

**Annual Town Meeting (May 20, 2024)**

<p>Article 1 - Receive Reports of Town Officers/Committees</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - We heard a report from the 300th Celebration Committee. I am very eager to see how the Committee plans to celebrate the Town's 300th anniversary of its incorporation to honor all of its history</p>
<p>Article 2 - Funding of the 300th Celebration Committee</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 3 - Appointment of Wright &amp; Harlow Trust Members</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 4 - Payment of Prior Year Bills</p> <p>Defeated</p>	<p>No - No prior bills</p>
<p>Article 5 - FY24 Operating Budget Adjustments</p> <p>Defeated</p>	<p>No - No transfers needed to be made</p>
<p>Article 6 - Fund Override Stabilization Account</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This Article deposited a little under \$1.3m into the Override Stabilization Fund, bringing its balance to about \$9m. This Fund is critical in allowing the Town to continue extending the duration of the 2021 Override passed by the community. Budget forecasts indicate that the 2021 Override will last for 6 years, which is longer than was promised by the Select Board + School Committee back in '21. As we move forward, we will need to continue revising our model to understand and implement budgetary changes that can help future Override questions, if supported by the community, be extended for the benefit of all residents.</p>
<p>Article 7 - FY25 Operating Budget - General Fund</p>	<p>Yes - The FY25 Operating Budget is \$152.6m. This budget reflects the 4th year of the override being incorporated into the budget. As noted above, the new override stabilization fund model allows for the Town to continue making investments in areas to sustain service levels across our departments with stability across the cycles. The FY25 Operating Budget includes an additional 2.5 FTEs in the municipal side (2 Patrol Officers and increasing a part-time Asst. Town Clerk position to full time). For the Schools, this budget includes an additional 7.7 teacher positions for mandated services, 2 additional IT positions, and 1 career technical education coordinator. This budget also includes some funds to continue studying the Town's ability to provide ambulance services as UMass</p>

<p>Passed</p>	<p>indicates it will no longer be able to provide this for the town at no cost. This will be critical in order to ensure our residents and visitors are being cared for in these critical times. This budget includes funding for an Economic Development Coordinator (split 50/50 with ARPA funds) who will play a critical role in helping the Town expand its commercial tax base - a benefit to residents. I look forward to seeing this position develop into an integral part of the organization as we continue to seek ways to support residents.</p>
<p>Article 8 - Offset Levy - CATV PILOT</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 9 - Offset Levy - Light Dept. PILOT</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 10 - Offset Levy - Free Cash</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 11 - FY25 Operating Budget - Solid Waste Enterprise</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 12 - FY25 Operating Budget - Sewer Special Revenue Fund</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 13 - FY25 Operating Budget - Water Enterprise</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 14 - FY25 Operating Budget - Stormwater Enterprise</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 15 - FY25 Operating Budget - PEG Enterprise</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 16 - Medical Expenses of Retired/Disabled Police Officers and Firefighters</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 17 - Fund Insurance Trust Account</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Passed	
Article 18 - Fund General Stabilization Account  Passed	Yes - This Article transferred \$2.1m to the Town's rainy-day fund, which brings us just shy of 5% of the municipal and school operating budget. The Select Board's longstanding policy has been to have this fund be at 5%, so this investment helps us if ever we need to draw from it during economic downtimes.
Article 19 - Fund Sewer Stabilization Account  Passed	Yes
Article 20 - Set Annual Spending Limits for Revolving Accounts  Passed	Yes
Article 21 - Accept Ch. 90 Funds for Roadway Improvements  Passed	Yes - The Town is estimated to receive a little under \$1m in Ch. 90 funds from the Commonwealth.
Article 22 - Transfer Funds Sale of Cemetery Lots  Passed	Yes
Article 23 - Funding for Lakes, Ponds, and Waterways  Passed	Yes
Article 24 - Fund Youth and Family Counseling Services  Passed	Yes - Annually the Town appropriates funds towards Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services. These funds help SYFS continue to provide the critical mental health and family services for Shrewsbury residents. I am always proud to support an annual allocation towards them, and will continue to seek ways to support the work of SYFS.
Article 25 - Capital Improvement Plan - General Fund  Passed	Yes - The Capital Budget includes 2 replacement cruisers and 2 replacement motorcycles, and body worn cameras for the Police Dept. I am also proud that this budget includes Dementia friendly furniture for the Council on Aging. This initiative is in line with the Town's recent recognition of becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. This will go a long way to help residents and guests with Dementia feel welcomed and help them access the Senior Center when they visit. In total, the entire Capital Budget is \$714K.
Article 26 - Capital Improvement Plan - Sewer/Article Closeouts	Yes

Passed	
Article 27 - Capital Improvement Plan - Stormwater Passed	Yes
Article 28 - Capital Improvement Plan - Water/Article Closeouts Passed	Yes - This Article appropriated \$18.5M through borrowing to expand the water treatment plant to address PFAS in our drinking water. This investment is critical as we will need to address PFAS as soon as possible so as to make sure we are drinking healthy water.
Article 29 - Authorize Oak Street Water Storage Tank Maintenance Plan Passed	Yes - There were no capital projects proposed to be funded through the Stormwater Capital budget.
Article 30 - Fund Expansion of Cemetery (Revise Existing Funding) Passed	Yes
Article 31 - Transfer Funds to the Opioid Special Revenue Fund Passed	Yes
Article 32 - Citizens Petition - Zoning Bylaw Amendment Defeated - Standing Vote (Yes 40; No 128)	Abstained - As an abutter, I abstained from voting on this Citizens Petition, which sought to change the zone around the Worcester Sand & Stone property from Limited Industrial to Commercial Business.
Article 33 - FY25 CPA Funding Transfer and Reserves Passed	Yes
Article 34 - CPA Project 1 - Affordable Housing - \$7K - Feasibility Study for Housing at 11 Elizabeth St Defeated	No - This Article was not needed as the funding for the feasibility study was granted by the Affordable Housing Trust. As the Select Board's designee to the Trust, I was proud to take this initial step in supporting the Housing Authority's initiative to create new affordable units at Elizabeth St. This is just one step in a multi-year project, but I look forward to continue supporting the Housing Authority in its efforts to provide affordable housing.
Article 35 - CPA Project 2 - Open Space & Recreation - \$13.45K - Permanent Story Walk at Lake Street Park	Yes

Passed	
Article 36 - CPA Project 3 - Historic Preservation: \$205K - Mountain View Cemetery Historic Gravestones Preservation and Restoration Phase II  Passed	Yes
Article 37 - CPA Project 4 - Outdoor Recreation - \$100K - Camp Wunnegan Parking Lot  Passed	Yes
Article 38 - CPA Project 5 - Outdoor Recreation - \$4.2K - Wheelchair Accessible Trail at Camp Wunnegan  Passed	Yes
Article 39 - CPA Project 6 - Historic Resources - \$5K - District 5 Schoolhouse ADA Feasibility Phase II  Passed	Yes
Article 40 - Authorize Grant of Easement on Town Land - Portion 20 Centech Blvd  Passed	Yes - This Article sought to grant UPS an easement to allow them to create a four-way intersection into the property. Without the easement, UPS' access to the street would have created an awkward intersection that would have been unsafe. More work needs to be done along Rt. 20 overall to improve safety. Road improvements will begin construction in a few years through the state.
Article 41 - Acceptance of Public Ways - Purinton Street  Passed	Yes
Article 42 - Amend Zoning Bylaw - Section VII. E - Digital Signage Regulations  Defeated - Standing Vote Did Not Achieve ⅔ (Yes 113; No 58)	Yes - This amendment to the zoning bylaws sought to expand existing digital signage provisions through the town. This would have allowed more enforceable action for digital signage as they would need to comply with the specific design standards outlined within the proposed language. I supported this Article as I felt that it was business friendly and also created standards and regulatory control for how digital signage should look throughout town. The digital signs would need special permit approval by the Planning Board, granting the Town the authority to maintain control over any proposed signage.

<p>Article 43 - Amend Zoning Bylaw - Section II Definitions - Farmers Market</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This Article adjusted the definition of the Farmers Market and amended the ratio of allowable produce and craft vendors to a simple majority of produce vendors.</p>
<p>Article 44 - Amend Zoning Bylaw - Various Sections - MBTA Zoning (Transit Oriented Development Overlay “TOD”)</p> <p>Defeated</p>	<p>No - At the Select Board’s May 2nd, 2024 meeting, the Board voted to recommend defeat of this Article in order to consider action on this in the fall. My comments can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>Article 45 - Amend Zoning Bylaw - Section VII. W (NEW) - Senior Housing Overlay District</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This amendment to the zoning bylaws is intended to encourage the development of Senior Housing. The zoning allows for greater flexibility in site design to better promote facilities that are responsive to the needs of seniors.</p>
<p>Article 46 - Amend Zoning Bylaw - Section II Definitions - Brew Pub</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes - This Article, along with the several following Articles, seeks to allow Brew Pubs in more zoning districts throughout the town. This is a good opportunity to attract Breweries to locate in town. I look forward to future business opportunities that may allow Shrewbury to see more establishments come into town that residents and guests will frequent.</p>
<p>Article 47 - Amend Zoning Bylaw - Section VII.M - Lakeway Overlay District - Nanobrewery &amp; Brew Pub By Right, Microbrewery by Special Permit</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 48 - Amend Zoning Bylaw - Section VII.N - Route 20 Overlay District - Nanobrewery &amp; Brew Pub By Right, Microbrewery by Special Permit</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 49 - Amend Zoning Bylaw - Section VII.O - Edgemere Village Overlay District - Brew Pub By Right, Nanobrewery by Special Permit</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 50 - Amend Zoning Map - Campus Overlay District Expansion (333 South Street)</p> <p>Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 51 - Amend Zoning Bylaw - Section V. C -</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Date Change (from August 2, 1967 to May 18, 1955)  Passed	
Article 52 - Amend General Bylaw - Construction of Utility Poles and Overhead Wires Bylaw  Passed	Yes
Article 53 - Adjust Annual Cost of Living Adjustment for Pension System  Defeated	No
Article 54 - Amend General Bylaw - Article 25 - Donation Bin Setback  Passed	Yes