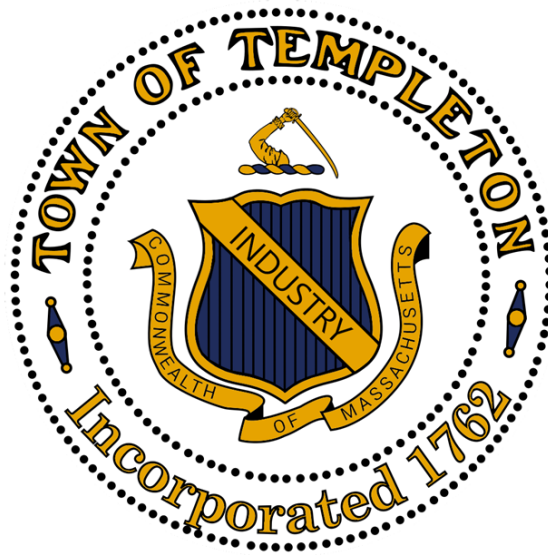


TOWN OF TEMPLETON

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

May 14, 2025 @ 6:00PM



**Narragansett Regional Middle School
460 Baldwinville Road, Baldwinville**

<https://www.templetonma.gov/>

A WELCOME FROM THE INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Templeton has an Open Town Meeting/Select Board form of government. While there are many things the Select Board can do on a day-to-day basis, there are many things it cannot do, which is why we have Town Meeting. In our Town, the legislative body is the Open Town Meeting and is how we adopt by-laws, accept certain state laws, appropriate money, buy/sell land, and the like.

The Town will hold its Annual Town meeting on May 14, 2025, under a “warrant” issued by the Select Board. This is my first Town Meeting as Town Administrator (Interim). The warrant has a variety of articles that the voters as our legislative body will act upon. I have included summaries of each article to better explain what the outcome would be should the Town Meeting vote yes on each article.

Each item included in the warrant is called an article and provides the voters with a sense of the scope of the action they are being asked to take. You will find that each article is published at length in this guide.

This Voter Information Guide provides you plenty of information so you may be prepared. Here is the format the guide follows:

Article # and Title
Article Sponsor
Vote Required

Summary: A brief description of the reasons for – and impact of - the article.
Comments and Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

Citizen's Petitions await motions by those who filed them.

Please feel free to contact me at Town Hall via office line at 978.894.2755 or by email at hyoung@templetonma.gov, if you have questions you would like to ask before the meeting.

I look forward to meeting you at the Annual Town Meeting.

Sincerely Yours,

Holly Young

Holly Young

Interim Town Administrator

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Moderator's Rules

On a general note, there are often materials on a display table near the check-in tables for people to use at Town Meeting or that provide general information to Town residents. These materials have been pre-approved by me prior to placement to ensure they are appropriate to be distributed at this forum. If you would like to make such materials available to Town Meeting members, please submit them to me for approval at least 72 hours (i.e. three days) before the start of Town Meeting. Only those materials approved by me will be on the display table. Any unapproved materials will be removed at my direction. You should submit any materials you wish to have pre-approved to me at the following email address (blaster25jhg@gmail.com) at least 72 hours (i.e. three days) before the meeting. I will respond as quickly as possible.

Town Meeting is run by a Town Moderator who the voters elect for a one-year term. Our By-Laws call for the most current issue of TOWN MEETING TIME to be considered the general guideline for all procedures of town meetings, except those procedures already provided for by the by-laws. Subject to change, I have some additional rules that I follow. Those are to:

- 1) Call the meeting to order and go over some housekeeping issues such as the location of fire exits, asking you to silence cell phones and electronic devices, and the like.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Read the Constables' return of the Warrant to show that it was properly served and posted.
- 4) Introduce Special Guests, and the like.
- 5) As I call each Article, a Motion will be read and seconded (generally by the Select Board, unless it is a citizen petition) and shown on the screen behind me unless there was no ability for the room to readily accommodate such a screen.
- 6) I will then ask for the Recommendation of the Advisory Committee (just their vote on their "Advisory Committee Recommendation's" document).
- 7) Return to the Motion maker for any explanation.
- 8) Open the floor for discussion (including first recognizing the Advisory Committee for any particular reasons behind their recommendation).
- 9) Anyone wishing to speak on any issue must first proceed to a microphone and be recognized by the Moderator. I will not entertain any shout outs and you must use a microphone unless I permit otherwise. You will be asked to state your name and street or road every time you are given permission to speak. You may also be asked if you are speaking as a resident or on behalf of a board or committee.

Any amendments to the main motion must be submitted to me in writing, and signed by the motion maker of said amendment.

Anyone unruly or disorderly will be given a warning and advised that they are out of order. If the situation continues they will be escorted out of the meeting and placed in a convenient place until the meeting is adjourned.

10) If I am not certain of a voice vote or if a vote declared by me is immediately questioned by seven (7) or more people standing and or recognized by me, I will proceed to a hand count.

Otherwise general parliamentary procedure and common courtesy rule the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J H Graves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John H. Graves

Town Moderator

Common Terms of Finance

As you read the warrant articles there will be some terms that are unique to public finance or particular to Massachusetts. Below are some definitions of those terms to help you better understand what the request might be for and how it is to be funded.

Fiscal Year: Most government entities follow a budget year of their choosing, or that is specified by the state, that is different than the January 1 to December 31 calendar year. Templeton follows a Fiscal Year (FY) of July 1 of a year to June 30 of the following year. We always refer to the Fiscal Year as of the year in which it ends (June 30, 2025 is FY '25).

Free Cash: Most budgets assume you collect every dollar - and spend every dollar - you think you will. That never really happens. There are often variations. Free Cash is defined as the remaining, unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year (i.e. after any liabilities or potential variances you cannot account for) including unexpended free cash from the prior year. In simplest terms, it is actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates and unspent amounts in the appropriation line items. Free cash is not available for appropriation until certified by the Department of Revenue (DOR) Director of Accounts.

Retained Earnings: This is the phrase used for free cash of an enterprise fund such as the Sewer fund.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB): We promise the people we hire (under certain conditions) that we will give them other benefits (health, dental, and life insurance) beyond just their retirement monies. We are required to calculate how much money it would take to pay for those other benefits and to develop a plan to set that money aside to cover this promise.

Stabilization Fund: The state allows the Town to set up funds in which it can set aside monies in anticipation of paying for allowable, generally unforeseen (i.e. think “rainy day” funds) or high cost items expenditures. Generally speaking, it takes a majority vote to put money into these funds and a 2/3 vote to withdraw money from them. The Town has two such funds.

Capital Expense (CAPEX): This covers replacement or major repair of our equipment or facilities such as Town Hall and the like.

Operating (OPEX): This provides monies to getting through major economic downturns without having to devastate services, high cost unforeseen assessments the state or others might require of us, and the like.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

ARTICLE 1 PAYMENT OF LATE BILLS Submitted by the Select Board 9/10ths Vote Required

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of a late bill from the prior fiscal year from the FY '25 budget of the following department in the following amount:

Department	Amount	Reason
Fire Department	\$3,500	Late Bill

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This is for the emergency demolition of a barn during an active fire that was invoiced to the Town after the end of the fiscal year.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 1, with a vote of 3 yes 1 abstain.

ARTICLE 2 FISCAL YEAR 2025 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT(S) Submitted by the Select Board Majority Vote Required

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen Dollars and Eleven Cents (\$185,618.11) for supplemental appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget as follows:

Department	Amount	Reason
Accountant	\$5,000	Backfill
Snow & Ice	\$180,618.11	FY '25 Deficit

And to meet said appropriation by a transfer of said sum from certified free cash.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This appropriation will allow us to fund the Accountant’s personnel account which is needed due to overlap when the prior Accountant left. The free cash contained in this article will cover the entire amount of our snow & ice deficit.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 2, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 3
FISCAL YEAR 2025 SEWER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET SUPPLEMENT
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Sewer Commissioners
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$100,000.00), to increase the FY 2025 Sewer Department Budget by said sum to total, in the aggregate, the sum of One Million Five Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars and No Cents (\$1,579,886.00) and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of said sum from certified retained earnings.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This article is due to the unexpected work that had to be completed after July 1, 2024 from the prior fiscal year (FY’24) breakdowns that was not budgeted for and a few unexpected repairs in this fiscal year (FY’25). The increase in the sewer rates (20%) that took effect April 1 of this year is to prevent from having this happen in FY’26, and due to rising prices.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 3, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 4
CONSENT AGENDA
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to approve a consent agenda consisting of the following non-controversial actions or take any other action related thereto. Such items may be voted as a block, or singly, or in any combination but, however voted, will be treated for accounting and legislative purposes as if each item were voted as a separate article.

A. REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS

Accept the reports of the Town Officers as written in the 2024 Town Report.

B. REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES

Allow any Town Committee to present its report.

C. SET ANNUAL SPENDING LIMITS OF REVOLVING FUNDS

Set the annual spending limits of the Town's revolving funds as follows:

Burial & Improvement Fund	\$10,000
Recycling Fund	\$10,000
Plumbing & Gas Inspector Fund	\$20,000
Electrical Inspector Fund	\$25,000
Parks and Recreation Fund	\$100,000
Salt Brine Production System Fund	\$25,000

D. ACCEPT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMMUNITY FEE ASSESSMENT

Appropriate such sum of money as may be received by the Town from the Massachusetts Transportation Network Community Fee Assessment to an account entitled MART Dial A Ride.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: Paragraphs A and B are annual housekeeping items to accept certain reports. Paragraph C sets the maximum amount that can be spent out of the currently existing revolving funds established in the By-Laws. This includes an increase from \$75k to \$100k for the Parks and Recreation Fund. The Salt Brine Production System Fund was approved by Town Meeting on November 15, 2023. Paragraph D appropriates Templeton's portion of the state surcharge on ride share companies to the MART Dial A Ride account.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 4, with a vote of 4-0.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 5 AMENDING THE BYLAWS RE: ELECTRONIC VOTING Submitted by the Town Clerk Majority Vote Required</p>

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 22-10 of the General Bylaws as follows:

When a question is put, the sense of the meeting shall be determined by the voices of the voters and the Moderator shall declare the vote as it appears to him/her. If the Moderator is unable to decide the vote by the sound of the voices, or if his/her decision is immediately questioned by seven or more voters rising in their places for that purpose, he/she shall determine the vote by ordering a show of hands, and he/she may appoint tellers to make and return the count. On matters requiring a two-thirds vote by statute a count need not be taken unless the vote so declared is immediately questioned by the Moderator or seven or more voters as provided in MGL c. 39, § 15. **Notwithstanding the above or any provision of these bylaws to the contrary, subject to the availability of a system to enable electronic voting by Town Meeting using handheld devices, the Moderator may count the vote, or conduct a roll call vote, on any matter before the Town Meeting by the use of such system.**

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: Article 5 updates the bylaw to allow for the use of handheld devices that would make voting at town meeting more efficient, would eliminate the need for hand counts that have a margin for error, and would provide privacy for each voter as the Town Meeting would not see who voted, only the results.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 5, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 6
AMENDING THE TOWN BY-LAWS SECTIONS 71.2: FINANCIAL REPORTS, AND
71.3: ANNUAL REPORT
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will amend the By-Laws, Chapter 71, Section 2 Financial Reports and Section 3 Annual Report as follows, or take any other action thereto:

- Deletions are in ~~striketrough~~.
- Additions are in **bold**.

§ 71-2: Financial Reports

All officers, boards, standing committees, and special committees of the Town having charge of the expenditure of Town money shall on a fiscal year basis report thereon in writing in such manner as to give the citizens a fair and full understanding of the objects and methods of such expenditures, referring, however, to the report of the Town Accountant for statements in detail of receipts and payments, and may make therein such recommendations as they deem proper. Such reports shall be submitted to the Select Board (Board) for inclusion in the Annual Town Report on or before the ~~31st day of January of each year~~ **last Thursday of October following the end of the fiscal year.**

§ 71-3: Annual Report

- A. Publication. It shall be the duty of the Board to publish the Annual Report, to be made available to the residents **electronically** on the official Town website on the last ~~Tuesday~~ **Thursday** of April of each year and ~~for distribution at the polling places and also at Town Hall in the Board's office~~ **Thursday of April of each year, and physical copies be made available for distribution at Town Hall in the Select Board's office on the same day, and thereafter the Board will make copies available for distribution at the Annual Town Meeting.**

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This article would change the deadline for Boards and Committees to submit their annual reports by the last Thursday in October, which would allow more time for the drafting of the Annual Report; and it would require the Select Board office to make copies available for residents on the last Thursday of April, allowing approximately 2.5 weeks for residents that wish to pick up a copy to review the copy of the Annual Report before Town Meeting where they are asked to accept said report.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 6, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 7
SURPLUS SEWER EASEMENT
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to measure potential of a 20-foot-wide easement for the purpose of assessing value and potential use of the property known at 381 Baldwinville Road, owned by the Town of Templeton.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This article would result in the Select Board having authorization from Town Meeting to have the 20-foot-wide easement (not the property) behind the Department of Public Services building appraised to find out the value of said easement for the purpose of discussing the potential use, if any, of said property up to and including potentially declaring the easement as surplus. This appraisal *would not* be at the cost of the Town; and *would not* allow the sale of the easement. Should the Select Board consider or vote for the sale of the easement, an article would need to be placed on a future town meeting in order to ask the Town Meeting to authorize the sale of the easement.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 7, with a vote of 4-0.

ARTICLE 8
FUNDING OF COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACCOUNT(S)
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee
Majority Vote Required

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$400,000.00) to the several accounts of the Community Preservation Committee, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, as follows:

	Amount	% of Total
Administrative Account	\$20,000	5%
Historic Resources Reserve	\$40,000	10%
Community Housing Reserve	\$40,000	10%
Open Space & Recreation Reserve	\$40,000	10%
General Reserve	<u>\$260,000</u>	<u>65%</u>
Total	\$400,000	100%

And to meet said appropriation by a transfer from the Community Preservation annual revenues, which include the amount to be collected as a surcharge on real property, and the November 2025 state match for CPA permissible expenses.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This is the annual article where we distribute the local CPA tax surcharge and the state match to its several sub-accounts in accordance with the statutory provisions. Specific projects are then considered by Town Meeting under separate warrant articles (such as Article 10 and 11).

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 8, with a vote of 4-0.

ARTICLE 9
CPA CLOSURE OF THE STONE BRIDGE PROJECT ACCOUNTS
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee
Majority Vote Required

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to close the sum of Eighty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars and Twenty-One Cents (\$83,337.21) for the below mentioned projects, and for the monies to revert back to their source funds:

- STM 11/2019 - STONE BRIDGE \$34,000.00 - OPEN SPACE
- STM 10/2020 - STONE BRIDGE \$49,337.21 - UNDESIGNATED

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This would allow the unexpended funding previously voted at Town Meeting to be placed back in the Community Preservation accounts to be approved and used by the Committee for other projects.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 9, with a vote of 4-0.

ARTICLE 10
CPA FUNDING FOR GILMAN WAITE SOFTBALL FIELDS
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee
Majority Vote Required

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$120,000.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Templeton Parks and Recreation	\$120,000	Gilman Waite	\$50,000 Open Space/Recreation
Templeton Dept. Public Works		Softball Fields ¹	\$70,000 Undesignated

¹ Provide funding to replace the fencing and the dugouts, and to improve the field surfaces, at the Gilman Waite Softball Field at Gilman Waite Park, in Baldwinville. Public benefit includes safer fields and protection from the weather for participants.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This would allow for the replacement of fencing and dugouts and improvements to field surfaces at Gilman Waite as listed above¹.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 10, with a vote of 4-0.

ARTICLE 11
CPA FUNDING FOR HOUGHTON PARK BALLFIELD PROJECT
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee
Majority Vote Required

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$125,000.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Templeton Parks and Recreation Templeton Dept. Public Works	\$125,000	Rehab Houghton Park Ballfield ¹	\$125,000 Undesignated

¹ Rehabilitating of the Houghton Park Ballfield as described in the grant application by the Town of Templeton to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant program (301. CMR 5.00). Approval of CPA funds for this project is contingent upon the Town receiving the PARC grant and its associated reimbursement returned to the CPA Undesignated Reserve Fund.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This would allow the funding for the rehabilitation of Houghton Park Ballfield as listed above¹.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 11, with a vote of 4-0.

ARTICLE 12
STATE AUDIT
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to approve the expenditure from free cash in the amount of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$12,500.00) to commission the State Auditor to conduct a forensic audit of the Town's finances over the past five years with all unexpended funds allocated for this purpose deposited back into the General Fund.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This would allow the Select Board to pay for the Massachusetts State Auditor to conduct a forensic audit of the Town's finances for the past 5 years. The Select Board voted to request this for a double-check of the Town's finances.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 12, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 13
FY 2026 SEWER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Sewer Commission
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Million Six Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars and No Cents (\$1,656,257.00) to operate the Sewer Department for Fiscal Year 2026 and the balance from the receipts and revenues to be collected on behalf of the Sewer Department for said fiscal year.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This article is the annual operating budget for the Sewer Department. This Department is an enterprise fund and operates with the payments made to it by users of the system.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 13, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 14
FY 2026 CABLE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$178,650.00) to operate the Cable Department for Fiscal Year 2026 and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$3,650.00) from the certified retained earnings of the Cable Fund, a transfer of Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$50,000.00) from certified free cash and the balance from the receipts and revenues to be collected on behalf of the Cable Department for said fiscal year.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This is the annual operating budget for the Cable Department. The Department is operated as an enterprise fund and is funded with the payments made to the Town by the local cable franchisee.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 14, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 15
SET THE SALARIES OF ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote, in accord with M.G.L.c. 41 § 108, to fix or maintain the salaries of certain elected officials for Fiscal Year 2026 as follows:

Town Clerk	\$	77,515	Yearly
Select Board (Each)	\$	2,550	Yearly ³
Water Commissioner (Each)	\$	2,550	Yearly ¹
Sewer Commissioner (Each)	\$	3,000	Yearly ¹
Light Commissioner (Each)	\$	2,550	Yearly ²

¹ Paid for by an enterprise.

² Paid for by the Light Department.

³ This was reduced due to the limited budget for FY'26

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: It is a requirement of statute that the compensation of these elected officials be set at a Town Meeting. In general, this is done at an Annual Town Meeting.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 15, with a vote of 3-1.

**ARTICLE 16
FUNDING FOR AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to transfer Five Hundred Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars and No Cents (\$512,939.00) from the Fire Department/Ambulance – Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, to be spent by the Fire Chief to pay for the operation of the ambulance service within the Fire Department during FY 2026, with any unexpended monies in

the ambulance budget being returned to the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account and with any unexpended balances in the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account being carried forward to the subsequent fiscal year.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: The Town has broken out the ambulance expenses and will be fully funded by the Ambulance Receipts.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 16, with a vote of 3-0, 1 abstain.

**ARTICLE 17
FY 2026 GENERAL FUND OPERATING (OPEX) BUDGET
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Million Six Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Seventy-Four Dollars and No Cents (\$10,633,074.00) for the operations of General Government for Fiscal Year 2026.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This is the annual operating budget for the general fund. The Select Board acknowledges a degree of concern over the uncertain picture on what the local aid and the school budget will eventually be and understands the challenge for the out years. If that final figure puts the budget out of balance, we will present an article to the Fall Town Meeting to “right-size” the budget.

Dept Code	Name	FY 25 Budget
120	Select Board	\$ 343,839
130	Advisory Committee (1)	\$ 50,000
135	Town Accountant	\$ 200,766
141	Assessor	\$ 109,250
147	Treasurer/Collector	\$ 187,983
155	IT & Communications	\$ 120,050
161	Town Clerk	\$ 140,875
200	Police & Dispatch	\$ 1,705,000
220	Fire	\$ 809,452
230	Emergency Management	\$ 2,250
250	Development Services	\$ 234,345
400	Highway	\$ 851,000
410	Building & Grounds	\$ 444,930
420	Snow & Ice	\$ 167,500

430	Parks & Recreation	\$	66,000
500	Veterans Service	\$	121,700
600	Senior Services	\$	157,000
610	Library	\$	96,608
620	Historical & Culture	\$	2,500
700	Debt Service	\$	1,649,542
900	Insurance & Benefits	\$	3,172,483
		\$	10,633,074

- (1) Contains MGL Ch. 40 §6 Reserve Transferrable by Advisory Committee for "...emergency or unforeseen expenditures..."

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a NO vote on Article 16, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 18
TANKER LEASE
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Seven Thousand Thirty-Four Dollars and No Cents (\$97,034.00) for the second year of the tanker lease and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of Ninety-Seven Thousand Thirty-Four Dollars and No Cents (\$97,034.00) from certified free cash.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This article approves the payment for the second year of the tanker lease.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 18, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 19
BARRE ROAD DESIGN GRANT MATCH
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) to match the Barre Road Design Grant and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) from infrastructure stabilization account.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: In January 2025, the Town received a partial grant award of \$290,000.00 from the EOED Rural Development Fund that will pay for approximately 97% of the \$300,000.00 engineering contract to rehabilitate all 3.9 miles of Barre Road. If approved, Article 19 would appropriate \$10,000 from Free Cash to pay for the remaining 3% of the engineering work.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 19, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 20
EXEMPT TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS FROM BEING A PROHIBITED
AREA FOR THE POSSESSION OF FIREARMS
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to exempt Town administrative buildings or offices from being classified as a “prohibited area” for the possession of firearms under the provisions of Section 124 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024, as outlined in G.L. c. 269, Section 10(k)(2).

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: Guns are currently prohibited from being brought into municipal buildings based on a state law known as *An Act to Modernize Firearms Law*. The law, which took effect Aug. 2, 2024, prohibits firearms on all government properties with the exemption of state-owned public land used for hunting. The law allows communities to opt out of the prohibition on municipal property. If this article passes, it essentially puts back in place what the Town of Templeton already had in place prior to the *Act to Modernize Firearms Law*.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 20, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 21
AMEND ZONING BYLAWS RE: FLOODPLAIN OVERLAY DISTRICT
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Planning Board
Two-Thirds Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to delete the text of § 300-17 of the Zoning Bylaws in its entirety, and insert in its place the following § 300-17:

§ 300-17: Floodplain Overlay District.

- A. Purpose. The purpose of the Floodplain Overlay District is to:
1. Ensure public safety through reducing the threats to life and personal injury
 2. Eliminate new hazards to emergency response officials
 3. Prevent the occurrence of public emergencies resulting from water quality, contamination, and pollution due to flooding
 4. Avoid the loss of utility services which if damaged by flooding would disrupt or shut down the utility network and impact regions of the community beyond the site of flooding
 5. Eliminate costs associated with the response and cleanup of flooding conditions
 6. Reduce damage to public and private property resulting from flooding waters
- B. Definitions. For the purposes of this § 300-17, Floodplain Overlay District, the following terms shall have the following definitions:

DEVELOPMENT means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP means an official map of a community issued by FEMA that depicts, based on detailed analyses, the boundaries of the 100-year and 500-year floods and the 100-year floodway. (For maps done in 1987 and later, the floodway designation is included on the FIRM.)

FLOODWAY. The channel of the river, creek or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.

HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

HISTORIC STRUCTURE means any structure that is:

- (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- (b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- (c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
- (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:

- (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
- (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

NEW CONSTRUCTION. Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management code, regulation, ordinance, or standard adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, including any subsequent improvements to such structures. New construction includes work determined to be substantial improvement.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE means a vehicle which is:

- (a) Built on a single chassis;
- (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
- (c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
- (d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

REGULATORY FLOODWAY - see FLOODWAY.

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA. The land area subject to flood hazards and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone A, AE, A1-30, A99, AR, AO, AH, V, VO, VE or V1-30.

START OF CONSTRUCTION. The date of issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement or other improvement is within 180 days after the date of issuance. The actual start of construction means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, installation of pilings or construction of columns.

Permanent construction does not include land preparation (such as clearing, excavation, grading or filling), the installation of streets or walkways, excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, the erection of temporary forms or the installation of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For a substantial improvement, the actual "start of construction" means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

STRUCTURE means, for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

SUBSTANTIAL REPAIR OF A FOUNDATION. When work to repair or replace a foundation results in the repair or replacement of a portion of the foundation with a perimeter along the base of the foundation that equals or exceeds 50% of the perimeter of the base of the foundation measured in linear feet, or repair or replacement of 50% of the piles, columns or piers of a pile, column or pier supported foundation, the building official shall determine it to be substantial repair of a foundation. Applications determined by the building official to constitute substantial repair of a foundation shall require all existing portions of the entire building or structure to meet the requirements of 780 CMR.

VARIANCE means a grant of relief by a community from the terms of a flood plain management regulation.

VIOLATION means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in §60.3 is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

- C. Use of FEMA maps and supporting studies. The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas designated on the Town's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program, dated May 17, 1982, and on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map dated May 17, 1982. The exact boundaries of the District shall be defined by the 1%-chance base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated November 17, 1981. The effective FIRM, FBFM, and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board, Building Official, and Conservation Commission.
- D. Designation of community Floodplain Administrator. The Town of Templeton hereby designates the position of Development Services Director to be the official floodplain administrator for the Town.
- E. Permits required. The Town of Templeton requires a permit for all proposed construction or other development in the floodplain overlay district, including new construction or changes to existing buildings, placement of manufactured homes, placement of agricultural facilities, fences, sheds, storage facilities or drilling, mining, paving and any other development that might increase flooding or adversely impact flood risks to other properties.
- F. Assure that all necessary permits are obtained. The Town's permit review process includes the requirement that the proponent obtain all local, state and federal permits that will be necessary in order to carry out the proposed development in the floodplain overlay district. The proponent must acquire all necessary permits, and must demonstrate that all necessary permits have been acquired.
- G. Floodway Encroachment.
 - 1. In Zones A and A1-30, , along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the best available Federal, State, local, or other floodway data shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

2. In Zones A1-30, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the Town's Flood Boundary & Floodway Map encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
- H. Unnumbered A Zones. In A Zones, in the absence of FEMA BFE data and floodway data, the building department will obtain, review and reasonably utilize base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State, or other source as criteria for requiring new construction, substantial improvements, or other development in Zone A and as the basis for elevating residential structures to or above base flood level, for floodproofing or elevating nonresidential structures to or above base flood level, and for prohibiting encroachments in floodways.
- I. Subdivision proposals. All subdivision proposals and development proposals in the floodplain overlay district shall be reviewed to assure that:
1. Such proposals minimize flood damage.
 2. Public utilities and facilities are located & constructed so as to minimize flood damage.
 3. Adequate drainage is provided.
- J. Base flood elevation data for subdivision proposals. When proposing subdivisions or other developments greater than 50 lots or 5 acres (whichever is less), the proponent must provide technical data to determine base flood elevations for each developable parcel shown on the design plans.
- K. Recreational Vehicles. In A and A1-30 Zones, all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements or be on the site for less than 180 consecutive days or be fully licensed and highway ready.
- L. Watercourse alterations or relocations in riverine areas. In a riverine situation, the Development Services Director or Zoning Board of Appeals shall notify the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse:
1. Adjacent Communities, especially upstream and downstream.
 2. Bordering States, if affected.
 3. NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.
 4. NFIP Program Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I.

M. Requirement to submit new technical data. If the Town acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Town will, within 6 months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s.) Notification shall be submitted to:

1. NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.
2. NFIP Program Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I.

N. Variances to building code floodplain standards.

1. The Town will request from the State Building Code Appeals Board a written and/or audible copy of the portion of the hearing related to the variance, and will maintain this record in the community's files.
2. The Town shall also issue a letter to the property owner regarding potential impacts to the annual premiums for the flood insurance policy covering that property, in writing over the signature of a community official that (i) the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property.
3. Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

O. Variances to local Zoning Bylaws related to community compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). A variance from these floodplain bylaws must meet the requirements set out by State law, and may only be granted if: 1) Good and sufficient cause and exceptional non-financial hardship exist; 2) the variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or fraud or victimization of the public; and 3) the variance is the minimum action necessary to afford relief.

P. Abrogation and greater restriction. The floodplain management regulations found in this Floodplain Overlay District section shall take precedence over any less restrictive conflicting local laws, ordinances, or codes.

Q. Disclaimer of liability. The degree of flood protection required by this bylaw is considered reasonable but does not imply total flood protection.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: The town was behind on flood plain management with DCR, FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program. This article would provide definitions of everything involved and designates a flood plain administrator that can help residents if they are building in a flood plain zone or have high flood insurance

rates. This updates the language in the current bylaw and does not affect the size of the flood plain or the current flood plain maps.

NOTE: See APPENDIX A for Planning Board recommendations.

Advisory Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 21, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 22
GAAMHA OPIOID SERVICES AGREEMENT PAYMENT
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars and No Cents (\$1,287.00) from the Opioid Abatement Stabilization Fund, to pay the second year of the Town of Templeton Agreement with GAAMHA, a non-profit organization having a principal location at 208 Coleman Street, Gardner, MA 01440.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: The Select Board entered into an agreement with GAAMHA to provide services for Templeton residents impacted by opioids. This transfer is to cover the fee for the second year of this agreement.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 22, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 23
MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Montachusett
Regional Vocational Technical School District
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Six Hundred Six Dollars and No Cents (\$633,606.00) as the amount assessed upon the Town for the Fiscal Year 2026 assessment by the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District for the purposes of educating and transporting the Town's enrolled students and capital and debt expenses provided, however, that any stated amount shall be reduced to any lesser amount which shall subsequently be certified by the School Committee and certified to the Town, for Fiscal Year 2026.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This is our annual article to pay the assessment upon us by the District for our Templeton students that attend.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 23, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 24
NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Million Six Hundred Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and No Cents (\$8,618,765.00) and to transfer One Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Four Dollars and No Cents (\$168,534.00) from certified free cash to reach a total of Eight Million Seven Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars and No Cents (\$8,787,299.00) for the purposes of educating and transporting the Town's enrolled students provided, however, that any stated amount shall be reduced to any lesser amount which shall subsequently be certified by the School Committee and certified to the Town, for Fiscal Year 2026.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This is the annual assessment that was voted on by the Narragansett Regional School Committee. The District worked with the Town to reduce their original request and made cuts to allow them to certify a lower amount.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 24, with a vote of 3-1.

**ARTICLE 25
NORFOLK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL TUITION
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty-One Dollars and No Cents (\$29,241.00) to pay for the tuition of a Templeton resident admitted to Norfolk County Agricultural School as required by Chapter 74 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This article is for the tuition of the Templeton student attending Norfolk Agricultural High School. This is in accordance with MGL Ch. 74.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 25, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 26
NORFOLK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Dollars and No Cents (\$7,416.00) from the Opioid Abatement Stabilization Fund, to pay the first year of the Town of Templeton Agreement with GAAMHA, a non-profit organization having a principal location at 208 Coleman Street, Gardner, MA 01440.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Summary: This article is for the transportation of the Templeton student going to Norfolk Agricultural High School. The Town will be eligible for state reimbursement covering some of the costs of the transportation. This is in accordance with MGL Ch. 74.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 26, with a vote of 4-0.

**ARTICLE 27
CITIZEN PETITION TO AMEND §300-8
Submitted by Citizen Petition
Two Thirds Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will amend code of the Town by adding to Chapter §300-8, Section A the following:

(9) Prohibited shall be activity including regulated technologies, treatment, processing, handling, or conversion of waste, post-use materials, raw materials, feedstock, commodities, or any substance to produce any of the following:

(1) Basic hydrocarbon raw materials, feedstocks, chemicals, liquid fuels, intermediary substances in the production of fuels, waxes and lubricants.

(2) Other products, including, but not limited to, monomers, oligomers, plastics, crude oil, naphtha, crumb rubber, liquid transportation fuels or other basic hydrocarbons.

Further prohibited is stockpiling any waste, post-use materials, raw materials, feedstock, commodities, or any substance for purposes described above.

Injection Molding, Apiaries, and other businesses within the town established, permitted, and operating are exempt from this bylaw.

Special permits must be approved by voters at town meeting.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Definitions:

“Regulated technologies”: The use of plastic as a fuel or fuel substitute or the general use of plastic or waste, post-use materials, raw materials, feedstock, recovered feedstock, commodities, or any substance in any step of commercial energy production. “Regulated technologies” shall include, but not be limited to, gasification, pyrolysis, solvolysis, hydrolysis, methanolysis, catalytic cracking, enzymatic breakdown, combustion, or any other combustion or manufacturing process used to transform post use materials, rubber, plastic or plastic-derived materials into plastic monomers, oligomers, chemicals, waxes, lubricants, chemical feedstocks, crude oil, diesel, gasoline, home heating oil, crude oil, naptha, basic hydrocarbon raw materials, feedstocks, liquid fuels or other substance in the process of fuel production or artificial turf production.

“Depolymerization”: a process through which heat, pressure, and/or solvents are used to break plastic polymers into oligomers and/or monomers.

“Gasification”: a process through which materials are exposed to heat, converting carbon-based materials to synthetic fuels, gasses, chemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricants, or other substances and solid residues, slag, ash, char, liquid wastes, and/or wastewater.

“Handling”: placement of material on a property within Templeton for future use, transport, oversight, managing, sorting, treatment, storage, or processing of any substance the intended use of which is related to regulated technologies.

“Hydrolysis”: a process through which materials are exposed to heat in the presence of hydrogen, converting carbon-based materials to synthetic fuels, chemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricants, or other substances and solid residues, slag, ash, char, liquid wastes, and/or wastewater.

“Pyrolysis”: a process through which materials are exposed to heat in the absence of oxygen, converting carbon-based materials to synthetic fuels, chemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricants, or other substances and solid residues, slag, ash, char, liquid wastes, and/or wastewater.

“Recovered feedstock”: material derived and separated from solid waste, segregated solid waste, recyclable materials, manufacturing scrap or byproduct, medical, domestic, or construction and demolition (C&D) debris for use as a feedstock or raw material.

“Solvolysis”: a process through which materials are combined with a solvent and subjected to heat and/or high pressure.

“Treatment”: any method, technique, or process—such as neutralization—designed to alter the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of materials. This includes, but is not limited to, the application of heat, radiation, solvents, salts, acids, alkalis, catalysts, and other chemical agents.

NOTE: See APPENDIX A for Planning Board recommendations.

**ARTICLE 28
CITIZEN PETITION TO AMEND §300-9
Submitted by Citizen Petition
Two Thirds Vote Required**

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will amend code of the Town by adding to Chapter §300-9, Section A the following:

(9) Prohibited shall be activity including regulated technologies, treatment, processing, handling, or conversion of waste, post-use materials, raw materials, feedstock, commodities, or any substance to produce any of the following:

(1) Basic hydrocarbon raw materials, feedstocks, chemicals, liquid fuels, intermediary substances in the production of fuels, waxes and lubricants.

(2) Other products, including, but not limited to, monomers, oligomers, plastics, crude oil, naphtha, crumb rubber, liquid transportation fuels or other basic hydrocarbons.

Further prohibited is stockpiling any waste, post-use materials, raw materials, feedstock, commodities, or any substance for purposes described above.

Injection Molding, Apiaries, and other businesses within the town established, permitted, and operating , are exempt from this bylaw.

Special permits must be approved by voters at town meeting.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Definitions:

“Regulated technologies”: The use of plastic as a fuel or fuel substitute or the general use of plastic or waste, post-use materials, raw materials, feedstock, recovered feedstock, commodities, or any substance in any step of commercial energy production. “Regulated technologies” shall include, but not be limited to, gasification, pyrolysis, solvolysis, hydrolysis, methanolysis, catalytic cracking, enzymatic breakdown, combustion, or any other combustion or manufacturing process used to transform post use materials, rubber, plastic or plastic-derived materials into plastic monomers, oligomers, chemicals, waxes, lubricants, chemical feedstocks, crude oil, diesel, gasoline, home heating oil, crude oil, naphtha,

basic hydrocarbon raw materials, feedstocks, liquid fuels or other substance in the process of fuel production or artificial turf production.

“Depolymerization”: a process through which heat, pressure, and/or solvents are used to break plastic polymers into oligomers and/or monomers.

“Gasification”: a process through which materials are exposed to heat, converting carbon-based materials to synthetic fuels, gasses, chemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricants, or other substances and solid residues, slag, ash, char, liquid wastes, and/or wastewater.

“Handling”: placement of material on a property within Templeton for future use, transport, oversight, managing, sorting, treatment, storage, or processing of any substance the intended use of which is related to regulated technologies.

“Hydropyrolysis”: a process through which materials are exposed to heat in the presence of hydrogen, converting carbon-based materials to synthetic fuels, chemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricants, or other substances and solid residues, slag, ash, char, liquid wastes, and/or wastewater.

“Pyrolysis”: a process through which materials are exposed to heat in the absence of oxygen, converting carbon-based materials to synthetic fuels, chemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricants, or other substances and solid residues, slag, ash, char, liquid wastes, and/or wastewater.

“Recovered feedstock”: material derived and separated from solid waste, segregated solid waste, recyclable materials, manufacturing scrap or byproduct, medical, domestic, or construction and demolition (C&D) debris for use as a feedstock or raw material.

“Solvolysis”: a process through which materials are combined with a solvent and subjected to heat and/or high pressure.

“Treatment”: any method, technique, or process—such as neutralization—designed to alter the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of materials. This includes, but is not limited to, the application of heat, radiation, solvents, salts, acids, alkalis, catalysts, and other chemical agents.

NOTE: See APPENDIX A for Planning Board recommendations.

ARTICLE 29
CITIZEN PETITION TO AMEND §300-10
Submitted by Citizen Petition
Two Thirds Vote Required

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to amend the zoning bylaw by adding the following new section 300-10.A (10) with regard to allowed uses in the R-A-1 district:

(10) The indoor or outdoor storage of vehicles and plows owned or operated by MassDOT, or, subject to site plan approval under Section 300-32, the indoor or outdoor storage of vehicles and plows used in conjunction with a contract for services with MassDOT, for the plowing of State Highways, whether as a principal or accessory use.

Or what it will do in relation thereto.

See APPENDIX A for Planning Board recommendations.

APPENDIX A



Town of Templeton Planning Board

P.O. Box 620
E. Templeton MA 01438
978-894-2771

Email: lwiita@templetonma.gov

To: Interim Town Administrator
Select Board Members

From: Planning Board
Kirk Moschetti, Chair

Date: April 30, 2025

Re: Citizen's Petitions
Floodplain Management Article

At the Planning Board meeting of April 29, 2025, members of the Planning Board opened a hearing for the purpose of providing comment on draft citizens' petitions 25, 26, and 27. Below, please see the members' findings below:

Article 25: Citizen Petition to Amend 300-8

Members discussed the petition, and although they understand the intent, they have concerns that definitions are too broad and therefore will deter small businesses, as well as commercial businesses, from coming to Templeton and could affect future site plan review oversight; having special permit requests be required to be town meeting approved will end businesses, small and large, from looking at Templeton as a place to establish themselves.

Kirk Moschetti made a motion to ***not recommend*** Article 25 for the ATM, seconded by Charles Carroll; with no further discussion a vote was taken with three (3) for the motion and one (1) for the article.

Article 26: Citizen Petition to Amend 300-9

For the same reasons listed above for Article 25, Kirk Moschetti made a motion to ***not*** recommend Article 26 for the ATM, seconded by Charles Carroll; with no further discussion a vote was taken with three (3) for the motion and one (1) to ***not recommend*** the article.

Article 27: Citizen Petition to Amend 300-10

Members discussed the petition, and the implications of storing large equipment within the RA1 (residential agricultural 1 acre required) and the specific nature of the article.

Kirk Moschetti made a motion to ***not recommend*** Article 27 for the ATM, seconded by Charles Carroll; with no further discussion a vote was taken with members voting unanimously.

Article XX: Amend Zoning Bylaws Re: Floodplain Overlay District

Members discussed the draft article, submitted by Development Services. The proposed changes update the existing bylaw to work in conjunction with DCR, FEMA, and NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program).

Kirk Moschetti made a motion to ***recommend*** the replacement of the current bylaw with the proposed state approved version, seconded by Charles Carroll; with no further discussion a vote was taken with members voting unanimously to ***recommend*** the article.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Moschetti, Chair
Planning Board