



**Annual Town Meeting
May 6, 2025
William E. Norris School
34 Pomeroy Meadow Rd., Southamptn, MA**

Town Moderator, Robert Floyd, opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum present, 220 registered voters were present. The workers were Susan Seybolt, Kathy Ingram, Eileen Hamel, Stacey Schmiedel, Kathy Ingram, Jane Howard and Cynthia Woodard. The Town Clerks office introduced new voting paddles to voters to make the paper ballot counting easier. We also went with a unique way of presenting the budget.

Selectboard Vice Chair Jon Lumbra led the pledge of allegiance. The moderator announced a brief moment of silence, welcome message, and reading a disclosure statement, Mr. Moderator proceeded to read the warrant and the return. He announced that the town meeting was being televised live.

Mr. Moderator read an introduction on town meeting guidelines.

Mr. Moderator then called for a motion for Article 1.

Article 1: Christine Fowles moved and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town appropriate \$23,527,778.57 to fund all municipal departments and the public schools during Fiscal Year 2026, all as shown in the Town's Annual Operating Budget and identified in the Column Labeled "FY 26 Recommended Budget A Non-Contingent Appropriations", and to fund this appropriation, \$16,166,532.63 be raised from taxation, \$17,500.00 transferred from WPAT loan, \$269,090.40 transferred from Ambulance Fees, and \$97,184.60 transferred from Ambulance Stabilization. Move further to raise and appropriate from taxation the additional sum of \$897,069 for Norris Elementary School, the amounts shown in the column captioned "FY 26 Budget B With Contingent Appropriations", said supplemental appropriation contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ ballot question under General Laws Chapter 59, § 21C.

There was much discussion because voters were confused by the new layout of the budget handout. Mr. Moderator split the Article into two separate budget motions,

so voters had to vote on FY 26 Recommended Budget A Non-Contingent Appropriations and FY Budget B which is Budget A plus the \$897,069.00 for the Norris School. The handout will be attached with these minutes. After minutes of discussion, Budget A failed with 83 yay and 113 nays. Legal Counsel Brian Kelly suggested rereading the motion with Budget B included and then that was voted on. The Moderator stated we are going to have one vote on the budget then we vote on the override.

**Article 1- Budget A Failed by vote of 113 Nay to 83 yay
Budget B Passes by majority vote.**

Budget B will be taken into effect on July 1, 2025, if it passes at the Town Election held on May 20, 2025. If it fails at the election only Budget A will have passed without the override.

Article 2: Dan LaValley moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded on Motion 1: That the Town fix the annual (52 weeks) salary of the Town Clerk at the amount of \$62,873.86 (sixty-two thousand eight hundred seventy-three dollars and eighty-five cents) effective July 1, 2025.

Dan Lavalley moved, and Stephen Johnson seconded motion 2: That the Town fix the annual (52 weeks) salary of the Treasurer/Collector at the amount of \$72,203.04 (seventy-two thousand two-hundred three dollars and four cents) effective July 1, 2025.

Article 2- Both motions passed unanimously.

Article 3 Stephen Johnson moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to approve the budget of the Water Department Enterprise Fund as presented in Article 3 of the Warrant for the May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting.

Article 3 passed unanimously.

Article 4 Jon Lumbra moved, and Stephen Johnson seconded that the Town vote the budget of the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund as presented in Article 4 of the Warrant for the May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting. Randall Kemp brought an amendment of the amount to the floor-written amendment is attached.

Jon Lumbra made the motion to amend the article amount Stephen Johnson second to \$211, 239.44-this amendment passes unanimously.

Article 4 Amended motion passes unanimously.

Article 5 Stephen Johnson moved, and Dan LaValley seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$118,271.39 from Free Cash to the accounts designated for snow removal within the Highway Department.

Article 5 passed unanimously.

Article 6 Dan LaValley moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$276,019.39 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Jon Lumbra made a motion to reconsider Article 6 as it had the same name as Article 5. Christine re read the motion with the corrected motion stating the funds be transferred to Operational Stabilization Fund not Capital Stabilization fund. And the amount was amended on the floor from \$276, 019.39 to \$43, 566.18 as the 276K that was written on the warrant.

Article 6 Reconsideration passed unanimously.

Jon Lumbra let the voters know what percentages of the free cash were being used.

Article 6 passed unanimously.

Article 7 Christine Fowles moved, and Dan LaValley seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$308,492.26 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund. Chrstine made a motion to amend the amount on the floor to \$87, 132.36.

Article 7 passed unanimously.

Article 8 Dan LaValley moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$64,945.74 from Free Cash to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Account.

There was an amendment in the motion to the amount on the floor to correct the amount from \$64,945.74 to \$14,522.06. The vote on the amended article passed unanimously.

Article 8 passed unanimously.

Article 9 Stephen Johnson moved, and Dan LaValley seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$200,000 from Free Cash to the Norris Elementary School Account for Central Office expenses.

The motion was read to be on the record as \$150,000.00 which was incorrectly written in the warrant. Dawn Scarpoletti (sp) spoke on this article.

Article 9 passed by majority.

Article 10 Jon Lumbra moved, and Stephen Johnson seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$367,584.50 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to the Norris School, Library, Cemetery Commission, Fire and Police Accounts to fund the approved projects by the Capital Improvement Committee as listed in Article 10 of May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The amount of the transfer was revised with an amendment on the floor from \$367,584.50 to \$367,644.50. Bradley Okscin Town Accountant amended this article on the floor. Jon Lumbra seconded. Amendment passed by majority

Article 10 The vote on the amended article passed unanimously.

Article 11 Stephen Johnson moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town rescind previously approved capital projects, as listed in Article 18 of May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
30-196-5700-00000 Computer Network Server	\$7,500.00	FY 19	
30-210-5801-00000 Portable Radios	\$18,000.00	FY 21	
30-196-5705-00000 Software	\$1,869.79	FY 20	PC and
30-300-5808-00000 Laptops	\$329.00	FY 17	

30-300-5815-00000 Sidewalk Repairs	\$600.00	FY 20	
30-610-5703-00000 Flooring	\$7,627.00	FY 25	Library
30-610-5700-00000 Library Boiler	\$2,640.00	FY 22	
30-220-5815-00000 Sidewalk Repairs	\$600.00	FY 21	
30-422-5804-00000 Highway Plow	\$35,103.00	FY 20	
30-422-5811-00000 Sander Truck	\$6,608.10	FY 21	F550 Wing
30-422-5815-00000 Truck	\$2,266.07	FY 23	Highway Dump
30-300-5817-00000	\$1,906.73	FY 21	PA System

Jon Lumbra made a point of order on this article to strike through in the motion the referenced Article is 18 on the warrant and should be Article 11. Stephen seconded. Amendment passes majority

Article 11 passed unanimously.

Article 12 Dan LaValley moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town rescind Article 13 of December 5, 2023, Special Town Meeting authorizing the borrowing of \$89,000 for a new school van.

Jon Lumbra made the motion Stephen Johnson seconded to come back to this article because the incorrect amounts were written on the warrant. Jon then motioned to correct the amount written in the motion from \$89,000.00 to the correct amount of \$98,000.00 which was approved on December 5th, 2023, Special Town Meeting.

Article 12 passed unanimously.

Article 13 Christine Fowles moved, and Dan LaValley seconded that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Sections 45 and 47, and establish a Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds to manage all trust funds held by the Town, unless otherwise provided by the donor or by law.

Article 13 passed unanimously.

Article 14 Dan LaValley moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 1B, that the members of the Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds shall be appointed by the Selectboard.

Article 14 passed unanimously.

Article 15 Stephen Johnson moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$65,000 from the Retained Earnings line to the Water Enterprise Fund Line to FY2026 61-Water Enterprise Fund Line.

Article 15 passed unanimously.

Article 16 Jon Lumbra moved, and Stephen Johnson seconded that the Town appropriates the sum of \$190,000 to purchase and install a new heating system for the Highway Department facility, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$98,000.00 under G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds and notes therefor; provided; and, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount authorized to be borrowed for such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied that may be necessary for that purpose.

This Article is written with the amount of 98,000.00 to be borrowed, when Jon read the motion, he said 190,000.00 twice which is the correct amount. Since this is a borrowing article, it has to be voted on with paper ballots. The counters collected them and counted with Chief Illingsworth present.

Article 16 passed 105 yays to 2 nays. This Article passes meeting 2/3 majority vote.

Article 17 Stephen Johnson moved and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town appropriates the sum of \$2,069,842.00 for the purpose of replacing and upgrading water mains on College Highway, and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$2,069,842.00 under G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds and notes therefor; provided; and, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount authorized to be borrowed for such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied that may be necessary for that purpose.

This Article is also a borrowing article The counters once again counted with Chief Illingsworth in their presence.

Article 17 passed by the majority 102 yays 2 nays. This article passes meeting 2/3 majority vote.

Article 18 Dan LaValley moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to transfer for the previous fiscal year bills totaling \$18.81 as listed in Article 18 of the May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

It was brought to the attention of the moderator that this is a Fy 24 Bill not Fy25. Mr. Moderator stated that it does not affect the motion.

Article 18 passed unanimously.

Article 19 Christine Fowles moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT agreement pursuant to G.L. c. 59, §5, or any other enabling authority, on account of a solar photovoltaic facility or facilities to be installed on the property located at and known at 160 East Street and shown on the Assessor's Map; #36; Parcel #1, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town, and to authorize the Select Board to take any other action necessary for the implementation and administration of such agreement.

Article 19 passed unanimously.

Article 20 Dan LaValley moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town amend Chapter 234 of the Town's General Bylaws, entitled "Swimming Pools" by amending the existing language as noted, deleting existing language where noted

and replacing it with the new language as shown, as set forth in Article 20 of the Warrant for the May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting.

In part 7 of restrictions it was noted to correct where it says above ground pools and insert the word **“ladders” must be removed when the pool is not in use, if not secured by fencing,**

Article 20 passes with 63 yay and 22 nays due to voice vote being uncertain by the moderator.

Article 21 Stephen Johnson moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to adopt the changes to Chapter 264 General Bylaws: Wetlands Protection as presented in Article 21 of the Warrant for May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting. Dan LaValley read the amendments to this Article that were highlighted in bold on the Town Warrant.

Article 21 passed by majority.

Article 22 : Jon Lumbra moved, and Stephen Johnson seconded that the Town vote to adjust the eligibility factors for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, by 100% of the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, and to fix that annual increase at 100% of CPI to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

It was brought to our attention by the Board of Assessors that the Clause should be written as 17D not 41C as written in the warrant, this was amended on the floor.

Article 22 passed unanimously.

Article 23 Stephen Johnson moved and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to adjust the eligibility factors for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D, by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

Article 23 passed unanimously.

Article 24 Dan LaValley moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to amend the Southampton Zoning Bylaw Chapter 275 of the Code of Southampton, by amending § 275-2.3 “Definitions”, § 275-7.5 “Accessory dwelling units”, § 275-7.5 “Accessory Dwelling Units”; and revising Attachment 1 – Table 1 Use Regulations and insert in its place the amendments listed in Article 25 of the May 6, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. **The motion reads as Article 25 of the May 6th 2025 Annual Town Meeting, due to a typo; the article it should be referencing is Article 24.**

Article 24 passed unanimously, meeting 2/3rds majority.

Article 25 Christine Fowles moved, and Dan LaValley seconded that the Town vote to adopt the changes to the Southampton Zoning Bylaw Chapter 275 replacing Article IX entitled “Site Plan Review and Approval” with new language title “Site Plan Review” listed in Article 26 of the May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting Warrant. **The warrant states it is listed under Article 26. Due to a typo, the article it should reference is Article 25 of the May 6, 2025 Annual Town Meeting.**

Article 25 passed unanimously, meeting 2/3rds majority

Article 26: Dan LaValley moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to adopt the changes to the Southampton Zoning Bylaw Chapter 275 amending § 275-3.2.B, § 275-3.9, § 275-7.4.B(1), § 275-7.5. E (1), and § 275-7.15. E (1) as listed in Article 26 of May 6, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 26 passed unanimously, meeting 2/3rds majority

Article 27 Stephen Johnson moved, and Jon Lumbra seconded that the Town vote to amend the Southampton Zoning Bylaw Chapter 275 of the Code of Southampton, Solar electric generating facilities, by amending § 275-2.3 “Definitions” to insert new definitions regarding solar electric generating installations; § 275-7.6 “Solar electric generating facilities”, amend Attachment 1 – Table 1 Use Regulations in the “Wholesale, Transportation and Industrial” uses category, and repeal the existing § 275-7.6 “Solar electric generating facilities” in its entirety and replace with it with new language as shown, as set forth in Article 27 of the Warrant for the May 6, 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 27 passed unanimously meeting 2/3rds majority

Article 28 Sierra Simmons moved the Town vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee for fiscal year 2026 and to allocate sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund as presented in Article 28 of May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting.

Article 28 passed unanimously.

Article 29 Sierra Simmons moved, that the Town vote to transfer the sum of sixty-six thousand (\$66,000) dollars from Community Preservation Surcharges to the Southampton Greenway Committee for the Town's local matching share of a Mass Trails Grant for the design process of the Greenway bicycle & pedestrian path, said funds to be taken from Community Preservation Surcharges – Open Space/Recreation Account.

Article 29 passed unanimously.

Article 30 Jon Lumbra moved, and Stephen Johnson seconded that the Town vote to set the limitation on expenditures for each Revolving Fund be established according to Article 30 of May 6, 2025, Annual Town Meeting.

Article 30 passed unanimously.

A motion and second to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 9:48pm

The move to dissolve passes unanimously, Mr. Moderator declared the meeting dissolved.

Video of Meeting can be found on Southampton Town Website under Southampton TV link.

A true copy of the minutes of the meeting

Attest:

**Lucille A Dalton,
Town Clerk
Town of Southampton**

****The Annual Town meeting is the responsibility of the Town Moderator and the Town's Selectboard. The Town Clerk is only responsible for setting up the workers for checking in and counting, for the swearing in of necessary individuals (i., Deputy Moderator) at the Town Meeting, and the recording in written manner of the minutes of the Town meeting. The Town clerk will refer to the video if necessary to confirm anything questionable.**

Speakers at the Town meeting on May 6, 2025

**Dylan Mawdsley
Jennifer Johnson
Mark Kassis
Jonathan Jay
Martha Issod
Tim Gaudet
Randall Kemp-Highway Superintendent
Kathleen McKeown-Admin Assistant for Assessors
Maureen Groden
Tammy Walunas
Scott Szczebak
Brian Kelly-KP Law- Legal Counsel
Margaret Larson- Norris School Committee
Michael Fredette
Aaron Simms
Vito Perrone
Aliza Pluta
Sierra Simmons
Michael Buehler
Erin Dufresne
Ian Illingsworth
Bradley Okscin
Susan Sussman
Brett Simmons
Paul Diemand
Ron Laurin
Kate Savarese**

