

Special Town Meeting October 17, 2022

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by Town Moderator Lucia Moderator at 6:00 pm. The Moderator made safety announcements and then introduced Boy Scout Troop 21 who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by School Committee member Shauna Geary and seconded by several on the floor to move Articles 12, 13, 14 & 15 to be heard before Article 1. Discussion followed by Ms. Geary, Michael McDonald – 36 Utah Avenue, Selectmen Allen Smith, Ms. Geary, Eleanor D’Allaire – 11 Bangor St., Dennis Viveiros – 3096 Riverside Avenue, School Committee member Victor Machado and Denise Jordan – 159 Main Street. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a standing counted vote. Yes – 130, No – 118. Motion to move articles 12, 13, 14, & 15 carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and / or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying costs associated with hiring a security and safety consultant firm to conduct a comprehensive safety assessment of the Somerset Public Schools; and further to authorize the School Committee to take such actions and execute such documents and agreements including contracts in excess of three years as necessary to effectuate the purpose of this article, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee by a majority 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. (Vote 7-2)

Motion Article 12: A motion was made by School Committee Chair Shauna Geary and seconded by Victor Machado that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for the purpose of hiring a security and safety consultant firm to conduct a comprehensive safety assessment of the Somerset Public Schools, to include related contracting services, implement upgrades and other incidental as necessary to improve the safety of the schools and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Melissa Terra – 102 Banville Avenue, Ms. Geary, David Mesier – 101 Euclid Avenue, School Committee Member Victor Machado, Chief Todd Costa, Michael McDonald -36 Utah Avenue, Dennis Viveiros – 3096 Riverside Avenue, Chief Costa, Superintendent Jeff Schoonover, Donna Arruda – 1147 County Street, David Ashley – 108 Lynch Avenue, Selectman Smith, Christopher Murphy – 268 Longhill Avenue, Brian Michaud – 222 Highview Avenue, and Steven Moniz – 618 Brayton Point Road who made a motion to move the question. The motion was seconded by several from the floor. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. The Moderator called for the vote on Article 12. The Moderator declared that Article 12 passed by a majority voice vote in the affirmative.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and / or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying the costs associated with adding one School Resource Officer (RSO) at certain Somerset Public Schools for the remaining 2022-2023 fiscal year, including related salary, equipment and incidental costs and expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee by a majority does not recommend approval of this article. (Vote 5-4)

Motion Article 13: A motion was made by School Committee member Victor Machado and seconded by School Committee Chair Shauna Geary that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 for the purpose of adding one (1) School Resource Officer (SRO) to the Prek-8 Schools for the remaining 2022-2023 fiscal year and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. If approved the additional SRO will increase the current police officer assignment to the Prek-8 to two (2) full time SRO’s. Discussion followed by School Committee member Victor Machado, Melissa Terra – 102 Banville Avenue, Cheryl Crossley-Simmons – 570 Main Street, Chief Costa, Brian Michaud – 222 Highview Avenue, Amy Rigtrup – 100 Pocasset Street, Barbara Aguiar – 10 Stagecoach Lane, Chief Costa, Eugene Albernaz – 230 Newhill Avenue, and Dennis Viveiros – 3096 Riverside Avenue who made a motion to move the question. The motion was seconded by several from the floor. The motion to move the question carried by a majority voice vote of the body as declared by the Moderator. The Moderator announced that the vote for this article would be taken by ballot vote. Following the ballot vote, the Moderator announced that Article 13 passed with Yes – 236 and No – 81.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and / or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying the costs associated with adding a second School Resource Officer (RSO) at certain Somerset

Public Schools for the remaining 2022-2023 fiscal year, including related salary, equipment and incidental costs and expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee by a majority does not recommend approval of this article. (Vote 8-1)

Motion Article 14: A motion was made by School Committee Chair Shauna Geary and seconded by School Committee Member Victor Machado that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 for the purpose of adding a School Resource Officer (SRO) to the Prek-8 Schools for the remaining 2022-2023 fiscal year, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion Followed by Steve Moniz – 618 Brayton Point Road, who made a motion that Article 14 be indefinitely postponed. The motion for indefinite postponement was seconded by several from the floor. Discussion followed by Mr. Moniz, Paul Cogley – 159 Main Street, Chief Costa, Melissa Terra – 102 Banville Avenue, Lloyd Mendes – 46 Anawan Street, Ed Souza – 130 Pocasset Street, Christopher Murphy – 268 Longhill Avenue, School Committee member Victor Machado, and Robert Gaw. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion of indefinite postponement of Article 14. The motion carried by a majority vote of the body as declared by the Moderator.

A motion was made from the floor and seconded by several to waive the reading of Article 15 by the Moderator. Motion carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and / or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying the costs associated with adding a third School Resource Officer (RSO) at certain Somerset Public Schools for the remaining 2022-2023 fiscal year, including related salary, equipment and incidental costs and expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee by a majority does not recommend approval of this article. (Vote 8-1)

Motion Article 15: A motion was made School Committee member Victor Machado and seconded by several from the floor that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 for the purpose of adding a School Resource Officer (SRO) to the Prek-8 Schools for the remaining 2022-2023 fiscal year and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Chief Costa and Paul Cogley – 159 Main Street who made a motion that Article 15 be indefinitely postponed. The motion was seconded by several from the floor. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote on the motion of indefinite postponement. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a majority vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by School Committee member Victor Machado and seconded by several from the floor for no reconsideration of Articles 12 and 13. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a nearly unanimous vote

A motion was made by School Committee member Robert Gaw and seconded by several from the floor for no reconsideration of Articles 14 and 15. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and /or transfer from available funds a sum of money necessary to carry out changes for Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 in the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Somerset and the Water Pollution Control Union – Local 1701, State, Council 93, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL – CIO, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee by a majority recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$143,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Retained Earnings in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund. (Vote 8-0, 1 abstained)

Motion: A motion was made by Selectman Lawless and seconded by Selectman Vaught that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$143,000.00 for the purposes of funding the changes to cost items contained in a collective bargaining agreement with Local 1701 of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO and that said sum be transferred from Retained Earnings in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund. Discussion followed by Selectman Lawless. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for the vote. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and /or transfer from available funds a sum of money necessary to carry out changes for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 in the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Somerset and the Water Department Union – Local 1701, State, Council 93, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL – CIO, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee by a majority recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Retained Earnings in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund. (Vote 8-0, 1 abstained)

Motion Article 2: A motion was made by Selectman Lawless and seconded by Selectman Vaught that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for the purposes of funding the changes to cost items contained in a collective bargaining agreement with Local 1701 of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO and that said sum be transferred from Retained Earnings in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund. Discussion followed by Selectman Lawless. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for the vote. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and / or transfer from available funds a sum of money necessary to carry out changes for Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 in the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Somerset and the Highway Department Union, Local 1701 of the American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Sate Council 93, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$242,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (Vote 9-0)

Motion Article 3: A motion was made by Selectman Lawless and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$242,000.00 for the purpose of funding the changes to cost items contained in a collective bargaining agreement with Local 1701, of the American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, State Council 93 and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Lawless. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for the vote. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Article 4: 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 cost for the purchase of a new vehicle and associated equipment for the Animal Control Officer, including any incidental and related costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (Vote 9-0)

Motion Article 4: A motion was made by Selectman Lawless and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Lawless, David Messier – 101 Euclid Avenue, Consultant TA Michael Gallagher, and Dennis Viveiros – 3096 Riverside Ave. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for the vote. The Moderator declared that Article 4 carried by a nearly unanimous 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 in addition to the amount appropriated by a vote taken under Article 23 of the May 16, 2022, Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of purchasing a utility vehicle for the 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 \$70,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (Vote 9-0)

Motion Article 5: A motion was made by Selectman Vaught 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 followed by Selectman Vaught, Anne Riley – 123 Harrison Avenue, and Chief Jamison Barros. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for the vote. The Moderator declared that Article 5 carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Article 6: 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 nine (9) new Automated External Defibrillators for the 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 \$20,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (Vote 9-0)

Motion Article 6: *A motion was made by Selectman Vaught and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for the purpose as written in this article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Vaught. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for the 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 a sum of money to supplement the amount appropriated by a vote taken under Article 5 of the May 16, 2022, Annual Town Meeting, for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022, for various Town Departments as follows, or take any action relative thereto.

APPROPRIATION	PERSONNEL SERVICES
#123 Town Administrator	\$95,000.00
#543 Veterans	\$10,000.00
TOTAL	\$105,000.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$105,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (Vote 9-0)

Motion Article 7: *A motion was made by Selectman Vaught and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$105,000.00 for the purpose as written in this article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Vaught, Kim Michaud – 222 Highview Avenue who made a motion to amend the amount on #123 Town Administrator, there was a second from the floor. Discussion followed by Mrs. Michaud, Consultant Michael Gallagher, A&F Chair Michael Pasternak, Town Administrator Mark Ullucci, Lloyd Mendes – 46 Anawan Street, and then Mrs. Michaud, who did not give an amount to reduce the #123 Town Administrator Personnel Services line, and therefore the motion to amend was incomplete. The Moderator opened the floor to discussion on the original motion. Discussion followed by Lloyd Mendes – 46 Anawan Street who made a motion reduce #123 Town Administrator to \$55,000.00 plus the \$10,000.00 for #543 for a total of \$65,000.00. The motion was seconded by several from the floor. Discussion followed by Paul Cogley – 159 Main Street and Robert Gaw – 119 Butternut Road, who made a motion to move the amendment. There was a second from the floor. The Moderator called for the vote on the motion to amend. Point of Order was called for by Paul Cogley who asked why Mrs. Michaud's amendment was not voted on as there was a second. The Moderator explained that because there was no dollar amount in the motion to amend, it was incomplete and could not be voted on. The Moderator called for the vote on the motion on the floor made by Mr. Mendes. The Moderator called for a standing counted vote. The motion failed with Yes – 47 and No – 63. A motion was made by Robert Gaw – 119 Butternut Road to move the question. There were several seconds from the floor. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the original motion. 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, appropriate and / or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the following expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022, or take any action relative thereto.

APPROPRIATION	EXPENSES
#151 Legal	\$225.00
#198 Insurance	\$174.00
#420 Highway	\$308.00
TOTAL	\$707.00

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$707.00 for the purpose as written in this article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (Vote 9-0)

Motion Article 8: *A motion was made by Selectman Vaught and seconded by Selectman Smith that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$707.00 for the purpose as written in this article, and that said sum be transferred from Free*

Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Vaught. Hearing no further discussion the Moderator called for the vote reminding the body that this article must pass by a 9/10th vote. If the vote is not unanimous by a voice vote, then a counted vote will be taken. The Moderator declared that Article 8 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and / or transfer from available funds a sum of money in addition to the amount appropriated by a vote taken under Article 5 of the December 2, 2019, Special Town Meeting for the purpose of hiring qualified professional(s) to assist the Town on issues relating to storm water management permitting and compliance measures, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (Vote 9-0)

Motion Article 9: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Vaught that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 for the purpose as written in this article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for the vote. The Moderator declared that Article 9 carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate and / or transfer from available funds a sum of money in addition to the amount appropriated by a vote taken under Article 31 of the May 16, 2022, Annual Town Meeting, for the purpose of site preparation associated with installation of security fencing and paving for parking lot expansion at the Somerset Police Station, located at 465 County Street in Somerset, MA, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee by a majority does not recommend approval of this article. (Vote 8-1)

Motion Article 10: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded by Selectman Vaught that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$106,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith, Chief Costa, David Messier – 101 Euclid, Town Administrator Mark Ullucci and Robert Gaw – 119 Butternut Road who made a motion to move the question. The motion was seconded by several on the floor. The motion to move the question carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The Moderator called for a vote on the motion on Article 10. 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, appropriate and / or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing twenty (20) cell phones for various department heads and paying the associated month-to-month service costs, or take any action relative thereto.

The Advisory & Finance Committee by a majority recommends that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 for the purposes of this article and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. (Vote 6-2, 1 abstained)

Motion Article 11: A motion was made by Selectman Smith and seconded Selectman Lawless that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 for the purpose as written in the article, and that said sum be transferred from Free Cash. Discussion followed by Selectman Smith, Victor Machado – 119 Desmond Avenue, Consultant Michael Gallagher and Paul Cogley. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for the vote. The Moderator declared that Article 11 carried by a nearly unanimous vote in the affirmative.

With all articles of the Warrant of the Special Town Meeting of October 17, 2022, having been acted upon, the Moderator called for a motion to dissolve. So moved by Selectman Vaught and seconded by several on the floor. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The meeting was dissolved at 9:18 p.m.

Attendance: 334

**A true copy attest;
Dolores Bence, CMMC
Town Clerk**