

**2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant
Town of Shutesbury
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
June 12, 2021**

To one of the Constables of the Town of Shutesbury in the County of Franklin,
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 town affairs, to meet at **9:00** a.m. on Saturday the **twelfth** day of June, at the Shutesbury Town Hall at 1 Cooleyville Road in said Shutesbury, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-One, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1. To hear, and receive reports of town officers, committees, and boards.
(Sponsor: Select Board)
Requires majority vote

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by adding subsection j) as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by adding subsection (j) as follows: For Fiscal Year 2022 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as 65% of a five-year average of minimum contributions with the remainder of the assessment allocated to the member towns in accordance with the per-pupil method found in Section VI (e) of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement. The five-year average of minimum contributions will include the five most recent years, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends
Requires majority vote

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to set the salary compensation for all elected officials of the town (Select Board, Town Clerk, Moderator and Constable) as provided by MGL Chapter 41, Section 108, to be made effective from July 1, 2021, as contained in the budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsor: Personnel Board and Select Board) Finance Committee Recommends
Requires majority vote

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money to meet town expenses including operations, capital, salaries and school expenses of **\$6,627,635** by raising the sum of **\$6,578,800** and transferring \$20,425 from the Septic Betterment Fund, and transferring \$28,410 from free cash for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, or take any other action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends
Requires majority vote**

Capital Item

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to fund the construction of a replacement culvert at Locks Pond Rd and Lake Dr, near the dam by borrowing up to \$500,000, transferring \$250,000 from capital stabilization and using the remaining funds of the Municipal Small Bridge grant for a total of up to \$1,100,000 or take any other action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends
Requires 2/3 majority vote**

Capital Item

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to transfer up to \$300,000 from Free Cash to the Shutesbury Elementary School Gym Roof Replacement Project, or take any other action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends
Requires majority vote**

Capital Item

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to transfer up to \$17,000 from Stabilization, for design and engineering of an upgrade to the Shutesbury Elementary School HVAC Control System or take any other action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: School Committee) Finance Committee Recommends
Requires 2/3 majority vote**

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to approve a transfer from **Free Cash** to **Stabilization** in the amount of \$350,000.00 or take any other action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends
Requires majority vote**

Article 9. To see if the Town of Shutesbury will vote to authorize the Selectboard and/or the Library Trustees to apply for state funds through the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) Small Library Pilot, which might be available to defray all or part of the cost of the design, construction and equipping of a new library project and to authorize the Library Building Committee and/or Selectboard and/or Library Trustees to accept and expend the MPLCP funds when received without further appropriation, or take any other action relative thereto.

**(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends
Requires majority vote**

Community Preservation Act

Article 10. To see if the Town of Shutesbury will vote to act on the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee on the fiscal year 2022 budget to transfer the following sums of money from the Community

Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues: **\$5,100** to Open Space (excluding recreational purposes); **\$5,100** to Historic Resources; **\$5,100** to Community Housing; and **\$32,000** to the FY22 Community Preservation Fund budgeted reserve, or take any action relative thereto.

(Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee) Finance Committee

Recommends

Requires majority vote

Community Preservation Act

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$2,500** from fiscal year 2022 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for necessary and proper administrative and operation expenses of the Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

(Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee) Finance Committee

Recommends

Requires majority vote

Community Preservation Act

Article 12. CPC Request: Shutesbury Conservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$2,500** from the Open Space/Recreation Fund balance to hire an experienced trail consultant to conduct an ecological evaluation of current trails in the Southbrook Conservation area/Town Beach conservation area and provide re-routing suggestions and plans for new trails to expand and interconnect the trail system, or take any action relative thereto.

(Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee) Finance Committee

Recommends

Requires majority vote

Community Preservation Act

Article 13. Shutesbury Recreation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$20,000** from the Open Space/Recreation Fund balance to construct a fenced-in Community Garden in Shutesbury on unused land behind the Town Hall. The garden will originally support 8 plots of garden space for town residents and is potentially expandable to 20 plots, or take any action relative thereto.

(Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee) Finance Committee

Recommends

Requires majority vote

Planning Board Zoning Article

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw by deleting Section 9.3B and by inserting the following new section after the existing section 10.3 at the end of ARTICLE X - ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, or take any action thereto.

SECTION 10.4 Planning Board

10.4 A. Associate Members

There shall be two associate members of the Planning Board as provided for under MGL c 40A, Section 9.

Appointments may occur at any time. The Planning Board shall notify the Select Board in writing of its intention to begin a process for associate member appointment.

The Planning Board will establish the process for soliciting and receiving the names of interested individuals; notice of the opportunity should be made broadly to the residents of Shutesbury. Given that the Planning Board is an elected body, individuals eligible to serve as associate members shall be registered voters in the Town of Shutesbury.

The Planning Board shall recommend individuals to be considered for appointment. Associate members will be appointed by a majority of the members of the Planning Board and the Select Board who are in attendance at a joint meeting for this purpose.

The term of an associate member shall be one year; mid-year appointments shall run through June 30. Associate members may have their term renewed by a majority of the members of the Planning Board and the Select Board who are in attendance at a joint meeting for this purpose. There shall be no limit to the number of renewals for an associate member.

The Planning Board chairperson may designate one or two associate members to participate as an acting member of the Planning Board at any time in the case of absence, inability to act, or conflict of interest, on the part of any Planning Board member; or in the event of a vacancy on the board. Participation by an associate member shall be time or purpose limited. Designation by the chairperson shall include a statement indicating the time period for participation or the purpose for participation. An associate member's participation shall end upon the completion of the stated purpose or time period, unless extended by the chairperson.

When designated, an associate member may participate fully in procedures for a special permit, site plan review, or any other application before the Planning Board; as well as other procedural matters designated by the chairperson, including but not limited to conducting hearings of the Planning Board.

Associate members are expected to regularly attend Planning Board meetings. When not acting as full members, associate members may be seated with the Planning Board and receive communications in order to follow Planning Board business. Associate members, when not acting as full members, may participate in deliberation at the discretion of the chairperson. When not acting as a full

member of the Board, associate members may not vote nor participate in executive session.

Vacancies for unexpired terms of an associate member shall be filled in the same manner as for original appointments.

An associate member may be considered for a vacancy on the Planning Board in accordance with the normal process for filling a vacant position.

(Sponsor: Selectboard)
Requires 2/3 majority vote

Planning Board Zoning Article

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw by inserting the following new section after the existing section 3.5 at the end of ARTICLE III, ZONING DISTRICTS: USE REGULATIONS:

“Section 3.6 Access to Use

Access, including for appurtenant drainage facilities and utilities, from public ways across other districts to the FC District for an allowable use in the FC District shall be permitted under the same terms as the use and as a single unified permit application.”

Or take any action thereto.

(Sponsor: Selectboard)
Requires 2/3 majority vote

MLP Enterprise Fund

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$473,400.00** for the MLP Enterprise Fund beginning July 1, 2021 in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, sec 53 F ½, amount to be funded from the following sources; or take any action relative thereto.

(Sponsor: MLP Board) Finance Committee Recommends
Requires majority vote

MLP ENTERPRISE FUND OPERATING BUDGET FY2022

Expenses		NOTES
Routine network maintenance	\$ 60,000	Annual Maintenance
Truck retainer fee	\$ 12,000	1,000 per month
Insurance	\$ 10,000	Insurance via MIIA with 10K deductible
Backhaul	\$ 38,280	10GB CrownCastle connection \$1,750/ month; 1GB MBI/backup \$1,440/mo TOTAL = \$38,280
MLP Manager Stipend	\$ 12,600	

NO/ISP Contract Prep.	\$ 3,000	Preparation, negotiation, and awarding of new 3 year NO/ISP Contract
Employment Overhead	\$ 380	Medicare: \$226; Workers Comp \$154
Lifeline CAFII Administration	\$ 7,000	\$2K per year flat admin cost plus \$80 for each new recipient application, then \$50 annual renewal for each recipient (estimating < 100 applications annually)
Bond fee for poles	\$ 6,750	3K for Ngrid and Verizon; 750 for Eversource
Pole rental	\$ 20,670	\$13.78 x 1500 poles
Calix Essentials Support	\$ 7,595	Annual Maintenance contract with Calix. Provides direct support and emergency electronic equipment replacement.
Supplies	\$ 500	Office supplies, postage, data backup
Legal	\$ 1,000	
Electronics Hut Operations	\$ 1,300	HVAC maintenance \$500, Security Monitoring \$300, Building Maintenance \$500
Electronic Depreciation (Broadband Capital Stabilization)	\$ 37,895	To replace electronics in 7-10 years. Hut servers and switches, home routers and ONTs.
Debt Service	\$ 235,055	\$101,200 Payment due 4/3/2022 on \$883,333 10 year note. \$3,855 int. payment due 8/20/2021 on \$406,870 BAN. \$130,000 additional prin. payment.
Electronics Hut Utilities	\$ 5,200	Electricity to power hut (\$3,600), shared propane (\$600, full tank fill), shared generator maintenance (\$1,000). Indirect Costs reimbursed to town.
Accounting	\$ 1,200	Indirect Costs reimbursed to town.
Treasurer	\$ 1,800	Indirect Costs reimbursed to town.
Auditor	\$ 850	Indirect Costs reimbursed to town.
OPERATIONS SUBTOTAL	\$ 463,075	
Extraordinary & Unforeseen	\$ 10,325	Emergency Reserve Fund
OPERATIONS TOTAL	\$ 473,400	

Income

MLP Fees	\$ 473,400	MLP Fee: $[(Basic = \$52.00/month \times 750) + (Vacation = \$45.00/month \times 10)] \times 12$
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MLP Enterprise Fund

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the FY 2020 MLP certified retained earnings of 123,544.00 to pay down the principal of the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) due on 8/20/2021, or take any action thereto.

(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends

Requires majority vote

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for passage of a special law to provide for a Means-Tested

Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption, which legislation reads as follows below, or take any other action in relation thereto.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SHUTESBURY TO ESTABLISH A MEANS-TESTED SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. With respect to each qualifying parcel of real property classified as class one, residential in the Town of Shutesbury, there shall be an exemption from the property tax in an amount to be set annually by the Select Board as provided in Section 3. The exemption shall be applied to the domicile of the taxpayer only. For the purposes of this act, "parcel" shall mean a unit of real property as defined by the Board of Assessors under the deed for the property and shall include a condominium unit. The exemption provided for in this section shall be in addition to any other exemptions allowed pursuant to the General Laws.

SECTION 2. The Board of Assessors of the Town of Shutesbury may deny an application for exemption if the board finds that the applicant has excessive assets that place the applicant outside of the intended recipients of the senior exemption established pursuant to this act. Real property shall qualify for the exemption pursuant to Section 1 if the following criteria are met:

- (i) the qualifying real property is owned and occupied by a person whose prior year's income would make the person eligible for the circuit breaker income tax credit pursuant to subsection (k) of Section 6 of Chapter 62 of the General Laws;
- (ii) the qualifying real property is owned by a single applicant who was age 65 or older at the close of the previous year or jointly by persons who are 60 years of age or older, provided that not less than 1 joint owner was age 65 or older at the close of the previous year;
- (iii) the qualifying real property is owned and occupied by the applicant or joint applicants as their domicile;
- (iv) the applicant, or at least 1 of the joint applicants, has been domiciled and owned a home in the Town of Shutesbury for not less than 10 consecutive years before filing an application for the exemption;
- (v) the maximum assessed value of the domicile is not greater than the prior year's maximum assessed value for qualification for the circuit breaker income tax credit pursuant to subsection (k) of Section 6 of Chapter 62 of the General Laws, as adjusted annually by the Department of Revenue; and
- (vi) the Board of Assessors has approved the application for the exemption.

SECTION 3. The Select Board of the Town of Shutesbury shall annually set the exemption amount provided for in Section 1; provided, however, that the amount of the exemption shall be not less than 50 per cent and not more than 200 per

cent of the amount of the circuit breaker income tax credit pursuant to subsection (k) of Section 6 of Chapter 62 of the General Laws for which the applicant qualified in the previous year. The total amount exempted by this act shall be allocated proportionally within the tax levy on all residential taxpayers.

SECTION 4. A person who seeks to qualify for the exemption pursuant to Section 1 shall, before the deadline established by the Board of Assessors of the town of Shutesbury, file an application, on a form adopted by the Board of Assessors, with the supporting documentation of the applicant's income and assets as described in the application. The application shall be filed each year for which the applicant seeks the exemption.

SECTION 5. No exemption shall be granted pursuant to this act until the Department of Revenue certifies a residential tax rate for the applicable tax year where the total exemption amount is raised by a burden shift within the residential tax levy.

SECTION 6. The exemption provided in this act shall expire 3 years after the effective date of this act; provided, however, that the Town of Shutesbury may reauthorize the exemption for additional 3-year intervals by a vote of the legislative body of the town.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends

Requires majority vote

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend funds available from the State for Highway reimbursement programs, such as the Chapter 90 program, without further appropriation, or take any other action thereto.

(Sponsors: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends

Requires majority vote

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal 2022 as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsors: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends

Requires majority vote

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board to apply for, accept and expend state, federal and other grants, which do not require a town appropriation, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsors: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends

Requires majority vote

Article 22. To see if the Town will approve the appointment pursuant to MGL Chapter 268A, Section 21A of Catherine Hilton as a Board of Health Administrative Consultant

while also serving as an elected official on the Board of Health, or take any other action relative thereto. **(Sponsor: Personnel Board) Finance Committee Recommends Requires majority vote**

Article 23. To see if the Town will transfer \$30,000 from the Assessors' Overlay Surplus account to the Assessors' Revaluation account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Purpose: The Assessors' Office is getting ready for its five-year recertification by the MA Department of Revenue in Fiscal Year 2023. By transferring \$30,000 from the Assessors' Overlay Surplus account, the revaluation account can be funded without the need to raise and appropriate funds within the Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget.

(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends Requires majority vote

Article 24. To see if the Town will pay salaries from a prior fiscal year with a transfer from free cash, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Purpose: During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the two new members on the Board of Assessors inadvertently were not paid half of their fiscal year 2020 salaries. The sum is \$2,060. This article will allocate funds to pay them retroactively.

(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends Requires 4/5ths vote

Bill of Prior Year

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to approve the payment of \$1713.00 with a transfer of free cash to Mirabito Energy Products.

(Sponsor: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends Requires 4/5ths vote

Article 26. To See if the Town will vote to approve annual spending limits for FY2022 for revolving funds established in the Town Bylaws, pursuant to MGL c. 44, sec. 53E1/2, as most recently amended, to (1) authorize revolving funds for certain Town Departments for:

(Sponsors: Selectboard) Finance Committee Recommends Requires majority vote

Revolving fund	FY2022 spending limit
Dog license and control	\$1,000
Recycling	\$25,000

Fire Inspections	\$3,000
Electrical Inspections	\$4,000
Plumbing Inspection	\$5,000
Swimming Exercise	\$3,000
Library	\$10,000
Conservation	\$3,000
SRECS Solar Renewable Energy Certificates	\$30,000
COA Seniors	\$ 5,000

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, at the time and place of the meeting. Given under our hands this 18th day of May Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

Shutesbury Selectboard

Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil
 Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, Chair

April Stein
 April Stein, Vice Chair

Rita Farrell
 Rita Farrell

I, the undersigned Constable for the Town of Shutesbury, certify that I posted attested copies of the Warrant for the above mentioned meeting at the Locks Pond Bulletin Board, the Shutesbury Post Office, and the Town Hall in said town seven (7) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Constable _____

Date _____

