

**TOWN OF HEATH**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT HANDOUT**  
**May 7, 2022, 9:00 a.m., Jacobs Rd. Municipal Building**

**Article 1:** To hear the reports of the Town Officers and to act thereon.

**Article 2:** To choose all necessary officers not elected by ballot for the ensuing year.

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum or sums in accordance with the proposed budget to defray the operating expenses of the Town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, or take any action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Recommended by the Finance Committee***

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$992,662.00** for payment of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District Operating Assessment, or take any action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Not Recommended by the Finance Committee (3—1, with 1 abstention)***

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,235.00** for payment of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District Capital Assessment, or take any action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Recommended by the Finance Committee***

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$88,707.00** for payment of the Franklin County Technical School Operating Assessment, or take any action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Recommended by the Finance Committee***

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,358.30** for payment of the Franklin County Technical School Capital Assessment, or take any action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Recommended by the Finance Committee***

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000.00** for the Special Projects Account, or take any action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Recommended by the Finance Committee***

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,500.00** for the Landfill Expenses Account, or take any action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Recommended by the Finance Committee***

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer during FY2022 the sum of **\$12,726.20** from the Winter Recovery Assistance Program account and **\$4,223.00** from Free Cash to the Rowe Road Washout Expenses account, or take any other action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Recommended by the Finance Committee***

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer during FY2022 the sum of **\$1,000.00** from the Wired West Annual Assessment account and **\$4,035.00** from the Broadband Dropline FY21 Art. 9 account to the MLP Manager account, or take any other action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Recommended by the Finance Committee***

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$260.23** from the Assessors Property Tax Mapping Stabilization Account to the Assessors Stabilization Account, or take any other action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**Two-thirds vote required.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, sec. 5B, to establish an Internet Technology (IT) Stabilization Fund, or take any other action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**

*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**Two-thirds vote required.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the below itemized sums from Free Cash to the corresponding named accounts,

Authorized Account Transferred To:	Transfer from Free Cash
<i><b>FY22 Legal Fees</b></i>	\$20,000
<i><b>FY22 Salary Library Personnel</b></i>	\$ 4,336
<i><b>Highway Retirement Payout</b></i>	\$ 6,800
<i><b>Snow Plow Purchase</b></i>	\$ 7,700
<i><b>Safety Complex Land Payoff Principal and Interest</b></i>	\$22,200
<i><b>Audit Stabilization Account</b></i>	\$ 5,000
<i><b>IT Stabilization Account</b></i>	\$ 5,000
<i><b>Accountant Stabilization Account</b></i>	\$ 7,000
<i><b>Vehicle Purchase Stabilization Account</b></i>	\$80,000
<i><b>Flagg Hill Rd. Improvement Account</b></i>	\$59,233

or take any other action related thereto.

**Recommended by Select Board**

*Recommended by Finance Committee*

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by **striking** the following language contained in **Section III (B) – Pupils Entitled to Attend Regional Elementary Schools:**

The pre-K-12 Member Towns are defined as Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Plainfield, Heath, and Shelburne. Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that elementary students residing in the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Plainfield and Shelburne will receive their education in facilities located in the District and will be assigned as follows: Ashfield and Plainfield residents to Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents to Colrain Central School; and Buckland and Shelburne residents to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School. Elementary students residing in Heath will receive their education in the Hawlemont Regional School District pursuant to a tuition agreement between the Mohawk Trail Regional School District and the Hawlemont Regional School District through no longer than June 30, 2023. During the period of such tuition agreement, the Town of Heath shall seek in good faith to negotiate with the Hawlemont Regional School District regarding joinder of the Town of Heath into the Hawlemont Regional School District for elementary education. The tuition agreement shall constitute a binding financial obligation of the District. Heath may withdraw from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District for grades PK-6 in accordance with the “Withdrawal” section of this Agreement. Heath shall remain responsible for its outstanding indebtedness, if any, including but not limited to OPEB, to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District despite such withdrawal in accordance with the terms of the Regional Agreement.

If, upon the expiration of such tuition agreement, as may be extended, Heath and the Hawlemont Regional School District have failed to reach agreement as to the joinder of Heath into the Hawlemont Regional School District, elementary students residing in Heath will receive their



education in facilities located in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District, the specific location(s) to be decided as provided herein. The Mohawk Trail Regional School Committee will offer at least two (2) facilities located in the District as options for educating the elementary students of Heath and the Heath members of the Committee will determine which one (1) facility to recommend to the Committee for the placement of all Heath resident elementary students. No facility will be approved by the Committee without the affirmative votes of both Heath Committee representatives, provided however that in the event of a tie vote between such Heath representatives, or in the event that there are vacancies in the positions of Heath representatives, a majority vote of the Committee will prevail. The determination must occur no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year prior to the change.

and replacing said language with the following:

The pre-K-12 Member Towns are defined as Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Plainfield, Heath, and Shelburne. Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that elementary students residing in the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield and Shelburne will receive their education in facilities located in the District and will be assigned as follows: Ashfield and Plainfield residents to Sanderson Academy; Colrain and Heath residents to Colrain Central School; and Buckland and Shelburne residents to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School.

, or take any action related thereto.

**Submitted by the MTRSD School Committee**

**Recommended by the Select Board**

***Not within the purview of the Finance Committee***

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by **striking** the following language contained in **Section IV (E) – Apportionment of Capital Costs Grades pre-K–6:**

(3) The Heath Elementary School Building shall be returned to the Town of Heath on July 1, 2017, and the Lease between the parties shall terminate as of said date. In exchange for termination of the lease, the District shall pay to the Town of Heath a total sum of \$240,000.00, such payment to be made in no fewer than three (3) annual installments. The amounts and timing of such installments shall be as agreed upon in writing by the School Committee and the Town of Heath, provided however that the final installment shall be due no later than June 30, 2020. Any outstanding debt payments associated with the Heath Elementary School shall remain the responsibility of the Town of Heath, and the Town of Heath shall continue to be assessed for said debt in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

(4) Capital costs representing payments of principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations as issued by the Committee to finance expenses in the nature of capital outlay for the purpose of construction at the site of, or reconstruction to, the Colrain Central School or upon any premises as may be leased to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District by the Town of Colrain, shall be borne by the Town of Colrain.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the member towns from amending this Agreement and modifying and/or altering the above designated schedules of apportionment of capital costs in the event subsequent school construction or reconstruction results in a change of grade level or town assignments to the District schools.

and replacing said language with the following:

(3) Colrain, Heath

Effective commencing with Fiscal Year 2023, new capital costs incurred by the committee and associated with grades pre-Kindergarten to six, inclusive, of the District school or schools serving the pupils from the Towns of Colrain and Heath shall be apportioned to the Towns of Colrain and Heath as follows:

To Colrain: A portion of the total of all principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations as issued by the Committee consistent with the above, expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one percent calculated as follows: By (1), computing the ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at the Colrain Center School, resident in the Town of Colrain as determined by the census of pupils at said district school each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of enrollments of pupils at said district school, resident in the Towns of Heath and Colrain, as determined by the census of pupils each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation);



and by (2) expressing such ratio as a percentage. Until five years of data becomes available, the most recent years of data shall be used to determine said ratio.

To Heath: A portion of the total of all principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations as issued by the Committee on or after July 1, 2022 consistent with the above, expressed as a percentage of the total to the nearest one-hundredth of one percent calculated as follows: By (1), computing ratio which the sum of the enrollments of pupils at the Colrain Central School, resident in the Town of Heath, as determined by the census of pupils at said district school each October 1 for the five most recent years, bears to the sum of enrollments of pupils at the said district school, resident in the Towns of Colrain and Heath, as determined by the census of pupils each October 1 for the five most recent years (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation); and by (2) expressing such ratio as a percentage. Until five years of data becomes available, the most recent years of data shall be used to determine said ratio.

(4) The Heath Elementary School Building was returned to the Town of Heath on July 1, 2017, and the Lease between the parties terminated as of said date. In exchange for termination of the lease, the District paid to the Town of Heath a total sum of \$240,000.00. Any outstanding debt payments associated with the Heath Elementary School shall remain the responsibility of the Town of Heath, and the Town of Heath shall continue to be assessed for said debt in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

(5) Capital costs representing payments of principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations as issued by the Committee to finance expenses in the nature of capital outlay for the purpose of construction at the site of, or reconstruction to, the Colrain Central School or upon any premises as may be leased to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District by the Town of Colrain, shall be borne by the Towns of Colrain and Heath, as provided in Section E. (3), above.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the member towns from amending this Agreement and modifying and/or altering the above designated schedules of apportionment of capital costs in the event subsequent school construction or reconstruction results in a change of grade level or town assignments to the District schools.

, or take any action related thereto.  
**Submitted by the MTRSD School Committee**  
**Recommended by the Select Board**  
*Not within the purview of the Finance Committee*

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by **striking** the following language contained in **Section XV Effective Date**:

This amended Agreement shall take full effect in accordance with its terms on July 1, 2018 and shall supersede the prior District Agreement, including any prior amendments.

and replacing said language with the following:

This amended Agreement shall take full effect in accordance with its terms on July 1, 2022 and shall supersede the prior District Agreement, including any prior amendments.

or take any action related thereto.  
**Submitted by the MTRSD School Committee**  
**Recommended by the Select Board**  
*Not within the purview of the Finance Committee*



**Article 18:** To see if the town will vote to allow the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$278,400, for work at the Colrain Central School in Colrain, Massachusetts, to include rebuilding or resurfacing of parking lots and certain walkways, and brick masonry repairs and repointing, and including costs incidental thereto, which purpose of the projects will materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve the asset capable of supporting the required educational program. Said sum is to be expended under the approval of the School Committee’s Building Subcommittee, and to meet said appropriation, the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair, is authorized to borrow said sum under MGL Ch. 44 or any other enabling authority, or take any action related thereto.

**Submitted by the MTRSD School Committee**  
**Recommended by the Select Board**  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to accept a sum of money under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 90 to be expended for roadway improvements and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract with Massachusetts Highway Department for such purposes, or take any action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**  
*Recommended by Finance Committee*

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize all Town departments, boards, and committees to apply for any new state or federal grants without prior permission from the Board of Selectmen, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept such grant awards providing no matching funds or other costs are required by the Town, or take any action related thereto.

**Recommended by the Select Board**  
*Recommended by Finance Committee*

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer during FY22 the sum of \$767.87 from the Revolving Fund for Animal Control Officer for the use of the Heath Free Public Library, or take any action related thereto.

**Submitted by the Select Board**  
*Recommended by Finance Committee*

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §53E ½, as most recently amended, to establish FY22 spending limits as set forth below for the revolving funds established in Section 7, 7.3 of the General Bylaw entitled, “Revolving Funds”, with such limits to be applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year until revised by Town Meeting prior to July 1 for the ensuing fiscal year:

Authorized Revolving Funds	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
<i>Hearings Revolving Fund</i>	\$ 1,000
<i>Animal Control Revolving Fund</i>	\$ 2,000
<i>Board of Health Revolving Fund</i>	\$ 5,000
<i>Council on Aging Meals Revolving Fund</i>	\$ 3,000
<i>Board of Health Vaccine Program Revolving Fund</i>	\$ 3,000
<i>Recycling Program Revolving Fund</i>	\$10,000
<i>School Building Use Revolving Fund</i>	\$30,000
<i>Senior Center Revolving Fund</i>	\$ 1,000
<i>Treasurer Tax Taking Revolving Fund</i>	\$15,000

or take any action related thereto.  
*Recommended by the Select Board*  
*Recommended by the Finance Committee*

**Article 23:** To see if there is any other business for discussion to come before the Town Meeting, or take any action related thereto.  
**Submitted by the Select Board**



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	Article 3 ATM 5.7.2022				
	Draft Operating Budget				
	*** Salary 6% increase				
	ATM Handout	Approved-- Final FY22	Operating Budget Draft FY23		
	Account			Misc. Notes	
	General Government				
1	Moderator Stipend	100.00	100.00		
2	Select Board Stipends	3,500.00	3,500.00		
3	Selectmen Oper. Expense	3,000.00	3,000.00		
4	Office Supplies & Printing	3,900.00	4,100.00	\$200 increase due to paper, printing	
5	Salary Town Coordinator	54,280.17	72,072.00	Incr. to mid-grade: \$63,306; add 5 hr/wk: \$8,766	
6	Salary Office Assistant ***	2,143.40	2,273.00		
7	Finance Committee Expense	250.00	150.00		
8	Reserve Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00		
9	Town Accountant Expense	20,394.00	21,000.00		
10	Accountant's Support	500.00	500.00		
11	Assessors Stipends	3,500.00	3,500.00		
12	Salary Assistant Assessor ***	16,468.40	17,436.00		
13	Assessors Expense	15,900.00	16,000.00		
14	Salary Treasurer	12,171.04	14,171.00	Increase to mid-grade	
15	Treasurer's Expense	5,000.00	3,500.00		
16	Salary Tax Collector ***	18,431.40	19,539.00		
17	Tax Collector Expense	3,535.00	5,975.00	*Includes \$3,150 increase in Collector's software fee.	
18	Tax Taking/Liens	1,900.00	1,900.00		
19	Legal Fees	10,000.00	20,000.00	*Includes \$10,000 increase for additional legal assistance.	
20	Salary Post Office Manager ***	23,449.96	26,630.00		
21	Salary Post Office Substitute	1,525.80	2,500.00	*Inc. min wage adj for '22 & '23 plus inc. in # hours needed.	
22	Salary Town Clerk ***	16,380.00	17,363.00		
23	Town Clerk's Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00		
24	Election Workers Stipend	1,500.00	1,500.00		
	Agricultural Commission Expense	100.00	0.00		
25	Conserv. Comm. Expense	1,850.00	2,350.00	Increased agent services	
26	Planning Board Expense	500.00	500.00		
27	Planning Board Stipends	0.00	1,375.00		
28	Zoning Board of Appeals Expense	200.00	200.00		
29	**Boards Clerk** (new position)		6,656.00	Avg. 8 hr/wk @ \$16/hr: to BoH, PB, ZBA, ConCom	
30	Technical Support Town Buildings	14,340.00	12,000.00		
31	Municipal Light Plant Manager ***	13,270.40	14,066.00		
32	Municipal Light Board Stipends	2,750.00	2,750.00		
33	Salary-Building Maint. Coord. ***	33,559.38	35,580.00		
34	Sawyer Hall-Maint./Utilities	18,849.00	18,000.00		
35	Town Garages-Maint./Utilities	17,114.00	17,114.00		
36	Jacobs Muni Blding- Maint./Utilities	40,000.00	40,000.00		
37	Comm. Hall-Maint./Utilities	13,749.00	13,000.00		
38	Lawn Mowing, Ctr. & Cemeteries	6,300.00	6,300.00		
39	Ins/Prop/Casualty/Workman's Comp	57,900.00	57,800.00	*Inc all insurance premiums except personnel.	
40	FRCOG Assessment	19,699.02	20,399.00		
	Subtotal General Government	464,509.97	511,299.00		
	Protect, Persons & Property				
41	Salaries-Police Department ***	25,046.76	28,684.00	*Additional hours for mandatory training	
42	Constables Stipend	300.00	300.00		
43	Police Expenses	5,250.00	5,250.00		
44	Fire Chief Stipend	6,120.00	6,120.00		
45	Firemen's Incentive Awards	12,000.00	12,000.00		
46	Fire Department Expenses	29,000.00	31,000.00	*Includes \$2,000 increase for new reporting software.	
47	Emergency Medical Services	2,500.00	2,500.00		
48	Emergency Personnel Stipends	1,350.00	1,350.00		
49	Emer. Mgmnt. Expense	350.00	350.00		
50	Animal Control Officer's Assessment	3,201.00	3,378.00		
51	Animal Inspector's Stipend	250.00	250.00		
52	Animal Inspector's Expense	100.00	100.00		
53	Regional Dog Kennel Assessment	350.00	350.00		
54	Tree Removal Expense	8,000.00	8,000.00		
	Subtotal Protect, Persons & Proper	93,817.76	99,632.00		
	Education				
55	School Committee Stipend	3,000.00	3,000.00		
	Subtotal Education	3,000.00	3,000.00		



	Account	Final FY22	Budget Draft FY23	Misc. Notes
	<b>Public Works and Facilities</b>			
56	Salary Highway Dept. ***	188,796.96	206,149.00	Increase supt. & mechanic to mid-grade
57	Highway Materials & Supplies	86,969.66	86,970.00	
58	Vehicle Gas & Oil	32,000.00	40,000.00	
59	Hired Equipment/Services	4,000.00	4,000.00	
60	Salary Winter Hwy. Wages ***	23,053.40	25,167.00	
61	Winter Equip. Maint./Repair	8,000.00	8,000.00	
62	Winter Salt/Sand & Other	100,000.00	100,000.00	
63	Winter Hired Services	3,000.00	3,000.00	
64	Salary Winter Temp. Help	1,000.00	1,000.00	
65	Salary Summer Temporary Help	2,000.00	2,000.00	
66	Street Lights	1,300.00	1,300.00	
67	Franklin Cty. Solid Waste	2,890.00	2,897.00	
68	Salary Transfer Station Attendant ***	13,076.99	13,860.00	
69	Dump Transportation/Tipping/Disposal	35,193.00	35,193.00	
70	Hazardous Waste Disposal Day	1,200.00	1,200.00	
71	Wildlife Damage Control	1,500.00	1,500.00	
	<b>Subtotal Public Works and Facilitie</b>	<b>503,980.01</b>	<b>532,236.00</b>	
	<b>Human Services</b>			
72	Board of Health Stipends	1,375.00	1,375.00	
73	Board of Health Expense	2,500.00	2,550.00	
74	CodeRED	2,000.00	2,000.00	
75	Salary Town Nurse ***	10,608.00	11,245.00	
76	Town Nurse's Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	
77	Senior Center Operating Acct.	500.00	500.00	
78	Senior Center-COA Stipends	500.00	1,250.00	Sr. Program Dir. Stipend \$1,000
79	Foot Care Clinic	1,200.00	1,200.00	
80	Council on Aging Expense	250.00	250.00	
81	Veterans Service Center	1,793.27	1,795.00	
82	Veterans Benefit	4,248.00	6,120.00	Based on current benefits paid.
83	Heath Veteran's Memorial Comm. Exp.	25.00	25.00	
	<b>Subtotal Human Services</b>	<b>25,999.27</b>	<b>29,310.00</b>	
	<b>Culture and Recreation</b>			
84	Salary Library Personnel ***	36,962.48	39,240.00	
85	Library Trustees Stipends	875.00	875.00	
86	Library Operating Expense	10,049.63	10,326.00	*Increase to meet state minimum to qualify for services.
87	CW Mars Library Annual	2,124.00	1,784.00	*Result of non-renewal of internet service
88	Parks & Recreation Commission Exper	250.00	250.00	
89	Historical Comm. Expense	250.00	250.00	
	<b>Subtotal Culture and Recreation</b>	<b>50,511.11</b>	<b>52,725.00</b>	
	<b>Debt Service</b>			
90	Compactor Note	13,188.00	13,188.00	
91	Compactor Note Interest	659.40	329.70	
92	Tractor Note	11,600.00	11,600.00	Last year: FY2025
93	Tractor Note Interest	1,155.36	866.52	
94	Hwy Cab and Chassis principal	10,400.00	10,400.00	
95	Hwy Cab and Chassis interest	832.00	500.00	
96	Broadband Note		69,444.00	(18-yr. repayment schedule)
97	Broadband Note Interest		4,978.00	
98	Interest on Temp. Loans/Revenue Anti	1,000.00	1,000.00	
	<b>Subtotal Debt Service</b>	<b>38,834.76</b>	<b>112,306.22</b>	
	<b>Misc Exp</b>			
99	Personnel Insurance & Retirement	190,518.48	182,825.80	
	<b>Subtotal Misc Exp</b>	<b>190,518.48</b>	<b>182,825.80</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,444,770.23</b>	<b>1,523,334.02</b>	