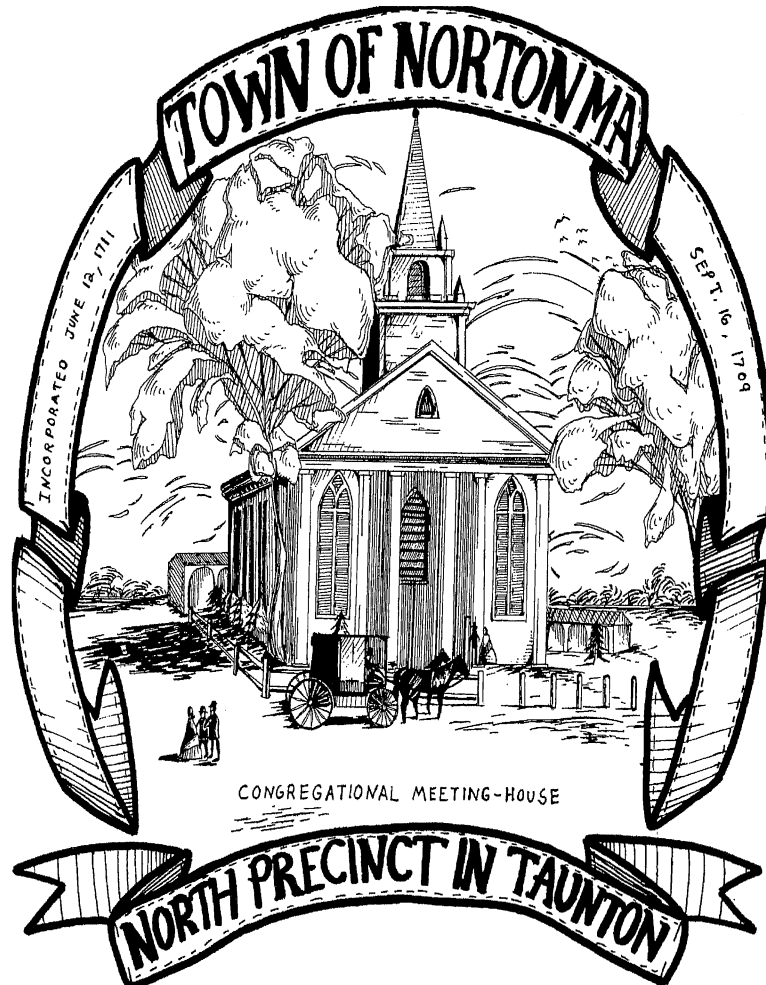
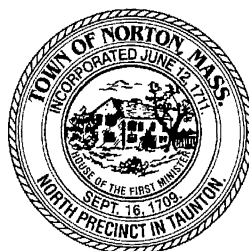


TOWN OF NORTON



WARRANT FOR THE FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023



**TOWN OF NORTON
WARRANT FOR THE FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2023**

To Michael J. Mayer, Sr., or any of the Constables of the Town of Norton:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Norton, qualified to vote in Norton affairs, to meet at the Norton High School, 66 West Main Street, in said Norton, on Monday, the 23rd day of October, 2023, A.D., at seven o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles, viz.

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds, a sum of money to pay unpaid bills for which obligation was incurred in prior fiscal years, or take any other action relative thereto.

(SELECT BOARD)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended that no action be taken at this time.

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds, a sum of money to pay all outstanding separation expenses associated with the retirement of various employees from the Town of Norton and authorize the Town Accountant, in consultation with the Town Manager, to allocate amounts to appropriate departments, or take any other action relative thereto.

(SELECT BOARD)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$117,544.00 from Free Cash to pay all outstanding separation expenses associated with the retirement of various employees from the Town of Norton and to authorize the Town Accountant, in consultation with the Town Manager, to allocate amounts to appropriate departments.

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund and implement Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Town and various Unions for the period beginning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, and/or for general collective bargaining settlement purposes, or take any other action relative thereto.

(SELECT BOARD)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended that the Town vote to transfer the amount of \$94,574.00 from Free Cash to fund and implement the first year of the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Town and the following Unions for the period beginning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, and to authorize the Town Accountant to allocate amounts to appropriate departments:

- 1. From Free Cash, the sum of \$80,156.00 for Norton Police Superior Officers Association; and,**
- 2. From Free Cash, the sum of \$14,418.00 for United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, AFL-CIO-CLC, Local Union 9517 Unit 15, f/k/a SENA-A.**

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to supplement, or otherwise change the funding sources for, the Fiscal Year 2024 operating budget appropriated under Article 7 of the May 15, 2023, Annual Town Meeting, or otherwise amend said vote, or take any other action relative thereto.

(SELECT BOARD)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to amend the vote taken under Article 7 of the May 15, 2023, Annual Town Meeting Warrant by increasing appropriations for certain line items and, as funding therefor, to raise and appropriate the amount of \$499,524.00, to transfer the amount of \$8,205.00 from the Dog Fund, and to transfer the amount of \$513,628.00 from Free Cash as follows:

Account	Department	Use	Request
001-122-570	Select Board	Expenses	\$ 1,200.00
001-123-570	Town Manager	Expenses	\$ 1,000.00
001-147-510	Treasurer	Salary	\$ 2,450.00
001-155-510	Data Processing	Salary	\$ 387.00
001-158-570	Tax Title	Expense	\$ 41,103.00
001-161-510	Town Clerk	Part-Time Wages	\$ 11,684.00
001-192-570	Municipal Building	Expense	\$ 25,000.00
001-210-510	Police	Salary - Overtime and Special Police	\$ 116,000.00
001-210-570		Contractual Incentives	\$ 31,900.00
001-220-510	Fire	Salary - Overtime and Contractual Incentives	\$ 231,000.00
001-220-570		Expenses - Utilities	\$ 2,500.00
001-292-570	Animal Control	Vehicle Repairs	\$ 8,205.00
001-308-560	Bristol County Agricultural	Assessment - Tuition	\$ 8,757.00
001-425-570	Street Lights	Expense	\$ 20,000.00
001-541-510	Council on Aging	Salary	\$ 29,118.00
001-610-570	Library		\$ 18,125.00
001-711-594	Maturing Debt	Short-Term Debt Principal Retirement – School Project	\$ 26,410.00
001-750-590	Long-Term Interest	Expense	\$ 424,518.00
001-940-540	Miscellaneous	Expense - Fuel	\$ 12,000.00
001-940-570	Miscellaneous	Expense - Insurances	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL FY24 OPERATING BUDGET SUPPLEMENTS:			\$ 1,021,357.00

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to supplement, or otherwise change the funding sources for, the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Enterprise operating budget appropriated under Article 5 of the May 15, 2023, Annual Town Meeting, or otherwise amend said vote, or take any other action relative thereto.

(WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Enterprise operating budget as approved at the May 15, 2023, Annual Town Meeting by increasing appropriations for certain line items and by transferring from Water Enterprise Receipts (including but not limited to user charges, lease revenue, interest, permits, anticipated receipts, and miscellaneous revenues) an additional \$66,092.00 as follows:

	05/15/23		10/23/23	
	Voted Article 5	Voted Article 4	Article 5 Supplement	Amendment
Personnel Services	\$1,242,231	\$ 10,760	\$ 8,563	\$1,261,554
Indirect Expenses	\$ 529,826	0	0	\$ 529,826
Other Charges & Expenditures	\$1,347,500	\$ 50	0	\$1,347,550
Debt Service	\$1,620,991	0	\$57,529	\$1,678,520
Total:	\$4,740,548	\$ 10,810	\$66,092	\$4,817,450

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to supplement, or otherwise change the funding sources for, the Fiscal Year 2024 Sewer Enterprise operating budget appropriated under Article 6 of the May 15, 2023, Annual Town Meeting, or otherwise amend said vote, or take any other action relative thereto.

(WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Sewer Enterprise operating budget as approved at the May 15, 2023, Annual Town Meeting by increasing appropriations for certain line items and by transferring from Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings an additional \$16,484.00 as follows:

	05/15/23		10/23/23	
	Voted Article 6	Voted Article 4	Article 6 Supplement	Amendment
Personnel Services	\$ 439,422	\$1,922	\$16,483	\$ 457,827
Indirect Expenses	\$ 164,947			\$ 164,947
Other Charges & Expenditures	\$1,343,489			\$1,343,489
Debt Service	\$ 403,213		\$ 1	\$ 403,214
Total:	\$2,351,071	\$1,922	\$16,484	\$2,369,477

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money for the Capital Improvements Fund established by the By-Law entitled "Capital Improvements Fund," from which appropriations may be made by a two-thirds vote at any Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

(SELECT BOARD)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$1,000,000.00 from Free Cash to the Capital Improvements Account. The Capital Improvements Account is used for the purchase of equipment and the maintenance of the Town's infrastructure. This will bring the balance in the Capital Improvements Account to \$1,311,660.00. Of this amount, \$806,981.00 will be used to fund Article 8 if approved, leaving a balance of \$504,679.00 in the account for future capital improvement needs.

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, including but not limited the Capital Improvements Fund, and/or borrow a sum of money to supplement the Fiscal Year 2024 capital improvements budget appropriated under Article 9 of the May 15, 2023, Annual Town Meeting to pay costs of purchasing, or leasing with an option to purchase for periods of time up to or in excess of three years, new and/or replacement capital items for various Town Departments and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8 of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; or take any other action relative thereto.

(SELECT BOARD)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$806,981.00 from the Capital Improvements Account, \$100,000.00 from Sewer Retained Earnings, and \$499,500.00 from the Ambulance Reserve Fund for a total of \$1,406,481.00 to purchase, or lease with an option to purchase for periods of time up to or in excess of three years, new and/or replacement capital items for various Town Departments as follows:

POLICE DEPARTMENT (210)	
Firing Range Ventilation System	\$ 88,300.00
Window Project	\$ 31,000.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT (220)	
Ambulance (\$475,000 Ambulance Fund)	\$ 475,000.00
Generator for Station 1 (50/50)* (\$25,000 Total: \$12,500 from Ambulance Fund and \$12,500 from Capital Improvements Fund)	\$ 25,000.00
Ambulance Stair Chairs (Two) (\$12,000 Ambulance Fund)	\$ 12,000.00
NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (300)	
Install New Fire Protection Devices (NMS)	\$ 127,055.00
Safety Requirements & Protocols - Exterior Doors (DW)	\$ 87,525.00
Technology Displays (DW) (Lease Year 1 of 5)	\$ 41,051.00
Resurface Gym Floors (NMS)	\$ 35,000.00
HIGHWAY (420)	
Wood Chipper for Tree Cutting	\$ 60,000.00
4-Post Vehicle Lift	\$ 50,000.00
2024 Peterbilt J. Hook (Year 1 of 5)	\$ 70,000.00
BOARD OF HEALTH (510), INSPECTION (241) and CONSERVATION (171)	
Inspectional Services Vehicle Replacement (Three)	\$ 182,700.00
RECREATION (630) AND NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (300)	
Pickle Ball Court	\$ 21,850.00
SEWER (440)	
Cobb Street Sewerage Pumping Station Phase 2 (Retained Earnings)	\$ 100,000.00

ARTICLE 8 PROPOSED FY24 CAPITAL BUDGET AMENDMENT									
	FISCAL YEAR 2024	SPRING DEPARTMENT REQUESTS	VOTED SPRING ATM MEETING	FALL ATM REQUESTS	FALL FY24 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS				FINANCE COMMITTEE
					TOWN MANAGER	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE			
Wood Chipper for Tree Cutting		\$ 65,000.00		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	
2 Sanders 3 Yd/2 Yd for 1-Ton Dump Trucks		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Peterbilt Dump Truck (Year 3 of 5)		\$ 28,150.00	\$ 28,150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
John Deere 5090M Utility Tractor Diamond Boom Mower (Year 4 of 4)		\$ 34,300.00	\$ 34,300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Tire Changer and Balancer for Highway/Police		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
4-Post Vehicle Lift				\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	
2024 Peterbilt J. Hook (Year 1 of 5)				\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	
TREE DEPARTMENT									
Bucket Truck (Year 5 of 5)		\$ 53,400.00	\$ 53,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
BOARD OF HEALTH (510), INSPECTION (241) and CONSERVATION (171)									
Inspectional Services Vehicle Replacement (Three)		\$ 128,155.00	\$ -	\$ 182,700.00	\$ 182,700.00	\$ 182,700.00	\$ 182,700.00	\$ 182,700.00	
RECREATION (630) AND NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (300)									
Pickle Ball Court		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,850.00	\$ 21,850.00	\$ 21,850.00	\$ 21,850.00	\$ 21,850.00	
SUBTOTAL:		\$ 1,938,953.00	\$ 898,788.00	\$ 1,717,266.00	\$ 1,306,481.00	\$ 1,306,481.00	\$ 1,306,481.00	\$ 1,306,481.00	
SEWER (440)									
Cobb Street Sewerage Pumping Station Phase 2	(RE)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
SUBTOTAL SEWER PROJECTS:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
WATER (450)									
Dodge Ram 2500 4x4 Pick Up with utility body and plow	(R)	\$ 73,000.00	\$ 73,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Caterpillar 305CR Mini Excavator with additional bucket and counter weight (RE)		\$ 93,000.00	\$ 93,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Cottage St. Elevated Water Tank Replacement - Phase 2		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
SUBTOTAL WATER PROJECTS:		\$ 166,000.00	\$ 166,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL CAPITAL REQUEST		\$ 1,618,153.00	\$ 677,988.00	\$ 1,217,766.00	\$ 806,981.00	\$ 806,981.00	\$ 806,981.00	\$ 806,981.00	
TOTAL AMBULANCE RESERVE FUND		\$ 292,800.00	\$ 192,800.00	\$ 499,500.00	\$ 499,500.00	\$ 499,500.00	\$ 499,500.00	\$ 499,500.00	
TOTAL DOG FUND		\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL BORROWING		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL SEWER "SURPLUS" (Retained Earnings)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
TOTAL WATER "SURPLUS" (Retained Earnings)		\$ 166,000.00	\$ 166,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL OTHER TRANSFER		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL (INC. FROM ALL FUNDING SOURCES)		\$ 2,104,953.00	\$ 1,064,788.00	\$ 1,817,266.00	\$ 1,406,481.00	\$ 1,406,481.00	\$ 1,406,481.00	\$ 1,406,481.00	

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to purchase and accessorize an automated external defibrillator (AED), or take any other action relative thereto.

(DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$2,000.00 from Free Cash to purchase and accessorize an automated external defibrillator (AED).

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to be expended only for any lawful purposes and consistent with the applicable opioid settlement agreement, including but not limited to those purposes outlined in the Massachusetts State Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements and more specifically in Section III of the attachment thereto entitled, "Massachusetts Abatement Terms" to support opioid education, prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm prevention, or take any other action relative thereto.

(TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ACCOUNTANT)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$201,801.00 from Free Cash for the purposes stated in Article 10.

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to be expended only for any lawful purposes and consistent with the cannabis host community agreements for the implementation of mitigation measures associated with the sale of recreational marijuana, or take any other action relative thereto.

(TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ACCOUNTANT)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$35,000.00 from Free Cash for the purposes stated in Article 11.

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to comply with the federally mandated actuarial reporting requirements of post-employment benefits (GASB 74/75), or take any other action relative thereto.

(TOWN ACCOUNTANT)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$10,000.00 from Free Cash to comply with the federally mandated actuarial reporting requirements of post-employment benefits (GASB 74/75).

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §54(b)(1), as most recently amended by Section 26 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023, to allow Town trust funds to be invested using the so-called Prudent Investor Rule found in G.L. c.203C, or take any other action relative thereto.

(TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended.

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 139(c), to exempt from licensing fees service animals and dogs owned by a person aged seventy or over, or take any other action relative thereto.

(TOWN CLERK)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended.

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to remove, expand, and replace the rear parking lot area, including all incidental and related expenses, at the Norton Historical Society site identified as 18 West Main Street, Norton and shown on Assessor's Map 23 as Parcel 39, or take any other action relative thereto.

(SELECT BOARD)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$16,720.00 from Free Cash for the purposes stated in Article 15.

ARTICLE 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money for the installation of municipal sewerage, including all incidental and related expenses, at the Norton Historical Society site identified as 18 West Main Street, Norton, and shown on Assessor's Map 23 as Parcel 39, or take any other action relative thereto.

(SELECT BOARD)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$27,000.00 from Free Cash for the purposes stated in Article 16.

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 110, Article V, §110-31, of the Town's Bylaws, as on file with the Town Clerk, by replacing the existing schedule with the following:

YEARS OF SERVICE	LONGEVITY PAY EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023
After Five (5) Years	\$1,000.00
After Ten (10) Years	\$1,100.00
After Fifteen (15) Years	\$1,200.00
After Twenty (20) Years	\$1,400.00
After Twenty-Five (25) Years	\$1,500.00

(TOWN MANAGER)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended.

ARTICLE 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to the "Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund" established to cover the unfunded actuarial liability for retirees' health care and life insurance benefits, or take any other action relative thereto.

(TOWN MANAGER)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$120,000.00 from Free Cash to the “Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund” established to cover the unfunded actuarial liability for retirees’ health care and life insurance benefits.

ARTICLE 19

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and/or appropriate from available funds, a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund, in accordance with G.L. c. 40, §5B, or take any other action relative thereto.

(SELECT BOARD)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended to transfer the amount of \$1,000,000.00 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 20

To see if the Town will vote to revoke the acceptance of Civil Service Laws for the Town of Norton Fire Department at all ranks effective January 1, 2024, thereby removing the fire department force from the provisions of the Civil Service Laws, and the rules and regulations relating to the same, provided that this revocation will not affect the Civil Service status of existing personnel in their current positions, or take any other action relative thereto.

(TOWN MANAGER AND FIRE CHIEF)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended.

ARTICLE 21

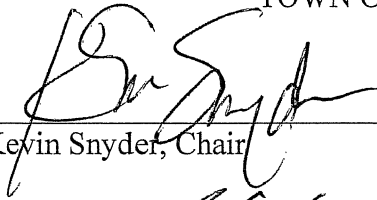
The Town of Norton will adopt for itself the motto “ACVMEN ACVTVM,” (Latin for “sharp point *or* intellect”).

(PETITION OF DANIEL A. PEARSON)

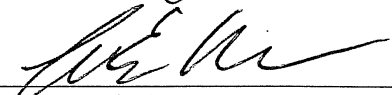
FINANCE COMMITTEE: Recommended.

And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies of the body of same at Chartley Post Office, Norton Post Office, Norton Municipal Center, Norton Public Library, and three (3) other public places within the limits of said Town, seven (7) days at least, before the time of holding said meeting. Hereof, and fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of holding said meeting. Given under our hands and seals this 5th day of OCTOBER in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

TOWN OF NORTON SELECT BOARD, BY:


Kevin Snyder, Chair


Steven Hornsby, Vice Chair


Alec Rich, III, Clerk

Megan Artz


Denise Luciano

Norton, Massachusetts

I have served this Warrant by posting attested copies at Chartley Post Office, Norton Post Office, Norton Municipal Center, Norton Public Library, and three (3) other public places within the limits of said Town, seven (7) days at least before the time of holding said Meeting.

ATTEST  CONSTABLE Norton DATE 10/12/23