

**MINUTES**  
**Warrant Committee Meeting**  
**April 11, 2023**

<b>Warrant Committee Members</b>	Steve Callahan, Bob Sliney, Ed Vozzella, Brent Nelson, Peter Michelson Mather Eldred, Jill Rafter, Jeremy Marsette Not Participating: Sharon Tatro
<b>Guests</b>	<b>Remotely:</b> Robert Heald-Council on Ageing, Megan Sullivan Energy Committee <b>In Person:</b> Eileen Murphy, Gus Murby -Medfield Selectboard Kristine Trierweiler, Town Administrator Frank Gervasio, Deputy Town Administrator Andrew Foster, Town Accountant Daniel Burgess, Medfield Police League Michelle Guerette, Chief Medfield Police Department Christian Carpenter, Water and Sewer Board Maurice Goulet, DPW Director
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Town Building Chenery Hall
<b>Meeting Times</b>	7:00 p.m. to 8:48
<b>Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</b>	February 28 and March 20
<b>Operational Budgets (including votes taken)</b>	Addressed in narrative that follows
<b>Warrant Articles (including votes taken)</b>	Addressed in narrative that follows
<b>List of all documents and exhibits used</b>	Agenda for Meeting Draft Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting May 1, 2023 MOU by and between Town of Medfield and Police League, Masscop Local 257 Water Enterprise Budget Sewer Enterprise Budget Town Presentation on Article 5 Revocation of Civil Service Email from Megan Sullivan Dated April 10, 2023 Final Budget worksheet April 11, 2023 reflecting Balanced Budget Minutes of WC meeting February 28 and March 20
<b>Other Business</b>	n/a
<b>Follow-ups</b>	
<b>Dates for Meetings including WC</b>	

**Discussion with  
Financial Team**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twUN-YCEkbw>

Declaring a quorum of 8 of 9 Committee members in attendance, Steve Callahan Chairman called the meeting to order.

The first order of business is the approval of minutes as submitted and amended of February 28 and March 20.

The next order of business was the review and potential vote on The Articles for the Annual Town Meeting May 1, 2023. The 31 Articles are addressed in order, for the specific wording of each Article reference is made to the Warrant Report provided:

Article 1 – Annual Town Reports – with no further discussion presented, a vote was taken, Article 1 was unanimously recommended for passage.

Article 2 – Elected Official Compensation – with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the article as presented in the Warrant.

Article 3 – Personnel Administration Plan - which had been presented and discussed at a previous WC meeting - with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the article as presented in the Warrant.

Discussion on Articles 4 and 5 was deferred to later in the meeting.

Articles 6,7 and 8 pertain to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund which had been presented and discussed at a previous WC meeting - with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the Article 6, 7 and 8 as presented in the Warrant.

Articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 addressing Revolving Funds Vine Lake Cemetery and PEG which had been presented and discussed at previous WC meetings - with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the articles as presented in the Warrant.

Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 address Municipal Buildings and Capital Stabilization Funds which had been presented and discussed at previous WC meetings - with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the articles as presented in the Warrant.

Articles 19, 20, 21 and 22 in the category Other Financial Articles were addressed.

Article 19 was moved to the end of this meeting.

Article 20 provides \$250,000 for Elementary School Feasibility Study Funding to the School Building Committee. A brief discussion followed with a comment from Eldred Mather, the WC representative on the School Building Committee, stating there has been some discussion on the use of these funds but no definite use has been identified since the SBC is in very early stage; it was agreed that the funds were appropriate for the SBC to begin its deliberations - with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the article as presented in the Warrant.

Article 21 authorized \$6,221.50 to pay prior year's bills - with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the article as presented in the Warrant.

Article 22 the FY 2024 Operating Budget, included as a document, had been voted non and approved for passage at a prior meeting.

Article 23 Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Budgets (included as attachment to the minutes) – Jeremy Marssette addressed the budget, confirmed Assistant Town Administrator Frank Gravano has provided a summary of the allocation of town costs to the Enterprise funds and confirmed with Christian Carpenter that the Water and Sewer Board has voted on and approved the budgets as presented- with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the article as presented in the Warrant.

Article 24 Rescind bond authorization for the water treatment plant – in the 2022 town Meeting borrowing of \$12million was authorized, subsequently \$11.5 million was borrowed, the remaining \$500,000 is no longer needed - with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the article as presented in the Warrant.

Having concluded discussion of Financial Articles the next items for discussion are General Articles 25, 26 and 27.

Article 26 School Committee PPA and Lease Authorization for Solar Photovoltaic – this article was discussed at a prior meeting included a Presentation by Megan Sullivan of the Energy Committee and a representative of Eversource - there were several open questions which were followed up on a April 10 email from Megan Sullivan to the satisfaction of the Warrant Committee members - with no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the WC unanimously recommended passage of the article as presented in the Warrant.

Article 26 Change of Hours for Noise Bylaw – this vote was taken at a previous meeting, Kristine Trierweiler clarified that the bylaw pertains to commercial operations and not to individual homeowners. The previous vote six in favor three opposed stands, the

recommendation from the Warrant Committee is to recommend passage with the Minority Report from three members to be addressed at the April 25 meeting.

Article 27 Water Conservation Private Well Restrictions is sponsored by the Selectboard, Selectperson Eileen Murphy addressed the Warrant Committee on the reasoning behind the Article. Subsequent discussion followed with input from Christian Carpenter of the Water and Sewer Commission, Moe Goulet DPW director as well as members of the Warrant Committee, addressing questions of impact of restricting the 170 private wells registered with the town, the ability to enforce such restrictions, the legal implications of imposing restrictions on homeowners' private property, and whether this issue had been properly vetted among the town residents, property owners affected, legal counsel, and whether the impact on the town's water supply had been measured. A decision was made to defer a vote on this Article to the April 25 meeting.

Article 19 Construction of Garage at the Center was then taken up. Kristine Trierweiler presented an overview of the context for this article stating it has been a request since 2018 when a proposal for a garage in the range of \$175,000 to \$300,000 for a three bay, two story garage to secure COA vehicles and storage was presented. In 2021 in response to issues related to the development of Hinkley South, the town asked the COA to provide 1 acre of land under their care, custody and control, which the developer would pay \$700,000 of which the town would agree to present an Article to the town meeting to spend up to \$300,000 of those proceeds for the construction of the garage. Gus Murby spoke on behalf of the Selectboard support of this garage and the context of the agreement. Bob Heald addressed the committee remotely answering questions and stating this was a pressing need for the protection of new vehicles, the inadequacy of current storage space and possible use of the facility in the event of inclement weather during a scheduled outdoors event. Discussions included a question on whether this is the highest priority for the COA. It was decided that a vote on this Article would be deferred to the April 25 meeting.

The Committee then took up a discussion on Article 4 Collective Bargaining Agreement Police and Article 5 Revocation of Civil service. Although these Articles require separate votes, they are inter-related and the subsequent discussions address both articles together.

Article 5 was addressed first with a presentation by Kristine Trierweiler, Chief Michelle Guerette and Sargent Daniel Burgess President of the Police League. The key points addressed changes needed to be competitive with surrounding towns who have withdrawn from civil service, provide support for recruitment and retention, provide greater flexibility in selecting candidates and

	<p>provide local control to the town for hiring, retention and promotion. The Police union supports the withdrawal from Civil Service and has ratified the approval in the current agreement. The union recognizes the Civil Service system makes it difficult to hire and retain qualified personnel and the current collective bargaining agreement provides protection for current civil service members as well as keeping in place the protections for hiring, promotion and grievance processes in place. Both the town and the union agree the current environment is susceptible to officers “shopping” for better opportunities in towns under civil service, this is detrimental to providing a stable police force. The town and union agree the Collective Bargaining Agreement in Article 4 is “very competitive” with surrounding towns and will contribute to a stable, locally managed police department. It was noted that if Article 5 is acted upon favorably at town meeting it requires passage in the general town election in March 2024. There being no further discussion a motion was made to approve a recommendation of passage of Articles 4 and 5 as printed in the warrant, motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>The next items for discussion Citizens’ Petitions Articles 28 School Committee Public Hearing, 29 Compensation Transparency and 30 Creation of Groundwater Protection Committee, along with Article 19 Construction of the Garage at the Center would be addressed at the April 25 meeting.</p> <p>Steve Callahan addressed a previous Article, School Committee Bylaw, had been withdrawn by the Selectboard. Selectperson Gus Murby addressed the Warrant Committee and explained the original intention behind the article reason for the withdrawal.</p> <p>There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Robert Sliney</p>
<b>Attachments</b>	See list of documents and exhibits

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved minutes to be sent to: [ktrierweiler@medfield.net](mailto:ktrierweiler@medfield.net)

[bfranklin@medfield.net](mailto:bfranklin@medfield.net)