

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
LANCASTER MASSACHUSETTS
Mary Rowlandson Elementary School
May 2, 2011**

Abbreviated Notes

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator David I. Spanagel. A total of 150 registered voters and 11 non-voting guests were signed in by Registrars John Ranieri and Kevin Baer. Moderator Spanagel lead the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and then introduced the Town Officials sitting on the stage: Board of Selectmen (BOS) members Christopher Williams, Jennifer Leone, and John P. Sonia, Finance Committee (FinCom) Members James Piermarini, Jay Riley, Janet Baylis, Walter Sendrowski and Peter CampoBasso, Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco, Finance Director Cheryl Gariepy and Town Clerk Sue Thompson.

Moderator Spanagel then asked for a moment of silence for residents of the Town who had died during the past six months, including:

- Thomas Neil Morris, a member of the Conservation Commission, Town Forest Committee, Veteran's Memorial Study Commission and a long-time election worker
- Wilda Gail Bruso, a member of the Lancaster Arts Council and the Historical Commission
- June A. David, cafeteria worker for the Nashoba Regional School District, election worker, Council on Aging volunteer, and member of the Senior Tax Abatement Program.
- Kenneth W. Rauscher, Nashoba Regional School District Custodian and Lancaster Plumbing and Gas Inspector.
- Norm Myerow, baking instructor at Minuteman Career and Technical High School
- Eleanor Mahoney, Special Ed Teacher at Mary Rowlandson Elementary School
- Joseph P. "Champ" Ciampaglia, Nashoba Regional School District Custodian

Moderator Spanagel spent a few minutes explaining Town Meeting procedures, and the meeting got underway.

Article 1 – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Christopher Williams, the town unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2011 Capital expenditures as printed in the warrant.

Article 2 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams, the town unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2012 Water Enterprise Fund as printed in the Warrant, with one amendment. The town approved an additional \$15,000 from water revenue (user charges) for the purchase of a truck, which had been in the warrant for \$25,000 and was now going to cost \$40,000.

Article 3 – Christopher Williams moved, with a second by Jennifer Leone, to approve the FY2012 operating budget of \$16,150,254 as attached to the warrant. Jennifer Leone then moved, with a second by John Sonia, to amend the operating budget by reducing the Nashoba Regional

School District Assessment by \$166,865, making the school budget level-funded from the previous year. After much discussion, the amendment was defeated by a vote of 51 in favor and 80 against. A motion to reconsider the amendment failed. The original budget of \$16,150,254, creating a deficit of \$132,873, was then approved, with only 2 negative votes.

Article 4 – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to appropriate \$20,000 from the Fiscal Year 2012 Overlay Account for Abatements to fund the Senior Tax work-off Abatement Program.

Article 5 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams, the town voted by 81 in favor and 7 opposed to approve the Wage and Compensation Schedule as printed in the Warrant. The effective date was amended to June 1, 2011 to offset increases in healthcare costs

Article 6 – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to approve the revolving funds as printed in the warrant.

Article 7 – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to accept any public funds for repairs to roadways, culverts, bridges, water systems, tree planting, and snow removal, and to authorize the Collector-Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of those funds if needed.

Article 8 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams, the town voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to borrow in anticipation of reimbursements for authorized road improvements and other projects provided for under Chapter 90 Local Transportation Aid.

Article 9 – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted by majority vote, with one opposing vote, to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into Compensating Balance Agreements for FY2012, pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53F.

Article 10 – On a motion by Jack Sonia and a second by Christopher Williams it was voted unanimously to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ to establish a Renewable Energy Utility Enterprise Fund, which will employ the same accounting practices as the Water Enterprise Fund.

Article 11 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams, the Town voted, 80 in favor and 7 opposed, to authorize the Treasurer-Collector, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44 §7(3B) an amount not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars to pay for the cost of designing, permitting and constructing a solar array on the Town's capped landfill parcel. A motion to reconsider was defeated by majority vote, with only 3 ayes.

Article 12 – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by John Sonia, the Town voted, with only 1 negative vote, to transfer the land shown on Map 14, Parcel 7, the former landfill, to the Board of Selectmen and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease portions of said land for the installation of renewable energy generating equipment and facilities.

Article 13 – On a motion by Jack Sonia and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted unanimously to authorize the creation of a Capital Item Stabilization Account, under the provision of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 5B.

Article 14 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted unanimously to accept the amendments to Section 220-3 “Definitions” of the Lancaster Zoning By-Law as printed in the Warrant. Planning Board chair Jeanne Rich read the report of the Planning Board and stated that the purpose of this Article and the following eight was to clean up and standardize the Zoning By-Law. No changes in zoning districts were being proposed.

Article 15 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by John Sonia the Town voted by majority vote, with two opposing votes, to amend Section 220-13 “Fences, Walls and Corner Clearances” of the Lancaster Zoning By-Law as printed in the Warrant. Planning Board member Phillip Lawler read the Planning Board’s report.

Article 16 – On a motion by Jack Sonia and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted, with one dissenting vote, to amend the Lancaster Zoning By-Law by deleting Sections 220-16 “Development rate limitations,” 220-17 “Single-family and two-family conversion limitation,” 220-18 “Apartment limitation,” 220-19 “Zoning change protection,” and 220-20 “Major Residential Development Rate Limitations,” in each case replacing them with “Not used.” PB Chair Jeanne Rich read the report of the Planning Board.

Article 17 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted unanimously to insert a new § 220-22.I. Curb Cuts into the Lancaster Zoning Bylaw as printed in the warrant. PB member John King read the Planning Board report on this article.

Article 18 – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by John Sonia the Town voted unanimously to amend Chapter 220, Article VII Floodplain Regulations of the Lancaster Zoning Bylaw as printed in the warrant, and to amend the Town’s Official Zoning Overlay Map accordingly. PB member Victor Koivumaki read the Planning Board report on this article.

Article 19 – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted unanimously to amend § 220-31 and § 220-32, “Size, location and Illumination Exceptions” of the Lancaster Zoning Bylaw as printed in the warrant. PB member Francis Sullivan read the Planning Board report on this article.

Article 20 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted unanimously to amend § 220-34 Site Plan Review of the Lancaster Zoning Bylaw as printed in the warrant. PB chair Jeanne Rich read the Planning Board report on this article.

Article 21 – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted unanimously to amend § 220-39.D and § 220-9.G(8) Water Resource District of the Lancaster Zoning Bylaw as printed in the warrant, and to amend the Town’s Official Zoning Overlay Map accordingly. PB member Philip Lawler read the Planning Board report on this article.

Article 22 – On a motion by Jack Sonia and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted, with one dissenting vote, to amend § 220-63 Concept Plan of the Lancaster Zoning By-Law as printed in the warrant. PB member Victor Koivumaki read the Planning Board report on this article.

There being no further business, Moderator Spanagel adjourned the Annual Town Meeting at 9:05 p.m.