Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Northbridge
PROCEEDINGS OF FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.
Northbridge Middle School
Linwood Avenue

The Fall Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by the Moderator, Harold D. Gould, Jr., at the Northbridge Middle School Auditorium on Linwood Avenue, in Whitinsville, in said Northbridge, Massachusetts. The Moderator declared the Town Quorum of 50 present (attendance at 6:55 p.m. was 113). The Moderator stated that the invocation would be given by Rev. Rick Underwood, retired Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church in Whitinsville. However, due to the fact that Rev. Underwood had not yet arrived, the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag was recited first.

The following tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn in by the Town Clerk: Sharon Susienka, Norman Armstrong, Donald Lange, Denis Latour, Barbara Gaudette, and Paula McCowan.

The invocation was then given by Rev. Rick Underwood.

Upon motion made and seconded and voted unanimously, the reading of the warrant and the return of service thereof were dispensed with.

ARTICLE 1: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the unexpended appropriated funds of the Department of Public Works [Highway Division] the following sums of money and authorize the payment of prior year bills:
$696.28 to the Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission;
$157.10 to MHQ Municipal Vehicles; and
$20.16 to National Grid.

ARTICLE 2: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2010 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 4, 2010), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, as follows:
EDUCATION:
Line 20B: Trade School
By **transferring from Line 42 [Property & Liability Insurance]**
the additional sum of $4,659.40.

ARTICLE 3: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the unexpended appropriated funds of the Reserve Fund the sum of $5,000 to cover any necessary expenses of the Charter Review Committee.

ARTICLE 4: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the unexpended appropriated funds of the Reserve Fund the sum of $5,000 to cover any necessary expenses of the Bylaw Review Committee.

ARTICLE 5: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to pass over Article 5.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from the Insurance Stabilization Fund a sum of money to offset collective bargaining reimbursable settlement costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury (Ambulance Receipts Reserve Fund) the sum of $105,000 for the purpose of financing the purchase of an ambulance and related equipment for the Fire Department; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Fire Chief.

ARTICLE 7: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain one permanent easement and four temporary construction easements over properties located on the easterly and westerly sides of Douglas Road in conjunction with the reconstruction of the Douglas Road Bridge over the Mumford River, the easement parcels being shown generally on plans on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, including a plan entitled "Town of Northbridge Douglas Road over the Mumford River Bridge No. N-21-004," Massachusetts Department of Transportation Project File No. 604161 and to raise and appropriate the sum of $500 for said acquisition.

ARTICLE 8: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept Section 20 of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, to provide for the establishment of an "Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund" and further, to establish an "Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund" to account for appropriations made to cover the unfunded actuarial liability for retirees' health care and life insurance benefits.

ARTICLE 9: Voted **APPROVED** Majority
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a solar power purchase agreement for a term of more than three years, on such terms and conditions as the Selectmen deem in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all actions necessary to administer and implement such power purchase agreement.

ARTICLE 10: Voted **APPROVED** Majority
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Construction & Equipment Account (Receipts Reserved for Gravel/Capital Account) the sum of $45,000 for the preliminary design and plans for the construction of a Department of Public Works facility, and all associated project costs, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning and Construction Committee.

Attendance at 7:30 p.m.: 140

ARTICLE 11: Voted **DEFEATED** YES 86 NO 55
2/3 vote not attained
(Secret Ballot)
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to borrow the sum of $2,150,000 for the design and construction of a Department of Public Works facility, including architectural, engineering and project management services and all associated project costs, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning and Construction Committee; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44 or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for grants and/or loans under any applicable state or federal program to be used in support of said project, and to authorize the Building, Planning and Construction Committee to expend, upon approval of the Board of Selectmen, any such grant and/or loan funds received, without the necessity of further appropriation provided, however, that no funds shall be borrowed until and unless the town votes to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, the sums required to pay the principal and interest on such debt.

ARTICLE 12: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the sum of $49,303.27 from the Capital Construction & Equipment Account (Receipts Reserved for Gravel/Capital Account) and to transfer the sum of $5,031.20 from the funds appropriated for the purpose of replacing the heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment at the Northbridge Police Station for the repair of the current Department of Public Works facility, and all associated project costs, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning and Construction Committee.

ARTICLE 13: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to adjust the gross receipts limits applicable under Clause 41C, Section 5, of Chapter 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws, providing real estate tax exemptions to persons 70 years of age or older, by increasing the gross receipts limits from $13,000 if single and $15,000 if married to $20,000 if single and $30,000 if married (the whole estate less value of home except for value of any portion that exceeds three dwelling units to remain at $28,000 if single and $30,000 if married), said increase to take effect July 1, 2011.

ARTICLE 14: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept as a public way, Rocky Road, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen, a copy of which layout is on file with the Town Clerk, and further authorize the Board of Selectmen, in the name and behalf of the Town, to acquire by eminent domain easements in said way for the purpose for which public ways are used in the Town and to raise and appropriate the sum of $1 for said acquisition.

Action having been completed on all of the Articles on the Warrant for the Fall Annual Town Meeting of October 26, 2010, a motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Warrant and adjourn the Town Meeting.

Voted unanimously at 9:26 p.m. to dissolve the Warrant and adjourn the Fall Annual Town Meeting.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST: _____
Doreen A. Cedrone, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk