



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*

*December 18, 2025*

*I, Caitlin Hadala, Town Clerk, hereby certify that the Warrant calling for the Special Town Meeting to be held in Somerset, Massachusetts, on Saturday, January 17, 2026, have been duly hand-delivered and posted by a Constable/Police Officer, on in each of the five Precincts on December 18, 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](http://www.townofsomerset.org)*

*A true copy attest;*

*Caitlin Hadala*  
*Town Clerk*

**TOWN OF SOMERSET  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
JANUARY 17, 2026**

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  
Performing Arts Center  
625 County Street  
Somerset, MA 02726**

IN SAID Town ON **SATURDAY, January 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**, for the Special 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 (14) 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 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE;

**SELECTMEN OF SOMERSET**



BRISTOL, SS

TOWN OF SOMERSET

Date Posted: December 18<sup>th</sup> 2025

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 (14) days before the date of said meeting.

  
POLICE OFFICER/CONSTABLE

Special Town Meeting

January 17, 2025

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the following bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, or take any action relative thereto.

APPROPRIATION	EXPENSES
#145 Treasurer/Collector	\$564.00
#175 Planning Board	\$300.00
#176 Zoning Board of Appeals	\$1,200.00
#210 Police Department	\$4,159.00
#215 Dispatch	\$455.00
TOTAL	\$6,678.00

**Article 1**

**Title or subject matter: *Prior Year Invoices***

**Description: *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 year can only be paid from current year appropriation with the specific approval of Town Meeting.***

**#45 Treasurer/Collector - *This request (if approved) will provide funding (\$564.00)) to pay a vendor for software services related to payroll.***

**#175 Planning Board – *This request (if approved) will provide funding (\$300.00) to pay a vendor for advertising costs related to a public hearing held by the Planning Board.***

**#176 Zoning Board of Appeals – *This request (if approved) will provide funding (\$1,200.00) to pay a vendor for advertising costs related to a public hearings held by the Zoning Board of Appeals.***

**#210 Police Department – *This request (if approved) will provide funding (\$4,159.00) to pay a vendor for repair services to a motorcycle.***

**#215 Dispatch Department – *This request (if approved) will provide funding (455.00) to pay a vendor for internet services.***

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay a bill incurred in a prior fiscal year, received from D.D.S. Industries, Inc., or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 2**

**Title or subject matter: *Prior Year Invoice – School Department***

**Description: – *This request (if approved) will provide funding (\$524.00) to pay a vendor for plumbing services. This invoice was received after the close of the fiscal year and are an obligation of the Town. Per Massachusetts General Law, unpaid bills from a prior year can only be paid from current year appropriation with the specific approval of Town Meeting.***

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the following bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, received from various vendors, or take any action relative thereto.

VENDOR NAME	EXPENSES
Bristol County Sheriff's Office	\$608.00
Environmental Resource Associates	\$655.00
FedEx	\$59.00
KP Law	\$8,083.00
Miguel Plumbing & Heating	\$1,260.00
Nadeau Tree Service	\$8,000.00
RI Analytical	\$100.00
Sigma Water Safety	\$70.00
Somerset Police	\$512.00
TOTAL	\$19,347.00

**Article 3**

**Title or subject matter: *Prior Year Invoices – Water & Water Pollution Control Departments***

**Description: *This request (if approved) will provide funding (\$19,347.00) to pay various vendors for services provided. 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 year***

*can only be paid from current year appropriation with the specific approval of Town Meeting.*

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 costs related to capital improvements and maintenance compliant with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) at various Town facilities that include, but are not limited to, the maintenance, repair, upgrades, and or replacement of elevators, ramps, railings, hardware, signs, illumination, and all incidental costs or expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 4**

**Title or subject matter: Funding – Americans Disability Act (ADA)**

**Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 for cost related to the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) that include, but are not limited to, the maintenance, repair, upgrades, and or replacement of elevators, ramps, railings, hardware, signs, illumination.**

5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Somerset School Committee for the windows and door replacements and related scope at the North Elementary School located at 580 Whetstone Hill Road in Somerset, MA, which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program and for which the Town may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”). The Town acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be sole responsibility of the Town. Any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of the fifty-eight and 37 hundredths percent (58.37%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA.

**Article 5**

**Title or subject matter: Funding Windows & Door Replacements at North Elementary School**

**Description: This project, if approved, will replace all of the original 1973 windows and exterior doors at North Elementary. Replacing these windows and doors will improve energy, efficiency, safety, security, and comfort for students and staff. Not only are the windows over 50 years old but the windows from classrooms are either in the form of floor to ceiling sliders or hinged glass doors. For school security reasons, this arrangement does not allow any windows to be opened, preventing circulation of fresh air into the school beyond the school’s original mechanical ventilation system. The total project cost is roughly \$2.290 million, and the Town will receive up to \$1.227 million in reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority through its Accelerated Repair Program.**

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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 and installing traffic and speed signs at various school locations throughout Town, including any incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

*Article 6*

**Title or subject matter: Funding – Purchase and Installation of Traffic and Speed Signs**

**Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding (\$32,800.00) for the purchase and installation of traffic and speed signs for various schools throughout Town. Installing traffic and speed signs around the schools benefits students by reducing speeding, and increasing overall driver awareness of pedestrian crossings and school zones.**

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7. 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 2025 and 2026 in the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Somerset and the Water Department & Water Pollution Control Union – Laborers International Union of North American, or take any action relative thereto.

*Article 7*

**Title or subject matter: Funding - Water Department & Water Pollution Control Collective Bargaining**

**Description: This article (if approved) will fund (\$164,000) the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year costs of the negotiated collective bargaining agreement for the Water Department & Water Pollution Department Union for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027.**

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8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying costs associated with the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Project Funding Grant project, including the Town's required share for a federal grant and all incidental costs or expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

*Article 8*

**Title or subject matter: Funding - Water Department & Water**

**Description: This article (if approved) will provide funding (\$800,000.00). Somerset was awarded a FY23 Community Project Funding Grand in the amount of \$3.2 million. The purpose of the grant is to construct and/or install a series of water treatment plant and distribution system improvements including but not limited to roof repair, mechanical and electrical improvements, and filtration unit repairs. Each Community Grant recipient is required to provide a cost share from non-federal sources in the amount of \$20% of the total grant project cost. The total grant project cost is \$4.0 million, and the cost share to be provided by the Town of Somerset is \$800,000.00.**

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9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation in the form set forth below, authorizing the Town to establish a Somerset Business Incentive Grants Trust Program to advance the public purpose of promoting economic development in the Town and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as trustees thereof, among other related matters; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the requested legislation, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the legislation before enactment by the General Court within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, and to authorized the Board of Selectmen to approve such amendments, or take any action relative thereto.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SOMERSET TO ESTABLISH THE SOMERSET BUSINESS INCENTIVE GRANTS TRUST

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. There shall be established within the town of Somerset a municipal trust, known as the Somerset Business Incentive Grants Trust, hereinafter referred to as the trust, to advance the public purpose of promoting economic development in the town of Somerset.

SECTION 2. The purpose of the trust shall be to provide funds for economic development in the town of Somerset through grants to qualifying businesses to enable such businesses to locate and operate in the town of Somerset, which shall serve the public interest and address a community need.

SECTION 3. The Somerset board of selectmen shall serve as trustees of the trust. Within 6 months of the effective date of this act, the trustees shall execute a declaration of trust governing the trust and may from time to time amend the same. The trust and any declarations thereto shall be filed with the town clerk. The trustees shall dispense funds as grants as they shall deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of the trust, consistent with rules therefor adopted by said trustees.

SECTION 4. The trust shall, at minimum, provide grants to businesses located within the town of Somerset for (i) improvements to business signs and façades visible from public ways; (ii) rental assistance for retail stores serving or proposed to serve the general public; and (iii) equipment expense reimbursement for retail stores proposed to serve the general public. The recipient of any grant shall execute a grant agreement in favor of the trust, which shall set forth the purpose for which the grant is awarded and the terms and conditions associated with the grant, including a requirement that in the event all or a portion of the funds are not used for the purposes consistent with this act, such funds shall be returned to the trust.

SECTION 5. The trust shall be separate and apart from the General Fund of the town of Somerset. The treasurer/collector of the town of Somerset shall be the custodian of the trust consistent with section 46 of chapter 41 of the General Laws. The trust shall receive and hold all gifts and grants made to the trust as well as money appropriated by the town to the trust. Money in the trust shall be available for expenditure by the trust for the purposes set forth in

this act, and subject to any restrictions contained in any gift or grant, without the need for further appropriation by town meeting.

SECTION 6. The trust, by and through its trustees, may:

(a) disburse funds consistent with the requirements of the trust; provided, however, that the maximum amount that can be granted to any one applicant is \$20,000, unless town meeting shall by bylaw authorize a higher amount, in the initial annual aggregate amount of \$250,000 unless otherwise provided;

(b) establish grant program parameters such as guidelines, limits, eligibility, and location requirements, eligible uses of funds, and any other parameters deemed necessary to ensure the objectives of the trust established hereby;

(c) accept and receive money by gift, grant, contribution, bequest, or transfer from any person, firm, corporation, or other public or private entity or any other source; provided, however, that a record of any restrictions on any contribution to the trust shall be maintained; and

(d) execute, acknowledge, and deliver contracts, grant agreements, and other instruments, sealed or unsealed, necessary, proper, or incident to a transaction in which the trustees engage for the accomplishment of the purposes of the trust.

SECTION 7. The trust shall be exempt from chapters 59 and 62 of the General Laws and from any other general or special law concerning payments of taxes based upon or measured by property or income imposed by the commonwealth or a political subdivision thereof.

SECTION 8. The books and records of the trust shall be audited annually by an independent auditor in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

SECTION 9. The trust may act and do things necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes expressly granted in this act.

SECTION 10. If the trust is terminated by majority votes of the trustees and town meeting, occurring within 60 days of each other, the remaining funds in the trust shall be returned to the town of Somerset and held by the board of selectmen for economic development purposes.

SECTION 11. This act, being necessary for the welfare of the commonwealth and the town of Somerset and its inhabitants, shall be liberally construed to affect its purposes.

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**Article 9**

**Title or subject matter: Establish Sign & Façade Improvement Grant Program**

**Description:** This article (if approved) authorizes the Board of Selectmen to file a Home Rule Petition with the General Court in order to establish a new Business Incentive Grant Trust to provide funding of \$250,000.00 for various business development purposes in the Town, including a sign and façade Program. The Program would be created to provide technical and financial assistance to Somerset Businesses making external improvements to their establishments, among other purposes. The Program would match up to half of the project's cost or \$10,000.00 (whichever is less) for façade and/or sign improvements and other eligible purposes as detailed below. 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. The Program would also offer rental assistance and equipment expense reimbursements to business that are booking to open or expand in Somerset in certain circumstances. 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 initial aggregate annual amount of the trust would be \$250,000.00. 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 at the Trust's discretion.

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10. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Somerset Zoning By-law to delete in its entirety Section 9.5 Slades Ferry Crossing District, as voted under Article 4 of the Warrant of the Special Town Meeting of May 20, 2013, and inserting in place thereof, Section 9.5 Slades Ferry Crossing District available at the Town Clerk's office for review, or take any action relative thereto.

**Article 10**

**Title or subject matter: Zoning By-law – Slades Ferry District**

**Description:** This article (if approved) will amend the existing Slades Ferry Crossing District By-law to further promote and encourage redevelopment of the district and transform it into a vibrant attractive, livable, mixed-use location with a sense of place, as well as support and strengthen the development of the riverfront by adopting three subdistricts, A- smaller scale development adjacent to existing residential neighborhood, B – Core Suddistrict – mixed use development along Slades Ferry Boulevard and C – Waterfront Subdistrict – waterfront – village type development with public access to the waterfront.

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11. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Somerset Bylaw Regarding the Dates of Town Elections and Annual Town Meetings, as voted under Article 23 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of May 15, 2017, by adding the following sentence after the first full sentence: "Commencing in 2026, the annual town business meeting shall take place on a date in May as determined by the Board

of Selectmen notwithstanding anything in this bylaw to the contrary.”; or take any action relative thereto.

***Article 11***

**Title or subject matter: Town Elections and Annual Town Meeting Bylaw – Annual Town Meeting Date**

**Description: This article (if approved) would permit the Board of Selectmen to select any date within the month of May to hold Somerset Annual Town Meeting beginning in 2026. All other applicable provisions of law governing Annual Town Meetings shall still apply including with respect to the posting of warrants.**