

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
LANCASTER MASSACHUSETTS
Mary Rowlandson Elementary School
October 6, 2014**

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator David I. Spanagel. A total of 78 registered voters and 11 non-voting guests were signed in by Registrars John Ranieri, Mary Perreira and Elizabeth Cahill. Moderator Spanagel introduced the Town Officials on the stage: Temporary Town Clerk Barbara Bartlett, Finance Director Cheryl Gariepy, Town Administrator Ryan McNutt, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Members Susan E. Smiley, Jean M. Syria, and Stanley B. Starr, Jr.; Finance Committee (FinCom) Members James E. "Jay" Riley, Jr., D. Susan Thompson, Michelle Vasquez, and Matthew Carpenter.

After leading the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Spanagel asked for a moment of silence in honor of several local residents who has passed away since the Annual Town Meeting in May:

Arthur A. Joseph
January 11, 1926 – May 24, 2014
Kenneth S. Garber
May 18, 1925 – July 2, 2014
Jack R. Pirozzolo
June 19, 1940 – August 20, 2014
Judith A. Prentiss
March 30, 1939 – September 1, 2014

Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Jean Syria, read a statement thanking the voters for attending, formally welcoming new Town Administrator Ryan McNutt, and thanking SLCTV cable for recording the meeting. Ms. Syria also reminded voters of the upcoming State Election and Recall Election on November 4th. After summarizing the articles on the warrant, Ms. Syria asked for a round of applause for Police Chief Kevin Lamb, who will be retiring after 40 years of service, and for Acting Town Clerk Barbara Bartlett who has taken a position in another town.

The procedures of Town Meeting were explained, and Moderator Spanagel invited debate and remarks from residents, reminded them that they will be recorded, and requested that remarks be kept to around two minutes.

Article 1 – On a motion by Susan Smiley and a second by Jean Syria, the Town voted unanimously, 62-0 (majority vote required) to reduce the amount of the Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget as approved by the vote taken under Article 3 of the May 5, 2014 Annual Town Meeting from \$17,980,668 (Seventeen Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty Eight Dollars) to \$17,895,757 (Seventeen Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety Five Thousand, Seven Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars), as specified in the budget handout provided to Town Meeting.

Article 2 – On a motion by Stanley Starr and seconded by Jennifer Leone, the Town voted unanimously (majority vote required) to approve the Fiscal Year 2015 Capital expenditures as printed in the Warrant.

Sarah Spencer, 674 Main Street, asked a question regarding the amounts listed as "raise and appropriate" and whether they were included on the spreadsheet handout which was provided for Article 1. Jay Riley, Finance Committee, answered that yes, those numbers are accounted for on the budget spreadsheet.

Article 3 – On a motion by Jean Syria and seconded by Stanley Starr, the Town voted unanimously (2/3 vote required) to transfer \$271,000 (Two Hundred Seventy One Thousand Dollars) from the Stabilization Fund to pay for costs and expenses incurred as a result of the October 31, 2011 storm.

Article 4 – On a motion by Susan Smiley and seconded by Jean Syria, the Town voted unanimously (2/3 vote required) to transfer from the Board of Selectmen, as currently held for general municipal purposes, to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 8 (C) the following parcels of land:

<u>Assessors' Map/Parcel</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Size (Ac)</u>	<u>Deed Book/Page</u>
24/82	North Main Street	12.60±	03893/323
24/90A	North Main Street	25.00±	50601/85

Cara Sanford, 350 Bull Hill Rd, described the land itself and stated that she believes that Lancaster seems to becoming less rural, and the land should be protected.

Kenneth Rapoza, 294 Brockelman Rd, explained that the land was part of a tax-taking and was then offered to Boards and Committees, like the Conservation Commission. He stated that he believes the land should be protected and explained that if it goes to the Conservation Commission, it will be protected in perpetuity, the only exception being legislation to the contrary.

There being no further business, Moderator Spanagel thanked the audience for their participation and accepted a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.