

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF OXFORD  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

**WORCESTER, SS.**

To either of the Constables of the Town of Oxford in the County of Worcester

**GREETING.**

**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 elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Oxford High School in said Oxford on Wednesday, the twenty-first day of October next, at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1.** To hear the reports of any Town Officers or any Committee(s) authorized at any former meeting and to choose any Committee(s) the Town may think proper.

**ARTICLE 2.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money to the Unemployment Account, any vote under this article to take effect forthwith upon its adoption, for Fiscal Year **2016**, or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Town Manager.

**ARTICLE 3.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of completing a Master Plan Update, any vote under this article to take effect forthwith upon its adoption, for Fiscal Year **2016**, or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Town Manager.

**ARTICLE 4.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds and appropriate the sum of, Five Hundred Ten Thousand Sixty-Five Dollars (\$510,065.00) to meet the State's share of the cost for Town road maintenance and repair, such amount to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as State Highway Aid (Fiscal Year 2016 Chapter 90 Apportionment), or act thereon.

Sponsored by the Town Manager and DPW Director.

**ARTICLE 5.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Oxford General By-laws, Chapter Eight, Town Clerk by deleting Section 8 and replacing it with the following, or act thereon:

Sponsored by the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Section 8. The fees of the Town Clerk for the services enumerated below shall be as follows:

- (1) Certified copy of a Birth, Marriage or Death Certificate, \$10.00, or any fee prescribed by Mass. General Laws.
- (2) Delayed record of birth, marriage or death, \$10.00.
- (3) Abstract copy of a record of birth, marriage or death, \$4.00.
- (4) Notice of Intention of Marriage, \$25.00.
- (5) Recording certificate of marriage for persons married out of the Commonwealth, \$10.00.
- (6) Recording amendments or corrections on a birth, marriage or death record, \$20.00.
- (7) Filing certificate of a person conducting business under any title other than his real name (d/b/a certificate), \$30.00.

- (8) Filing a statement of change of residence, discontinuance, withdrawal from, change of ownership or change of location on d/b/a certificate, \$20.00.
- (9) Certified copy of a d/b/a certificate or statement of change, \$10.00.
- (10) Certificate of voter registration or certificate of residency, \$5.00.
- (11) Recording power of attorney, \$10.00.
- (12) Recording the name, address, date and number of a certificate issued to a person registered to practice podiatry in the Commonwealth, \$20.00.
- (13) Recording a certificate of registration granted to a person to engage in the practice of optometry, or issuing a certified copy thereof, \$20.00.
- (14) Recording the name of the owner of a certificate of registration as a physician or osteopath in the Commonwealth, \$20.00.
- (15) Recording an order granting location of poles, piers, abutments or conduits, alterations or transfers thereof, and increase of number of wires and cable or attachments, \$40.00 or any fee prescribed by Mass. General Laws Chapter 166, Section 22.
- (16) Receiving and filing a complete inventory of all items to be included in a "closing out sale", "going out of business sale", "discontinuance of business sale", "selling out", "liquidation", "lost our lease", "must vacate", "forced out", or other designation of like meaning, \$10.00 first page and \$2.00 for each additional page.
- (17) Filing a copy of written instrument or declaration of trust by the trustees of an association or trust, or any amendment thereof, as prescribed by Mass. General Laws Chapter 182, Section 2, \$20.00.

**ARTICLE 6.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Oxford General By-laws, Chapter Nineteen Sealer of Weights and Measures by deleting Section 3 and replacing it with the following, or act thereon:

Sponsored by the Town Manager and the Sealer of Weights and Measures.

### **CHAPTER NINETEEN SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Section 3. The fees of the Sealer of Weights and Measures for sealing the following weighing or measuring devices shall be as follows:

- (1) Each scale with a weighing capacity of more than ten thousand pounds, \$150.00.
- (2) Each scale with a weighing capacity of five thousand to ten thousand pounds, \$100.00.
- (3) Each scale with a weighing capacity of one thousand to five thousand pounds, \$75.00.
- (4) Each scale with a weighing capacity of one hundred to one thousand pounds, \$50.00.
- (5) Scales and balances with a weighing capacity of more than ten pounds and less than one hundred pounds, \$30.00.
- (6) Scales and balances with a weighing capacity of ten pounds or less, \$25.00.
- (7) Each liquid capacity measure, except vehicle tanks, of the capacity of more than one gallon and measures on pumps, \$17.00.
- (8) Each liquid measuring meter, except water meters, the diameter of the inlet pipe of which is one half inch or less, \$5.00, more than one half inch but not more than one inch, \$6.00. For each such type of liquid meter, the diameter of

the inlet pipe of which is more than one inch, the following shall apply:  
vehicle tank pump, \$33.00; vehicle tank gravity, \$33.00; bulk storage, \$55.00.

- (9) Each taxi meter or measuring device used in vehicles to determine the cost of transportation, \$25.00.
- (10) Each machine or other mechanical device used for determining linear or area measurement (Fabric, Rope), \$15.00; Yard Sticks, \$10.00.
- (11) Milk bottle or jars, \$12.00 per gross.
- (12) Vehicle tanks used in the sale of commodities by liquid measure \$5.00 for each hundred gallons or fraction thereof.
- (13) Drug store weights, \$2.00.
- (14) All weights and other measures, \$5.00.
- (15) Adjustments and reasonable repairs (if made), \$20.00.
- (16) Reverse Vending Machines (Bottle & Can Return Machines), \$18.00.
- (17) Cord Wood, \$20.00.
- (18) Each automated electronic retail checkout system with fewer than four cash registers or computer terminals, not more than \$75.00.
- (19) Each automated electronic retail checkout system with no less than four and no more than 11 cash registers or computer terminals, not more than \$150.00.
- (20) Each automated electronic retail checkout system with greater than Eleven (11) cash registers or computer terminals, not more than \$250.00.
- (21) Pill Counter, \$15.00.
- (22) Wire, rope, carpet meter, \$15.00.

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Sections 3 through 7, known as the Community Preservation Act, which establishes a special "Community Preservation Fund" that may be appropriated and spent for certain open space, historic resources and affordable housing purposes, to approve a property tax surcharge in an amount not to exceed one and one half (1.5) percent of the taxes assessed annually on real property which shall be dedicated to the fund, such surcharge to be imposed on taxes assessed for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2016, and to exempt from the surcharge any or all of the following: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the community; (2) \$100,000 of the assessed valuation of Class One, Residential, parcels, or act thereon.  
Sponsored by the Town Manager.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Post Office on the Plains, the Post Office in North Oxford, the Post Office in Rochdale, Memorial Hall and Huguenot Steamer No. 2 in said Town, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

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

Given under our hands this 15th day of September, 2015.



Dennis E. Lamarche, Chairman



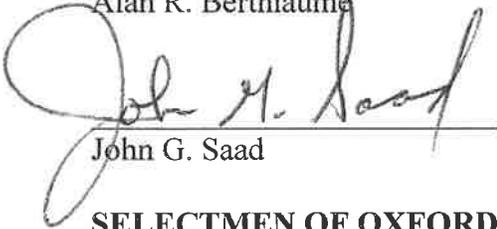
Michael Voas



Jarred J. Mahota



Alan R. Berthiaume



John G. Saad

**SELECTMEN OF OXFORD**

**Worcester, SS.**

**PURSUANT TO THE WITHIN WARRANT**, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Oxford by posting up attested copies of the same at the Post Office on the Plains, the Post Office in North Oxford, the Post Office in Rochdale, Memorial Hall and Huguenot Steamer No. 2 fourteen days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.



Constable of Oxford

Date: 9-21-2015

## **Explanation of Articles for October 21, 2015 Town Meeting**

**Article 1:** This is a standard article to allow Town Officers or Committees to make a report or recommendation or to choose any committee.

**Article 2:** There have been a number of layoffs in the School Department due to unforeseen special education costs, anticipated revenue losses, and other unbudgeted expenses the Department has incurred. Unemployment expenses are projected to rise due to these layoffs. In order to cover these costs and address the depletion of the Town's Unemployment Reserve Fund. Health insurance funds are available for transfer due to School Department staff reductions. The Town proposes to transfer funds budgeted for health insurance costs related to the eliminated positions to cover these unemployment expenses. The Town does not pay an unemployment tax but pays the actual unemployment distributions to laid off employees who qualify.

**Article 3:** The Town's original Master Plan from 1976 has never been updated. The Town needs to have an up to date Master Plan to balance and set priorities for Town policies and expenditures as it relates to land use, economic development, natural resources, public facilities, capital needs, cultural resources, recreation, education, and quality of life. The adoption of a current Master Plan will strengthen the Town's ability to receive grant funding for initiatives embodied within the Master Plan. The adoption process of a current Master Plan will also ensure that the Town's short and long term plans for the future are guided by broad public support. The Master Plan effort would be completed over two fiscal years. A consultant will be hired to do most of the work with some assistance from the Regional Planning Commission and town staff.

**Article 4:** This article is to appropriate the Town's Fiscal Year 2016 Chapter 90 funding. Chapter 90 funding can be used for certain local transportation improvements. The use of Chapter 90 money does not require Town Meeting approval. However, as a matter of practice the State Agency through which this

money is allocated likes to see a Town Meeting article addressing the matter. Therefore, this article is presented as a house keeping matter.

**Article 5:** This article is to update some of the fees collected by the Town Clerk relative to birth, marriage and death certificates, marriage licenses, and business certificates. A survey of surrounding Town's found that the Town's fees in this area are below average. This fee increase would generate approximately \$13,000 in new revenue based on average receipts from the past two years. These fees have not been updated since 1981.

**Article 6:** This article is to update the fees charged by the Sealer of Weights and Measurer's relative to weights and measures used by various businesses in Oxford. A survey of surrounding Town's found that the Town generally has the lowest fees. This fee increase would generate more revenue while remaining competitive with what other communities charge for the same inspections.

**Article 7:** This article is to support the adoption of the Community Preservation Act. The Community Preservation Act authorizes the Town to levy a 1.5% surcharge on property tax bills. The surcharge funds can be used for historic preservation, outdoor recreational needs, and affordable housing. As proposed in Oxford, the first 100,000 of a residential property tax assessment would be exempt from the surcharge. In addition, low to moderate income household families and seniors would be exempt from the surcharge. **Exemptions for low income families range from \$46,760 to \$88,176 depending upon household size. Exemptions for seniors (age 60 or older) range from \$58,450 to \$110,220 depending upon household size. The financial impact to the average Oxford residential taxpayer with only the first exemption would be \$27 annually.**

The estimated annual revenue to the Town would be a little less than \$200,000. Each year the State matches a percentage of the levy raised by the Town. Two years ago the match was 50% and last year the match was 33%. Each year at least 10% of the levy must be allocated toward each of the purposes of the Act, historic preservation, recreation, and affordable housing, respectively. The remaining funds can be used toward any of the three purposes of the Act. A Committee comprised of representatives of the Planning Board, Housing Authority,

Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, and residents at large must recommend to Town Meeting how the funds can be used for certain projects. Town Meeting must give its approval for the use of the funds.

Some examples of how the funds can be used in Oxford include addressing repairs to the clock tower at Memorial Hall, improving recreational fields and amenities, improving Carbuncle Park, addressing the failing culvert at Sacarrappa Road, records preservation, and addressing existing needs within the Housing Authority facilities. One significant change in the program that is different from the last time it was considered is that these funds can be used to improve or repair existing facilities.

The adoption of the Act requires that after 5 years, the Town put the adoption of the Act up at Town Meeting for rescission. The adoption of the Act at Town Meeting and subsequently at the ballot would provide the Town funding to address capital needs for which there has been no money since the recession began. Lastly, if approved by the voters, the 1.5% levy would take pressure off the need to take back funding from the School Department that was previously used by the Town to address capital needs. **Please refer to [accessoxfordinc.com](http://accessoxfordinc.com) for a public access interview from September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 for more information.**