

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, June 5, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

The Annual Town Meeting was held at the Anne T. Dunphy Gymnasium, 1 Petticoat Hill Rd., Williamsburg, MA

The warrant was signed and posted on May 25, 2023.

Moderator: Kayla Solomon

Town Clerk: Brenda Lessard

Selectmen Present: Denise Banister-Chair, and William Sayre

Constable: Paul Sanderson

There were 119 voters present of 2074 registered voters. This represents 5.7% voter turnout.

Last day to register to vote was May 26, 2023

William Sayre spoke about Dave Mathers' absence.

Stephen Smith, Chair of the Planning Board spoke briefly of the Planning Boards desire to begin work on a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Williamsburg.

Denise Banister read the dedication of the 2022 Town Report to Roger Bisbee.

A quorum of sixty (60) registered voters being present, there were 119 voters, the town meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by the Moderator. The Moderator noted the return of the warrant and that it had been properly posted.

Motion made and seconded that the Town adopt a rule that the Moderator be authorized to declare a 2/3 or 4/5 vote in the same manner as a majority vote is declared, provided that if a vote so declared is requested by seven (7) or more members of Town Meeting, the Moderator shall verify the vote by taking a count.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 1

Moved and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to M.G.L. c268A, §21A to authorize the Board of Selectmen, Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Board of Appeals, Finance Committee, and the Trustees of the Libraries to appoint their own members to positions under their respective jurisdictions at such salaries or wage rates to be established by the Board of Selectmen.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 2

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Moderator to choose a committee to expend the income from the Whiting Street Fund.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 3

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept monies from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, including but not limited to Chapter 90 funds, for the maintenance and reconstruction of Town roads and bridges, and to authorize expenditure of the same without further appropriation.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 4

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend any grants and/or gifts that may become available.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 5

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell, trade in or dispose of any surplus town-owned equipment and/or personal property.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 6

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$219,214 composed of the amounts listed below, for the purpose of operating, maintaining, and constructing the Town water system and all costs incidental and related thereto, including the laying of mains, for Fiscal Year 2024, and to take said sum from Water Enterprise Revenue.

Stipends	\$	2,940
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>216,274</u>
Total	\$	219,214

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 7

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$263,375 composed of the amounts listed below, for the purpose of operating, maintaining, and constructing the Town sewer system and all costs incidental and related thereto, for Fiscal Year 2024, and to take said sum from Sewer Enterprise Revenue.

Stipends	\$	2,940
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>260,435</u>
Total	\$	263,375

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 8

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings the sum of \$50,000 for needed work and upgrades to the Town wells.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 9

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Williamsburg entitled "Revolving Funds" by adding a revolving fund for monies associated with firearms licensing for firearms training for officers and the public and for all costs associated with firearms licensing.

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Authority to Spend</u>	<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Use of Fund</u>
Firearms Licensing Fund	Chief of Police	Monies paid for firearms licensing	Firearms training for officers and the public and for costs associated with firearms licensing

Motion made and seconded to move the question.

Motion Passed Majority (2 Nay)

Original Motion Passed Majority (2 Nay)

ARTICLE 10

Moved and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to M.G.L. c44, §53E1/2, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2024 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as outlined in Article 10 in the warrant.

REVOLVING FUND	\$ LIMIT
Board of Assessors.....	\$15,000
Gas Inspector.....	\$1,500
Electrical Inspector.....	\$10,000
Plumbing Inspector.....	\$4,000
Transfer Station Open Box....	\$30,000
Board of Appeals.....	\$6,000

REVOLVING FUND	\$ LIMIT
Planning Board.....	\$30,000
Animal Control Officer.....	\$5,000
Recreation Commission.....	\$30,000
Council on Aging.....	\$2,000
Conservation Commission.....	\$5,000
Fire Department.....	\$7,000

Total Spending.....\$145,500

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 11

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to approve the Capital Improvement Plan, as prepared and approved by the Finance Committee, including recommended capital improvements for the following five fiscal years. [see next page]

Motion made and seconded to call the question.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Original Motion Passed Unanimously

Total Debt Years	Years Remaining	Interest Rate %	Project Description	Funding Method	Funding Year	Cost to Town (Current \$\$, Interest Not Incl.)	Remaining Principle	FY 2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
APPROVED REQUESTS												
<u>Bonded</u>												
20	12	2.85	ATD School B	DE	FY13	5,183,250	3,118,103	328,750	318,350	312,950	302,350	296,750
20	20	3.60	Public Safety C	DE	FY24	3,600,000	3,600,000	260,600	265,100	264,225	263,100	261,725
<u>Short Term Borrowing</u>												
5	5	??	Fire Dept. Res	B	FY25	240,000	240,000	-	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000
<u>Third Party Assessments</u>												
TOTAL						9,023,250	6,958,103	589,350	631,450	625,175	613,450	606,475
FY OPERATION BUDGET (EST.)								9,068,534	9,521,961	9,998,059	10,497,962	11,022,860
DEBT PMNT. AS % BUDGET (EST.)								6.50	6.63	6.25	5.84	5.50
CURRENT REQUESTS PROPOSED FY2024												
			TFC - cemet	FC	FY24	17,880						
			FIRE - chief's v	FC	FY24	70,000						
			FIRE - tool set	FC	FY24	800						
			FIRE - utility tra	FC	FY24	7,800						
			HWY - tractor v	FC	FY24	60,000						
			HWY - truck wi	FC	FY24	60,000						
			HWY - dump tr	FC	FY24	110,000						
			LIB - haydenvill	FC	FY24	40,000						
			PB - meeting e	FC	FY24	2,100						
			POLICE - new	FC	FY24	66,000						
			MDAR - agricu	FC	FY24	20,500						
			TOTAL			455,080						
FUTURE REQUESTS												
			FIRE - Engine #2	FY25		275,000			275,000			
			TO - roof replacement	FY25		100,000			100,000			
			TO - gutter replacemem	FY25		15,000			15,000			
			TO - elevator upgrade(s	FY25		125,000			125,000			
			TO - bridget st. easeme	FY25		75,000			75,000			
			LIB - meekins mini splits	FY25		60,000			60,000			
			LIB - meekins re-point	FY25		50,000			50,000			
			FIRE - engine #4	FY26		500,000				500,000		
			LIB - meekins windows	FY26		50,000				50,000		
			LIB - meekins old entrar	FY26		10,000				10,000		
			HWY - truck 5 F550	FY26		75,000				75,000		
			TREA - pension liabilite	ongoing		3,100,000						
			TOTAL			4,435,000			700,000	635,000		

ARTICLE 12

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected and appointed officers of the Town for the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2024, as provided in M.G.L. c41, §108, as amended, and to see if the Town vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for that same period, with each line being its own appropriation and in the total sum of \$9,068,534 as recommended by the Finance Committees, such sum to be appropriated by transferring \$260,000 from Free Cash and raising \$8,808,534 from taxation. [see next page]

Motion made and seconded to move budget section by section.

TYPE	FY23 \$	FY24\$	DIFFERENCE \$	DIFFERENCE %
Culture / Recreation.....	210,208	233,191	22,983	10.93
Debt Service.....	474,629	595,834	121,205	25.54
Education.....	4,681,289	4,828,686	147,397	3.15
Fixed Costs.....	1,107,987	1,171,639	63,652	5.74
Gen Gov't.....	689,775	703,391	13,399	1.94
Health / Human.....	139,924	155,432	15,508	11.08
Intergovernmental.....	96,901	97,316	415	0.43
Public Safety.....	541,186	617,871	76,685	14.17
Public Works.....	631,303	665,174	33,871	5.27
Total.....	8,573,419	9,068,534	495,115	5.78

Culture/Recreation Budget Passed Unanimously

Debt Service Budget Passed Unanimously

Education Budget Passed Unanimously

Fixed Costs Budget Passed Unanimously

General Government Budget Passed Majority (2 Nay)

Health/Human Budget Passed Unanimously

Intergovernmental Budget Passed Unanimously

Motion made and seconded to call the question re: Public Safety Budget. Passed Unanimously

***Public Safety Budget Passed Majority (6 Nay)**

Public Works Budget Passed Unanimously

**It was understood by voters present that the Public Safety Budget, if passed, would make the position of Fire Chief a full-time position. FY25 Budget will include additional compensation for the full-time Fire Chief. The FY24 budget includes salary for a full time Fire Chief to begin January 1, 2024.*

Original Motion for Total Budget Passed Unanimously

CATEGORY	DEPARTMENT	NAME	FY23 BUDGET	FY24 BUDGET	\$ DOLLAR DIFFERENCE	% PERCENT DIFFERENCE
Gen Govt	Moderator	Salary	333	333	-	-
Gen Govt	Selectmen	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	9,312	9,312	-	-
Gen Govt	Selectmen	General Expenses	3,750	3,750	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Administrator	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	66,675	70,009	3,334	5.00
Gen Govt	Town Administrator	Admin Asst	17,934	19,764	1,830	10.20
Gen Govt	Town Administrator	General Expenses	750	1,250	500	66.67
Gen Govt	Town Administrator	Massachusetts Certified Public Procurement Offi	1,885	-	(1,885)	(100.00)
Gen Govt	Capital Planning Comr	General Expenses	75	75	-	-
Gen Govt	Finance Committee	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	4,209	4,209	-	-
Gen Govt	Finance Committee	General Expenses	500	500	-	-
Gen Govt	Reserve Fund	General Expenses	60,000	50,000	(10,000)	(16.67)
Gen Govt	Accountant	Salaries & Wages	38,802	41,003	2,201	5.67
Gen Govt	Accountant	General Expenses	150	300	150	100.00
Gen Govt	Accountant	Accounting Software	750	750	-	-
Gen Govt	Accountant	Audit Services	24,000	24,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Assessors	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	10,345	10,345	-	-
Gen Govt	Assessors	Salaries & Wages	22,973	25,025	2,052	8.93
Gen Govt	Assessors	General Expenses	19,700	17,200	(2,500)	(12.69)
Gen Govt	Assessors / Revaluatio	General Expenses	5,000	5,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Treasurer	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	25,076	28,751	3,675	14.66
Gen Govt	Treasurer	Salaries & Wages (stipend)	1,000	1,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Treasurer	Treasurers Asst	6,659	7,439	780	11.71
Gen Govt	Treasurer	General Expenses	6,500	6,500	-	-
Gen Govt	Treasurer	Treasurer's Software	5,100	5,500	400	7.84
Gen Govt	Treasurer	OPEB Reeval	6,500	6,500	-	-
Gen Govt	Collector	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	48,090	56,175	8,085	16.81
Gen Govt	Collector	Salaries & Wages (stipend)	1,000	1,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Collector	General Expenses	7,992	16,000	8,008	100.20
Gen Govt	Collector	Deputy Coll Expenses	1,900	2,000	100	5.26
Gen Govt	Collector	Tax Title Exp	1,500	1,500	-	-
Gen Govt	Oliver Smith Trust	General Expenses	35	35	-	-
Gen Govt	Legal	General Expenses	10,000	10,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Advertising / Operator	General Expenses	1,200	1,200	-	-
Gen Govt	Other Operations Supp	Energy Comm Expenses	250	250	-	-
Gen Govt	Constable	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	495	495	-	-
Gen Govt	Clerk	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	25,461	26,970	1,509	5.93
Gen Govt	Clerk	Clerk's Assistant	2,540	2,600	60	2.36
Gen Govt	Clerk	General Expenses	1,700	1,700	-	-
Gen Govt	Clerk	Clerk's Software	500	500	-	-
Gen Govt	Clerk	Records Storage	2,500	1,500	(1,000)	(40.00)
Gen Govt	Elections	General Expenses	10,500	11,500	1,000	9.52
Gen Govt	Street Listing	General Expenses	1,450	1,450	-	-
Gen Govt	Conservation Commis	Salaries & Wages	1,995	1,995	-	-
Gen Govt	Conservation Commis	General Expenses	2,700	2,700	-	-
Gen Govt	Planning Board	General Expenses	750	750	-	-
Gen Govt	Zoning Board/Appeals	General Expenses	600	600	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	Custodian Labor	13,235	13,235	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	Building Supervisor	10,221	10,221	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	General Expenses	30,000	30,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	Town Office Exp	2,500	2,500	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	Internet	10,000	11,000	1,000	10.00
Gen Govt	Town Office	Town Telephone	11,000	11,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	Copier Maint	2,400	2,400	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	Document Storage	2,100	2,100	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	Heating	45,000	25,000	(20,000)	(44.44)
Gen Govt	Town Office	Electricity	25,500	35,000	9,500	37.25
Gen Govt	Town Office	Computer Services	45,000	45,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	Technology Upgrades	5,000	5,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Office	Town Building Repairs	20,000	20,000	-	-
Gen Govt	Town Reports	General Expenses	1,900	1,500	(400)	(21.05)
Gen Govt	Transfer To	OPEB	5,000	10,000	5,000	100.00

Public Safety	Police	Salaries & Wages	79,348	85,416	6,068	7.65
Public Safety	Police	Police Dept labor	145,434	162,248	16,814	11.56
Public Safety	Police	General Expenses	25,626	25,626	-	-
Public Safety	Police	Police Records Software	8,035	8,035	-	-
Public Safety	Police	Police Bridge Academy Training & Gear	17,000	17,000	-	-
Public Safety	Fire	Salaries & Wages	37,451	56,177	18,726	50.00
Public Safety	Fire	Fire Dept labor	32,661	42,000	9,339	28.59
Public Safety	Fire	FD Admin Asst	13,325	15,331	2,006	15.05
Public Safety	Fire	FD Training	15,641	17,246	1,605	10.26
Public Safety	Fire	General Expenses	38,050	42,072	4,022	10.57
Public Safety	Ambulance	General Expenses	122,428	140,533	18,105	14.79
Public Safety	Emergency Medical S	Salaries & Wages	1,331	1,331	-	-
Public Safety	Emergency Medical S	Emer Mgmt Deputy	620	620	-	-
Public Safety	Emergency Medical S	General Expenses	3,750	3,750	-	-
Public Safety	Emergency Medical S	Emergency Communications	486	486	-	-
Public Works	Tree Service	Tree Removal/Planting	7,000	7,000	-	-
Education	Elementary School	Salaries & Wages, Elected Officials	1,590	1,590	-	-
Education	Elementary School	General Expenses	2,349,081	2,391,744	42,663	1.82
Education	Regional School	General Expenses	1,690,092	1,849,352	159,260	9.42
Education	Vocational/Technical Sc	General Expenses	600,000	531,000	(69,000)	(11.50)
Education	Vocational/Technical Sc	Voc Transportation	40,526	55,000	14,474	35.72
Public Works	Highway	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	69,875	78,750	8,875	12.70
Public Works	Highway	Salaries & Wages	147,693	147,693	-	-
Public Works	Highway	General Expenses	85,000	93,500	8,500	10.00
Public Works	Highway	Highway Garage/Equip Maint	41,641	45,800	4,159	9.99
Public Works	Highway	Vehicle Fuel	35,000	45,000	10,000	28.57
Public Works	Highway	Invasive Species	1,500	1,500	-	-
Public Works	Highway	Sidewalk Construction	5,000	5,000	-	-
Public Works	Highway	Highway Surplus equip	3,000	3,300	300	10.00
Public Works	Snow & Ice Removal	Salaries & Wages	15,997	15,997	-	-
Public Works	Snow & Ice Removal	General Expenses	72,500	72,500	-	-
Public Works	Street Lighting	General Expenses	8,000	8,000	-	-
Public Works	Transfer Station	Salaries & Wages	33,818	35,509	1,691	5.00
Public Works	Transfer Station	General Expenses	102,825	102,825	-	-
Public Works	Cemetery	General Expenses	1,100	1,200	100	9.09
Public Works	Cemetery	Haydenville Town Clock	1,354	1,600	246	18.17
Health / Human	Animal Inspection	General Expenses	1,020	1,020	-	-
Health / Human	Board of Health	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	4,109	4,109	-	-
Health / Human	Board of Health	General Expenses	1,050	1,050	-	-
Health / Human	Board of Health	Public Health Emgy/Training	1,550	1,550	-	-
Health / Human	Council on Aging	Salaries & Wages	31,814	38,274	6,460	20.31
Health / Human	Council on Aging	COA Labor	15,765	19,764	3,999	25.37
Health / Human	Council on Aging	COA Meal Site Staff	12,424	14,823	2,399	19.31
Health / Human	Council on Aging	COA Admin Asst	10,473	12,567	2,094	19.99
Health / Human	Council on Aging	General Expenses	5,000	5,000	-	-
Health / Human	Council on Aging	COA HEN Program	4,000	4,000	-	-
Health / Human	Veteran's Services	General Expenses	12,319	12,875	556	4.51
Health / Human	Veteran's Services	Veterans Benefits	40,000	40,000	-	-
Health / Human	ADA	General Expenses	400	400	-	-
Culture / Recrea	Library	Salaries & Wages, Elected Officials / Director	53,550	57,420	3,870	7.23
Culture / Recrea	Library	Salaries & Wages	111,949	128,720	16,771	14.98
Culture / Recrea	Library	General Expenses	14,000	14,000	-	-
Culture / Recrea	Library	Materials / Books	3,000	5,000	2,000	66.67
Culture / Recrea	Library	School library program	17,095	17,437	342	2.00
Culture / Recrea	Recreation Activities	Salaries & Wages	4,114	4,114	-	-
Culture / Recrea	Recreation Activities	General Expenses	5,000	5,000	-	-
Culture / Recrea	Recreation Activities	Woodland Trails Comm	500	500	-	-
Culture / Recrea	Historical Commission	General Expenses	500	500	-	-
Culture / Recrea	Veteran's Recognition	General Expenses	500	500	-	-
Debt Service	Retirement of Debt	Highland Amb Vehicle	6,444	6,484	40	0.62
Debt Service	Retirement of Debt	School Building	290,782	260,000	(30,782)	(10.59)

ARTICLE 15

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$7,800 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a utility vehicle trailer for the Williamsburg Fire Department and any other incidental and related expenses.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 16

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$800 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a tool set for the Williamsburg Fire Department Rescue Truck and any other incidental and related expenses.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 17

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$60,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a tractor with loader for the Williamsburg Highway Department and any other incidental and related expenses.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 18

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$60,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a truck with plow for the Williamsburg Highway Department and any other incidental and related expenses.

Motion made and seconded to call the question.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Original Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 19

Moved and seconded that the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$110,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a dump truck with sander for the Williamsburg Highway Department and any other incidental and related expenses.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 20

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$66,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a cruiser for the Williamsburg Police Department and any other incidental and related expenses.

Motion Passed Majority (2 Nay)

ARTICLE 21

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000 for the purpose of paying for maintenance costs and any other incidental and related expenses at the Haydenville Library.

Motion made and seconded to call the question.

Motion Passed Majority (2 Nay)

Original Motion Passed Majority (8 Nay)

ARTICLE 22

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,100 for the purpose of purchasing audio visual equipment and any other incidental and related expenses for hosting virtual or hybrid public meeting for Town Boards and Committees.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 23

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,500 for the purpose of providing a 5% local contribution and any other incidental and related expenses to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) for an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) at 96 Mountain Street and further to authorize the Select Board or other board or commission to acquire and APR on said property.

Motion Passed Majority (1 Nay)

ARTICLE 24

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$160,000 from Free Cash into the Stabilization Fund.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 25

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$5,000, being an amount equal to one-half of the amount received by the Town as Medicaid reimbursements in the FY23, to the Williamsburg School Department.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 26

Moved and seconded that the Town vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund in the amount of \$15,210.77 as outlined in Article 26 of the warrant to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 26 (*Warrant Article*)

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, which may be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents, a document prepared by the Substance Abuse Bureau of the Commonwealth's Office of Health and Human Services Department, found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download> entitled "Abatement Strategies", and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; and further, to transfer from available funds a sum of money equal to that received or to be received by the Town from opioid litigation settlements resulting from the Town's participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund; or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 27

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept M.G.L. c. 41 §97A, entitled "Police Departments; Chief of Police; Powers and Duties," to create a so-called "strong" Police Chief, thereby revoking its acceptance of Section 97 of said Chapter 41, to be effective starting in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

Motion made and seconded to call the question.

Motion Passed Majority (2 Nay)

Original Motion Passed Majority (4 Nay)

ARTICLE 28

Moved and seconded that the Town will vote in favor of a resolution to formally adopt the Land Acknowledgement Statement that was printed in the 250th Anniversary Brochure. [this is a citizen petition]

We acknowledge that the Town of Williamsburg is built with the ancestral homelands of the Pocumtuc Nation. The Pocumtuc, who had connections with these lands for millennia, are part of a vast expanse of Algonquian relations. We recognize our present-day neighboring Indigenous people that continue to persevere as sovereign nations: the Nipmuc and the Wampanoag to the East, the Mohegan and the Pequot to the South, the Mohican to the West, and the Abenaki to the North. We acknowledge, too, the presence of Native people among and all around us. Over hundreds of years of removal, members of South New England Tribes would make the journey

home to tend important places and renew their connection to their ancestral lands. Such care and connection to land and waters continues to the present day.

We express gratitude for nearby waters and surrounding lands, including the Kwinitekw—the southern portion of what's now called the Connecticut River and the Pocumtuck, now called Deerfield River, which means "swift, shallow, sandy stream." We recognize these lands and waters as important Relations with which we are all interconnected and depend on to sustain life and well-being.

Land acknowledgments name the long history of the land on which our town is situated and express gratitude to the Indigenous peoples who have lived and continue to live in the region. Land acknowledgments are statements that recognize the ongoing relationship between the land, its Native and Indigenous stewards, and all guests gathered on that land. Land acknowledgments are made to cultivate an environment that recognizes accountability within our community particularly as it relates to our engagement of Indigenous peoples in the past, present, and future history of our town.

Motion Passed Majority (3 Nay)

Motion made and seconded to adjourn Town Meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 P.M.

Filed: June 7, 2023

A True Copy Attest: Brenda Lessard, Town Clerk



Brenda Lessard
Williamsburg Town Clerk

Cc: Accountant, Department of Revenue, Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, Treasurer, Assessors, KP/Law, Highway Department, Planning Board, Board of Health, Town Administrator, Water & Sewer Commission, Police Department, Capital Planning, and Fire Department