

**Town of Chilmark**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

November 6, 2021

MODERATOR: Janet L. Weidner

TOWN CLERK: Jennifer L. Christy

REGISTRARS: Susan M. Heilbron, Judy G.L. Mayhew, Kimberly Cottrill

CONSTABLE: Marshall E. Carroll, III

TELLERS: Judith Flanders, Ann Wallace, Alison Burger, Deborah Zetterberg

At the close of voter registration on October 27, 2021 there were one thousand and seventy-nine (1079) registered voters in the Town of Chilmark. With eighty-seven (87) voters present at the Special Town Meeting, 8% of the total number of registered voters, the Moderator called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m., on the basketball court of the Chilmark Community Center at 520 South Road. The Moderator requested all to please sit and noted that the Town Clerk had confirmed that a quorum of voters was present. Constable Marshall E. Carroll, III attested to the posting of the warrant. The Moderator recognized Warren M. Doty, Selectman, who stood to voice thanks and appreciation for the retiring Treasurer, Melanie Becker, on her final Town Meeting and who has worked for the Town for 22 years. The voters applauded the Treasurer. Mr. Doty also briefly summarized the financial status of the Town noting that the "free cash" amount available to the Town is much higher than in previous years.

**Article 1.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$950,000**, to pay costs of procuring and installing a cold-climate heat-pump system, additional insulation, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto at the Chilmark School, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, only if the Up Island Regional School District Committee, the Town of Aquinnah, and the Town of West Tisbury approve and join in a Inter Municipal Agreement authorizing this **HVAC project** and providing for the apportionment of costs. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 1:** Moderator Weidner read Article 1. The Moderator stated that this article will require a 2/3rds vote to pass. The Article was moved and seconded. Finance Committee member Robert Hannemann was recognized and provided a brief history of the project, particularly noting the complexity of the repairs needed. Mark Friedman, Finance Director of the Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD), was recognized and stated the financial impact of the request and requested the Town's support. David Damroth was recognized and noted the current supply chain issues in the country currently may impact the project's timeline. Sarah Kuh was recognized and inquired how much of the amount would be paid by the Town and Selectman Rossi explained that the project would be funded using the standard UIRSD funding formula. Robert Rosenbaum inquired about the source of the energy for the new system. Mr. Hannemann stated the source will be electric, but that this will phase in gradually. James Sandler was recognized and expressed concern that the project will be more expensive than what is planned to be appropriated. There was no more discussion. The Moderator reminded all voters that the Article will require a 2/3rds vote to pass. The Moderator brought the Article to a vote and asked all those in favor to please stand. Those in favor stood. The Moderator asked all those in favor to sit and then asked all those opposed to please stand. Those opposed stood and the Moderator then directed those opposed to sit.*

*The Moderator stated **ARTICLE 1** carried with a vote of 40 ayes-1 nay.*

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$5,500** to pay costs of **civil engineering** services for the Fire Station at 3 Menemsha Cross Road and the EMS building at 399 Middle Road, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, which amount shall be expended for this purpose in addition to the \$640,000 previously appropriated for architectural design services under Article 15 of the Warrant for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting and under Article 2 of the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting October 28, 2019, and

that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(7), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**Town Meeting Action on Article 2:** Moderator Weidner read Article 2. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator stated **ARTICLE 2 passed unanimously.**

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$16,588.26** for bills of a previous fiscal year to the following: John Collins \$12,768, Vineyard Land Surveying \$2,642.85, C. Kurth & Sons \$927.41, Rhymes/MV Propane \$250.

**Town Meeting Action on Article 3:** Moderator Weidner read Article 3. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator stated **ARTICLE 3 passed unanimously.**

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$35,000** from the Fire Stabilization Fund for the purchase of a 4x4 pickup truck for the Fire Department, including expenses related thereto.

**Town Meeting Action on Article 4:** Moderator Weidner read Article 4. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. David Damroth was recognized and inquired about the current number of vehicles in the department. Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw was recognized by the Moderator and stated there is one vehicle that this new truck will replace and the old truck will be returned to the state. There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator stated **ARTICLE 4 carried unanimously.**

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$2,500.00** to pay for two replacement windows on the North Road Fire Station, including expenses related thereto.

**Town Meeting Action on Article 5:** Moderator Weidner read Article 5. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator stated **ARTICLE 5 carried unanimously.**

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$4,500** to pay for a line-painting machine for the Highway Department, including expenses related thereto.

**Town Meeting Action on Article 6:** Moderator Weidner read Article 6. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator stated **ARTICLE 6 passed unanimously.**

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$33,000.00** to replace the Charter Dock floats in the South East corner of the basin, including expenses related thereto.

**Town Meeting Action on Article 7:** Moderator Weidner read Article 7. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator stated **ARTICLE 7 carried unanimously.**

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** from the Waterways Improvement account to complete maintenance dredging and piling replacement in Menemsha Basin.

**Town Meeting Action on Article 8:** Moderator Weidner read Article 8. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. Barbara Armstrong was recognized and inquired if the southeast corner will be dredged. Selectman William N. Rossi stated that the funds voted will be used at the discretion of the Harbormaster. There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator stated **ARTICLE 8 passed unanimously.**

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$4,500.00** to replace three power pedestals on the Transient Yacht Dock, and to meet this appropriation to transfer \$3,560.13 from the Waterways Improvement Account and \$939.87 from available funds in the treasury.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 9:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 9. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. Selectman Doty was recognized and stated that mooring permits fees are deposited into the Waterways Improvement Account and that the bulk of the cost for the power pedestals would be paid through this fund as opposed to the Harbor Dept. 's expense budget. There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote.

***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 9 passed unanimously.***

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$12,000.00** to purchase software upgrades/licenses for the town computer network, including expenses related thereto.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 10:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 10. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote.

***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 10 passed unanimously.***

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$26,000** to perform upgrades to the computer network at the Town Hall, including expenses related thereto.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 11:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 11. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. Randy Milch was recognized and asked for information on what steps the Town has taken to guard against ransomware and who guides the Town on a security audit. Mr. Milch noted that Towns the size of Chilmark are just the type that are targeted. Town Administrator Tim Carroll responded to the inquiry to say that the Town is upgrading old machines and other elements and also is working with the Town's tech support and insurance agency to effect greater cybersecurity for the Town. Mr. Carroll also noted that Towns are working with the state-level cyber-security group that is putting together a municipal cybersecurity package for all Towns in the Commonwealth. There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote.

***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 11 carried unanimously.***

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$12,000.00** to make repairs to the Lucy Vincent Beach road and parking lot, including expenses related thereto.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 12:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 12. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. There was a brief discussion about Town beaches in general. There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote.

***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 12 passed unanimously.***

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$36,000** to fund the Town's share of a \$271,000 project by the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group to replace the seawater supply lines at the John T. Hughes Hatchery and Research Station, with the proviso that any funds remaining at the completion of the seawater lines replacement shall be returned to the Town.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 13:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 13. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. Selectman Doty was recognized and noted that the improvement to supply lines at the Hatchery would allow more processing to occur more quickly. There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote.

***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 13 carried unanimously.***

**Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$3,500.00** to fund two extra hours a week for the Board Administrator to provide support for the Public Safety Building Committee during the project and other committee assignments expected in calendar 2022.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 14:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 14. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. Tim Rich was recognized and expressed concern that there is the appearance that the Article is just to fund the Board Administrator work for the Public Safety Building Committee, but the Warrant explanation document includes the note for Article 14 that the 2 extra hours of Board Administrator work would be continued, working in other areas, after the Public Safety Building

*Committee work is completed. The Town Administrator stated that the change would need to be voted and that the extra two hours, if continued into the next fiscal year, would need to be included in a budget proposal which itself comes to the Town for a vote before implementation. Mr. Rich expressed concern that this process of adding work hours for employees does not appear to have the input of the Human Resources Board or follow the traditional method of adding staff and staff hours. Mr. Rich added that it did not appear to be very transparent. There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote.*

***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 14 carries.***

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$5,000.00** to fund a share of the local match for a \$298,346 Coastal Resilience Grant “Storm Tide Pathways Project” administered by the MV Commission.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 15:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 15. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. ***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 15 carried unanimously.***

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$41,114.92** to fund the Town’s share of an additional \$321,713 for the West Tisbury School Roof Replacement project, provided that all three member towns approve their related request.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 16:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 16. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. ***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 16 carried unanimously.***

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$25,000** to fund the implementation and annual cost of an online permitting system for town departments, including expenses related thereto.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 17:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 17. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. Chris Murphy asked for why this would be an improvement over going to Town Hall and getting the things that are needed in person. The Town Administrator was recognized and explained the benefits of an online permitting system. He stated this would allow, particularly for the Building Dept., to have contractors issue permits more easily and also noted that the system would allow for the easy public retrieval of reports and information. Clarissa Allen noted that the Beach Dept. beach sticker system was very difficult to use and that there is discussion within the community to not make the issuance of beach stickers by electronic means a permanent change. The Town Administrator stated that the Beach Dept. sticker system is separate and different and was not included in the online permitting system that is the subject of this warrant article for the reason that there are concerns about that beach sticker process. There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote.

***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 17 is carried.***

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$14,500** from the Sale of Cemetery Lots fund to purchase and install a fence along the King’s Highway at the Abel’s Hill Cemetery, including expenses related thereto.

***Town Meeting Action on Article 18:*** Moderator Weidner read Article 18. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. Alison Burger was recognized and inquired why the fence is needed or was it requested by a neighbor and about how the fence would be maintained. Cemetery Superintendent Susan Murphy stated that it will be a post and rail fence that will demark a boundary that has just been surveyed and is funded from a fund that has monies from the sale of plots in the Cemetery. Gary Mottau was recognized and stated he lived in the neighborhood adjacent to the Cemetery and wondered if it was necessary to demark the boundary. Superintendent. Murphy stated that the fence would connect an area between a tree lined area and a stone wall. Mr. Mottau asked if an open network of posts may be just as useful and would not require the maintenance that rails would require. Superintendent Murphy stated that she feels that the fence would have minimal aesthetic impact and require little maintenance. Monina von Opel was recognized and stated she felt a split rail fence and concrete posts would be ugly. Sally Cook, Cemetery Commission chairperson, was recognized and stated that the north boundary of the “new” part of the Cemetery, where the fenced is proposed to be located, has loved ones who are resting there and the vegetation from just across the boundary tends to move into the gravesite areas. The intention, both the Chairperson and

*the Superintendent confirmed, is to neaten the area .There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote.*

***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 18 is carried.***

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$200,000** from the Highway Stabilization Fund to repave, repair, and improve sections of paved town public roads.

**Town Meeting Action on Article 19:** Moderator Weidner read Article 19. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for discussion on the Article. In response to a question from Mr. Rosenbaum, the Town Administrator explained the Town's road repaving schedule and plan and specifically noted that patching cannot be done using state funds. There was no more discussion. The Moderator called for a vote.

***The Moderator stated ARTICLE 19 carried unanimously.***

*The Moderator inquired if there was any more discussion to come before the Town Meeting.*

*Mr. Damroth was recognized and stated it was his first town meeting with the new Moderator. He stated he loved to see women in power and thanked Moderator Weidner for taking the job. There was applause from the voters.*

*Laurie David was recognized and stated there was a rumor that the Town was considering abolishing the wooden ballot box and asked if this was true. Selectman James M. Malkin asked to address this question, thanked Ms. David for her question, and stated the Town Clerk works to make sure the Town complies with all state requirements for voting. Mr. Malkin further stated that electronic ballot tabulators are made available to the Town and the Clerk is investigating this equipment as part of her normal work to be aware of what is available to the Town. Selectman Malkin concluded his statement noting no recommendation or steps have been taken to change the ballot box at this time. Ms. David stated she felt it was wonderful that so many people rallied around, on social media, the love of a wooden ballot box.*

*Selectman Doty was recognized and introduced an attendee, Emma Green Beach, a new Selectman in Oak Bluffs. Ms. Emma Green Beach was recognized and thanked the town voters for voting affirmatively on Article 13.*

*No more business came before the Town Meeting.*

*Moderator Weidner dissolved the meeting at 2:09PM.*

Certified:

  
Jennifer L. Christy, Town Clerk

Date: November 10, 2021

