



Town of Ashland

M A S S A C H U S E T T S

Like Clockwork.

**WARRANT ARTICLES AND INFORMATION
FOR THE
NOVEMBER 19, 2025
7:00 PM
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

ADA ADVISORY

Anyone in need of special accommodations for the Town Meeting, please contact the Office of the Select Board at (508) 881-0100 (Option 5) by 4:00 pm on November 12, 2025 in order that reasonable accommodations may be made.

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Moderator's Motions

1. That this meeting dispenses with the reading of the warrant and of the Constable's return of service of that warrant and that the Moderator not be required to read warrant articles verbatim, but may refer to them by number and subject matter.
2. That the moderator may extend the floor to Town management and staff and other non-voters provided that they must first be recognized by the Moderator.
3. That the Moderator, pursuant to G.L. c. 39 § 15 be allowed to declare a two-thirds vote rather than taking a standing count.
4. That once final action has been taken on an article and the next order of business has been taken up, or the session of the meeting has been adjourned, the matter may not again be taken under consideration at that town meeting unless, in the best judgment of the Moderator, a significant error or omission occurred in the language or the process of the original action on the article, or a significant change of circumstances has occurred, such that there is a clear likelihood that the outcome could change upon reconsideration or that reconsideration would be in the Town's best interest.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
NOVEMBER 19, 2025
7:00 PM
ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

Article 1: Free Cash Transfer
Sponsor: Town Manager/Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash, an amount of funds, to be placed in the Stabilization Fund, OPEB Trust Fund, Special Education Special Purpose Stabilization Account, Capital Account, Capital Stabilization Account and/or General Fund or pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: That the Town will transfer from Free Cash the following funds:

Account	Amount	Account Number
General Stabilization Fund	\$1,813,477	84980-49710
OPEB Trust Fund	\$302,246	88100-49710
SPED Stabilization Fund	\$210,000	84980-49715
Capital	\$696,738	01930-58000
Total	\$3,022,462	

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee will make their recommendation at Town Meeting.

Article 2: Budget Amendment
Sponsor: Town Manager/Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the treasury a sum of money to be added to or to make adjustments to Article 4 of the May 2025 annual town meeting (fiscal year 2026 budget), or pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: That the Town will raise and appropriate the following funds as noted in the table below in order to make adjustments to or add to the FY 2026 annual budget:

Account	Amount	Account Number
School Department	\$136,121	01429
Conservation Commission	\$20,000	01171
Inspection Services	\$20,000	01241
Treasurer-Collector	\$18,337	01145
Keefe Tech	(\$40,222)	01491
Total Budget Adjustment	\$154,236	

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee recommends that the Town will raise and appropriate funds as noted in the table listed above to make adjustments to or add to the FY 2026 annual budget.

Article 3: Property Tax Exemptions

Sponsor: Board of Assessors/Select Board/Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to adjust (the exemption amount and eligibility factors) for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5 Clause 41C $\frac{1}{2}$, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, or pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: That the Town vote to adjust (the exemption amount and eligibility factors) for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5 Clause 41C $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12%, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to adjust (the exemption amount and eligibility factors) for the property tax exemption for senior citizens under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5 Clause 41C $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12%, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.

Article 4: Appropriate CPA Funds for the creation of Nature's Edge at Metrowest YMCA
Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$1,175,000 to enable the creation of Nature's Edge at Metrowest YMCA on the property along Memorial Drive to include accessible trails, outdoor teaching amphitheater and recreational fields and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$1,175,000 be transferred from the General Fund account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their funding source and further that prior to the disbursement of any funds noted herein that the YMCA grant to the Town a public access easement in, over and upon the "Natures Edge" so called for public access to the improvements related to this project and to authorize the Board to negotiate and enter into said easement and any other document related thereto, or pass any vote or take any action thereon.

Motion: To withdraw this Article.

Article 5: Appropriate CPA Funds for Town Forest Survey work and Property Appraisal
Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$40,000 to enable survey work and property appraisals for potential land acquisition of parcels bordering the Town Forest and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$40,000 be transferred from the Open Space account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their funding source, or pass any vote or take any action thereon.

Motion: That the Town appropriate up to \$40,000 to enable survey work and property appraisals for potential land acquisition of parcels bordering the Town Forest and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$40,000 be transferred from the Open Space account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their funding source.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends that the Town appropriate up to \$40,000 to enable survey work and property appraisals for potential land acquisition of parcels bordering the Town Forest and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$40,000 be transferred from the Open Space account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their funding source.

Article 6: Appropriate CPA Funds for the Negotiated Sum for the Acquisition of 11 Acres of Land and funds for Trail Improvements, Conservation Restrictions, and Property Transition to Forest Land

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up a sum of money for; 1. the purchase of 11 acres of land located at 41 Lincoln Road, referred to as the Collins property, which said amount shall be less than the appraised value and 2. for \$70,000 for trail improvements; said sum to be transferred from the General Fund account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2027 being returned to their funding source, and further to place the land in the care, custody and control of the Town Forest Committee for Town Forest purposes and to authorize the Select Board to enter into a conservation restriction on said property, or pass any vote or take any action thereon.

Motion: To withdraw this Article.

Article 7: Appropriate CPA Funds for Field Data Collection and Invasive Vegetation Management at Beaverdam Brook Conservation Area

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$50,000 to complete field data collection and invasive vegetation management on the property along Pond street referred to as Beaverdam brook conservation area and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$50,000 be transferred from the Open Space account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their funding source, or pass any vote or take any action thereon.

Motion: That the Town appropriate up to \$50,000 to complete field data collection and invasive vegetation management on the property along Pond street referred to as Beaverdam brook conservation area and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$50,000 be transferred from the Open Space account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their

funding source.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends that the Town appropriate up to \$50,000 to complete field data collection and invasive vegetation management on the property along Pond street referred to as Beaverdam brook conservation area and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$50,000 be transferred from the Open Space account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their funding source.

Article 8: Appropriate CPA Funds for High School Softball Field Playing Surface Dirt Replacement

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$25,000 for replacement of high school softball field playing surface dirt and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$25,000 be transferred from the Open Space account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their funding source, or pass any vote or take any action thereon.

Motion: That the Town appropriate up to \$25,000 for replacement of high school softball field playing surface dirt and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$25,000 be transferred from the Open Space account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their funding source.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends that the Town appropriate up to \$25,000 for replacement of high school softball field playing surface dirt and to meet this appropriation, the sum of up to \$25,000 be transferred from the Open Space account from the Community Preservation Fund balance, and with unexpended funds as of December 31, 2028 being returned to their funding source.

Article 9: Accept MGL Chapter 272 § 73A

Sponsor: Historical Commission

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 272, § 73A in order to allow the Town to not prohibit the removal, in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the state secretary, of a gravestone or other structure or thing which is placed or designed as a memorial for the dead, for the purpose of repair or reproduction thereof by community sponsored, educationally oriented, and professionally directed repair teams; or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: That the Town accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 272, § 73A.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers its recommendation to Town Meeting.

Article 10: Accept the Provisions of c. 138, § 12D Regarding the Municipalities Ability to Allow Transfer of On-Premises Wine and Malt Liquor Licenses to All-Alcohol Beverage Licenses.

Sponsor: Town Manager/Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of c. 138, §12D, which allows the Town to approve an on-premises wine & malt beverage license holder to trade in their existing license for a non-transferable on-premises all-alcohol beverage license; or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion: That the Town accept the provisions of c. 138, §12D.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends that the Town accept the provisions of c. 138, §12D.

Article 11: Bylaw: Update to In-law Bylaw

Sponsor: Planning Board

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Ashland Zoning bylaw by adding a new section 7.8 as follows:

7.8 IN LAW APARTMENTS

7.8.1 Purpose. The intent and the purpose of this section is to permit In Law Apartments in single-family residential districts subject to the standards and procedures here and after set forth. It is also the intent to assure that the single-family character of the neighborhood will be maintained and that the In Law Apartment remains subordinate to the principal living quarters. For avoidance of doubt, an In Law Apartment is not an Accessory Dwelling Unit which is governed by section 7.6 herein.

7.8.2 Permits Required:

Open Access Unit: The Building Inspector may issue a building permit for the conversion of, by attachment via common wall or containment within, an existing single-family dwelling only or new construction of the same only to accommodate an additional family living unit and where there is no door separating the primary dwelling unit from the In Law Apartment (hereinafter referred to as “Open Access Units”) in districts where allowed in the Table of Use Regulations, provided that there is compliance with all provisions of this section

Closed Access Units: A special permit may be granted by the Zoning Board for the conversion of, by attachment via common wall or containment within, an existing single-family dwelling only on new construction of the same only to accommodate an additional family living unit and there is a door separating the primary dwelling unit from the In Law Apartment (hereinafter

“Closed Access Units”) in districts where allowed in the Table of Use Regulations, provided that there is compliance with all provisions of this section.

7.8.3 Use Limitations. The owner of record shall be an occupier of the structure which includes the In Law Apartment. No boarders or lodgers shall be allowed in either dwelling unit. There shall be no other living unit on the lot which such In Law Apartment is to be located, at the time of application for a building permit.

7.8.4 Disposal of Sewage. Adequate provision shall be made for the disposal of sewage, waste and drainage generated by the occupancy of such In Law Apartment in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Health. Such determination shall be made prior to the application for a building permit or special permit and included with such application.

7.8.5 Ingress; Egress; and Access. Adequate provision, as determined by the Building Inspector, shall be provided for ingress and egress to the outside of each unit separately. To the extent possible, exterior passageways and accessways shall not detract from the single-family appearance of the dwelling. All stairways to additional stories shall be enclosed within the exterior walls of the structure.

7.8.6 Required Finding. For Closed Access Units, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall determine that such conversion, new construction and occupancy of each unit shall meet the requirements of this section.

7.8.7 Area Limitation. Such In Law Apartment shall be limited to a maximum of twenty-five percent (25%) in floor area of the principal residence or eight hundred (800) square feet, whichever is greater, exclusive of any garage, shed or similar structure or other accessory use attached to the dwelling.

7.8.8 Plans. Floor plans of the In Law Apartment and principal residence, with a certified site plan showing the dwelling on the lot and its relationship to the neighborhood within two hundred (200) feet of the extremities of the lot, shall be filed with the Building Inspector, and in addition, five (5) copies of the same shall be submitted with the application for a special permit.

7.8.9 Parking. Provisions for off-street parking for dwellers of both units shall be provided in such a fashion as is consistent with the character of the neighborhood, as determined by the Building Inspector, after consultation with the Town Planner.

7.8.10 Occupancy Permit. No occupancy of the additional family dwelling unit shall take place without an occupancy permit issued by the Building Inspector. The initial occupancy permit shall remain in force until such time as the property is sold. Occupancy permits shall not be transferable upon new ownership or change in occupancy. A new occupancy permit shall be required to be obtained for the new owner and a new inspection shall be required by the Building

Inspector. An affidavit shall be presented to the Building Inspector attesting the fact that the circumstance for which such conditional use was granted will be complied with. Upon expiration of conditional use, the accessory kitchen unit shall be dismantled. The owner of record is responsible for initiating each application to the Building Inspector. Appropriate fees, as established and recorded, may be assessed for such renewal, review, investigation and processing.

And amend the Table of Uses found in section 3.1 (A) as follows:

Add two new rows under Residential Uses after Single Family Dwelling as follows (underline and bold new):

A. RESIDENTIAL USES	RA	RB	RM	CH	CD	CV	CN	I
Single-family dwelling	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<u>In Law Apartment: Open Access Units</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>
<u>In Law Apartment: Closed Access Units</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>

Or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: That the Town amend the Town of Ashland Zoning bylaw by adding a new section 7.8 and amend the Table of Uses found in section 3.1 (A) as set forth in Article 11 of this warrant.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers its recommendation to Town Meeting.

Article 12: Update Bylaw: Dog Kennel Bylaw
Sponsor: Town Clerk

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 87, Animal Control, section 87-8 of the Town of Ashland General Bylaws as follows (underline and bold new and ~~cross-out~~ removed):

§ 87-8. Licensing Requirements.

(A) Every dog (6) months old or older kept in the Town of Ashland shall be duly registered,

numbered, described and licensed.

- (B) Every person who becomes an owner or keeper of such a dog shall, within thirty (30) days of its becoming six (6) months old or thirty (30) days of becoming its owner or keeper, whichever shall last occur, shall obtain such license from the Licensing Authority. The ~~Owner~~ or ~~keeper~~ shall submit an application on the form prescribed along with proof of vaccination or notarized letter from a licensed veterinarian stating that the dog has been vaccinated, or Board of Health Declaration that the dog is exempt from the vaccination requirement to the ~~L~~icensing.
- (C) The registering, numbering, describing and licensing of a dog shall be done by the Licensing Authority, and shall be subject to the conditions expressed therein that the dog which is the subject of the license shall be controlled and restrained from killing, chasing or harassing livestock, fowls or wildlife.
- (D) The owner of a licensed dog shall cause it to wear around its neck or body a collar or harness of leather or other suitable materials, to which shall be securely attached a tag on a form ~~prescribed~~ prescribed and distributed by the Licensing Authority when a license is issued. Such tag shall state "Town of Ashland," the year of issue and tag number. The Licensing Authority shall maintain a record of the identifying numbers.
- (E) If any such tag is lost the owner shall secure a substitute tag issued by the Licensing Authority.
- (F) The Licensing Authority shall not grant any license until and unless a current rabies vaccination certificate or Board of Health Declaration that the dog is exempt from the vaccination requirement for the animal has been presented.
- (G) A transfer license from another location in Massachusetts shall be granted upon application provided that adequate proof is presented to the Licensing Authority at the time of application. Such application shall occur within thirty (30) days of establishing residency within Ashland.
- (H) The license fee for spayed or neutered dogs shall be \$15.00 and shall be \$20.00 for intact dogs. There shall be no license fee for persons over the age of seventy (70) years or for service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder.

§ 87-9. Kennel Registration and Fees.

- (A) Any person maintaining a Commercial Boarding or Training Kennel, Commercial Breeder Kennel, Domestic Charitable Corporation Kennel, Personal Kennel, or Veterinary Kennel, upon application shall be issued a kennel license. Prior to the issuance of a kennel license, the Animal Control Officer ~~may~~ **shall** inspect the proposed facilities to ~~insure~~ **ensure** they comply with any rules and regulations as they may relate to Kennels.
- (B) An owner **of a Personal Kennel must maintain a kennel license in addition to licensing each dog individually.** ~~or keeper of less than four (4) dogs, three (3) months old or older, who does not maintain a Kennel may elect to secure a Kennel license in lieu of licensing each dog individually, provided however that such owner or keeper shall be subject to all provisions of this bylaw relating to the maintenance, operation and~~

licensing of Kennels as if he or she were maintaining a Kennel. **Notwithstanding the foregoing, there shall be no additional fee for individual licenses for Personal Kennels.**

- (C) The Animal Control Officer may at any time inspect any Kennel located in the Town of Ashland, **and shall inspect each Kennel located in the Town at least once per year.**
- (D) Petitions or complaints against any such Kennel shall be filed with the Select Board. The Board, as well as the Town Manager, shall have investigatory powers over any such petitions or complaints. Said investigation shall be conducted by the Town Manager who, within seven days after the filing of such petition or complaint, shall give notice to all parties of interest of a public hearing to be held before the Select Board within fourteen (14) days after the date of such notice. After such public hearing the Board may make an order either revoking or suspending such kennel license or otherwise regulating such Kennel, or dismissing said petition. Within ten days after receipt of such order, the holder of such license may bring a petition in the district court as outlined in G.L. c. 140, § 137C. Any person maintaining a Kennel after the license has been revoked, or while such license is suspended shall be punished as set forth in the penalty provision of this bylaw.
- (E) ~~A kennel license shall be in lieu of any other license for a dog kept at a Kennel during any portion of the period for which the kennel license is valid.~~ **A kennel license may not be used in lieu of individual dog licenses.** A kennel licensee shall cause each dog kept in its Kennel to wear, while it is at large, a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material, to which a tag shall be securely attached. Such tags shall be provided to the kennel licensee by the Licensing Authority and shall state "Town of Ashland," the year of issue and kennel license number. **The Licensing Authority shall specify on the kennel license the maximum number of animals that may be maintained by a licensee following an initial inspection, or the kennel's first inspection after this policy becomes effective, and each annual inspection thereafter.**
- (F) Failure to comply with this Section 87-9 shall result in a fine of not less than \$50.00 for the first offense and not less than \$100.00 for each offense thereafter in any twelve (12) month period **except a person maintaining a Kennel after a Kennel license has been revoked or suspended shall be assessed a fine by the Licensing Authority a fine of not more than \$250 for a first offense, by a fine of not less than \$500 for a second offense and by a fine of not more than \$1,500 for a third or subsequent offense.**
- (G) Kennel owners/operators shall be subject to § 87-10 (Failure to License) of this bylaw.
- (H) **The Licensing Authority shall keep a list of all kennels and their addresses. The Licensing Authority shall submit said list to the Department of Agricultural Resources prior to June 1st annually.**

§ 87-12. Non-Criminal Disposition of Violation (Ch. 140, section 173A).

Violations of any provision of this bylaw, or of any duly adopted and filed rules and regulations applicable to the control of animals, may be processed pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §

21D of the general laws of the commonwealth. Fines for violations shall be assessed according to the schedule listed in section 87-21 hereunder.

If the owner of a dog fails to respond to a citation within twenty-one days, the Animal Control Officer shall forward a copy of the citation to the District Court where it shall be handled under the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 21 D.

Enforcement of this bylaw under the Non-Criminal Disposition process shall be carried out by the Animal Control Officer, members of the Board of Health when so designated by the Board, any person having police powers, or other person so designated by the Town Manager shall have enforcement powers under this paragraph.

Each day or part thereof of violation of any provision of this bylaw or such rules and regulations, whether such violation is continuous or intermittent, shall constitute a separate and succeeding offense.

§ 87-21. Fees (license/kennel), Penalties and/or Fines.

The Licensing Authority shall determine fees for dog and kennel licenses pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 22F, provided:

- i. the license fee for unneutered males/unspayed females shall be more than the license fee for neutered males/spayed females;
- ii. no fee shall be charged for a license issued for a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulation promulgated thereunder; and
- iii. no fee shall be charged for a kennel license issued to a Domestic Charitable Corporation Kennel.

(B) Non-criminal Disposition Fines for violations of any provision of this bylaw, except where otherwise indicated shall be:

First offense in any twelve (12) month period \$25.00

Second and each subsequent offense in any twelve (12) month period \$50.00

Each day of all said violations shall constitute a separate offense.

Failure to obtain **dog** license (§ 87-10) \$50.00 per license year

Failure to obtain kennel license **\$500 for first offense**
\$1,000 for subsequent offenses

(C) Exemption(s)

Residents over seventy (70) years of age shall be exempt from the fees set forth in section

(A) above for individual dog licenses.

Motion: That the Town amend Chapter 87, Animal Control, section 87-8, 87-9, 87-12 and 87-21 of the Town of Ashland General Bylaws as set forth in Article 12 of this Warrant.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends that the Town amend Chapter 87, Animal Control, section 87-8, 87-9, 87-12 and 87-21 of the Town of Ashland General Bylaws as set forth in Article 12 of this Warrant.

Article 13: Municipal Tax Payment Agreement Bylaw
Sponsor: Town Manager/Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Ashland General bylaws by adding a new Chapter, 26-7 Municipal Tax Payment Agreements in accordance with accordance with General Laws Chapter 60, Section 62A as follows:

Chapter 26-7 – Municipal Tax Payment Agreements

A. Authority: Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 60, §62A, the Treasurer shall have the authority to enter into written payment agreements with every person entitled to redeem ownership of parcels in tax title which have been taken by the Town as a result of nonpayment of real estate taxes. The payment agreement shall be executed on such terms and conditions for payment of the delinquent taxes, interest and any other costs, fees or charges associated with the same, in accordance with G.L. c. 60, §62A and this by-law.

B. Applicability: This by-law shall apply to all taxpayers with parcels in the following assessment categories of tax title in the Town:

- a. Commercial property;
- b. Residential property;
- c. Industrial; and
- d. Open space.

C. Agreements: All payment agreements shall comply with the following requirements:

- a. The payment agreement shall have a term of five (5) years;
- b. The payment agreement must state the amount of the payment due from the taxpayer at the time of execution of the agreement, which must be ten percent (10%) of the amount needed to redeem the parcel at the inception of the agreement.

D. Payments: Payments under the agreement must be made payable to the municipality and directed to the Treasurer's Office in the form of cash, check, or credit/debit.

E. Abeyance of Amount Due: During the term of the agreement, the Treasurer may not bring an action to foreclose the tax title if payments are made in accordance with the schedule set out in the payment agreement and all current taxes on the same parcel are paid timely during the

duration of the agreement. If any payments are late or missed, the agreement would be considered breach and the Town would be released from it.

F. Interest: This bylaw cannot and does not modify the statutory interest rate or waive any collection costs, charges or accrued interest upon completion of the agreement.

G. Status of Land Court Action: If an action to foreclose in the Land Court is already pending at the time the agreement is executed, the pending case will not be withdrawn from consideration of the Court until the balance is paid in full. However, if the payments under that agreement are being made under the terms of the agreement, the Treasurer or Town will not request the Court enter judgment for the Town.

Or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: That the Town amend the Town of Ashland General bylaws by adding a new Chapter, 26-7 Municipal Tax Payment Agreements in accordance with General Laws Chapter 60, Section 62A as set forth in Article 13 of this Warrant.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends that the Town amend the Town of Ashland General bylaws by adding a new Chapter, 26-7 Municipal Tax Payment Agreements in accordance with General Laws Chapter 60, Section 62A as set forth in Article 13 of this Warrant.

**Article 14: Accept Donnelly Gift Parcel
Sponsor: Select Board**

To see if the Town will vote to purchase, take, accept as a gift or otherwise acquire, the land located at Myrtle St, Ashland, Massachusetts and as shown on the Town of Ashland Assessor's Map 50 Lot 12 including 1.050 acres more or less, for the purpose of accessing the expanding the Town Forest to be under the care, custody and control of the Town Forest Committee for Town Forest Purposes, and to authorize the Select Board to negotiate and execute any and all document necessary to effectuate same, or pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: To withdraw this Article.

**Article 15: Acceptance of Conservation Restriction
Sponsor: Conservation Commission**

To see if the Town will authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into a Conservation Restriction with Trustees of the Reservation for the land to be gifted to the Conservation Commission from Peter Zani for the land shown on Town of Ashland Assessor's Map Property addresses and IDs as follows: 0 Pond Street Rear: 014/022.0-0054-0000.0, 0 Pond Street Rear: 014/022.0-0055-0000.0, 0 Brackett Road Rear: 014/016.0-0153-0000.0 including 27 acres +/- and as shown on that plan by GCG dated 10/9/2025 and on file with the Town Clerk and to be a part of the area known as the Beaverdam Brook Conservation Area, or take any action related thereto.

Motion: That the Town will authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into a

Conservation Restriction with Trustees of the Reservation for the land to be gifted to the Conservation Commission from Peter Zani for the land generally shown on Town of Ashland Assessor's Map Property addresses and IDs as follows: 0 Pond Street Rear: 014/022.0-0054-0000.0, 0 Pond Street Rear: 014/022.0-0055-0000.0, 0 Brackett Road Rear: 014/016.0-0153-0000.0 up to 27 acres +/- and as generally shown on that plan, more or less, by GCG dated 10/9/2025 and on file with the Town Clerk and to be a part of the area known as the Beaverdam Brook Conservation Area.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends that the Town will authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into a Conservation Restriction with Trustees of the Reservation for the land to be gifted to the Conservation Commission from Peter Zani for the land shown on Town of Ashland Assessor's Map Property addresses and IDs as follows: 0 Pond Street Rear: 014/022.0-0054-0000.0, 0 Pond Street Rear: 014/022.0-0055-0000.0, 0 Brackett Road Rear: 014/016.0-0153-0000.0 including 27 acres +/- and as shown on that plan by GCG dated 10/9/2025 and on file with the Town Clerk and to be a part of the area known as the Beaverdam Brook Conservation Area.

**Article 16: Endorsement of Comprehensive Plan, Envision Ashland
Sponsor: Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following Resolution to endorse the Town of Ashland's 2025 Comprehensive Plan: Envision Ashland.

Whereas, the Comprehensive Plan: Envision Ashland has been created with the input of Ashland residents, organizations, local government representatives, and Town administration;

And whereas, the Ashland Planning Board and Select Board has approved the 2025 Comprehensive Plan: Envision Ashland.

Comprehensive Plan: Envision Ashland, consisting of 23 goals and many specific strategies, in 4 different categories;

And whereas, the 2025 Comprehensive Plan: Envision Ashland has been posted on the Town of Ashland website under the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee website;

Now, therefore be it hereby resolved, that the Ashland Town Meeting endorses the 2025 Comprehensive Plan: Envision Ashland, as approved by the Ashland Planning Board and Select Board on October 23, 2025.

Or to act in any manner relating thereto.

Motion: That the Town accepts the resolution as set forth in Article 16 of the Warrant.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee will make their

recommendation at Town Meeting.

Article 17: Citizen Petition: Musk Resolution

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will approve a resolution requiring that agents of the Town of Ashland to the extent allowable by law, do no future business, including procurements, subsidies or other use of public monies to purchase goods or services from Tesla, SpaceX, X, Starlink, xAI, The Boring Company and any other Musk-owned or controlled business entity.

WHEREAS, Despite Elon Musk's departure from the federal government, he retains the means and incentives to continue exerting influence on elections, elected officials, and government agencies. The basis of that influence is his personal wealth, derived from these companies.

WHEREAS, It is imperative that local governments take swift action to erode Musk's influence by prohibiting any business arrangements, partnerships, or de facto endorsements that would further enrich or empower Musk to continue doing harm to the American public. Every public dollar invested in Tesla, or other Musk owned entities, or used to procure products and services or to subsidize Elon Musk's business empire may be used later to undercut the welfare of the government and citizens of the Town of Ashland.

WHEREAS, Elon Musk has spread xenophobic and racist disinformation through the use of his social media company X and removed fact-checking and ethics screens from the X platform, actions which are counter to the values of the Town of Ashland.

WHEREAS, in his role at DOGE, Musk has been responsible for actions that many experts believe to be unconstitutional and illegal. DOGE's acts have caused extensive harm and negatively impacted important programs affecting the citizens of Ashland.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Selectboard, Town Manager, School Committee and Superintendent of Schools shall ensure to the extent permitted by law, that no Town of Ashland departments shall procure products or services from any Musk-controlled business entity.
2. The Selectboard, Town Manager, School Committee and Superintendent of Schools order that no Town of Ashland departments shall use the X Social Media platform for any official communications.
3. The Selectboard and Town Manager shall urge the County of Middlesex Pension Fund to not make any new investments in Tesla or other Musk-owned entities; and
4. The Selectboard and Town Manager shall urge the Middlesex County Pension Fund to sell any shares that it currently holds in Tesla stock or other Musk-owned entities.

Or act on anything related thereto.

Motion: To be presented by the Citizen.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee does not recommend the passage of the above article as it is not practicable or feasible.

TOWN MEETING VOCABULARY

- Abatement** A reduction or elimination of a real or personal property tax, motor vehicle excise, a fee, charge, or special assessment imposed.
- Available Funds** Balances in the various fund types that represent non-recurring revenue sources. Examples include free cash, stabilization funds, overlay surplus, and enterprise retained earnings.
- Bond** A means to raise money through the issuance of debt.
- Bond Authorization** The action of town meeting authorizing the executive branch to raise money through the sale of bonds in a specific amount and for a specific purpose. Once authorized, issuance is by the treasurer upon signature of the selectmen.
- Cherry Sheet** An annual statement from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue detailing estimated reimbursements and charges to the Town. Its name derives from the fact that it was once written on cherry colored paper. In this manner the Town receives its share of various state funds and aid accounts, and is charged its share of running state government. Although the Cherry Sheet is required to be distributed by the first of March of each year, in actuality it is sent after the Legislature has passed the budget, which may not occur until June or July.
- Citizens' Petitions** 10 citizens for an Annual Town Meeting or 100 citizens for a Special Town Meeting may submit a petition requesting that a specific article be included in the next Town Meeting warrant for consideration. 200 citizens may submit a petition calling the Board of Selectmen to set a Town Meeting within 45 days.
- Community Preservation Act** Permits towns accepting its provisions to establish a restricted fund from which monies can be appropriated only for a) the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; b) the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources; and c) the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; d) the creation, preservation and support of community housing; and e) the rehabilitation and restoration of open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created using monies from the fund.
- Community Preservation Fund** A special revenue fund established to receive all monies collected to support the community preservation program, including but not limited to, tax surcharge receipts, proceeds from borrowings, and funds received from the State.

Debt Exclusion	A community may vote at an election to exclude debt service payments for a particular capital project from the levy limit. The amount necessary to cover each year's principal & interest is added to the levy limit for the life of the debts.
Enterprise Fund	An enterprise fund is a separate accounting and financial reporting mechanism for municipal services for which a fee is charged in exchange for goods or services. With an enterprise fund, all costs of service delivery--direct, indirect, and capital costs—are identified. This allows the community to recover total service costs through user fees if it chooses. Enterprise accounting also enables communities to reserve the "surplus" or net assets unrestricted generated by the operation of the enterprise rather than closing it out to the general fund at year-end. We have sewer, water and trash enterprise accounts.
Exemption	Established by statute, it is a discharge from the obligation to pay all or a portion of a property tax. The exemption is available to particular categories of property or persons upon the timely submission and approval of an application to the assessors. Properties exempt from taxation include hospitals, schools, houses of worship, and cultural institutions. Persons who may qualify for exemptions include disabled veterans, blind individuals, surviving spouses, and seniors.
Fiscal Year	The Fiscal Year starts July 1 st of each year and ends June 30 th the following year.
Free Cash	Remaining, unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year including unexpended free cash from the previous year, actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates shown on the tax recapitulation sheet, and unspent amounts in budget line-items. Unpaid property taxes and certain deficits reduce the amount that can be certified as free cash. The calculation of free cash is based on the balance sheet as of June 30, which is submitted by the community's accountant. This amount is certified annually by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and thereafter is available for appropriation by a Town Meeting.
Levy Limit	The amount of property taxes that can be raised in accordance with Proposition 2½ formulas. The levy may be raised by 2½% plus new construction.
Local Receipts	Income derived by the Town from Motor Vehicle excise taxes, fees, licenses and permits, penalties & interest on taxes, etc.
New Construction	New growth and increases to property independent of market inflation are added to the levy limit in addition to the 2½% inflation increase allowed under Proposition 2½.
Omnibus Budget	For convenience, all recommended appropriations for operating expenses of the various Town departments and boards are gathered together in one

article called the Omnibus Budget. The period covered by the Omnibus Budget is the upcoming Fiscal Year, and money not spent during this period reverts to Free Cash. No department or board can overspend its budget.

- Overlay** An account established annually to fund anticipated property tax abatements, exemptions and uncollected taxes in that year. The overlay reserve need not be funded by the normal appropriation process, but rather is raised on the tax rate recapitulation sheet.
- Override** A vote by a community at an election to permanently increase the levy limit. An override question on the election ballot must state a purpose for the override and the dollar amount.
- Raise and Appropriate** A type of funding for Town expenditures voted at Town Meetings. The funds are raised through taxes, local receipts, and state reimbursements. Funds raised and appropriated in warrant articles are available until a time set by the article or until voted out by a subsequent Town Meeting.
- Reserve Fund** A fund, established by each Town Meeting, for extraordinary or unforeseen expenses in the upcoming fiscal year. The Finance Committee alone may transfer money from this fund, thus eliminating the need for frequent Special Town Meetings. The fund may not exceed 5% of the preceding year's tax levy.
- Revolving Account** Allows a community to raise revenues from a specific service and use those revenues without appropriation to support the service.
- Stabilization Fund** A fund designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes, although it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose. It retains its own investment income. A two-thirds vote is required on any vote relative to this Fund. This fund serves as the Town's primary "rainy day" fund.

Town of Ashland Selected Town Meeting Procedures

Amending an Article: Any time after a main motion has been made and seconded, but before being voted on, it is possible to amend the main motion using the following procedures:

1. Proceed to a microphone and wait to be recognized by the Moderator.
2. Announce your intent to amend the motion verbally and submit a copy of the amended motion in writing to the Moderator. The motion to amend must include your name as sponsor. Any increase in appropriation must include a funding source.
3. The Moderator will ask for a second to the motion to amend.
4. If passed, the motion to amend will be opened for discussion and then must be voted on by Town Meeting separately from the main motion.
5. A simple majority is required to pass a motion to amend.
6. More than one motion to amend can be made to a main article, but each must be presented and voted on one at a time. A motion to amend must be made before the main motion is voted on.
7. After all motions to amend are voted, the main motion (or as amended) must be voted on.

Necessary Majorities *

Unless noted otherwise, a simple majority is required to pass a motion.

A 2/3 majority is required for all borrowing, land acquisitions or transfers and all zoning by-laws.

A 4/5 majority is required at Annual Town Meeting for unpaid bills of prior fiscal years.

A 9/10 majority is required at Special Town Meetings for unpaid bills of prior years.

Only votes cast will be counted in determining the percentage of votes in favor of a motion. If there are 170 voters present and 100 vote yes, 50 vote no and 20 do not vote, the results shall be interpreted as 100 yes votes out of 150 votes or 66.67% in favor.

* Please note that these vote majorities are for example only and there may be other types of votes which fall under each of the categories listed above.