

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
LANCASTER MASSACHUSETTS  
Mary Rowlandson Elementary School  
May 7, 2012**

**Abbreviated Notes**

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Moderator David I. Spanagel. A total of 191 registered voters and 11 non-voting guests were signed in by Registrars John Ranieri, Mary Perreira 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 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:

- John R. Parsons, a former custodian with the Lancaster School System
- June Sheridan who was assistant town clerk and an office assistant in the Town Hall
- Richard J. Pauley, Sr., Lancaster's Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer
- Chester "Chet" L. Locke, Sr., who worked at the Recycling Center since its inception, chaired the Veterans' Memorial Committee, was an Election Worker and Election Warden for many years, served on the Town Forest Committee, the Council on Aging and the School Building Needs Committee, was Manager of the Civil Defense Fallout Shelter, and also served as Lancaster's Tax Collector/Town Treasurer
- Janet LeRoy, a former member of the Personnel Board
- Margaret Matthews, who worked in the cafeteria of the Lancaster Elementary School and was also an election worker in Lancaster.
- Frederick A. Martin, an election worker for several years and a van driver for the Council on Aging.
- William Hurley, a 2011 graduate of Nashoba Regional High School from Stow, who had died in a tragic car accident a week ago.

Moderator Spanagel spent a few minutes explaining Town Meeting procedures, and the meeting got underway. Moderator Spanagel thanked John McGarity for his service as Lancaster's member of the Minuteman School Committee and introduced new member Peter Farmer. Board of Selectmen member Jennifer Leone thanked Chairman Christopher Williams for his years of service on the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Williams chose not to run for re-election after serving six years on the board. Because Moderator Spanagel was going to have to recuse himself on one of the articles on the Town Meeting warrant, he nominated Stanley Starr as Deputy Moderator. Mr. Starr was elected unanimously and sworn in by Town Clerk Sue Thompson.

**Article 1** – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams, the town approved, with one negative vote, the Fiscal Year 2013 Capital expenditures as printed in the

warrant. In response to a question from the floor about the \$100,000 in Item k, Orlando Pacheco explained that the Board of Assessors is required by law to reassess property values every few years.

**Article 2** – Christopher Williams moved, with a second by Jennifer Leone, to approve the FY2013 operating budget of \$16,591,737 as attached to the warrant. There was concern about the consistently increasing Nashoba Regional School District budget, which makes up 60% of the entire town budget, but the article passed by a vote of 143 yeas and 15 opposed. Finance Committee member Peter CampoBasso requested the School District to reduce their budget at the October Special Town Meeting.

**Article 3** – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Christopher Williams, the town unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2013 Water Enterprise Fund as printed in the Warrant.

**Article 4** – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams, the town voted unanimously to appropriate \$20,000 from the Fiscal Year 2013 Overlay Account for Abatements to fund the Senior Tax work-off Abatement Program. Under State law, \$20,000 is the maximum amount allowed for this program annually.

**Article 5** – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by John Sonia, the town voted unanimously to approve the Wage and Compensation Schedule by increasing all amounts by 3%, effective July 1, 2012 as printed in the Warrant.

**Article 6** – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Christopher Williams, the town voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2013 revolving funds as printed in the warrant.

**Article 7** – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams, 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 reimbursement of those funds if needed.

**Article 8** – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone, the town voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to borrow \$316,861 in anticipation of reimbursements 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 plan by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

**Article 9** – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2013 Renewable Energy Enterprise Fund Budget as printed in the Warrant.

**Article 10** – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted by majority vote to appropriate \$50,000 from free cash toward the cost of design, engineering, and permitting the removal of the Bartlett Pond dam. A vote to reconsider failed. Deputy Moderator Stanley Starr presided over this article. A motion to reconsider failed.

**Article 11** – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams, the Town voted, 67 in favor and 104 opposed, not to disapprove the bond authorization voted by the Nashoba Regional School District on March 15, 2012, thus allowing the school district to spend \$2.2 million on the Nashoba Regional High School Track and Field Renovation and Reuse Project. A motion to reconsider failed.

**Article 12** – On a motion by John Sonia and a second by Christopher Williams, the Town voted, with only one negative vote, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to initiate a municipal electrical aggregation for interested customers within the Town of Lancaster and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements in excess of three years for services to facilitate the sale and purchase of electric energy and other related services. National Grid would still be in charge of transformers, poles and wires.

**Article 13** – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted unanimously to accept the donation of a small parcel on Ponakin Road, identified as Lancaster Assessor's Map 25 Parcel 28, said property to be under the care, custody, maintenance and control of the Board of Selectmen, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute all documents related to the acquisition.

**Article 14** – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted, by majority vote, to approve the creation of a Stabilization Fund for the Minuteman Regional School District.

**Article 15** – On a motion by Historical Commission Chair Michael Sczerzen the Town voted to table Article 15, which would have appropriated \$3,200,000 to pay costs of renovating the Prescott Building. The Historical Commission will hold several educational hearings throughout the summer and put this article on the warrant for the fall Special Town Meeting.

**Article 16** – On a motion by Jennifer Leone and a second by Christopher Williams the Town voted unanimously to transfer \$405,000 from Free Cash and the \$50,000 authorized under Article 10 to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

**Article 17** – On a motion by Christopher Williams and a second by Jennifer Leone the Town voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2013 Water Capital expenditures as printed in the Warrant.

After singing Happy Birthday to Moderator Spanagel, there being no further business, Moderator Spanagel adjourned the Annual Town Meeting at 9:30 p.m.