



# Minutes of the Town of Wales

## Annual Town Meeting

### Wednesday, May 18, 2022

The Annual Town Meeting, held at the Tantasqua Regional High School, was attended by 96 voters. A quorum of 58 people being present, the meeting was opened at 6:06 p.m. with a salute to the flag led by the Moderator, Mr. Michael Valanzola. A moment of silence was held for those who gave of themselves to promote life and liberty – our service members, public safety first responders, and others. Mr. Valanzola then announced that this would be the final Town Meeting for Town Clerk Leis Phinney, who would be retiring after the local election. He presented Ms. Phinney with a Citation from Representative Todd Smola and a bouquet of flowers to mark the occasion.

**ARTICLE 1** The Town voted to hear and act upon the reports and recommendations of Town Officers.

**ARTICLE 2** The Town voted to hear and act upon the reports and recommendations of Committees.

**ARTICLE 3** The Town voted to raise and appropriate the total sum of FIVE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND FIFTY FIVE DOLLARS AND ONE CENT (\$5,316,055.01) to defray expenses of the Town, on a departmental basis, as set forth in the budget handout provided to the voters, for the fiscal year 2023 period; and further to fix the salary and compensation of the following elective officers of the Town of Wales, as provided by M.G.L. c. 41, § 108, as amended: Moderator, Selectmen, Assessors, Treasurer, Collector, Town Clerk, Planning Board and Board of Health for fiscal year 2023. Said total sum to be raised by property tax and other revenues of FIVE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED NINE THOUSAND, TWENTY DOLLARS AND ONE CENT (\$5,209,020.01) and by a transfer from the Capital Stabilization Account of ONE HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS, (\$107,035.00.) The Moderator declared the vote unanimous.

**ARTICLE 4** The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$4,000.00 from Certified Free Cash for an audit of the Town's finances.

**ARTICLE 5** The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$2,167.00 from Certified Free Cash for the Board of Assessors to undertake property revaluation.

**ARTICLE 6** The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$2,000.00 from Certified Free Cash for dam inspections, including any and all costs incidental and related thereto.

**ARTICLE 7** The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from Certified Free Cash to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund.

**ARTICLE 8** The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$500.00 from Certified Free Cash to the Wales Community Events Gift Account for the purpose of supporting Wales Olde Home Day.

**ARTICLE 9** The Town voted to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, § 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, § 17.

**ARTICLE 10** The Town voted to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to enter into compensating balance agreements with bank offices having their principal offices in the Commonwealth during the fiscal year 2023, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, § 53F.

**ARTICLE 11** The Town voted to accept any and all grant monies received during fiscal year 2023 for the Wales Public Library Grant Account, for the use of the Wales Public Library.

**ARTICLE 12** The Town voted to reauthorize an Offset Receipt Account, said amount not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) more or less, for the operation of the TRANSFER STATION provided, however, that pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E, such costs shall be offset by the estimated receipts from the fees charged to users of the services provided by the transfer station; or take any other action thereto.

**ARTICLE 13** The Town voted to amend Chapter 3, Section 5 of the General Bylaws by deleting the following:

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer	Limit on Spending
Fire Department	Fire Inspector	\$6,000.00

**ARTICLE 14** The Town voted to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2023 beginning on July 1, 2022, for the revolving funds established in the General Bylaws, Chapter 3, Section 5 for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E½, as follows:

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer	Limit on Spending
Building Inspections	Building Commissioner	\$50,000.00
Plumbing, Heating and Gas Inspections	Plumbing/Heating/Gas Inspector	\$50,000.00
Cemetery Services	Cemetery Commission	\$3,000.00
Planning	Planning Board	\$3,000.00
Conservation	Conservation Commission	\$1,500.00
Zoning	Zoning Board	\$1,000.00
Animal Control	Animal Control Officer	\$2,000.00
Library	Library Trustees or Director	\$1,000.00
Board of Health	Board of Health	\$5,000.00
Electrical	Electrical Inspector	\$50,000.00
Police – Pistol Permits	Chief of Police	\$4,000.00
Council on Aging	Council on Aging	\$3,500.00
Highway – Driveway Permits	Road Commissioner	\$1,000.00

**ARTICLE 15** The Town voted to appropriate the total sum of \$15,000.00 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, said funds to be expended during the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 under the direction of the Cable Advisory Committee for necessary and expedient cable related purposes consistent with the license agreement, of which the sum of \$12,000.00 is the estimated license revenue to be received during FY2023 in accordance with the license agreement and the sum of \$3,000.00 shall be appropriated from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund available balance.

**ARTICLE 16** The Town voted to transfer sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) from Certified Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund.

**ARTICLE 17** The Town voted to transfer one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) from Certified Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

**ARTICLE 18** The Town voted to transfer the total sum of \$51,000.00 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding the following capital purchases/projects, including all costs incidental and related thereto:

Department	Purchase/Project	Amount
School	Boiler Replacement	\$30,000.00
School	Building Improvements	\$21,000.00

The Moderator declared the vote unanimous.

**ARTICLE 19** The Town voted to appropriate the sum of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$500,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new fire rescue/pumper, including associated equipment and all related incidental costs, to replace Rescue 1 and Engine 2, and that to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to lease or borrow said sum under M.G.L. c. 44 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefore; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, § 20 , thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount. The Moderator requested a show of hands to vote on this article. With eighteen (18) voting No and sixty-five (65) voting Yes, the required 2/3 margin was reached, and the motion carried.

**ARTICLE 20** The Town vote to appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$173,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new articulating loader for the Highway Department, including associated equipment and all related incidental costs, and that to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to lease or borrow said sum under M.G.L. c. 44 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefore; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, § 20 , thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount. The Moderator declared the vote unanimous.

**ARTICLE 21** The Town voted to amend the General Bylaws by adding a new section 16) Master Plan Implementation Committee to Chapter 4:

**16)\* MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

Section 1. There shall be established a Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) consisting of nine (9) voting members. The Committee shall be comprised of one (1) member from each of the following: Planning Board, Parks Commission, Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee and one (1) resident at large member.

1. The members of the MPIC shall each be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for one (1) year terms.
2. The resident at large member should have a demonstrated interest in and knowledge of the Master Plan and possess expertise in planning, economic development, real estate or other relevant fields; or equivalent experience.

Section 2. The MPIC is an advisory body and shall have the following roles and responsibilities:

1. Review the implementation plan within the Town's Master Plan at least quarterly and recommend to the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen the actions necessary to implement such plan, including timing,

resources and responsibilities. The Committee shall report to the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen at least once annually.

2. Advise Town officials and the public to promote and encourage actions that are consistent with the Plan.
3. Evaluate pending and future projects as they pertain to implementation of the Plan.
4. Identify both successful strategies and barriers to progress.
5. Be responsible for public education about the Master Plan implementation process, including creating user friendly metrics and documents.
6. The MPIC shall report to the Annual Town Meeting. The report shall contain the following information:
  - a. implementation steps accomplished within the past year;
  - b. anticipated steps to be accomplished within the next two (2) years; and
  - c. resources, including town meeting appropriations or other actions necessary to complete those steps.

Section 3. The MPIC shall exist for a period of ten (10) years from the date of establishment by Town Meeting. Such term may only be extended by vote of Town Meeting. Upon expiration of said term, the Committee shall report to the Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting its recommendation as to whether the Master Plan should be updated pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, § 81D.

*\*Note original article read 18). Replaced by 16) as permitted by Ch 1 Sec 11 of Town Bylaws.*

Eighty-six (86) voters came to the Wales Senior Center, 85 Main Street, on Wednesday, the 25th day of May, 2022 from noon to 8:00 pm, and cast their vote on a ballot for the election of the following officers:

Michael J. Valanzola to the Board of Selectmen for a three-year term (2025)  
Sarah L. Ryan as Town Clerk for a three-year term (2025)  
Susan Ann Cadieux to the Board of Assessors for a three-year term (2025)  
Bruce R. Cadieux to the Planning Board for a three-year term (2025)  
Melanie Oney to the Planning Board for a three-year term (2025)  
Danelle M. LaFlower to the Planning Board for a one-year term (2023)  
David W. Foote to the Board of Health for a three-year term (2025)  
Christine Marie Randall to the School Committee member for a three-year term (2025)  
Edward F. Boyce to the School Committee member for a three-year term (2025)  
Daniel J. Haley as Constable for a three-year term (2025)  
Peter S. Haley as Cemetery Commissioner for a three-year term (2025)

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

I certify that these are the actions taken by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting held May 18, 2022, at Tantasqua Regional High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Leis Phinney

Town Clerk