

RECORD OF ACTION
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
June 27, 2020

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Ipswich met at the Ipswich Middle/High School in said Town of Ipswich on, Saturday, June 27, 2020. A quorum was present (376 present/200 required), and the meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Mr. Thomas R. Murphy, at 9:30 A.M.

Electronic clickers were used to record votes in the tent, and the votes in the parking lot were hand counted. The counters were: Mike Johnson, Mark Allman, Rob Donahue, Brad Clark, Maggie Thomas, Irene Josephson, Ethan Parsons, John Moss, and Mark Avenmarg.

ARTICLE 1 – Consent Calendar

To see if the Town will vote:

- (1) To **fix the annual salary** and compensation of all elected Town Officers as follows: Town Moderator: \$250.00; Select Board: member \$750.00; Chairperson \$1,000.00; School Committee: member \$ 200.00;
- (2) To **transfer the sum of \$324,000 as a payment-in-lieu of taxes from the Electric Light Department;**
- (3) To **hear reports** from the Commuter Rail Committee, the Hall-Haskell Committee, and the Open Space & Recreation Committee, Public Safety Facility Committee, **and to continue these as standing committees** of Town Meeting;
- (4) To **establish the following expenditure limitations for the revolving funds** authorized in § 15-29 of the Town Bylaws for FY2021:
 - a. Town Wharf Revolving Fund: \$15,000;
 - b. Beautification Fund: \$5,000;
 - c. Public Health Fund: \$5,000;
 - d. Sanitary Housing Fund: \$7,000;
 - e. Food Inspectional Services Fund: \$25,000;
 - f. Council on Aging Fund: \$100,000;
 - g. Historical Commission Fund: \$5,000;
 - h. Town Hall Custodial Services Fund: \$20,000;
 - i. Shellfish Enhancement Fund: \$15,000;
 - j. Electric Vehicle Charging Fund: \$1,000;
 - k. Health Reimbursement Fund: \$85,000; and
 - l. Crane Beach Maintenance Fund: \$5,000.
- (5) To authorize the payment of any unpaid bills from prior years, if necessary;
- (6) To amend the Town's action taken under Article 3 of the May 14, 2019 Annual Town Meeting (FY 2020 Municipal Operating Budget) by transferring from available funds, if necessary; and

- (7) To appropriate a sum of \$440,336, or a greater or lesser sum, from the state for highway improvements under the authority of M.G.L. Chapter 90, or any such applicable laws, and to authorize the Select Board, if necessary, to apply for, accept and borrow in anticipation of state aid for such projects.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves to set the salaries of elected officials, to transfer funds from the Electric Light Department, to hear reports from committees and continue listed committees as standing committees of Town Meeting, amend section 15-29 of the General Bylaws and establish expenditure limitations of revolving funds, to appropriate the sum of \$440,336 under the authority of M.G.L. Ch. 90, and to authorize the Select Board to borrow in anticipation of state aid for such projects, all as set forth in Article 1 of the warrant for this Town Meeting.

FC: U/S	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: SM
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ACTION: Article 1 carries. Yes: 276, No: 10.

ARTICLE 2 – Finance Committee Appointment

To see if the Town will vote to appoint one [1] member of the Finance Committee for three [3] years, or to take any action relative thereto.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves to appoint Janice Clements-Skelton to the Finance Committee for a term of three years.

FC: U/S	BOS: RATM	SC: U/S	Q/V: SM
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ACTION: Article 2 carries by the necessary majority. Yes: 288 No: 29.

ARTICLE 3 - FY 2021 Municipal Budget

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the reports of the Select Board and Finance Committee relative to the Fiscal 2021 municipal budget totaling \$27,181,875, and to raise, appropriate, transfer money from available funds, and change the purpose of the unexpended balances of prior appropriations, all to be used for the ensuing year’s operations, including the compensation of elected Town officers, and to authorize the Town to enter into lease-purchase contracts for equipment having a term of five years or less; or to take any other action relative thereto.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves to appropriate \$27,181,875 for the Town’s municipal budget for fiscal year 2021 to be spent as follows:

General Government	\$ 753,898
Finance	\$1,082,785
Planning	\$ 581,892
Public Safety	\$5,550,969
Public Works	\$4,740,111
Community & Cultural Services	\$1,538,897
Benefits & Other Misc.	<u>\$5,608,740</u>

For a General Fund total of \$19,857,291; and in addition:

Water Department	\$4,283,941
Wastewater Department	\$2,936,732
Sanitation, Solid Waste, Recycling	<u>\$ 103,911</u>

for a total municipal budget of \$27,181,875

and that the following sums be raised, appropriated or transferred to fund the fiscal year 2021 municipal budget:

Septic Loan Program	\$ 33,740
Tourism Account	\$ 2,000
Debt Premium	\$ 1,671
Stabilization	\$ 122,446
Overlay Surplus	\$ 125,000
Waterways Improvements	\$ 141,218
Raise and Appropriate	\$19,431,216
Water Receipts	\$ 4,082,608
Water Reserves	\$ 201,333
Wastewater Receipts	\$ 2,830,987
Wastewater Reserves	\$ 105,745
Sanitation, Solid Waste & Recycling	<u>\$ 103,911</u>
Total Funding Sources	\$27,181,875

FC: 5-4 +	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: SM
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A motion was made and carried to move the question. Yes: 305 No: 8

ACTION: Article 3 carries by the necessary 2/3rd vote. Yes: 291 No: 28

ARTICLE 4 – FY 2021 School Budget

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the reports of the School Committee and Finance Committee relative to the Fiscal 2021 School Department budget totaling \$32,375,538 or a greater or lesser sum, and to raise, appropriate, transfer money from available funds, and change the purpose of the unexpended balances of prior appropriations, all to be used for the ensuing year's operations, including entering into lease-purchase agreements

having a term of five years or less for a school bus and/or for other purposes; and to act upon a request to reauthorize existing revolving funds pursuant to state law; or to take any other action relative thereto.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Hopping of the School Committee moves to set the Ipswich Public School budget for fiscal year 2021 at \$32,019,077, to be funded as follows: \$30,849,488 from town revenue and \$1,169,589 from the Education Stabilization Fund.

FC: 5-4+	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: 2/3
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ACTION: Article 4 declared carried by the necessary 2/3rd vote by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 5 – FY 2021 Whittier Regional High School Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$485,000, or a greater or lesser sum, to cover the Town’s share of the ensuing year’s annual operating and debt service expenses of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School; or to take any other action relative thereto.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves to raise and appropriate the sum of \$457,572 to pay the Town’s share of the ensuing year’s annual operating and debt service expenses of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School.

FC: 8-1+	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: SM
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ACTION: Article 5 carries by the necessary 2/3rd vote declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 6 – FY 2021 Essex County Technical Institute Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$256,092, or a greater or lesser sum, to cover the Town’s share of the ensuing year’s annual operating and debt service expenses of the Essex County Technical Institute; or to take any other action relative thereto.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves to raise and appropriate the sum of \$256,092 to pay the Town’s share of the ensuing year’s annual operating and debt service expenses of the Essex County Technical Institute.

FC: 8-1+	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: SM
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ACTION: Article 6 carries by the necessary 2/3rd vote declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 7 - Transfer of FY20 Appropriated Budget Funds to Educational Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to allow the School Department to transfer available funds from the FY20 Appropriated Budget to the Educational Stabilization Fund.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Hopping of the School Committee moves to transfer the sum of \$1,833,538 from the Ipswich Public School budget for fiscal year 2020 to the Education Stabilization Fund.

FC: 8-0	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: SM
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ACTION: Article 7 carries by the necessary 2/3rd vote. Yes: 252 No: 10

ARTICLE 8 - Transfer of FY20 Appropriated Budget Funds to Special Education (SPED) Stabilization Fund

To allow the School Department to transfer available funds from the FY20 Appropriated Budget to the Special Education (SPED) Stabilization Fund.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Hopping of the School Committee moves to transfer the sum of \$102,000 from the Ipswich Public School budget for fiscal year 2020 to the Special Education Reserve Fund.

FC: 8-1+	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: SM
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ACTION: Article 8 carries by the necessary majority. Yes: 227 No: 9

ARTICLE 9 – Annual Capital Plan

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization fund the sum of \$269, from Free Cash the sum of \$680,010, from Overlay Surplus the sum of \$40,000, from the Fire Pumper Set-Aside fund the sum of \$51,084 and raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,317 for the following purposes, and that any remaining funds be transferred to the Capital Stabilization Fund:

IT:

Computer Replacement	\$10,000
Network Upgrade	\$18,000
Server Replacement	\$85,000

SCHOOLS:

SPED Vehicle (Year 3 of 4)	\$12,000
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Wind Turbine Gear Box Set-Aside (Year 3 of 7)	\$20,000
Technology: User Equipment	\$118,000
Roof Repairs (District)	\$35,183
Replace Exhaust Fans (Doyon)	\$12,000
Replace Air Handler (Doyon)	\$32,000
Repavement of Walkways (Doyon)	\$15,000
Classroom Upgrades (Doyon)	\$10,000
Replacement of Air Compressor (Winthrop)	\$15,000
Install Washer/Dryer (Winthrop)	\$6,400
MS/HS Upgrade Phone/PA/Clock and Bell System (Year 5 of 5)	\$32,914
PAC/Gym Wing-sound upgrades	\$30,000

BUILDINGS:

Roofing Repairs – Town Wide	\$20,000
Town Hall Wheel Chair Lift Repair/Replace	\$19,500
Fire Sta. Linebrook Emergency Generator	\$20,000
Hall Haskell House Installation Smoke/CO Detectors	\$5,000
DPW Garage Upgrade Fire Alarm System	\$24,500

EQUIPMENT:

Sidewalk Machine (Year 4 of 5)	\$21,411
PW-45 F650 Dump (Year 5 of 5)	\$29,270
PW-56 Bucket Truck (Year 4 of 5)	\$43,500
44” Zero Turn Mower	\$14,000
E-4 Class A Pumper Truck (Year 4 of 5)	\$95,501
E-2 1992 Replacement Pumper (Year 4 of 5)	\$95,501

Or to take any action relative thereto.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$269, to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$680,010, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,317, to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$40,000, and to transfer from the Fire Pumper Set-Aside fund the sum of \$51,084, for a total capital expenditure of \$839,680 to fund the capital budget as set forth in Article 9 of the warrant for this town meeting, and that any remaining funds be transferred to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

FC: 8-1+	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: 2/3
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ACTION: Article 9 carries by the necessary 2/3rd vote declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 10 – Water Department Main Replacement

To see if the Town will vote:

(1) to appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000 to survey, design, permit and construct improvements to the Town’s water system, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; and

(2) to raise this appropriation by authorizing the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board (Board of Sewer Commissioners), to issue bonds or serial notes under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, as amended. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such 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 General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; or

(3) to take any other action relative thereto

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,500,000 to survey, design, permit and construct improvements to the Town's water distribution system, including the payment of incidental or related costs; and to raise this appropriation that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow that amount under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, § 8 (5), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premiums 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 M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

FC: 8-1+	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: 2/3
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ACTION: Article 10 carries by the necessary 2/3rd vote. Yes: 220 No: 9

ARTICLE 11 - Rescinding Funds from 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to rescind \$2,512,540, or any other amount, of the \$5,500,000 borrowing authorized under Article 10 of the May 14, 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant for water mains, or to take any other action relative thereto.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves to rescind \$2,512,540 from the \$5,500,000 borrowing authorized under Article 10 of the warrant for the May 14, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

FC: U/S	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: SM
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ACTION: Article 11 carries by the necessary majority.

ARTICLE 12 – Wastewater Department Main Replacement

To see if the Town will vote:

(1) to appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 to survey, design, permit and construct improvements to the Town’s wastewater system, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; and

(2) to raise this appropriation by authorizing the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board (Board of Sewer Commissioners), to issue bonds or serial notes under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, as amended. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such 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 General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; or

(3) to take any other action relative thereto

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves that the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 to survey, design, permit and construct improvements to the Town's wastewater system, including the payment of incidental or related costs; and to raise this appropriation that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow that amount under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premiums 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 M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

FC: U/S	BOS: U/S	SC: NO position	Q/V: 2/3
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ACTION: Article 12 carries by the necessary 2/3rd vote. Yes: 214 No: 7

ARTICLE 13 - Other Post-Employment Benefits Funding

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$73,348 and to transfer the sum of \$215,033 from Free Cash and to transfer said sums to the OPEB Trust Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

MAIN MOTION

Mr. Whitmore of the Select Board moves to raise and appropriate the sum of \$73,348 and to transfer the sum of \$215,033 from Free Cash and to transfer the combined amount to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund.

ACTION: Article 13 carries by the necessary majority. Yes: 207 No: 8

FC: U/S	BOS: U/S	SC: U/S	Q/V: SM
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ARTICLE 14 – Citizen’s Petition – Home Rule Petition for lowering the voting age in local election

To see if the Town of Ipswich will recommend to the Select Board that they file a home rule petition with the General Court substantially as follows, viz:

Notwithstanding Section 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, any citizen who:

- (iv) is 16 years of age or older, and
- (v) meets the qualifications to be registered as a voter pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws, except that of age, and
- (vi) is a resident of the Town of Ipswich at the time he or she registers or pre-registers to vote pursuant to said Chapter 51,

may vote therein in all town elections, participate and vote in all town meetings, participate and vote in town caucuses and sign all nominating, warrant, and other petitions authorized by town bylaws.

A person shall be a registered voter of at least 18 years of age to be eligible to serve in elected or appointed town offices or on boards, committees, or other official positions.

MOTION:

Ms. LaFrance of Sand Pebble Drive moves that the meeting take no action under this article.

FC: U/S	BOS: U/S		Q/V: SM
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ACTION: The motion that the meeting take no action on Article 14 carries by the necessary majority. Yes: 192 No: 9

Town Meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 11:43 AM to the ballot Election on Tuesday, June 30, from 10am – 2pm.

A True Copy Attest:

Amy S. Akell, MMC/CMMC
Town Clerk