



TOWN OF SAUGUS

2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Essex, ss.

To the Constable of the Town of Saugus

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Saugus, qualified to vote in Town affairs for the Annual Town Meeting to convene on **May 3, 2021 at 7:30 PM** by means of audio/video ZOOM conferencing platform (<https://zoom.us>). The Town Meeting shall be held remotely by the means requested by the Town Moderator in the attached letter as follows;

Town Meeting Members will attend, participate and vote by logging into a web page portal, with unique credentials that will be issued to each Town Meeting Member before the meeting.

Registered voters residing in the Town of Saugus who wish to participate in the remote Town Meeting shall submit a request to participate to the Town Clerk not less than 48 hours prior to the Town Meeting. Upon receipt of the request and verification of the requestor's voter registration status, the clerk shall provide to the requestor instructions for participating in the remote Town Meeting.

Article 1. To hear and act on reports of Committees.

Article 2. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2022. (Town Manager)

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to make supplementary appropriations to be used in conjunction with money appropriated under Article 2 of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting during the current fiscal year, and determine whether the money shall be provided by transfer from available funds; or to see what other action the Town wishes to take in the matter. (Town Manager)

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to make supplementary appropriations to be used in conjunction with money appropriated under Article 6 of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting during the current fiscal year, as amended at the December 7, 2020 Special Town Meeting, and determine whether the money shall be provided by transfer from available funds; or to see what other action the Town wishes to take in the matter. (Town Manager)

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to make supplementary appropriations to be used in conjunction with money appropriated under Article 7 of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting during the current fiscal year, as amended at the December 7, 2020 Special Town Meeting, and determine whether the money shall be provided by transfer from available funds; or to see what other action the Town wishes to take in the matter. (Town Manager)

Article 6. To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Water Enterprise Fund for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2022. (Town Manager)

Article 7. To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2022. (Town Manager)

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be transferred to the Stabilization Fund. (Town Manager)

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be transferred to the OPEB Trust (Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust). (Town Manager)

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of maintaining positive cash flow (fund balance) in the Compost Facility Revolving Fund. (Town Manager)

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year. (Town Manager)

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize an amount to be expended from each of the revolving funds listed below and authorized under the Town of Saugus Bylaws as amended April 9, 2018 as Section 405.00 Departmental Revolving Funds for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2022 (Town Manager):

Saugus Senior Center Programs and Activities
Saugus Senior Center Lunch Program
Water System Cross-Connection Program
Town of Saugus Compost Program
Youth & Recreation Programs and Activities

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to increase water rates with all receipts to be held within the Water Enterprise Fund to be used exclusively for water expenses, water maintenance, water debt and interest and water improvement programs, or take any other action relating thereto. (Town Manager)

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow a certain amount at 0% interest from the MWRA Local Pipeline Assistance Program for the purpose of designing and constructing improvements to water pipelines or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to raise and appropriate by borrowing or otherwise for the purpose of designing & constructing improvements to water infrastructure. (Town Manager)

Article 16. To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of money for purchasing various equipment for town departments, including the payment costs incidental or related thereto; and to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of funding the Stormwater Program required under the NPDES MS4 Permit, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds in the Transportation Infrastructure Fund for the purpose of conducting line painting on various streets in town. This appropriation is in accordance with Act St. 2016, ch 187 s8(c)(i) and MGL c44 s53. (Town Manager)

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the PEG Access studio/facility in Saugus for the Fiscal Year 2022. Said funds to be distributed under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen as they see fit pursuant to the current Cable Television Renewal License Agreement and the current agreement between the Town and its designee a PEG access corporation. (Saugus Community Television, Inc.)

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to name the outdoor athletic sports complex located adjacent to the new Saugus Middle/High School on Pearce Memorial Drive:

**CHRISTIE SERINO JR.
ATHLETIC SPORTS COMPLEX**

There will be no cost to the Town for a sign and plaque. (Matthew Serino)

Article 21. To see if the Town will authorize the Cemetery Commission to use funds within the cemetery account in the amount of \$33,500.00 to purchase a columbarium to be installed for the interment of ashes. (Saugus Cemetery Commission)

Article 22. To have Town Meeting review the town owned property at the old water tower site on Summit Ave. as a possible recreational area for the neighborhood as a “tot lot” or just benches with what ever other facilities can be placed there. It is a vacant area. There are no other areas crossing a major road or within a reasonable distance. (Peter Rossetti Jr., Town Meeting Member Precinct 2)

Article 23. To have Town Meeting direct Town Counsel to investigate the creation of a fund that would allow developers to voluntarily contribute towards town projects. This would be like “linkage” in Boston. This is a off shoot of the YMCA project from a few years ago. It was suggested that the Y extend the sidewalk in front of their property to the Lynnfells Parkway along the south side of Main St. There was a tremendous amount of ledge that would have to be removed to complete the project. It was not realistic to think the Y could afford to do the project; however, they could contribute to the project. Other projects in the area could also make voluntary donations, until an amount was accumulated to complete this or other projects in the town. I believe this will require Town Meeting Action and possibly State Legislative Action. (Peter Rossetti Jr., Town Meeting Member Precinct 2)

Article 24. To see if the Town of Saugus will vote to adopt as a local option, the following clauses from Massachusetts General law Chapter 59, Section 5. These clauses address property tax exemptions offered to Veterans and eligible survivors:

- Twenty-second G. In any city or town that accepts this clause, real estate that is the domicile of a person but is owned by a trustee, conservator or other fiduciary for the person’s benefit if the real estate would be eligible for exemption under clause Twenty-second, Twenty-second A, Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C, Twenty-second D, Twenty-second E or Twenty-second F if the person were the owner of the real estate.
- Twenty-second H. Real estate to the full amount of the taxable valuation of real property of the surviving parents or guardians of soldiers or sailors, members of the National Guard and veterans who; (i) during active duty service, suffered an injury or illness documented by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or a branch of the armed forces that was a proximate cause of their death or (ii) are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death as a result of active duty service as members of the armed forces of the United States; provided, however, that the real estate shall be occupied by the surviving parents or guardians as the surviving parents’ or guardians’ domicile; and provided further, that the surviving parents or guardians shall have been domiciled in the commonwealth for the 5 consecutive years immediately before the date of filing for an exemption pursuant to this clause or the soldier or sailor, member of the National Guard or veteran was domiciled in the commonwealth for not less than 6 months before entering service.

- Surviving parents or guardians eligible for an exemption pursuant to this clause shall be eligible regardless of when the soldier, sailor, member of the National Guard or veteran died or became missing in action with a presumptive finding of death; provided, however, that the exemption shall only apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021. Such exemption shall be available until such time as the surviving parents or guardians are deceased. No real estate shall be so exempt which has been conveyed to the surviving parents or guardians to evade taxation. This clause shall take effect upon its acceptance by any city or town. (Jay Pinette, Saugus Veterans Agent)

Saugus Board of Selectmen

Because I do not foresee any way to safely assemble our 50 member Town Meeting, and allow for public attendance at the same time while complying with state directives on public assemblies during the current health emergency, I am, hereby, requesting permission from the Saugus Board of Selectmen to hold the 2021 annual Town Meeting, as last year, in an on-line format, using the ZOOM meeting platform, on the evening of Monday, May 3, 2021.

We have used this format in the past and know that it allows for all participants to see and hear all other participants. It also allows for the accurate taking of attendance to determine if a quorum is present, the ability to conduct a roll call vote and the ability for all Town Meeting members and registered voters in attendance to get the Moderators attention and be recognized to speak.

I spoke with Kevin Currie, from the town's Commission on Disability, who is also familiar with the ZOOM platform and didn't see any issues with using it for this purpose from an accessibility standpoint.

Registered voters residing in the Town of Saugus who wish to participate in the remote Town Meeting should submit a request to participate to the town clerk not less than 48 hours prior to the Town Meeting. Upon receipt of the request and verification of the requestor's voter registration status, the clerk shall provide to the requester instructions for participating in the remote Town Meeting.

At this meeting, Town Meeting members will first vote whether to commence business and take up votes using this remote format. If the Town Meeting members, by majority vote, opt to not utilize this format, the meeting will be adjourned to a date predetermined by the Board of Selectmen, when the body can fully assemble to conduct the town's business.

All votes will be taken in such a manner as to insure, to the moderator's satisfaction, that the votes of every member attending have been accurately accounted for and by roll-call vote, if requested by any member, as is our practice.

This meeting will be recorded and subsequently posted on the town's website for a period of 90 days.

All actions taken during this remote meeting will be ratified, validated and confirmed to the same extent as if the town meeting had been conducted in person and such actions will be within all other applicable laws.

While allowed by the recently passed state statute, I do not believe a reduced quorum will be required for this meeting.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration on this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Doherty – Saugus Town Moderator

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF SAUGUS**

Essex, SS.

To the Constable of the Town of Saugus

Greeting:

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the several voting precincts fourteen days, at least, before the time of holding such a meeting

Hereof, fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under hands and Town seal this 20th day of April 2021.

**TOWN OF SAUGUS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Anthony W. Cogliano, Sr., Chairmen

Corinne R. Riley, Vice Chairmen

Michael J. Serino

Debra C. Panetta

Jeffrey V. Cicolini

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Attestation of Service

By Town Clerk

Essex, ss.

As Town Clerk of the Town of Saugus Massachusetts, I hereby certify that copies of this warrant were committed to the custody of the Town Constable for posting at the several precinct voting locations through the Town and that further, copies of the same were sent via first class United States mail, postage prepaid, to the fifty Town Meeting members at their last know residential addresses, and that further copies of said warrant were given by me to the nine members of the Finance Committee, five member of the School Committee, five members of the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and Town Counsel of the Town of Saugus, Massachusetts at least fourteen days prior to said meeting. Under the pains and penalties of perjury, attest;

Date: April 21, 2021

Dennis Moschella., Constable

Ellen J. Schena, Town Clerk