

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
LANCASTER MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 7, 2007**

Abbreviated Notes

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Moderator Eugene Christoph. A total of 131 registered voters and nine non-voting guests were signed in by Registrars Cecilia Thurlow, Anna DiPietro and John Ranieri. Moderator Christoph assigned George Robinson and Frank Sullivan, Jr. from among the meeting participants to serve as counters during the meeting. Moderator Christoph lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and then asked for a moment of silence in honor of Herman N. Amelotte and Arthur M. Mudgett, two Lancaster residents who had passed away during the previous year. Mr. Amelotte had served on the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, the Nashoba Regional School District School Committee, the Board of Assessors and other boards and committees over the years. Mr. Mudgett was a member of the Board of Public Works and served on the Fire Department and several other boards and committees.

Article 1 – Upon a motion by Board of Selectmen Chair David Dunn and a second by BOS member Shawn Winsor, the reading of the Annual Report was waived.

Article 2 – Upon a motion by Shawn Winsor and a second by BOS member Chris Williams, the Town voted to authorize the Treasurer to enter into a Compensating Balance Agreement(s) for FY2008, pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53F.

Article 3 – Upon a motion by Chris Williams and a second by Shawn Winsor, the Town voted unanimously to request the Board of Assessors to commit \$15,000 from the FY2008 Overlay Account for Abatements to fund the Senior Citizen Tax Work-off Abatement Program.

Article 4 –Dave Dunn moved to amend Article 4 to read FY08 (instead of FY07) revolving funds. The amendment carried, and the Town voted unanimously to authorize the FY08 Revolving Funds as set forth in the Warrant, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §53E½

Article 5 – Upon a motion by Shawn Winsor and a second by Dave Dunn, the Town voted unanimously to amend the *Personnel Compensation Wage and Salary Schedule* by increasing all amounts by 2% effective July 1, 2007 in accordance with the schedule as set forth in the warrant.

Article 6 – Upon a motion by Chris Williams and a second by Shawn Winsor, the Town voted unanimously to accept any public funds for repairs to roadways, culverts, bridges, water systems and tree planting, and snow removal, and to authorize the Collector-Treasurer to take from available funds and to borrow in anticipation of authorized reimbursements.

Article 7 – Upon a motion by Dave Dunn and a second by Shawn Winsor, the Town voted unanimously to take from available funds and authorize the Treasurer-Collector to borrow in

anticipation of reimbursements, the sum of \$236,063 for authorized road improvements and other projects provided for under Chapter 90 Local Transportation Aid.

Article 8 – Shawn Winsor moved to amend Article 8, section a. to read “Police Vehicle Replacement” and section i. to read “DPW Building Maintenance.” The amendment carried and the Town voted unanimously to approve the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2008 and the ensuing two fiscal years as set forth in the warrant and amended at the meeting.

Article 9 – Chris Williams moved to amend Article 9, section a. to read “Police Vehicle Replacement” and section i. to read “DPW Building Maintenance.” The amendment carried and the Town voted to raise and appropriate \$585,214 and expend \$170,000 from the Water Capital Account to fund the Fiscal Year 2008 Capital Plan as amended.

Article 10 – Upon a motion by Dave Dunn and a second by Shawn Winsor, the Town voted unanimously to appropriate \$530,302 from the Water Enterprise Fund and transfer \$200,000 from the Water Reserve Account to finance the operation of the Water Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, in accordance with the line item detail as set forth in the warrant.

Article 11 – Marietta Poras moved to amend Article 11 by omitting line item 109 (Board of Health, Nashoba Nursing Service) and reducing item 108 (Board of Health – Nashoba Health District) by \$10,000, reducing the total town budget by \$17,540. After much discussion about the pros and cons of the Town’s membership in the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, the amendment was defeated. Upon a motion by Shawn Winsor and a second by Chris Williams, the Town then voted to raise and appropriate \$15,615,535 to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2007.

Article 12 – Upon a motion by Chris Williams and a second by Shawn Winsor, the Town voted to accept the donation of the parcel of land as shown on Map 10 Parcel 71 in lieu of taxes. This property is an unbuildable 1/8 acre lot near Spec Pond.

Article 13 – Upon a motion by Dave Dunn and a second by Chris Williams and after much discussion, the Town voted to become a member of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project for a term of no less than three years. Funding for this program will have to be approved at the fall Special Town Meeting; the estimated cost is \$52,000 per year.

Article 14 – Upon a motion by Shawn Winsor and a second by Chris Williams, the Town voted in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41 Section 110A, to authorize all public offices in the Town to remain closed for all Saturdays and to treat Saturdays as a legal holiday for the purposes of calculating the time frame for filing of matters in the Town.

Article 15 – Upon a motion by Chris Williams and a second by Dave Dunn, the Town voted to petition the General Court for special legislation authorizing a special endowment fund to provide revenues to offset the cost of municipal operations.

Article 16 – Upon a motion by Dave Dunn and a second by Shawn Winsor, the Town voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Preservation Restriction

Agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the South Station Engine House, and to file and record said Preservation Restriction Agreement at the Worcester Registry of Deeds.

Article 17 – Upon a motion by Shawn Winsor and a second by Dave Dunn, the Town voted to approve under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter. 40, section 59 the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement between J.C. Madigan, Inc. and the Town of Lancaster, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute the agreement.

Article 18 – Raymond Johnson read a citizens’ petition asking voters to authorize the Board of Selectmen to have traffic lines (yellow center lines and side fog lines) painted on various streets and roads within the Town of Lancaster. After much discussion the article was defeated by a vote of 36 yeas, 54 nays.

Article 19 – Reading a citizens’ petition, George Thorogood of Settler’s Path moved that the Town pay for the existing street lights at Partridge Hollow Development and that the Town direct National Grid to install two additional lights. After much discussion, the article was amended to ask the Town to enter into an agreement with the Partridge Hollow Development Association whereby the Town pays for the lights and the Association reimburses the Town the full amount. The amendment carried, and the Town voted in favor of the amended article.

At the conclusion of the meeting, outgoing Board of Selectmen Chairman David Dunn thanked the residents for their support during his three years on the Board. He also thanked former Select Board members Joanne Foster and Alexandra Turner and current members Shawn Winsor and Chris Williams for their help and support. Mr. Dunn got a standing ovation from the meeting participants.

Moderator Christoph also announced that he is not seeking reelection. He reminded the audience that open town meeting is democracy in action and urged them to continue to participate in their local town government.

There being no further business, Moderator Christoph adjourned the Annual Town Meeting at 9:15 p.m.