the annual town business meeting shall take place during the month of May. As provided in Massachusetts General Laws chapter 41, section 1, the officers serving shall continue to hold their offices until the election and qualification of their successors. Discussion continued by Denis Jordan- 159 Main Street.

A motion was made by Denise Jordan- 159 Main Street and seconded by the floor to indefinitely postpone the amendment of article 46. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 188 votes- 151- Yes 37- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Victor Machado- 119 Desmond Ave seconded by the floor to indefinitely postpone article 46. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 187 votes- 159- Yes 28- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 47: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Meeting By-law to include: (1) a quorum of one hundred (100) registered voters must be present to conduct town business, if a quorum is not met the town moderator cannot call Town Meeting to order, if a quorum is not met at any point of town meeting the town moderator may recess town meeting up to thirty (30) minutes for more registered voters to attend or shall end meeting and (2) institute a time limit for town meeting to conduct business before the body, the town moderator shall not present any new articles for consideration to the body after the meeting has been called to order for four (4) hours and/or after 10:15 PM EST.

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

Motion Article 47: Motion was made by Resident Victor Machado- 119 Desmond Ave and seconded by several on the floor that the Town indefinitely postpone article 47. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 155 votes- 120- Yes 35- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by several on the floor to not reconsider article 46 and 47. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 166 votes- 143- Yes 23- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 48: 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, could put into place an ordinance banning Community Water Fluoridation.

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

Motion Article 48: Motion was made by Resident Elizabeth Paskowski- 347 North Street and seconded by the floor to accept article 48. Discussion followed by Elizabeth Paskowski.

A motion was made by Victor Machado- 119 Desmond Ave and seconded by the floor to indefinitely postpone article 48. Discussion followed by Robert Lima- 430 Luther Ave. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 178 votes- 69- Yes 109- No. The Moderator declared that the motion did not carry.

Discussion followed on the original motion by Elizabeth Smith- 43 Harrington Lane,??, Amy Rigtrup- 100 Pocasset Street, Paul Levesque- 3313 Riverside Ave and Peter Pelletier- 13 Stoddard Street.

A motion was made on the floor and seconded by the floor to move the question. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 150 votes 150- Yes- 14- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried in the affirmative.

The Moderator called for a vote on Article 48. There were a total of 179 votes- 108 Yes- 71 No. The Moderator declared that Article 48 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Caitlin Kosinski- 479 Kathleen Ave. and seconded by the floor to not reconsider article 48. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 159 votes- 124- Yes 35- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 9 : 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, 2025, 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 has no recommendation on this article.

Motion Article 9: Motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by the floor that 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 continued from Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 129 votes- 109- Yes 20- No. The Moderator declared that Article 9 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 10: 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 the windows and installing heating and air conditioner (HVAC) units at the Town Office, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,500,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

Motion Article 10: Motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Costa that that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,500,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 135 votes- 107 Yes- 28 No. The Moderator declared that Article 10 carried by a majority 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 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, or take any action relative thereto. **The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

Motion on Article 11: Motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Costa that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 137 votes- 112 Yes- 25 No. The Moderator declared that Article 11 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 12: 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 undertaking road and sidewalk improvements at various locations throughout the Town, including any incidental costs or expenses, and that such amounts such be expended at the direction of the Town Administrator, or take any action relative thereto. **The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

Motion Article 12: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Costa, Jeffrey Kardel- 52 Folsom Ave. and Town Administrator Mark Ullucci. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 135 votes- 121 Yes- 14- No. The Moderator declared that Article 12 carried by a majority 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 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping one (1) pickup truck for use by Town employees, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto. **The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$59,958.00 for the purpose of the 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 the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$59,958.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 127 votes- 83 –Yes- 44- No. The Moderator declared that Article 13 carried by a majority 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 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping one (1) new Class 1 Ambulance for the Somerset Fire Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$110,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

Motion Article 14: A motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$110,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Costa, Christine Soares- 111 Calvin Ave., Selectman Smith, Victor Machado- 119 Desmond Ave, Christopher Godet- 70 Dawns Ter. Town Administrator Mark Ullucci, Jessica Machado- 91 Washington Ave. and Tony Kuicikas- 194 Colonial Drive. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 133 votes- 117 –Yes- 16- No. The Moderator declared that Article 14 carried by a majority 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 for the purpose of funding the cost to replace outdated firefighting equipment for the Somerset Fire Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

Motion 15: Motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash.

Discussion continued by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 131 votes- 112 –Yes- 19- No. The Moderator declared that Article 15 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 16: 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 cost to replace outdated furnishings and redesign space at the Somerset Fire Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

Motion Article 16: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Costa. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 130 votes- 93 –Yes- 37- No. The Moderator declared that Article 16 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 17: 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 conducting a feasibility study to assess the current operational needs of both the Somerset Police & Fire Departments, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

Motion Article 17: Motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by the floor 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 continued by Selectman Smith and Patricia Steel. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 122 votes- 72 –Yes- 50- No. The Moderator declared that Article 17 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

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 purchasing and equipping one (1) police cruiser for the Somerset Police Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

Motion Article 18: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Costa, Patricia Steele- 180 Yankee Peddler Drive, Jeffrey Kornegay- 501 Mohawk Road, Christine Soares- 111 Calvin Ave. and Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 123 votes- 88 –Yes- 35- No. The Moderator declared that Article 18 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

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 purchasing and installing asset management lockers at the Somerset Police Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$55,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

Motion Article 19: Motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$55,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 116 votes- 79 –Yes- 37- No. The Moderator declared that Article 19 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

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 twenty-five (25) body armor plates and carriers for the Somerset Police Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$27,925.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

Motion Article 20: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$27,925.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Costa, Patricia Pasternak 176 Brian Ave., Officer Borges, Lloyd Mendes- 46 Anawan Street and Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 120 votes- 101 –Yes- 19- No. The Moderator declared that Article 20 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

****A motion was made by Selectmen Smith and seconded on the floor to not reconsider Articles 9-20. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 96 votes- 89 –Yes- 7- No. The Moderator declared that Article 20 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.****

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Somerset By-law Regulating For-Profit Door-to-Door Business and Solicitations adopted under Article 42 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of May 16, 2005, by deleting the text of said by-law in its entirety and by inserting in place thereof the following, or take any action relative thereto.

Section 1. Purpose

This article establishes registration requirements and specific operational requirements for persons intending to engage in door-to-door canvassing or solicitation in the Town of Somerset (“Town”) in order to protect its citizens from disruption of the peaceful enjoyment of their residences and from the perpetration of fraud or other crimes; and, to allow for reasonable access to residents in their homes by persons or organizations who wish to communicate either commercial or non-commercial messages.

Section 2. Definitions

For the purpose of this Bylaw, the following definitions shall apply:

“Soliciting” shall mean and include any one or more of the following door-to-door activities:

- a) selling, or seeking to obtain orders for the purchase of, goods or services, including advertising in any type of publication, for any kind of consideration whatsoever;
- b) selling, or seeking to obtain prospective customers for, application for purchase of insurance of any kind;
- c) selling, or seeking to sell subscriptions to books, magazines, periodicals, newspapers, or any other type of publication;
- d) seeking to obtain gifts or contributions of money, or any valuable thing for the support or benefit of any association, organization, corporation, or project wholly or in part for commercial purposes or by a professional solicitor or commercial co-venturer for a charitable or other non-commercial organization; and/or
- e) seeking to obtain information on the background, occupation, economic status, political affiliation, attitudes, viewpoints, or the like of the occupants of a residence for the purpose of selling or using such data, wholly, or in part, for commercial purposes.

“Canvassing” shall mean and include any one or more of the following door-to-door activities:

- a) person-to-person distribution of literature, periodicals, or other printed materials for commercial purposes, but shall not include placing or dropping off printed materials on the premises;
- b) seeking to enlist membership in any organization for commercial purposes; and
- c) seeking to present, in person, organizational information for commercial purposes.

“Residence” shall mean and include every individual dwelling unit occupied for residential purposes by one or more persons.

“Registered solicitor” shall mean any person who has obtained a valid certificate of registration from the Town as required by this Bylaw.

“Charitable Organization,” “Professional Solicitor,” and “Commercial Co-venturer” shall be defined as set forth in Chapter 68, Section 18 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Section 3. Registration

Every person or organization intending to engage in soliciting or canvassing door-to-door in the Town must apply for a permit with the Chief of Police by filing a registration application form with the Chief of Police. Applications for individual registration shall be filed at least ten business days in advance. Applications for organizational registration shall be filed at least three business days in advance.

Organization application forms shall include the following information:

- a) The name and address of the organization applying for registration, and the names and addresses of the organizations’ principal officers. If the organization is a charitable organization, a certification that the most recent Annual Registration Statement required to be filed with the Attorney General’s Division of Public Charities has been so filed.

If the organization is a Professional Solicitor or a Commercial Co-venturer for a charitable organization, a copy of the contract with the charitable organization must be provided with this application. Failure to include a copy of the contract with the charitable organization under such circumstances will render the application incomplete and no action will be taken thereon;

- b) The name, title and phone number, and valid driver’s license or other government-issued photo identification of the person(s) filing the application form;
- c) The names and addresses of the person(s), if any, who will be directly supervising the solicitation or canvassing operation in the Town;
- d) A list of the names, addresses, dates of birth of all individuals who will be employed in solicitation or canvassing by the applicant;
- e) Period of time for which certificate of registration is needed (note: no certificate may be granted for longer than a 60-day period);
- f) Names of the last three communities (if any) in which the organization has conducted a solicitation or canvassing operation, complete with the date issued and date expired; and,
- g) Insurance information and license, if applicable.

Individual registration forms shall be required for all individuals, including those who are affiliated with an organization registered hereof. Individual registration forms shall contain the following information:

- a) Name and address of the present place of residence and length of residence at that address; if less than three years residence at present address, the address of residence(s) during the past three years;
- b) Date of birth;
- c) A signed CORI acknowledgement form, permitting a search of criminal records
- d) Name, address and telephone number of the person or organizations whom the applicant represents and the length of time the applicant has been associated with or employed by that person or organization. If the individual is a professional solicitor or a commercial co-venturer for a charitable organization, a copy of the

contract, if any, with the charitable organization must be provided with this application. Failure to include a copy of the contract with the charitable organization under such circumstances will render the application incomplete and no action will be taken thereon;

- e) Period of time for which certificate of registration is needed (note: no certificate may be granted for longer than a 60-day period);
- f) Name of the last three communities (if any) in which the applicant has solicited or canvassed door-to-door, complete with the date of issue and expiration date;
- g) Valid driver's license or other government issued photo identification; and,
- h) Make, model and registration number of any vehicle to be used by the applicant while soliciting or canvassing.

Section 4. Registration Fee

There shall be no application fee or charge for an individual registration card. Each organizational applicant for registration or re-registration shall pay to the Town an application fee of \$75.00.

Section 5. Registration Cards

The Chief of Police or his designee, after a review, but in no event more than twenty (20) business days after receipt of a fully-completed application, shall furnish each person with a registration card which shall contain the following information:

- (a) The name of the person;
- (b) A recent photograph of the person, if possible;
- (c) The name of the organization (if any) which the person represents;
- (d) A statement that the individual has been registered with the Town Police Department but that registration is not an endorsement of any individual or organization; and
- (e) Specific dates or period of time covered by the registration.

Persons engaged in solicitation or canvassing as defined in this Bylaw must display their Town-issued registration card on the outermost portion of their clothing at all times while soliciting or canvassing and show such card to any person solicited or upon the request of any police officer.

Registration cards are valid only for the specific dates or time period specified thereon and in no case for longer than 60 days.

The Police Chief shall routinely grant registrations without further inquiry but shall refuse registration to an organization or an individual whose registration has been revoked for violation of this Bylaw within the previous two-year period or who has been convicted of murder/manslaughter, rape, robbery, arson, burglary/breaking and entering, felony assault, or larceny over \$1200, as such persons pose a substantial degree of dangerousness to minors and other persons vulnerable to becoming victims of the violent crimes so listed. The Police Chief shall also refuse to register a person who is a sex offender required to register with the Sex Offenders Registry Board and who is finally classified as Level 2 or Level 3 Sex Offender, as such persons have been found to have a moderate to high risk of re-offense and pose a substantial degree of dangerousness to minors and other persons vulnerable to becoming victims of sex crimes.

Section 6. Exceptions

Registration shall not be required for officers or employees of the Town, County, State, or Federal governments when on official business.

Individual registration shall not be required for minors under the age of 18, except in connection with canvassing or soliciting on behalf of a for-profit organization, newspaper carriers excepted.

Nothing in this Bylaw shall be construed to impose any registration requirement or otherwise restrict or in any way regulate any activity for religious, political, newspaper distribution, or public policy purposes or other non-commercial purposes, regardless of whether such activity includes acts that would otherwise constitute soliciting or canvassing.

Section 7. Duties of Persons Going Door-to-Door

Every solicitor, canvasser, or other person should take heed of the Town's "No-Knock" registration list, in which individuals and private residences have registered with the Town to prohibit solicitations, canvassers, or such activities from entering on or engaging in activities subject to this Bylaw at their private properties. If such an individual or private residence have registered with the Town's No-Knock Registry, the solicitor, canvasser, or other person shall not enter upon that property, or on learning the residence is registered on the No-Knock Registry, shall immediately and peacefully depart from the premises. It shall further be the duty of the solicitor, canvasser, or other person to examine the No-Knock Registry daily for updated information. Residents wishing to enter their residence on the No-Knock Registry may do so on the Somerset Police website at somersetpd.org, or by completing a form in-person at the Somerset Police Department. The No-Knock Registry will be maintained electronically by the Somerset Police Department, with electronic access instructions provided with each soliciting registration.

Upon going into any residential premises in the Town, every solicitor, canvasser, or other person must first examine any notice that may be posted on or near private or public property prohibiting solicitation or other activities. If such a notice is posted, the solicitor, canvasser, or other person shall immediately and peacefully depart from the premises.

Any solicitor, canvasser or other person who has gained entrance to any residence, whether invited or not, shall immediately and peacefully depart from the premises when requested to do so by the occupant.

Immediately upon gaining entrance to any residence, each Solicitor or Canvasser as defined in this Bylaw must do the following:

- (a) Present his registration card for inspection by the occupant;
- (b) Request that the occupant read the registration card; and
- (c) Inform the occupant in clear language of the nature and purpose of his business and, if he is representing an organization, the name and nature of that organization.

Section 8. Regulations on Methods of Solicitation, Canvassing, or Other Door-to-Door Activities

It shall be unlawful for a solicitor, canvasser, or other person to do any of the following:

- (a) Falsely represent, directly or by implication, that the solicitation, canvassing, or other activity is being done on behalf of a governmental organization, or on behalf of any municipal employee or elected official;
- (b) Solicit, canvass, or conduct any other activity at any residence where there is a posted sign prohibiting the same, without express prior permission of an occupant;
- (c) Solicit, canvass, or conduct any other activity at any residence without express prior permission of an occupant, before 8:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. where there is no sign posted otherwise limiting solicitation or the hours of solicitation or such other activities;
- (d) Utilize any form of endorsement from any department head currently employed or serving the Town; and

- (e) Solicit, canvass, or conduct any other activity at any residence in a threatening, abusive, or illegal fashion.

Section 9. Penalty

Any person or organization who shall violate any of the provisions of this Bylaw shall be subject to a fine of \$300.00 for each violation each day that a person solicits or canvasses without a license shall be deemed a separate violation and incur a fine of \$300.00. Violations of the No-Knock List found in Section 7 will also be subject to a fine of \$300 per violation.

Any person or organization who for himself, herself, itself, or through its agents, servants or employees is found after investigation by a police officer to have:

- (a) violated any provision of this Bylaw; or
- (b) knowingly provided false information on the registration application shall have his, her or its registration revoked by the Chief of Police by written notice delivered to the holder of the registration in person, or sent to the holder by certified mail at the address set forth in the application.
- (c) after 3 documented violations of any provisions of this Bylaw, the Chief of Police may, at his/her discretion, revoke the registration.

Section 11. Appeals

Any person or organization who is denied registration or whose registration has been revoked may appeal by filing a written notice of appeal with the Board of Selectmen. Such appeal must be filed within five (5) days after receipt of the notice of denial or revocation. The Board of Selectmen shall hear the appeal at its next scheduled meeting after the filing of the written notice of appeal, provided, however, that if the Board of Selectmen fails to make a determination within 30 days after the filing of the appeal, the registration shall be deemed granted or reinstated as the case may be.

Section 12. Severability

Invalidity of any individual provision of this Bylaw shall not affect the validity of the Bylaw as a whole.

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

Motion Article 21: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by Selectman Smith that Town vote to approve the Town of Somerset By-law Regulating For-Profit Door-to-Door Business and Solicitations amendment as written in the article. Discussion continued by Selectman Costa. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 106 votes- 93 –Yes- 13- No. The Moderator declared that Article 21 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to repeal the Town of Somerset Sex Offender Residency and Restriction Zone By-law adopted under Article 39 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of May 19, 2008, or take any action relative thereto.

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

Motion Article 22: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to approve the repeal of the Town of Somerset Sex Offender Residency and Restriction Zone By-law. Discussion continued by Selectman Costa, Jessica Machado- 91 Washington Ave, Selectman Smith, Town Council, Chief Tedford, Jeffrey Kornegay- 501 Mohawk Road, John Ventura- 39

Walnut Street, and Amy Rigtrup- 100 Pocasset Street. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 108 votes- 54 –Yes- 54- No. The Moderator declared that Article 22 failed.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Somerset General By-laws by inserting a new section entitled “Unauthorized Camping on Public Property By-law” as follows, or take any action relative thereto.

Purpose:

Camping without adequate sanitation services, such as access to water, sewer, and garbage collection presents a public health and safety concern. Additionally, unauthorized camping on public property often interferes with the intended use of the public space. As a result, this section is necessary to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to prevent the unnecessary interference with the rights of others to use public spaces for the purposes for which they were intended.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this Article, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

CAMP MATERIALS: Any item used to camp or to provide outdoor shelter, such as a tent, tarp, canopy, mattress, furniture, stove, fuel tank, and cooking utensils.

CAMPSITE: Any place where a vehicle, tent, tarp or other structure is established for the purpose of maintaining an outdoor shelter.

CAMP or TO CAMP: To sleep in a tent, under a tarp or canopy, in a motor vehicle, or in any other outdoor shelter.

SHELTER IS UNAVAILABLE: A shelter is any building serving as a temporary refuge or residence for the homeless. A shelter is only unavailable if all beds are full. A homeless individual’s refusal to go to a shelter due to its rules and regulations is irrelevant to the definition of “shelter is unavailable.”

PUBLIC PROPERTY: Any Town, State, or federally-owned property, including, but not limited to, a park, playground, bench, street, sidewalk, parking lot, alley, school property, right-of-way, or under a bridge or other public structure.

Unlawful Camping on Public Property:

A. It is unlawful to camp, to occupy a campsite, or to leave camping materials on public property unless specifically authorized to do so by:

- 1) The Recreation Department if located in a park;
- 2) The Town Administrator if located on any other Town-owned property; or
- 3) By the appropriate state or federal official if located on state or federal property.

B. It is unlawful for any person, with or without camping materials, to lie down or sleep on a public street, sidewalk, bike path, or public way.

- C. It is unlawful to urinate or defecate in any place open to the public and while exposed to public view.
- D. It is unlawful to use a fuel tank (propane, kerosene, etc.) or have an open fire at an unauthorized campsite on public property. Notwithstanding the above, portable propane tanks may be used within designated picnic areas during regular park hours.
- E. Camping materials and other personal property located at an unauthorized campsite on public property may be removed and destroyed. The Town, its agents, and/or employees will not be liable for any loss or damage of any kind associated with the removal and/or destruction of personal property at an unauthorized campsite.

Penalty for Violations:

- A. Individuals in violation of this Article who refuse to remove or allow for removal of the campsite or camp materials as described above, or who reestablish a campsite following removal of same, shall be subject to penalties. This Article shall be enforced by the Somerset Police Department as well as any sworn law enforcement agency empowered to make an arrest within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Town.
- B. Any of the following penalties may apply:
 - 1) Any person(s) found to be in violation of any provision of this Article shall be subject to the noncriminal procedure set forth in Article X except in the following circumstances:
 - a) The person is homeless;
 - b) Shelter is unavailable; and
 - c) The homeless person is willing to immediately go to a shelter if/when space becomes available.
- C. This Article shall go into effect seven days after the date of passage to permit any individuals located in any campsite to remove camping materials in order to comply with this Article.

Severability:

The provisions in this Article are severable. If any part or provision of this Article is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Article shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue to have full force and effect.

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

Motion Article 23: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to approve the Town of Somerset General By-laws amendment as written in the article.

Discussion continued by Selectman Costa, Lloyd Mendes- 46 Anawan Street, Denis St Ives- 110 Cheryl Lane, Paul Levesque – Riverside Ave. Town Council. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 103 votes- 62 –Yes- 41- No. The Moderator declared that Article 23 carried by a majority 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 repaving the parking lot at the Somerset Highway Department, located at 1263 Brayton Point Road in Somerset, MA, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto. **The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$336,101.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

Motion Article 24: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$336,101.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Selectman Costa and Elizabeth Paskowski- 347 North Street. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 103 votes- 70 –Yes- 33- No. The Moderator declared that Article 24 carried by a majority 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 to pay bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, received from National Grid, or take any action relative thereto. **The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,849.65.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)**

Motion Article 25: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town to appropriate the sum of \$5,849.65 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 continued by Selectman Costa. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator reminded the body that this article needs a 4/5 vote to pass. There were a total of 98 votes- 87 –Yes- 11- No. The Moderator declared that Article 25 carried by a majority 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 replenishing the Capital Account for the Somerset School Department, or take any action relative thereto.

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

Motion Article 26: Motion was made by School Superintendent Jeffery Schoonover and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Mr. Schoonover and Jessica Machado- 91 Washington Ave. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 100 votes- 63 –Yes- 37- No. The Moderator declared that Article 26 carried by a majority 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 one (1) ten (10) passenger van and one (1) seven (7) passenger wheel-chair accessible van for the purposes of special education transportation for the Somerset School Department, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose of the article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (6-0)

Motion Article 27: Motion was made by School Superintendent Jeffery Schoonover and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion continued by Mr. Schoonover, Jessica Machado- 91 Washington Ave., Jeffrey Kornegay- 501 Mohawk Road, Tracey Costa- 73 Windward Drive, Patricia Steele- 180 Yankee Peddler Drive, James Nasto- 70 Valley Road, Michael Fitzpatrick- 402 High view Ave. and Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 95 votes- 84 –Yes- 11- No. The Moderator declared that Article 27 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Jenifer Ashely -108 Lynch Ave Rd and seconded by the floor to not reconsider articles 21-27. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 86 votes- 78- Yes 8- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a perpetual historical preservation restriction encumbering the land and building known as the Swansea Friends Meeting and Cemetery located at 223 Prospect Street in Somerset MA, having an assessor’s parcel identification number of 273005B000000130, and being shown on a Plan recorded in the Bristol County (Fall River District) Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 146 at page 71, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and through the Massachusetts Historical Commission, or any other entity authorized to hold such a restriction pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 184, Section 32, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, or take any action relative thereto.

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

Motion on Article 28: A motion was made by Representative of the Somerset Friends of Historic Preservation Richard Pierce and seconded by the floor that the town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a perpetual historical preservation restriction encumbering the land and building known as the Swansea Friends Meeting House and Cemetery located at 233 Prospect Street as more particularly described in the Article to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by and through the Massachusetts Historical Commission as such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate as set forth in the article. Discussion followed by Richard Pierce and Robert Gaw-119 Butternut Rd. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 88 votes- 83 Yes- 5 No. The Moderator declared that the article carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 29: 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 establishing (1) an Economic Development Sign & Façade Improvement Program Matching Grant Program and (2) an Economic Development Business Incentive Grant Program, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee recommends by a majority that the Town vote to establish an Economic Development Sign & Façade Improvement Program for the purpose as written in the article and that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000,000.00 and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (5-0-1)

Motion Article 29: Motion was made by Selectman Costa and seconded by the floor to indefinitely postpone this article. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 79 votes- 66 –Yes- 13- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody and control of that parcel of Town land located at or near 3256 County Street in the Town of Somerset, identified as Assessors Parcel ID No. 273004D000000240, and believed to be described in a deed recorded with the Bristol County Fall River Registry of Deeds in Book 7399, Page 344, from the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners for water department purposes, to the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners for water department purposes and for the purpose of lease, and further to authorize said Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners, upon its determination that the land is not then required for water department purposes, to lease all or a part of said land for agricultural, horticulture, and /or floricultural uses (excluding any animal husbandry), and related retail sales, for a period not to exceed ten years and otherwise upon such terms and conditions and for such fair rental value as said Board shall determine, subject to compliance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30B, Section 16, and further to authorize said Board to take such actions and execute such documents and agreements as are necessary to effectuate the purpose of this article, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.

Motion Article 30: Motion was made by Water and Sewer Commissioner Robert Lima and seconded by the floor that the Town so vote. Discussion continued by Robert Lima and Elizabeth Paskowski- 347 North Street. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 79 votes- 71 –Yes- 8- No. The Moderator declared that Article 30 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, received from BAL Laboratories, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,261.70 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from retained earnings in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund. (6-0)

Motion Article 31: Motion was made by Water and Sewer Commissioner Robert Lima and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,261.70.00 for the purpose of paying bills of a prior fiscal year as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from retained earnings in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund. Discussion continued by Mr. Lima. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator reminded the body that this vote requires a 4/5 to pass. There were a total of 78 votes- 74–Yes- 4- No. The Moderator declared that Article 31 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to create a Wastewater Capital Stabilization Account pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5B, for the purpose of funding certain capital improvements at the Water Pollution Control

Facility and Collection System including any design, engineering, construction, and any incidental costs or expenses, and to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding such stabilization fund, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to establish a Wastewater Capital Stabilization Fund as set forth in the article, and further, to appropriate the sum of \$3,500,000.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from retained earnings in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund. (6-0)

Motion Article 32: Motion was made by Water and Sewer Commissioner Steven Cadorette and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to establish a Wastewater Capital Stabilization fund pursuant M.G.L Chapter 40, Section 5B, for the Purposes of funding certain capital improvements at the Water Pollution Control Facility and the Sewer Collection System including any design, engineering, construction, legal fees, and any incidental costs or expenses, and to transfer an amount of 3,500,000 from the retained earnings in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund to establish this account. Discussion continued by Mr. Cadorette and Elizabeth Paskowski- 347 North Street. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 74 votes- 56 –Yes- 18- No. The Moderator declared that Article 32 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 33: 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 making certain sludge processing system improvements at the Water Pollution Control Facility including any design, engineering, construction, and any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from retained earnings in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund. (6-0)

Motion Article 33: Motion was made by Water and Sewer Commissioner Joseph Bednarik and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the amount of 150,000 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from the retained earnings in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund. Discussion continued by Mr. Bednarik, Denise Jordan-159 Main Street and Water and Sewer Commissioner Steven Cadorette. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 64 votes- 58 –Yes- 6- No. The Moderator declared that Article 33 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 34: 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 conducting an engineering pilot study for the Water Treatment Facility, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$214,000.00 for the purpose of this article and that said sum be transferred from retained earnings in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund. (6-0)

Motion Article 34: Motion was made by Water and Sewer Commissioner Joseph Bednarik and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the amount of 214,000 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from the retained earnings in the Water and Sewer Enterprise fund. Discussion continued by Mr. Bednarik. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 63 votes- 54 –Yes- 9- No. The Moderator declared that Article 34 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to amend Table 1 under the caption entitled “Public Utility Positions Wage & Salary Groups” as set forth in the Consolidated Personnel By-law adopted under Article 3 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of May 19, 1986, as last amended May 20, 2024, by inserting the following position under Grade B: “F- Collection System Chief Operator”, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee will have a recommendation for this article at the Annual Town Meeting.

****The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends the approval of this article****

Motion Article 35: Motion was made by Water and Sewer Commissioner Joseph Bednarik and seconded by the floor that the Town vote to amend Table 1(Wage and Salary Groups) in the Public Utility positions of the Consolidated Personnel By- Law adopted at the May 19, 1986 Annual Town Meeting and Subsequently amended by inserting the Full- Time position under Grade B, “Collection System Chief Operator”, who will be employed at the Water Pollution Control Department. Discussion continued by Mr. Bednarik. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 55 votes- 44 –Yes- 11- No. The Moderator declared that Article 35 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

****A motion was made by Robert Gaw -119 Butternut Rd and seconded by the floor that articles 28-35 do not get revisited. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 59 votes- 57- Yes 2- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.****

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$11,250.00 of which the full amount will come from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve Fund for the purchase and installation of safety engineered wood fiber at the two (2) Pierce Beach playgrounds, the landing area of the Big Red Slide and the playgrounds located at Ashton and Leahy Parks 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. (6-0)

Motion Article 36: Motion was made by Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and seconded by the floor that the town so vote. Discussion continued by Mr. Tuner. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 64 votes- 57 –Yes- 7- No. The Moderator declared that Article 36 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$94,222.00, of which \$28,350.00 will come from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve Fund and \$65,872.00 to come from the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Fund, for the construction of a bike park at Pottersville School field, located at 115 Wood Street, 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. (6-0)

Motion Article 37: Motion was made by Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and seconded by the floor that the town so vote. Discussion continued by Mr. Turner, Kim Proctor- 287 Main Street, Playground and Recreation commissioner Joshua Darlington and Selectman Smith.

Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 65 votes- 49 –Yes- 16- No. The Moderator declared that Article 37 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$55,000.00 of which the full amount will come from the Community Preservation Housing Reserve Fund for the replacement of water shutoff valves in the individual units and common areas at the John F Kennedy Terrace Complex, located on Read Street in Somerset, MA, including, but not limited to, 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. (6-0)

Motion Article 38: Motion was made Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and seconded by the floor that the town so vote. Discussion continued by Mr. Turner and Lynn Berube- 967 Elm Street. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 64 votes- 62 –Yes- 2- No. The Moderator declared that Article 38 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$85,000.00, of which the full amount will come from the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve fund for the design and replacement of two Bocce Courts located on the Louis Colon Amvets property located at 659 Brayton Avenue, Somerset, MA including, but not limited to, equipment, 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. (6-0)

Motion Article 39: Motion was made Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and seconded by the floor that the town so vote. Discussion continued by Mr. Turner. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 63 votes- 58 –Yes- 5- No. The Moderator declared that Article 39 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$175,000.00, of which \$56,967.00 will come from Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Fund and \$118,033.00 will come from the Community Preservation Undesignated Surplus Fund, for the construction a Blue Cross Blue Shield Fitness Park located at Pottersville Field 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. (6-0)

Motion Article 40: Motion was made Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and seconded by the floor that the town so vote. Discussion continued by Mr. Turner. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 61 votes- 49 –Yes- 12- No. The Moderator declared that Article 40 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 41: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$100,000.00 which will come from the Community Preservation Historical Fund for the repair and

renovations of the Friends Meeting House, located at 223 Prospect 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. (6-0)

Motion Article 41: Motion was made Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and seconded by the floor that the town so vote. Discussion continued by Mr. Turner. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 56 votes- 53 –Yes- 3- No. The Moderator declared that Article 41 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 42: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$10,000.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Fund for the purchase of signage for ten (10) of the Town Cemeteries located throughout Somerset, MA, including, but not limited to, 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. (6-0)

Motion Article 42: Motion was made Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and seconded by the floor that the town so vote. Discussion continued by Mr. Turner. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 53 votes- 50 –Yes- 3- No. The Moderator declared that Article 42 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Program, to appropriate the total sum of \$50,000.00, of which \$4,564.00 will come from the Community Preservation Historic Fund and \$45,436.00 from the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Fund, for repairs to the Waterfront Park Boathouse, located at 274 Main 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. (6-0)

Motion Article 43: Motion was made Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and seconded by the floor that the town so vote. Discussion continued by Mr. Turner. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 53 votes- 50 –Yes- 3- No. The Moderator declared that Article 43 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and/or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund fiscal year 2026 estimated annual revenues the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative purposes and other expenses in fiscal year 2026, 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: \$10,750.00

Reserves:

Historic Resources Reserve: \$42,797.00

Community Housing Reserve: \$42,797.00

Open Space Reserve: \$42,797.00
FY 2026 Budgeted Reserve: \$288,829.00

, or take any action related thereto.

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

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article. (6-0)

Motion Article 44: Motion was made Community Preservation Committee member Timothy Turner and seconded by the floor that the town so vote. Discussion continued by Mr. Turner. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 55 votes- 52 –Yes- 3- No. The Moderator declared that Article 39 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Kardel- 52 Folsom Ave and seconded by several on the floor to not revisit articles 36-44. The Moderator called for a vote. There were a total of 49 votes- 47- Yes 2- No. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

The Moderator entertained a motion to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting of May 19 at 12:00 a.m. on May 20, 2025 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: 220

A true copy attest;

Caitlin Hadala

Caitlin Hadala,
Town Clerk