

Special Town Meeting – January 10, 2013

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Town Moderator, Mr. Edward Ryan, Jr. in the town hall auditorium at 7:05 P.M. There were 78 Town Meeting members present. Greetings were delivered by the Moderator. The members pledged allegiance to the flag. A review of the how the meetings would proceed was reviewed and Mr. Ryan appointed Peter Gagne and Dale Johnston as tellers.

The Moderator recognized Dale Johnston from the ECAC to give and update and then asked the body for a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of Town Meeting member John Paulin.

ARTICLE 1.

The Town appropriated the amount of Twenty-Eight Million, One Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand, Eight Hundred and One (\$28,183,801) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of replacement of the Plains Elementary School, 267 Granby Road, including the design, construction and original furnishment of a new 63,377 square foot pre-kindergarten to first grade school on the existing site and demolition of the existing structure, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children for at least 50 years and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the South Hadley School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) 62.69 percent (%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; [provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 21/2)]; and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town and the MSBA.

A power point presentation was given by the School Building Committee. The School and Building Committee fielded questions from Town Meeting members. When the debate was coming to a close the Moderator announced he felt that the body was ready to vote.

The Town Moderator informed the elected members that a two thirds majority vote of the town meeting body was required to pass the article under MGL 44:8. Voice vote was called for. The Town Moderator was satisfied with the voice vote and declared the vote passed by a declared two thirds majority vote.

Appropriation Committee unanimously supported this article
Capital Planning unanimously supported this article
Unanimous Affirmative Vote – Motion carried

Special Town Meeting – January 10, 2013

ARTICLE 2:

The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$29,109, to Selectboard Other Expenses for temporary staffing.

Appropriation Committee voted to support this article
Unanimous Affirmative Vote – Motion carried

ARTICLE 3:

The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$13,500, to Selectboard Other Expenses to pay the Collins Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts Boston for assistance with the Town Administrator search.

Appropriation Committee unanimously supported this article
Majority Voice Vote – Motion carried

ARTICLE 4:

The Town voted to repurpose \$89,355, which is the remaining portion of the \$100,000 in Capital Funding appropriated July 19, 2011 for repair of the roof of the Fibermark Building to allow use of the funds for demolition (and associated activities) of the Fibermark Building.

Appropriation Committee unanimously supported this article
Capital Planning unanimously supported this article
Unanimous Affirmative Vote – Motion carried

ARTICLE 5:

The Town voted to accept Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant funding (the authorization to apply for said grant approved at the May 12, 2012 Annual Town Meeting) and to appropriate the sum of \$775,000, for the purpose of planning, upgrading, renovating, and equipping Buttery Brook Park on +/- 27.26 acres of land owned by the Town on Willimansett Street and identified in the Assessors Plans as lots 7-7, 7-19, 14-38, and 14-73, including without limitation all costs thereof, and to meet that appropriation transfer \$375,000 from the Buttery Brook Grant Account and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow \$400,000 and issue bonds or notes there for under Chapter 44, Section 6A of the General laws in anticipation of a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to dedicate the above-mentioned parcels to park and recreation purposes under Chapter 45, Section 14 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Special Town Meeting – January 10, 2013

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Appropriation Committee unanimously supported this article
Capital Planning unanimously supported this article
Unanimous Affirmative Vote – Motion carried

ARTICLE 6:

Dr. Walter Wolf moved the original motion to transfer from free cash the sum of \$10, 570.00 to Board of Health personnel services. He also advocated that the clerical position be reassigned under the department's authority. Debate ensued and an amendment to the motion was made and seconded. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the amendment. Appropriation Committee unanimously supported the amended article. Unsure of the voice vote the Moderator called for a standing vote.

41 in favor – 35 against
Motion passes

The Moderator called for a stand up vote on the original.

41 in favor – 38 against
Motion passes

The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$10,570.00 to the Selectboard Other Services budget for clerical staffing.

ARTICLE 7:

The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash, the sum \$29,000.00 to the Facilities Management Budget for the purpose of consulting services to undertake a Facilities Maintenance Evaluation and to create a long-term maintenance schedule.

Appropriation Committee unanimously supported this article
Unanimous Affirmative Vote – Motion carried

Moderator recognized Joan Rosner and Ira Brezinsky for announcements.

Special Town Meeting – January 10, 2013

ARTICLE 8:

The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$134,245, to the Ledges Golf Club budget for staffing, equipment and supplies to operate an in-house food and beverage operation at the club house as follows:

Personnel Services \$58,553
Other Expenses \$75,692

Appropriation Committee unanimously supported this article
Majority vote – Motion carried

Moderator called for motion to adjourn at 9:50 PM.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Carlene C. Hamlin

Carlene C. Hamlin, Town Clerk/Treasurer