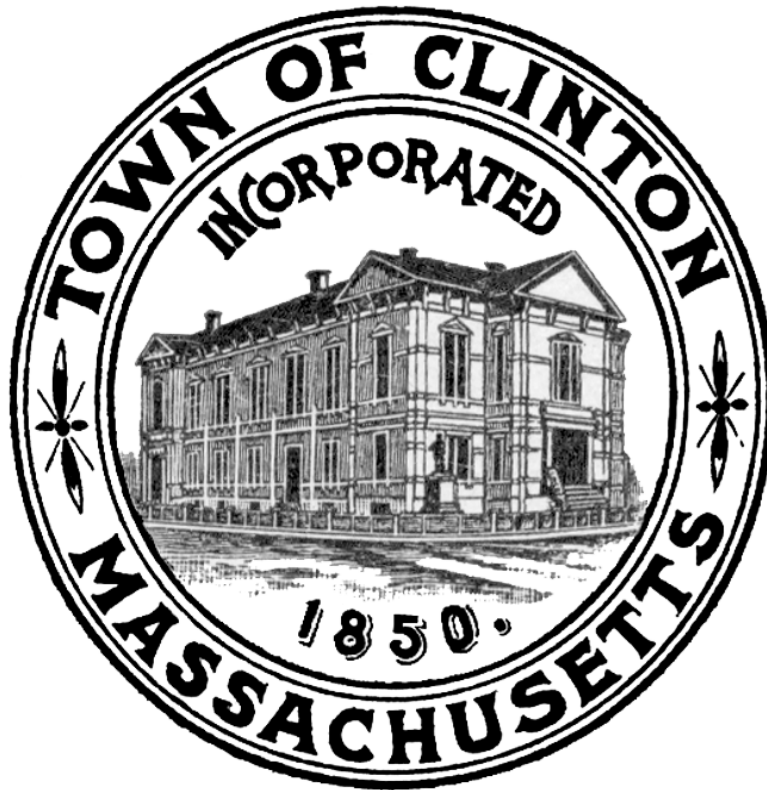


Annual Town Meeting Warrant



Town Hall Fallon Auditorium
June 5, 2023
7:00 P.M.

TOWN OF CLINTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

WORCESTER, SS.

To the Constable of the Town of Clinton in the County of Worcester.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town, qualified to vote in the elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall in said Clinton on Monday, the fifth day of June 2023 at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1

To receive the reports of the Town officers and to act thereon.

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elective officials of the Town, as provided by Chapter 41, Section 108, of the Massachusetts General Laws, said salaries and compensation to be effective from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, and to raise and appropriate a sum of money therefore, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from the current tax levy or transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to defray town charges from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, as those charges appear in the Finance Committee Report of Recommendations, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer and Town Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement with a banking institution for Fiscal Year 2024 pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F, of the Massachusetts General Laws, or act in any manner relating thereto.

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$4,800.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended for social services in accordance with programs as approved by the Select Board, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$20,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended as the Town of Clinton's share to the Wachusett Health Education Action Team (WHEAT, Inc.), which committee is a delegate agency of the United Way of Tri-County, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws to set the limits on the Fiscal Year 2024 total amounts that may be expended from each of the Town's revolving funds established under the Town's Administrative By-Laws, or act in any manner relating thereto.

Revolving Fund	Spending Limit
Gas/Plumbing Inspection	\$50,000.00
Council on Aging	\$60,000.00
Town Hall Use	\$ 5,000.00
Olde Home Day	\$40,000.00
Fuller Field	\$ 5,000.00
Town Clerk	\$10,000.00

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Assessors Overlay Reserve Account the sum of \$50,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be used to continue the Veterans and Senior Tax Rebate Program for Fiscal Year 2024, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$150,000.00, or any other sum, to the Health Insurance Trust Fund, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$500,000.00, or any other sum, to the Stabilization Fund, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from the Landfill Enterprise Fund Reserve for Construction the sum of \$3,200,000.00, or any other sum, to the Capital Projects & Infrastructure Improvements Stabilization Fund, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the borrowing authorization of \$110,400.00 from Article 24 of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting for the purchase of open space, whereas this project was funded by a state grant, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws to establish a special purpose stabilization fund, known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, for money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors, to be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of said Section 5B to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article, effective for Fiscal Year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023; and further, to transfer from Free Cash the amount of such judgments or settlements received by the Town to date in the amount of \$104,872.67 to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article; or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$21,200.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Treasurer-Collector for the following unpaid bill, or act in any manner relating thereto.

The Zekos Group	\$21,200.00
(Treasurer-Collector)	(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,237.50, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Permitting Department for the following unpaid bill, or act in any manner relating thereto.

Mead, Talerman & Costa LLC	\$1,237.50
(Permitting Department)	(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$28,876.73, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Director of Facilities and Grounds for the following unpaid bill, or act in any manner relating thereto.

ARC Mechanical	\$28,876.73
(Facilities & Grounds)	(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund the sum of \$225,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be used by the Community Television Department for support of cable access related service operations, including personnel, programming, expenses and equipment, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Community Television)	(Finance Committee – Approved)
------------------------	--------------------------------

ARTICLE 18

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund the sum of \$300,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be used by the Community Television Department for support of cable access related capital needs, including system capital improvements, equipment upgrades, studio design and construction, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Community Television)	(Finance Committee – Approved)
------------------------	--------------------------------

ARTICLE 19

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund the sum of \$25,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be used by the Community Television Department for Fiscal Year 2023 cable access related services, programming and equipment, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Community Television)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$100,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Facilities and Grounds for beautification of the downtown business district, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Facilities & Grounds)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$160,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Facilities and Grounds for the purchase of a new mower for the maintenance of land on school grounds, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Facilities & Grounds)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 22

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$180,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Facilities and Grounds to construct a new steel storage structure at the Veteran's Athletic Complex and for repair and improvements to the current athletic complex field house and surrounding grounds, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Facilities & Grounds)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 23

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$95,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Facilities and Grounds for repairs and improvements to the parking lots at Clinton High School and Clinton Elementary School, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Facilities & Grounds)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 24

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$70,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Facilities and Grounds for the purchase of a F-550 Super Duty Truck, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Facilities & Grounds)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 25

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$40,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Facilities & Grounds for repairs and improvements to the restrooms, field house and concession stand at Fuller Field, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Facilities & Grounds)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 26

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$50,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Facilities & Grounds for repairs and improvements to Clinton Town Hall, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Facilities & Grounds)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 27

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$45,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Facilities & Grounds for repairs and improvements to Carlisle Park, including a feasibility assessment for constructing a playground in this open space, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Parks & Recreation)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 28

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$150,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Bigelow Library Board of Trustees for planning and design to apply for a grant from the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Library Trustees)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 29

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund retained earnings the sum of \$200,000.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works for water and sewer infrastructure improvements, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Public Works)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 30

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$166,842.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Fire Chief for the purchase of a new forestry truck, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Fire Chief)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 31

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$95,450.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Fire Chief to fund retroactive wages as part of a negotiated agreement between the Town of Clinton, through the Select Board, and the International Association of Fire Fighters – Local 3189 for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, having been negotiated in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 150E, as amended, or act in any manner relating thereto

(Select Board)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 32

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$94,580.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Police Chief to fund retroactive wages as part of a negotiated agreement between the Town of Clinton, through the Select Board, and the Massachusetts Coalition of Police – Local 151 for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, having been negotiated in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 150E, as amended, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Select Board)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 33

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$43,630.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Police Chief to fund retroactive wages as part of a negotiated agreement between the Town of Clinton, through the Select Board, and Public Safety Dispatchers, through MassCOP Local 490, for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, having been negotiated in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 150E, as amended, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Select Board)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 34

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$60,850.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works to fund retroactive wages as part of a negotiated agreement between the Town of Clinton, through the Select Board, and the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees – Council #93 for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, having been negotiated in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 150E, as amended, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Select Board)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 35

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$58,385.00, or any other sum, said sum to be expended by the Department of Facilities & Grounds to fund retroactive wages as part of a negotiated agreement between the Town of Clinton, through the Select Board, and the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees – Council #93 for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, having been negotiated in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 150E, as amended, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Select Board)

(Finance Committee – Approved)

ARTICLE 36

To see if the Town will vote to initiate the process to aggregate electrical load pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164 § 134 and, further, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has engaged in a process to establish a competitive market place through the restructuring of the electricity market; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Clinton have a substantial economic and social interest in terms of greater customer choice and opportunities for savings in this restructured market; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton hereby finds that it may be in the interest of its citizens who are electric ratepayers, both residential and commercial/industrial, to develop and secure such approvals and enter into appropriate agreements with consultants, experts and attorneys in connection with the establishment and operation of an electricity aggregation plan.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Clinton hereby:

Publicly declares its intent to become an aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential and business electric customers and to reestablish such plan if its operation is suspended; and

To negotiate and enter into such contracts for power supply pursuant to the plan or services for such plan, with the understanding that if a power supply contract is executed, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate in the aggregation plan and, instead, to choose any electricity alternatives they desire and, further, to take such other action relative hereto as may be appropriate and necessary, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Select Board)

ARTICLE 37

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 1, Section 1 of the Administrative By-Laws of the Town of Clinton by changing the date for the Annual Election of Town Officers from the Second Monday in June to the First Monday in May, or act in any manner relating thereto.

(Citizens Petition)

ARTICLE 38

To create an Agricultural Commission to address and represent agricultural and forestry issues and interests in the Town of Clinton.

The mission of the Commission shall be to:

- 1.) Represent the Town's farming and forestry community internally and externally;
- 2.) Encourage, promote and support the pursuit of farming and forestry in the Town both as a business and as a community resource; and
- 3.) Promote the protection, preservation and economic use of farmland and forestland within the Town.

The duties and responsibilities of the Commission shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1.) Serving as representatives, advocates, educators, facilitators and/or mediators on farming and forestry issues both within the Town and externally;
- 2.) Advising the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and other Town bodies on all matters pertaining to farming or forestry activities in Town;
- 3.) Engaging in projects and activities, including educational programs and community events, to promote the business, activities and traditions of farming and forestry, as well as farm and forest land protection in Town;
- 4.) Developing warrant articles, policies and procedures advocating and promoting agriculture and forestry; and
- 5.) Reporting to the Annual Town Report on its projects and activities.

The Commission shall consist of four members. At least two members shall be actively engaged in farming, animal law/welfare/education, landscaping/horticulture or forestry related activities. The members shall serve three-year terms each. Any vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Select Board, based on the recommendations of the Commission, for the unexpired term of the vacancy in order to maintain the cycle of appointments.

(Citizens Petition)

HEREOF FAIL NOT and make due return of this warrant with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of the meeting, as aforesaid.

GIVE UNDER OUR HANDS, this seventeenth day of May in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-three.

SELECT BOARD

Matthew H. Kobus, Chair
Sean J. Kerrigan, Vice-Chair
Edward J. Devault, Clerk
Julie K. Perusse, Member
Mary R. Dickhaut, Member

WORCESTER, SS.

By virtue of this Warrant, I have this day notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Clinton aforesaid, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the time and place for the purpose within named, by publishing in The Item, a newspaper published in the said Town, as hereby directed.

Thomas E. Bonci
Constable for the Town of Clinton