

TOWN OF BOXFORD

Website: BoxfordMA.gov

**Warrant for Annual Town Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

**Masconomet Regional High School
20 Endicott Road
Boxford, MA 01921**



Supporting documents for this warrant may be found at:

<https://www.boxfordma.gov/TownMeeting2024>

MASCONOMET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – AUDITORIUM

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Essex s.s.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Boxford in said County,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Boxford qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs to meet at the **Masconomet Regional High School**, 20 Endicott Road, Boxford, on **Tuesday the fourteenth day of May next at 7:00 P.M.**, then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

ITEMS HIGHLIGHTED INDICATE PLACEHOLDERS FOR VOTES.
VOTES HAVE NOT YET TAKEN PLACE.

ARTICLE 1. To receive and place on file the reports of the Town Officers and Committees without ratification of any action taken or authorization of any action proposed; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and Supported by the Select Board

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 150E, section 7, **will vote to appropriate a sum of money to fund the first-year cost items contained in the Boxford Police Reserve Association collective bargaining agreement** recently negotiated and ratified by the Select Board which has a term of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

Said collective bargaining agreement is on file with the Town Clerk; funding for the cost items in the first year of said agreement is included in the general operating budgets of the Town; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the **Select Board**
Finance Committee to make recommendation at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Classification Plan and Compensation Plan for FY 2025, as submitted by the Personnel Board under Chapter 23 of the Town Code; said Classification Plan and Compensation Plan as printed on pages 17 through 20 of this warrant; funding for estimated costs of said plan is included in the general operating budget of Town in Article 4; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and Supported by the Personnel Board
Select Board recommends adoption of this article
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 4. To **act on the proposed budget** and see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, for the use of several departments for Fiscal Year 2025, to wit: General Government, Financial Administration, Public Safety, Education, Public Works, Health & Human Services, Culture & Recreation, Employee Benefits, Debt Service, and all other necessary proper expenses during said fiscal year; and authorize expenditure of these funds under the direction of the appropriate listed department; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and Supported by the Finance Committee
Estimate: \$41,783,620
Select Board recommends adoption of this article
The proposed budget is printed on pages 15 and 16 of this warrant.

NOTE: At this time, we anticipate that **Article 5** will be offered as a "contingent appropriation." This means that although the appropriation could be approved at the Annual Town Meeting, that appropriation would be fully contingent upon successful passage of the related Proposition 2½ ballot question. Should the override question fail, the appropriation would be rendered null and void.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote **to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$599,170** for the purpose of additionally funding the Fiscal Year 2025 Elementary School Budget; provided, however, that the appropriation authorized herein shall be subject to and contingent upon approval of the voters at the Town Election to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes in accordance with the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2, so called; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the Elementary School Committee
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article
Select Board recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to set the following **curbside solid waste collection fees: \$175 annual fee, which includes a 65-gallon trash barrel and a 95-gallon recycling barrel; \$175 annual fee for each additional 65-gallon trash barrel; \$6.00 for each 32-gallon overflow bag; a one-time \$85 fee for each additional 95-gallon recycling barrel;** or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and Supported by the Board of Health
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article
Select Board recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 7. To **act on the list of proposed equipment and capital purchases** and see what sums of money the Town will vote to transfer from available Free Cash, for the use of several departments, and authorize expenditure of these funds for such purposes under the direction of the appropriate listed department and authorize the Select Board or School Committees to dispose of any equipment declared surplus if replaced; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the **Select Board**
Estimate: \$991,500
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article
The proposed capital budget is printed on page 22 of this warrant.
Permanent Building Committee recommendations as noted on page 22.
Sustainability Committee recommendation as noted on page 22.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to **transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000** to be expended by the Town Administrator, with the advice of the Select Board, to engage the consulting services of professional advisors to assist the Emergency Response Advisory Committee's

charge to complete a comprehensive analysis of the Town's three-tiered emergency response program, and to identify strategies to improve service through efficiencies and reduced emergency response times, or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the Select Board
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article
Emergency Response Advisory Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to **transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$147,711** (36.93% of Total) to be expended by the Masconomet Regional School District Committee, with the advice of the School Superintendent, to complete various IT, Facility, & Food Service projects, including all incidental and related expenses, or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the Masconomet Regional District School Committee
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article
Select Board recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 10.

OPTION A

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to **raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$1,550,000** to pay costs of consulting and engineering services to design, seek regulatory permitting approval, provide plans and specifications, conduct competitive construction bidding, and undertake other services as necessary, for the construction of a new Department of Public Works building and associated structures on Town-owned land off Spofford Road, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; said amount to be expended under the direction of the Permanent Building Committee; and authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board to borrow said amount or any portion thereof under and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Chief Procurement Officer under the direction of the Permanent Building Committee to enter into any and all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to effectuate the execution of said Project; that the Select Board is authorized to apply for and accept and grants or gifts available for this project, provided that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant or gift amount paid to the Town prior to the issuance of any bonds or notes under the authority of this vote; or take any other action thereon.

OPTION B

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to **raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$1,550,000** to pay costs of consulting and engineering services to design, seek regulatory permitting approval, provide plans and specifications, conduct competitive construction bidding, and undertake other services as necessary, for the construction of a new Department of Public Works building and associated structures on Town-owned land off Spofford Road, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; said amount to be expended under the direction of the Permanent Building Committee; and authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board to borrow said amount or any portion thereof under and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Chief Procurement Officer under the direction of the Permanent Building Committee to enter into any and all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to effectuate the execution of said Project; that the Select Board is authorized to apply for and accept and grants or gifts available for this project, provided that

the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant or gift amount paid to the Town prior to the issuance of any bonds or notes under the authority of this vote; further, to see if said appropriation shall be contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion ballot question under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 21C; or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by Permanent Building Committee
Select Board recommends adoption of this article
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article

NOTE: At this time, we anticipate that **Article 11** will be offered as a "contingent appropriation." This means that although the appropriation could be approved at the Annual Town Meeting, that appropriation would be fully contingent upon successful passage of the related Proposition 2½ ballot question. Should the debt exclusion question fail, the appropriations would be rendered null and void. For Article 11, the Masconomet Regional School debt authorizations must be approved by all three member communities.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to **approve of the \$5,000,000 debt** authorized by the Masconomet Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs of an owner’s project manager (OPM) and design services in connection with the roof, HVAC, & Building Management System construction project at the High School/Middle School Building Complex, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, provided, however, that such approval shall be contingent upon a vote of the Town to exclude the amounts necessary to pay its allocable share of this debt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored and supported by the Masconomet Regional School District School Committee
Estimated Total Design Cost: \$5,000,000 (Boxford’s Share: \$ 1,846,388)
Select Board to make recommendation at Town Meeting
Finance Committee to make recommendation at Town Meeting,

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 to rescind the vote taken under Article 9 of the May 9, 2023 Annual Town Meeting creating a Special Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and dedicating 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town to such fund pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §5B, such funds henceforth to be placed in a special revenue fund to be expended without further appropriation for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents; or take any other action related thereto.

Sponsored and supported by the Select Board
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues** in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, debt service, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2025, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for Lincoln Hall Renovation Bond expense	\$39,332
From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for Haynes Land Purchase Bond expense	\$112,375
From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for Aaron Wood Renovation Bond expense	\$12,891
From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for Boxford Commons Bond expense	\$128,500
From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for 10 Elm Street Bond expense	\$72,500
From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for Committee Administrative expenses	\$59,832

Reserves:

From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$119,663
From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for Historic Reserve	\$0
From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$7,288
From FY 2025 estimated annual revenues for Budgeted Reserve	\$625,000

or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the Community Preservation Committee
Select Board recommends adoption of this article
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$12,445 from the Community Preservation Historic Fund balance to fund the rehabilitation of the Boxford Historic Documents Center climate control system and associated chimney** for the preservation of historical documents of the Town maintained at the Boxford Historic Documents Center located 173A Washington Street at the intersection of Washington Street and Main Street; with additional funds to be provided by the Charlie Killam Memorial Fund for a total project cost of \$14,875; said funds to be provided through a grant agreement between the Town and the Ingalls Memorial Library Association, Inc. pursuant to which the Town will be allowed regular, unobstructed access to and digital or hard copies of such historical documents, or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the Community Preservation Committee
Select Board recommends adoption of this article
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$330,000 from the Undesignated Community Preservation Fund balance to fund the creation** of a new playground to replace the existing playground at Johnson Field located at 7A Spofford Road for recreation purposes; with additional funds to be provided by the Johnson Playground Renovation Fund for a total project cost of \$350,000, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator and Permanent Building Committee in consultation with the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the Community Preservation Committee
Select Board recommends adoption of this article
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$10,000 from the Undesignated Community Preservation Fund balance to fund repairs and improvements to the existing Boxford Common irrigation well** located at Captain Cashin Way, including but not limited to establishing a new irrigation well as necessary, for the purpose of preservation and rehabilitation of the Boxford Common open space and recreation property;

with additional funds provided from Boxford Common construction funds previously appropriated under Article 10 of the Special Town Meeting held October 2015 for a total project cost of \$20,000, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator and Permanent Building Committee in consultation with the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the Community Preservation Committee
Select Board recommends adoption of this article
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$65,000 from the Undesignated Community Preservation Fund balance to fund the preservation and rehabilitation of the Stiles Pond open space and recreation property**; with additional funds to be provided by the Stiles Pond Restoration Project fund for a total project cost of \$75,000, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health in consultation with the Town Administrator and the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the Community Preservation Committee
Select Board recommends adoption of this article
Finance Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Bylaws, Part 1: Administrative Legislation, Chapter 7, Committees, Commissions and Boards, Article III, Recreation Committee, Section 7-5, Purpose, by deleting the strike through language and by inserting the ***bold, italicized text*** as indicated below, or take any other action thereon:

§ 7-5. Purpose.

The Committee's purpose shall be to oversee the recreational needs of the Town, to recommend development of recreational areas as needed and ~~to be responsible for~~ ***assist with*** the care, maintenance and operation of such areas. ***The committee will meet as needed throughout the year to assess the recreational needs. The Department of Public Works Superintendent will work with the Recreation Committee.***

Sponsored and supported by the Select Board
Recreation Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Bylaws, Part 1: Administrative Legislation, Chapter 7, Committees, Commissions and Boards, Article XIV, Computer Management Committee, by striking it in its entirety, or take any other action thereon:

Sponsored and supported by the Select Board

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Bylaws, Part 1: Administrative Legislation, Chapter 19, Officers and Employees, by adding the new Article XII, Town Administrator, as set forth below, or take any other action thereon:

Chapter 19
Article XII
TOWNADMINISTRATOR
§19-26. Duties.

The Town Administrator shall be appointed by and serve under the direction of the Select Board and shall have the following duties:

- A. Chief Administrative Officer. The Town Administrator shall serve as the Town's Chief Administrative Officer, shall act as the agent for the Select Board, and shall be responsible to the Select Board for the proper operation of Town affairs for which said Town Administrator is given responsibility under this bylaw. The Town Administrator shall supervise, direct and be responsible for the efficient administration of all departments and employees under the jurisdiction of the Select Board and all functions for which the Administrator is given responsibility, authority or control by the Town of Boxford bylaws, Town Meeting vote, or by vote of the Select Board. He/she shall coordinate with all committees, commissions and officials not under the jurisdiction of the Select Board.
- B. Chief Personnel Officer. The Town Administrator shall exercise overall responsibility for human resources for the Town including, but not limited to: supervision and evaluation of Town employees appointed by and under the jurisdiction of the Select Board. The Town Administrator shall administer the Town's Personnel Bylaw, including maintenance of centralized personnel records, preparation of annual evaluation of Town employees and recommendation of compensation. The Town Administrator shall direct the Town's contract negotiations and collective bargaining. He or she may inquire at any time into the conduct of any officer, employee, special employee, independent contractor, department, board commission or agency with regard to any matters affecting Town administration and have open and free access to all documents, and records from any source, electronic or otherwise, that are relevant to said inquiry.
- C. Chief Financial Officer. The Town Administrator shall serve as Chief Financial Officer. The Town Administrator is responsible to prepare, propose and submit to the Select Board and Finance Committee the fiscal documents pertaining to the annual operating budget and proposed capital outlay program for all municipal departments. The Town Administrator is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the Town's Capital Improvement Program, preparing recommendations for annual capital request and an annual 5-year capital plan for purchase and maintenance of capital assets. The Town Administrator oversees the Town's Financial Team and may, pursuant to authority delegated by the Select Board, appoint a Director of Municipal Finance to oversee daily budgetary functions.
- D. Chief Procurement Officer. The Town Administrator shall act as Chief Procurement Officer in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 30B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and may appoint such assistant procurement officers as provided in Chapter 30B of the Massachusetts General Laws. Contracts shall be subject to execution by the Select Board unless otherwise provided by law.
- E. Under policy direction of the Select Board, coordinates with Town Counsel on legal matters affecting the Town.
- F. Responsible for the management of all properties under the authority of the Select Board.
- G. Responsible for media and public relations; establish and maintain positive community relations with local organizations, groups and residents; act as Town liaison with local, regional, state and federal agencies.

- H. Responsible for the coordination of Town-wide information technology and systems.
- I. Shall have access to all municipal books, papers and documents or information necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the administrator. The Town Administrator may, without notice, cause the affairs of any division or department under the Town Administrator's supervision, or the conduct of any officer or employee thereof, to be examined.
- J. Appointments. the Town Administrator shall provide guidance and recommendations to the Select Board regarding appointment of Town employees appointed by and under the jurisdiction of the Select Board; provided, however, that the Select Board shall, in its sole discretion, appoint, hire, remove and discipline, subject any applicable collective bargaining agreements, officers and employees under the jurisdiction of the Select Board.
- K. Recommend to the Select Board, who are granted the authority to make such changes upon majority vote, the reorganization, consolidation or abolishment of Town departments or agencies, recommend new departments or agencies, and recommend a reassignment of powers, duties and responsibilities among such departments or agencies so established or existing;
- L. Perform any other duties as are required to be performed by the Town Administrator by by-laws, administrative code, votes of the Town Meeting, or votes of the Select Board, or otherwise.

Sponsored and supported by the Select Board

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s Bylaws, Part II: General Legislation, Chapter 164, Stretch Energy Code, , by deleting the chapter title in the Table of Contents and replacing it with “Specialized Stretch Energy Code” and deleting the language contained in that chapter in its entirety and replacing it with the following language, for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, pursuant to the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of July 1, 2025, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

Chapter 164
SPECIALIZED ENERGY CODE
§ 164-1 Definitions
§ 164-2 Purpose
§ 164-3 Applicability
§ 164-4 Stretch Code

§ 164-1 Definitions

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) – The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency, and is updated on a three-year cycle. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards and published in state regulations as part of 780 CMR.

Specialized Energy Code – Codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, the Specialized Energy Code adds residential and commercial appendices to the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code, based 3 | P a g e on amendments to the respective net-zero appendices of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to incorporate the energy efficiency of the Stretch energy code and further reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code, with the goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector no later than 2050.

Stretch Energy Code - Codified by the combination of 225 CMR 22 and 23, not including Appendices RC and CC, the Stretch Energy Code is a comprehensive set of amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) seeking to achieve all lifecycle cost-effective energy efficiency in accordance with the Green Communities Act of 2008, as well as to reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code.

§ 164-2 Purpose

The purpose of 225 CMR 22.00 and 23.00 including Appendices RC and CC, also referred to as the Specialized Energy Code is to provide a more energy efficient and low greenhouse gas emissions alternative to the Stretch Energy Code or the baseline Massachusetts Energy Code, applicable to the relevant sections of the building code for both new construction and existing buildings.

§ 164-3 Applicability

This energy code applies to residential and commercial buildings.

§ 164-4 Specialized Code

The Specialized Code, as codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including any future editions, amendments, or modifications, is herein incorporated by reference into the Town of Boxford General Bylaws, Chapter 164.

The Specialized Code is enforceable by the inspector of buildings or building commissioner

Sponsored and supported by the **Select Board**
Sustainability Committee recommends adoption of this article

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Bylaws, Part II: General Legislation, Chapter 196, Zoning, Article V, Use Regulations, Section 196-13, R-A Residence-Agricultural District, Subsection 196-13C, Accessory apartments in residence districts, by deleting the strike through language and by inserting the ***bold, italicized text*** as indicated below, or take any other action thereon:

C. Accessory apartments in residence districts.

- (1) Purpose and intent. It is the specific intent of this section to allow accessory apartments, including kitchens, within single-family properties in Residence-Agricultural Districts for the purpose of meeting the special housing needs of grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, children and their respective spouses of families of owner-occupants of properties in the Town of Boxford, subject to the granting of a special permit by the Board of Appeals as provided in Article X. To achieve this goal and to promote the other objectives of this bylaw, specific standards are set forth below for such accessory apartment uses.
- (2) Owner occupancy required. The owner(s) of the single-family lot upon which the accessory apartment is located shall occupy at least one of the dwelling units on the premises. The special permit shall be issued to the owner of the dwelling units on the property. Should there be a change in ownership or, ***if the owner of record no longer occupies one of the dwelling units*** ~~change in residence of the owner~~, the special permit and the certificate of occupancy for the accessory apartment shall become null and void. ***A new owner may continue the special permit if the new owner submits within 90 days of acquiring ownership to the Inspector of Buildings a certification that (a) there will be no change in the approved plan of the accessory apartment, as referred to in the original Special Permit decision, and (b), the name(s) of the new owners and/ or occupants. Upon receipt of said certification, the Inspector of Buildings shall inspect the accessory apartment. If the Inspector of Buildings finds the accessory apartment use is consistent with the original Special Permit decision and that there are no changes to the approved Special Permits plans, the Inspector of Buildings shall endorse the certification, and the original Special Permit shall continue in full force and effect.***

(3) Apartment **Requirements**

- a) ~~(3)~~ size. The gross floor area for an accessory apartment shall not exceed the lesser of:
 - i. One thousand **five hundred** square feet; or
 - ii. Twenty-five percent of gross floor area of the sum total of the two dwelling units, as determined at the time of the special permit request.
 1. "Gross floor area" shall be defined as the sum of the horizontal areas of floors of a building measured from the exterior face of exterior walls. This includes ~~courts, decks or porches when covered by a roof, or~~ finished portions of basements and excludes garages.
 2. **"Gross floor area for the primary dwelling unit" shall be defined as the sum of the horizontal areas of floors of a building measured from the exterior surface of exterior walls and the exterior face of common walls.**
 3. **"Gross floor area for the accessory apartment" unit shall be defined as the sum of the horizontal areas of floors of a building measured from the exterior face of exterior walls and the interior face of common walls.**
 4. **Common walls are those shared by the primary and accessory dwelling units. Walls shared by primary or accessory dwelling units and garage spaces shall be considered exterior walls. All conditioned living spaces of either dwelling unit shall be included in the respective dwelling unit's gross floor area, except garage spaces.**
 - b) **The accessory apartment shall be connected by a common door, and separated from the main dwelling unit in a manner which maintains the appearance of the building as a single-family dwelling. Said connection shall not be maintained through a garage or unheated space.**
 - c) **There shall be no more than two (2) bedrooms in an accessory apartment.**
 - d) **The accessory apartment shall be limited to a maximum occupancy of four (4) persons.**
 - e) **196-13(B)(4) shall not apply to this section.**
 - f) **All stairways to additional stories shall be enclosed within the exterior walls of the structure.**
- (4) Code compliance. The accessory apartment must be determined to comply with current safety, health and construction requirements before occupancy and at every change in occupancy. **A building permit shall not issue until there is compliance with said standards.**

- (5) Preservation of single-family characteristics. The accessory apartment shall not change the single-family characteristic of the dwelling, except for the provision of an additional access or egress.
- (6) Existing detached structures may continue to be used for the same purposes subject to special conditions imposed by the Board of Appeals.
- (7) There shall be no more than one accessory apartment for a total of two dwelling units permitted per lot.
- (8) Current apartment uses, effective date this bylaw, may be continued only as long as the present occupants of the accessory apartment remain in residence.
- (9) Under no circumstances shall the accessory apartment be detached from the main dwelling unit.

Sponsored and supported by the **Select Board**
Zoning Board of Appeals recommends adoption of this article
Planning Board to make recommendation at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 23. Will the Town of Boxford vote to enact a moratorium on the construction or installation of artificial turf on any land, of any size, including Masconomet Regional School District, owned by the town, for five years starting on May 15, 2024, and ending on May 14, 2029, or take any action hereto.

ARTICLE 24. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Supporting documents for this warrant may be found at:
www.boxfordma.gov/TownMeeting2024

You are hereby ordered to notify and warn voters to meet in the Boxford Town Hall, 7A Spofford Road, Boxford, MA, on Tuesday, the 21st of May next, polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., for the following purposes, viz: to choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing year: **Select Board**, TWO member for three years; **Planning Board**, ONE member for five years; **Board of Health**, TWO members for three years; **Boxford School Committee**, TWO members for three years; **Masconomet Regional District School Committee**, ONE member for three years; **Board of Library Trustees**, ONE member for one year, THREE members for three years; **Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds**, ONE member for three years.

QUESTION #1: Shall the Town of Boxford be allowed to assess an additional \$599,170 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Fiscal Year 2025 Elementary School Budget beginning July first?

Yes ___

No ___

QUESTION #2: Shall the Town of Boxford be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the bonds issued by the Town for the purpose of consulting and engineering services to design, seek regulatory permitting approval, provide plans and specifications, conduct competitive construction bidding, and undertake other services as necessary, for the construction of a new Department of Public Works building and associated structures on Town-owned land off Spofford Road, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto?

Yes ___

No ___

QUESTION #3: Shall the Town of Boxford be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the Town's allocable share of the bonds issued by the Masconomet Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs of an owners project manager (OPM) and design services in connection with the Roof, HVAC, and Building Management System construction project at the High School/Middle School Building Complex, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto?

Yes ___

No ___

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at each of the public meeting houses in said Town seven days, at least, before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof, fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doing thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-four.

Barbara G. Jessel, Chair

Margaret Chow-Menzer, Clerk

SELECT BOARD

Charles J. Costello

Peter C. Perkins

Judith A. Stickney

I have served this warrant by posting attested copies thereof on each of the meeting houses in said Town of Boxford seven days, at least, before the time of holding said meeting.

David A. Smallman, Constable
West Parish

John A. Rowen, Constable
East Parish

Date _____

Date _____

Proposed Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2025

	Actual Expended FY23	Approved Budget FY24	DRAFT Budget FY25	\$ Change FY24 to FY25	% Change FY24 to FY25
General Government					
Select Board & Administrator	342,128	351,284	374,429	23,145	6.59%
Legal	65,178	88,361	75,000	-13,361	-15.12%
Technology	220,982	264,616	277,575	12,959	4.90%
Town Clerk	141,299	140,748	150,384	9,635	6.85%
Land Committee	360	500	500	0	0.00%
Land Use	94,908	104,874	108,177	3,303	3.15%
Utilities & General Maintenance	399,820	356,041	397,782	41,741	11.72%
Other Insurance	417,731	432,325	484,933	52,609	12.17%
Total General Government	1,682,407	1,738,748	1,868,779	130,032	7.48%
Financial Administration					
Finance Committee	218	1,010	1,010	0	0.00%
Finance Committee Reserve	175,000	175,000	175,000	0	0.00%
Municipal Finance Departments	532,056	515,392	526,034	10,643	2.06%
Total Financial Administration	707,274	691,402	702,044	10,643	1.54%
Public Safety					
Police Salary	1,392,963	1,443,348	1,456,353	13,005	0.90%
Police Non Salary Expenses	92,471	111,045	119,245	8,200	7.38%
Fire Salary	670,693	711,760	740,797	29,036	4.08%
Fire Non Salary Expenses	102,635	187,063	187,343	279	0.15%
Building Inspection/Zoning Bd	161,765	178,159	192,045	13,886	7.79%
Sealer of Weights & Measures	450	431	450	19	4.41%
Animal Inspector	4,515	0	0	0	0.00%
Animal Control Officer	36,523	60,000	64,041	4,041	6.74%
Communications Salary	452,623	459,793	494,765	34,972	7.61%
Communications Non Salary Exp.	84,480	110,538	116,339	5,801	5.25%
Total Public Safety	2,999,117	3,262,137	3,371,377	109,240	3.35%
Education					
Elementary Schools	13,505,697	14,401,629	14,959,735	558,106	3.88%
Essex NS Agricultural/Technical School	407,347	380,512	451,006	70,494	18.53%
Masconomet Operational Assessment	11,131,422	11,917,575	12,379,417	461,842	3.88%
Total Education	25,044,466	26,699,716	27,790,158	1,090,442	4.08%

	Actual Expended FY23	Approved Budget FY24	DRAFT Budget FY25	\$ Change FY24 to FY25	% Change FY24 to FY25
Public Works					
Cemeteries	672	500	500	0	0.00%
Trash/Recycling Pickup & Disposal	799,576	1,028,984	873,382	-155,602	-15.12%
Snow & Ice Removal	471,546	133,000	133,000	0	0.00%
Fuel Depot	94,564	75,000	94,000	19,000	25.33%
DPW Salaries	641,760	716,124	742,692	26,568	3.71%
DPW Non Salary Expense	374,869	439,842	439,842	0	0.00%
Total Public Works	2,382,987	2,393,450	2,283,416	-110,034	-4.60%
Human Services					
Board of Health	181,925	183,329	179,545	-3,784	-2.06%
Council on Aging	166,141	182,932	193,731	10,799	5.90%
Veterans' Benefits	38,036	48,564	49,746	1,182	2.43%
HAWC Program	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.00%
Tri Town Council	31,095	31,095	31,095	0	0.00%
Total Human Services	419,198	447,921	456,117	8,196	1.83%
Culture & Recreation					
Library Salaries	383,371	385,088	406,107	21,019	5.46%
Library Non Salary Expense	131,756	135,544	135,497	-47	-0.03%
Celebrations/Events	3,258	4,425	4,425	0	0.00%
Cultural Council	1,350	3,000	3,000	0	0.00%
Recreation Committee	0	0	1,000	1,000	#DIV/0!
Historic District Commission	0	375	375	0	0.00%
Total Culture & Recreation	519,735	528,432	550,404	21,972	4.16%
Employee Benefits					
Health Insurance (non school)	762,777	884,123	963,694	79,571	9.00%
OPEB Contribution	300,000	250,000	250,000	0	0.00%
Essex Retirement Assessment	1,551,592	1,742,530	1,689,467	-53,063	-3.05%
Medicare/Life Ins (Town/School)	207,885	217,288	225,367	8,079	3.72%
Unemployment Insurance	10,921	15,000	15,000	0	0.00%
Salary Reserve	0	150,000	150,000	0	0.00%
Total Employee Benefits	2,833,175	3,258,942	3,293,528	34,587	1.06%
Debt Service					
Permanent Debt Service	1,340,118	1,179,239	1,467,795	288,556	24.47%
Masconomet Debt Assessment	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total Debt Service	1,340,118	1,179,239	1,467,795	288,556	24.47%
Total Budget	37,928,476	40,199,986	41,783,620	1,583,633	3.94%

**TOWN OF BOXFORD - COMPENSATION PLAN for
NON-BENEFIT ELIGIBLE CLASSIFICATION PLAN EMPLOYEES
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

<u>HOURLY EMPLOYEES CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE FY2025</u>
1. Library Personnel	
Circulation Attendant	\$15.30
Library Assistant	\$17.63
2. Minutes Secretary	\$18.53 - \$22.53
3. Clerical Associate	\$20.00
5. Alternate Building Inspector	\$29.61
6. Recycle Attendant	\$18.28
7. Election Officers	
Wardens	\$15.30
Inspectors	\$15.81
8. Plumbing/Gas Inspector	\$381.78 (weekly)
9. Wiring Inspector	\$381.78 (weekly)
10. DPW Summer Help	
Starting	\$17.34
Returning 2nd Year	\$17.68
Each Successive Returning Year	+ \$.35/ hour
11. Parks Program (Seasonal)	
Director	\$35.37 - \$41.61
Assistant Director	\$20.29 - \$25.50
Nurse	\$26.52 - \$37.74
Senior Counselor	\$15.50
Junior Counselor	\$15.00
12. Outreach Worker	\$19.20
13. Van Driver	\$16.15

TOWN OF BOXFORD, MA - FIRE DEPARTMENT RATES

Fiscal Year 2025

<u>Call Firefighter Hourly Rates</u>		<u>FY25</u>
Probationary Base	\$	18.00
Private Base	\$	19.01
Lieutenant Base	\$	20.83
Captain Base	\$	21.74
Deputy Chief Base	\$	24.78

<u>Call Firefighter Skills Hourly Rates</u>		<u>FY25</u>
Pump Operator	\$	1.25
EMT-Basic	\$	2.50
Paramedic/Registered Nurse	\$	2.50
Firefighter I/II Certification (Fire Academy)	\$	3.50

<u>Firefighter Annual Stipends</u>		<u>FY25</u>
Deputy Chief	\$	2,918.24
Captain	\$	925.48
Lieutenant	\$	421.07
Training Director	\$	1,137.64
EMS Director	\$	1,137.64

TOWN OF BOXFORD, MA - NON-UNION CLASSIFICATION PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Grade N-1

No position assigned.

Grade N-2

No position assigned.

Grade N-3

Assistant Treasurer/Collector of Taxes

Grade N-4

Administrative Services Manager/ HR Coordinator

Grade N-5

Director of Communications
Director of Senior Services
Town Clerk

Grade N-6

Director of Public Health
Director of Public Libraries
Inspector of Buildings

Grade N-7

Director of Assessments
Director of Land Use
Assistant Town Administrator
Treasurer/Collector

Grade N-8

No position assigned.

Grade N-9

DPW Superintendent/Town Engineer
Fire Chief

Grade N-10

Police Chief
Director of Municipal Finance/Town Accountant

Grade N-11

Town Administrator

TOWN OF BOXFORD – PROPOSED NON-UNION COMPENSATION PLAN FY 2025

Based on 40-hour work week.

Grade		Min	Mid	Max
1	Hourly	\$ 27.97	\$ 33.56	\$ 39.15
	Weekly	\$ 1,118.67	\$ 1,342.41	\$ 1,566.14
	Annual	\$ 58,394.82	\$ 70,073.78	\$ 81,752.75
2	Hourly	\$ 30.34	\$ 36.41	\$ 42.48
	Weekly	\$ 1,213.76	\$ 1,456.51	\$ 1,699.27
	Annual	\$ 63,358.38	\$ 76,030.05	\$ 88,701.73
3	Hourly	\$ 32.92	\$ 39.51	\$ 46.09
	Weekly	\$ 1,316.93	\$ 1,580.32	\$ 1,843.70
	Annual	\$ 68,743.84	\$ 82,492.61	\$ 96,241.38
4	Hourly	\$ 35.72	\$ 42.87	\$ 50.01
	Weekly	\$ 1,428.87	\$ 1,714.65	\$ 2,000.42
	Annual	\$ 74,587.07	\$ 89,504.48	\$ 104,421.89
5	Hourly	\$ 38.76	\$ 46.51	\$ 54.26
	Weekly	\$ 1,550.33	\$ 1,860.39	\$ 2,170.46
	Annual	\$ 80,926.97	\$ 97,112.36	\$ 113,297.76
6	Hourly	\$ 42.05	\$ 50.46	\$ 58.87
	Weekly	\$ 1,682.10	\$ 2,018.52	\$ 2,354.94
	Annual	\$ 87,805.76	\$ 105,366.91	\$ 122,928.07
7	Hourly	\$ 45.63	\$ 54.75	\$ 63.88
	Weekly	\$ 1,825.08	\$ 2,190.10	\$ 2,555.11
	Annual	\$ 95,269.25	\$ 114,323.10	\$ 133,376.95
8	Hourly	\$ 49.51	\$ 59.41	\$ 69.31
	Weekly	\$ 1,980.21	\$ 2,376.26	\$ 2,772.30
	Annual	\$ 103,367.14	\$ 124,040.56	\$ 144,713.99
9	Hourly	\$ 53.71	\$ 64.46	\$ 75.20
	Weekly	\$ 2,148.53	\$ 2,578.24	\$ 3,007.94
	Annual	\$ 112,153.34	\$ 134,584.01	\$ 157,014.68
10	Hourly	\$ 58.28	\$ 69.93	\$ 81.59
	Weekly	\$ 2,331.16	\$ 2,797.39	\$ 3,263.62
	Annual	\$ 121,686.38	\$ 146,023.65	\$ 170,360.93
11	Hourly	\$ 63.03	\$ 75.64	\$ 88.24
	Weekly	\$ 2,521.28	\$ 3,025.53	\$ 3,529.79
	Annual	\$ 131,610.60	\$ 157,932.72	\$ 184,254.84

Proposed Free Cash Equipment and Capital Purchases (Article 7)

			PBC Recommendations	Sustainability Committee Recommendation
1	Town Administrator - IT Hardware	\$65,000		
2	Town Administrator - New Automated Trash Collection - Trash and Recycling Bins	\$340,000		
3	DPW - Design & Permitting of Balmoral Rd Drainage System	\$50,000		
4	DPW - Lincoln Hall Maintenance	\$55,000	Yes	
5	DPW - Police Station Ceiling Repairs	\$7,500	Yes	
6	DPW - Boxford Common Maintenance	\$15,000	Yes	
7	Fire Department - Turnout Gear	\$27,000		
8	Fire Department - SCBA Compressor	\$68,000		
9	Communications Department - Fire and Police Backup Repeaters	\$65,000		
10	Town Clerk - Election Tabulators	\$19,000		
11	School Committee - Cole School and Spofford Schools Floor Replacement, next phase	\$50,000	Yes	
12	School Committee - Cole School HVAC Electrification Feasibility Study	\$80,000	Yes	Yes
13	School Committee - Cole School ADA Improvements Project	\$150,000	Yes	
	Total ARTICLE 7	\$991,500		