

TOWN OF DALTON  
 BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS  
 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
 WAHCONAH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL-MAY 1, 2023 AT 7:00

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The Moderator, Anthony P. Doyle, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Patricia Mele-Nichols, Jean Gingras, Maureen Mitchell, Karen Filiault and Judy Condron were appointed checkers and tellers.

PRECINCT 1-37  
 PRECINCT 2-62

**WAHCONAH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 150 OLD WINDSOR ROAD, DALTON MA  
 MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

Then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, will fix the maximum amounts that may be spent during the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023 for the revolving funds established in town by-laws, as on file and available for viewing in the office of the Town Clerk, for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers, with such expenditure limits to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year, to revise the same; or take any other action relative thereto.

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>FY23 Spending Limit</u>	<u>Disposition of FY23 Fund Balance</u>
Plumbing Inspector	\$15,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Electrical Inspector	\$10,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Tree Warden/ Planning Board	\$5,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Cemetery Department	\$2,500.00	Balance up to \$2,500.00 available for expenditure, remainder reverts to the General Fund
Council on Aging - Transportation	\$20,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Council on Aging - Programs	\$15,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Cemetery Department	\$5,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Legal Advertising	\$3,000.00	Balance up to \$3,000 available for expenditure, remainder reverts to the General Fund
Parks Maintenance	\$2,000.00	Balance available for expenditure
Highway Department (Boom Mower)	\$9,000.00	Balance available for expenditure

PASSES

ARTICLE 2. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of money for the "Schedule of Compensation for Elected Officials" as follows: Moderator \$439, Town Clerk \$61,776, Selectboard Chair \$5129, other Select Board members \$4080, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 3. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate the amounts set forth in the printed report of the Finance Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, totaling \$9,419,201 for several purposes therein itemized, each numbered item being

considered as a separate appropriation , and that the same be expended only for such purposes.

	FY2023	FY2024
<b>ARTICLE 2: SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION</b>		
Elected Officials		
Moderator	430	439
Select Board-Chairman	5,028	5,129
4 Members FY24 @ \$4,080 each	16,000	16,320
Town Clerk	59,511	61,776
<b>ARTICLE 3: TOWN OPERATING BUDGET</b>		
<b>General Government</b>		
114 Moderator		
Salary	430	439
Expenses	100	100
	<b>530</b>	<b>539</b>
122 Select Board		
Salaries-Elected	21,028	21,449
Expenses	10,055	8,635
	<b>31,083</b>	<b>30,084</b>
123 Town Manager		
Salaries (Town Mgr.& Exec Ass't. combined)	171,455	182,044
Expenses	8,050	9,200
	<b>179,505</b>	<b>191,244</b>
131 Finance Committee		
Expenses	1,685	1,685
	<b>1,685</b>	<b>1,685</b>
132 Reserve Fund		
Expenses	See Article #8	See Article #7
135 Accountant		
Salary	81,640	103,930
Expenses	12,260	12,996
	<b>93,900</b>	<b>116,926</b>
138 Group Purchasing		
Expenses	3,711	4,300
	<b>3,711</b>	<b>4,300</b>
139 Town Audit		
Expenses	20,000	3,500
	<b>20,000</b>	<b>3,500</b>
141 Assessors		
Salaries	48,508	61,399
Expenses	63,450	60,165
	<b>111,958</b>	<b>121,564</b>
145 Town Treasurer		
Salaries	102,994	106,749
Expenses	28,225	22,500
	<b>131,219</b>	<b>129,249</b>
146 Town Collector		
Salaries	98,255	102,948
Expenses	13,265	19,065
	<b>111,520</b>	<b>122,013</b>

151 Town Counsel		
Expenses	60,000	60,000
	<b>60,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>
152 Telephone		
Expenses	33,800	52,880
	<b>33,800</b>	<b>52,880</b>
154 Recording Secretary		
Salaries	9,693	9,906
	<b>9,693</b>	<b>9,906</b>
157 Information Technology Services		
Expenses	68,000	71,000
	<b>68,000</b>	<b>71,000</b>
158 Postage		
Expenses	19,636	19,636
	<b>19,636</b>	<b>19,636</b>
159 Tax Title		
Expenses	2,500	2,500
	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
161 Town Clerk		
Salary-Elected	59,511	61,776
Salaries	40,364	39,915
Expenses	11,950	11,950
	<b>111,825</b>	<b>113,641</b>
162 Elections		
Salaries	11,515	7,994
Expenses	12,495	10,440
	<b>24,010</b>	<b>18,434</b>
163 Registrars		
Salaries	10,057	10,251
Expenses	4,100	4,100
	<b>14,157</b>	<b>14,351</b>
171 Conservation Commission		
Expenses	2,175	2,175
	<b>2,175</b>	<b>2,175</b>
175 Planning Board/ Board of Appeals		
Salary	50,544	56,235
Expenses	2,100	2,700
	<b>52,644</b>	<b>58,935</b>
192 Buildings Maintenance		
Salary	75,252	77,305
Expense	29,300	30,723
	<b>104,552</b>	<b>108,028</b>
195 Town Report		
Expenses	6,650	7,915
	<b>6,650</b>	<b>7,915</b>
196 Town Hall		
Salaries	7,500	10,500
Expenses	90,000	93,180
	<b>97,500</b>	<b>103,680</b>
197 Central Supplies		
Expenses	19,500	19,500
	<b>19,500</b>	<b>19,500</b>
198 Town Advertising		

Expenses	10,500	10,500
	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>
199 Green Committee		
Expenses	-	4,620
	-	<b>4,620</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,322,253</b>	<b>1,398,805</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>		
210 Police Department		
Salaries	1,186,710	1,317,611
Expenses	161,202	183,541
	<b>1,347,912</b>	<b>1,501,152</b>
222 Communications		
Salaries	243,647	284,466
Expenses	12,500	13,500
	<b>256,147</b>	<b>297,966</b>
240 Building Inspections		
Salaries	41,112	42,659
Expenses	6,730	6,760
	<b>47,842</b>	<b>49,419</b>
244 Sealer of Weights & Measures		
Salary	2,192	-
Expenses	5,100	800
	<b>7,292</b>	<b>800</b>
247 Inspector of Animals		
Salary	1,692	1,726
	<b>1,692</b>	<b>1,726</b>
292 Animal Control		
Salaries	25,568	24,897
Expenses	5,500	5,750
	<b>31,068</b>	<b>30,647</b>
293 Traffic Commission		
Expenses	1,500	1,500
	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
294 Forest Warden		
Salaries	1,895	2,500
Expenses	2,000	3,800
	<b>3,895</b>	<b>6,300</b>
295 Emergency Management		
Salary	6,120	12,480
Expenses	10,594	11,750
	<b>16,714</b>	<b>24,230</b>
296 Shade Tree/Tree Warden		
Salary	2,471	2,564
Expenses	35,340	40,210
	<b>37,811</b>	<b>42,774</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,751,873</b>	<b>1,956,514</b>
<b>Education</b>		
320 Vocational Education		
Expenses	444,249	509,900
	<b>444,249</b>	<b>509,900</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>444,249</b>	<b>509,900</b>

<b>Public Works</b>		
401 Town Engineer		
Expenses	30,000	30,000
	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
420 Highway Department		
Salaries	331,584	362,945
Expenses	224,524	236,398
	<b>556,108</b>	<b>599,343</b>
423 Snow & Ice		
Salaries	28,855	29,937
Expenses	131,610	131,610
	<b>160,465</b>	<b>161,547</b>
424 Streetlights		
Expenses	32,460	27,460
	<b>32,460</b>	<b>27,460</b>
433 Landfill Monitoring		
Expenses	16,218	16,553
	<b>16,218</b>	<b>16,553</b>
434 Transfer Station		
Salaries	52,576	47,054
Expenses	191,474	205,812
	<b>244,050</b>	<b>252,866</b>
440 Sewer Maintenance (Offset Receipts)		
Salaries	108,447	114,976
Expenses	23,050	24,050
	<b>131,497</b>	<b>139,026</b>
449 Wastewater Treatment (Offset Receipts)		
Salaries	905	927
Expenses	1,198,192	1,332,380
	<b>1,199,097</b>	<b>1,333,307</b>
491 Cemetery Department		
Salaries	72,497	74,835
Expenses	22,036	22,036
	<b>94,533</b>	<b>96,871</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,464,428</b>	<b>2,656,973</b>
<b>Human Services</b>		
510 Board of Health		
Salary	59,080	77,582
Expenses	24,400	30,778
	<b>83,480</b>	<b>108,360</b>
522 Public Health Nurse		
Expenses	6,722	6,722
	<b>6,722</b>	<b>6,722</b>
541 Council on Aging		
Salaries	124,679	133,207
Expenses	39,870	41,050
	<b>164,549</b>	<b>174,257</b>
543 Veterans' Services		
Expenses	114,600	114,000
	<b>114,600</b>	<b>114,000</b>
591 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission		

Expenses	15,258	15,389
	<b>15,258</b>	<b>15,389</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>384,609</b>	<b>418,728</b>
<b>Culture and Recreation</b>		
610 Library		
Salaries	148,613	154,727
Expenses	67,805	67,805
	<b>216,418</b>	<b>222,532</b>
630 Parks and Recreation	See Article #4	<b>62,000</b>
650 Parks Maintenance		
Salaries	36,368	35,836
Expenses	16,914	21,114
	<b>53,282</b>	<b>56,950</b>
691 Historical Commission		
Expenses	4,500	4,500
	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>
692 Memorial Day Committee		
Expenses	2,250	2,250
	<b>2,250</b>	<b>2,250</b>
693 Cultural Activities		
Expenses	2,500	2,500
	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>278,950</b>	<b>350,732</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>		
710-C Debt and Interest (Capital Imp. Program)	165,508	295,598
	<b>165,508</b>	<b>295,598</b>
710-EXCL (Capital Imp. Program)	-	70,000
	-	<b>70,000</b>
710-S&D Sewers and Drains	65,732	65,653
	<b>65,732</b>	<b>65,653</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>231,240</b>	<b>431,251</b>
<b>Other</b>		
911 Berkshire County Retirement Assessment		
Expenses	517,417	554,979
	<b>517,417</b>	<b>554,979</b>
913 Unemployment		
Expenses	7,500	7,500
	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>
914 Group Health Insurance		
Expenses	724,452	761,214
	<b>724,452</b>	<b>761,214</b>
915 Group Life Insurance		
Expenses	18,880	17,811
	<b>18,880</b>	<b>17,811</b>
916 Medicare		
Expenses	46,000	50,000
	<b>46,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>

919 Employment Benefits		
Salaries	46,180	46,180
Expenses	2,114	2,114
	<b>48,294</b>	<b>48,294</b>
941 Court Judgments & Claims		
Expenses	3,000	3,000
	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
945 Town Insurance		
Expenses	242,700	253,500
	<b>242,700</b>	<b>253,500</b>
950 Commissioner of Trust Funds		
Expenses	200	-
	<b>200</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,608,443</b>	<b>1,696,298</b>
<b>ARTICLE 3: TOTAL</b>	<b>8,486,045</b>	<b>9,419,201</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
<b>Central Berkshire Regional School District</b>		
<b>ARTICLE 5: Operating Budget</b>	<b>8,521,913</b>	<b>8,752,286</b>
<b>ARTICLE 6: Transportation Budget</b>	<b>363,721</b>	<b>312,385</b>
<b>ARTICLE 7: Capital Budget</b>	<b>1,298,313</b>	<b>1,269,442</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>10,183,947</b>	<b>10,334,113</b>
<b>FREE CASH USE</b>		
<b>ARTICLE 8: RESERVE FUND</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>
<b>ARTICLE 9: REDUCE TAX RATE</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>
<b>ARTICLE 11: STABILIZATION FUNDS</b>		
General	50,000	100,000
Capital	100,000	200,000
Litigation	50,000	-
Sewer	100,000	150,000
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>
<b>ARTICLE 12: OPEB Trust</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>
<b>ARTICLE 13: Prior Year Bills</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>865,143</b>	<b>1,015,450</b>

PASSES

ARTICLE 4. It was moved and seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$8,752,286 for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the Operating Budget of the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 5. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$312,385 for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the Transportation Budget of the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 6. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of 1,269,442 for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the Capital Budget of the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 7. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$65,000 from free cash to Account 132, the Reserve Fund, for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 8. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$200,000 into the Treasury for the purpose of reducing or offsetting the expected tax rate increase in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; or to take any other action in relation thereto. This is intended to offset the expected grant for Dispatch services; if the usual grant were for some reason not to be given, the Town would cover the expenses, and this transfer would cease.

PASSES

ARTICLE 9. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$450,000 to each of the following Stabilization Funds: \$100,000 to the General Stabilization Fund, \$200,000 to the Capital Stabilization Fund, and \$150,000 to the Sewer Stabilization Fund; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 10. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$300,000 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund to reduce the unfunded actuarial liability of health care and other post-employment benefits; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 11. It was moved, seconded to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$450 from KP Law, dated May 27, 2022 that was received after June 30, 2022.

The motion was amended on the floor to now say- I move that the Town transfers the sum of \$702 from Free Cash for the purpose of paying the following invoices from Fiscal year 2022.

KP Law \$450  
Dynamark Security \$252  
(4/5 Vote required)

PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 12. It was moved, seconded and voted To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of \$214,941 from available funds to be reimbursed by a grant from the Commonwealth of



Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90, Section 34 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and any other enabling statute, for the purposes of highway maintenance, repaving, and similar roadway expenditures; and further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts or grant agreements with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for such purposes as necessary; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 13. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will authorize borrowing for Fiscal Year 2024 capital expenses in the sum of \$415,802 including \$188,888 for a loader for the Department of Public Works; \$161,000 for repairs to the roof of the Town Garage; and \$65,914 for a cruiser for the Police Department including all costs incidental or related thereto and including all borrowing costs associated therewith; and further, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow said sum under Chapter 44, Section 7 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and that the Select Board is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 14. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will transfer from the Sewer Stabilization Fund a sum \$19,522 to pay the City of Pittsfield for the additional costs of sewage treatment in the 2022 fiscal year; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 15. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund a sum of \$46,324 for the purpose of providing the following item for the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Program, including all incidental and related costs; or to take any other action in relation thereto:

- 1) an administrative car for the Police Department.

PASSES

ARTICLE 16. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$54,460 for the purpose of funding capital items for the Department of Public Works for the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Program, as follows, including all incidental and related costs; or to take any other action in relation thereto:

- 1) a pickup truck ( \$44,460); and
- 2) sidewalk repairs ( \$10,000).

PASSES

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$11,250 for the purpose of funding capital items for the Forest Warden for the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Program, as follows, including all incidental and related costs; or to take any other action in relation thereto:

- 1) a flatbed or similar-type trailer.

PASSES

ARTICLE 18. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum \$3,000 for the purpose of capital items for the Emergency Management Department for the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Program, as follows, including all incidental and related costs; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

- 1) one automated external defibrillator (AED).

PASSES

ARTICLE 19. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$15,000 for Fiscal Year 2024, for the purpose of funding municipal website development, including all incidental and related costs; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 20. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$67,500 for Fiscal Year 2024 for the purpose of funding the following programs aimed at reducing the Town's contributions to climate change, including all incidental and related costs; or to take any other action in relation thereto:

- 1) Developing a "Roadmap" plan for Climate Leader status for the Town (\$60,000);  
and
- 2) Planning and hosting a Climate Fair (\$7,500).

PASSES

ARTICLE 21. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract for more than three years for the purpose of providing software, operations, management and maintenance support for electric-vehicle charging stations; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 22. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$5000 for Fiscal Year 2024 for the purpose of funding relocation costs for residents of condemned houses; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 23. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town authorize the Select Board to convey an easement for access, utilities and construction on a parcel of Town-owned land situated off Bridle Road, more particularly described in a deed recorded with the Berkshire Middle Registry of Deeds in Book 948, Page 685 to Warren Farms Solar LLC, or its nominee, for the benefit of leased property adjacent to the Town property, such conveyance to be for such consideration, which may be nominal consideration, and upon such others terms and conditions as the Select Board shall deem advisable.

Citizens' Energy is proposing to build a solar array in back of the Transfer Station, on the Warren landfill property, as they were approved to do in 2014. The ability to connect with the electric grid was not present then, as it is now. This easement would allow them to use the Town's already-constructed road, which Citizens' Energy would improve, to the benefit of the Town, so that the array could be constructed.

Proposed Amendment made by the Chair of the Select board –Add to the end of the motion as read the words: "and to execute any and all documents related thereto".

ARTICLE AND AMENDMENT PASS UNANIMOUSLY

ARTICLE 24. It was moved, seconded and voted to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$25,000 for Fiscal Year 2024 for the purpose of conducting a space-needs study for the Town, including but not limited to recommendations for: 1) redesign or renovation of any existing Town facility or facilities; and 2) leasing, purchasing and/or building any new facility or facilities; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

PASSES

ARTICLE 25. To change the location for all Town election voting from the Dalton Community Recreation Association, 400 Main Street to the Dalton Senior Center, 40 Field Street Extension.

[by citizen petition]

It was moved, and seconded to change the location for all Town election voting from the Dalton Community Recreation Association, 400 Main Street to the Dalton Senior Center, 40 Field Street Extension.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the motion to say, "all elections".

A motion was made to, "consider alternative locations through a review by Dalton Town Clerk and Public Safety Officials of Dalton, within 120 days and Town Clerk to deliver that review to the Select Board for consideration."

THE MOTION AND THE TWO AMENDMENTS PASS

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will recess until MONDAY MAY 8, 2023 at 11:00 O'CLOCK A.M. to 7:00 P.M. to meet in the DALTON COMMUNITY HOUSE, to choose and elect the following Town Officers and the determination of such other matters as are by law required to be determined by ballot:

(2) MEMBERS SELECT BOARD	FOR 3 YEARS
(1) MODERATOR	FOR 1 YEAR
(2) MEMBERS DALTON HOUSING AUTHORITY	FOR 5 YEARS
(1) CEMETERY TRUSTEE	FOR 3 YEARS
(2) MEMBERS PLANNING BOARD	FOR 3 YEARS
(3) LIBRARY TRUSTEES	FOR 3 YEARS
(2) MEMBERS FINANCE COMMITTEE	FOR 3 YEARS

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Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 pm

A true copy. ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather A. Hunt, TOWN CLERK