



**TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MOTIONS
Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 7pm
Hubbardston Center School**

**STABILIZATION: \$ 568,696.59
MUNICIPAL CAPITAL STABILIZATION: \$185,657.57
FREE CASH: \$542,924.00**

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 7 of the June 2023 Annual Town Meeting by increasing or decreasing the amounts to be appropriated for the various Town Departments , to meet the salaries and compensation of Town Employees, and Town Officers, as provided by MGL Ch. 41 §108, expenses, and outlays of the Town Departments, and other sundry and miscellaneous, but regular, expenditures necessary for the operation of the Town for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) as printed in the attached Appendix A, but not including funding for the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District assessment or the Quabbin Regional School District budget, such that the total to be raised and appropriated from taxation is decreased to \$4,253,460.41 and the amount to be transferred from FY23 Free Cash is decreased to \$92,752 , and further, to accept and expend Federal and State Funds to offset certain salaries or expenses and outlay; or take any other action relative thereto.

PURPOSE	AMOUNT
General Government	\$663,494.72
Public Safety	\$1,544,102.48
Public Works	\$898,033.21
Human Services	\$35,117.00
Culture and Rec	\$91,753.00
Debt	\$127,110.00
Indirect Costs	\$893,850.00
TOTAL	\$4,253,460.41

(Submitted and Recommended by Select Board)
(Finance Committee Recommends)

Explanation: Article 1 proposes to temporarily reallocate one-time funds to address budget shortfalls in FY2023 without reducing long-term services or tapping FY2024 reserves. The reallocated funds will cover increased school and insurance costs this year as a stopgap while protecting critical services going forward.

STM Proposed Budget Reallocations			
Account	Amount In	Amount Out	Notes
Fire Wages		-\$2,000.00	A fire longevity stipend of \$2000, originally intended to be paid in fiscal year 2024, was inadvertently paid early in fiscal year 2023.
Debt		-\$50,000.00	Originally, \$50,000 was set aside to make an additional debt payment, hoping to reallocate the funds for new capital debt in FY25. However, due to the dire financial situation, these funds will unfortunately need to be used for the operating budget instead. This results in all expired FY24 debt being reallocated within the operating budget, diverging from the town's scheduled best practices.
Assessor Services		-\$2,000.00	The newly hired Assessors Clerk was brought on with a stipend \$2,000 less than what was originally budgeted for the role.
Veterans Benefits		-\$14,000.00	Currently there are no Chapter 115 benefit-eligible veterans in the town. Since there are no new applicants at this time, the funds budgeted for this reimbursable account in the current fiscal year can be reallocated
Liability Insurance	\$12,280.00		Assessment came in significantly higher post ATM
Education	\$69,640.79		Remainder of QRSD FY24 Assessment
DPW		-\$13,920.79	DPW has been operating 2 employees down. They are now fully staffed.
TOTAL	\$81,920.79	-\$81,920.79	

Proposed Motion: Proposed Motion: I move that the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 7 of the June 2023 Annual Town Meeting by increasing or decreasing the amounts to be appropriated for the various Town Departments, as shown in the attached Appendix A, to meet the salaries and compensation of Town Employees, expenses, and outlays of the Town Departments, and other sundry and miscellaneous, but regular, expenditures necessary for the operation of the Town for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) such that the total appropriation is reduced FROM \$4,323,201 TO \$4,253,460.41, of which \$92,752 is transferred from Free Cash such that \$4,160,708.41 is being raised through taxation.

<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
<input type="checkbox"/> Second

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Passover
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Approved	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Disapproved	

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 9 of the June 2023 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the amount raised and appropriated or transferred from available funds to \$5,820,065 to pay its share of the Quabbin Regional School System District assessment for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action relative thereto.

(Submitted and Recommended by Select Board)
(Finance Committee Recommends)

Explanation: This article proposes amending the FY2024 budget to increase funding for Hubbardston's share of the Quabbin Regional School District assessment from \$5,820,065 to the full apportioned amount, ensuring the Town meets its fiscal obligation to the district for FY2024.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 9 of the June 2023 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the amount to be raised and appropriated by \$69,641 for a new total appropriation of **\$5,820,065** to pay its share of the Quabbin Regional School System District assessment for Fiscal Year 2024.

<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
<input type="checkbox"/> Second

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Passover
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Approved	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Disapproved	

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 11 of the June 2023 Annual Town Meeting by decreasing the sum appropriated for the salaries, benefits, committee stipends and other operating expenses of the Hubbardston Cable Advisory Committee for Fiscal Year 2024 from \$40,000 to \$30,000, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted and Recommended by Select Board)
(Finance Committee Recommends)

Explanation: This article proposes amending the previous FY2024 allocation for the Cable Advisory Committee by decreasing it to \$30,000, to be transferred from the PEG Access Fund. This separates the FY2023 and FY2024 allocations into distinct warrant articles.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 11 of the June 2023 Annual Town Meeting by decreasing the sum appropriated from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for the salaries, benefits, committee stipends and other operating expenses of the Hubbardston Cable Advisory Committee for Fiscal Year 2024 from \$40,000 to \$30,000.

<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
<input type="checkbox"/> Second

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Passover
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Approved	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Disapproved	

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$14,354.93 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for the payment of prior year invoices for the salaries, benefits, committee stipends and other operating expenses of the Hubbardston Cable Advisory Committee for Fiscal Year 2023, ; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted and Recommended by Select Board)
(Finance Committee Recommends)

Explanation: This article seeks to transfer \$14,354.93 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund to retroactively reimburse cable operations for FY2023 expenses, including new equipment purchased out of pocket. The amount allocated at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting was insufficient to cover costs. No taxpayer funds are used for cable operations.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$14,354.93 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for the payment of prior year invoices for the salaries, benefits, committee stipends and other operating expenses of the Hubbardston Cable Advisory Committee for Fiscal Year 2023 (9/10 vote required)

<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
<input type="checkbox"/> Second

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Passover
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Approved	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Disapproved	

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,991 from Free Cash to pay the Town's share of a pump replacement at the Hubbardston Center School including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

*(Submitted and Recommended by Select Board)
(Finance Committee Recommends)*

Explanation: This article seeks to reimburse the Quabbin Regional School District \$6,990.99 as required by the Regional Agreement for repairs over \$5,000 to repair the water pump system at Hubbardston Elementary School. The repairs included installing a new motor, seal, and transmitter pump.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$6,991 from Free Cash to pay the Town's share of a pump replacement at the Hubbardston Center School including all costs incidental and related thereto.

<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
<input type="checkbox"/> Second

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Passover
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Approved	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Disapproved	

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 200A, Section 9A (Disposition of abandoned funds by city or town; notice of period during which funds may be claimed; city treasurer authorized to hear claims; appeal; disbursement), as printed below:

Section 9A. (a) In any city, town or district that accepts this section in the manner provided in section 4 of chapter 4, there shall be an alternative procedure for disposing of abandoned funds held in the custody of the city, town or district as provided in this section.

(b) Any funds held in the custody of a city, town or district may be presumed by the city, town or district treasurer to be abandoned unless claimed by the corporation, organization, beneficiary or person entitled thereto within 1 year after the date prescribed for payment or delivery; provided, however, that the last instrument intended as payment shall bear upon its face the statement "void if not cashed within 1 year from date of issue". After the expiration of 1 year after the date of issue, the treasurer of a city, town or district may cause the financial institution upon which the instrument was drawn to stop payment on the instrument or otherwise cause the financial institution to decline payment on the instrument and any claims made beyond that date shall only be paid by the city, town or district through the issuance of a new instrument. The city, town or district and the financial institution shall not be liable for damages, consequential or otherwise, resulting from a refusal to honor an instrument of a city, town or district submitted for payment more than a year after its issuance.

(c) The treasurer of a city, town or district holding funds owed to a corporation, organization, beneficiary or person entitled thereto that are presumed to be abandoned under this section shall post a notice entitled "Notice of names of persons appearing to be owners of funds held by (insert city, town or district name), and deemed abandoned". The notice shall specify the names of those persons who appear from available information to be entitled to such funds, shall provide a description of the appropriate method for claiming the funds and shall state a deadline for those funds to be claimed; provided, however, that the deadline shall not be less than 60 days after the date the notice was either postmarked or first posted on a website as provided in this section. The treasurer of the city, town or district may post such notice using either of the following methods: (1) by mailing the notice by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the last known address of the

beneficiary or person entitled thereto; or (2) if the city, town or district maintains an official website, by posting the notice conspicuously on the website for not less than 60 days. If the apparent owner fails to respond within 60 days after the mailing or posting of the notice, the treasurer shall cause a notice of the check to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in English, in the county in which the city or town is located.

(d) In the event that funds appearing to be owed to a corporation, organization, beneficiary or person is \$100 or more and the deadline as provided in the notice has passed and no claim for the funds has been made, the treasurer shall cause an additional notice, in substantially the same form as the aforementioned notice, to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the city, town or district is located; provided, however, that the notice shall provide an extended deadline beyond which funds shall not be claimed and such deadline shall be at least 1 year from the date of publication of the notice.

(e) Once the final deadline has passed under subsection (d), the funds owed to the corporation, organization, beneficiary or person entitled thereto shall escheat to the city, town or district and the treasurer thereof shall record the funds as revenue in the General Fund of the city, town or district and the city, town or district shall not be liable to the corporation, organization, beneficiary or person for payment of those funds or for the underlying liability for which the funds were originally intended. Upon escheat, the funds shall be available to the city, town or district's appropriating authority for appropriation for any other public purpose. In addition to the notices required in this section, the treasurer of the city, town or district may initiate any other notices or communications that are directed in good faith toward making final disbursement of the funds to the corporation, organization, beneficiary or person entitled thereto.

Prior to escheat of the funds, the treasurer of the city, town or district shall hear all claims on funds that may arise and if it is clear, based on a preponderance of the evidence available to the treasurer at the time the claim is made, that the claimant is entitled to disbursement of the funds, the treasurer shall disburse funds to the claimant upon receipt by the treasurer of a written indemnification agreement from the claimant wherein the claimant agrees to hold the city, town or district and the treasurer of the city, town or district harmless in the event it is later determined that the claimant was not entitled to receipt of the funds. If it is not clear, based on a preponderance of the evidence before the treasurer at the time of the claim that the claimant is entitled to disbursement of the funds, the treasurer shall segregate the funds into a separate, interest-bearing account and shall notify the claimant of such action within 10 days. A claimant affected by this action may appeal within 20 days after receiving notice thereof to the district, municipal or superior court in the county in which the city, town or district is located. The claimant shall have a trial de novo. A party adversely affected by a decree or order of the district, municipal or superior court may appeal to the appeals court or the supreme judicial court within 20 days from the date of the decree.

If the validity of the claim shall be determined in favor of the claimant or another party, the treasurer shall disburse funds in accordance with the order of the court, including interest accrued. If the validity of the claim is determined to be not in favor of the claimant or another party or if the treasurer does not receive notice that an appeal has been filed within 1 year from the date the claimant was notified that funds were being withheld, then the funds, plus accrued interest, shall escheat to the city, town or district in the manner provided in this section.

If the claimant is domiciled in another state or country and the city, town or district determines that there is no reasonable assurance that the claimant will actually receive the payment provided for in this section in substantially full value, the superior court, in its discretion or upon a petition by the city, town or district, may order that the city, town or district retain the funds.

(Submitted and Recommended by Select Board)
(Finance Committee Recommends)

Explanation: This article seeks to adopt MGL Ch. 200A Sec. 9A, which provides a procedure for the Town Treasurer to dispose of abandoned or unclaimed funds, known as "tailings," by transferring them to the Town's General Fund after attempting to notify recipients. This allows the Town to retain these funds rather than escheating them to the State annually under current unclaimed property guidelines.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Town vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 200A, Section 9A, as printed in the Warrant of the October 26, 2023 Hubbardston Special Town Meeting.

<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
<input type="checkbox"/> Second

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Passover
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Approved	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unanimous Disapproved	

TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON
FY 2024 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY
 STM Town Administrator Proposal

Revenues	\$ 10,458,509
Expenses	\$ 10,551,262
Revenues - Expenses =	\$ (92,752)
Transfers from Other Funds:	
Transfer from Stabilization	
Free Cash for One-Time Expenses	
Free Cash to Balance Omnibus Budget (ATM 2023)	\$ 92,752
Free Cash to Balance Omnibus Budget (STM 2023)	
BALANCE:	\$ (0)

FY24 Free Cash Certified Total	\$542,924.00
Operating Budget	
Reserve	
Proposed STM 2024 Use	\$6,991.00
FY24 STM Recommended Capital	
TOTAL	\$6,991.00
Current Free Cash Surplus / Defecit	\$535,933.00