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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF OXFORD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

WORCESTER, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Oxford in the County of Worcester

GREETING.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the **Oxford High School, 100 Carbuncle Drive** in said Oxford on **Wednesday, May 7, 2025** at **7:00 p.m.**, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. To hear the reports of any Town Officers or Committees.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation or transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Finance Director and Acting Town Manager

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to meet the State's share of the cost for Town roadway maintenance and repair, such amount to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as State Highway Aid (Fiscal Year 2026 Chapter 90 Apportionment); or act thereon.

Sponsored by the DPW Director, Finance Director, and Acting Town Manager

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to establish the Fiscal Year 2026 spending limits for each revolving fund established in the Oxford General By-Laws CHAPTER SEVENTY-FOUR, Revolving Funds, as follows:

Wiring Inspector Fees Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)

Plumbing Inspector Fees: Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)

Gas Inspector Fees: Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)

Building Inspector Fees: Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)

Sealer of Weights and Measures: Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)

Utilities: Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00)

Animal Control: Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)

Board of Health: Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00)

Rocky Hill Yard Waste Facility: Twenty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$29,500)

Emergency Address Program: Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000);

or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Finance Director and Acting Town Manager

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation or transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to the Compensated Absence Fund; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Finance Director and Acting Town Manager

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation or transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, for Fiscal Year 2026; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Finance Director and Acting Town Manager

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate a sum of money to supplement the Town's expenditure for the Police Department operating budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026), provided, however, that any appropriation made hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval of the voters at the May 20, 2025, Annual Town Election of an override of Proposition 2½ so-called, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g); or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Police Chief

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate a sum of money to supplement the Town's expenditure for the School Department operating budget, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026), provided, however, that any appropriation made hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval of the voters at the May 20, 2025, Annual Town Election, of an override of Proposition 2½ so-called, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g); or act thereon.

Sponsored by the School Committee

ARTICLE 9. To determine what sums of money the Town will vote to raise by taxation or transfer from available funds and appropriate to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including debt and interest, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026); or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Finance Director and Acting Town Manager

ARTICLE 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, established by a vote of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 13, as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53f½, as amended, to fund PEG access programming, as well as certain other municipal cable related expenses for Fiscal Year 2026; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Finance Director and Acting Town Manager

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation or transfer from available funds or borrow and authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue a note or notes and/or bond or bonds and appropriate a sum of money for the Capital Outlay Program for Fiscal Year 2026, including any incidental and related expenses; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Finance Director and Acting Town Manager

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32, Section 4(2)(b) and Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32, Section 4(2)(b½), to allow reserve, permanent-intermittent or call firefighters to be credited with full-time service for the purpose of calculating retirement benefits in accordance with Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws and other applicable laws and collective bargaining agreements; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Fire Chief

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available sums and appropriate a sum of money for the balance of the costs to purchase and equip a new ambulance, and any vote under this article shall take effect forthwith upon its adoption; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Fire Chief

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5C ½, providing for an additional uniform real estate property tax exemption for taxpayers who are granted personal exemptions on their domiciles under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, including certain blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses and seniors, which exemption shall be set at such percentage of the personal exemption, up to 100% beyond the base amount, as Town Meeting may determine, and shall be effective for FY26 and future fiscal years; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Veterans Agent and Assessor

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available sums and appropriate a sum of money for Carbuncle Pond water quality testing, permitting, and treatment, and any vote under this article shall take effect forthwith upon its adoption; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Director of the Oxford Community Center, DPW Director, and Public Health Director

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Oxford Zoning By-Laws to delete Chapter III, Section 3.9: Apartments-Accessory/In-Law in its entirety and all references to such use in other sections of the By-laws, and to insert in its place a new section providing for Accessory Dwelling Units in the Town, all as set forth more particularly in the document on file in the Office of the Town Clerk; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Planning Board

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter X – Dimensional Requirements of the Oxford Zoning By-Laws, including deletion of Section 8.0 Regularity Factor, and revisions to Table IV, all as set forth more particularly in the document placed on file in the Office of the Town Clerk; or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Planning Board

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Charter, Chapter 5, the Town Manager, Section 3, Powers and duties, by adding a new section 5-3-12 therein.

“The town manager shall hold a town hall style event at least fourteen days prior to any town meeting. This event shall be held in the location of the next town meeting or a publicly accessible venue. The meeting notice shall be posted at least thirty days prior to the event. The town manager shall answer questions and concerns from the public during this meeting.” Or act thereon.

Sponsored by Timothy Moriarty

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Charter, Chapter 5, The Town Manager, Section 2, Qualifications, by amending section 5-2-2 therein in the sentence,

“The town manager need not be a resident of the Town when appointed, but he shall take up residence within eight months following his appointment”, so that section 5-2-2 as amended shall read as follows:

5-2-2 “In selecting a town manager, the board of selectmen shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates, including an advertisement in a then current nationwide town manager publication. The town manager shall take up primary residence within fifteen miles of Oxford, within six months following his appointment. The town manager shall not have held an elective office of the town of Oxford within two years immediately prior to his appointment.” Or act thereon.

Sponsored by Timothy Moriarty

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town bylaws, chapter 74, revolving funds, by adding a new section 3, Rocky Hill waste fee schedule.

“Rocky Hill waste fee schedule for commercial landscapers shall be \$250 for a full year sticker” Or act thereon.

Sponsored by Chris Everitt

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Post Office on the Plains, the Post Office in North Oxford, Memorial Hall, Huguenot Steamer No. 2 and the Post Office in Rochdale in said Town, seven days at least before the time of said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 8th day of April, 2025.

Debby Lee
John Bent
Jimmy F. neck
PCRheault

SELECTMEN OF OXFORD

WORCESTER, SS.

PURSUANT TO THE WITHIN WARRANT, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Oxford by posting up attested copies of the same at the Post Office on the Plains, the Post Office in North Oxford, Memorial Hall, Huguenot Steamer No. 2 and the Post Office in Rochdale seven days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.

Anthony Lyons
constable of Oxford

A true copy, ATTEST:

Date: Apr: 23, 2025

A True Copy

Attest:

Michele Jackson
Town Clerk, Oxford