

**TOWN OF ATHOL  
ANNUAL TOWN  
MEETING WARRANT**



**MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023**

**7:00 P.M.**

**ATHOL MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**584 Main Street**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Worcester, S.S.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of Athol, in the County of Worcester, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Athol, qualified to vote in the elections and Town affairs, to meet in the Memorial Building in said Athol, on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., then and there to act on following articles:

- Article 1** To see if the Town will vote to choose all necessary Town Officers not already elected; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 2** To see if the Town will vote to review and act upon the reports of Town Offices and to receive the reports of any committee; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 3** To see if the Town will vote to accept all donations and gifts received and turned into the treasury during fiscal year 2024; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 4** To see if the Town will vote to accept all cemetery and other funds received and provided to the treasury during fiscal year 2024; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 5** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the treasurer to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the Massachusetts General Laws; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 6** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Town Manager to apply for, accept and expend any and all State and Federal grants for fiscal year 2024, for which no additional appropriation by the Town is required; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 7** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds or transfer such sums of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges for fiscal year 2024 and make appropriations for same; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 8** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement the operating budgets in the fire, treasurer-collector and retirement departments for fiscal year 2024 for the purpose of hiring eight full-time firefighters, contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ ballot question; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 9** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds or transfer from Capital Program unexpended funds or by borrowing a sum of money for the fiscal year 2024 Capital Improvement Plan as recommended by the Capital Program Committee; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 10** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds or transfer from the Water Enterprise reserve account a sum of money for the purchase of equipment and infrastructure improvements for the Water

Division; *or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 11** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds or transfer from the Sewer Enterprise reserve account a sum of money for the purchase of equipment and infrastructure improvements for the Sewer Division; *or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 12** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the fiscal year 2024 assessment to the Athol-Royalston Regional School District; *or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 13** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds \$382,300 for the fiscal year 2024 assessment to the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District; *or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 14** To see if the Town will vote to set the salaries of several elected officers and appointed positions of the boards of the Town for fiscal year 2024:

Moderator	\$ 215
Selectmen, Chair	\$1,779
Selectmen, all other (4)	\$1,482
Assessors, Chair	\$1,779
Assessors, all other (1)	\$1,482
Constable	None
Board of Health, Chair	\$1,779
Board of Health, all other (2)	\$1,482
Library Trustees	None
School Committee	None

*or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 15** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Department of Public Works/Water Division Enterprise Fund; *or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 16** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Department of Public Works/Sewer Division Enterprise Fund; *or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 17** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Department of Public Works /Transfer/Recycling Enterprise Fund; *or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 18** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the "Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund;" *or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 19** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Parking Benefits District account to be used towards parking reinforcement; *or act in relation*



*thereto.*

- Article 20** To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize various revolving funds for certain Town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for fiscal year 2024; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 21** To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the following revolving funds for certain Town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53C and Section 53F¾ for fiscal year 2024; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 22** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of MGL c. 40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Cannabis Host Community Agreement Stabilization Fund which may be expended for any lawful purpose; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the cannabis host community agreement funds received by the Town; and further, to transfer from available funds a sum of money equal to that received or to be received by the Town from cannabis host community agreements into said Cannabis Host Community Agreement Stabilization Fund; *or to act in relation thereto.*
- Article 23** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of MGL c. 40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, which may be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents, a document prepared by the Substance Abuse Bureau of the Commonwealth's Office of Health and Human Services Department, found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download> entitled "Abatement Strategies", and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; and further, to transfer from available funds a sum of money equal to that received or to be received by the Town from opioid litigation settlements resulting from the Town's participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund; *or to act in relation thereto.*
- Article 24** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money for demolishing or securing unsafe structure and to remove debris and other materials for the health and safety of the public together with ancillary costs thereto; *or to act in relation thereto.*
- Article 25** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the purpose of funding future Revaluations and Interim Year Value Adjustments, as required under M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 56, Ch. 58, Sections 1, 1A & 3 and Ch. 59, Section 2A. Such funding is to cover all aspects of revaluation including, but not limited to, statistical analysis, sales analysis, video imaging, field reviews, hardware, software and all other tasks deemed necessary for successful completion of these state mandated requirement; *or to act in relation thereto.*
- Article 26** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for one-time employee retirement costs; *or act in relation thereto.*

- Article 27** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to purchase an electronic plan reader and software for various town departments; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 28** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for costs associated with events or activities commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Memorial Building (Town Hall); *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 29** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for one-time transitional costs for fire department staffing increase subject to approval of Article 8 above and subsequent override authorization; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 30** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for matching funds to be used towards grant match in order for the Town to apply to the Massachusetts Vacant Storefront Program; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 31** To see if the Town of Athol will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, acting in its capacity as cable license Issuing Authority, to employ the same municipal cable attorney as employed by the Town of Orange to assist with cable license renewal proceedings subject to each Town reserving its own independent authority to make individual Town licensing decisions on any cable license matter; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 32** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws by approving a new definition of marijuana manufacturing by adding a new definition to Article IV, Definitions, 4.1, to include the following text: "Marijuana Manufacturing" – to compound, blend, extract, infuse or otherwise make or prepare a Marijuana Product; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 33** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws, Article II, by amending Section 2.1.3, to adopt a new Zoning Map (amendments shown in bold font for new language and strike-out for deleted language)
- 2.1.3 Said districts are located and bounded as shown on a map entitled "Official Zoning Map Town of Athol, MA" dated ~~June 13, 2022~~ **June 12, 2023**, on file in the office of the Town Clerk. The Zoning Map, with all explanatory matter thereon, and only amendments thereto, is hereby made a part of this bylaw; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 34** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Athol Zoning Map, as referenced in Section 2.1.3 of the Athol Zoning Bylaw, by rezoning a series of parcels located in the neighborhood of South Street, Pine Street, Freedom Street and Electric Street and vicinity, which are currently zoned General Commercial (G) to the Residential-A Zoning District, as shown on a map entitled "Proposed Rezoning of Vicinity of South Street from General Commercial to Residential-A" prepared by Eric R. Smith, Director of Planning and Community Development, February 2, 2023, attached hereto and on file with the office of the Town Clerk, Building Department, and Planning and Community Development Department; *or act in relation thereto.*
- Article 35** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money to the Capital Stabilization Fund; *or act in relation thereto.*

**Article 36**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund; *or act in relation thereto.*



The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on the foregoing articles beginning on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 the Memorial Building at 5:30 p.m.

You are hereby directed to serve the warrant by posting attested copies hereof at Hannaford Supermarket, Market Basket Supermarket, Quabbin Valley Healthcare, the Post Office of said Town and the Memorial Building of said Town and by publishing a notice of said meeting in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town, seven days at least, before the time for holding said meeting.

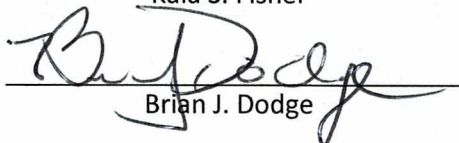
Hereof, fail not, and make due return of the warrant with your doings thereon unto the Town Clerk of the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

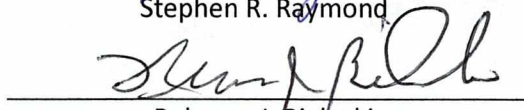
Given under our hands this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May in the year two thousand and twenty-three.

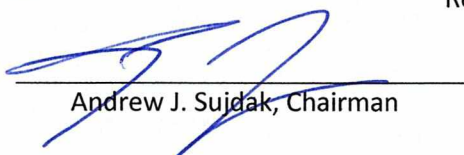
ATHOL BOARD OF SELECTMEN

  
Kala S. Fisher

  
Stephen R. Raymond

  
Brian J. Dodge

  
Rebecca J. Bialecki

  
Andrew J. Suidak, Chairman

I have served the within warrant by posting up an attested copy thereof at Hannaford Supermarket, Market Basket Supermarket, Quabbin Valley Healthcare, the Post Office of said Town and the Memorial Building and a notice published in the Athol Daily News having general circulation in the Town on Monday, May 8, 2023. I mailed a copy, postage prepaid, to each member of the Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee, Moderator, Town Counsel and the Board of Planning and Community Development and have returned this warrant to the Clerk of the Town of Athol on Monday, May 8, 2023 with my doings hereon.

\_\_\_\_\_  
, Constable