

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
LANCASTER MASSACHUSETTS
Mary Rowlandson Elementary School
May 6, 2013**

Abbreviated Notes

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Moderator David I. Spanagel. A total of 170 registered voters and 15 non-voting guests were signed in by Registrars John Ranieri and Kevin Baer, and Carolyn Stump. 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 Jennifer Leone, John P. Sonia and Jean M. Syria, Finance Committee (FinCom) Members Jay Riley, Peter CampoBasso, Michelle Vasquez, Janet Baylis, and Walter Sendrowski, and Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco, Finance Director Cheryl Gariepy and Town Clerk Sue Thompson. Moderator Spanagel then asked for a moment of silence for residents who had died during the past six months, including:

- Phyllis Farnsworth, an election worker and long-time member and chair of the Lancaster Historical Commission, Chair of the Bicentennial Committee, and member of the Historic District Study Committee.
- Elaine Lange, who worked in the Lancaster Public Schools until her retirement in 1957.
- Lucille M. Johnston, and election worker and longtime cafeteria worker at Nashoba Regional High School.
- Leo Favreau, field driver

Moderator Spanagel thanked resident Daniel Mazzola who stepped up to become Lancaster's representative on the Minuteman School Committee after Peter Farmer resigned because of conflicts with his other town commitments. Mr. Spanagel noted that this would be the last meeting for four people on the stage, and the audience thanked them for their service: Board of Selectmen chair Jennifer Leone chose not to run for re-election after serving six years on the board, and BOS member John P. "Jack" Sonia resigned with one year left of his term. FinCom members Janet Baylis and Walter Sendrowski chose not to seek re-election after six years on the committee. Moderator Spanagel spent a few minutes explaining Town Meeting procedures, and the meeting got underway.

Article 1 – On a motion by Jean Syria and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to appropriate \$150,000.00 to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 2 – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to approve the FY14 Capital expenditures as printed in the warrant.

Article 3 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by John Sonia, the town voted unanimously to adopt the FY 2014 Operating budget as filed with the Town Clerk by raising \$15,504,340 by taxation and \$1,021,458 with Local Aid/State Receipts. This budget will be adjusted and voted on again at the Fall Special Town meeting.

Article 4 – On a motion by Jean Syria and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to approve the FY14 Water Department budget as printed in the Warrant. Town

Administrator Orlando Pacheco explained that this budget has been level-funded for the past four years.

Article 5 – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to appropriate \$20,000 from the FY14 Overlay Account for Abatements to fund the Senior Tax Work-off Abatement Program.

Article 6 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Jean Syria, the town voted unanimously to approve the Wage and Compensation Schedule by increasing all amounts by 3%, effective July 1, 2013, as printed in the Warrant. BOS member Jean Syria pointed out that this schedule only affects non-union personnel.

Article 7 – On a motion by Jean Syria and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2014 revolving funds as printed in the warrant.

Article 8 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by John Sonia, the town voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, the fee or lesser interest in those lands shown, more or less, on the plan entitled “Route 110/Old Common Road/Center Bridge Road Preliminary Right of Way Plan in the Town of Lancaster, Worcester County, Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division Intersection Improvements Project,” prepared by BETA Group, Inc., dated January 14, 2011, revised through September 10, 2012, as being necessary to complete the relocation of South Bolton Road and the improvement project depicted thereon, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate. In answer to a question, Mr. Pacheco reported that the Town is paying for all plans, easements, etc. (approximately \$200,000) out of Chapter 90 funds; the state is paying for the rest, over a million dollars.

Article 9 -- On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to authorize the Town to accept any public funds and authorize the Treasurer/Collector to borrow in anticipation of those funds if needed.

Article 10 -- On a motion by Jean Syria and a second by John Sonia, the town voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to borrow in anticipation of reimbursements for FY14 Chapter 90 funds.

Article 11 – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone, the Town voted, with two opposing votes, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement with another municipality for the purposes of servicing Lancaster’s municipal streetlight system. Mr. Pacheco explained that the Town was buying back the streetlights that had been turned off in the 90’s but did not have the resources to maintain them. He planned to negotiate with the Sterling Municipal Light Department to provide maintenance.

Article 12 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Jean Syria, the town voted to amend the Zoning Bylaw to delete the Limited Office (LO) district and add an Enterprise (EZ and EZ-A) district as printed in the Warrant. Planning Board (PB) Chair Jeanne Rich read the PB report recommending passage of this article. A two-thirds vote was required, and Moderator Spanagel declared passage with only 3 nays. A motion to reconsider failed.

Article 13 – On a motion by Jean Syria and a second by Jennifer Leone, the Town voted, by a Moderator-declared 2/3 majority vote with only one nay, to amend the Lancaster Zoning Map by

deleting the Limited Office (LO) district, adding an Enterprise (EZ) district and re-zoning land currently zoned LO, HB and LI to EZ. A motion to reconsider failed.

Article 14 – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone, the Town voted unanimously to approve a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement for the solar energy generation facility at Manny’s Dairy Farm for a period of 20 years. Town Administrator Pacheco explained that the solar facility will pay approximately \$32,000 per year in lieu of taxes and will take the property out of Section 61 and back onto the tax rolls. The PILOT agreement is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Article 15 – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by John Sonia, the Town voted unanimously to approve a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement for the solar energy generation facility operated by UGT Solar on land on Shirley Road at the Shirley Airport for a period of 20 years.

Article 16 – On a motion by Jean Syria and a second by John Sonia, the Town voted to amend the Lancaster Zoning Bylaw to add a new Section 220-16, Temporary Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers until June 30, 2014, as printed in the Warrant. PB Chair Jeanne Rich read the Planning Board report recommending passage of this article. A 2/3 vote was required for passage, and Moderator Spanagel called for a hand count. The article passed by a vote of 115 yays and 36 nays; a motion to reconsider failed.

Article 17 – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Jennifer Leone, the Town voted unanimously to approve the FY14 Water Capital expenditures as follows:

a. North Main Street Water Line	
Amount:	\$200,000
Funds to be expended by:	Board of Board of Public Works
Purpose:	Clean and Reline North Main Street Water Line
Funding Source:	Water Retained Earnings

b. Paint Water Storage Tank	
Amount:	\$150,000
Funds to be expended by:	Board of Public Works
Purpose:	Paint 1.5 million gallon storage tank
Funding Source:	Water Retained Earnings

Article 18 – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by Jeanne Rich the Town addressed a citizens’ petition article to reduce the acreage requirements to 1/2 acre for residents to keep chickens on their property. PB Chair Jeanne Rich read the Planning Board’s report, which recommended defeat of the article as originally presented. Mr. Williams then moved an amended article as shown below, which was seconded by Robert Baylis. The Agricultural Commission supported the article as amended, and the Planning Board did not object to it. After much discussion, the article as amended passed by a Moderator-declared 2/3 vote. A motion to reconsider failed.

GG.	The raising and keeping of up to six (6) chickens (common, domestic female chicks and hens, but no roosters) for non-commercial use by the residents of any lot with a minimum area of 0.90 acres or more	Y (SP)*	N	N	N	N	N	N	The chickens must be kept in a coop or pen enclosure that is no less than 20 feet from any lot line, 50 feet from any existing dwelling, and 1600 feet from any existing commercial poultry farm producer.
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* May be permitted by special permit for lots with area less than 0.90 acres, provided all other conditions of this section are met.

There being no further business, Moderator Spanagel adjourned the Annual Town Meeting at 8:55 p.m.