

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**TOWN OF BELLINGHAM**

**WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Norfolk, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Bellingham, in the County of Norfolk;

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs to meet at the:

**BELLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

At 60 Blackstone Street in said Bellingham, on Wednesday, the twenty-second day of May 2024, at 7:30 p.m., then and there to act on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1. OPERATING EXPENSES AND SALARIES**

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds and/or otherwise, for the following purposes, to include determining the expenses and salaries of the various elected and appointed Town Officials for the period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account</u>
114	Town Meeting Moderator
122	Board of Selectmen
123	Town Administrator
131	Finance Committee
132	Reserve Fund
135	Chief Financial Officer
137	Assessors
142	Revaluation
145	Treasurer & Collector
151	Town Counsel
152	Human Resources
154	Management Information System
156	Tax Title Foreclosure
161	Town Clerk
162	Elections/Registrars
171	Conservation Commission
172	Planning Board
173	Zoning Board of Appeals

183	Commission on Disability
189	Public Buildings Maintenance
190	OTJ Injury for Deductible
193	Property & Liability Insurance
194	Retirement Assessment
195	Medicare/Employer Share
196	Town Reports
197	Physical/Occupational Health
210	Police Department
220	Fire Department
251	Town Inspector
253	Inspector of Plumbing & Gas
255	Electrical Inspector
292	Animal Control
294	Tree Warden
299	Auxiliary Police
300	School Department
302	Blackstone Valley Vocational Tech School
422	Highway
423	Snow and Ice Removal
424	Street Lighting
426	Gas & Oil
491	Cemetery Committee
510	Board of Health
541	Council on Aging
543	Veterans Services
610	Library
630	Park & Recreation
632	Town Common
650	Historical Commission
651	Cultural Council
660	Memorial Day/Veterans
750	Debt Service
989	OPEB Trust
990	Workers Compensation Trust Fund
991	Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund
992	Group Insurance Claims Trust Fund
994	Municipal Insurance Trust
996	Capital Investment Trust
997	Compensated Absences Trust

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 2. TRASH ENTERPRISE**

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise, for the Trash Enterprise for the period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 3. WATER ENTERPRISE**

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise, for the Water Enterprise for the period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 4. SEWER ENTERPRISE**

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise, for the Sewer Enterprise for the period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 5. STORMWATER ENTERPRISE**

To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise, for the Stormwater Enterprise for the period commencing July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 6. CONVEYANCES AND EASEMENTS**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept by gift and/or purchase conveyances or easements for sewers, water lines, retaining walls and streets, and to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or otherwise, a sum of money to carry out said purposes; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 7. PURCHASE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or otherwise, a sum of money and to authorize the DPW Director, in conjunction with other Town Departments, to purchase surplus government equipment for the Town; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 8. TOWN PROPERTY AUCTION**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell at public auction any of the property which the Town may have acquired or may hereafter acquire through proceedings based upon non-payment of taxes or under proceedings for the sale of lands of low value, to impose upon the property so sold such restrictions, reservations or conditions as shall be deemed expedient, and to execute quitclaim deeds and other instruments thereto; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 9. HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of funds allotted or to be allotted by the State under authorization of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, (as pertaining to Highway Funds) for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of Town roads, said funds to be borrowed in anticipation of State Revenue; and expended under the direction of the DPW Director; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: DPW Director)

**ARTICLE 10. AMEND FY2024 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 1 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, amending or transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 1; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 11. AMEND FY2024 TRASH ENTERPRISE BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 2 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, or otherwise amending appropriations or by transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 2; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 12. AMEND FY2024 WATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 3 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, or otherwise amending appropriations or by transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 3; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 13. AMEND FY2024 SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 4 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, or otherwise amending appropriations or by transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 4; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 14. AMEND FY2024 STORMWATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 5 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting by reducing, adding to, deleting, or otherwise amending appropriations or by transferring funds from various sources for items within said Article 5; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 15. CAPITAL OUTLAY – (Expenditures \$50,000 & Over)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money and to determine how such appropriation shall be raised, whether by transfer of available funds, by taxation, by borrowing or otherwise, and if by borrowing to authorize the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds or notes of the Town therefor for the purpose of financing the purchase and equipping, construction, reconstruction and/or engineering costs associated with various capital outlay items or improvements proposed by Town Departments, Boards or Committees, and, as may be appropriate, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into lease/purchase agreements of up to or exceeding three years; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 16. NON-CAPITAL OUTLAY – (Expenditures of Less Than \$50,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money and to determine how such appropriation shall be raised, whether by transfer of available funds, by taxation, by borrowing or otherwise, and if by borrowing to authorize the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds or notes of the Town therefor for the purpose of financing the purchase and equipping of various non-capital outlay items or improvements proposed by Town Departments, Boards or Committees, and, as may be appropriate, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into lease/purchase agreements of up to or exceeding three years; or act

or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 17. CIVIL SERVICE LAW**

To see if the Town will vote to remove all police officers, regardless of rank, in the Town of Bellingham Police Department from the provisions of Chapter 31(Civil Service) of the General Laws. This act shall not impair the civil service status of any person employed on a permanent basis as a police officer, regardless of rank, of the Town of Bellingham Police Department on the effective date of this act; or act or do anything in relation thereto. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 18. DEBT AUTHORIZATION – BLACKSTONE VALLEY**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$10,000,000 debt authorized by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Committee on February 15, 2024 and amended by its actions of March 14, 2014 to pay costs of roof reconstruction and the replacement energy efficient rooftop HVAC units at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto. Such debt approval by the Town to be contingent upon the District’s ability to secure grant approval from the Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair grant program.

(By: Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District)

**ARTICLE 19. GENERAL BYLAW AMENDMENT CHAPTER 216, ARTICLE VI**

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaw Chapter 216, Article VI, by adding Section 216-13 entitled “Restriction on idling, parking and standing on public way”, which shall provide as follows, or act or do anything in relation thereto:

Any Commercial or Industrial business owner, property owner, property manager, lessee, or the person in charge of such site shall be responsible for the safe and proper coordination of all commercial vehicle traffic in and out of such business. This includes deliveries, service vehicles, pickups, or other business at said location(s). No such business shall allow commercial vehicles to idle, park, stand, or que, on a public way in the Town of Bellingham for a period exceeding 5 minutes. Any violation of this by-law shall be punishable by a fine assessed to said business of \$250 per vehicle for the 1<sup>st</sup> violation, \$500 per vehicle for any subsequent violation. Any such vehicle found violating this section may be ordered to move from the roadway or towed by the Police Department.

**This section shall not apply to properly permitted construction projects, maintenance, or roadwork approved by the Town DPW Director, Police Chief, Town Administrator, or their designee. Additionally in a bona fide emergency any Commercial or Industrial business owner, property owner, property manager, lessee, or the person in charge of such may contact the Police Department to obtain a temporary waiver for a period not to exceed 2 hours.**

**(By: Board of Selectmen)**

**ARTICLE 20. AMEND ZONING BY-LAWS CHAPTER 240, ARTICLE VI**

**To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s Zoning Bylaws, Chapter 240 Article VI Definitions, Section 240-32 Term Defined, Livestock Raising, by deleting the language shown in strikethrough as follows: “The raising of harboring of 10 or more poultry or of more than two cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, goats, minks, rabbits or similar farm animals ~~six months or older~~”; or act or do anything in relation thereto.**

**(By: Planning Board)**

**ARTICLE 21. DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE**

**To see if the Town will vote to accept a deed in lieu of foreclosure from Taft Estates, LLC or from the current owner thereof, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. Chapter 60, Section 77C, to a parcel of land located on the easterly side of Pulaski Boulevard, identified by the Assessors’ as Parcel 0091-0006-0001, shown as “Open Space” on a plan recorded with the Norfolk Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 624, Page 87, and being a portion of the premises described in a deed recorded in Book 31193, Page 230, which is subject to a tax taking held by the Treasurer/Collector for unpaid real estate taxes, said parcel to be under the care, custody, control and management of the Board of Selectmen for passive recreation purposes, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and record the deed, provided the Board of Selectmen determines that the deed and the acceptance shall comply with the provisions of G.L. Chapter 60, Section 77C; or act or do anything in relation thereto.**

**(By: Board of Selectmen)**

**ARTICLE 22. AMEND GENERAL BY-LAWS CHAPTER 71-6 REVOLVING FUNDS**

**To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E½, of the General Laws, to amend the chart set forth in Chapter 71-6 of the Town Bylaws, Revolving Funds, by inserting a new annual expenditure limit of \$80,000 for Inspectional Services for Fiscal Year 2025 and subsequent years, with such expenditure limit to apply from fiscal year to fiscal year unless amended by vote of Town Meeting prior to July 1 in any year; or act or do anything in relation thereto.**

**(By: Board of Selectmen)**

**ARTICLE 23. OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 to rescind the vote taken under Article 26 of the May 24, 2023 Annual Town Meeting creating a Special Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and dedicating 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town to such fund pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §5B, such funds henceforth to be placed in a special revenue fund to be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents; or take any other action related thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 24. RESCISSION OF UNISSUED BORROWING AUTHORITY**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind unissued borrowing authorizations for the projects set forth, and for the amounts listed, in the chart below, which borrowing authorizations are no longer needed for the purposes for which they were initially approved; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

<b>Date of Approval</b>	<b>Original Purpose</b>	<b>Unissued Amount</b>
11/13/2019	Acquire 12 Mechanic Street (Domino’s Building)	\$384,000
	Septic Improvements	\$300,000
		<b>\$684,000</b>

(By: Chief Financial Officer)

**ARTICLE 25. TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise for the purpose of funding the Stabilization Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 26. TRANSFER TO CAPITAL INVESTMENT TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise for the purpose of funding the Capital Investment Trust Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)



**ARTICLE 27. TRANSFER TO GROUP INSURANCE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise for the purpose of funding the Group Health Insurance Trust Fund; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 28. UNPAID BILLS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise for the payment of certain unpaid bills; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting attested copies thereof at Town Hall and in other municipal buildings throughout Town sixty days, at least, before the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

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 18 day of March in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty Four.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**



Michael J. Connor, Chairman



Sahan Sahin, Vice Chairwoman



Michael Hennessy, Member



Ann Odabashian, Member

**RETURN ON THE WARRANT**

Norfolk, ss:

**Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Bellingham by posting attested copies of the same at Town Hall and in other municipal buildings throughout Town, in accordance with Town Bylaws.**

3/22/2024  
Date

  
Constable of Bellingham