

TOWN OF COLRAIN
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Fiscal Year 2017

FRANKLIN SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Colrain 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 on town affairs, **to meet at Colrain Central School, located at 22 Jacksonville Road at 7:00 PM in said town on Tuesday, the third day in May next, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, there and then to act on the following articles:**

ARTICLE #1. To see if the Town will instruct the Town Clerk to report on the election of officers and ballot questions as follows:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Selectman | 3 years |
| Assessor | 3 years |
| Library Trustees | 3 years |
| Library Trustees | 3 years |
| Mohawk Trail Regional School District Committee Representative | 3 years |
| Constable | 3 years |

ARTICLE #2. To hear reports of various town officers and act thereon, or pass any vote or votes thereto.

ARTICLE #3. To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of **Compensation of Elected Officers of the Town**, as provided by MGL Chapter 41, section 108 as amended; the salaries or compensations for the period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 are as follows, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

| | Voted FY 2016 | Proposed FY 2017 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Selectman, Chairman | \$3,232.00 | \$3,232.00 |
| Selectman, Clerk | \$3,232.00 | \$3,232.00 |
| Selectman, Member | \$3,232.00 | \$3,232.00 |
| Moderator | \$85.00 | \$85.00 |
| Town Clerk | \$18,325.00 | \$20,155.00 |
| Board of Assessors, Chairman | \$3,140.00 | \$3,140.00 |
| Board of Assessors, Member | \$3,140.00 | \$3,140.00 |
| Board of Assessors, Member | \$3,140.00 | \$3,140.00 |

ARTICLE #4. To see if the town will vote to make the following appropriations to fund the **Town Operating Budget** and raise by taxation, or otherwise provide, the required amounts, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

| | Voted FY 2016 | Proposed FY 2017 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Attorney Expense | \$15,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Moderator | \$85.00 | \$85.00 |
| Moderator's Expenses | \$60.00 | \$60.00 |
| Selectmen's Stipend | \$9,696.00 | \$9,696.00 |
| Office Clerk Wages | \$14,148.00 | \$21,840.00 |
| Selectmen's Expenses | \$800.00 | \$900.00 |
| Advertising | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Town Accountant Salary | \$14,695.00 | \$14,000.00 |
| Assessors' Stipends | \$9,420.00 | \$9,420.00 |
| Assistant Assessor Salary | \$27,040.00 | \$29,744.00 |
| Assessors' Expenses | \$10,830.00 | \$8,855.00 |
| Treasurer's Salary | \$16,770.00 | \$16,770.00 |
| Tax Title Costs | \$21,000.00 | \$21,000.00 |
| Tax Foreclosure Custodian | \$5,000.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| Tax Collector's Salary | \$22,734.00 | \$24,960.00 |
| Election Worker's | \$3,450.00 | \$4,434.00 |
| Town Clerk Salary | \$18,325.00 | \$20,155.00 |
| Planning Board Expenses | \$1,300.00 | \$1,300.00 |
| Town Coordinator Salary | \$54,080.00 | \$58,240.00 |
| Town Coordinator Expenses | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| General Highway Maintenance | \$86,691.00 | \$91,251.00 |
| Highway Department Salaries | \$256,967.00 | \$270,149.00 |
| Machinery Maintenance | \$45,000.00 | \$43,000.00 |
| Bridges | \$2,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Gasoline, Diesel & Oil | \$67,800.00 | \$69,800.00 |
| CDL Drug Testing | \$1,500.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Winter Roads | \$86,401.00 | \$86,401.00 |
| Street Lights | \$4,300.00 | \$4,700.00 |
| Library Expenses | \$24,533.00 | \$34,148.00 |
| Library Salaries | \$30,947.00 | \$34,429.00 |
| Council on Aging Expenses | \$20,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |
| Veterans Benefits | \$0.00 | \$10,980.00 |
| Memorial Day | \$700.00 | \$700.00 |
| Cemeteries | \$475.00 | \$475.00 |
| Police Protection Wages | \$54,314.00 | \$54,314.00 |
| Police Office Expense | \$1,716.00 | \$1,716.00 |
| Traffic Control | \$5,810.00 | \$5,810.00 |
| Police Training | \$7,818.00 | \$7,818.00 |
| Police Equipment | \$13,728.00 | \$15,737.00 |
| Police Cruiser Expense | \$11,350.00 | \$10,220.00 |

| | <u>Voted</u> <u>FY 2016</u> | <u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2017</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Constables Stipends | \$583.00 | 583.00 |
| Fire Protection Wages | \$39,986.00 | 44,965.00 |
| Firehouse Maintenance | \$14,400.00 | 14,400.00 |
| Fire Pumper Maintenance & Equipmen | \$37,085.00 | 37,185.00 |
| Emergency Management Expense | \$200.00 | 200.00 |
| Emergency Manager Stipend | \$1,749.00 | 1,749.00 |
| Building Inspector Salary | \$8,369.00 | 8,369.00 |
| Building Inspector Expenses | \$200.00 | 200.00 |
| Building Inspector Certification | \$870.00 | 870.00 |
| Inspector Of Animals Stipend | \$383.00 | 383.00 |
| Tree Warden Stipend | \$51.00 | 51.00 |
| Transfer Station Expense | \$50,613.00 | 51,063.00 |
| Transfer Station Salaries | \$14,136.00 | 14,999.00 |
| Board of Health Expenses | \$3,850.00 | 4,100.00 |
| Board of Health Wages | \$2,500.00 | 2,250.00 |
| Town Office Maintenance | \$13,550.00 | 13,550.00 |
| Town Garage Maintenance | \$26,056.00 | 25,456.00 |
| Town Building Custodian Wages | \$3,439.00 | 3,754.00 |
| Property/Liability Insurance | \$46,500.00 | 49,500.00 |
| Professional Development | \$4,560.00 | 4,935.00 |
| Office Expense | \$34,391.00 | 34,020.00 |
| Town Telephone | \$4,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| Board/Committee Clerical Wages | \$1,800.00 | 1,800.00 |
| Town Property Maintenance | \$10,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Town Reports & Ballots Printing | \$800.00 | 800.00 |
| Group Ins/Medi/SUI - Town Share | \$141,848.00 | 140,677.00 |
| Personnel Committee Expenses | \$100.00 | 100.00 |
| Finance Committee Expenses | \$180.00 | 330.00 |
| Reserve Fund | \$2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Conservation Commission Expenses | \$100.00 | 100.00 |
| Open Space Committee Expenses | \$100.00 | 100.00 |
| Historic Commission Expenses | \$100.00 | 100.00 |
| Long Term Debt - Principal | \$24,667.00 | 24,667.00 |
| Long Term Debt - Interest | \$11,563.00 | 10,792.00 |
| | <u>\$1,468,712.00</u> | <u>1,521,655.00</u> |

ARTICLE #5. To see if the town will vote pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E1/2 of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to **authorize the establishment of revolving funds for certain town departments** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 with specific receipts credited to each fund, the purposes for which each fund may be spent and the maximum that may be spent from each fund for the fiscal year as follows:

| <u>Revolving Fund Title</u> | <u>Authorized to Spend Fund</u> | <u>Revenue Source</u> | <u>Use of Fund</u> | <u>FY17 Spending Limit</u> | <u>Disposition of FY16 Fund Balance</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| Plumbing Inspector | Plumbing Inspector | Plumbing Permit Fees and Applications | Reimburse Inspector for Inspection Services | \$3,500.00 | Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016 |
| Health Inspector | Health Inspectors | Board of Health Permit Fees and Applications | Reimburse Inspectors for Inspection Services | \$5,000.00 | Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016 |
| Electrical Inspector | Electrical Inspector | Electrical Permit Fees and Applications | Reimburse Inspector for Inspection Services | \$3,500.00 | Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016 |
| Fire Inspector | Fire Department Inspectors | Fire Permit Fees and Applications | Reimburse Inspectors for Inspection Services | \$3,500.00 | Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016 |
| Dog Fund | Town Clerk, Dog Officer, and Board of Selectmen | Dog License Fees and Other Charges as Provided by Chapter 40, S 147A. | Offset Expenses Related to Administration of licenses and other Animal Control Matters | \$15,000.00 | Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016 |
| Demolition Fund | Board of Health and Building Inspector | Receipts from demolition liens, municipal abatement liens and related insurance reimbursements including court orders. | For purposes associated with demolition, boarding and securing, and abating public health nuisances related to abandoned properties as determined by the Board of Health or Building Inspector. | \$20,000.00 | Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016 |

ARTICLE #6. To see if the town will vote to **authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend any state or federal grants that may become available**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to be used for **Interest on Indebtedness**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$307,573, and transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund the sum of \$1,841, for a total sum of \$309,414 to be used for the **Franklin County Technical School District's annual operating assessment**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$1,800,141 to be used for the **Mohawk Trail Regional School District's annual operating assessment**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$ 52,209 to be used for the **Mohawk Trail Regional School District's Free Pre-K Education for District Residents**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$39,486 to be used for the **Mohawk Trail Regional School District's annual capital assessment**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$56,000 to cover the cost of **Tuition/Transportation-Smith Vocational**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$11,164 for its share of the **Statutory Charges and Core Service Assessment of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #14. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,798 for its share of the **Cooperative Purchasing Program Service Assessment of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$150 for its share of the **Emergency Planning Committee Service Assessment of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #16. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$76,977 for its share of the cost to maintain the **Franklin Regional Retirement System**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #17. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$5,043 to pay the town's allocated share of cost of the **Franklin County Solid Waste Management District**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,347 to pay the town's allocated share of the cost of membership in the **Central Franklin County District Department of Veterans' Services**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #19. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$700 to pay for its share of the **Operating and Capital Costs of the Franklin County Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #20. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$3,500 to pay for **grant writing services** for grant application purposes, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #21. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,000 to be used for the **Police Administration account** (any amount expended will be 100% reimbursed), or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #22. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,000 toward the cost of **restoration and preservation of town records**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #23. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Assessor's Stabilization fund, the sum of \$4,800 to pay for the cost of a **statutorily required triennial revaluation**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #24. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Audit Stabilization fund, the sum of \$13,500 to pay for the cost of a **fiscal year end June 30, 2016 financial audit**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #25. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Transfer Station Stabilization fund, the sum of \$17,000 to pay for the cost of a **new compactor**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #26. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Dog Fund Revolving account, the sum of \$1,560 toward the **salary of the Animal Control Officer**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #27. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,500 to cover the **on-going maintenance for the G. William Pitt House**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #28. To see if the town will **authorize the Selectmen to accept and expend, as an available fund, any of the bond issue or operating budget monies** (also called "Chapter" monies) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #29. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, the sum of \$70,745 to the **General Stabilization Account**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #30. To see if the town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money for the stabilization funds as shown in the chart below:

| Purpose | Fund | Amount | Source of Funds |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Transfer Station | Transfer Station Stabilization | \$8,000 | Free Cash |
| Highway | Highway Stabilization | \$40,000 | Free Cash |
| Police Department | Police Stabilization | \$15,000 | Free Cash |
| Assessor's | Assessor's Stabilization | \$4,000 | Free Cash |
| Audit | Audit Stabilization | \$14,959 | Free Cash |
| Technology | Technology Stabilization | \$1,000 | Free Cash |
| Fire Department | Fire Department Stabilization | \$20,000 | Free Cash |

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #31. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, which provides that a town may establish a separate trust fund to be known as the **Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund** to reduce the unfunded actuarial liability of health care and other post-employment benefits; to see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the purposes of this article; and to act on anything relating thereto.

ARTICLE #32. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the free cash account the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars \$50,000 for the **Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund** established under Article 36 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, and authorized by M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 20, in order to offset the anticipated future cost of providing post-retirement health and life insurance benefits to current and future retired Town employees, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE #33. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, the sum of \$3,500 to pay for the **removal of an underground oil tank located at the Fire Station**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #34. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, the sum of \$4,200 to pay for **Tax Collector Software**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #35. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, the sum of \$20,000 to pay for the **installation of new carpet and workstations and related improvements (Phase 1) at the Town Offices**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #36. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, the sum of \$50,000 to pay a **portion of the debt incurred due to the effects of Tropical Storm Irene**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #37. To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Section 69 of Chapter 152 of the General Laws providing for the payment of workers compensation and reimbursement for medical expenses for approved work –related injuries for elected-municipal employees, or take any action relating thereto.

ARTICLE #38 (by Citizen's Petition) To see if the Town will vote to have all officials elected at the Annual Town Election take office at the start of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE #39 To see if the city/town will accept General Laws Chapter 60, Section 15B, which allows the city/town to establish by vote or bylaw/ordinance one or more tax title collection revolving funds for the tax collector or treasurer/treasurer-collector or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE #40. To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by striking the following language contained in Section XIV(B):

(B) Procedure

Any proposal for amendment, except a proposal for amendment providing for the withdrawal of a member town (which shall be acted upon as provided in Section XVI), may be initiated by a vote of a majority of all the members of the Committee or by a petition signed by 10% of the registered voters of any one of the member towns. In the latter case, said petition shall contain at the end thereof a certification by the town clerk of such member town as to the number of registered voters in said town according to the most recent voting list and the number of signatures on the petition which appear to be the names of registered voters of said town and said petition shall be presented to the secretary of the Committee. In either case, the secretary of the Committee shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the board of selectmen of each of the member towns that a proposal to amend this Agreement has been made and shall enclose a copy of such proposal (without the signature in the case of a proposal by petition). The selectmen of each member town shall include in the warrant for the next annual or a special town meeting called for the purpose, an article stating the

proposal or the substance thereof. Such amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by all of the member towns, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting as aforesaid and replacing said language with the following:

(B) Procedure

Any proposal for amendment of this Agreement, except a proposal for amendment providing for the withdrawal of a member town (which shall be acted upon as provided in Section XV), may be initiated by a vote of a majority of all the members of the Committee or by a petition signed by 10% of the registered voters of any one of the member towns. In the latter case, said petition shall contain at the end thereof a certification by the town clerk of such member town as to the number of registered voters in said town according to the most recent voting list and the number of signatures on the petition which appear to be the names of registered voters of said town and said petition shall be presented to the secretary of the Committee. In either case, the secretary of the Committee shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the board of selectmen of each of the member towns that a proposal to amend this Agreement has been made and shall enclose a copy of such proposal (without the signature in the case of a proposal by petition). The selectmen of each member town shall include in the warrant for the next annual or a special town meeting called for the purpose, an article stating the proposal or the substance thereof. Except as provided below in paragraph (C) of this Section, such amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the member towns, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting.

(B) Approval of an Amendment Requiring the Closure of a District School

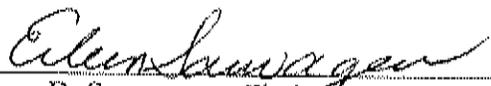
Any amendment the impact of which would be the required closure of a District school, whether initiated by a member town or by the Committee, will take effect only upon its acceptance by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the member towns provided that the town(s) whose students are principally served by the District school to be closed must have voted to accept the amendment, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting. Further, any amendment to this paragraph(C) will take effect only upon its acceptance by all of the member towns, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting.

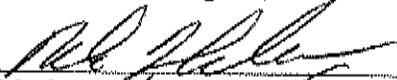
ARTICLE #41. To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money not to exceed \$295,292, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School located at 75 Mechanic St., Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, to include: asbestos abatement and floor replacement, asphalt repairs/replacement and repair/rebuild exterior brick pilasters, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto totaling \$295,292. The proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required education program.

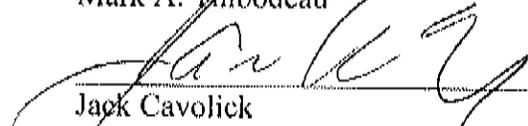
And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at two usual places in said town, seven days at least, before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof, fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the town clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand sixteen.

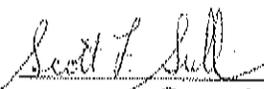

Eileen D. Sauvageau, Chair


Mark A. Thibodeau


Jack Cavolick

Colrain Board of Selectmen

A TRUE COPY.

Attest:  4-05-2016
Constable