

TOWN OF BEDFORD, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
WARRANT FOR A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
To any of the Constables of the Town of Bedford, in the County of Middlesex.

Greetings—

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify the legal voters of said Town of Bedford, qualified to vote at Special Town Meeting for the transaction of Town affairs, to meet in said Town in the **Bedford High School Auditorium (9 Mudge Way) on Monday, November 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

Then and there to vote upon the following articles:

Article 1
Debate Rules

To determine whether the Town will vote to adopt the following procedure for the current Special Town Meeting:

- A. The main motion having been submitted in advance, and presentations having been made available for viewing before the meeting, presentations will be limited to ten (10) minutes;
- B. No amendment shall be accepted unless submitted in writing. A speaker presenting an amendment to an article shall be limited to five (5) minutes;
- C. Speakers shall be limited to five (5) minutes;
- D. No article shall be presented after 10:30 p.m.; and
- E. Town Meeting by majority vote may waive A, B, C, or D;

pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article proposes time limitations on presentations and debate of articles before this Town Meeting. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board:	Approval Recommended
Finance Committee:	Approval Recommended

Article 2
Community Preservation Surcharge—Effective July 1, 2024

To determine whether the Town will vote to reconfirm a property tax surcharge of three percent (3%) of the taxes assessed annually on real property which shall be dedicated to the Community Preservation Fund, such surcharge to be imposed on taxes assessed for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2024; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would authorize the Town to continue to levy in Fiscal Year 2025 a surcharge of three percent (3%) on property taxes to be used for purposes authorized under the Community Preservation Act, which the Town accepted in 2001. Each year the Town receives matching funds from the Commonwealth, as a result of having accepted this Act. In Fiscal Year 2023 the Town received a total of \$830,221 from Commonwealth distributions. This total match was 43.87% based on \$2,801,285 contributed by Bedford taxpayers in

Fiscal Year 2022. A conservative 20% match is projected for next year because it is not known at this time how much money will be available and how many communities will be participating in the program.

Both municipal and Commonwealth funds are to be used exclusively for affordable housing, open space preservation, historic preservation, and recreation. Under the Act, municipalities are required to spend or reserve for future expenditure at least ten percent (10%) of the fund for each of the first three above purposes. The property tax surcharge may be any percentage up to three percent (3%). The Select Board is placing this article on the Warrant of this Special Town Meeting in keeping with a commitment made at the time the Community Preservation Act was accepted. If Town Meeting were to adopt any percentage other than the current three percent (3%) in effect, this change would also need approval of Bedford's registered voters at the Annual Town Election in March 2024. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended
Community Preservation Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 3
Supplemental FY2024 Community Preservation Budget

To determine whether the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,457,867 or any other sum, to act upon the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee by appropriating the following amounts for Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation purposes, with each item considered a separate appropriation; and to determine whether such sums shall be appropriated from Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation Fund Revenues or the current Community Preservation Fund Balance or Reserves, or by any combination of these methods:

SUPPLEMENTAL FY2024 APPROPRIATIONS	Funds
1 HVAC Replacement—Bedford Free Public Library	\$1,457,867
TOTAL	\$1,457,867

This article proposes to appropriate funds from the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation Budget in order to provide additional funding necessary to complete the Bedford Free Public Library HVAC Replacement project, which was originally approved at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting. The amount that was appropriated at the 2021 ATM for "HVAC Replacement—Bedford Free Public Library" was based on pre-pandemic design, construction, and material costs, and requires supplemental funding in order to complete this project. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended
Community Preservation Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 4
Appropriate Funds for the Bedford Police Officers Association
Collective Bargaining Agreement—FY2024–FY2026

To determine whether the Town will vote to appropriate Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) to fund the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Bedford and the Bedford Police Officers Association for police patrol officers who are members of this collective bargaining unit. Said amount is to be funded by transferring the previously

appropriated at 2023 Annual Town Meeting “Department 1220—Select Board: Reserve” to “Department 2010—Police”; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would provide additional funds required to compensate members of Bedford Police Officers Association for services rendered during Fiscal Year 2024 as a result of a Collective Bargaining Agreement commencing July 1, 2023, for a three-year term. This article requires simple majority approval.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 5

Civil Service Changes—Removing Patrol Officers from Civil Service System

To determine whether the Town will vote to revoke the acceptance of Civil Service Laws for the Town of Bedford police patrol officers, thereby removing the police force from the provisions of the Civil Service Laws, and the rules and regulations relating to the same, provided that this revocation will not affect the Civil Service status of existing personnel in their current positions; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would remove Bedford police patrol officers from the provisions of the Civil Service Laws and the rules and regulations relating to the same. The Town of Bedford originally entered into Civil Service in 1937. This revocation does not impact other Bedford police collective bargaining units.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 6

Home Rule Petition—Fire Department Civil Service Changes to Age Limits

To determine whether the Town will authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation pursuant to Article 89, Section 8 of the Amendments to the Constitution (Home Rule Amendment) substantially in the form below; provided however, that the General Court may only make clerical or editorial changes to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the scope of this warrant article; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto:

An Act Relative to the Maximum Age Requirement for Firefighters for the Town of Bedford

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in the General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 58 and 58A of chapter 31 of the General Laws or of any general or special law to the contrary, all positions within the government of the Town of Bedford subject to the Civil Service Law, G.L. c. 31, shall be exempt from any provisions therein or hereafter amended pertaining to age limits.

SECTION 2. Section 1 shall not impair the Civil Service status of any person employed by the Town of Bedford on the effective date of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

This article would allow the Town of Bedford to be exempt from provisions pertaining to age limits within the Civil Service Law, G.L. c. 31 for the Bedford Fire Department. The current age limit is thirty-two (32) years old for all Town of Bedford Volunteer and Regular Firefighters.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 7

Citizens' Petition—Alternative Location for Fire Station

To determine whether the Town will vote to authorize and direct the Select Board (i) to explore all options for a new fire station within the previously identified response time circle, other than 139 The Great Road, including the suggestions of the firefighters' union for renovating 55 The Great Road, (ii) to advertise for proposals to determine what interest there is in selling property within the response time circle, and (iii) to work with the Fire Station Building Committee, PMA Consultants, and Kaestle Boos Associates, to assess any and all options and to present a comprehensive plan to the 2024 Annual Town Meeting on the costs and requirements for delivering a new station by the end of calendar year 2025; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would provide a path to a viable alternative location in the event that the Historic District Commission determines the exterior architectural features of buildings and structures to be erected within the historic district, which are subject to view from the public street, and/or the proposed alteration of the land and streetscape would be detrimental to the character of the Historic District and to the public interest, contrary therefore to the purpose and mandate of the Acts of 1964 as amended, or in the event of any other impediments that could cause such a delay at the current location as to put the vital project in jeopardy.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Not Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Not Recommended

Article 8

Acceptance—Accessible Parking Tickets

To determine whether the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.40, § 22G and allocate all funds received from fines assessed for violations of handicap parking in Town to the Disability Commission; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would enable the Town to allocate funds received from fines assessed for violations of accessible parking spaces to the Disability Commission, as allowed under state law.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 9
Property Tax Reduction for Elderly and Veteran Volunteers

To determine whether the Town will vote to:

- A. Accept the provisions of G.L. c. 59, § 5K, as amended through Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, as provided herein concerning reductions in tax liability for person over sixty (60) years of age in exchange for volunteer service, limiting said tax liability reduction to \$1,000 applied to the annual real property tax assessment, effective in the Fiscal Year 2024; and
- B. Accept the provisions of G.L. c. 59, § 5N, as amended through Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2018, as provided herein concerning reductions in property tax obligations for veterans in exchange for volunteer services, limiting said tax obligation reductions to \$1,000, to be applied to the annual real property tax assessment, effective in the Fiscal Year 2024.

; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

Article Subsection A would allow for Bedford citizens aged sixty (60) years or older to reduce their annual real property tax liability to the town by up to \$1,000 by completing volunteer services for the Town. The Town has regularly accepted related statutory provisions in past Town Meetings. Article Subsection B would allow for Bedford citizens who are veterans of the United States Armed Services to reduce their annual real property tax obligation to the Town by up to \$1,000 by completing volunteer services for the Town. The term “veteran” is defined consistently with its definition in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2). The statutes use the terms “tax liability” and “tax obligation” interchangeably, and the Town interprets them as having the same definition—namely, the annual amount owed by a Bedford property owner to the Town based on the assessment of the real property in which said Bedford property owner is in possession.

Recommendations

Select Board:	Approval Recommended
Finance Committee:	Approval Recommended

Article 10
Transfer and Appropriation of Sewer Special Revenue Fund Balance

To determine whether the Town will vote to close the Sewer Special Revenue Fund as of November 6, 2023, and transfer the balance in such fund to the Town’s General Fund, and further, to determine whether the town will vote to appropriate an amount equal to such fund balance on or after November 6, 2023, to offset the Sewer Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 first voted under Article 12 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting or sums appropriated under certain articles voted at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

This article would close the Sewer Special Revenue Fund and transfer the amount of money remaining in the fund to be added to the Fiscal Year 2024 Sewer Budget and other articles voted at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. The fund balance as of June 30, 2023, is \$380,223.19.

Recommendations

Select Board:	Approval Recommended
Finance Committee:	Approval Recommended

Article 11

General Bylaw Amendment—Article 64—Tree Protection and Preservation Bylaw

To determine if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town to establish a tree preservation and protection program to be administered by the Select Board; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto:

Article 64—Public Tree Protection

64.1 Cutting of Trees on Public Land Prohibited

No officer, commission, board, committee, or other public or private individual or entity shall cause any tree on public land to be cut, destroyed, removed, killed, or damaged without following the procedures described in and authorized by this Bylaw.

64.2 Bedford Arbor Resources Committee

The Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC), established by Gen. Bylaw Art. 62, shall, in addition to the responsibilities included in Article 62.5, assist the Select Board and Tree Warden in promulgating and administering, respectively, the regulations described and authorized in this Article.

64.3 Authority to Promulgate Regulations

The Select Board shall, with advice and recommendations from BARC, promulgate regulations, such as the 2018 Tree Policy and future revisions, prescribing the procedures for the cutting, destruction, removal, killing, or damaging of trees on public land. Said regulations shall address the following:

- A. Applicability
- B. Definition of terms and categories of trees
- C. Procedures for cutting, destruction, removal, killing, or damaging of trees
 - i. Notice
 - ii. Application form
 - iii. Review
 - iv. Hearings
- D. Mitigations
- E. Complaints of violations
 - i. Procedures for review of allegations
 - ii. Decision by the Tree Warden
 - iii. Fines and remediations
 - iv. Appeal of decisions by the Tree Warden

64.4 Enforcement

The Tree Warden or their duly authorized representative shall impose fines to any person who is found to have violated regulations authorized by this Bylaw. Payment of such fines shall be made out to the Bedford Tree Mitigation Revolving Fund, as established by and managed under Bedford General Bylaws, Art. 13.4.5.8. Such fines shall not be more than \$500 per violation. Each infraction attributed to one tree will be a separate offense. Similarly, each day that a violation as to one tree occurs shall be a separate offense.

The purpose of this bylaw is to clarify authority with the Select Board and Arbor Resources Committee to set fees for public tree removal mitigations and to apply penalties for violations of the Town's applicable regulations such as the current (2018) Tree Policy.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 12

General Bylaw Amendment—Article 46—Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Property

To determine whether the Town will vote to approve the following amendments to the General Bylaws of Town of Bedford Article 46 Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Property; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto:

*(additions shown in **BOLD** and deletions in ~~strikeout~~)*

46.2 Street opening permit

No person shall break or dig up any sidewalk, street, ~~or~~ public way, **or driveway apron within the public right of way**, or place thereon any staging or other temporary structure, or move any building in or along the same, **except by written permit** from the Department of Public Works. The Permit shall be in force for such time as the Department may specify and shall be subject to conditions as they may prescribe. **The Permit shall require work to be completed in accordance with Department driveway and paving construction standards. The work shall be completed by a competent contractor approved by the Director.**

46.4 Fences **and Other Objects**

No person shall erect, set up or maintain any fence, portico, platform, ~~or~~ **wall, or any other object** extending into or on any sidewalk, street, or public **right of way** in the Town, **without prior written approval from the Director of Public Works.**

This article proposes to change Town Bylaw Article 46 in three ways. It proposes to call out permits for driveway aprons in order to streamline the permitting process; to require a basic approval process for paving contractors similar to that currently required for drain layer contractors; and to broaden the definition of an obstruction on sidewalks and public rights of way. The purpose of these changes is to better define impacts along the edges of public rights of way and manage their impacts to the rights of way.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 13

General Bylaw Amendment—Article 52—Large Meter Replacements

To determine whether the Town will vote to approve the following amendments to the General Bylaws of Town of Bedford Article 52 Water System; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto:

*(additions shown in **BOLD** and deletions in ~~strikeout~~)*

52.5 Cross-connection control

The owner shall protect the water system from contamination by cross-connections as provided in the most recent update of 310 CMR 22.22, and as directed by the Department of Public Works.

All commercial, industrial, and institutional users shall install either: a reduced pressure backflow device, or a double check valve assembly that has been approved by the Commonwealth based on the degree of hazard. The device shall be installed at the point of connection, i.e., immediately downstream of the water meter, and at all locations where the Department of Public Works requires protection.

All cross-connection devices must be tested in accordance to American Water Works Association standards and the inspection reports must be submitted to the Public Works—Water Division. If they fail, the devices must be replaced and newly inspected within 14 days. The property owner may also be subject to penalties as outlined in 310 CMR 22.22 section 16.

Where a private well exists on a property served by the public supply, there shall be neither a physical connection, nor provisions for such a connection, between the two systems. A minimum air gap of six inches (150 mm) shall separate the two systems.

52.8 Water metering

All water services shall be metered. One meter per dwelling unit, industrial, or commercial property **up to one inch, and any additional irrigation meters up to one inch** shall be maintained, repaired, or replaced as necessary, by the Department of Public Works or its agent. Remote meter reading devices and their appurtenances are considered part of the water meter and may be connected to the water meter by the Department of Public Works or its agent. All residential meters shall be nominal 5/8 inch size. All meters larger than one inch shall be replaced and tested for accuracy by the owner ~~according to the following schedule:~~

Meter Size (inches)	Testing Frequency (years)	Replacement Age (years)
3/4	Manufacturers Certificate	20
1	Manufacturers Certificate	20
2 1/2	5	20
3	5	20
4	4	20
5	3	30
6	2	30
7 and over	1	30

All meters larger than one inch size shall be inspected, and calibrated to ensure said meter meets manufacturer standards every 10 years. A calibration report shall be submitted to the Town of Bedford Water Division to confirm meter accuracy. If calibration does not meet manufacturer standards, the meter shall be replaced by owner. The Town reserves the right to require replacement of any meter older than 20 years.

Testing shall be in accordance to American Water Works Association standards. Certificates of accuracy by meter testing companies acceptable to the Department of Public Works shall be submitted to the Director of Public Works on the applicable schedule. When a meter’s accuracy is less than acceptable standards, it shall be repaired or replaced in no less than 30 days for meters up to and including two inches and in no less than 60 days for meters over two inches. If the meter is not repaired or replaced within the specified time, the Department of Public Works shall adjust the meter readings based on estimated consumption.

All water meters, connections, and their location shall be inspected and approved by the Department of Public Works. When an additional water meter is desired for either (a) an additional approved dwelling unit, or (b) outdoor use, the owner may request approval for the additional meter. If approved, the property owner shall, at the owner's expense, supply the necessary water meter, connections, and installation.

The Department of Public Works or its agents shall have access to premises supplied with water to examine, read, repair, or replace meters at any reasonable time. A meter shall not be changed, altered, disconnected, or disturbed in any manner by anyone other than an authorized agent of the Department of Public Works. The Town reserves the right to shut off the water supply to repair or replace meters after notice consistent with the provisions of MGL c. 165, s. 11A–11E.

The owner shall provide the water meter, connection, and installation for all new water services. This shall include any additional water meters at any dwelling unit, or commercial or industrial property. The owner of the property shall be legally responsible for all water use charges. If a bill is not paid on a timely basis, the water to the premises may be shut off and/or a lien attached to the property.

52.9 Penalties

In addition to penalties provided under 360 CMR 2.00, any person found to be violating any provision of this bylaw shall be served by the Town with written notice stating the nature of the violation and a reasonable time limit for satisfactory correction.

Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided shall be subject to enforcement of noncriminal penalties, as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 21D by the Director of Public Works or their designee. The penalty for such violation shall be \$100 for the first offense and \$100 for each subsequent offense. Each day in which any such violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate offense.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this bylaw shall be liable to the Town for any expense, loss, or damage caused to the Town by reason of such violation.

This article proposes to change Town Bylaw Article 52 in three ways. It proposes to identify a testing standard for cross-connection (backflow) devices and clarifies the process for correcting deficiencies; it updates the testing frequency, and replacement schedule for customer meters; and it establishes a penalty process similar in form to Town Bylaw Article 51, Sewer System. The purpose of these changes is to improve water system reliability by more closely monitoring and updating connection points at backflows and meters.

Recommendations

Select Board:	Approval Recommended
Finance Committee:	Approval Recommended

Article 14

Appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds

To determine whether the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, the funds from which may be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said G.L. c. 40, §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; and further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$87,680.63 into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, which is equal to that amount

allocated to date by the State to the Town from opioid litigation settlements resulting from the Town’s participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto.

The Select Board voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign on to the Statewide Opioid Settlement between the Massachusetts Attorney General and non-bankrupt opioid industry participants. The Town was notified on August 1, 2022, that funds had been distributed from that settlement fund to the Town in the amount of \$87,680.63 during fiscal year 2023. This article will allow the Town to spend abatement funds received from the Statewide Opioid Settlement for purposes and programs outlined in the settlement agreement, including supplementing and strengthening community resources available to residents and families for substance use disorder prevention, education, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery programs.

State guidance provides that municipalities cannot set up special revenue accounts, and must instead appropriate the funds in order to spend them for the purposes set forth in the settlement agreement and described in the Article language above. The guidance further provides that any funds received prior to March 2023 become part of free cash. In future years, opioid settlement funds will be appropriated as part of Bedford’s annual budget.

Recommendations

Select Board: Approval Recommended
Finance Committee: Approval Recommended

Article 15
General Bylaw Amendment—Municipal Opt-In Specialized Energy Code

To determine whether the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Bedford under Article 35, Building Code, to replace section 35.2 “Stretch Energy Code” with the “Specialized Energy Code,” pursuant to the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of July 1, 2024; pass any vote or take any other action relative thereto.

35.2 Specialized Energy Code (effective July 1, 2024)

35.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Specialized Energy Code at 225 CMR 22.00 and 23.00, including Appendices RC and CC, is to provide a more energy efficient and low greenhouse gas emissions alternative to the Stretch Energy Code or the baseline Massachusetts Energy Code, applicable to the relevant sections of the building code for both new construction and existing buildings.

35.2.2 Definitions

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)—The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards and published in state regulations as part of 780 CMR.

Specialized Energy Code—The energy code codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including the residential and commercial appendices added to the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code, based on amendments to the respective net-zero appendices of the IECC to incorporate the energy efficiency of the Stretch Energy Code.

Stretch Energy Code—The energy code codified by the combination of 225 CMR 22 and 23 not including Appendices RC and CC

32.2.3 Applicability of the Specialized Energy Code

The Specialized Energy Code established by the provisions of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC is herein incorporated by reference and shall apply to residential and commercial buildings in the Town of Bedford as of July 1, 2024. The Specialized Energy Code is enforceable by the Inspector of Buildings/Code Enforcement Director of the Town of Bedford.

The Stretch Energy Code was adopted by Bedford in 2011, soon after its establishment within the State Building Code. The Stretch Energy Code was previously codified in 780 CMR appendix 115.aa, prior to the passage of the 2021 Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy (2021 Climate Act). The 2021 Climate Act transferred authority for promulgation of the Stretch Energy Code to the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). DOER released new regulations late in 2022, increasing the energy efficiency requirements under the Stretch Code while also creating a new opt-in Specialized Energy Code.

The Specialized Energy Code was established under the statute to help achieve MA GHG emission limits and building sector sub-limits set every five years from 2025 to 2050. As a result, all compliance pathways under the Specialized Code are designed to ensure new construction that is consistent with a net-zero Massachusetts economy in 2050, primarily through energy efficiency, that in turn enables reduced heating loads and efficient electrification. Use of fossil fuels such as gas, propane, or biomass is permitted, but comes with additional requirements for onsite solar generation and pre-wiring for future electrification of any equipment using fossil fuel.

Towns are not required to adopt the Specialized Code. Opting in to this new specialized energy code will change new construction in a few ways. Dwellings over 4,000 square feet must comply with either the all-electric or zero-energy pathway. Residences under 4,000 square feet are allowed to pursue a mixed-fuel pathway that requires that wiring be sufficient for an eventual transition to all-electric, including a solar power generation requirement to mitigate the near-term emissions (with an exemption for shaded areas).

Commercial construction is similarly affected, but with a more complex series of requirements that are being implemented in phases and with more pathways to compliance.

When a municipality votes to adopt the Specialized Code, DOER recommends that the requirements take effect for new building permit applications beginning on the next January 1st or July 1st, whichever is a minimum of six (6) months after the municipal vote. This phase-in period allows an orderly transition for developers, designers, and builders, as well as additional training time for municipal code officials.

The Energy and Sustainability Committee and the Planning Board have each voted to recommend adoption of the Specialized Energy Code.

Recommendations

Select Board:	Approval Recommended
Finance Committee:	Approval Recommended
Planning Board:	Approval Recommended

and you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the Town Hall and in at least three (3) other public places in the Town at least fourteen (14) days before the time of said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings thereof at the time and place of said meeting. Given under our hands on this 25th day of September in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

SELECT BOARD OF BEDFORD

BOPHA T. MALONE, CHAIR

EMILY J. MITCHELL

SHAWN HANEGAN

MARGOT R. FLEISCHMAN

PAUL MORTENSON

Guidelines for Civil Discourse

Whereas, the Bedford Select Board desires civil discourse among and before all Town of Bedford boards and committees;

Now, therefore, the Bedford Select Board hereby establishes guidelines for ensuring orderly and peaceable discourse at public meetings and in all matters related to business of these public bodies as follows:

Members of the public shall follow any guidelines from the Chair regarding who speaks, when, and for how long.

Members of the public shall not disrupt others' comments or the conduct of the public meeting.

Outside of general public comment periods, speakers shall limit their comments to those reasonably related to the agenda item or subject at hand.

In order to guarantee full participation by all people and to ensure productive discourse, we also encourage all citizens to respect the following guidelines:

Show respect for others.

Allow each person to finish speaking before responding.

Use helpful, not hurtful language.

Speak as you would like to be spoken to.

Use courtesy titles (Mr., Ms., Sir, etc.) and ask if unsure.

Restate ideas when asked.

Use a civil tone of voice.

Agree to listen.

Respectfully listen to differing points of view.

When unsure, request clarification.

Realize that what you say and what people understand you to have said may be different.

Recognize that people can agree to disagree.

Speak for yourself, not others.

Speak from your own experience.

Use "I" statements ("I think that the ideas presented . . .").

Follow agreed-upon guidelines regarding who speaks when and for how long.

Volunteers Needed to Serve on Town Committees

If you are thinking about helping your Town, now or in the future, the Volunteer Coordinating Committee encourages you to attend a meeting of the committee that you are interested in, then fill out and submit a questionnaire/application form. For information on committees and openings, as well as a link to the volunteer questionnaire and list of Volunteer Coordinating Committee members, please visit:

bedfordma.gov/vcc.

For backup material and other information about Special Town Meeting, please visit
bedfordma.gov/town-meeting

**Town of Bedford
Massachusetts 01730**

**Presorted Standard Mail
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Burlington, MA 01803**

**Residential Postal Customer
Bedford, MA 01730**

**Special Town Meeting
Monday, November 6, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Bedford High School Auditorium
9 Mudge Way
Open to All Registered Voters**