

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
LANCASTER MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 1, 2006**

Abbreviated Notes

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Moderator Eugene Christoph. A total of 155 registered voters and 13 non-voting guests were signed in by Registrars Cecilia Thurlow, Anna DiPietro and John Ranieri. Moderator Christoph assigned three members from among the meeting participants to serve as counters during the meeting.

Students from the Browning Elementary School, under the direction of Mrs. Phyllis Crand, sang by voice and sign language God Bless the USA and God Bless America, and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board of Selectmen presented Worcester County Sheriff Guy Glodis with a plaque and thanked him for the wonderful job his prisoners did in renovating the Town Hall Auditorium.

Outgoing Board of Selectmen Chair Alexandra Turner thanked the Town for their support over the past years and particularly thanked all those who volunteer their time as public officials and volunteers on the various boards and committees in the Town. She gave special thanks to the task force that was formed to get legislation passed that made benefits available to spouses of public safety officers who died in the line of duty, the so-called McNamara Bill that was signed by Governor Romney in Lancaster last year.

Article 1 -- The reading of the Annual Report was waived.

Article 2 -- The Town voted to amend the FY2006 Water Enterprise Fund Budget, as adopted under Article 10 of the May 2, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, by adjusting the budget line items as printed in the warrant.

Article 3 -- The Town voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer to enter into a Compensating Balance Agreement(s) for FY2007, pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53F.

Article 4 -- The Town voted unanimously to request the Board of Assessors to commit \$15,000 from the FY2007 Overlay Account for Abatements to fund the Senior Citizen Tax Work-off Abatement Program.

Article 5 -- The Town voted unanimously to authorize the FY07 Revolving Funds as printed in the Warrant, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §53E½.

Article 6 -- The Town unanimously approved the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2007 and the ensuing two fiscal years as amended below (**revisions asterisked and in bold Italics*):

Town of Lancaster
3 Year Capital Plan - Procurement Schedule

Department		Item	FY07	FY08	FY09
Police	Police Cruiser 4X4		31,860	32,414	34,035
	Computer Upgrades				
	Bullet Proof Vests		12,000		
	Police Station Carpet/Paint			25,000	
	Radar Trailer			16,000	
Fire	Thermal Image Camera for Ladder Truck		11,000		
	Jaws of Life Replacement		30,000		
	Hovercraft			31,000	
	Refurbish 1989 KME Pumper		100,000		
	Replace 1971 Tanker			325,000	
Ambulance	Ambulance			127,500	
Dispatch	Alarm Panel		10,000		
School	MR and LB – Kitchen Replacement Project		15,000	15,000	15,000
	<i>*MR and LB – Tile Floor Replacement</i>		<i>0</i>		
	MR Addition Design Services				250,000
Highway	Cemetery Hot-Topping		30,000		
	40,000GVW truck/snowplow/sander		130,000		
	Water Meter Replacements		50,000	50,000	
	<i>*Ford F550 Truck with attachments</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>53,000</i>	
	DPW Buildings Maintenance		30,000		
	DPW Office Building Expansion			200,000	
	4 x 4 Tractor Loader Backhoe – Water Division				80,000
Town Buildings	Sewer Connection – Town Buildings			25,000	
	<i>*Veterans War Memorial</i>		<i>25,000</i>	<i>0</i>	
	Photocopiers		15,000		
	Bylaw Codification		12,000		
Computer Tech	Computer purchases/replacements		10,000	10,500	11,025
Annual Total			<i>*511,860</i>	<i>*909,914</i>	390,060

Article 7 -- The Town unanimously voted to appropriate or transfer \$511,860 for the FY07 capital projects and purchases described in the amended Article 6 above, the source of funding as printed in the Warrant.

Article 8 -- The Town voted to amend the *Personnel Compensation Wage and Salary Schedule* by increasing all amounts by 2.5% effective July 1, 2006.

Article 9 - The Town voted unanimously to appropriate \$512,019 from the Water Enterprise Fund to finance the operation of the Water Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006 as detailed in the Warrant.

Article 10 -- The Town voted unanimously to appropriate \$119,421 from Water Enterprise Available funds to the Water Enterprise Capital Fund to be expended by the Board of Public Works.

Article 11 -- The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$14,404,561 and take \$87,169 from the Water Enterprise Fund to cover the FY2007 budget as printed in the warrant.

Article 12 -- The Town voted unanimously to accept public funds for repairs to roadways, culverts, bridges, water systems, tree planting and snow removal, and to authorize the Collector-Treasurer to take from available funds or to borrow in anticipation of authorized reimbursements.

Article 13 -- The Town voted unanimously to take from available funds and authorize the Treasurer-Collector to borrow in anticipation of reimbursements, the sum of \$189,380 for authorized road improvements and other projects provided for under Chapter 90 Local Transportation Aid. The Board of Public Works is authorized to expend funds authorized by this article subject to pre-approval of a Capital Expenditure Plan by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee

Article 14 -- The Town voted, by majority vote, to authorize the Treasurer-Collector, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow a sum of not more than \$695,000 for the purpose of replacing the existing 6 inch water main on Langen Road with a 12 inch water main from Brooks Crossing to Bull Hill for a distance of 4,650 feet, and for all other associated project costs; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any easements as a gift.

Article 15 -- Selectman Shawn Winsor moved to postpone indefinitely this article to accept Meditation Lane as a public way because the required layout public hearing had not been held. Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco promised that the hearing will be held before the fall Special Town Meeting and the article will be on the Warrant then. The motion to postpone was unanimously accepted by the Town.

Article 16 -- The Town voted unanimously to reduce the interest rate that accrues on property taxes deferred by eligible seniors under G.L. c. 59 Section 5, Clause 41A, as amended by Chapter 136 section 1 of the Acts of 2005 from 8% to 0%.

Article 17 -- The Town voted, by majority vote, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an Intermunicipal Mutual Aid agreement with various governmental units to perform public health services which the Board of Health is authorized to perform.

Article 18 -- The Town voted unanimously to accept the provisions of G.L. Chapter 44, Section 55E, and to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be expended by the Board of Public Works for the development of new burial lots, said sum to be offset by the estimated receipts from the sale of burial lots and graves.

Article 19 -- An amended Article 19 was handed out at Town Meeting. Planning Board Chair Vic Koivumaki moved that the amended Article 19 be accepted by the Town to amend the Lancaster Zoning By-Law on Earth Products Removal. After much discussion, the Town voted, by a vote of 60 yeas to 49 nays, to accept the amended Article; since zoning by-law changes

require a two-thirds majority vote, however, the Article was defeated. The amended article is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Article 20 – Once Article 19 was defeated, Article 20 became moot and was not considered.

Article 21 – The Town voted to replace the Outdoor Water Use By-Law adopted at the May 7, 1990 Annual Town Meeting with a new by-law as printed in the warrant, except that the words “any town police officer or” contained in Section 9a thereof were deleted. Selectman Dave Dunn explained that Lancaster has to have its own by-law or the State will impose restrictions during a state of water emergency.

Article 22 – The Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for the enactment of a special law authorizing the appointment of retired Lancaster police officers as special police officers for the purposes of performing details.

Article 23 – The Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease agreement with the Nashoba Regional School District for land and buildings consisting of the Mary Rowlandson Elementary School and the Luther Burbank Middle School.

Article 24 – The Town voted unanimously to accept a donation from Colleen Ferris of a parcel of land, Map 10 Parcel 71 on the Lancaster Assessor's Map.

Article 25 – Once Article 19 was defeated, the citizen petition to amend the Earth Removal Overlay District Map by adding parcels of land off Lunenburg Road and White Pond Road was moot and was not considered.

At the end of the Annual Town Meeting Board of Selectmen Chair Alexandra Turner read a list of Lancaster residents who died during 2005; Moderator Christoph then asked for a moment of silence for these residents who had served the Town in various capacities:

Robert L. Culley

March 5, 1924 – March 5, 2005

Keeper of the Pound

Road commissioner

Helena Baggott

September 4, 1929 – March 5, 2005

Trustee of the Thayer Memorial Library

Council on Aging

Raymond F. Comes

October 7, 1921 – March 17, 2005

Trustee of the Thayer Memorial Library

Jessica K. Queen

September 24, 1915 – April 5, 2005

Council on Aging

WENDELL P. BARTLETT
August 5, 1919 – October 7, 2005
Board of Selectmen
Lancaster School Committee
Finance Committee
Public Safety Building Committee
Nashoba Regional School Committee
Water Commissioner
School Building Committee
Fire Station Needs Committee

Selectman Dave Dunn thanked Alexandra Turner for her nine years of dedicated service to the Town as a member of the Board of Selectmen; the audience gave her a rousing standing ovation.

Moderator Christoph assigned the task of naming an official Lancaster Town Tree to the Historical Commission.

There being no further business, Moderator Christoph adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.