

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Stockbridge
Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

BERKSHIRE: ss:

To any constable(s) of the Town of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Gymnasium of the town Offices at the Village School, 21 State Line Road in the Village of West Stockbridge, on Monday May 12, 2014 at ten o'clock in the morning for the purpose of bringing in their votes to the Election Officer(s) for the election of candidates for the following offices:

- One Moderator for a term of one year.
- One Member, Board of Selectmen for a term of three years.
- One Member, Board of Assessors for a term of three years.
- Two Members, Finance Committee for terms of three years, each.
- One Member, Planning Board for a term of five years.
- One Member, Planning Board for a term of four years.
- One Member, Board of Health for a term of three years.
- One Members, Board of Library Trustees for a term of three years.
- One Member, Cemetery Commission for a term of three years.
- Tree Warden for a term of three years
- Five Constables for terms of three years, each.

The polls will be opened at ten o'clock in the morning and will remain open continuously until seven o'clock in the evening of said day when they will then be closed.

All ballots shall be furnished by the Town and the election will be conducted according to the Australian System as enacted by the General Court and in conformity with the Election Laws of the Commonwealth.

You are further required in the name of the Commonwealth, to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at seven o'clock in the evening on Monday May 5, 2014 in the Village School gymnasium in the Village of West Stockbridge, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 01: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers or any Committee of the Town.

Article 02: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to act as agents of the town in accordance with Section 2 Chapter 40 of MGL for the purpose of bringing suit or suits in the name of the Town and on its behalf, and to adjust, litigate, defend, compromise, settle, and execute any and all documents pursuant to any settlement on behalf of the Town for such amounts as the Selectmen shall determine in their decision to be proper and in the best interest of the Town, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 03: To see if the Town will vote to authorize any Board or Officer in charge of a department, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to sell any property of the Town which has become obsolete or is not required for further use by the respective department and which does not, in the opinion of the Selectmen, exceed \$500.00 in value, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 04: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Cemetery Perpetual Care funds received for the fiscal year 2013, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 05: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Moderator to appoint any agents or committees of the town and give them authority or instructions, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 06: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint all non-elected Town Officers necessary or required to be chosen by the town, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 07: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to sell at public auction all or any of its property acquired by virtue of sale of non-payment of taxes, which have been confirmed by land court to the Tax Commissioner, and to give deeds therefore, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 08: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue, in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note therefore, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 17, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 09: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to seek and accept any grants and to further authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section(s) 6, 6A, and 8C and to issue notes therefore, payable within two years, and to renew any note or notes as may be given in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 17, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to require the Tax Collector, Deputy Tax Collector, Town Clerk, and Treasurer to give bonds by some surety company and to raise and appropriate to pay for same, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Assessors, in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 41, Section 4A, to appoint one or more of them to the position of Assistant Assessor(s) for the purpose of field work, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5 (54) and exempt from taxation those personal property accounts with less than \$2,000 in fair cash value beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of various elected Town Officers, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Selectmen (Chairman)	\$ 2,200	\$ 0	\$ 2,200
Selectmen (each, 2 members)	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000
Town Moderator	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Town Clerk	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Town Collector	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Assessors (each, 3 members)	\$ 1,500	\$ 0	\$ 1,500

General Government

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Town Counsel	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Town Moderator	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Annual Town Audit	\$ 11,500	\$ 0	\$ 11,500
Administrative Asst. Salary	\$ 45,000	\$ 0	\$ 45,000
Selectmen's Expenses	\$ 9,000	\$ 0	\$ 9,000
Selectmen's Salaries	\$ 6,200	\$ 0	\$ 6,200
Finance Committee	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Accountant's Expenses	\$ 1,050	\$ 0	\$ 1,050
Accountant's Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 500	\$ 14,500
Accountant State Certification	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Assessor's Expenses	\$ 6,450	\$ 0	\$ 6,450
Assessor's Salaries	\$ 4,500	\$ 0	\$ 4,500
Assessors' Contracted Services	\$ 38,873	\$ 948	\$ 37,925
Treasurer's Expenses	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 6,000
Treasurer's Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 500	\$ 14,500
Treasurer State Certification	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Treas./Acct. Software Support	\$ 2,340	\$ 0	\$ 2,340

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Town Collector's Expenses	\$ 6,000	\$ 100	\$ 5,900
Town Collector's Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Town Collector State Certification	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Tax Title Expenses	\$ 2,500	\$ 500	\$ 2,000
Cable TV	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Town Clerk's Expenses	\$ 2,500	\$ 0	\$ 2,500
Town Clerk's Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Elections and Registrations	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Preservation of Records	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Street List	\$ 2,800	\$ 0	\$ 2,800
Conservation Commission	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Planning Board	\$ 3,125	\$ 0	\$ 3,125
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Town Insurance	\$ 64,398	\$ 1,263	\$ 63,135
Officers' Bonds	\$ 1,300	\$ 0	\$ 1,300
Town Buildings	\$144,000	\$ 5,680	\$138,320
Town Reports	\$ 3,200	\$ 0	\$ 3,200
Town Website Annual Maint.	\$ 2,300	\$ 0	\$ 2,300
<i>Total General Government</i>	<i>\$451,436</i>	<i>\$ 9,491</i>	<i>\$441,945</i>

Protection of Persons and Property

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Police Department Expenses	\$ 26,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 24,000
Police Department Salaries	\$159,150	\$ 7,000	\$152,150
Police Sundays 2 nd shift	\$ 0	\$ (8,480)	\$ 8,480
Fire/EMT Services	\$ 25,650	\$ 0	\$ 25,650
Richmond Ambulance	\$ 3,500	\$ 0	\$ 3,500
EMT Incentive	\$ 2,400	\$ 0	\$ 2,400
Fireperson's Incentive	\$ 5,500	\$ 0	\$ 5,500
Communication Services	\$ 10,641	\$ 0	\$ 10,641
Building Inspector	\$ 8,840	\$ 0	\$ 8,840
Building Inspector Expenses	\$ 1,200	\$ 0	\$ 1,200
Emergency Management	\$ 600	\$ 0	\$ 600
Animal Control Officer	\$ 3,000	\$ 200	\$ 2,800
Animal Control Officer Exp.	\$ 400	\$ 0	\$ 400
Tree Warden	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
<i>Tot. Protection Persons & Property</i>	<i>\$261,881</i>	<i>\$ 720</i>	<i>\$261,161</i>

Education

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,794,685 for the purpose of paying the FY 2015 operating assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, *or take any other action in relation thereto.* (+338,588)

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$119,623 for the purpose of paying the FY 2015 capital assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, *or take any other action in relation thereto.* (+319)

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

Public Works and Facilities

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Highway Office Expenses	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Highway Professional Training	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Uniform Allowance	\$ 900	\$ 100	\$ 800
Highways and Bridges	\$ 14,000	\$ 0	\$ 14,000
Highway Salaries	\$143,520	\$ 6,240	\$137,280
Highway Overtime	\$ 16,650	\$ 0	\$ 16,650
Gas and Diesel Fuel	\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 30,000
Snow and Ice Removal	\$ 80,000	\$10,000	\$ 70,000
Highway Construction	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	\$ 50,000
Culverts and Guardrails	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 6,000
Machinery Maintenance	\$ 30,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 28,000
Highway Line Painting	\$ 14,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 13,000
Street Lights	\$ 15,600	\$ 0	\$ 15,600
Solid Waste Transfer Station	\$ 83,931	\$ 1,646	\$ 82,285
Hazardous Waste Disposal	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Cemetery Department	\$ 20,000	\$ 0	\$ 20,000
Cemetery Tree Removal	\$ 3,500	\$ 0	\$ 3,500
Mill Pond Aquatic Weed Removal	\$ 7,200	\$ 0	\$ 7,200
Group Purchasing	\$ 600	\$ 0	\$ 600
<i>Total Public Works & Facilities</i>	<u>\$519,901</u>	<u>\$ 20,986</u>	<u>\$498,915</u>

Human Services

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or take any other action in relation thereto:

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Health & Sanitation	\$ 4,800	\$ 0	\$ 4,800
Health & Sanitation Secretary Sal.	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Health & Sanitation Agent	\$ 11,103	\$ 0	\$ 11,103
Community Health	\$ 20,810	\$ 0	\$ 20,810
Berkshire Mental Health	\$ 320	\$ 0	\$ 320
Council on Aging	\$ 10,800	\$ 2,000	\$ 8,800
Veteran's Benefits	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	\$ 10,000
American Legion/Memorial Day	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000
Total Human Services	\$ 60,033	\$ 2,000	\$ 58,033

Culture and Recreation

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or take any other action in relation thereto:

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Library	\$ 34,728	\$ 4,888	\$ 29,840
Parks and Recreation	\$ 12,500	\$ 0	\$ 12,500
Historical Commission	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Total Culture and Recreation	\$ 47,428	\$ 4,888	\$ 42,540

Debt and Interest

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, or take any other action in relation thereto:

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Interest Long Term Debt	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 5,000
Village School Conversion	\$125,000	\$ 0	\$125,000
Fire Truck Loan (year 3 of 5)	\$ 40,200	\$ (279)	\$ 40,479
Highway Truck (year 2 of 5)	\$ 36,550	\$ (850)	\$ 37,400
Sewer Expansion Debt	\$ 35,000	\$ 0	\$ 35,000
Total Debt & Interest	\$241,750	\$ (1,129)	\$242,879

Intergovernmental Expenses

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Veterans District	\$ 4,982	\$ 110	\$ 4,872
Total Intergovernmental Expenses	\$ 4,982	\$ 110	\$ 4,872

Unclassified Expenses

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Berkshire County Retirement	\$ 83,893	\$ 2,280	\$ 81,613
Health Insurance	\$142,767	\$ 8,904	\$133,863
Medicare & FICA Tax	\$ 8,500	\$ 0	\$ 8,500
Reserve Fund	\$ 20,000	\$ 0	\$ 20,000
Conservation Trust	\$ 300	\$ 0	\$ 300
Insurance Trust	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Total Miscellaneous Expenses	\$256,460	\$11,184	\$245,276

Special Articles

[The following articles have been approved by the Finance Committee.]

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of \$47,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new all purpose tractor for the Highway Department, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[Note: this article seeks to fund the replacement of the current 25-year old tractor with a similar sized model.]

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$73,000 and appropriate the same amount to the FY 2015 Debt Service Account, *or take any other action in relation thereto. (-\$6,000)*

[Note: This appropriation, when combined with (the preceding) Article 21 appropriation of \$125,000, would fund the FY 2015 Village School/Town Offices Conversion debt service of \$198,000.]

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$6,350 and appropriate the same amount for the purpose of purchasing a replacement snow plow for the Highway Department, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$23,000 and appropriate the same amount for the purpose of purchasing a late model used pick-up truck to be used by the Highway Department, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[Note: this article seeks to fund the replacement of the current 2001 Ford Highway Department pick-up truck.]

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$42,625 and appropriate the same amount for the purpose of paying the 1st year debt service on the new Fire Department pumper, *or take any other action in relation thereto*.

[Note: this article seeks to fund year 1 of 10 debt service for this vehicle which replaces the retired 1981 pumper.]

Sewer and Water

[Following articles have been approved by the Finance Committee]

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$65,500 for the purpose of funding the Sewer Department Operation and Maintenance Budget to be offset, in full, by user receipts *or take any other action in relation thereto*. (+0)

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$ 38,000 for the purpose of funding the Water Department Operation and Maintenance Budget to be offset, in full, be user receipts *or take any other action in relation thereto*. (+0)

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$41,975 for the purpose of Water Department Capital Costs to be offset, in full, by user receipts *or take any other action in relation thereto*. (-\$2,168)

Revolving Funds

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Account, in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 53 1/2E, for the following inspectors, *or take any other action in relation thereto*:

[Approved by the Finance Committee]

	<u>FY '15</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>FY '14</u>
Cemetery Commissioners	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Emergency Alarm Inspector	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Gas Inspector	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Wire Inspector	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000
Oil Burner Inspector	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Title V Inspector	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Parks and Recreation Fees	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
<i>Total Revolving Fund</i>	<u>\$ 8,200</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$ 8,200</u>

Article 33: To do and transact any other business necessary to be done by the Town.

Given under our hands this 21st day of April 2014.

West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen

Karen Zick, *Chair*

Earl Moffatt

Peter Skorput

I hereby certify that I have posted and attested copies of this warrant at the Post Office at West Stockbridge, at State Line, West Center, Williamsville, and High Street as directed by vote of the Town of West Stockbridge.

Attested: _____, Constable

Date: _____