

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

**Saturday, May 2, 2026
10:00 A.M.**



**NORRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
34 POMEROY MEADOW ROAD
SOUTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

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Article 1 FY 27 Base Budget

To see if the Town will vote to establish the Town's Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027, in the amount of \$15,936,813.64 (Appendix A) or such other amount, and to see what sums of money the Town will raise by taxation or otherwise to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing 12 months, effective July 1, 2026, and appropriate the same; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion: Move that the Town appropriate \$15,936,813.64 to fund all municipal departments and the public school during Fiscal Year 2027, all as shown in the Town's Annual Operating Budget and identified in the Column Labeled "FY 27 Recommended Budget A Non-Contingent Appropriations", and to fund this appropriation, \$15,606,210 be raised from taxation, \$17,500 be transferred from WPAT loan, \$250,000 be transferred from Ambulance Fees, \$63,103.64 be transferred from Operational Stabilization Fund.

Article 2 Supplemental Funding for Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, or transfer from available funds, a supplemental sum or sums of money for purposes of the Town's Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 established pursuant to Article 1; provided however that said supplemental appropriation is contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ ballot question under General Laws Chapter 59, § 21C; or take any other action relative thereto.

Option 1: Override in the Amount of \$2,517,535.96 (Appendix C)

Option 2: Override in the Amount of \$1,926,947.20 (Appendix B)

Motion: Move that the Town raise and appropriate the supplemental sum of \$2,517,535.96 to fund all municipal departments and the public school during Fiscal Year 2027, as shown in Appendix C, said supplemental appropriation contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ ballot question under General Laws Chapter 59, § 21C.

Article 3 Hampshire Regional Budget

To see if the Town will approve the Hampshire Regional School District budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$6,281,651.00 to pay its assessed share of that budget; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 4 Transfer Station Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds to operate the Transfer Station Enterprise according to the following budget:

Wages	\$44,795.54
Operating Expenses	\$168,250
Total	\$213,045.54

And that \$213,045.54 be raised from Transfer Station Enterprise Revenues; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 5 Water Department Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds to operate the Water Enterprise, according to the following budget:

Salaries & Wages	\$293,062.38
Operating Expenses	\$229,621.99
Capital Outlay	\$70,000.00
Indirect Costs	\$185,164.13
Debt Services	\$341,942.92
Total	\$1,119,791.42

And that \$1,027,427.15 be raised from Water Enterprise Revenues, \$92,364.27 from retained earnings, and \$185,164.13 be appropriated in General Fund (Indirect Costs); or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 6 Elected Official Salaries

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of certain elected officials, as provided by G.L. c. 41 § 108; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Clerk: \$63,564.80
Treasurer/Collector: \$0

Article 7 Amend Highway Garage Heating Borrowing Maximum

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 16 of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting to approve borrowing an additional \$30,000.00 to purchase and install a new heating system for the Highway Department facility, and to authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Select Board, to borrow said sum for said appropriation under applicable section(s) of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 8 Citizens Petition to Reduce Community Preservation Surcharge

To see if the Town will vote to AMEND the surcharge ON REAL property imposed under the Community Preservation ACT, M.G.L. c. 44B Section 3 from three percent (3%) to one percent (1%) of the annual Real Estate Tax Levy, effective for the Fiscal year Beginning July 1, 2027 or take any action Relative thereto.

**TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON
PETITION FOR AN ARTICLE FOR
AN ANNUAL OR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Date and Time received by Board
of Registrars
MAR 25 2026
CAD -10:50A

Citizen Petition – To see if the Town will vote to:

AMEND the surcharge ON REAL property imposed under the
Community Preservation ACT, M.G.L. c. 44B Section 3 from
three percent (3%) to one percent (1%) of the ANNUAL Real Estate
Tax Levy, effective for the Fiscal year Beginning
July 1, 2027 or take any action Relative thereto.

Article 9 Adopt MGL c.40 sec. 8J to Create Disability Commission

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of MGL c.40 sec. 8J to establish a Commission on Disability; or take any action relative thereto.

Article 10 Repeal Capital Improvement Committee Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote to repeal Chapter 35 Article II, the Town's Capital Improvement Committee Bylaw, as said by-law was Adopted as Art. XXXIII of the General Bylaws, and as it may have been further amended from time to time; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 11 Amendment to Finance Committee Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 35, Article I, Section § 35-5 Duties and Responsibilities of the Town's General By-laws for the Finance Committee, as follows, by amending the existing language as noted below, with new language shown in boldface text which reads as follows:

§ 35-5 Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Review expenditures and commitments of each Town Department, committee or commission on a regular basis and identify significant variance for the Select Board's attention.
- B. Hold quarterly meetings with the Select Board, Treasurer/Collector, Town Accountant and the Town Administrator to review the Town's financial obligations, revenues and budget status.
- C. Review departmental budget submissions, hold meetings with the Select Board and make recommendations in preparing the annual budget for approval at the Annual Town Meeting.
- D. The Finance Committee shall have control over the Town's Finance Committee Reserve Fund, which provides for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures as defined by M.G.L ch. 40 § 6.
- E. **The Committee shall study proposed capital projects and improvements involving major tangible assets or projects which are purchased or undertaken at intervals of not less than one year, have a useful life of at least one year or cost \$5,000 or more. Such a capital improvement program, after its adoption, shall permit the expenditure on projects included therein of sums from departmental budgets for surveys, architectural or engineering advice, options or appraisals.**
- F. **All department heads, boards and committees shall, by October 1 of each year, give to the Committee on forms prepared by it information concerning all anticipated projects requiring Town Meeting action during the ensuing five years.**
- G. **The Committee shall consider the relative need, impact, timing and cost of these expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the Town. No appropriation shall be voted for a capital expenditure requested by a department, board or commission unless the proposed capital improvement is considered in the Committee's report, or the Committee shall first have submitted a report to the Select Board explaining the omission.**
- H. **The Committee shall prepare an annual report recommending a capital improvement budget for the next fiscal year and a capital improvement program including recommendations for the following five fiscal years and shall submit its capital budget to the Annual Town Meeting for adoption by the Town after joint review with the Select Board.**

Article 12 Eliminate Town Caucus

To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the municipal caucus for the nomination of candidates for town offices held in accordance with G.L. c. 53, § 121, and any regulations thereunder, and instead, provide that the nomination of eligible candidates for town offices shall be made solely by the filing of nomination papers in accordance with the general laws; and further, to amend § 93-11 of the General Bylaws of the Town of Southampton, a copy of which is available online at <https://ecode360.com/38188258#38188258>, by deleting the text shown in strikethrough as set forth below; or take any action in relation thereto:

§ 93-11 Candidates for office; caucus.

Candidates running for Town offices secure a place on the ballot either by timely submitting valid nomination papers with a sufficient number of signatures of registered voters ~~or being so voted at the Town caucus. A nonpartisan Town caucus shall be held at least 38 days prior to the Annual Town Election, as described in MGL c. 53, § 121.~~

Article 13 Amendment to the Wetlands Protection Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote to change the Town's General Bylaws Chapter 264 entitled Wetlands Protection, by amending the existing language as noted below, deleting existing language in §264-5 with a strikethrough and replacing it with new language shown in boldface text and adding new language as § 264-5 B subsection (5) shown in boldface text which reads as follows or take any action thereto:

264-5. Notice of intent; request for determination of applicability; permit issuance and conditions. [Amended 6-13-2021 ATM by Art. 10; 5-6-2025ATM by Art. 21]

Within 100 feet horizontally outward from the edge of a resource area, 200 feet horizontally outward from the mean annual high-water line (MAHWL) of a perennial stream, any activity proposed or undertaken which, in the judgment of the Commission, alters any area subject to protection under the bylaw is subject to regulation under the bylaw and requires the filing of a ~~notice of intent (NOI)~~ **permit with the Commission. If the applicant is in any doubt as to whether an activity is subject to regulation, a request for a determination of applicability (RDA) ——— should be filed.**

- A. Commission quorum. More than half of the members of the Commission currently in office must be present to conduct business and to hold a public meeting.
- B. Time frames for submission of documentation.
 - (1) All documentation, including plans, maps, tables, charts, consultant reports, etc., to be considered by the Commission for permit filing must be submitted to the Commission no later than two weeks before the Commission meeting date. The Commission meets once or twice a month (dates are subject to change; meeting agendas are posted in Town Hall).
 - (2) An administrative review will be conducted upon submission which includes fees, plans, documents, maps, wetland delineation data, and drainage studies required for the submission. The administrative review will last up to five days. Only after said review has determined that the application is complete will the public hearing date be scheduled, and a public notice will be issued. The Commission shall have 21 days to hold a public hearing from the date a completed application is received.
 - (3) The Commission, in an appropriate case, may combine its hearing under this bylaw with the hearing conducted under the Wetlands Protection Act, MGL c. 131, § 40, and regulations 310 CMR 10.00.
 - (4) The Commission shall have the authority to continue the hearing to a date certain announced at the hearing, for reasons stated at the hearing, which may include receipt of additional information offered by the applicant deemed necessary by the Commission in its discretion, or comments and recommendations of other Town boards and officials, as appropriate. In the event the applicant objects to a continuance or postponement, the hearing shall

be closed, and the Commission shall take action on such information as is available.

- (5) **Wetlands delineations: In accordance with the DEP policy on winter-time delineation and given that verification of a wetlands delineation must be done when the soil is not frozen nor covered with snow or any other material, when said delineation is submitted as part of a permit application, said permit shall not be acted upon during the time period October 1st thru April 1st or any other time when the ground is frozen or covered so as to not be clearly visible. Exceptions may be made by the Commission if during the time October 1 through April 1, the ground is in fact visible and not frozen.**

Article 14 Appointed Treasurer/Collector

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, § 1B to change the position of elected Treasurer/Collector to an appointed position to be appointed by the Select Board for a term of up to three years; provided, however, that such change shall not take effect unless it is also approved by the voters at the 2027 Annual Town Election, unless an earlier approval date is approved by the state legislature or at the upcoming state election in November, 2026; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 15 Unpaid Accounts from Previous Fiscal Year

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money for the payment of unpaid bills of previous years, incurred by the departments, boards and officers of the Town of Southampton; or take any other action relative thereto.

Vendor Account	Account	Description	Date(s)	Amount
KP Law Services	01-151-5300-00000	Legal Expenses	5/25	\$4,931.40
Ronald J. Berenson	01-158-5700-00000	Tax Title	6/25	\$16.00
Anchor Electric Motor Pioneer Valley	01-192-5701-00000	Town Hall Expenses Hazard Mitigation	1/25	\$240.00
Planning Commission Pioneer Valley	24-100-5099-00000	Grant Plan Update Hazard Mitigation	1/24-3/24	\$852.90
Planning Commission	24-100-5099-00000	Grant Plan Update	4/24-6/24	\$2,787.54
Westfield Sign Shop Pioneer Valley	25-200-5028-00000	Con. Com. Forestry	3/2025	\$200.00
Planning Commission	26-500-5030-00000	Parsons Estate Gift	6/25	\$1,718.50

Article 16 Transfer for Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to Hazard Mitigation Grant Account

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$60,279.00 from Water Retained Earnings line to the Hazard Mitigation Grant WM Route 10 account to off-set a deficit as a result of change orders for work done as part of a Hazard Mitigation Project/Water Line Relocation Project in FY 2022; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Amount	From	To
\$60,279.00	Water Retained Earnings (24-100-5153-00000)	Hazard Mitigation Grant WM Route 10

Article 17 Transfer of Funds from Health Department Revolving Account

To see if the town will vote to transfer \$17,648.87 from the Health Department Inspectional Services revolving account to the following named account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Account	Title	Amount to be Transferred
01-511-5706	Special Consultants	\$17,648.87

Article 18 Annual Community Preservation Program Budget

To see if the Town will appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of community preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year; or take any other action relative thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee recommends that the following amounts be appropriated or reserved from fiscal year 2027 community preservation fund revenues, unless otherwise specified, for fiscal year 2027 community preservation purposes with each item considered a separate appropriation:

Purpose	Recommended Amount
Appropriations	
Community Preservation Committee	
Administrative Expenses	\$7,500
Bond payment 68 Pomeroy Meadow Road	\$48,400
Reserves	
Budgeted Reserves	\$342,309
Historic Resources	\$49,973
Community Housing Reserves	\$49,973
Open Space / Recreation Reserves (residual after bond payment)	\$1,573

Article 19 CPA Funding for Center Cemetery Historic Gravestone Restoration

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from Community Preservation Act Funds to the Southampton Cemetery Commission, said funds to be transferred from Community Preservation Surcharges–Historic Preservation Account for the purpose of restoring historic gravestones at Center Cemetery; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 20 CPA Funding for Historic Clark-Chapman House Repainting

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$11,000 from Community Preservation Act Funds to the Southampton Historical Society, said funds to be transferred from Community Preservation Surcharges–Historic Preservation Account for the purpose of repainting the historic Clark-Chapman House; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 21 Funding for Affordable Housing Trust

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$400,000 from Community Preservation Act Funds to the Southampton Affordable Housing Trust, said funds to be transferred from Community Preservation Surcharges–Community Housing Account for the purpose of creating and preserving affordable housing in alignment with Southampton’s Master Plan and Housing Production Plan, with all details of the expenditure governed by a grant agreement on file with the Town Clerk; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 22 CPA Funding for Nancy B. Whittemore Trail Improvements

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,850 from Community Preservation Act Funds to the Southampton Conservation Commission to rehabilitate the Nancy B. Whittemore Trail, said funds to be transferred from Community Preservation Surcharges–Undesignated Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 23 CPC Funding for Local Match for 2026 MassTrails Grant for Greenway Design

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$60,000 dollars from Community Preservation Surcharges to the Southampton Greenway Committee for the Town's local matching share of a 2026 MassTrails Grant, in the amount of \$240,000 dollars, for the engineering and design process of the Greenway bicycle & pedestrian path, said funds to be taken from Community Preservation Surcharges – Open Space Funds; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 24 Fee Acquisition of Tripple Brook Property Contingent on Receiving Grant Funding

To see if the Town will vote to:

(a) appropriate \$547,800 for the purpose of acquiring a conservation restriction, by purchase, gift, eminent domain or other-wise, for the purposes below for the following property: 75 acres of land, more or less by GIS mapping located at 37 Middle Road, Southampton, being a portion of Tax Map 36, Lot 10 and 7.86-acre of land, more or less, on Middle Road being Tax Map 36, Lot 5. These are designated as lots 2 and 3 respectively on the plot plan on file at town hall.

(b) that, to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$547,800 shall be transferred from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Account, provided however, that such funds shall not be expended unless the Town is approved for a Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity Grant as described below, from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, and funding from Mass Audubon Catalyst fund and/or any other such sources, for reimbursement of all or a percentage of the project cost. The Conservation Restriction will be purchased only if at least \$498,498 is received in outside funding to defray costs;

(c) that the Select Board is authorized to acquire said conservation restriction by gift, negotiated purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, including pursuant to the Town's statutory right of first refusal pursuant to Chapter 61, Section 8, for conservation and passive recreation purposes subject to the protections of Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution; and that said property Conservation Restriction shall be under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 8C, as it may hereafter be amended, and other Massachusetts statutes relating to conservation;

(d) that the Select Board and/or the Conservation Commission is authorized to apply for, accept and expend any funds that may be provided by the Commonwealth or other public or private sources to defray all or a portion of the costs of said acquisition, including, but not limited to, grants and/or reimbursement from the Commonwealth under the Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity Grant and/or any grants or reimbursement programs in any way connected with the scope of this Article, which grants and/or funds so received shall be used to repay all or a portion of the sums transferred from the Community Preservation Act Fund hereunder; and that the Conservation Commission is authorized to accept a perpetual conservation restriction(s) pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, in compliance with Chapter 44B, Section 12(a), protecting the properties for the purposes for which they were acquired, and, further to authorize the Select Board and/or the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the foregoing purposes; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 25 Revolving Fund Spending Limits

To see if the Town will vote to set the Revolving Fund FY 2027 spending limits for such funds as follows; or take any other action relative thereto.

Program or Purpose	Use of Fund	FY 27 Spending Limit
Conservation	Operating Expenses/Admin. Expenses	\$ 10,000
Conservation Forestry	Oversight and Management of the Conservation Areas including forestry land	\$ 20,000
Council on Aging Van	Payment for Operation of COA Van	\$ 31,000
Dog Licensing & Control	Expenses Related to Admin. Of Licenses & Dog Control	\$ 8,000
Electrical Inspections	Payment for Electrical Inspection services	\$ 20,000
Fire Department (Brush Services)	Fire Chief to purchase brush firefighting equipment	\$ 10,000
Park Commission	Operating Expenses/Admin Expenses	\$ 10,000
Planning Board	Admin. Expenses	\$ 10,000
Planning Board	Consultant Costs	\$ 15,000
Plumbing Inspections	Payment for Plumbing inspection services	\$ 20,000
Tax Title	Tax Title related costs	\$ 10,000
Weights & Measures	Weights & Measures Fees	\$ 5,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	ZBA Expenditures	\$ 5,000

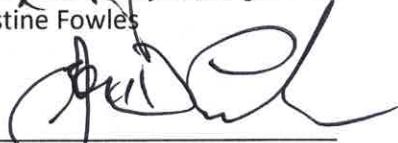
And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof in six usual places in said Town, seven (7) days at least before the time of holding said meeting. Hereof, fail not, and make due return of the Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 22nd day of April in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

SELECT BOARD



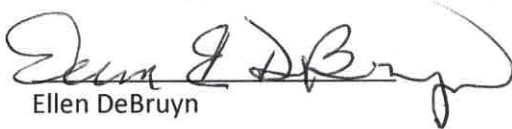
Christine Fowles



Jon Lumbr



Stephen Johnson



Ellen DeBruyn

A True Copy:

ATTEST: _____
Constable

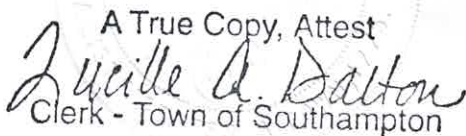
OFFICER'S RETURN
Hampshire, SS

Date: _____

This is to certify that I have served the within warrant by posting attested copies thereof in six usual places seven (7) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Constable

A True Copy, ATTEST: 
Lucille Dalton, Town Clerk of Southampton

A True Copy, Attest

Clerk - Town of Southampton