

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Town of Sheffield Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire, ss

To the Constables of the Town of Sheffield in said County of Berkshire, *Greeting:*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the auditorium of the Mount Everett Regional High School, 491 Berkshire School Road in Sheffield on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. for the following purposes:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, such sums of money as listed below, and as may be amended, necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.

Moderator.....	\$ 300	Energy.....	\$156,900
Select Board.....	\$269,400	Board of Health.....	\$ 48,669
Board of Assessors.....	\$142,330	Public Health.....	\$ 4,000
Treasurer/Collector.....	\$125,215	Council on Aging.....	\$147,150
Town Clerk.....	\$ 99,005	Veterans Benefits.....	\$ 80,000
Elections & Registration.....	\$ 15,065	Library.....	\$279,616
Conservation Commission.....	\$ 14,250	Historical Commission.....	\$ 500
Planning Board.....	\$ 5,050	Memorial Day.....	\$ 1,200
Commission on Disabilities.....	\$ 300	American Legion.....	\$ 2,400
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	\$ 1,500	Care of Soldier's Graves.....	\$ 1,400
Town Buildings & Grounds.....	\$149,800	Ashley Falls Historic Dist. Comm.	\$ 1,000
Town Report & Communications	\$ 6,500	Agricultural Commission.....	\$ 1,000
Legal Services.....	\$ 35,000	Interest on Loans.....	\$ 1
Dispatch Services.....	\$ 12,000	Berkshire County Retirement.....	\$298,218
Police Department.....	\$662,800	Worker's Compensation.....	\$ 24,000
Fire Department.....	\$119,400	Insurance & Bonding.....	\$ 80,000
Inspectional Services.....	\$ 49,658	Group Health (32B) Insurance.....	\$495,000
Fire Hydrants.....	\$ 31,000	Employer Medicare.....	\$ 31,000
Animal Control.....	\$ 14,500	Emergency Medical Services.....	\$ 65,826
Highway Department.....	\$442,793	Unemployment Compensation....	\$ 8,000
Snow Removal.....	\$288,666		

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2024, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 and Chapter 71, Section 52 of the General Laws: Moderator, \$300; Selectmen, Chairman \$3,000; Selectmen, two members at \$2,500 each; Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee, 4 members at \$500 each; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating and Transportation Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 and vote to raise and appropriate \$7,713,666 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Roof and Boiler Debt for Fiscal Year 2024, and vote to raise and appropriate \$176,409 to pay the Town's assessed share of that debt, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, and vote to raise and appropriate \$170,157 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$50,000 to pay for vocational education tuition in Fiscal Year 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$166,250 for the disposal and management of solid waste, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action to effectuate the purpose of the article, including but not limited to entering into agreements in excess of three years for such solid waste disposal and management, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to accept funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the appointment of members of the Board of Selectmen to any office or position under its supervision at no additional compensation in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 268A, Section 21A of the General Laws, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members as Title 5 and Perc Test Witnesses for Septic System Inspections, and Sanitation Inspections under its supervision in accordance with G.L. c. 268A, Section 21A for Fiscal Year 2024 and to set the salary for those positions at \$60 per Title V Inspections and \$125 per Perc Tests in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 41, Section 4A, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to sell, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, any parcel or parcels of real estate which have been or may be acquired through the foreclosure of tax title, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, \$77,000 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws, known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$750 to the Emergency Response Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to compensate firefighters for training, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for financial services, including but not limited to audits or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to establish Fiscal Year 2024 spending limits for the revolving funds as set forth below:

Authorized Revolving Funds	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Plumbing Inspector	\$25,000
Gas Inspector	\$15,000
Electrical Inspector	\$25,000
Fire Safety Inspector	\$20,000
Board of Health	\$25,000
Senior Transportation	\$15,000
Senior Center Programming	\$10,000
Tax Title Fees	\$10,000

Or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$250,000 to purchase and equip, including any incidental and related costs, and expenses, an excavator for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for recycling programs/repairs at the Transfer Station, including any incidental and related costs, and expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$40,000 for the Town to hire an odor control expert to assess odor emanating from Marijuana establishments, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$5,000 for repairs to Town owned cemeteries, including any incidental and related costs, and expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$106,973 for the fourth year payment of a fire truck lease purchase financing agreement; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$100,000 to the Fire Truck Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$150,000 to the General Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$150,000 for Town building repairs, improvements, equipping and furnishings to include but not be limited to the Town Hall, Library, Senior Center and Police Station, including any design and engineering costs and other costs and expenses incidental and related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$25,000 to purchase information technology hardware, software, and services, including any incidental or related costs, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action to effectuate the purpose of the article, including but not limited to entering into agreements in excess of three years, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$600,000 for Road and Bridge repairs and improvements, including design, engineering, construction and other costs and expenses incidental and related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$40,000 for guardrail replacements, including any incidental and related costs, and expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$20,000 for Dry Hydrant repairs, including design, engineer, construction, and any incidental and related costs and expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, which may be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents, a document prepared by the Substance Abuse Bureau of the Commonwealth's Office of Health and Human Services Department, found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-abatement-terms/download> entitled "Abatement Strategies", and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; and further, to transfer from available funds a sum of money equal to that received or to be received by the Town from opioid litigation settlements resulting from the Town's participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund; or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote appropriate the sum of \$1,600 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Special Revenue Fund to be expended under the direction of the Select Board for PEG access services, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$13,701 from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund retained earnings to pay for FY2021 recycling services costs, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 32: (Citizen's Petition) For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Town of Sheffield General By-Laws to the contrary, To see if the Town will vote under the General Bylaws Chapter 216: Wireiess Regulations, to adopt a Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (WTFs) **application requirement for completeness:** WTF applications, will be considered incomplete until the FCC completes the DC Circuit court- mandated Environmental Review of the entire 800,000 to 1 million WTF roll out to the conditions as stated in the NEPA Policy Act 1969¹ including studies from scientists independent from industry, who have fully investigated millimeter wave 50 small cell technology safety; and that the FCC regulations have been updated to include measures that comply with the results of this review; and, that the Town of Sheffield shall consider reasonable alternatives such as fiber optic.

ARTICLE 33: (Citizen's Petition)To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$600.00 each quarter of a calendar year henceforward for the Sheffield American Legion pOst-340 in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law-Part 1, Title VII, Chapter 40 Section 9, until such time of updating by the veterans of Sheffield American Legion Post-340 Or take any other action relative thereto.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy in seven public places in the Town, not less than seven days before the date of said meeting.

Hereof Fail not, and make return of this Warrant to the Town Clerk, with your doings thereon, at or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands and the Seal of the Town of Sheffield this 13th day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Three.

SELECT BOARD:

Rene C. Wood
Rene C. Wood

Robert C. Kilmer, Jr.
Robert C. Kilmer, Jr.

Nadine A. Hawver
Nadine A. Hawver

In obedience to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield qualified to vote in Town or State Elections and Primaries by posting seven attested copies of said warrant in seven public places at least seven days prior to said election.

ATTEST:

Lorraine Joyce
TOWN CLERK

Bruce H. Person
CONSTABLE

April 18, 2023
DATE