

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town of Ipswich

Warrant for **Annual** Town Meeting

June 27, 2020
Time – 9:00 am



ESSEX, ss

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

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Ipswich qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the IPSWICH MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL, 134 High Street in said Ipswich, on June 27, 2020 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles, *viz.*:

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Under the Americans with Disability Act, the Town of Ipswich will make every effort to assure that Town Meeting is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Should any assistance be desired in this regard, please contact the Select Boards Office at (978) 356-6604.

ARTICLE 1 – Consent Calendar

Submitted By: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote:

- (1) To fix the annual salary and compensation of all elected Town Officers as follows: Town Moderator: \$250.00; Select Board: member \$750.00; Chairperson \$1,000.00; School Committee: member \$ 200.00;
- (2) To transfer the sum of \$324,000 as a payment-in-lieu of taxes from the Electric Light Department;
- (3) To hear reports from the Commuter Rail Committee, the Hall-Haskell Committee, and the Open Space & Recreation Committee, Public Safety Facility Committee, and to continue these as standing committees of Town Meeting;
- (4) To establish the following expenditure limitations for the revolving funds authorized in § 15-29 of the Town Bylaws for FY2021:
 - a. Town Wharf Revolving Fund: \$15,000;
 - b. Beautification Fund: \$5,000;
 - c. Public Health Fund: \$5,000;
 - d. Sanitary Housing Fund: \$7,000;
 - e. Food Inspectional Services Fund: \$25,000;
 - f. Council on Aging Fund: \$100,000;
 - g. Historical Commission Fund: \$5,000;
 - h. Town Hall Custodial Services Fund: \$20,000;
 - i. Shellfish Enhancement Fund: \$15,000;
 - j. Electric Vehicle Charging Fund: \$1,000;
 - k. Health Reimbursement Fund: \$85,000; and
 - l. Crane Beach Maintenance Fund: \$5,000.
- (5) To authorize the payment of any unpaid bills from prior years, if necessary;
- (6) To amend the Town's action taken under Article 3 of the May 14, 2019 Annual Town Meeting (FY 2020 Municipal Operating Budget) by transferring from available funds, if necessary; and
- (7) To appropriate a sum of \$440,336, or a greater or lesser sum, from the state for highway improvements under the authority of M.G.L. Chapter 90, or any such applicable laws, and to authorize the Select Board, if necessary, to apply for, accept and borrow in anticipation of state aid for such projects.

ARTICLE 2 – Finance Committee Election

Submitted By: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to appoint one [1] member of the Finance Committee for three [3] years, or to take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 3 – FY 2021 Municipal Budget

Requested By: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the reports of the Select Board and Finance Committee relative to the Fiscal 2021 municipal budget totaling \$27,181,875, or a greater or lesser sum, and to raise, appropriate, transfer money from available funds, and change the purpose of the unexpended balances of prior appropriations, all to be used for the ensuing year's operations, including the compensation of elected Town officers, and to authorize the Town to enter into lease-purchase contracts for equipment having a term of five years or less; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: An annual operating budget must be adopted and funded for Fiscal Year 2021 which begins July 1, 2020. A budget was adopted by the Select Board and submitted to the Finance Committee as required under the Town Charter and general by-laws. Detailed budget information is available on the town website.

Article 4 – FY 2021 School Budget

Submitted By: School Committee

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the reports of the School Committee and Finance Committee relative to the Fiscal 2021 School Department budget totaling \$32,375,538, or a greater or lesser sum, and to raise, appropriate, transfer money from available funds, and change the purpose of the unexpended balances of prior appropriations, all to be used for the ensuing year’s operations, including entering into lease-purchase agreements having a term of five years or less for a school bus and/or for other purposes; and to act upon a request to reauthorize existing revolving funds pursuant to state law; or to take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5 – FY 2021 Whittier Regional High School Budget

Submitted By: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$485,000, or a greater or lesser sum, to cover the Town’s share of the ensuing year’s annual operating and debt service expenses of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School; or to take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6 – FY 2021 Essex County Technical Institute Budget

Submitted By: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$256,092, or a greater or lesser sum, to cover the Town’s share of the ensuing year’s annual operating and debt service expenses of the Essex County Technical Institute; or to take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7 – Transfer of FY20 Appropriated Budget Funds to Educational Stabilization Fund

Submitted By: School Committee

To see if the Town will vote to allow the School Department to transfer available funds from the FY20 Appropriated Budget to the Educational Stabilization Fund.

Summary: The School Committee believes that there are unused funds available in the FY20 Appropriation. The intent is to transfer these available funds into the Educational Stabilization Fund for use by the School Department in future years.

ARTICLE 8 – Transfer of FY20 Appropriated Budget Funds to Special Education (SPED) Stabilization Fund

Submitted By: School Committee

To see if the Town will vote:

To allow the School Department to transfer available funds from the FY20 Appropriated Budget to the Special Education (SPED) Stabilization Fund.

Summary: The School Committee believes that there are unused funds available in the FY20 Appropriation. The intent is to transfer these available funds into the Special Education (SPED) Stabilization Fund for use by the School Department in future years.

ARTICLE 9 – Annual Capital Plan

Submitted By: Select Board and School Committee

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization fund the sum of \$269, from Free Cash the sum of \$680,010, from Overlay Surplus the sum of \$40,000, from the Fire Pumper Set-Aside

fund the sum of \$51,084 and raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,317 for the following purposes, and that any remaining funds be transferred to the Capital Stabilization Fund:

IT:

Computer Replacement	\$10,000
Network Upgrade	\$18,000
Server Replacement	\$85,000

SCHOOLS:

SPED Vehicle (Year 3 of 4)	\$12,000
Wind Turbine Gear Box Set-Aside (Year 3 of 7)	\$20,000
Technology: User Equipment	\$118,000
Roof Repairs (District)	\$35,183
Replace Exhaust Fans (Doyon)	\$12,000
Replace Air Handler (Doyon)	\$32,000
Repavement of Walkways (Doyon)	\$15,000
Classroom Upgrades (Doyon)	\$10,000
Replacement of Air Compressor (Winthrop)	\$15,000
Install Washer/Dryer (Winthrop)	\$6,400
MS/HS Upgrade Phone/PA/Clock and Bell System (Year 5 of 5)	\$32,914
PAC/Gym Wing-sound upgrades	\$30,000

BUILDINGS:

Roofing Repairs – Town Wide	\$20,000
Town Hall Wheel Chair Lift Repair/Replace	\$19,500
Fire Sta. Linebrook Emergency Generator	\$20,000
Hall Haskell House Installation Smoke/CO Detectors	\$5,000
DPW Garage Upgrade Fire Alarm System	\$24,500

EQUIPMENT:

Sidewalk Machine (Year 4 of 5)	\$21,411
PW-45 F650 Dump (Year 5 of 5)	\$29,270
PW-56 Bucket Truck (Year 4 of 5)	\$43,500
44” Zero Turn Mower	\$14,000
E-4 Class A Pumper Truck (Year 4 of 5)	\$95,501
E-2 1992 Replacement Pumper (Year 4 of 5)	\$95,501

Or to take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10 – Water Department Main Replacement

Submitted By: Select Board as Water Commissioners

To see if the Town will vote:

(1) to appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000 to survey, design, permit and construct improvements to the Town’s water system, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; and

(2) to raise this appropriation by authorizing the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board (Board of Sewer Commissioners), to issue bonds or serial notes under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, as amended. 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; or

(3) to take any other action relative thereto

Summary: This article will authorize the Treasurer to borrow the sum of \$2,500,000 to replace water infrastructure within the Town of Ipswich. Funds are anticipated to be used to rehabilitate and/or replace a portion of the water system in the areas of Market Street and High Street. This infrastructure dates back to the late 1800's and is past its useful life. Failure of this infrastructure will result in unplanned water service interruptions and roadway/travel impacts.

ARTICLE 11 – Rescinding Funds from 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Article 10

Submitted by: Select Board as Water Commissioners

To see if the Town will vote to rescind \$2,512,540, or any other amount, of the \$5,500,000 borrowing authorized under Article 10 of the May 14, 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant for water mains, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: The Town is unable to utilize the amount of the borrowing in excess of the \$2,987,460 committed under Article 10 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting because no ballot vote was conducted to approve the incurring of obligations in excess of 0.1% of the Town's total equalized valuation, as required under § 25-1 of the Town Bylaws. The Town has been advised by bond counsel to rescind the excess borrowing under last year's vote and seek funding for the remainder of the work through new Town Meeting authorizations.

ARTICLE 12 – Wastewater Department Main Replacement

Submitted By: Select Board as Sewer Commissioners

To see if the Town will vote:

(1) to appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 to survey, design, permit and construct improvements to the Town's wastewater system, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; and

(2) to raise this appropriation by authorizing the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board (Board of Sewer Commissioners), to issue bonds or serial notes under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, as amended. 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; or

(3) to take any other action relative thereto

Summary: This article will authorize the Treasurer to borrow the sum of \$2,000,000 to replace sewer infrastructure within the Town of Ipswich. Funds are anticipated to be used to rehabilitate and/or replace a portion of the sewer system along the Ipswich River near Choate Bridge. This infrastructure dates back to the late 1950's and is in poor condition and subject to storm and climate impacts. Failure of this infrastructure will result in raw sewerage discharges into the Ipswich River and impact shellfish beds, bathing beaches and public health.

ARTICLE 13 – Other Post-Employment Benefits Funding

Submitted By: Select Board

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$73,348 and to transfer the sum of \$215,033 from Free Cash and to transfer said sums to the OPEB Trust Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14 – Citizen’s Petition – Home Rule Petition for lowering the voting age in local election

Submitted by: *Lori LaFrance*
5 Sand Pebble Drive
Ipswich, MA 01938

To see if the Town of Ipswich will recommend to the Select Board that they file a home rule petition with the General Court substantially as follows, viz:

Notwithstanding Section 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, any citizen who:

- (iv) is 16 years of age or older, and
- (v) meets the qualifications to be registered as a voter pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws, except that of age, and
- (vi) is a resident of the Town of Ipswich at the time he or she registers or pre-registers to vote pursuant to said Chapter 51,

may vote therein in all town elections, participate and vote in all town meetings, participate and vote in town caucuses and sign all nominating, warrant, and other petitions authorized by town bylaws.

A person shall be a registered voter of at least 18 years of age to be eligible to serve in elected or appointed town offices or on boards, committees, or other official positions.

Election of Officers

And you are also directed to notify said inhabitants, qualified to vote in the election of Town Officers, to meet at the YMCA Hall, County Road, on June 30, 2020, when the polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to vote on one ballot for the following offices and questions:

Moderator, 1 seat, 1-year term; Board of Selectmen, 2 seats, 3-year term; School Committee, 2 seats, 3-year term; Housing Authority, 1 seat, 5-year term.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting at least one attested copy in each precinct in the Town at least seven days prior to the time for holding said meeting in a newspaper published in, or having a general circulation in, the Town of Ipswich.

Given unto our hands this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty.

TOWN OF IPSWICH
SELECT BOARD

William D. Whitmore, Chair

Linda Alexson, Vice Chair

Nishan D. Mootafian

Tammy Jones

Kerry L. Mackin