

TOWN OF ORANGE
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Special Town Meeting

January 18, 2024

FRANKLIN SS:

To the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to meet at Ruth B. Smith Auditorium, located at 6 Prospect Street, in said Orange on Thursday, the eighteenth day of January 2024, so blessed under God, at seven in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

The amount of available “Free Cash” for the General Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$1,180,820.00

ARTICLE 1: ARMORY MAINTENANCE PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash \$384.00 to pay previous year's bill for Beulah Land Maintainers invoice number 17149; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 majority vote)

ARTICLE 2: FIRE DEPARTMENT PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$27.66 from Fire Department Expense to pay Hamshaw Lumber Inc., the following: invoice number 5853 in the amount of \$17.98 and invoice number 229213 in the amount of \$9.68, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years, or take any action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 Majority vote)

ARTICLE 3: ADOPT PRUDENT INVESTOR RULE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.44, §54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L. c.203C, the so-called “Prudent Investment Rule,” or take any other action relative thereto.”

ARTICLE 4: ESTABLISH OPEB TRUST (MGL CH. 32B, S.20)

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and accept the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 32B of the *Massachusetts General Laws*, as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, establishing an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund; to authorize the Treasurer to execute a declaration of trust creating an expendable trust for the purpose of holding monies appropriated to such fund; to designate the Treasurer as the trustee of such trust; to authorize the transfer of any and all monies currently held for the purpose of paying retiree health and life benefits to such trust; and to authorize the trustee to invest and reinvest the monies in such fund in accordance with the Prudent Investor Rule established under Chapter 203C of the Massachusetts General Laws, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO OPEB

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$25,000 to the OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) Trust, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO OPIOD STABILIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$50,820.18 to the OPIOID Stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: TRANSFER FROM AIRPORT REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT TO AIRPORT AIRSPACE STUDY PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$3000.00 from the Airport's Revolving Fund account to pay the Town's local share portion of a \$50,000.00 federal and state grant for the Airport Airspace Study Project; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO TAX TITLE COSTS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from free cash the sum of \$30,000 to the Collector-Recap Sheet Tax Title Costs, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT- SEIU, LOCAL 888 (CLERICAL UNIT)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash \$42,361.17, to fund the cost of increases in bargaining unit members' wages for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, and further approve future increases (\$10,410.32 FY25 3% COLA and \$10,722.63 FY 26 3% COLA) under the Collective Bargaining agreement signed and ratified between the Town of Orange (represented by the Board of Selectmen) and the Clerical unit employees (represented by the SEIU, Local 888 (Clerical Unit) in accordance with the Chapter 150E of the Massachusetts General Laws, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO COLLECTOR CLERK'S WAGES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$19,590.40 to Col-Clerk's Wages; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: RESCIND REVALUATION FUNDING

To see if the Town will vote to rescind funding authorization from the prior Annual Town Meeting held on June 20, 2023 - Article 33 Revaluation; rescind \$55,667.00, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO ASSESSORS EXPENSE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$55,667.00 to Assessors Expenses - Other Purchased Services; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13: INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$45,000.00 to fund a temporary inspector of buildings position; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: ANIMALS ON STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

To see if the Town will vote to approve and adopt the following bylaw:

175-11. Animals on Streets and Sidewalks

No person shall permit or suffer any goat, sheep, cow or other neat, equine, swine, or fowl of any kind or description belonging to him or her, or under his or her care to go at large in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public place in the town, or upon the private property of another without their expressed permission; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: NONCRIMINAL DISPOSITION; ENFORCEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Noncriminal disposition; enforcement bylaw as follows:

Chapter I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

1.2. Noncriminal disposition; enforcement

Chapter 175, Article VII of the bylaws “pertaining to any goat, sheep, cow or other neat, equine, swine, or fowl at large or upon any public place in town” Enforcing Agent: Police Department and/or Animal Control Officer Penalty: First and subsequent offense \$50; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: ATHOL ORANGE GREENWAY

To see if the Town will vote to (a) transfer from Community Development Stabilization, \$100,000 and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to spend said sum for the purpose of being the Town’s matching share for hiring a consultant for project development and design for a shared-use path from Orange Riverfront Park to the intersection of Daniel Shays Highway, including, without limitation all costs incidental or related thereto; provided, however, that no funds shall be expended until the Town of Orange has received a grant commitment or allocation for a portion of such costs of the consultant under so-called MassTrails Grant and/or under any federal and/or other state program for the foregoing project, and (b) authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or its designee to apply for and accept on behalf of the Town funds granted under the MassTrails Grant and/or any other funds, gifts, grants, under any federal and/or other state program in any way connected with the scope of this Article, and enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the said project on behalf of the Town of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote)

ARTICLE 17: CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND TRANSFER

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the capital stabilization the sum of \$30,000 for the following Capital Project; or to take any action relative thereto,

Transfer Station Trash Compactor	\$30,000.00
(Requires a 2/3 majority vote)	

ARTICLE 18: EDIC PLAN ACCEPTANCE

To see if the Town will vote to update the 2020 Economic Development Plan accepted by Town Meeting, Article 17, on September 14, 2020 by amending the section on page 7 “Boundaries of the Area” by adding the words “and/or commercial” after the word “industrial” in the sentences

that currently read, "The EDIC's boundaries are the boundaries of the municipality (Map of the Town of Orange, Appendix A). Because of strict legal requirements, the EDIC is only authorized to plan for economic development projects in areas currently zoned industrial." The new sentences will read, "The EDIC's boundaries are the boundaries of the municipality (Map of the Town of Orange, Appendix A). Because of strict legal requirements, the EDIC is only authorized to plan for economic development projects in areas currently zoned industrial and/or commercial."; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from free cash, the sum of \$85,000 to fund the difference needed to the Insurance General Liability budget line from \$187,000, to \$272,000, to be able to pay insurance premium installments for the remainder of the Fiscal year (FY24).

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Thomas J. Smith

Andrew J. Smith

Patricia A. Lussier

Jane M. Pierce

Richard P. Sheridan
Selectmen, Town of Orange

A true copy. ATTEST:

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

FRANKLIN, SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall and Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

Date