

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
LANCASTER MASSACHUSETTS
Machlan Auditorium, Atlantic Union College
May 4, 2009**

Abbreviated Notes

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Moderator David I. Spanagel. A total of 124 registered voters and 28 non-voting guests were signed in by Registrars Cecilia Thurlow and John Ranieri. 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, Janet Baylis and Walter Sendrowski, Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco, Finance Director Cheryl Gariepy and Town Clerk Sue Thompson. Moderator Spanagel appointed Emily Rose and Stephanie Fiori as vote counters. After leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Spanagel asked for a moment of silence for residents of the Town who had died during the past twelve months.

The Special Town Meeting warrant contained two FY09 budget-related articles.

Article 1 – It was voted unanimously to amend the Fiscal Year 2009 budget approved October 6, 2008, to \$15,549,216 by funding as follows:

\$ 12,696,969 by taxation
\$ 1,501,542 from local receipts
\$ 1,106,249 from state aid
\$ 99,880 from the Water Enterprise Fund
\$ 84,310 from Fund Balance reserved for School Debt
\$ 130,000 from Overlay Surplus
\$ 293,410 from the Stabilization Fund

Article 2 – It was voted unanimously to take \$3,354.36 from the Stabilization Fund to pay prior year wages to the Lancaster Fire Department.

There being no further business regarding FY09 expenditures or budget, Moderator Spanagel adjourned the Special Town Meeting at 7:21 p.m. and immediately called the Annual Town Meeting to order.

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Chris Williams moved to pull Articles 12, 13 and 14 forward. These articles addressed important zoning issues that the BOS felt should be dealt with before any residents had to leave the meeting.

Article 12 – It was voted to amend Article 12 from the floor by adding to Section 220-8.7 B. (1) “The Planning Board must find that there is no material impact to the neighborhood.” The amended Article 12, to Establish an Integrated Planning Overlay District (IPOD), then passed by a Moderator-declared two-thirds majority vote, there being only one opposing vote.

Article 13 – It was voted to amend the Zoning Bylaw by creating two Integrated Planning Overlay Districts as printed in the warrant. Moderator Spanagel declared the vote to be well over the two-thirds majority needed, with three dissenting votes.

Article 14 – It was voted unanimously to approve the filing of an application with the Interagency Permitting Board under the provisions of Chapter 43D of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended pursuant to Section 11 of Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2006, for the designation of land at:

Chisholm Property (Fort Pond Road)

- Map 5, Parcel 27 (67 acres)
- Map 5, Parcel 32 (34 acres)
- Map 5, Parcel 32A (44 acres)
- **Total: 145 acres**

Hill Property (Lunenburg Road)

- Map 4, Parcel 9 (25.32 acres)
- **Total: 25.32 acres**

as Priority Development Sites.

Article 1 – The Town voted unanimously to approve the following Fiscal Year 2010 Water Enterprise Fund Budget:

I. Water Enterprise Revenues	
User Charges	706,698
Connection Fees	8,550
Water Enterprise Available Funds	0
Investment Income	0
Total Revenues	715,248
II. Costs Appropriated in the Enterprise Fund	
Salaries and Wages	195,776
Expenses	196,757
Capital Outlay – Equipment	25,000
Capital Outlay – Improvements	0

Reserve Fund	0
Debt Principal and Interest	189,285
Cross Connection	0
Budgeted Surplus	8,550
	615,368
Indirect Costs	24,331
Benefits	53,363
Pension Costs	22,186
Total Indirect Costs	99,880
Total Costs Appropriated in E. F.	715,248

Article 2 – It was voted by majority vote (67 yeas to 33 nays) to amend Article 2 as follows:

Move to raise and appropriate \$15,569,194 from the following sources:

\$13,254,931 from taxation
\$99,880 from the Water Enterprise Fund
\$84,310 from Fund Balance reserved for School Debt
\$1,338,542 from local receipts
\$876,595 from local aid

to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2009. This appropriation will level fund the Nashoba Regional School District budget at \$8,853,210 and create a deficit of \$233,306.

The amended budget passed by majority vote, with 8 dissenting votes.

Article 3 – It was voted to commit \$20,000 from the FY2010 Overlay Account for Abatements to fund the Senior Citizen Tax Work-off Abatement Program.

Article 4 – The Town voted unanimously to approve the following Revolving Funds for Fiscal Year 2010:

REVOLVING FUND	AUTHORIZED TO SPEND FUND	REVENUE SOURCE	USE OF FUND	SPENDING LIMIT	DISPOSITION OF FY09 FUND BALANCE
Council on Aging	Council on Aging	Senior Newsletter Advertising	Newsletter printing/mailling; other activities	\$ 2,000	Balance Available for Expenditures
Stormwater Management	Community Development and Planning	Fees	Engineering fees	\$ 50,000	Balance Available For Expenditures
Library Book Fines	Library Trustees	Late Book & Materials Fines	Books - Materials	\$ 5,125	Balance Available for Expenditures
Library Photocopy	Library Trustees	Patron photocopy fee	Photocopy equipment and supplies	\$ 875	Balance Available for Expenditures
Library Lost Items	Library Trustees	Lost Books/Item replacement charge	Books – Materials	\$ 750	Balance Available for Expenditures
M.A.R.T.	Council on Aging	Reimbursement – M.A.R.T. – Bus fees	Wages and Expenses for Senior Van operation	\$ 45,000	Balance Available for Expenditures
Conservation Consultants	Conservation Commission	Fees from Applicants	Conservation Consulting Services	\$ 20,000	Balance Available for Expenditures
Planning Board	Panning Board	Fees	Planning-related Expenses	\$ 50,000	Balance Available for Expenditures

Community Development Legal Ads	Community Development	Reimbursement for advertising	Legal Ad publications	\$ 2,500	Balance Available for Expenditure
Publications Reprinting	Town Clerk	Publications Fees	Publications reprinting expenses	\$ 2,500	Balance Available for expenditures
Recycling	Recycling Committee	Donations-Fees-Sale of products	Operating Expenses	\$ 15,000	Balance Available for Expenditures
Recreation Committee	Selectmen	Fees	Recreation programs	\$25,000	Balance Available for Expenditures
Library	Library Trustees	Fees/charges	Replacement of materials/supplies	\$ 250	Balance available for Expenditures
Lost/Replacement Cards					

Article 5 – This article to approve the establishment of a Stabilization Fund by the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District, beginning July 1, 2009, under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 16 G½, was defeated.

Article 6 –The Town voted unanimously to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.32B §18A. Section 18A replaces Section 18, making it easier for retirees to enroll into Medicare.

Article 7 –The Town voted unanimously to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.44 §53F½ for the Lancaster Water Division.

Article 8 – 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 9 – The Town voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer-Collector to borrow \$234,259 for authorized road improvements provided under Chapter 90, Local Transportation Aid.

Article 10 – The Town voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer to enter into Compensating Balance Agreements for FY2010, pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53F

Article 11 – This article to amend the General Bylaws by inserting a bylaw regarding the public consumption of Marijuana or Tetrahydrocannabinol was defeated.

Article 15 – This article to accept Runaway Brook Road as a public way was defeated.

Article 16 – The Town voted unanimously to adopt the Farm Preservation Bylaw as printed in the warrant.

There being no further business, Moderator Spanagel adjourned the Annual Town Meeting at 9:20 p.m.