



Caitlin Hadala
Town Clerk

Town of Somerset, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Clerk
Town Office Building
140 Wood Street
Somerset, MA 02726
(508) 646-2818

May 8, 2025

I, Caitlin Hadala, Town Clerk, hereby certify that the Warrant calling for the Annual Town Meeting to be held in Somerset, Massachusetts, on Monday, May 19, 2025, have been duly hand-delivered and posted by a Constable/Police Officer, on in each of the five Precincts on May 8, 2025, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 32; and posted in the following locations:

Precinct 1 – Somerset Grille

Precinct 2 – Gus' Pizza

Precinct 3 – Somerset Public Library

Precinct 4 – Somerset Police Department

Precinct 5 – Rogers Spa

The Town Office Building, 140 Wood Street

And available on our Town Website: www.townofsomerset.org

A true copy attest;

Caitlin Hadala
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF SOMERSET
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

BRISTOL, SS:

TO EITHER OF THE CONSTABLES OF THE TOWN OF SOMERSET in the County of Bristol:

In the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Somerset qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs to meet at the:

**Somerset Berkley Regional High School
625 County Street
Somerset, MA 02726
(Enter at Performing Arts Center Doors)**

IN SAID Town ON **MONDAY, May 19, 2025**, at **6:00 p.m.**, for the Annual Town Meeting then and there to act on Articles of this warrant and to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

(see attached warrant article(s))

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at five suitable places, one in each precinct, in said town seven (7) days before the time for holding said meeting.

Hereof, fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at five suitable places, one in each precinct as aforesaid.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS THIS 7th DAY OF May IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE;

SELECTMEN OF SOMERSET



BRISTOL, SS

TOWN OF SOMERSET

Date Posted: 5/8/25

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have notified the inhabitants of the Town of Somerset qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs to meet at the time and place and for the purpose within mentioned by posting attested copies of the within warrant in five suitable places, one in each Precinct in said Town and said posting took place seven (7) days before the date of said meeting.


POLICE OFFICER/CONSTABLE

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 19, 2025**

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.

Article 1
Title or subject matter: Calendar of Routine Annual Town Meeting Articles
Description: (See Article)

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	\$1,800,000	Available for expenditure fiscal 2026

				operation of Emergency Medical Services		
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

Article 2

Title or subject matter: Revolving Funds – Annual

Description: This is an annual article authorizing spending limits for revolving funds that are used to support services and programs within several Town departments.

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

Article 3

Title or subject matter: Annual Salaries Elected Officers

Description: (see article)

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

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

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

Article 4

Title or subject matter: Town Expenses

Description: (See Warrant) Article 4A- This article provides for the annual appropriation for General Government, with an increase of approximately 1.2% over the prior year.

Article 4B – This article provides for the annual appropriation for the Somerset School Department, with an increase of approximately 3.5% over the prior year.

Article 4C – This article provides for the annual appropriation for the expenses to operate the Water and Water Pollution Control Departments for the period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. The amount requested to operate the Water Departments has been increased by \$76,073.00 or 1% from last year and the amount requested to operate the Water Pollution Control Department has been increased by \$302,369 or 7.74% from last year.

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

Article 5

Title or subject matter: Assessment – Somerset/Berkley

Description: This article relates to the Town’s portion or assessment of the annual expenses for the Somerset Berkley Regional High School District. This assessment is determined by a formula that allocates the operating costs for the Regional District to the Town of Somerset and Berkley.

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

Article 6

Title or subject matter: Assessment Greater Fall River Vocational Technical High School District

Description: Foundation:	\$1,925,814.00
Transportation:	\$32,511.00
Capital:	\$579,010.00
Total:	\$2,537,335.00

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

Article 7

Title or subject matter: Assessment – Bristol County Agricultural High School

Description: Tuition: 32 Students @ \$4,417.00 = \$141,344.00

Assessment 32 @ \$5,980.00 = \$191,349 = \$191,360.00

Total: \$ 332,704.00

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.

Article 8

Title or subject matter: Solid Waste Collection Program

Description: This article needs to be approved annually to fund the Town's Solid Waste Collection Program (established in 1993) and apply the revenue collected through the sale of Town trash bags towards the cost of the entire program. For fiscal year 2026, revenues are projected to be \$1,000,000.00 and expenses are estimated to be \$2,380,000.00, a deficit of \$1,380,000.00.

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.

Article 9

Title or subject matter: PEG Access & Cable Related Special Revenue Fund

Description: The Town receives revenue generated by Comcast to be only for cable-related purposes in accordance with the Town's license agreement. The PEG Access and Cable-Related fund is used to fund cable-related services and capital improvements needed to enhance PEG access television. (PEG Access Services and Public, Educational and Governmental local cable television channels.)

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.

Article 10

Title or subject matter: Replace Windows & Install HVAC at Town Office

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 to replace the windows and install a heating and air conditioning system at the Town office building. Replacing old windows and installing a new HVAC system offers significant benefits, including improved energy efficiency, reduced utility costs, enhanced comfort, increased value and will eliminate the need for window air conditioning units.

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.

Article 11

Title or subject matter: Appropriate Funds to the "Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund

Description: This article (if approved) will transfer \$500,000.00 to supplement the reserve account to pay for future health costs for retirees. The current balance in the account is \$2,885,095.88. This is a best practice recommended by the Government Accounting Standards Board. The new balance will be \$3,385,095.88. The funds that are being set aside in the trust will only be used to pay for retiree health insurance contributions.

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.

Article 12

Title or subject matter: Funding Road/Sidewalk Improvement Expenditures Fund

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$500,000.00 to fund road and sidewalk-improvements throughout the Town. The specific work funded herein will be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator and may vary based upon emergency needs.

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.

Article 13

Title or subject matter: Purchase of Pickup Truck

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$59,958.00 to purchase a pickup truck for use by Town office employees. Pickup trucks can handle a wide range of tasks. The open cargo bed allows for easy transportation of large or oddly shaped items, making it a practical solution for various business needs.

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.

Article 14

Title or subject matter: Outfit & Equip New Class 1 Ambulance

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$110,000.00 to outfit the Fire Department's new ambulance. The ambulance was purchased with ARPA funds, with the understanding that additional costs would be required to purchase the remaining equipment and supplies needed to outfit the ambulance.

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.

Article 15

Title or subject matter: Replace Outdated Firefighting Equipment

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the purchase of much needed fire equipment that the department is currently lacking and the replacement of aged fire equipment and gear.

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.

Article 16

Title or subject matter: Replace Outdated Furnishing and Re-design key space at Fire Department

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$45,000.00 to replace outdated furnishings and redesign key spaces within the fire department, including two office areas. The current configuration includes an office shared by four Lieutenants, with only one workstation and limited storage, creating operational inefficiencies. The training room is also insufficiently sized and unable to adequately accommodate an entire shift for group training sessions. Additionally, the front office lacks an effective design to meet the needs of the department's Administrative Assistant. Redesigning these areas would enhance operational efficiency, improve workflow, and foster a more professional environment for our staff and the public.

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.

Article 17

Title or subject matter: *Conduct Engineering Study*

Description: *This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 to complete an engineering study to evaluate the public safety complex building.*

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.

Article 18

Title or subject matter: *Purchase Police Cruiser*

Description: *This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$70,000.00 for the purchase of one (1) fully equipped Patrol Cruiser to replace an aging unit for front line fleet.*

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.

Article 19

Title or subject matter: *Purchase & install Asset Management Lockers at the Police Department*

Description: *This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$55,000.00 for the purchase and installation of an Access Management Program for the Police Department. This will ensure data security, maintain accountability, and comply with regulations, allowing authorized personnel to access sensitive information while preventing unauthorized access and misuse.*

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.

Article 20

Title or subject matter: *Purchase Body Armor Plates and Carriers for the Police Department*

Description: *This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$27,925.00 for the purchase of twenty-five (25) body armor plated and carriers for the Police Department to address the need to replace aging/expired body armor among twenty-five (25) Police Officers.*

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.

Article 21

Title or subject matter: Amend By-law Regulating For-Profit Door-to-Door Business & Solicitations

Description: This article (if approved) will repeal the Town's existing Door-to Door Business & Solicitation By-law and replace same with a revised By-law implementing a "No-Knock" registry and new regulations for the solicitation application process to include this registry.

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.

Article 22

Title or subject matter: Delete Somerset Sex Offender Residency and Restriction Zone By-law

Description: This article (if approved) will repeal the Town of Somerset Sex Offender Residency and Restriction Zone By-law. The language in this By-law has been determined by the courts to be unconstitutional as set forth in Three Registered Sex Offenders v. City of Lynn, 472 Mass. 521 (2015).

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.

Article 23

Title or subject matter: Establish Unauthorized Camping on Public Property By-law

Description: This article (if approved) will amend the Town's General By-laws by adding a new section titled "Unauthorized Camping on Public Property By-law", as set forth in the article, in order to address concerns with public safety, sanitation, and the impact on the public. Additionally, unauthorized camping on public property often interferes with the intended use of the public

space.

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.

Article 24

Title or subject matter: Repave the Parking Lot at the Highway Department

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$336,101.00 to repave the parking lot at the Somerset Highway Department. Repaving the parking lot will offer numerous benefits, including improved safety, improved drainage, while also addressing issues like potholes and cracks.

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.

Article 25

Title or subject matter: Prior Year Invoices

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$5,849.65. These invoices were received after the close of the fiscal year and are an obligation of the Town. Per Massachusetts General Law, unpaid bills from a prior fiscal year can only be paid from current year appropriation with the specific approval of Town Meeting.

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.

Article 26

Title or subject matter: Funding Replenish Capital Account School Department

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$500,000.00 to replenish the Capital Account for the School Department. The current balance in the account is \$223,550.00. The new balance will be \$723,550.00. These funds will be used to address items in the elementary schools identified in the school department's capital improvement plan.

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.

Article 27

Title or subject matter: Funding Purchase Special Education Vans

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 to purchase and equip two (2) compliant vans to provide transportation for students requiring specialized transportation.

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.

Article 28

Title or subject matter: Preservation Restriction Agreement for the Fiends Meeting House

Description: This article (if approved) will ensure the building's historical integrity is maintained. The Friends Meeting House was built in the early 1700's when Somerset was still part of Swansea. Additionally, the Friends Meeting House is on the National Register of Historic Places and may be the oldest meeting house in Massachusetts.

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.

Article 29

Title or subject matter: Establish Economic Development Sign & Façade Improvement Program & Business Incentive Grant Program

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding of \$250,000.00 for a Sign & Façade Program. The Program would be created to provide technical and financial assistance to Somerset businesses making external improvements to their establishments. This Program would match up to half of the project's cost or \$10,000.00 (whichever is less) for façade and/or sign improvements. In doing so, the Town seeks to promote local merchants and enhance the physical appearance of targeted areas of commercial development in Somerset as noted in the Program details. A Business Incentive Grant program would be established to provide financial assistance to new or expanding business owners in Somerset. The program would offer rental assistance and equipment expense reimbursements to businesses that are looking to open or expand in Somerset. The rental assistance option would reimburse new or existing businesses for their first year of rent (up to \$10,000.00). The equipment reimbursement option would cover the initial equipment costs (up to \$10,000.00). The whole program would be valued at \$20,000.00 for each business that chooses Somerset to start or expand their business. Funding for an additional \$20,000.00 for rental and/or equipment costs would be available to a business that meets special criteria which demonstrates a significant economic benefit to the Town. Administration of the program would be through the office of the Town Planner.

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.

Article 30

Title or subject matter: Disposition of Somerset Water Department owned Property at or Near 3256 County Street in Somerset, MA

Description: This article (if approved) will allow the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners to lease this property for the purposes set forth in the article, including as it is needed for future water supply purposes for which it was originally purchased for.

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.

Article 31

Title or subject matter: Prior Year Invoices

Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$1,261.70. These invoices were received after the close of the fiscal year and are an obligation of the Town. Per Massachusetts General Law, unpaid bills from a prior fiscal year can only be paid from current year appropriation with the specific approval of Town Meeting.

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.

Article 32

Title or subject matter: Establish Wastewater Capital Stabilization Account

Description: This article (if approved) will establish a Wastewater Capital Stabilization fund to pay for engineering, legal and design services for improvements required at the Water Pollution Control Facility located on Walker Street in Somerset MA, the collection system, and any additional requirements required under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit issued by the EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Additionally, this article (if approved) will provide additional funding in the amount of \$3,500,000.00 to fund the newly established account. This money will be combined with the remaining amount available from Article 8 of the Warrant of the Special Town Meeting of February 8, 2025; and is to be used for the engineering associated with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on December 23, 2023.

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.

Article 33

Title or subject matter: *Disposal of Sludge at Water Pollution Control Facility*

Description: *This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 to allow for the switching to the production of dry cake allowing it to be readily disposed of by incineration. Currently, the sludge disposed from the Water Pollution Control Facility is removed and sent for disposal in liquid form. In March of 2026, under the current disposal contract liquid sludge will only be disposed of if and when space is available which will adversely affect operations.*

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.

Article 34

Title or subject matter: *Engineering Pilot Study for the Water Treatment Facility*

Description: *This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$214,000.00. This is a required pilot study to be completed in the Fall of 2025, which will determine if any additional chemical or mechanical treatment process will lower disinfection by products produced when chlorine is added to organics which are naturally with the raw water. Completion of this study is required for the Town to be eligible for a state grant to fund any improvements which will enhance the removal of these by products.*

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.

Article 35

Title or subject matter: *Create New Position at the Water Pollution Control Facility*

Description: *This article (if approved) creates a new position at the Water Pollution Control Facility. The Collection System Chief Operator's position directly oversees day-to-day operations of the collection system, including the pump station equipment and maintenance, collection system piping and maintenance, and supervision of collection system technicians; while the Plant Manager Chief Operator will focus on Treatment Plant operations and maintenance, supervision of treatment plant operators, regulatory compliance, and reporting, and any additional requirements associated with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit issued on December 23, 2023.*

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.

Article 36

Title or subject matter: Community Preservation Program -Purchase & Install Safety Engineered Wood Fiber

Description: This article (if approved) will fund the purchase and installation of safety engineered wood fiber for two playgrounds at Pierce Beach, the area under the landing zone under the Big Red Slide and the playgrounds located at Ashton and Leahy playgrounds. This would enhance the beauty of the playgrounds and park areas along with maintaining safety measures at these sites.

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.

Article 37

Title or subject matter: Community Preservation Program – Construction of Bike Park at Pottersville School Field

Description: This article (if approved) will fund the construction of a bike park at the Pottersville School Field. This project will provide a safe environment to ride bikes off the road and away from traffic.

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.

Article 38

Title or subject matter: Community Preservation Program – Replacement of Water Shutoff Valves at John F Kennedy Terrace Complex

Description: This article (if approved) will fund the replacement of water shutoff valves in the individual units and common areas at the John F Kennedy Terrace complex. The water valves at the John F. Kennedy Terrace complex are original and will address the need to replace aging shutoff valves. The replacement of these valves will help prevent water damage in the units and will prevent having to inconvenience elderly residents to have their water shut off for a long period time.

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.

Article 39

Title or subject matter: Community Preservation Program - Replacement of Two Bocce Courts on the Louis Colon Amvets Property

Description: *This article (if approved) will fund the redesign and replacement of two Bocce Courts on the Louis Colon Amvets property located at 659 Brayton Avenue. Minor repairs that have taken place over the years on these courts have constituted a band-aid approach. Completion of this three phase project will offer a well-structured, safe, recreational area to be enjoyed by the residents of Somerset and surrounding Towns for years to come.*

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.

Article 40

Title or subject matter: *Community Preservation Program – Construct a Fitness Park at Pottersville Field.*

Description: *This article (if approved) will fund the construction of a fitness park at the Pottersville Field. The project combines the benefits of both mental and physical well-being to all community members in the form of a fitness court that is free of charge. Fitness equipment that is accessible for everyone, attracts people to our community and increases multi-generational play. In communities with fitness parks, everyone has an equal opportunity to stay in shape and avoid high cost gym memberships with their low impact programs.*

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.

Article 41

Title or subject matter: *Community Preservation Program – Repair and renovations at the Friends Meeting House*

Description: *This article (if approved) will fund repairs and renovations at the Friends Meeting House. The Friends Meeting House is a historic treasure in our Town built in 1701 and it may be the oldest existing Friends Meeting House in Massachusetts. In 2014, the meeting house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The project will address renovations, all of which are designed to make the building weather tight, restore the façade and address site conditions.*

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.

Article 42

Title or subject matter: *Community Preservation Program – Signage for Town Cemeteries*

Description: *This article (if approved) will fund the purchase and installation of signs at ten (10) Town*

Cemeteries. This project focuses on the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources and will foster appreciation of these cemeteries and make them easily identifiable.

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.

Article 43

Title or subject matter: *Community Preservation Program – Repairs to Waterfront Park Boathouse*

Description: *This article (if approved) will fund repairs for the Waterfront Park Boathouse. The Waterfront Park Boathouse has suffered structural damage. Last year the Town spent money to reinforce the walls and foundation, as a temporary fix until permanent repairs could be completed. This project addresses the foundation cracks, restoring walls to their original historical status and utilizing the original stones to reconstruct the necessary improvements.*

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.

Article 44

Title or subject matter: *Community Preservation Program – Annual Appropriations*

Description: *This article (if approved) will appropriate and reserve from the Community Preservation Fund the following annual amount:*

Appropriation for Committee Administrative Expenses: *\$10,750.00*

Reserves for state purposes: *\$288,829.00*

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.

Article 45

Title or subject matter: Citizens Petition

Description:

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.

Article 46

Title or subject matter: Citizens Petition

Description:

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.

Article 47

Title or subject matter: Citizens Petition

Description:

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.

Article 48

Title or subject matter: Citizens Petition

Description: