

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF GRAFTON

SEMI-ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Worcester, ss:

To Either of the Constable of the Town of Grafton, in the County of Worcester

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Grafton, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet in the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Auditorium at the Grafton Memorial Senior High School on Monday, the Fifteenth day of October AD, 2007 at Seven Thirty O'clock PM to act on the following articles, to wit:-

ARTICLE 1. PRIOR FISCAL YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Treasurer/Collector	John R. Sharry Incorporated	\$3,000.00
DPW	Spring Rebuilders, Inc.	163.17
Treasurer/Collector	Blue Cross	5,607.74
“		

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 2. REPAIRS TO MUNICIPAL CENTER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$9,850) for labor, materials and equipment to repair water leaks to the exterior gym walls in the Municipal Center, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 3. Accept Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2006

To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2006 (G.L. c 39, s 23D) for all types of adjudicatory hearings conducted by any municipal board, committee, or commission of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 4. LEAP YEAR SALARY CORRECTIONS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, the sum of Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-two Dollars (\$3,352) to make salary corrections for Leap Year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 5. FUNDING FOR WRTA BUS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-three Dollars (\$14,763) with Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-six Dollars (\$12,936) for WRTA replacement funds and One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-seven Dollars (\$1,827) to the Police Gasoline Account, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Director Council on Aging

ARTICLE 6. FUNDING FOR SOUTH GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT HYDRANTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of One Thousand One Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$1,175) to Account #1-195-2-5431 South Grafton Water District Hydrant Rental, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 7. INCREASE FOR FIELDS MAINTENANCE COSTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of Fifty-nine Thousand Nine Hundred Seven Dollars (\$59,907) to the Parks and Cemetery budget for high quality turf grass and maintenance of Town owned fields as listed below:

1 Permanent seasonal employee	\$ 2,988.00
Irrigation water and maintenance contract	7,813.00
Fertilizer, pesticide and aerating contract	5,750.00
Pickup truck, trailer, mower, trimmer	43,356.00
Total	\$59,907.00

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 8. RESERVING OF CPC FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND PURPOSES

To see if the Town will vote to reserve the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) from FY08 Community Preservation Fund revenues for FY2008 Community Preservation Fund purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 9. RESERVING OF CPC FUNDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

To see if the Town will vote to reserve the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for FY08 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Affordable Housing purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 10. RESERVING OF CPC FUNDS FOR OPEN SPACE

To see if the Town will vote to reserve the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) from FY08 Community Preservation Fund revenues for open Space purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 11. RESERVING OF CPC FUNDS FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

To see if the Town will vote to reserve the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) from FY08 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Historical Preservation purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 12. NELSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY – BUILDING REPAIRS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$13,650) from Account #1-800-6650-6043 Roof Replacement to Nelson Library Repair and Maintenance to be used for window replacement and all other building repairs, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Trustees Nelson Memorial Park and Library

ARTICLE 13. OLD POLICE STATION – UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-one Dollars (\$16,851) to supply and install a tank gauging/leak detection compliance unit as required by State Fire Marshall's office on the underground storage tanks at the old police station, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Police Chief

ARTICLE 14. BOARD OF ASSESSORS – ACCEPT G.L. CHAPTER 60A S 1

To see if the Town will vote to accept the MGL Chapter 60A Section 1 provision that states the excise tax imposed by this section shall not apply to a motor vehicle owned and registered by a former prisoner of war defined as any regularly appointed, enrolled, enlisted, or inducted member of the military forces of the United States who was captured, separated and incarcerated by an enemy of the United States during an armed conflict; provided, however, that the excise tax shall not apply to a motor vehicle owned and registered by the surviving spouse of a deceased former prisoner of war, until such time as the surviving spouse remarries or fails to renew such registration, and that this acceptance be effective beginning with the 2008 tax year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Assessors

ARTICLE 15. CHARTER CHANGE – RECALL PROCEDURE

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO APPROVE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE TOWN CHARTER:

**RECALL PROCEDURE ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3-1 SUB-SECTION (G)
(SELECTMEN'S ACTION UPON RECEIVING PETITION TIME FRAME TO
HAVE PROPER ELECTION)**

The proposed change:

(g)Selectmen's Action Upon Receiving Petition - If the petition shall be found and certified by the registrars of voters to be sufficient the town clerk shall submit the same with a certificate so stating to the board of selectmen without delay, and the selectmen shall forthwith give written notice of the receipt of the certificate to the officer sought to be recalled and shall, if the officer does not resign within five (5) days thereafter order an election to be held on a date fixed by it not less than *sixty (60) days nor more than ninety (90)* days after the date of the town clerk's certificate that a sufficient petition has been filed; provided, however that if any other town election is to occur within ninety (90) days after the date of the certificate, the selectmen shall postpone the holding of the recall election to the date of such other election. If a vacancy occurs in said office after a recall election has been ordered, the election shall nevertheless proceed as provided in this section.

The Current charter states as:

(g)Selectmen's Action Upon Receiving Petition – If the petition shall be found and certified by the registrars of voters to be sufficient the town clerk

shall submit the same with a certificate so stating to the board of selectmen without delay, and the selectmen shall forthwith give written notice of the receipt of the certificate to the officer sought to be recalled and shall, if the officer does not resign within five (5) days thereafter order an election to be held on a date fixed by it not less than thirty-five (35) days nor more than sixty (60) days after the date of the town clerk's certificate that a sufficient petition has been filed; provided, however that if any other town election is to occur within ninety (90) days after the date of the certificate, the selectmen shall postpone the holding of the recall election to the date of such other election. If a vacancy occurs in said office after a recall election has been ordered, the election shall nevertheless proceed as provided in this section. or to take any other action relative thereto,

Submitted by: Charter Review Committee

ARTICLE 16. CHARTER CHANGE – RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICERS

To see if the Town will vote to approve for submission to the voters the following change to the Town Charter:

1. ARTICLE 3 SECTION 3-1 SUB SECTION (G) RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICERS PART 6 (PROPOSITION ON BALLOT)

The proposed change:

(6) Propositions on Ballot - Ballots used in a recall election shall submit the following propositions in the order indicated

For the recall (name of officer)
Against the recall of (name of officer)

Immediately at the right of each proposition there shall be a place to vote for either of said propositions. Under the proposition shall appear the word “candidates”, the directions to voters required by section 42 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, and beneath this the names of candidates nominated as hereinbefore provided. If a majority of the votes cast upon the question of recall is in the affirmative, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. If a majority of votes on the question is in the negative the ballots for candidates need not to be counted

The Current Charter States:

(6) Propositions on Ballot - Ballots used in a recall election shall submit the following propositions in the order indicated

For the recall (name of officer)
Against the recall of (name of officer)

Immediately at the right of each proposition there shall be a square in which the voter, by making a cross mark (X), may vote for either of the said propositions. Under the proposition shall appear the word “candidates”, the directions to voters required by section 42 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, and beneath this the names of candidates nominated as hereinbefore provided. If a majority of the votes cast upon the question of recall is in the affirmative, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. If a majority of votes on the question is in the negative the ballots for candidates need not to be counted.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Charter Review Committee

ARTICLE 17. CHARTER CHANGE – INITIATION OF WARRANT ARTICLES

To see if the Town will vote to approve for submission to the voters the following change to the Town Charter:

3. ARTICLE 2 SECTION 2-7: PART B INITIATION OF WARRANT ARTICLES

The proposed change:

(b) **Referral** - Forthwith following receipt of any proposed warrant article the board of selectmen shall cause *a copy of the proposal be delivered to the office of the Finance Committee*, a copy to be posted on the town bulletin board and shall cause such other distribution to be made of each such proposal as may be required by by-law.

The Current charter states as:

(b) **Referral** - Forthwith following receipt of any proposed warrant article the board of selectmen shall cause a copy of the proposal to be mailed to the residence of the chairperson of the finance committee, a copy to be posted on the town bulletin board and shall cause such other distribution to be made of each such proposal as may be required by by-law.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Charter Review Committee

ARTICLE 18. CHARTER CHANGE – INITIATION OF WARRANT ARTICLES

PART C

To see if the Town will vote to approve for submission to the voters the following change to the Town Charter:

4. SECTION 2-7: INITIATION OF WARRANT ARTICLES Part (c)

The Proposed change:

(c) **Inclusion on Warrant** - The board of selectmen shall include on the warrant for a regular town meeting the subject matter of all petitions which have been received by it forty-five or more days prior to the date fixed by by-law for the town meeting to convene. Whenever a special town meeting is to be called the board of selectmen shall give notice by publication in a local newspaper of such intention and shall include in the warrant for such special town meeting the subject matter of *all petitions which are received at its office on or before the end of business hours on the fifth business day* following such publication.

The current charter states:

(c) **Inclusion on Warrant** - The board of selectmen shall include on the warrant for a regular town meeting the subject matter of all petitions which have been received by it forty-five or more days prior to the date fixed by by-law for the town meeting to convene. Whenever a special town meeting is to be called the board of selectmen shall give notice by publication in a local newspaper of such intention and shall include in the

warrant for such special town meeting the subject matter of all petitions which are received at its office on or before five o' clock in the afternoon of the fifth business day following such publication.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Charter Review Committee

ARTICLE 19. CREATE SECTION - BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

To see if the Town will vote to approve for submission to the voters the following addition to Article 5 of the Town Charter:

5. CREATION OF A NEW SUBSECTION ARTICLE 5-6 BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

ARTICLE To see if the Town will vote to propose to the voters the following amendment to Article 5 of the Grafton Home Rule Charter:

SECTION 5-5: BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

(a) Composition, Term of Office -- Pursuant to Article 4, Section 4-2 (b) and Article 8, Section 8-5 (f) (3) of this Charter, the three members of the Board of Sewer Commissioners shall continue to be appointed by the Town Administrator for terms of three years each, so arranged that the term of office of one member shall expire each year.

(b) Powers and Duties – The Board of Sewer Commissioners is a committee with separate legal status as created by St. 1946, c. 193, and as approved under Article 36 of the warrant for the Grafton Annual Town Meeting that convened on May 12, 1975. The Board's powers and duties remain those defined in said Act,

or take any other action relative thereto

Submitted by: Charter Review Committee

ARTICLE 20 TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to the Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 21. RE-ZONE 42 WESTBORO ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to re-zone a ten acre parcel of land located at 42 Westboro Road from its current Medium-Density (R-20) designation to Industrial (I) and amend the Town's Zoning Map accordingly as requested by Land Planning, Inc. on behalf of Charles Atchue, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen

ARTICLE 22. MAPLEVALE ESTATES – ACCEPT ROADWAYS

To see if the Town will vote to accept the roadways and associated utilities and easements known as Aspen Avenue, Poplar Street and Lilac Lane in the Maplevale Estates subdivision, as petitioned for by more than ten (10) registered voters of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen Petition

ARTICLE 23. MAPLEVALE ESTATES – ACCEPT OPEN SPACE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the donation of certain parcels of Open Space identified as “Open Space A” consisting of 6.64 acres, “Open Space B” consisting of 3.37 acres “Open Space C” consisting of 5.14 acres, “Open Space D” consisting of 24.94 acres and “Open Space E” consisting of 0.84 acres as shown on a plan entitled “Definitive Subdivision Plan for Maplevale Estates in Grafton, MA”, dated march 28, 2002, and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 789, Plan 47, as supplemented by a plan entitled, “Supplemental Easement Plan,” dated January 17, 2003, and recorded in Plan Book 790, Plan 65, as petitioned for by more than ten (10) registered voters of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen Petition

ARTICLE 24. SIDEWALK INSTALLATION – HILLTOP FARMS

To see if the Town will vote to install a sidewalk on Milford Road between Pratt St. and the Hilltop Farms community, as petitioned for by more than ten (10) registered voters of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen Petition

ARTICLE 25. SURPLUS PROPERTY

Should the Board of Selectmen be authorized to declare 100 and 102 Elmwood Street as surplus property for the purpose of providing an opportunity to provide affordable housing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

SENSE OF THE MEETING VOTE:

Should the Town retain One Grafton Common or sell it?

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up an attested copy thereof in some conspicuous place in each of the precincts of the Town at least fourteen days before said 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 meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands the 18th Day of September in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Seven.

BOARD OF

John L. Carlson, Chairman

SELECTMEN

Brook A. Padgett, Vice Chairman

Peter A. Adams, Clerk

Craig V. Dauphinais

Christopher R. LeMay

A TRUE COPY,
ATTEST:

September 2007

I have complied with the requirements of the above Warrant and with the Town of Grafton By-laws by posting an attested copy of the Warrant in some conspicuous place in each of the precincts of the Town on the above date.

Constable of Grafton