TOWN OF WORTHINGTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING May 4, 2024 9:30 AM RH Conwell School Gymnasium

Hampshire ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Worthington in the County of Hampshire.

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 election and in Town affairs to meet at the RH Conwell Elementary School in said Worthington on Saturday the Fourth of May 2024, at 9:30 AM, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE ONE: To Choose all other Town officers as are not required by law to be elected by ballot.

Almoners of the Whiting Street Fund
 Bruce Barshefsky, Catherine Whitcomb, Diane Meehan
 Field Drivers and Fence Viewers
 Bart Niswonger, Kevin Porter, Darlene Millman
 Surveyors of Wood and Timber
 Keith Manley, Sam Powell, Clarence Witter

ARTICLE TWO: To Act upon the reports of the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Selectboard, Almoners of the Whiting Street Fund and other elected or appointed officers or committees of the Town.

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$1,497,392.49** the total Worthington School District Budget for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Worthington	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
School District	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Appropriation				
Elementary	\$1,095,834.65	\$1,154,491.46	Recommended	Recommended
Secondary	275,829.00	342,901.03	Recommended	Recommended
Total	\$1,371,663.65	\$1,497,392.49		

ARTICLE FOUR: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E ½ of Chapter 44 M.G.L. to re-authorize the amount of **\$1,680.00** as the annual spending limit for the Conwell School Laptop Protection Plan revolving fund, such limit to be applicable for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Selectboard Action: Recommended Finance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate and Transfer the sum of\$5,460.00 from the Conwell Stabilization Fund for payment of the RH ConwellWater Tank Inspection, or to take any other action in relation thereto.Selectboard Action: RecommendedFinance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate and Transfer the sum of **\$3,250.00** from the Conwell Stabilization Fund for payment of the RH Conwell Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Inspection, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Selectboard Action: Recommended

Finance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$318,519.00** for Vocational Education, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Vocational	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
Education	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
	\$286,323.00	\$318,519.00	Recommended	Recommended

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$54,528.00** to be paid to Gateway Regional School District for Capital payback costs, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Gateway School District Payback	FY2024 Adopted	FY2025 Proposed	Selectboard Action	Finance Comm. Action
Bonded Projects	\$55,206.00	\$54,528.00	Recommended	Recommended
MSBA Payback	21,288.00	0.00	Recommended	Recommended
Total	\$76,494.00	\$54,528.00		

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries or compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided by MGL Chapter 41, Section 108 as amended, and to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$75,111.00** for these salaries and compensation to be as of July 1, 2024, as follows, or take any other action in relation thereto:

	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Selectboard, Chair	\$3,500.00	\$3,587.00	Recommended	Recommended
Selectboard, Clerk	3,000.00	3,075.00	Recommended	Recommended
Selectboard, Member	3,000.00	3,075.00	Recommended	Recommended
Bd. of Health, Chair	2,132.00	2,185.00	Recommended	Recommended
Bd. of Health, Clerk	2,132.00	2,185.00	Recommended	Recommended
Bd. of Health, Mem.	2,132.00	2,185.00	Recommended	Recommended
Moderator	100.00	100.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Clerk	18,000.00	18,450.00	Recommended	Recommended
Assessors, Chair	7,228.00	7,409.00	Recommended	Recommended
Assessors, Clerk	23,098.00	23,675.00	Recommended	Recommended
Assessors, Member	6,561.00	6,725.00	Recommended	Recommended
Tree Warden	2,400.00	2,460.00	Recommended	Recommended
Total	\$73,283.00	\$75,111.00		

ARTICLE TEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$544,203.00** for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

GENERAL GOVERN	IMENT:
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	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
Colorthoard Evenness	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Selectboard Expenses	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Assessors' Expenses	1,750.00	1,750.00	Recommended	Recommended
Classified Advertising	2,500.00	2,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Tax Map Maintenance	1,800.00	1,900.00	Recommended	Recommended
Assessors' Software Support	6,800.00	7,208.00	Recommended	Recommended
Assessors' Revaluation	4,700.00	6,200.00	Recommended	Recommended
Online Tax Maps	3,000.00	3,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Clerk's Expenses	1,650.00	1,700.00	Recommended	Recommended
Election Expenses	2,175.00	5,680.00	Recommended	Recommended
Registrars' Expense	50.00	50.00	Recommended	Recommended
Tree Warden's Expenses	20,000.00	20,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Tax Collector	21,690.00	22,664.00	Recommended	Recommended
Asst Tax Cltr/Asst Treasurer	9,880.00	10,329.00	Recommended	Recommended
Tax Collector's Expenses	4,100.00	4,200.00	Recommended	Recommended
Tax Collector's Software	8,300.00	9,450.00	Recommended	Recommended
Accounting Services	31,800.00	34,200.00	Recommended	Recommended
Accounting Software	4,467.00	4,690.00	Recommended	Recommended
Treasurer	21,690.00	22,664.00	Recommended	Recommended
Treasurer's Expenses	4,500.00	4,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Treasurer's Software	1,593.00	1,673.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Payroll Service	4,000.00	4,200.00	Recommended	Recommended
Executive Assistant	66,082.00	69,077.00	Recommended	Recommended
Assistant Secretary	4,528.00	9,464.00	Recommended	
Recording Secretary	8,000.00	8,000.00	Recommended	
Bd. of Appeals Expense	600.00	600.00	Recommended	Recommended
Conservation Comm. Exp.	900.00	900.00	Recommended	Recommended
Historic Commission Exp	250.00	250.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Off. Maint. & Sup.	3,750.00	3,750.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Hall Maintenance	4,500.00	4,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Hall Custodian	3,420.00	3,420.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Telephone Exp.	22,000.00	21,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Building Heating	24,000.00	24,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
War Memorial & Town Bldgs	300.00	300.00	Recommended	Recommended
Conwell Bldg. Expenses	144,677.00	147,149.00	Recommended	Recommended
IT/Comptr. Replenishmt plan	4,000.00	4,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Comptr. Maint. & Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Computer Maint. Labor	3,200.00	3,200.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Web Site	1,000.00	1,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Webmaster	2,000.00	2,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Planning Board Expenses	500.00	500.00	Recommended	Recommended
P.V.P.C.	218.00	224.00	Recommended	Recommended

Parks & Rec Comm. Exp.	3,800.00	4,145.00	Recommended	Recommended
Founder's Day	4,000.00	4,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Finance Comm. Expense	140.00	150.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Reports	1,250.00	1,250.00	Recommended	Recommended
Law Account Expense	15,000.00	15,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Tax Taking-Collector	1,200.00	1,200.00	Recommended	Recommended
Tax Title Foreclosure Treas.	2,185.00	2,185.00	Recommended	Recommended
Tax Title Foreclosure Maint.	2,000.00	2,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Audit Expenses	12,500.00	12,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Council on Aging	12,000.00	14,600.00	Recommended	Recommended
COA Building Lease	9,785.00	9,981.00	Recommended	Recommended
Total	\$519,730.00	\$544,203.00		

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate and Transfer the sum of **\$5,000.00** from the Conwell Stabilization Fund for the rehabilitation of the ballfield behind the Conwell School, or take any other action in relation thereto. *Selectboard Action: Recommended Finance Comm. Action: Recommended*

ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$24,045.00** for the Worthington Library, or take any other action in relation thereto:

	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Worthington Library	\$24,045.00	\$24,045.00	Recommended	Recommended

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$21,895.00** for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Maintenance of Cemeteries	\$18,500.00	\$17,995.00	Recommended	Recommended
Cem. Commission Expense	500.00	500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Grave Openings	3,400.00	3,400.00	Recommended	Recommended
Total:	\$22,400.00	\$21,895.00		

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate and Transfer the sum of **\$3,000.00** from the Sale of Lots Account to make improvements to the Ringville Cemetery driveway, or take any other action in relation thereto. *Selectboard Action: Recommended Finance Comm. Action: Recommended*

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$821,686.00** for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Hampshire Cty Retirement	\$302,287.00	\$323,278.00	Recommended	Recommended

Unemployment Comp.	3,500.00	3,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Workers Compensation	12,000.00	16,300.00	Recommended	Recommended
Group Insurance	371,752.00	391,038.00	Recommended	Recommended
Insurance and Bonds	61,000.00	62,570.00	Recommended	Recommended
Medicare	24,000.00	25,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Total:	\$704,273.00	\$821,686.00		

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$218,609.00** for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY:

	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Emergency Mgmt. Salary	\$1,136.00	\$1,164.00	Recommended	Recommended
Emergency Mgmt. Expenses	600.00	600.00	Recommended	Recommended
Code Red	1,368.00	1,368.00	Recommended	Recommended
Animal Control Officer Salary	1,865.00	1,912.00	Recommended	Recommended
Animal Control Officer. Exp.	300.00	300.00	Recommended	Recommended
Hilltown Comm. Ambulance	44,434.87	63,482.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Constable	100.00	100.00	Recommended	Recommended
Animal Inspector	779.00	798.00	Recommended	Recommended
Building Commissioner	22,452.00	23,487.00	Recommended	Recommended
Building Inspector Alternate	0.00	1,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Building Inspector's Expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Plumbing Inspector	1,690.00	1,732.00	Recommended	Recommended
Plumbing Inspector's Expense	400.00	500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Wiring Inspector	3,820.00	3,916.00	Recommended	Recommended
Wiring Inspector's Expense	120.00	1,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Assist. Wiring Insp. Expense	300.00	300.00	Recommended	Recommended
Gas Inspector	1,328.00	1,361.00	Recommended	Recommended
Board of Health Expenses	200.00	200.00	Recommended	Recommended
Board of Health Agent	5,500.00	4,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Ctrl. Hamp. Veterans' Service	6,134.00	6,179.00	Recommended	Recommended
Veteran's Aid	12,000.00	12,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Disposal Works	62,000.00	66,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Disposal Attendant	13,344.00	14,224.00	Recommended	Recommended
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop.	6,869.00	7,004.00	Recommended	Recommended
Streetlights	1,200.00	1,350.00	Recommended	Recommended
Total:	\$190,439.87	\$218,609.00		

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: To see if Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate **\$67,913.00** for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto: **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Fire Dept. Operating Exps.	\$27,000.00	\$33,000.00	Recommended	Recommended

Fire Department Fuel	2,500.00	2,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Clerical	6,103.00	6,381.00	Recommended	Recommended
Fire Chief Salary	6,779.00	7,091.00	Recommended	Recommended
Fire Dept. Grant Writer	1,406.00	1,441.00	Recommended	Recommended
Code Inspection Comp.	1,500.00	1,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Fire Dept. Call Comp.	15,000.00	16,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Total	\$60,288.00	\$67,913.00		

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate and Transfer the sum of **\$15,000.00** from the General Stabilization Fund for the repair of the Fire Department's KME E3 Pump, or take any other action in relation thereto. Selectboard Action: Recommended Finance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE NINETEEN: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate and Transfer the sum of **\$3,600.00** from the General Stabilization Fund for the Fire Department's Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Match, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Selectboard Action: Recommended

Finance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE TWENTY: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate and Transfer the sum of **\$1,500.00** from the General Stabilization Fund for the Inspection and Certification of the Fire Department's Pierce Ladder Truck, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Selectboard Action: Recommended

Finance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$31,248.00** for Principal and Interest on the Fire Truck Debt, or take any other action in relation thereto:

	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Fire Pumper Truck	\$31,994.50	\$31,248.00	Recommended	Recommended

ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate **\$191,053.00** for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
Police Dept. Expenses	\$21,025.00	\$21,550.00	Recommended	Recommended
Police Chief Salary	85,120.00	89,918.00	Recommended	Recommended
Police Dept. Wages	62,400.00	65,083.00	Recommended	Recommended
Police Clerical Wages	12,205.00	12,761.00	Recommended	Recommended
IMC Software Maint.	888.00	991.00	Recommended	Recommended
CJIS Yearly Maintenance	750.00	750.00	Recommended	Recommended
Total	\$182,388.00	\$191,053.00		

ARTICLE TWENTY-THREE: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$652,842.00** for the following Town charges, or take any other action in relation thereto:

	FY2024	FY2025	Selectboard	Finance Comm.
	Adopted	Proposed	Action	Action
General Highway Maint.	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Road Sweeping	6,500.00	6,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Town Mowing	12,000.00	12,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Winter Highway Maint.	110,000.00	110,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Wtr. HWY Overtime Wages	11,850.00	11,850.00	Recommended	Recommended
Highway Dept. Wages	178,942.00	239,554.00	Recommended	Recommended
Highway Wages Clerical	6,103.00	6,381.00	Recommended	Recommended
Highway Superintendent	87,672.00	91,707.00	Recommended	Recommended
Hwy.Supt. Add'l Wtr. Comp.	2,500.00	2,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Garage Maintenance	14,000.00	15,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Extraordinary Garage Maint.	6,000.00	0.00	Recommended	Recommended
Machinery Maintenance	40,000.00	30,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Extraordinary Machinery Maint.	5,000.00	0.00	Recommended	Recommended
Highway/Police Fuel	33,500.00	33,500.00	Recommended	Recommended
Superintendent's Expense	1,500.00	600.00	Recommended	Recommended
FRCOG Group Purchasing	3,250.00	3,250.00	Recommended	Recommended
Secondary Rd. Improvemts.	60,000.00	50,000.00	Recommended	Recommended
Total:	\$628,817.00	\$652,842.00		

ARTICLE TWENTY-FOUR: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate and Transfer the sum of **\$14,458.00** from the General Stabilization Fund to purchase a New Waste Oil Furnace for the Highway Garage, or take any action relative thereto. *Selectboard Action: Recommended* Finance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE: To see if the Town will vote to adopt M.G.L 32B, Section 9A, wherein the Town will pay one-half (50%) of the premium costs payable by an eligible, retired employee for group health insurance, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SIX: To see if the Town will vote to adopt M.G.L 32B, Section 9D, wherein the Town will pay one-half (50%) of the premium costs payable by the surviving spouse of an insured employee or a retired employee for group health insurance, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE TWENTY-SEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to establish a Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures, as provided by M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 6, as amended, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Selectboard Action: Recommended Finance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE TWENTY-EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate as available funds the total sum of **\$232,578.81** from Chapter 90 funds or any other amounts

from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance, or take any other action in relation thereto. Selectboard Action: Recommended Finance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE TWENTY-NINE: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate and Transfer the sum of **\$162,805.00** from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Selectboard Action: Recommended Finance Comm. Action: Recommended

ARTICLE THIRTY: To see if the Town will vote to Authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for construction and/or maintenance of public highways for the Fiscal Year 2025, and further to authorize the Selectboard on behalf of the Town to accept any money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE: To see if the Town will vote to Authorize the Selectboard to apply for Massachusetts State or Federal grant programs and to further Authorize the Selectboard to expend monies received through such programs following a public hearing, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Zoning Bylaw Revisions:

ARTICLE THIRTY-TWO:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Law by: Amending Section 10 "Definitions" to add the following after the definition of "One family dwelling" and before that of "Private Club":

Outdoor Recreation: Land used primarily for recreational activity, particularly oriented to and utilizing the outdoor character of an area including, but not limited to golf, tennis, swimming, skiing, snowmobiling, sporting club, campgrounds, livery or riding stable.

AND

Amending Section 4.4(A) "Uses which are authorized after issuance of a Special Permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals" by replacing:

- 1. Garage
- 2. Filling Station
- 3. Inn
- 4. Motel
- 5. Store
- 6. Ski Tow
- 7. Light Industry
- 8. Small Business
- 9. Sawmill
- 10. Large scale raising of poultry, pigs, hogs, fur-bearing or other farm animals.
- 11. Conversion of a one-family dwelling existing at the time this By-Law was originally adopted into a two-family dwelling.
- 12. Restaurant
- 13. Boarding House
- 14. Manufactured Housing

- 15. Riding Stable
- 16. Private Club
- 17. Recreational Camps
- 18. Seasonal Dwellings
- 19. Camping Areas
- 20. Seasonal Food Trucks and Trailers operating at a fixed location for more than 5 days

With:

- 1. Garage
- 2. Filling Station
- 3. Inn
- 4. Motel
- 5. Store
- 6. Light Industry
- 7. Small Business
- 8. Sawmill
- 9. Large scale raising of poultry, pigs, hogs, fur-bearing or other farm animals.
- 10. Conversion of a one-family dwelling existing at the time this By-Law was originally adopted into a two-family dwelling.
- 11. Restaurant
- 12. Boarding House
- 13. Manufactured Housing
- 14. Private Club
- 15. Seasonal Dwellings
- 16. Seasonal Food Trucks and Trailers operating at a fixed location for more than 5 days
- 17. Outdoor Recreation

or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE THIRTY-THREE:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Law Section 4.3 (Permitted in All Districts)

By inserting Section 4.3(C):

Temporary Events: Use of property for events such as fairs, entertainment, outdoor recreational events or carnivals which are not usual and customary under the primary use of the property shall require an Event Permit from the Selectboard. Such events shall be limited to a maximum of eight (8) days in a calendar year, and the total number of such events shall be limited to a maximum of three (3). The Selectboard may elect to reduce the number of days or number of events.

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Given under our hands April 26, 2024 I have served this warrant as directed.

Date of Posting: ______

Constable

ATTEST

GLOSSARY

<u>APPROPRIATION</u>: An authorization granted by a Town Meeting to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. A "specific" appropriation is carried forward year to year until spent for the designated purpose or transferred by Town Meeting vote to another account.

AVAILABLE FUNDS: Free Cash, reserves and unexpended balances available for appropriation.

CHERRY SHEETS: Named for the cherry-colored paper on which they were originally printed, the Cherry Sheets are the official notification of the next fiscal year's state aid and assessments to communities and regional school districts from the Commissioner of Revenue. State aid to municipalities and regional school districts consists of two major types -- distributions and reimbursements. Distributions provide funds based on formulas while reimbursements provide funds for costs incurred during a prior period for certain programs or services. In addition, communities may receive "offset items" that must be spent on specific programs. Cherry Sheet Assessments are advance estimates of state assessments and charges. Local assessors are required to use these figures in setting the local tax rate. Because these figures are estimates, it should be noted that based on filing requirements and/or actual information, the final aid or assessment may differ.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS: Estimate of money to be received by the Town from various sources, such as MVE excise, licenses, fees, state reimbursements, etc. The estimate is deducted by the Assessors from the gross amount to be raised by taxes when the tax rate is set.

EXCESS LEVY CAPACITY: The difference between the levy limit and the amount of real and personal property taxes actually levied in a given year.

FISCAL YEAR: A twelve-month period commencing July I, to which the annual budget applies and at the end of which a Town determines its financial position and the results of its operations.

FREE CASH: Unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year that are certified by the Director of Accounts as available for appropriation. Remaining funds include unexpended free cash from the previous year, receipts in excess of estimates shown on the tax recapitulation sheet, and unspent amounts in budget line items. Unpaid property taxes and certain deficits reduce the amount that can be certified as free cash. The calculation of free cash is based on the balance sheet as of June 30, which is submitted by the town accountant. A community should maintain a free cash balance to provide a hedge against unforeseen expenditures. Maintenance of an adequate free cash level is not a luxury but a necessary component of sound local fiscal management. Credit rating agencies and other members of the financial community sheet municipalities to maintain free cash reserves and make judgments regarding a community's fiscal stability, in part, on the basis of free cash. "Free Cash" is also referred to as "Available Funds".

OVERLAY: (Overlay Reserve or Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions) An account established annually to fund anticipated property tax abatements, exemptions and uncollected taxes in that year. The overlay reserve is not established by the normal appropriation process, but rather is raised on the tax rate recapitulation sheet.

OVERLAY SURPLUS: Unused, accumulated amount of the Overlay for various years, which may be voted for any lawful purpose and reverts to Free Cash at the end of each Fiscal Year.

RESERVE FUND: An amount set aside annually within the budget to provide a funding source for extraordinary unforeseen expenditures. The finance committee can authorize transfers from this fund for "extraordinary or unforeseen" expenditures. Other uses of the fund require budgetary transfers by town meeting.

STABILIZATION FUND: A fund designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes, although it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose. (MGL Ch. 40 § 5B). Towns may appropriate into this fund in any year by a simple majority vote. Any interest shall be added to and become a part of the fund. A two-thirds vote of town meeting is required to appropriate money from the stabilization fund.

SURPLUS REVENUE: The amount by which the cash, accounts receivable and other assets exceed the liabilities and reserves.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT: A written order calling for an Annual or Special Town Meeting and containing a list of items to be acted upon. Warrants are posted at the official posting place.