

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
LANCASTER MASSACHUSETTS
Mary Rowlandson Elementary School
May 3, 2010**

Abbreviated Notes

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Moderator David I. Spanagel. A total of 205 registered voters and 18 non-voting guests were signed in by Registrars John Ranieri, Susan Smiley and resident Kevin Baer. Moderator Spanagel 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 John Wojciak, James Piermarini, Jay Riley, Janet Baylis and Walter Sendrowski, Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco, Finance Director Cheryl Gariepy and Town Clerk Sue Thompson. Moderator Spanagel appointed Larry Shoer, John McGarity and Vic Koivumaki as vote counters. After leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Spanagel turned the mic over to State Representative Jennifer Benson who read a citation to honor town resident Catherine Falvey, who turns 99 years old on May 21st. BOS Chair Jennifer then read a Town Proclamation declaring May 3, 2010 Catherine Falvey Day in Lancaster. Lancaster Historical Society President Michael Sczerzen presented a pin replica of the Boston Post Cane to Mrs. Falvey, Lancaster's oldest living resident.

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

- Alan J. Johnston, who served on the Police Department and Animal Control Commission
- Mary G. Vincent, a member of the Council on Aging for 35 years
- Donald E. Boucher, who served on the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Appeals, the Planning Board and several other town committees
- John J. Bryce, a long-time volunteer at the Lancaster Recycling Center
- Alexander C. Doucette, a young resident of Lancaster who died on the track at Nashoba Regional High School in April

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 Jennifer Leone, the town unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2011 Capital expenditures as printed in the warrant.

It was moved and seconded and approved by majority vote to move discussion of Article 17 forward. Article 17 proposed expanding the Integrated Planning Overlay District 1 (IPOD 1) originally approved at the May 3, 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 17 – Jennifer Leone moved and Chris Williams seconded that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by expanding the Integrated Planning Overlay District 1 (IPOD 1) to include the land areas described in the warrant. Planning Board Chair Jeanne Rich read the Board's report recommending passage of this article. Don Labelle, 20 Hunter Lane, president of the Spec

Pond Preservation Association, expressed concern about the impact the IPOD 1 expansion would have on Spec Pond, the JCC and property values in general. Preston “Skip” Hall referred to the Master Plan of 2007, which calls for the preservation of the rural character and ponds of Lancaster. Several residents dismissed the IPOD 1 expansion proposal as an attempt at spot zoning. The article needed a 2/3 majority to pass; after debate was closed and the vote was taken, Moderator Spanagel declared the article defeated.

Article 2 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams it was voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2011 Water Department budget as printed in the Warrant.

Article 3 – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone it was voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget of \$15,820,219 as printed as an attachment to the Warrant.

Article 4 – On a motion by Jack Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone it was voted by majority vote, with one opposing vote, to appropriate \$20,000 from the Fiscal Year 2011 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 majority vote, with one opposing vote, to approve the Revolving Funds for Fiscal Year 2011 as printed in the warrant.

Article 6 – On a motion by Chris Williams 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 any reimbursements

Article 7 – On a motion by Jack Sonia and a second by Chris Williams the Town voted by majority vote, with one opposing vote, to authorize the Treasurer-Collector to borrow \$241,640 in anticipation of reimbursements under Chapter 90 for authorized road improvements.

Article 8 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Chris Williams the Town voted by majority vote, with two opposing votes, to authorize the Treasurer to enter into Compensating Balance Agreements for FY2011, pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53F.

Article 9 – On a motion by Chris Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted unanimously to transfer \$195 from available funds to pay an unpaid septic bill from Fiscal Year 2009.

Article 10 – On a motion by Jack Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted unanimously to establish a revolving fund for the Lancaster Police Department into which will be paid all receipts from Cruiser Fees associated with private details, and from which costs not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the purchase of police vehicles, associated equipment, or any incurred police cruiser related expense, not to include salaries, may be expended without further appropriation by the Lancaster Board of Selectmen. Orlando Pacheco explained that police will be able to charge \$50 any time a police vehicle is used on a private detail.

Article 11 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Chris Williams the Town voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into employment agreements with the Planning Director and the Town Clerk.

Article 12 – On a motion by Chris Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted by majority vote to adopt the Stretch Energy Code General Bylaw as printed in the warrant. Adoption of this bylaw allows the Town to be designated as a “Green Community” and therefore become eligible to apply for up to one million dollars in grant money this year alone. The bylaw only applies to new construction, both residential and commercial, and will become effective July 1. David Frawley, 71 Cleverly Cove Road, noted that the Building Inspector is responsible for enforcement of the new code and will need professional development/training.

Article 13 – On a motion by Jack Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted not to have the elected Board of Public Works become an appointed Board. Jennifer Leone stated that the Mass Department of Revenue recommended passage of this article, but several people, including Jack Sonia and Shawn Winsor, spoke out about how the Town is losing its ability to decide on who its public officials should be as more and more positions are being moved from elected to appointed.

Article 14 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Chris Williams the Town voted by majority vote with two opposing votes to transfer \$46,968.70 from Overlay Surplus to fund an accounting software conversion for the Finance Department. Jennifer Leone explained that the current software does not fit well with town departments’ needs, especially in the reporting module.

Article 15 – On a motion by Chris Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted by majority vote, with two opposed, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire any temporary easements for the construction of traffic and safety improvements on Route 70 and Old Union Turnpike based on the plan entitled “Preliminary Right-of-Way Property Plan, Lunenburg Road (Rt. 70) at Old Union Turnpike, Lancaster, MA, Project File No. 605216”, dated January 13, 2008, as prepared by Vanasse & Associates, Inc. Vic Koivumaki, chair of the Montachusett Regional Planning Council, explained that the reason a round-about is being constructed instead of installing a simple traffic light is that the Town would only have to pay 10% of the costs of a round-about and would have to pay significantly more for a light.

Article 16 – On a motion by Jack Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted unanimously to amend the Personnel Bylaw as printed in the warrant.

Article 18 – On a motion by Chris Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted by majority vote, with one opposing vote, to insert in the Lancaster Code the bylaw entitled, “Water Withdrawal Bylaw,” as set forth in the handout, and to authorize the Town Clerk to assign the bylaw an article and section number in the Town Code, as appropriate.” Peter Farmer, Chair of the Conservation Commission, proposed an amendment to add “Any withdrawal must be made from the owner’s property” at the end of Section 3. Requirements, Section B, Paragraph 4. The amendment passed by majority vote, with four opposing votes.

Article 19 – Jack Sonia moved and Jennifer Leone seconded that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw to decrease the size of the Water Resource District. Jeanne Rich, Chair of the Lancaster Planning Board read the Board’s recommendation on this article, which was to reject it. The town voted unanimously to reject the change in the Zoning Bylaw.

Article 20 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Chris Williams the Town voted unanimously to approve the \$725,000 borrowing authorized by the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School District on March 30, 2010 for the purpose of paying the costs of a feasibility study. All sixteen member towns had to approve the funding; Belmont was the only opposing town.

Article 21 – On a motion by Chris Williams and a second by Jack Sonia the Town voted unanimously to amend Town By-Law Chapter 17-10 to provide for the staggered terms of two additional members on the Lancaster Recreation Committee.

There being no further business, Moderator Spanagel adjourned the Annual Town Meeting at 9:55 p.m.