

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
LANCASTER MASSACHUSETTS
Mary Rowlandson Elementary School
March 10, 2014**

The Special Town Meeting, which was called by Citizen's Petition, was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Moderator David I. Spanagel. A total of 351 registered voters and 19 non-voting guests were signed in by Registrars John Ranieri, Mary Perreira and Kevin Baer. Moderator Spanagel introduced the people on the stage: Board of Selectmen (BOS) Members Jean M. Syria, Susan E. Smiley, and Stanley B. Starr, Jr.; Finance Committee (FinCom) Members James E. "Jay" Riley, Jr., Michelle Vasquez, and Matthew Carpenter; Atty. Mark Reich of Kopelman & Paige (Town Counsel), Finance Director Cheryl Garipey, and Assistant Town Clerk Barbara Bartlett. Moderator Spanagel also made note that Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco was seated in the audience and was available to speak and answer questions on the evening's articles.

After leading the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Spanagel asked for a moment of silence in honor of several local residents who has passed away since the Special Town Meeting in October:

Maira Taylor
August 5, 1929 – November 18, 2013
Nancy D. Moran
July 8, 1932 – January 21, 2014
Helen M. MacBrayne
January 20, 1926 – January 31, 2014
George E. Robinson, Sr
September 8, 1929 – March 4, 2014
Delwin R. Braman
April 21, 1929 – March 7, 2014

Moderator Spanagel introduced the vote counters for the evening: Mary Frost, John McGarity, and Jeanne Rich. He also explained that a Temporary Clerk would need to be elected by ballot vote, to act in the capacity of the Town Clerk who could not be at the meeting, and asked for nominations. Eugene Christoph nominated Assistant Town Clerk Barbara Bartlett, which was seconded by Victor Koivumaki. There were no other nominations. A hand vote was taken, and the vote was unanimous. Moderator David Spanagel cast one paper ballot for Barbara Bartlett for Temporary Town Clerk.

Moderator Spanagel explained that there was one article in which he would like to participate in debate as a resident and invited nominations for Deputy Moderator for that part of the meeting. He identified an experienced moderator in the audience, James Burgoyne. Stanley Starr, Jr. made a motion to elect James Burgoyne as Deputy Moderator and motion was seconded by Joanne Foster. Vote was unanimous.

The procedures of Town Meeting were explained, and Moderator Spanagel invited debate and remarks from residents, and requested that remarks be kept to a maximum of two minutes.

A motion was made from the floor by Eugene Christoph to change the agenda for the meeting to move the second and third articles forward. Motion was seconded by Jay Riley, and Moderator Spanagel called for a vote to change the meeting agenda to: Article 2, Article 3, Article 1. Motion passed with 1 negative vote.

Barbara Bartlett swore in James M. Burgoyne as Deputy Moderator, and David Spanagel swore in Barbara Bartlett as Temporary Clerk, and the meeting got underway.

Article 2 – On a motion by Susan Smiley and a second by Jean Syria, the Town voted to approve the Capital Project appropriation and funding therefor as printed in the Warrant: \$60,000.00 for the purpose of constructing an elevator for the Community Center and Memorial School Building(s) from Free Cash. Motion passed with 1 negative vote.

Article 3 – On a motion by Stanley B. Starr, Jr. and a second by Jean M. Syria, the Town voted to authorize the Treasurer/Collector with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow the sum of \$116,000 for the removal of the Bartlett Pond Dam and improvements to the Robert Frommer Conservation area; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action and execute any agreements necessary to effectuate such removal and improvements. A 2/3rds majority vote was required for passage; a hand count was called and the article passed by a vote of 298 yeas and 4 nays.

Deputy Moderator James Burgoyne took the podium and explained that the meeting is result of a citizen's petition, explained Article 1 and its purpose, and made the decision to use secret ballots for the vote on this article.

David Dunn, 129 Moffett St, moved that the Town petition the General Court to adopt a Special Act providing for Recall Elections in the Town of Lancaster, said Act to be substantially as set forth in the warrant, provided however, that the Legislature may make such clerical changes or amendments as may be deemed necessary and appropriate to immediately effectuate said Act. Motioned seconded by Eugene Christoph.

John C. Schumacher, 2 Main St, moved to amend Article 1 [by striking the text *"from office for any reason by the voters of the town as provided in this act"* and replacing with *"and removed from office by the registered voters of the town as provided in this act, for the reason of lack of fitness, incompetence, neglect of duties, corruption, malfeasance or violation of oath"* in Section 1; and in Section 2 by replacing the number 50 registered voters with 200; and in Section 3 by replacing the number *ten percent* of the registered voters, with *twenty percent*.]

Sarah Spencer, 674 Main St, and Carolyn Stump, 567 Mill St Ext, spoke in favor of the amended text, and Robert Smith, 31 Lee St, stated he would like the percentage in Section 3 changed to thirty-five percent. David Dunn, 129 Moffett St, stated he would like to vote on the Article as not amended and made a motion to move the question. Motion carries, debate is closed. The motion to amend is defeated.

David Spanagel, 282 Goss Ln, spoke in favor of the motion, and explained the history of recall elections; James Ford, 1813 Shirley Rd, spoke in support of Article 1; Joann Foster, 47 Center Bridge Rd, spoke against the recall article. William Bartlett, 97 Langen Rd, made a motion to move the question. The motion passed; debate was closed.

Barbara Bartlett verified that ballot boxes were empty, and Deputy Moderator Burgoyne explained the procedure for ballot vote. Police Chief Kevin Lamb, and Barbara Bartlett, observed voters casting ballots. Votes were counted by Barbara Bartlett and John McGarity, and the count was observed by Town Counsel Atty. Mark Reich, Police Chief Kevin Lamb, Deputy Moderator James Burgoyne, and counters Mary Frost and Jeanne Rich. After final count, Article 1 passed by majority vote with 287 yeas and 58 nays.

There being no further business, Deputy Moderator Burgoyne thanked the audience for their participation and accepted a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.