

TOWN OF FLORIDA
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

To either of the constables of the Town of Florida in the County of Berkshire:

GREETINGS:

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 Florida Senior/Community Center, 367 Mohawk Trail, Drury, MA 01343, on Friday, June 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2025 in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes, 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 General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 2:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,858,646.74** from taxation or any other amount for the following or take any other action in relation thereto.

	FY25 Appropriated	FY26 Requested	FY26 Recommended
2.01 AJ Poirot War Memorial	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
2.02 Berkshire Regional Planning Com	\$ 605.60	\$ 620.74	\$ 620.74
2.03 Cemetery	\$ 16,524.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
2.04 Cemetery Repair & Expansion	\$ 1,670.00	\$ 1,670.00	\$ 1,670.00
2.05 Cemetery Stone Repair	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
2.06 Deductible on Town Insurance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
2.07 Demo of Condemned Property	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
2.08 Dental Insurance	\$ 31,506.00	\$ 29,000.00	\$ 29,000.00
2.09 Employment Security & FICA	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
2.10 Emergency Management Coord Supp	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
2.11 Fire Dept Supplies & Expenses	\$ 36,500.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
2.12 Fire Dept New Equipment	\$ 8,650.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,500.00
2.13 Historical Committee Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
2.14 Interest on Town Notes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
2.15 Health & Life Insurance	\$ 530,650.00	\$ 530,650.00	\$ 530,650.00
2.16 Library	\$ 39,387.32	\$ 40,222.00	\$ 40,222.00
2.17 Library CW Mars	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,050.00
2.18 Legal Fees	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
2.19 Maintenance on Bldgs & Grounds	\$ 56,182.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
2.20 No Berkshire Solid Waste	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 3,075.00
2.21 Printing	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
2.22 Rental Equipment for Highway	\$ 16,650.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
2.23 Reserve Account	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
2.24 Road Maintenance	\$ 291,720.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
2.25 Snow Roads & Bridges	\$ 260,000.00	\$ 290,000.00	\$ 260,000.00
2.26 Sick Pay for Highway	\$ 17,876.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
2.29 Personal Time Highway	\$ 4,356.00	\$ 4,356.00	\$ 4,356.00
2.27 Telephone/Electric/Fuel Oil/Maintenance	\$ 66,402.00	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 72,000.00
2.28 Town Insurance	\$ 64,392.60	\$ 67,750.00	\$ 67,750.00
2.29 Tractor & Machinery	\$ 118,965.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
2.30 Tree Work	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
2.31 Vacation Pay for Highway	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 13,703.00	\$ 13,703.00
2.32 Veteran's Services	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00

2.33 Waste Management	\$	101,043.00	\$	105,000.00	\$	105,000.00
Total Article 2	\$	1,806,179.52	\$	1,858,646.74	\$	1,858,646.74

Article 3:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$291,325.00 from taxation, or any other amount, for the following or take any other action in relation thereto.

		FY25 Appropriated	FY26 Requested	FY26 Recommended
3.01	Accounting Officer Salary	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 15,750.00
301	Account Officer Consultant Salary	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 4,050.00	\$ 4,050.00
3.02	Accounting Officer Supp & Exp	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
3.03	Animal Inspector Salary	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
3.04	Animal Inspector - Supplies	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
3.05	Assessors' Salaries	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
3.06	Assessors' Chair Salary	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
3.07	Assessors' Clerk Salary	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
3.08	Assessors' Supplies & Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
3.09	Assessors' School/ Workshops	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
3.10	Assessors' Map Maintenance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
3.11	Assessors' Value Maint & Tax Billing	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00
3.12	Assessors' Hydro Re-eval	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
3.13	Auditor Salary	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
3.14	Board of Health Salaries	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 2,025.00
3.15	Board of Health Chair Salary	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
3.16	Board of Health Supplies & Exp	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
3.17	Board of Health Dump Stickers	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00
3.18	COA Operating Account	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
3.19	Dog Control Officer Salary	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
3.20	Dog Control Officer Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
3.21	Veterinarian Expenses		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
3.22	Building Inspector Supplies	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
3.23	McCann Rep Expenses	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
3.24	Planning Board Salaries	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
3.25	Planning Board Chair Salary	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
3.26	Planning Board Clerk Salary	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
3.27	Planning Board Expenses	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
3.28	Police Work & Expenses	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
3.29	School Committee Salary	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 1,950.00
3.30	Selectmens' Salaries	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00
3.31	Selectmens' Chair Salary	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
3.32	Selectmens' Clerk Salary	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00
3.33	Selectmens' Supplies & Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
3.34	Town Administrator Salary	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 57,750.00	\$ 57,750.00
3.35	Town Administrator Supplies	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
3.36	Town Clerk Salary	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,750.00	\$ 10,750.00
3.37	Town Clerk Assistant Salary	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
3.38	Town Clerk Supplies & Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
3.39	Town Clerk Election Officers	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
3.38	Town Clerk Listing	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
3.40	Town Clerk Voter Registration	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00
3.41	Town Officer/Employee Misc. Supp	\$ 16,626.00	\$ 17,125.00	\$ 17,125.00
3.42	Treasurer Salary	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 15,750.00
3.43	Treasurer Expenses		\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
3.44	Treasurer Education		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
3.45	Tax Collector Salary	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 15,750.00
3.46	Tax Collector Expenses	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
3.47	Tax Collector Education		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00

3.48 Tax Collector Tax Titles and Foreclosure	\$	12,000.00	\$	12,000.00	\$	12,000.00
3.49 Treasurer/Collector Software Support	\$	3,500.00	\$	3,500.00	\$	3,500.00
3.50 Treasurer Payroll Processing	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00
3.51 Tax Collector Print MVE Bills	\$	2,000.00	\$	3,000.00	\$	3,000.00
3.52 Veterans Services Supplies	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00
Total Article 3	\$	283,301.00	\$	291,325.00	\$	291,325.00

Article 4:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,426,085.42 from taxation, or any other amount, for SCHOOLS, or take any other action in relation thereto. (FY25 was \$1,440,280.86).

Article 5:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$419,917.00 from taxation, or any other amount, for Northern Berkshire Vocational Tech School (McCann), or take any other action in relation thereto. (FY25 was \$384,539.00)

Article 6:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$185,000.00 from taxation, or any other amount, for Berkshire County Retirement Systems for the annual assessment, or take any other action in relation thereto. (FY25 was \$174,570.00)

Article 7:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,900.00 from taxation, or any other amount, to contract with the State Police to patrol town roads, or take any other action in relation thereto. (FY25 was \$2,900.00)

Article 8 :

To see if the Town will vote to direct, in accordance with MGL, chapter 44, Section 53 1/2, that the fees collected for plumbing permits be credited to the departmental revolving fund of the Plumbing Inspector with expenditures from said fund for fiscal year 2026 to be used to defray the cost of the Plumbing Inspector Salary and Code Enforcement, such expenditures are not to exceed \$8,000.00 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 9:

To see if the Town will vote to direct, in accordance with MGL, chapter 44, Section 53 1/2, that the fees collected for wiring permits be credited to the departmental revolving fund of the Wiring Inspector with expenditures from said fund for fiscal year 2026 to be used to defray the cost of the Wiring Inspector Salary and Code Enforcement, such expenditures are not to exceed \$8,000.00 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 10:

To see if the Town will vote to direct, in accordance with MGL, chapter 44, Section 53 1/2, that the fees collected for building permits be credited to the departmental revolving fund of the Building Inspector with expenditures from said fund for fiscal year 2026 to be used to defray the cost of the Building Inspector Salary and Code Enforcement, such expenditures are not to exceed \$8,000.00 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 11:

To see if the Town will vote to direct, in accordance with MGL, chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, that the fees collected for board of health permits be credited to the departmental revolving fund of the Board of Health, with expenditures from said fund for fiscal year 2026 to be used to defray the cost of the Board of Health Salary and Code Enforcement, such expenditures not to exceed \$8,000.00, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 12:

To see if the Town will vote to accept funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair and construction of Town Ways and Bridges, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 13:

To see if the town will vote to transfer \$1,000,000.00 or any other amount, from Free Cash to Stabilization, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 14:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,000.00 from taxation, or any other amount for a Town Audit, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 15:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,000.00 from taxation, or any other amount, for IT Support, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 16:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Office Holders in Town to receive the same compensation as others for work in any capacity as required by Chapter 41, Section 41 of the General Laws

Article 17:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00, from taxation, or any other amount, for a computer for the Board of Health, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 18:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,790.00, from taxation, or any other amount, to Maintain and Paint the Tilda Hill Fire Station, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 19:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,495.00, from taxation, or any other amount, to Paint the Church Road Fire Station, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 20:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00, from taxation, or any other amount, to purchase new Highway Equipment, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 21:

To see if the Town will vote to change the speed for Tilda Hill Road, from the current limit of 35 mph to 25 mph, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 22:

Amendment to Section 4 of the Town of Florida General Bylaws

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 4 of the Town of Florida General Bylaws, Local Licensing and Permits, to delete the language shown in strike-through and insert the language shown in bold underline, as set forth below, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Section 4 Local Licensing and Permits

Section 4.1 Definitions

Tax Collector

The tax collector of the Town of Florida elected pursuant to Section One Chapter forty-one of the Massachusetts General Law.

Licensing Authority

Each Board, Commission, department, division or official of the Town of Florida that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers.

Section 4.2 Notification of Licensing Authority by Tax Collector

The Tax Collector shall annually, and may periodically, furnish to each ~~licensing authority~~ **Licensing Authority** a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that had neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other Municipal charges ~~for not less than a twelve-month period~~, and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.

Section 4.3 Action of Licensing Authority

The Licensing Authority may deny, revoke or suspend any building permit or local license or permit, including renewals and transfers of any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the Licensing Authority ~~licensing authority~~ from tax collector, providing however, that written notice is given to the party and tax collector, as required by applicable provisions of the law, and the party is given a hearing, to be held not earlier than fourteen days after said notice, Said list shall be a prima facie evidence for denial, revocation or suspension of said license or permit to any party. The Tax Collector shall have the right to intervene in any hearing conducted with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any findings made by the Licensing Authority ~~licensing authority~~ with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension shall be made only for the purpose of such proceeding and shall not be relevant to or introduced in any other proceeding at law, except for any appeal for such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any license or permit denied, suspended or revoked under this section shall not be reissued or renewed until the Licensing Authority ~~license authority~~ receives a certificate issued by the Tax Collector that the party is in good standing with respect to any and all local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments, or other municipal charges, payable to the municipality as the date of issuance of said certificate.

Section 4.4 Payment Agreement

Any party shall be given an opportunity to enter into a payment agreement, thereby allowing the Licensing Authority ~~licensing authority~~ to issue a certificate indicating said limitation to the license or permit and the validity of said license shall be conditioned upon the satisfactory compliance with said agreement. Failure to comply with said agreement shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of said license or permits; provided, however, that the holder be given a notice and a hearing as required by applicable provisions of laws.

Section 4.5 Power of Selectboard to Waive Action

The Selectboard may waive such denial, suspension, or revocation if it finds there is no direct or indirect business interest by the property owner, its officers or stockholders, if any, or members of his immediate family, as defined in section one of chapter two hundred and sixty-eight A of Massachusetts General Laws in the business or activity conducted in or on said property.

Section 4.6 Bylaw not Applicable to Certain Licenses and Permits

The bylaw shall not apply to the following licenses and permits: open burning, section thirteen of chapter forty-eight; bicycle permits, section eleven A of Chapter eighty-five; sales of articles for charitable purposes, section thirty-three of chapter one hundred and one; children work permits, section sixty-nine of chapter one hundred and forty-nine; clubs, associations dispensing food for beverage licenses, section twenty-one E of chapter one hundred and forty; dog licenses; section one hundred and thirty-seven of chapter one hundred and forty; fishing, hunting, trapping license, section twelve of chapter one hundred and thirty-one; marriage licenses, section twenty-eight of chapter two hundred and seven; and theatrical events, public exhibition permits, section one hundred and eighty-one of chapter one hundred and forty of Massachusetts General Laws.

Berkshire SS

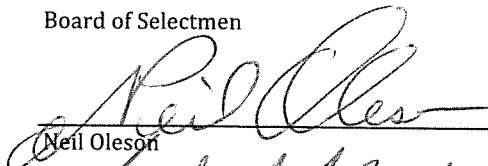
You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting copies thereof at Town Hall, Town Website, and Mailed to each Town Household, seven days, at least, before date of said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of the Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk on or before June 13, 2025 at 10:00 O'clock AM


Given under our hands this 4th day of June, Two Thousand Twenty Five

Board of Selectmen

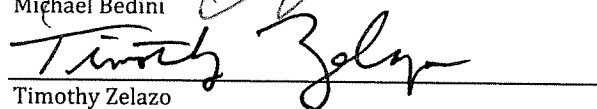
Attest a True Copy:



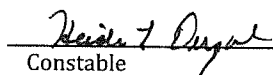
Neil Oleson



Michael Bedini



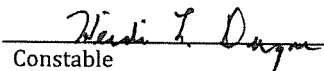
Timothy Zelazo



Constable

Berkshire SS

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Florida by posting an attested copy of same at Town Offices and Town Website and mailed to each household, at least seven days before said meeting as within directed.



Constable
Town of Florida

Dated : June 4th 2025