

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Town of New Ashford  
May 16, 2024, at 6:00PM  
Annual town meeting warrant  
Covering the fiscal year 2024  
Berkshire county:



To: Any of the constables of the town of New Ashford.

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are required to warn and notify the inhabitants of the town of New Ashford who are qualified to vote in the town affairs, to meet at the New Ashford Fire Department, 4 Ingraham Road, in said New Ashford, on Tuesday the Sixteenth day of May 2023, at 6:00PM, and transact the following business:

**Article I:** To elect a moderator for the following year. (Majority)

**Article II:** To see if the town will vote that there be levied on real estate and personal property of the town, or transferred from available funds, a sum sufficient to meet the appropriation of said meeting. (Majority)

**Article III:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the select board to retain counsel when necessary. (Majority)

**Article IV:** To see if the town will vote to close portions of Bauer Rd, Ingraham Rd, Roys Rd, Greylock Rd, Old Rte. Seven, and any other roads, that at certain times of the year the road commissioner and the select board deem necessary. (Majority)

**Article V:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the town treasurer, with the approval of the select board, to borrow money, from time to time, in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2022, and to issue notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with chapter 44, section 17 of the Massachusetts general laws. (Majority)

**Article VI:** To see if the town will vote to **raise and** appropriate the sum of seven hundred and sixty-five thousand, two hundred and sixty dollars and zero cents (\$765,260.00) or any other sum, to defray the charges and expenses of the town of New Ashford, including any debts and interest and to compensate certain officers of the town of New Ashford. (See attached sheet for individual line items) (Majority)

**Article VII:** Enterprise fund budget - to see if the town will vote to **raise and appropriate** the sum of ninety thousand, sixty-two dollars (\$90,062.00) through user's fees and fund five thousand, four hundred dollars (\$5,000) to the general fund to reimburse shared officer and appointees' stipends, electricity, licenses, and propane cost. (See attached sheet for individual line items) (Majority)

**Article VIII:** To see if the town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from the cash stabilization account, the sum in the amount two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500), to supplement the town's share of grant money from the FY 2024 budget for emergency management grant. If the article is passed but the grant is not approved, the money will revert to the cash stabilization account. (2/3 vote required)

**Article IX:** To see if the town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from MLP Enterprise fund Free Cash the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to the broadband stabilization fund or take any other action relative thereto. (Majority)

**Article X:** To see if the town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to the old schoolhouse repair stabilization fund or take any other action relative thereto. (Majority)

**Article XI:** To see if the town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) to the stabilization fund or take any other action relative thereto. (Majority)

**Article XII:** To see if the town will vote to set fiscal year 2024 spending limits for such revolving funds as follows.

Revolving fund	Spending limit	Revolving fund	Spending limit
Conservation commission	\$1,200.00	Electrical/wiring inspection services	\$1,200.00
Planning board expenses	\$1,200.00	Plumbing & gas inspection services	\$3,459.86
Trench safety inspector services	\$1,200.00	Zoning board of appeals expenses	\$3,459.86
Board of health - licensing fees	\$1,200.00	Fire department	\$2,000.00
Select board expenses	\$1,200.00	All other board expenses	\$1,200.00
Building inspector	\$3,459.86	Total of all revolving funds	\$20,779.58

**Article XIII:** To see if the town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash, the sum not to exceed ten thousand five hundred dollars (\$10,500) to supplement the town’s share of grant money for the fire fighters’ safety grant for FY 2024. If the article is passed but the grant is not approved or all funds not spent, the money will revert to the Free Cash. (Majority)

\*The grant is 100% reimbursable and funds go directly back to the town.

**Article XIV:** To see if the town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash, the sum not to exceed twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) to build a shed/extension off the side of the Fire Station to house the Town Mower and Provide additional storage for the Fire Department. (Majority)

**Article XV:** To see if the town will vote to **appropriate and transfer** from Free Cash, the sum not to exceed six thousand dollars (\$6000) to purchase Fire Fighter Live Fire Protective gear. (Majority)

**Article XVI:** To see if the town will vote to amend the general bylaws Chapter III section 2 by inserting the language in bold and deleting the language in strikethrough, as follows:

~~The Annual Town Election to fill elected Town Offices, shall be held on the last Tuesday of May.~~ **See Chapter II section 3.**

**Article XVII:** To see if the town will vote to amend the general bylaws Chapter II section 2 by inserting the language in bold and deleting the language in strikethrough, as follows:

The Annual Town Caucus will be set for the ~~third Tuesday~~ second Saturday in April, unless otherwise set by Town Clerk for the purpose of nominating candidates to fill the positions of such Town Officers as required by law to be elected.

**Article XVIII:** To act thereon and conduct any business legally brought before said meeting.

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting three (3) attested copies thereof in public places in the town of New Ashford, at least seven days before said meeting. Hereof fail not and make do your returns of doing to the town clerk at the time and place of the meeting afore said.

Constable:	Select board:
Stephen Demyer, constable	Jason Jayko, chairman
Date and time posted	Kenneth McInerney
True and attested Susan Supranowicz Clerk, town of New Ashford	Mark Phelps

Town of New Ashford Re Cap Sheet			
Budget Line Item	FY22	FY23	FY24
Animal Control Officer Expense	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Animal Control Officer Salary	\$ 500.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 541.00
Animal Inspector Salary	\$ 50.00	\$ 52.00	\$ 55.00
Berkshire County Retirement	\$ 1,082.00	\$ 1,082.00	\$ 1,082.00
Berkshire Regional Planning	\$ 187.00	\$ 187.00	\$ 213.00
Berkshire Regional Purchasing	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
Board of Health Expenses	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
Board of Registers Account	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Building Inspector Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Bureau of Local Assessment- Utilities	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Cemetery Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Conservation Commission Expense	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
County Health-Nurse	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
E911 Sheriffs Department	\$ 8,772.00	\$ 9,035.00	\$ 9,307.00
Election/Voters Account	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Emergency Management Director Salary	\$ 500.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 541.00
Fire Chief Salary		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,248.00
Fire Department Budget	\$ 14,820.00	\$ 16,590.00	\$ 19,650.00
Forrest Warden Expense	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Historical Commission Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Inspectors Education Account	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Legal Account	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Maintenance - School House	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00
Maintenance - Town Property	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,650.00
Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Dist.	\$ 640.00	\$ 640.00	\$ 764.00
Planning Board Expenses	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Police and Fire Insurance	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00
Police Chief Salary	\$ 560.00	\$ 583.00	\$ 607.00
Recycling Account	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Recycling Attendant Salary	\$ 1,816.00	\$ 1,889.00	\$ 1,965.00
Reserve Account	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Road and Bridge Account	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Road Commissioner Expenses	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Road Commissioner Salary	\$ 3,920.00	\$ 4,077.00	\$ 4,241.00
School Committee Account	\$ 451,240.00	\$ 473,563.00	\$ 420,502.00
School House Custodial Salary	\$ 840.00	\$ 874.00	\$ 909.00
Selectmen Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Selectmen Salary	\$ 10,080.00	\$ 10,484.00	\$ 10,904.00
Technology - (Website,Software and Licenses)		\$ 2,750.00	\$ 6,711.00
Technology - Accounting Software			\$ 2,000.00
Technology - Assessing Software Maintenance	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,000.00

Technology - Tax Software Maintenance	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Town Accountant Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Town Accountant Salary	\$ 8,191.00	\$ 8,519.00	\$ 8,860.00
Town Assessor	\$ 13,050.00	\$ 13,050.00	\$ 13,500.00
Town Assessor Expenses	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Town Clerk Expenses	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 800.00
Town Clerk Salary	\$ 3,559.00	\$ 3,702.00	\$ 3,851.00
Town Electricity			\$ 3,500.00
Town Hall Expenses	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Town Insurance Account	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 14,500.00
Town Internet/Phone			\$ 1,600.00
Town Propane			\$ 3,700.00
Town Report Account	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Town Secretary Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Town Secretary Salary	\$ 3,444.00	\$ 3,582.00	\$ 3,726.00
Town Tax Collector Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Town Tax Collector Salary	\$ 3,696.00	\$ 3,844.00	\$ 3,998.00
Town Tax Contributions Account	\$ 200.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Town Treasurer Expenses	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00
Town Treasurer Salary	\$ 6,582.00	\$ 6,846.00	\$ 8,860.00
Training Account		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Tree Removal Account	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Tree Warden Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Veterans Chapter 115 (75/25)	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
Veterans Service Agent Salary	\$ 1,344.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
Veterans Services Expense Account	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Winter Roads Account	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
z-Telephone-Internet account	\$ 1,275.00	-	-
z-Town Hall Utilities		\$ 6,375.00	
FY Budget Total	\$ 756,923.00	\$ 795,089.00	\$ 765,260.00

<b>Town of New Ashford</b>			
<b>Enterprise Fund MLP Recap Sheet</b>			
Category	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Internet Service	43581	43892	45612
Internet+Telephone Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Phone-only Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Customer Installs after initial subsidy period	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL (B)</b>	<b>\$ 43,581.00</b>	<b>\$ 43,892.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,612.00</b>
<b>For operations, maintenance, and repairs</b>			
Backhaul Services (annual)	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00
Fail Over Circuit		\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,200.00
DIG Safe		\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
General Liability Insurance (for MLP)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Scheduled Property Policy (for Plant)	\$ 2,752.00	\$ 2,752.00	\$ 3,300.00
Pole License (aka Rental fee per Pole)	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Retainer for 24x7 repair team	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Network Maintenance and Repair (per Mile)	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Hub Electricity (T)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
Hub Propane (U)	\$ 500.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
NetWork Operations Contingency	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
CC processing fees to Stripe	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
EFT processing fees to Stripe	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounting & Reporting (S)	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
Security Camera-Envirmental Maint		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Contingency	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00	\$ -
Misc Expenses (supplies, travel, etc.)	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
MLP Administration Contingency	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
MLP Reserve			\$ 2,000.00
<b>TOTAL (C)</b>	<b>\$ 35,852.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,152.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,950.00</b>
Other Expenses (defined by c.164 s.57)			
For Depreciation on the Cost of the Plant (Electronics Only)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
For Loss in Operation in Previous Year			
<b>TOTAL (D)</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL Expenses (E = B+C+D)</b>	<b>\$ 82,433.00</b>	<b>\$ 92,044.00</b>	<b>\$ 94,562.00</b>
Fund to General Fund at end of Year	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
<b>(Enterprise Budget Total = B+C+D-S-T-U)</b>	<b>\$ 78,533.00</b>	<b>\$ 87,544.00</b>	<b>\$ 90,062.00</b>

<b><u>New Ashford Fire Department Budget Request for FY: 2024</u></b>			
<u>Budget Line Items</u>		FY2023	FY2024 Request
Department Awards & Gifts		\$100.00	\$100.00
Professional Dues & Membership Dues		\$800.00	\$850.00
Fire Department Electric		\$950.00	\$0.00
Fuel for Engines/Tanker		\$1,250.00	\$1,350.00
Medical Supplies/Oxygen/AED Supplies		\$300.00	\$800.00
Firefighting Gear/PPE		\$2,000.00	\$2,200.00
Fire Department Telephone Bills		\$250.00	\$0.00
U.S. Postage		\$120.00	\$150.00
Radio Batteries/Pager Batteries/Communications		\$900.00	\$950.00
Fire Station Office Supplies/Toner for printer		\$350.00	\$350.00
EMS/First Responders-Medical Trainings		\$ 2,00.000	\$1,000.00
***\$ 1,000.00 was shifted to EMS1 Academy Training Platform***			****
Fire1Academy/EMS1 Academy1 Online training platforms			\$1,100.00
Appratus Repairs/NFPA Pump Testing/Maintence		\$6,650.00	\$7,500.00
Iam Responding (Incident Responding App/Software		\$305.00	\$305.00
Berkshire County Burn Permit Program		\$115.00	\$115.00
EMS/Firefighting Training Classes/Meals		\$350.00	\$350.00
Commonwealth Of MA/Annual Fee for Controlled Substances			\$300.00
ESO/Emergency Reporting/Incident Report Software			\$2,230.00
<b>Subtotal Requested for FY:2024:</b>		\$14,440.00	\$19,650.00