

TOWN OF DOVER

WARRANT

for the

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, May 6, 2024
and

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

(should Town Meeting need to continue to a second evening.)

7:00 PM

Dover-Sherborn Regional School
Mudge Auditorium

and

TOWN ELECTIONS

Monday, May 20, 2024

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Dover Town House



ARTICLES OF THE WARRANT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2024

To the Residents of Dover:

This Warrant provides notification of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting and Town Election. It advises residents of the various issues being considered at the business meeting scheduled for May 6th and the Offices on the ballot for the Town Election on May 20th. Only Articles listed in this Warrant may come before residents for a vote.

Articles for the Annual Town Meeting are grouped in five categories: Financial/Budget, Zoning and Planning, General Articles, Citizens' Petitions, and the Tax Rate.

The most important votes that take place at the Annual Town Meeting are related to the budget. We urge citizens to read the budget, understand it, and help us foster excellence within the community. The Town website, <https://www.doverma.gov/453/Town-Meeting>, includes the most recent version of the FY2025 Budget and other financial Articles as well as other relevant information for each Article.

A comprehensive budget recommendation for FY2025 will be delivered to all Town Meeting Members in mid-April in the Warrant Committee Report and Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting, also referred to as the 'Blue Book' (for its color). The Blue Book will provide much more detail and explanation of each Article. We recommend you bring a copy of the Blue Book to Town Meeting.

About Town Meeting: Sometimes referred to as the oldest form of government in the country, Town Meeting is your opportunity to learn about, participate, and vote in Dover's Town Government. Please consider spending a few hours of your time to attend this year's Town Meeting and play a role in the direction of your Town. Thank you.

Dover Board of Selectmen

John D. Jeffries, Chair
Robyn Hunter, Clerk
David M. Haviland, Member

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Norfolk, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of Dover in said County, Greetings;

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Dover, qualified as the Constitution requires to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet in the Mudge Auditorium at the Dover-Sherborn Regional High School in said Town on Monday, the 6th day of May, 2024, at seven o'clock in the evening then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

Article 1. Hear/Act on Committee Reports (Board of Selectmen)

To hear and act on the various reports of the various committees:

- (a) As contained in the printed 2023 Annual Report; and
- (b) Any other reports submitted to the voters by the Town Committees.

FINANCE/BUDGET ARTICLES

Article 2. Establish Salaries for Elected Officials for FY2025 (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will set the salaries for its elected officials for the ensuing fiscal year; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 3. Authorize Amounts for Revolving Funds (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Section 5-16 (Finances) of the General Bylaws of the Town of Dover to authorize the use of revolving fund accounts for the following boards or departments, and that unless otherwise amended by the Board of Selectmen and Warrant Committee, such accounts shall not exceed the following amounts for Fiscal Year 2025:

1.	Building Department		
(a)	Gas Inspector		\$12,350
(b)	Plumbing Inspector		\$22,050
(c)	Wiring Inspector		\$34,500
2.	Board of Health		
(a)	Perk and deep hole inspection and permitting		\$40,000
(b)	Septic inspection and permitting		\$50,000
(c)	Well inspection and permitting		\$20,000
(d)	Swimming pool inspection and permitting		\$10,000

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3.	Library	
	(a) Materials replacement	\$ 5,000
4.	Council on Aging	
	(a) Senior activities and transportation	\$40,000
5.	Recycling Committee	
	(a) Material sales and proceeds	\$ 4,000;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 4. Appropriate the FY2025 Operating Budget (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, or any combination of these methods, a sum of money for salaries and expenditures by departments, officers, boards, and committees of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year; to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, transferred from available funds, or provided by any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 5. Appropriate the FY2025 Capital Budget (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, borrow or any combination of these methods, a sum of money for the various capital purposes listed below; to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, transferred from available funds, borrowed, or provided by any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto:

1. DPW / Highway
 - (a) 6-Wheel Dump with Plow and Spreader
 - (b) Culvert Replacement
 - (c) Front End Loader with Plow
 - (d) Salt Shed
 - (e) Stormwater System
2. Fire Department/Ambulance
 - (a) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Equipment
 - (b) Turnout Gear
 - (c) Station Wear
3. Police Department
 - (a) Patrol Vehicles
4. Selectmen
 - (a) Protective Services Agencies - HVAC/Locker Room
 - (b) Protective Services Agencies - Fuel Tanks
 - (c) Whiting Road Building - Upgrade for Community Center Storage

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- (d) Library - HVAC
- 5. Parks and Recreation
 - (a) Design Fees - Caryl Park Playground and Pickleball Project
- 6. School (Chickering)
 - (a) Flooring

Article 6. Appropriate for Unemployment Compensation Fund (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, or any combination of these methods, a sum of money for the purpose of funding an unemployment compensation fund as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5E, of the Massachusetts General Laws; to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, transferred from available funds, or provided by any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 7. Appropriate for Sick Leave for Retiring Police Officers (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, or any combination of these methods, a sum of money to provide for the payment of accumulated sick leave to retired police officers as authorized by Chapter 375 of the Acts of 1984; to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, transferred from available funds, or provided by any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 8. Appropriate for Road Construction, Reconstruction and Improvements (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, borrow or any combination of these methods, a sum of money for the purpose of highway construction, reconstruction and other improvements under the authority of the Massachusetts General Laws as funded by various State budgets; to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, transferred from available funds, borrowed, or provided by any combination of these methods; and to authorize the Selectmen to enter into contracts, apply for, accept, expend, and borrow in anticipation of State aid for such projects; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 9. Appropriate to Conservation Fund (Conservation Commission)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, or any combination of these methods, a sum of money for the Conservation Fund to be used by the Conservation Commission for any purpose authorized by Chapter 40, Section 8C of the Massachusetts General Laws; to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, transferred from available funds, or provided by any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

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Article 10. Appropriate for General Stabilization Fund (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, or any combination of these methods, a sum of money to the General Stabilization Fund in accordance with Chapter 40 Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws; to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, by transfer from available funds; or any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 11. Appropriate for Dover-Sherborn Regional Schools OPEB Stabilization Fund (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, or any combination of these methods, a sum of money to the Dover-Sherborn Regional Schools Stabilization Fund in accordance with Chapter 40 Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws; to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, by transfer from available funds; or any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 12. Appropriate for Unpaid Bills of Prior Years (Warrant Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, or any combination of these methods, a sum of money to pay any unpaid bills rendered to the Town for prior years; and to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, or any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 13. Supplemental Appropriations to Article 4 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting (Warrant Committee)

To see if the Town will make supplemental appropriations to be used in conjunction with money appropriated under Article 4 of the Warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, to be expended during the current fiscal year, or make any other adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2024 budget that may be necessary; and to determine whether the money shall be provided by transfer from available funds; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 14. Establish and Authorize Amount for Revolving Fund for Department of Public Works (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 5-16 (Finances) of the General Bylaws of the Town of Dover, entitled “Departmental revolving funds”, for the purpose of establishing a new revolving fund in Section 5-16 E, as shown in the document on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, and as follows:

Insert the following row in the table:

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Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund
Department of Public Works	Department of Public Works	Solid waste and recycling program sales and related proceeds	Maintenance, repair, and replacement of facilities and equipment for the transfer station	N/A

for use in Town pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further, that nonsubstantive changes in the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Dover Town Code; and further, to see if the Town will vote pursuant to authorize the use of this revolving fund account for the Department of Public Works, and that unless otherwise amended by the Board of Selectmen and Warrant Committee, such account shall not exceed \$35,000 for Fiscal Year 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 15. Establish and Authorize Amount for Revolving Fund for Community Center (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 5-16 (Finances) of the General Bylaws of the Town of Dover, entitled “Departmental revolving funds”, for the purpose of establishing a new revolving fund in Section 5-16 E, as shown in the document on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, and as follows:

Insert the following row in the table:

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund
Community Center	Board of Selectmen	Rental fees and other community charges	Costs associated with operating the Community Center and maintenance/improvement projects for the facility	N/A

for use in Town pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further, that nonsubstantive changes in the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Dover Town Code; and further, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of this revolving fund account for the Community Center, and that unless otherwise amended by the Board of Selectmen and Warrant Committee, such account shall not exceed \$25,000 for Fiscal Year 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

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Article 16. Rescind Borrowing Authorizations (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the borrowing authorized under Article 12 of the 1997 Annual Town Meeting, appropriated for a grant to the Dover Community Development Corporation, Inc. for the development of elderly affordable housing, which borrowing is no longer needed as the project was not completed; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 17. Appropriate for One-Time Projects – Development and Housing Plan (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, or any combination of these methods, a sum of money for the purpose of developing a comprehensive Dover Development and Housing Plan, and to fund any incidental costs related thereto; and to determine whether the money shall be included in the tax levy, transferred from available funds, or provided by any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

ZONING, PLANNING AND LAND USE ARTICLES

Article 18. Amend General Bylaws – Construction Hours Bylaw (Planning Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by adding Chapter 93 entitled “Construction Hours”, the complete text of which is on file in the Offices of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board, and further, that non-substantive changes in the numbering and heading of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the format of the Dover Town Code; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 19. Amend Zoning Bylaws – Small and Medium-Scale Solar Bylaw (Planning Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw Chapter 185, by adding § 185-46.4 (Small and medium-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic facilities) as set forth in the complete text on file in the Offices of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board, and further, that non-substantive changes in the numbering and heading of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the format of the Dover Town Code; or take any other action relative thereto.

GENERAL BYLAWS AND STATE STATUTES

Article 20. Amend General Bylaws – Stormwater Management Bylaw (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaw Chapter 159 entitled “Stormwater Management and Erosion Control”, by deleting it in its entirety, and replacing with the complete text on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, and further, that non-substantive changes in the numbering and heading of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the format of the Dover Town Code; or take any other action relative thereto.

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Article 21. Authorization of the Board of Assessors Regarding Contracts Exceeding Three Years (Board of Assessors)

To see if the Town will, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, § 12(b), vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to solicit and award contracts for terms exceeding three years, but not to exceed six years, including any renewal, extension or option, provided in each instance the longer term is determined to be in the best interest of the Town by a majority vote of the Board of Assessors, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 22. Transfer of Town-Owned Land to the Conservation Commission (Conservation Commission)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer the real property listed below, which land is currently held by the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes, to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey such land to the Conservation Commission on such terms and conditions and for such consideration, which may be non-monetary consideration, as the Board of Selectmen may determine, or take any other action relative thereto.

Tax Parcel	Address	Title Reference
Parcel 5-77 (3.07 acres)	Chickering Drive	Book 16530, Page 455 Judgement in Tax Lien Case
Parcel 5-206-A (.18 acres)	Wakeland Drive	Book 16179, Page 570 Judgement in Tax Lien Case
Parcel 5-197 (1.49 acres)	Main Street	Book 16179, Page 569 Judgement in Tax Lien Case
Parcel 7-14-A (6.27 acres) Parcel 7-14B (4.50 acres)	Dedham Street	Book 35403, Page 295 Judgement in Tax Lien Case
Parcel 8-22 (3.73 acres)	Wilsondale Street	Book 26389, Page 194 Judgement in Tax Lien Case
Parcel 16-27 (2.62 acres) Parcel 16-32 (2.02 acres) Parcel 16-33 (2.0 acres)	Grand Hill Drive	Book 32562, Page 468 and Document No. 1314946 (Registered and Recorded Land) Judgement in Tax Lien Case
Parcel 17-22-A (1.66 acres) Parcel 17-22-D (18.23 acres) Parcel 17-22-E (7.14 acres) Parcel 17-22-F (2.248 acres)	Centre Street	Book 9721, Page 454 and Book 9721, Page 452 Quitclaim Deeds (2)
Parcel 5-186-A (52.60 acres)	Haven Street	Book 4409, Page 660 Deed

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Parcel 5-181 (31.5838 acres)	Haven Street	Book 5650, Page 722 Deed
Parcel 11-28 (6.0 acres)	Church Street	Book 1755, Page 559 Deed
Parcel 15-6 (3.923 acres)	Bridge Street	Book 7299, Page 477 Deed

Article 23. Accept MGL Chapter 164, Section 134 (Load Aggregation Programs) (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will accept the provisions of Chapter 164, Section 134 of Massachusetts General Laws and to initiate the process to aggregate electrical load, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 164, Section 134, and grant the Board of Selectmen authority to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation; or take any other action relative thereto.

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Article 24. Install Sidewalk on Cross Street (Citizens' Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to construct a sidewalk on Cross Street from the intersections of Cross Street and Centre Street to Chickering Elementary School.

Article 25. Amend General Bylaws - Dog Leash Bylaw (Citizens' Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 83 of the General Bylaws of the Town of Dover by adding new section as set forth below, and further, that nonsubstantive changes in the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Dover Town Code, or take any other action relative thereto:

Article II Dogs § 83-3 Restraint required. No dog shall be allowed in any public place or street within the boundaries of Dover unless it is effectively restrained by a leash of no more than seven feet. Exceptions to this would be if it is contained within a motor vehicle.

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TAX RATE

Article 26. Transfer from Free Cash to Stabilize the Tax Rate (Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash in the Treasury an amount to stabilize the tax rate for the ensuing fiscal year and authorize the Board of Assessors to use the same to stabilize the tax rate; or take any other action relative thereto.

And in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby further required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Dover, qualified as aforesaid, to assemble at the Great Hall of the Dover Town House on said Monday, the 20th of May, 2024 at seven o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on the following Article, to wit:

Article 27. Town Election

To choose by ballot the following Town Offices:

Moderator.....	one year
One member of the Board of Selectmen.....	three years
One member of the Board of Assessors.....	three years
One member of the Dover School Committee.....	three years
One member of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee.....	three years
Two members of the Board of Library Trustees.....	three years
One member of the Board of Library Trustees.....	one year
One member of the Planning Board.....	five years
One associate member of the Planning Board.....	two years
One member of the Board of Health.....	three years
One member of the Cemetery Commission.....	three years
Three members of the Trustees of the Larrabee & Whiting Estate.....	five years
One Constable.....	one year
Two members of the Park & Recreation Commission.....	three years

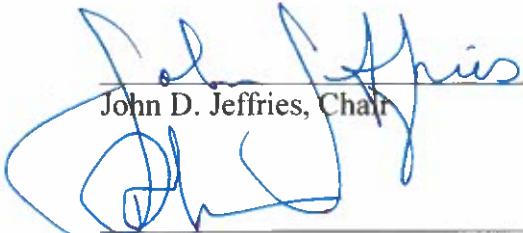
And you are directed to serve this Warrant by (1) posting attested copies thereof on each of the bulletin boards erected in the Town House, at the Post Office, and in no less than three other public places where bills and notices are usually posted; and (2) mailing a copy thereof to or leaving same at the residence of every registered voter fourteen days at least before the time of holding said Meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of the Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at or before the time of the Meeting.

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Given under our hands this 21st day of March, 2024.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN


John D. Jeffries, Chair


Robyn Hunter, Clerk


David M. Haviland, Member



André Boudreau, Constable

A true copy attest: