

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Special Town Meeting**

Middlesex, ss:

To: Constable of the Town of Ashby in said County:

Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Ashby, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the Ashby Elementary School, 911 Main Street in said Ashby, Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. to act on the following articles:

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

Article 1. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds, to extinguish the deficit incurred in the Winter Operations budget in the current fiscal year; or take any other action relative thereto.

Brief Explanation: *There is no possible way to accurately predict the volume of snow, the length of time necessary for snow removal, or the complexities of activities resulting from any given storm or period of icy conditions. As has been the case in many prior years, the actual cost of snow removal activities has exceeded the budget provided. This appropriation will allow for payment of all costs in excess of appropriation that have been incurred during this snow season.*

Finance Committee action: **Approved** **Disapproved** **No Action**

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to accept the last paragraph of MGL Chapter 41, Section 111F, added by Section 60 of the Municipal Modernization Act (Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016), as it affects MGL, Chapter 41, Section 111F, and allows the Town to create a special injury leave indemnity fund to receive any amounts from insurance proceeds or payments, restitutions for injuries to firefighters or police officers, and any funds appropriated to said account; and to pay from said fund medical bills and injury leave compensation incurred under MGL Chapter 41, Sections 111F or 100, and further the Town Administrator is authorized to expend such funds without further appropriation; or take any other action relative thereto.

Brief Explanation: *The current system requires that injured-on-duty personnel in the Police or Fire departments be fully compensated from the departmental budget(s) during the period of their incapacity, and that the subject department also pay from current budget(s) for whatever coverage is necessary to replace the injured individual. Any related receipts from insurance coverage or other sources are not available for use, and go to the General Fund. Acceptance of this article will allow the department to draw on insurance and other, related receipts to pay the necessary compensation, without depleting the appropriated budget funds.*

Finance Committee action: **Approved** **Disapproved** **No Action**

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 90, Sections 17C and 18B, added by Sections 193 and 194 of the Municipal Modernization Act (Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016), respectively allowing the Board of Selectmen, in the interest of public safety, to establish a 25 mph speed limit on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business

district in the Town that is not a state highway; and/or to establish designated safety zones on, at, or near any way in the Town which is not a state highway and with the approval of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation if the same is a state highway; or take any other action relative thereto.

Brief Explanation: *This article, if accepted, will allow a level of autonomy for the Town in setting speed limits on certain qualifying roads.*

Finance Committee action: ___ Approved ___ Disapproved No Action

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, s. 57A, relative to providing a single-billing/single-payment process for real estate or personal property taxes not in excess of \$100; or take any other action relative thereto.

Brief Explanation: *This proposal constitutes a simplification of the Collector's processes, as they apply to real estate or personal property obligations of \$100 or less.*

Finance Committee action: ___ Approved ___ Disapproved No Action

Article 5. To see if the Town will approve the \$4,109,125 borrowing authorized by the North Middlesex Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of a window, door, minor structural repairs and leaks, and HVAC replacement project at Hawthorne Brook Middle School, located at 64 Brookline Road, Townsend, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "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 District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-seven and eleven hundredths percent (57.11%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee action: Approved ___ Disapproved ___ No Action

Article 6. To see if the Town will approve the \$4,570,277 borrowing authorized by the North Middlesex Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of roofing, siding, HVAC, and interior repairs at the Squannacook Early Childhood Center, located at 66 Brookline Road Townsend, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "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 District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and

received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-seven and eleven hundredths percent (57.11%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee action: **Approved** **Disapproved** **No Action**

Article 7. To see if the Town will approve the \$8,977,987 borrowing authorized by the North Middlesex Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of the Varnum Brook Elementary School roof, window, and HVAC replacement Project, located at 10 Hollis Street, Pepperell, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "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 District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-seven and eleven hundredths percent (57.11%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee action: **Approved** **Disapproved** **No Action**

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to approve the borrowing by the North Middlesex Regional School District (the "District") of \$210,000 a portion of the amount originally authorized to be borrowed to pay costs of the District's High School Project (the "Project"), which amount is no longer needed to complete the Project, to pay costs of designing and renovating an existing maintenance garage facility located on the site of the Project, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. The costs of this additional Project element are the sole responsibility of the District and are not eligible for reimbursement from the MSBA; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee action: **Approved** **Disapproved** **No Action**

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to approve the borrowing by the North Middlesex Regional School District (the "District") of \$1,800,000 a portion of the amount originally authorized to be borrowed to pay costs of the District's High School Project (the "Project"), which amount is no longer needed to complete the Project, to pay costs of designing and constructing a new artificial turf field to be located on the site of the Project, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. The costs of this additional Project element are the sole responsibility of the District and are not eligible for reimbursement from the MSBA; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee action: **Approved** **Disapproved** **No Action**

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting an attested copy in at least three (3) public places in said Ashby fourteen (14) days at least before holding of 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 aforesaid.

Given under our hands this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Janet Flinkstrom, Chair

Michael McCallum, Member

Mark Haines, Clerk

ASHBY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

By virtue of this precept, I have posted three (3) attested copies of the foregoing warrant in three (3) public places in said Ashby at least fourteen days before the time of said Special Town Meeting.

Date: _____

Fred Alden, Police Chief