

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015
BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

WORCESTER, SS:

TO EITHER OF THE CONSTABLES OF THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

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 **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**, 37 CENTRAL STREET, BROOKFIELD, MA ON **FRIDAY THE FIFTH DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.** THEN AND THERE TO ACT ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to accept the annual report of the Town officials, as printed, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the ensuing year, or take any action relative thereto.

Articles shown in the box below are on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant every year and are often voted as a block.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, section 4 and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, section 17, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to foreclose on certain Tax Titles held by the Treasurer, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen or their agent to sell for the Town any land or building acquired by the Town by Tax Title foreclosure after first giving notice of said sale, by posting a notice at the Town Hall and the Post Office, 14 days at least before said sale stating what parcels are to be sold or offered for sale and the time and place of holding said sale, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell any old and obsolete equipment or personal property by sealed bids; at public auction after first giving notice of the time and place of sale by posting such notice of sale in some convenient and public place in Town, and by advertising once in a local newspaper, fourteen days at least before the sale, any old and obsolete equipment or personal property, provided that the Selectmen or whomsoever they may authorize to hold such auction or sale may reject any bid which they deem inadequate; or at an established market, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for any and to expend any State, Federal or other grants that may become available to the Town of Brookfield, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to appoint one of its members to hold the position of Health Agent, Title V Administrator, and Transfer Station Administrator and to provide compensation therefore, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund for the Brookfield Local Public Access under M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 53E ½ or any successor committee and to authorize the license fee paid by Charter Cable and all monies raised through advertising and fundraising to be deposited in said revolving fund, provided that no monies shall be expended in excess of \$15,000.00 per year, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund for the Board of Health under M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 53E ½ and to receive monies derived from engineering, inspection, and review fees charged in relation to witnessing of percolation test, septic plan review, site inspections, and resolution of variances, and to expend these monies to pay all costs associated with the Inspector's/Professional Engineer's review of said activities provided that no monies shall be expended in excess of \$20,000.00 per year, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a Revolving Fund for the Regional Highway Equipment Cooperative under M. G. L., Chapter 44, section 53E ½, and to be administered and expended in accordance with the Regional Highway Equipment Cooperative Agreement, and to receive monies from fees, grants, donations and other sources to purchase, repair, or replace equipment owned in common by the member communities provided that no monies shall be expended in excess of \$20,000 per year, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to fund additional betterment projects through the existing Community Septic Management Program account, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of a parcel of land known as Cooley Hill Reservoir in North Brookfield, containing approximately 15 acres as referenced in the following deeds recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds from: 1) Albert King to the Town of Brookfield Book 1263 Page 128; 2) Charles P. Blanchard Book 1367, Page 104, 3) Abbey F. Means Book 2006, Page 494 and 4) Grantor Abbey F. Means Book 2006, Pages 494 – 495 from the Board of Selectmen and Water Commissioners for the purpose for which such land is currently held to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of conveyance and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell the parcel of land per the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30B, as applicable, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek legislative approval for such conveyance under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, such conveyance to become effective when the Board of Selectmen and/or Water Commissioners determines that the aforesaid property is no longer needed for water supply purposes and upon the enactment of said Article 97 legislation; or take any other action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to begin to bring the Town Hall, including the existing Town Hall bathroom up to ADA compliance, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Municipal Property Maintenance Account to the Municipal Septic Account, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Municipal Septic Account, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Municipal Property Maintenance Account to convert the Town Hall furnace from oil to gas, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Municipal Property Maintenance Account to convert the Fire Station furnace from oil to gas, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Receipts Reserved Account to fund the fiscal 2016 Emergency Squad Expense Account, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Emergency Squad.)*

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Receipts Reserved Account to fund the fiscal 2016 Emergency Squad Wages Account, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Emergency Squad.)*

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow the sum of one dollar to plow private roads or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Road Reconstruction Account or take any action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*

ARTICLE 23 : To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Center Line Painting Account or take any action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Fleet Replace/Repair Account to replace the cab and chassis on the 1980 Mack Truck, or take any action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Fleet Replace/Repair Account to purchase a new truck to replace the 1980 Mack Truck, or take any action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Library Building and Maintenance Account, or take any action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Library.)*

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to purchase protective clothing and air bottles or the fire department or take any action relative thereto. *(By petition.)*

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Fleet Repair/Replace Account to purchase a replacement for the 2000 cruiser for the fire department or take any action relative thereto. *(By petition.)*

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to purchase a replacement cab and chassis for the 1986 forest fire utility truck for the fire department or take any action relative thereto. *(By petition.)*

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to dedicate the new Quaboag River Bridge to be named "Citizens Bridge" in memory of Joseph F. Murray. Also to allow the Memorial Committee to place a granite engraved bench, in memory of Mr. Murray, to be located within the Lookout Area of said bridge, using no town funds. *(By petition.)*

ARTICLE 31: To see whether the town of Brookfield shall revise the wording of Chapter IV Advisory Committee from the Town Bylaws and replace it with the text below, or take any action relative thereto.

Chapter IV: Advisory Committee

SECTION 1:

There shall be an Advisory Committee for the Town to which shall be referred all articles in any warrant hereafter issued for a Town Meeting. The Selectmen, after drawing a warrant for a Town Meeting, shall immediately forward a copy thereof to each member of said committee, which shall consider all articles in the warrant and make such report, in print or otherwise to the Town Meeting as it deems for the best interest of the Town. The Committee will also make reports and issue recommendations for all articles, questions or other matters referring to Proposition 2 ½ so called.

The said committee shall consist of nine legal voters of the Town to be elected as provided in Section 2. Selectmen, school committee members, any head of any town department or agency, or full-time town employees shall be prohibited from serving on this committee. If any member is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of said committee, except in case of illness, his position shall be deemed to be vacant and shall be filled as provided in Section 3. (Amended 5/2006)

SECTION 2:

In the year following adoption of this by-law, the process of electing Advisory Board members shall begin. Voters at the annual Town Election shall choose those board members whose terms would expire in that year at the Annual Town Meeting and that process of electing members shall continue each year to take place as the terms of appointed members expire. Each elected Advisory Board member shall then hold his or her office for a period of three years with the term expiring on the date of the Annual Town Election.

Said committee shall choose its own chairman who shall hold the office for one year.

SECTION 3:

Whenever a vacancy occurs in said Committee, whether due to death, resignation, or failure to attend consecutive meetings, the Board of Selectmen by majority vote shall appoint a person to serve as a replacement on the Advisory Board until the next Annual Town Election, when an election shall be conducted to fill that seat for the remainder of the term.

SECTION 4:

In the discharge of its duty, said Committee shall have free access to all books or records and accounts, bills and vouchers on which money has been or may be paid from the Town treasury. All department managers or appointed officials must comply with any request to furnish information to the board.

Failure to comply with requests may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from employment or an appointed position. Upon a written complaint by the Advisory Board the Selectmen shall hold a public hearing on a failure to comply with a request for information and take appropriate action to enforce this provision in the bylaw. (*By petition*)

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to include a Section 5 in Chapter IV, Advisory Committee of the Town bylaw as stated below or take any action relative thereto. (*By petition*)

Chapter IV Advisory Committee, SECTION 5

Each member of Advisory Committee shall receive a yearly stipend, the amount of which shall be set each year at the annual town meeting.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-laws by deleting Chapter II Town Meetings Section 1, which provides: "The Annual Town Election shall be held on the first Monday of May of each year. The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the first Friday following the Annual Town Election in May," and inserting it its place "the scheduling of the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election shall be governed by G.L. c.39, §9 and §9A.", and re-numbering the remaining sections in this chapter accordingly. (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee*)

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws by deleting Chapter II Town Meetings, Section 4, which provides: "Notice of every Special Town Meeting shall be given by posting an attested copy of the warrant as specified in Section 2 and further notice shall be given at least one day prior to said Special Town Meeting by printing on a board

in front of the Town Hall the date and time of holding said Special Town Meeting,” and re-numbering the remaining sections in this chapter accordingly. (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee*)

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s General Bylaws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Delete Chapter III Town Officers Section 4 Procedure for the Appointment of Treasurer, which provides: “A Screening Committee composed of seven persons will establish the qualifications, review the applications and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen of, at most, three candidates. The Screening Committee will be composed of one member of the Board of Selectmen, one of the Advisory Committee, one member of the Personnel Board, and four citizens chosen by the Town Moderator. The four citizens chosen, will, in so far as possible, have backgrounds in municipal finance, accounting, data processing, banking, law or other similar fields. The Board of Selectmen will appoint for a term of three years a candidate recommended by the Screening Committee.” (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee*)

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Delete the number five (5) and insert in its place the number three (3) in the last sentence of Chapter IV Advisory Committee, Section 1, so that the provision shall state: “If any member is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of said committee, except in case of illness, his position shall be deemed to be vacant and shall be filled as provided in *Section 3* ” (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee*)

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Amend Chapter IV Advisory Committee, Section 3, by deleting the phrase “said Committee” and inserting the text shown below in bold, with the existing text not being changed, shown in regular type for informational purposes only: “Whenever a vacancy occurs in said Committee, said vacancy shall be filled by a **joint appointment by both the Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen** of a person to serve until the close of the next Annual Town Meeting when the Selectmen in office shall appoint, in the same manner as the original appointment, a successor to fill out the unexpired term of the person whose office has been vacated.” (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee*)

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Amend Chapter VII Legal Affairs, Section 4, by inserting the text shown below in bold and deleting the text shown in strike-through, with the existing text not being changed shown in regular type for informational purposes only: “~~The Selectmen shall annually in May, after final adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting, appoint a person who is a member of the bar in good standing, to serve as Town Counsel for a term of one year from the first day of June following and until his successor is appointed and enters upon the performance of his duties. They shall likewise fill any vacancy in said office for the unexpired term and may employ a special counsel to assist the said Counsel whenever, in their judgement, necessity arises,~~”
to reflect the following language: “The Selectmen shall annually in May, after the final adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting, appoint a person **or firm who is, as an individual or firm, is either a member of the bar in good standing or composed of members of the bar in good standing**, to serve as Town Counsel for a term of one year from the first day of June following and until ~~his~~ a successor is appointed and enters upon the performance of his, **or their** duties. They shall likewise fill any vacancy in said office for the unexpired term and may **employ a Special Counsel** to assist the said Counsel whenever, in in their judgment, necessity arises.” (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee*)

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Delete Chapter IX Traffic Regulations, Section 1, which provides, “The Board of Selectmen shall, from time to time, establish and publish, by publication in a newspaper, rules and regulations for the control of traffic, speed and parking of vehicles and shall see to their enforcement by the police department.” (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee*)

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Amend Chapter V Financial Affairs, Section 1, by deleting, in the first sentence "three" and changing the word "years" to "year," and by inserting the text shown below in bold and deleting the text shown in strike-through, with the existing text not being changed shown in regular type for informational purposes only: "An audit of the accounts of the Town shall be made at least once every ~~three~~ years in accordance with Federal Revenue Sharing regulations."

If so authorized by a majority vote of the Town Meeting by the vote in support of funds for the purpose of performing such audit or other specific third party accounting accuracy review, the Town shall cause to be performed such an annual audit, or at such other annual or at whatever interval as may be voted is supported by the Town Meeting. An audit shall also be conducted upon the change of person holding an office of a bonded financial officer of the Town, including but not limited to the Treasurer, Tax Collector, or Town Accountant.

Audits and reconciliations performed by a public accounting firm under this section shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, including the issuance of a report on internal control over financial reporting that shall be provided to recipients of the financial statements. When there are material weaknesses or significant deficiencies found in the internal control over financial reporting or the auditor's or public accountant's opinion is qualified, adverse, or disclaimed:

(1) The next published annual report of the Town shall include a summary of material weaknesses or significant deficiencies found in the internal controls over financial reporting or a statement that the audit report sets forth an opinion that is qualified, adverse, or disclaimed; and

(2) The Board of Selectmen shall post the audit report and the accompanying report on internal control over financial reporting on the Town website and provide written copies upon request." (Sponsored by the By-Law Committee)

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws by adding the following Chapter 15 Personnel Bylaw section 31, Police Dept. Academy Training or take any action relative thereto.

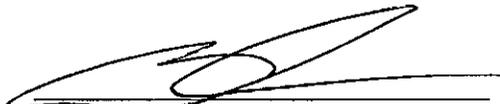
"Any full time police officer hired by the Town of Brookfield shall be academy trained at the time of employment. Any part time officer promoted to full time shall be academy trained as a full time officer at his or her own expense." (Sponsored by the By-Law Committee)

And you are directed to serve this warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof, at the Town Hall and Post Office in said Town, seven days at least before the time of the holding of said meeting.

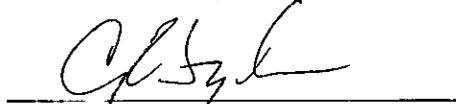
Hereof, fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of the meeting, as aforesaid. Given under our hands this 27th day of May in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Respectfully Submitted,

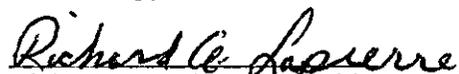
SELECTMEN OF BROOKFIELD


Stephen J. Comtois II, Chairman


Linda M. Lincoln, Vice Chairman


Clarence R. Snyder III, Clerk

A True Copy, Attest:

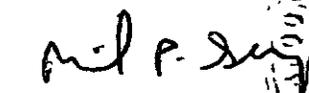

Richard A. Lapierre-Constable

Worcester, SS:
Brookfield, Massachusetts

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Brookfield by posting attested copies of same at the U.S. Post Office on May 28, 2015 and at the Brookfield Town Hall May 28, 2015 on the same day. Seven days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.


Richard A. Lapierre-Constable

A TRUE COPY ATTEST


MICHAEL P. SEERY, TOWN CLERK

