

November 6, 2019

Greetings!

Please find attached the special town meeting warrant which will be held at **7pm on Thursday, December 5th** at the firehouse. We are again enclosing a letter with the warrant to clarify items that may need a little extra explanation.

Articles

Articles 1 & 2: These articles will pay for previous fiscal year bills.

Article 3: This article is an estimate of legal costs for two appeals filed against the town; one with the Planning Board and the other with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Article 4: Our insurance premiums were higher than estimated due to the following reasons; an increase in the number of firemen and police officers, a separate policy for the abandoned school building, and a large insurance claim and several worker's comp claims.

Articles 5 & 6: We received notice that the firm currently handling the accountant and treasurer positions would be closing their doors as of December 29, 2019. In cooperation with our auditor a lot of time and research went into looking for individuals and businesses with experience in municipal accounting reaching out to the Department of Revenue, surrounding towns, and our software company. After interviewing several candidates the Board has hired two candidates that both have many years of training and experience in municipal accounting for both large and small communities in the Commonwealth.

Total Free Cash being used is \$178,586, leaving us a balance of \$260,310 of the estimated \$438,896 through June 30, 2020. **Free cash is money that the residents have already been taxed on.** Free Cash is the remaining monies from accounts that did not use their full allotment for the year added to the fees the town takes in for such things as dog licenses, building permits, transfer station stickers, etc.

Monterey Board of Selectmen

WARRANT
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE, SS.
TOWN OF MONTEREY

To: Julio Rodriguez, Constable of the Town of Monterey in the County of Berkshire,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Firehouse of the Monterey Fire Company Ltd. in said Town on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at 7 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$214 or any other sum to pay for a FY18 Cemetery bill, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$413 or any other sum to pay for FY19 bills submitted after the deadline to pay, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the additional sum of \$15,000 or any other sum for the legal expenses line item to cover unanticipated legal issues, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the additional sum of \$9,959 or any other sum for the bonds & insurance line item to cover unanticipated insurance increases, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the additional sum of \$2,500 or any other sum for the Town Treasurer Services line item, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the additional sum of \$14,000 or any other sum for the Town Accountant Services line item, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the additional sum of \$1,500 or any other sum for the Planning Board Expenses line item to pay for additional, unexpected legal notices and other expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) state grant and transfer \$135,000 from free cash contingent on the grant being awarded with a seventy five percent reimbursement entitled "Phase 1 - To Enhance Flood Resiliency Through the Redesign of Critical Infrastructure Along the Konkapot River in Monterey Town Center." This project includes engineering evaluations and redesigns of the Old Stone Dam behind the library and the Route 23 culvert adjacent to Monterey Town Hall, as well as a nature-based evaluation of methods to enhance storm water capacity at the Lake Garfield Dam to prevent flooding and maintain fire suppression capability, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody and control of a parcel of land, being a certain property, located on 459 Main Rd, Map 107 Lot 024, the Monterey Schoolhouse, said parcel containing .29 acres, from any board or commission having care and custody of said parcel, to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of conveyance, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey said parcel pursuant to G.L. c. 30B, section 16, on such terms and conditions, and for such consideration, as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, or to take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 1, Section 9 of the bylaws of the Town of Monterey, which now read, "The Select Board were authorized to appoint a permanent Town Report Committee, composed of three members; that this committee be charged with the following responsibilities:

- a) Collection of Reports from departments;
- b) Layout and presentation of materials;

- c) Proofreading and sending to printer;
- d) Distribution to every house by the first week in February;
- e) Distribution to Director of Accounts.

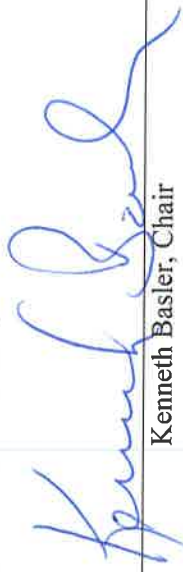
Objectives:

1. To present the facts and plans in a clear and effective manner to assist citizens to better understand and appreciate local government.
2. To present the facts in an imaginative manner – charts, graphs and photos.”,

and replace said language with the following “To authorize the Select Board to appoint a Town Report Committee to be charged with the following responsibilities: a) Collection of Reports from all departments, committees and boards for the preceding fiscal year; b) layout and presentation of materials; c) proofreading and sending to printer to be made available for the use of the inhabitants of the town before annual town meeting.” Or take any other action relative thereto.

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Clerk of said Town at or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 6th day of November, 2019.



Kenneth Basler, Chair



Donald Coburn



Steven Weisz
MONTEREY SELECT BOARD

A true copy attest.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have this 12th day of November, 2019, notified and warned inhabitants of the Town of Monterey in accordance with the Town Bylaws and the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Julio Rodriguez, Constable

Monterey Town Hall
Monterey Transfer Station
U.S. Post Office
Monterey General Store
Main Rd. at/near intersection of Swann Rd.
Select Board file
Town Clerk