



Town of *Dracut*
MASSACHUSETTS

**2022 Annual
Town Meeting
VOTE**

June 6, 2022

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING VOTE
TOWN OF DRACUT
JUNE 6, 2022

Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Dracut was held on Monday, June 6, 2022 at the Lester G. Richardson Center for the Performing Arts, Dracut High School, 1540 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut, Massachusetts.

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM with a quorum certified by the Town Clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of:

Marcia Brasil	01/20/2022	Retired School Employee
Jennie Zalesney	02/26/2022	Retired School Employee
Peter Poulos	03/02/2022	Retired School Employee
William Zounes	03/02/2022	Retired Town Employee
Laura Blasidell	05/15/2022	Retired Town Employee
Maurice Provencher	05/18/2022	Retired School Employee
Gerald Cote	05/19/2022	Retired School Employee
Charles Maraganis	05/19/2022	Retired School Employee

Ryan Saadah, Valedictorian of the Dracut High School Graduating Class of 2022, read the following Tercentennial Proclamation into the minutes:

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Article #2 of the June 3rd, 2002 Annual Town Meeting, I hereby publicly proclaim that the time capsule buried on April 28th, in the year 2002 at Tercentennial Park, shown on Assessors' Map 50 as Lot 202, 1310 Bridge Street, Dracut, Massachusetts, shall be opened and all items therein placed be displayed at a public ceremony to be held in the year Two Thousand One Hundred One, (2101), and further that this proclamation will continue to be made each and every year at the Annual Town Meeting, and within the Annual Town Report for the next 79 years.

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**ARTICLE #1
READING OF TOWN MEETING ARTICLES**

Unanimously, the Town voted to waive the reading of the Town Meeting Articles as printed in the warrant.

Submitted by: Jayne Boissonneault, Town Clerk
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen)

**ARTICLE #2
READING OF REPORTS**

Unanimously, the Town voted to hear the report of the Town Accountant, the Board of Selectmen, and any other committee having a direction from previous Town Meetings.

Submitted by: Jayne Boissonneault, Town Clerk
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen)

**ARTICLE 19 – JUNE 14, 2021
REFERRED FROM JUNE 14, 2021 TOWN MEETING**

Unanimously, the Town Voted to Indefinitely Postpone Article 19 of the June 14, 2021, Town Meeting.

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
Recommendations: Indefinite Postponement

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**ARTICLE #3
COMPENSATING BALANCE AGREEMENTS**

Unanimously, the Town voted to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, as permitted by General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 5F.

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

**ARTICLE #4
SALARIES & COMPENSATION ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Unanimously, the Town voted to fix the salaries and compensation of all elective officers of the Town, as provided by General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended, to be effective July 1, 2022, and to raise and appropriate the following sums of money under the various Town Departments.

Moderator: \$ 550.00
Board of Selectmen: \$ 2,000.00
School Committee: \$ 2,000.00

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING VOTE
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ARTICLE #5
FY2023 OPERATING BUDGETS

Unanimously, the Town voted to make appropriations for expenditures in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, as follows:

School Department:	
School Department Operations	\$ 36,200,000
Transportation	2,900,000
Greater Lowell Regional Technical High School	
Education Assessment	\$ 4,911,236
Transportation	292,157
Essex North Shore Agricultural & Tech High School	
Assessment	\$ 35,000
Town Manager's Budgets	
Salaries, Wages and Expenses	\$ 46,188,040
Transfer to Stabilization Fund	500,000
Transfer to Stormwater Enterprise Fund	266,779
Total Expenditures & Transfers	<u>\$ 91,293,212</u>

To meet said appropriation the Town shall:

Raise through Taxes and other General Fund Revenues:	\$ 89,977,456
Transfer from Sewer Enterprise Fund	561,000
Transfer from Water Enterprise Fund	163,000
Transfer from Town Hall Reserve	86,756
Transfer from Wetland Protection Fund	5,000
Transfer from Free Cash	500,000
Total Revenues & Transfers	<u>\$ 91,293,212</u>

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING VOTE
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ARTICLE #6
FY2023 SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

Unanimously, the Town voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds including retained earnings the sum of \$7,220,566 as follows, to operate the Sewer Department for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

Direct Cost	
Salaries	\$ 222,611
Expenses	2,418,400
Capital Outlay	50,000
Debt	<u>3,968,555</u>
Total Direct Cost	<u><u>\$ 6,659,566</u></u>
Indirect Cost	
Departmental Expenses	\$ 436,630
Insurance & Benefits	<u>124,370</u>
Total Indirect Cost	<u><u>\$ 561,000</u></u>
Total Expenditures	<u><u>\$ 7,220,566</u></u>
Revenues & Transfers	
Sewer Revenues	\$ 7,220,566
Retained Earnings	<u>-</u>
Total Revenues	<u><u>\$ 7,220,566</u></u>

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING VOTE TOWN OF DRACUT JUNE 6, 2022

ARTICLE #7
FY2023 WATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

Unanimously, the Town voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,508,977 as follows, to operate the Kenwood Water Department for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

Direct Cost	
Salaries	\$ 64,477
Expenses	1,281,500
Total Direct Cost	<u>\$ 1,345,977</u>
Indirect Cost	
Departmental Expenses	\$ 129,482
Insurance & Benefits	33,518
Total Indirect Cost	<u>\$ 163,000</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,508,977</u>
Revenues	
Water Revenues	\$ 1,448,977
Water Retained Earnings	60,000
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,508,977</u>

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

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**ARTICLE #8
FY2023 STORMWATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET**

Unanimously, the Town voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds including retained earnings the sum of \$416,779 as follows, to operate the Stormwater Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

Expenditures	
Salaries	\$ 208,479
Expenses	208,300
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 416,779</u>
Revenues	
Transfer from General Fund	\$ 266,779
Stormwater Retained Earnings	150,000
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 416,779</u>

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

**ARTICLE #9
FY2022 SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT**

Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate \$525,000 from free cash for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021; said sum of money to be used for the FY2022 snow and ice deficit.

Submitted by: Victor Garofalo, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

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**ARTICLE #10
FY2023 PEG ACCESS ENTERPRISE BUDGET**

Unanimously, the Town voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds including retained earnings the sum of \$483,406 as follows, to operate the PEG Access Enterprise Fund for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

Expenditures	
Expenditures	\$ 483,406
Capital	-
Total Expenditures	<u><u>\$ 483,406</u></u>
Revenues	
Franchise Fees	\$ 483,406
Other	-
Total Revenues	<u><u>\$ 483,406</u></u>

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

**ARTICLE #11
CHAPTER 90 PROGRAM**

Unanimously, the Town voted to transfer from available funds, the sum of \$815,467 to be used for the Town’s Chapter 90 Program, reconstruction, and improvement of Town Roads and/or sidewalks, said sum to be reimbursed on a 100 percent basis by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

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**ARTICLE #12
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET – FY2023**

Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$1,966,725, to act upon the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee by appropriating or reserving the following amounts for Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation purposes with each item considered a separate appropriation;

Open Space & Recreation

Fields Debt Payment	\$ 524,325
Capital Outlay (Funds to be used only for available Ch. 61A land purchases)	1,000,000
Playground/Park Conceptual Analysis	60,000
Update Open Space & Recreation Plan	50,000

Historic Preservation

Harmony Hall Debt Payment	40,190
Transfer to Historic Preservation Reserve	92,810

Community Housing

Transfer to Community Housing Reserve	133,000
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Administration

Personnel Services	15,000
Other Expenses	51,400

Total Community Preservation Budget	<u><u>\$ 1,966,725</u></u>
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Revenues & Transfers

FY2023 Community Preservation Receipts	\$ 966,725
Transfer from Open Space Reserves	1,000,000

Total Revenue & Transfers	<u><u>\$ 1,966,725</u></u>
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Further, that any expenditure from the One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) appropriated above for Capital Outlay must be recommended by a majority of the CPA Committee and a majority of the Finance Committee after a hearing and vote of the Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee has been held on the recommended purchase.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee (CPC)
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen, CPC & Finance Committee)

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**ARTICLE #13
OFFSET RECEIPTS**

Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate a sum of money from available “offset receipts” for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, to be used in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Board of Library Trustees	\$ 50,000	Fees, Fines, Donations, Grants
School Department	\$ 30,000	Fees, Fines, Lost Books
Council on Aging	\$ 50,000	Fees, Fines, Donations, Grants

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

**ARTICLE #14
FIRE TOWER LADDER (FIRE DEPARTMENT)**

Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$1,640,000 for the purchase of a new Fire Tower Ladder in the Fire Department, that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said sum under Chapter 44 of the General Laws, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

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**ARTICLE #15
FY2023 CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTS**

Unanimously, the Town voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,386,000 as follows for the capital projects set forth below, including all incidental costs.

Capital Project/Equipment	Department	Amount	Funding Source
210 Chevy Pick Up Truck	DPW	\$ 70,000	Retained Earnings
Cemetery Paving - Richardson	DPW	60,000	Cemetery Funds
DPW Dump Truck Lease	DPW	205,000	Free Cash
DPW Roof Replacement	DPW	300,000	Free Cash
John Deere Zero Turn Lawnmower	DPW	10,000	Stabilization
Road Resurfacing	DPW	500,000	Free Cash
Top Soil Screener (Doppstadt SM)	DPW	110,000	Free Cash
Kelly Road Design	Engineering	150,000	Retained Earnings
Breathing Air Compressor	Fire Department	100,000	Free Cash
Fire Engine 1 Pumper	Fire Department	830,000	Free Cash
F-350 Utility Body - Forestry Skid Unit	Fire Department	68,000	Free Cash
Refurbished Engine 1 2009	Fire Department	100,000	Free Cash
Fire Squad 3 Mini Pumper	Fire Department	395,000	Free Cash
Audio Visual Technology	Library	27,000	Free Cash
Police Department Flooring	Police Department	25,000	Free Cash
Replacement Marked Police Vehicles	Police Department	191,000	Free Cash
Campbell - Replace Circulating Pump	Schools	35,000	Free Cash
District - Replace Network Switching	Schools	200,000	Free Cash
Veterans Memorial Maintenance Project	Veterans	10,000	Free Cash

Total Capital Projects \$ 3,386,000

Funding Sources

Free Cash	\$ 3,096,000
Cemetery Fund/Stabilization Fund	70,000
Sewer Retained Earnings	60,000
Stormwater Retained Earnings	70,000
Water Retained Earnings	90,000

Total Funding \$ 3,386,000

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

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ARTICLE #16
SEWER PIPE LINING (SEWER DEPARTMENT)

By 2/3 Majority Voice Vote, (clearly heard and so called by the Moderator) the Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$5,000,000 for phases two (2) – six (6) for the relining for the Sewer Pipes, that to meet this appropriation, the Town will transfer \$1,000,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings, and further the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$4,000,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

ARTICLE #17
STABILIZATION FUND – SEWER EQUIPMENT

Unanimously, the Town voted to establish a Sewer Equipment Stabilization Fund pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, and further to appropriate \$500,000 to said fund, by transferring \$500,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings.

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

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**ARTICLE #18
RESCIND BOND AUTHORIZATIONS**

Unanimously, the Town voted to rescind the following borrowing authorizations for unused debt, which has been determined are no longer needed due to the completion of these projects:

<u>Authorization</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
School Fiber Equipment	9	11/7/2016	\$ 192,976
School Security Equipment & Devices	22B & Q2	6/4/& 9/4 2018	\$ 150,000
Fields	40	6/3/2019	\$ 195,202
Englesby Elementary School Roof Replacement	18A	6/30/2020	\$ 1,626,808
Brookside Elementary School Roof Replacement	18B	6/30/2020	\$ 2,046,207

Submitted by: Victor Garofalo, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

**ARTICLE #19
TRANSPORTATION FUND**

Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$3,932 received from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund for purposes of transportation services in the Town of Dracut.

Submitted by: Victor Garofalo, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

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**ARTICLE #20
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS**

By Majority Voice Vote, (clearly heard and so called by the Moderator) the Town voted to appropriate or transfer from available funds the total sum of \$1,549,225, as follows, for construction of the Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Circulation Improvements at the School Complex, and to determine whether such sums shall be transferred from available funds.

Funding Sources

Transfer from School Playgrounds - Article 4 Town Meeting 11/1/21	\$ 300,000
Transfer from COA HVAC Project - Article 3 - 11/2/20 ATM	130,000
Transfer from Classroom Computers - Article #17 - June 30, 2020 ATM	13,400
Transfer from School Security - Article 22B - June 4, 2018 ATM	4,200
Transfer from High School Turf - Article #40 - Town Meeting June 3, 2019	50,000
Transfer from Free Cash	1,051,625
Total Funding Sources	\$ 1,549,225

Submitted by: Ann Vandal, Town Manager
 Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen & Finance Committee)

**ARTICLE #21
STREET ACCEPTANCE**

Unanimously, the Town voted to accept the following streets listed below as described in on a plan entitled "Street Acceptance Plan", prepared by the Town of Dracut Engineering Department as follows:

Cranberry Road

- Cranberry Road as described in on a plan entitled "Street Acceptance Plan Cranberry Road", prepared by the Andover Consultants, dated May 23, 2006, as described in the warrant:

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ARTICLE #21 (Cont'd)

Trout Brook Road

- Trout Brook Road as described in on a plan entitled “Street Acceptance Plan Blacksmith Road,” prepared by the Andover Consultants, dated May 23, 2006 as described in the warrant.

Colonial Road

- Colonial Road as described in on a plan entitled “Street Acceptance Plan Colonial Road,” prepared by the Andover Consultants, dated May 23, 2006, as described in the warrant.

➤ Lexington Road

- Lexington Road as described in on a plan entitled “Street Acceptance Plan Lexington Road,” prepared by the Andover Consultants, dated May 10, 2005, as described in the warrant.

Blacksmith Road

- Blacksmith Road as described in on a plan entitled “Street Acceptance Plan Blacksmith Road,” prepared by the Andover Consultants, dated May 23, 2006, as described in the warrant.

Submitted by: Edward Patenaude, Public Works Director
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen)

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**ARTICLE #22
PETITIONERS ARTICLE – BY-LAW CHANGE**

By Majority Voice Vote, (clearly heard and so called by the Moderator) the Town voted to amend the town bylaws by deleting Chapter 15, Section 1 (5) "Except for organized school sports and other school activities; commons, parks, playgrounds, school fields, school gyms, and any other Town owned land or property may not be used for organized recreational activities and sports on Election Days or on the day of Town Meeting between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM.", or act in any other way thereto.

Submitted by: Paul McIntosh, 3 McIntosh Drive
Recommendations: Approval Recommended (Selectmen)

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to adjourn the June 6, 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Unanimously, the Town voted to adjourn the June 6, 2022 Town Meeting at 8:07 PM.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST: Jayne Boissonneault
Jayne Boissonneault, Town Clerk