

**Special Town Meeting Warrant
Town of Shutesbury
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
September 30, 2025**



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 **6:30** p.m. on Tuesday the **Thirtieth** day of September, at the Shutesbury Elementary School, at 23 West Pelham Rd. in said Shutesbury, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1. Highway Superintendent Salary Increase

To see if the Town will vote to authorize an increase in the FY26 (Budget Line 147) Highway Superintendent's annual salary by three thousand six hundred ninety-four dollars (\$3,694.00) to be a total of seventy-five thousand two hundred seventeen dollars (\$75,217.00); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand six hundred ninety four dollars (\$3,694.00) for this purpose; or take any other action related thereto.

**(Sponsor: Select Board) Finance Committee Recommends, 6-0
Requires Majority Vote**

Article 2. Tax Collector Salary Increase

To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the FY26 (Budget Line 50) Tax Collector's annual salary by one thousand fifteen dollars and twenty-eight cents (\$1,015.28) to be a total of twenty four thousand seven hundred and twenty-six dollars and fifty-nine cents (\$24,726.59); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand fifteen dollars and twenty-eight cents (\$1,015.28) for this purpose; or take any other action related thereto.

**(Sponsor: Select Board) Finance Committee Recommends, 6-0
Requires Majority Vote**

Article 3. Emergency Management Director Stipend

To see if the Town will vote to authorize an annual stipend of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the position of Emergency Management Director; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for this purpose; or take any action other action related thereto.

**(Sponsor: Select Board) Finance Committee Recommends, 6-0
Requires Majority Vote**

Article 4. Health Insurance Premium

To see if the Town will vote to authorize an increase in the FY26 (Budget Line 216) Health Insurance expense line by one hundred twenty-four thousand dollars(\$124,000.00) to be a total of seven hundred forty-three thousand dollars (\$743,000); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$61,500.00), transfer twelve thousand five-hundred dollars (\$12,500.00) from the Town Stabilization Fund, and reduce the OPEB Trust Fund expense (Budget Line 218) by fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.000) for this purpose; or take any action other action related thereto.

**(Sponsor: Select Board) Finance Committee Recommends, 6-0
Requires 2/3rds Majority Vote**

Article 5. Prior Bills

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Town Stabilization Fund to pay a bill from prior years, a bill for Shutesbury IT payments owed to Becky Torres, \$1,332.83, for Zoom, Google, Gdata, and Mailchimp payments, or take any other action related thereto.

(Sponsor: Select Board) Finance Committee Recommends, 6-0

Requires 4/5ths Majority Vote

Article 6. Snow and Ice

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Town Stabilization Fund \$5,695.00, to cover a FY25 deficit in the Snow Removal Materials line (Budget Line 164), or take any other action related thereto.

(Sponsor: Finance Committee) Finance Committee Recommends, 6-0

Requires 2/3rds Majority Vote

Article 7. Elementary Transportation

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Town Stabilization Fund \$1,611.46, to cover a FY25 deficit in the Elementary Transportation line (Budget Line 145), or take any other action related thereto.

(Sponsor: Finance Committee) Finance Committee Recommends, 6-0

Requires 2/3rds Majority Vote

Article 8. ARPS Middle School Roof Project

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of Amherst-Pelham Regional School District for Amherst – Pelham Regional Middle School Roof Replacement Project which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program and for which the Town may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”).

The town’s share of the total budget cost of nine million, eight hundred thirty-four thousand and three hundred forty-one dollars (\$9,834,341) will be calculated based on the assessment methodology outlined in the Regional Agreement. To meet this appropriation the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) sixty-one point ninety-five percent (61.95%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA;

(Sponsor: Select Board) Finance Committee Recommends, 6-0

Requires 2/3rds Majority Vote

Article 9. Appointed Town Clerk

To see if the Town will vote to have its elected Town Clerk become an appointed Town Clerk of the town and establish a new appointed position of Town Clerk who shall be a town employee appointed by the Select Board, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsor: Select Board)

Requires Majority Vote

Article 10. Moratorium and Prohibition on Data Centers

To see if the Town will vote to establish a moratorium on the application for and installation of data centers by amending the Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw by adding a new use to Section 3.1- 1 - Use Table; by adding a new Section under Article VIII – Supplementary Regulations, 8.13 – Moratorium on Data Centers; and by adding a new definition to Section 13.2 Definitions; or take any other action related thereto.

3.1-1 Use Table

Amend Use table by Adding to Industrial Uses Category

INDUSTRIAL	RR	FC	TC	LW
Data Centers	N	N	N	N

13.2 Definitions

Amend Definitions by adding the following:

Data Center: A facility composed of networked computers, storage systems, and computing resources that is used to process, store, and disseminate large amounts of data, and that such a facility is either a principle use or is used in a standalone capacity.

8.13: Moratorium on Data Centers

The Town of Shutesbury shall enact a moratorium on the application for or building of new data centers, as defined in Section 13.2 of the Shutesbury Bylaw. The purpose of the moratorium is to provide the Shutesbury Planning Board with sufficient time to research and understand this complex use so that reasonable regulation can be developed for consideration at spring 2026 Shutesbury Town Meeting. The moratorium will be in effect starting on September 30, 2025 upon adoption at Special Town Meeting. The moratorium will be in place until June 20, 2026.

(Sponsor: Planning Board)

Requires 2/3 Vote

Article 11. Council on Aging Membership

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the May 7th, 2016 Annual Town Meeting vote that increased the Council on Aging from 5 members to 7, or take any action related thereto.

Explanation: In 2016, a warrant article was passed to increase the membership to seven. The reasons for expanding the membership no longer exist, and it has recently been difficult, and at times impossible, to meet the quorum of four required with a membership of seven.

The Shutesbury Council on Aging was established by the Town October 30, 1973, under the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8B. See Council on Aging webpage for the founding bylaw.

The warrant article that changed the initial membership:

Minutes of May 7, 2016:

Article 1. A motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend the number of members on the Shutesbury Council on Aging from five citizens to seven citizens. The Shutesbury Council on Aging was established by the Town October 30, 1973, under the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8B. Sally Fairfield spoke for the Council On Aging (COA) and explained that the newsletter initiative and interest in the Aging In Place Task Force have increased the activities of the COA. An increase to seven members will help address these interests. Passed unanimously

(Sponsor: Council on Aging)

Requires Majority Vote

Article 12. Speed Limit

To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 90, Section 17C of the Massachusetts General Laws, setting the reasonable and proper speed on municipally-owned streets within thickly settled or business districts at 25 MPH. This speed limit will apply to all town ways that do not have existing speed regulations; or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: *This Article would set the town-wide speed limit at 25 MPH on all thickly settled municipally owned streets that do not already have speed limits set according to state statute. This would set the unposted zones from their current speed limit of 30 MPH to 25 MPH.*

(Sponsor: Police Department)

Requires Majority

Article 13. Date of Annual Town Meeting Bylaw Amendment

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Date of Annual Town Meeting Bylaw to say: ***Annual Town Meeting will be held in two sessions. The spring session of the Annual Town Meeting will be held on the second Saturday in May. A Special Fall Town Meeting may be held on a Saturday in October at the discretion of the Select Board;*** or take any other action related thereto.

(Sponsor: Select Board)

Requires Majority Vote

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 10th day of September Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Shutesbury Selectboard

Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, Chair

Eric Stocker, Vice-Chair

Rita Farrell, Board Member

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.

(TOWN SEAL)

Constable _____

Date _____