Town of Savoy

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

7:00 pm at the Fire House 17 Center Rd.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire, SS

To either of the Constables of the Town of Savoy in said County, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Savoy qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at the Savoy Fire House in said Savoy on Tuesday the 24th of June 2025, at 7:00pm and then and there to act on the following articles:

Meeting opened at 7:03pm, with 50 registered voters in attendance.

Article 1: Elected Salaries:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $26,250 for the annual salaries of elected officials who receive compensation from the Town as provided in M.G.L. c. 40, section 108, to be effective from July 1, 2025, as follows or take any vote or votes in relation thereto:

Selectmen: $4,000.00 each for a total of $12,000.00

Moderator: $250.00

Assessors: $3,000.00 each for a total of $9,000.00

Town Clerk $5,000.00

Motion: Mr. Lambert
Second: Mrs. Boody
Discussion: Everything was level funded.
Opposed: Majority rules, motion carries

Article 2: General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$274,120.00** for the operation of the General Government, including Selectmen's expenses, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Assessor, Town Clerk, and other related expenses or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Major adjustments include:

- Treasurer Salary increase from $8,500 to $20,000 (+$11,500).
- Town Office Building increase from $10,000 to $20,000 (+$10,000).
- Addition of an Assessor Clerk ($6,000) and Cyclical DOR funding ($15,000).

Motion: Mr. Lambert
Second: Mrs. Cooper
Discussion: Office building expenses – Roof? Foundation? Windows? Non-working bathroom? Chipping away at projects.
Opposed: Majority rules, motion carries

Article 3: Highway Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$488,400.00** for the maintenance and operation of the Highway Department, including road maintenance, equipment repairs, and personnel costs or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Changes include:

- Increased part-time help from $23,000 to $46,000.
- Road Maintenance increased to $110,000.
- Freightliner Payment of $63,549.67 removed.

Motion: Mrs. Boody
Second: Mrs. Williams
Discussion: 3 fulltime, 2 part time employees (summer help) extra money for second person, enough money to fix roads? Never enough money to fix roads.
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Article 4: Snow and Ice

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$120,000.00** for the continued operational expenses of the fiscal year 2026 Winter season or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion: Mr. Wandrei
Second: Mrs. Schaffrick
Discussion: Hearing none
Opposed: Majority rules, motion carries

Article 5: Schools and Libraries

ARTICLE #5A: To see if the Town will vote **to raise and appropriate** such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary for all charges and expenses of the school for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 or take any vote or votes in relation thereto. **$851,836**

Motion: Mrs. Cooper
Second: Mrs. Boody
Discussion: Regular school budget for Savoy school and tuition for Adams/Cheshire regional school.
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

ARTICLE #5B: To see if the Town will vote **to raise and appropriate** such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary for all charges and expenses of C.H.McCann Technical High School for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 or take any vote or votes in relation thereto**. $222,312**

Motion: Mr. Wandrei
Second: Mrs. Luczynski
Discussion: Tuition for students going to McCann school, increase in enrollment and increasing costs.
Opposed: Majority rules, motion carries

ARTICLE #5C: To see if the Town will vote **to raise and appropriate** such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary for all charges and expenses of Smith Vocational Tuition for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 or take any vote or votes in relation thereto. **$22,500**

Motion: Mrs. Cooper
Second: Mrs. Luczynski
Discussion: One student attending through school choice for agricultural program. Costs more for transportation than tuition? State mandates this. In the past, we've been able to share expenses, but don't have that option this year. Only state reimbursement is for a regional school district, which we are not.
Opposed: Majorite rules, motion carries

ARTICLE #5D: To see if the Town will vote **to raise and appropriate** such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary for all charges and expenses of Alternative Transportation (Smith Vocational) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 or take any vote or votes in relation thereto. **$32,760**

Motion: Mrs. Schraffrick
Second: Mrs. Boody

Discussion: Agreement is with Hoosac Valley or McCann. McCann doesn't offer the program needed (agriculture), MA allows school choice to find the nearest school for that program. Can do a regional study to see what is needed. Legally required to provide transportation. No current plans to add agricultural program to McCann.
Opposed: Majority rules, motion and carries

Article 6: Health & Sanitation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$53,908.00** for landfill operation, animal control, and health services or take any vote or votes in relation thereto. Reductions include:

- Landfill Transfer Station expenses decreased by $6,740.
- Concrete Pad and Landfill Cap Closure removed.

Motion: Mr. Lambert
Second: Mr. Kunzmann
Discussion: Kim Witek is animal control officer out of the town of Adams
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Article 7: Protection of Persons & Property

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$66,320.00** for public safety, including police, fire, animal control, and inspection services or take any vote or votes in relation thereto. Major changes:

- Police Chief salary increased to $8,900.
- Building Inspector expense increased to $8,700.

Motion: Mrs. Boody
Second: Mrs. Rougeau
Discussion: No cop car driving around or anything. Used to base salary on tickets? Jordan Koch works 2 nights/month doing LTC permits and FID renewals. Can also call with problems but not patrolling or ticketing. Who holds him accountable? Often not there and difficult to get ahold of. Will ask Jordan about this. Patrolling? Payroll made easier to make it as salary instead of hourly public safety. Now all salary. Not really changing. $1600 difference in pay. Also chair of safety committee which helps with town insurance premiums. Building inspector gets a flat fee. Permit money goes to town.
Opposed: Majority rules, motion carries

Article 8: Unclassified Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$398,400.00** for general expenses including insurance, county retirement, reserve funds, and miscellaneous town services or take any vote or votes in relation thereto. Adjustments include:

- Increased Insurance 32-B School from $0 to $163,000.
- Workman's Compensation reduced by $6,563.58.

Motion: Mr. Lambert
Second: Mrs. Cooper
Discussion: Classifying under town and not school now.
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Article 9: Veterans' Services

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$22,000.00** for Veterans' Services or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion: Mrs.Williams
Second: Mr. Wandrei
Discussion: Veterans services come out of North Adams and we have residents in town who receive services. Curtis Derosiers is now representative. Reimbursed by state if veterans receive services.
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Article 10: Capital Improvement $20,000.00 for Capital Improvement Reserve or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion: Mrs. Boody
Second: Mrs. Glynn
Discussion: Fund to start putting away for projects. Put money aside each year for improvements. Committee looking at items. Expenses are approved by town voter approval. Our by-law requires this fund.
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Article 11: Group Purchasing

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $800 for Group Purchasing in order to follow through with procurement or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion: Mr. Lambert
Second: Mr. Hungate
Discussion: Hearing none

Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Article 12: Free Cash Appropriations

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **$224,994** to the Stabilization fund or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion: Mr. Wandrei
Second: Mrs. Boody
Discussion: This will zero out free cash. Stabilization fund is for emergency. Piggy bank. Unused funds go into free cash. Free cash is not certified for current year. Did we take out $110,00 last year? Yes, in a special town meeting. Putting back money?
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Article 13:

To see if the Town will vote to commission a website in the interest of the Town of Savoy, enhancing communication with the residents in the interest of safety and transparency or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion: Mrs. Rougeau
Second: Mrs. Williams
Discussion: Will we be able to pay taxes through website? Not at the moment. Start with smaller website. Overhaul total website, then can add more later. Who will maintain? Many will be able to upload their info to the website. Website specifically for municipalities. IT services is Mad Max. Recording town meetings? Not done by town. Could video record town meetings. Zoom meeting recording and then upload to website. Will we be able to pay for school field trips through website? What is the town looking for? Paying bills. Why are we spending money on this? Not necessary? Communication to residents, safety alert, etc. Website now is drag and drop and the new one won't be kept up? Simple to use? Current website is broken. Nobody paid for hosting? Worried that website won't be maintained. Every town uses different hosting. Can we cancel if not being used? Yes, yearly contract. Learning tool for residents? Overwhelming for some people. No education, very simple. Can we use the message board on the Firehouse instead of website? Townofsavoyma.com
Opposed: Majority rules, motion carries

Article 14:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$3,000** for the initial construction and continued maintenance of the website based on the approval of Article 11 or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion: Mrs. Facchetti
Second: Mr. Lambert
Proposed amendment to this article: Should read: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$3,000** for the initial construction and continued maintenance of the website based on the approval of Article 13 or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Amendment motion: Mrs. Cooper
Discussion: Hearing none
Opposed: Amendment unanimous and carries

Discussion: Hearing none
Opposed: Majority rules, motion carries

Article 15:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for state or federal grants, and to expend any monies received, as outlined in the appropriate grant application(s) or take any other action thereto or take any vote or votes in relation thereto**.**

Motion: Mrs. Glynn
Second: Mr. Wandrei
Discussion: Hearing none
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Article 16:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept State Grants from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division pursuant to G.L. Ch. 90, and to expend those funds for the purpose of state-approved Chapter 90 projects, services and purchases, or any other enabling authority, or take any other action thereto or take any vote or votes in relation thereto**.**

Motion: Mrs. Cooper
Second: Mr. Lambert
Discussion: Hearing none
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Article 17:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Motion: Mrs. Glynn
Second: Mr. Lambert
Discussion: Can adjust balances and move money around.
Opposed: Majority rules, motion carries

Article 18:

Revolving Fund Account Authorization and Bylaw:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the general bylaws of the Town of Savoy by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, section 53E 1/2, or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

The Bylaw to read as follows:

DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS

1. Purpose. This by-law establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by General Laws Chapter 44 § 53E1/2.

2. Expenditure Limitations. An authorized department or agency head, board, committee or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law without appropriation subject to the following limitations:

A. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund (except for those employed as school bus drivers.)

B. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.

C. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by this by-law, or town meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the selectboard and finance committee.

3. Interest. Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this by-law shall be credited to the general fund.

4. Procedures and reports. Except as provided in General Laws Chapter 44 §53E1/2 and this by-law, the laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of town monies and the expenditure and payment of town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law. The town accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the town accountant provides the department, board, committee, agency or officer on appropriations made for its use.

5. Authorized Revolving Funds. The Table establishes:

A. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a town department, board, committee, agency or officer.

B. The department or agency head, board, committee or officer authorized to spend from each fund.

C. The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, agency or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant.

D. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used.

E. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund.

F. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund, and

G. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this by-law.

Revolving Fund	Entity Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fee, Charges, or Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Other Requirements or Reports	Fiscal Years
Plumbing and Wiring Inspections	Plumbing Inspector Wiring Inspector	Fees Collected for Inspections	Compensation For Inspections	Limit of $1,500.00		Fiscal Year 2025 and Subsequent Years

Motion: Mr. Wandrei
Second: Mrs. Schaffrick
Discussion: Doesn't town park need a revolving fund? This is just for Plumbing and wiring inspector to add in for last year. The rest are already in there, approved last year. Park in there? Con Com in there? Will check with lawyer to check why all are not in there now.
Opposed: Motion unanimous and carries

Why did we wait to have the meeting this late in the spring? Not ready earlier. We do not have a grant writer. No appropriation for grant writer in this budget. Grant follow-up is more important.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

And you are directed to service this warrant, by posting attested copies of the same on the bulletin board at the Savoy Town and on the notice board at the Savoy Transfer Station at least (7) SEVEN days 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 a place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this _____ day of _____, in the year TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE (2025).

Justin Kaczowski Marie Saucier Brenda Smith Date

_____ _____ _____
_____

I have posted true and attested copies hereof, on at the Town of Savoy and on at the Savoy Transfer Station.

Constable:_____
Date:_____

A true copy to the best of my knowledge.

Valerie Reiner, Savoy Town Clerk