Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Northbridge
PROCEEDINGS OF SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013
Northbridge Middle School
Linwood Avenue

The Spring Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by the Moderator, Harold D. Gould, Jr., at the Northbridge Middle School on Linwood Avenue, in Whitinsville, in said Northbridge, Massachusetts. The Moderator declared the Town Quorum of 50 present. The number of registered voters in attendance at 7:01 P.M. was 78. The invocation was given by the Reverend Robert Sherwood, Pastor of the Village Congregational Church, and was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

In accordance with the Town Charter, Article 2, Section 2-2, the Moderator appointed John H. Crawford as Deputy Moderator.

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Moderator's appointment of John H. Crawford as Deputy Moderator to serve as Acting Moderator in the event of the temporary absence or disability of the Moderator be, and the same is, ratified.

The following tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn in by the Town Clerk: Sharon Susienka, Barbara Gaudette, Richard Sasseville, Denis LaTour, Homer Rajotte, and Faith Lane.

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 pass over Article 1.

(Board of Selectmen)
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from the unexpended appropriated funds of one of the departments of the Town the following sums of money and authorize the payment of prior year bills or take any other action relative thereto.

Attendance at 7:15 P.M.: 91 registered voters

ARTICLE 2: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2012 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 1, 2012), and under Article 2 of the 2012 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 23, 2012), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, as follows:

BUDGET TRANSFERS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:
TOWN CLERK
Line 8B: Town Clerk Expenses
By **transferring from Line 20B** [Trade School]
the additional sum of $ 11,500
TOTAL TOWN CLERK: $ 11,500
TOTAL GENERAL GOVT.: $ 11,500

PUBLIC SAFETY:
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Line 14A: Police Personnel
By **transferring from Line 14B [Police Expenses]**
the additional sum of $ 21,800
Line 14A: Police Personnel
By **transferring from Line 21A [DPW Personnel]** $ 15,000
the additional sum of
Line 14A: Police Personnel
By transferring from Line 21B [DPW Expenses]
the additional sum of $ 15,000
Line 14A: Police Personnel
By **transferring from Line 41 [Employee Insurance Benefits]**
the additional sum of $ 85,772
TOTAL POLICE: $137,572

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Line 15A: Fire Personnel
By **transferring from Line 20B [Trade School]**
the additional sum of $ 22,000
Line 15B: Fire Expenses
By **transferring from Line 20B [Trade School]**
the additional sum of $ 8,000
TOTAL FIRE: $ 30,000

CODE ENFORCEMENT
Line 17A: Code Enforcement Personnel
By **transferring from Line 17B [Code Enforcement Expenses]**
the additional sum of $ 600
TOTAL CODE ENFORCEMENT: $ 600
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY: $168,172

HUMAN SERVICES:
BOARD OF HEALTH
Line 22B: Board of Health Expenses
By **transferring from Line 23A [Landfill Analysis Exp.]**
the additional sum of $ 1,200
TOTAL BOARD OF HEALTH: $ 1,200

VETERANS
Line 26B: Veterans Expenses
By **transferring from Line 20B [Trade School]**
the additional sum of $ 27,748
Line 26B: Veterans Expenses
By **transferring from Line 40 [Unemployment Comp.]**
the additional sum of $ 72,252
TOTAL VETERANS: $100,000
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES: $101,200

TOTAL ARTICLE 2: $280,872

ARTICLE 3:
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or transfer from the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund such sums of money not to exceed $38,124,337 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2014, beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014, as follows:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE

1 **SELECTMEN**	
1A Personnel	5,150
By allocating $1,150 to the Chairman and $1,000 to each of the other 4 Selectmen	
1B Expenses	121,485
Total Selectmen	**126,635**
2 **TOWN MANAGER**	
2A Personnel	233,679
2B Expenses	13,900
Total Town Manager	**247,579**
3 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**	
3B Expenses	15,000
Total Finance Committee	**15,000**
4 **TOWN ACCOUNTANT**	
4A Personnel	106,007
4B Expenses	18,775
Total Town Accountant	**124,782**
5 **ASSESSORS**	
5A Personnel	140,766
5B Expenses	13,992
Total Assessors	**154,758**

6 **TREASURER/COLLECTOR**	
6A Personnel	172,084
APPROPRIATE FROM PARKING TICKET RECEIPTS	
6A Personnel	5,000
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
6B Expenses	31,714
Total Treasurer/Collector	**208,798**
7 **INFORMATION SYSTEMS**	
7A Personnel	67,490
7B Expenses	68,786
Total Information Systems	**136,276**
8 **TOWN CLERK/ELECTIONS**	
8A Personnel	105,322
8B Expenses	27,370
Total Town Clerk/Elections	**132,692**
9 **CONSERVATION**	
9A Personnel	14,817
APPROPRIATE FROM WETLAND FEES	
9A Personnel	5,000
9B Expenses	107
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
9B Expenses	1,797
Total Conservation	**21,721**
10 **PLANNING BOARD**	
10A Personnel	85,921
10B Expenses	6,227
Total Planning Board	**92,148**
11 **ZONING/APPEALS BOARD**	
11A Personnel	9,009
11B Expenses	6,255
Total Zoning/Appeals Board	**15,264**
12 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**	
12A Personnel & Expenses	0
Total Economic Development	**0**
13 **TOWN HALL/CENTRAL SERVICES**	
13A Personnel	24,000
13B Expenses	43,125
Total Town Hall/Central Services	**67,125**

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	**1,342,778**
PUBLIC SAFETY	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
14 **POLICE**	
14A Personnel	2,073,961
14B Expenses	252,592
Total Police	**2,326,553**
15 **FIRE**	
15A Personnel	563,938
15B Expenses	135,811
Total Fire	**699,749**
APPROPRIATE FROM AMBULANCE RECEIPTS	
16 **AMBULANCE**	
16A Personnel	488,446
16B Expenses	70,000

Total Ambulance	**558,446**
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
17 **CODE ENFORCEMENT**	
17A Personnel	138,649
17B Expenses	9,865
APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT	
17B Expenses	1,500
Total Code Enforcement	**150,014**
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
18 **CIVIL DEFENSE**	
18A Personnel	3,500
18 B Expenses	9,000
Total Civil Defense	**12,500**

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY **3,747,262**

EDUCATION	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
20 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	
20 SCHOOL DISTRICT	21,250,051
20A TRANSPORTATION	0
20B TRADE SCHOOL	250,000
20C BLACKSTONE VALLEY VRSD	918,794

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL EDUCATION **22,418,845**

PUBLIC WORKS	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
21 DPW HIGHWAY DIVISION (Includes Snow & Ice)	
21A Personnel	505,308
21B Expenses	496,352
21C Snow and Ice	75,000
TOTAL HIGHWAY DIVISION	**1,076,660**
21 DPW FACILITIES DIVISION	
21D Energy & Utilities	0
21E Building Maintenance (non-personnel)	0

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS **1,076,660**

BUILDING, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION COMM.	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
21F **BUILDING, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION COMM.**	
Expenses	0

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL BUILDING, PLAN, & CONSTRUC. **0**

HUMAN SERVICES	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
22 **BOARD OF HEALTH**	
22A Personnel	52,642
22B Expenses	26,950
Total Board of Health	**79,592**
23 **LANDFILL ANALYSIS**	
23A Expenses	19,600
Total Landfill Analysis	**19,600**
24 **COUNCIL ON AGING**	
24A Personnel	132,725

24B Expenses	20,508
Total Council On Aging	**153,233**
26 **VETERANS**	
26A Personnel	65,074
26B Expenses	208,000
Total Veterans	**273,074**

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	**525,499**

CULTURE & RECREATION	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
27 **LIBRARY**	
27A Personnel	120,800
27B Expenses	22,420
Total Library	**143,220**
28 **RECREATION**	
28A Personnel	0
28B Expenses	12,000
28C Youth League Equipment	0
Total Recreation	**12,000**
29 **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**	
29A Expenses	500
Total Historical Commission	**500**
30 **MEMORIALS**	
30A Soldiers Memorials	5,000
30B Veterans Celebrations	1,900
Total Memorials	**6,900**
31 **RECYCLING**	
31A Personnel	0
31B Expenses	0
Total Recycling	**0**

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	**162,620**

DEBT SERVICE	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
32 Debt Principal	232,000
APPROPRIATE FROM RECEIPTS RESERVED – TITLE V	
32 Debt Principal	15,297
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
33 Debt Interest	106,478
34 Short Term Interest	20,000
35 BVVRSD Debt	96,465

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	**470,240**

NON-DEPARTMENTAL	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
36 Medicare	300,000
37 Life Insurance	10,000
38 Retirement System	1,327,299
39 Workers' Compensation	166,000
40 Unemployment Comp.	131,300
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	5,014,397
APPROPRIATE FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS [FREE CASH]	
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	920,603
APPROPRIATE FROM OVERLAY SURPLUS	
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	50,000
APPROPRIATE FROM HEALTH INSURANCE STABILIZATION ACCOUNT	
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	0

RAISE AND APPROPRIATE

42 Property & Liability Ins.	356,400
43 Reserve for Wage Adj.	12,500
44 Stabilization Fund	0
45 Reserve Fund	50,000
46 Retirement Benefits	24,750

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL **8,363,249**

TOTAL ARTICLE 3: **$ 38,107,153**

ARTICLE 4: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,007,961 for expenses and debt service to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2014, said sum to be offset by the sum of $2,007,961 from betterments and other revenues received by the Sewer Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2014, said appropriation to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	$ 378,783
Expenses	$ 832,087
Interest on long term debt	$ 121,710
Short term interest	$ 40,000
Sewer maturing principal	$ 460,381
Total:	**$1,832,961;**

and further vote to transfer $175,000 from said $2,007,961 to the General Fund as reimbursement for shared costs and fringe benefits.

ARTICLE 5: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,577,520 for expenses and debt service to operate the Water Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2014, said sum to be offset by the sum of $1,577,520 from revenues received by the Water Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2014, said appropriation to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	$ 20,710
Expenses	$1,524,910
Interest on long term debt	$ --------
Water maturing principal	$ --------
Total:	**$1,545,620;**

and further vote to transfer $ 31,900 from said $1,577,520 to the General Fund as reimbursement for shared costs and fringe benefits.

ARTICLE 6: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate such sums of money and such additional funds as may become available from the Commonwealth's Department of Transportation, Chapter 90 Bond Issue proceeds, to be used by the Department of Public Works for the repair and maintenance of Town roads in conformance with MGL and further, that the Town vote to meet said appropriation by borrowing and to authorize the Treasurer/Collector, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor in anticipation of the receipt of said State Aid.

ARTICLE 7: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for FY 2014, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the M.G.L.

ARTICLE 8: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to reauthorize a revolving account pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2 for the Playground & Recreation Commission, to credit to such account any grants, donations, program user fees and fund raising proceeds received by said Commission and to authorize said Commission to expend from such account amounts required to maintain the Town's playgrounds and recreation fields, to make improvements thereto and to purchase, lease or rent equipment and support facilities for programs and activities taking place thereon provided, however, that the total amount which may be expended from the account in FY 2014 is $20,000.

ARTICLE 9: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the overlay surplus the sum of $16,050 for a Triennial Revaluation analysis of Personal Property of the Town of Northbridge in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40 section 56 and Chapter 58 sections 1, 1A, and 3.

ARTICLE 10: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $179,034 for the purpose of financing the purchase of a Medium Duty Dump Truck with Swap Body, Plow and Accessories for use by the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works, contingent upon the passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under the provisions of Proposition 2½, so-called, MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C (i1/2), for FY 14 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).

ARTICLE 11: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $114,000 for the purpose of financing the purchase of a Back Hoe (JD 410 or equal) and Accessories for use by the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works, contingent upon the passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under the provisions of Proposition 2½, so-called, MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C (i1/2), for FY 14 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).

ARTICLE 12: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $80,000.00 for the purpose of financing the purchase of a bucket truck and accessories and equipment for use by the Fire Department, contingent upon the passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under the provisions of Proposition 2½, so-called, MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C (i1/2), for FY 14 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).

ARTICLE 13: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of $20,000 to fund a project for the repair of the concrete apparatus floor abutments at the Rockdale Fire Station, and all costs related thereto; said sum to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning, and Construction Committee.

ARTICLE 14: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of $8,793 for the purpose of repairing the gymnasium floor at the W. Edward Balmer School, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning, and Construction Committee.

ARTICLE 15: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of $17,787 for the purpose of installing approximately 25,000 square feet of sod at Lasell Field, said sum to be expended under the direction of the School Committee.

ARTICLE 16:
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $250,000 to purchase and install safety and security items for the Northbridge Elementary School, W. E. Balmer School, Northbridge Middle School, and Northbridge High School, including door hardware, key card security locks, security cameras, and security window film, said sum be expended under the direction of the School Committee, contingent upon the passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under the provisions of Proposition 2½ so called, MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C (i½), for FY 14 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).

Motion to amend the main motion:
Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the main motion be amended by deleting there from the words "said sum be expended under the direction of the School Committee" and inserting in place thereof the words "said sum to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning and Construction Committee".

Main Motion As Amended: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

ARTICLE 17: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of $69,710 for the purpose of purchasing a Ford 550 DRW Cab/Chassis, said sum to be expended under the direction of the School Committee.

ARTICLE 18: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Chapter 90 proceeds, the sum of $40,000, to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain permanent easements and temporary construction easements over properties located on Sutton Street in conjunction with the reconstruction of Sutton Street, as authorized by the vote under Article 5 of the October 23, 2012 Fall Annual Town Meeting, the easement parcels being shown on plans on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, including a plan entitled "The Preliminary Right-of-Way Plans for Sutton Street in the Town of Northbridge", Revision #2 dated 8/24/12.

ARTICLE 19: Voted **APPROVED** Majority
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer $97,500, the unexpended balance of the amount appropriated to Account No. 01021222-530300 under Article 22 of the 2012 May Annual Town Meeting, for the purpose of engineering and architectural services for any Town owned buildings and facilities, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning and Construction Committee.

ARTICLE 20: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept G.L. c. 59, Section 5N, authorizing the Board of Selectmen to establish a program to allow Veterans who qualify for participation to volunteer to provide services to the Town in exchange for a reduction in the real property tax obligations of that veteran on the veteran's tax bills, in addition to any exemption or abatement to which that person is otherwise entitled, not to exceed $1,000.00 and credit for such participation not to exceed the current minimum wage of the Commonwealth per hour for the services provided; and further, vote to adjust the exemption by
1) allowing an approved representative for persons physically unable to provide such services to the Town; and
2) allowing the maximum reduction of the real property tax bill to be based on 125 volunteer service hours in a given year; rather than $1,000.00.

ARTICLE 21: Voted **APPROVED** 2/3 vote attained
Moderator declared 2/3 vote by
Virtue of Town ByLaw C3-106
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by adding a new section 173-18.4, **Temporary Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers**, in **Article V - Use Regulations**, as follows:

§ 173-18.4 Temporary Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers [Added 05-07-2013 ATM, Art. 21]

A. Authority and purpose.

(1) By vote at the State election on November 6, 2012, the voters of the Commonwealth approved a law regulating the cultivation, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for medical purposes. The law provides that it is effective on January 1, 2013 and the State Department of Public Health is required to issue regulations regarding implementation within 120 days of the law's effective date. Currently under the Zoning Bylaw, a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center is not a permitted use in the Town of Northbridge and any regulations promulgated by the State Department of Public Health are expected to provide guidance to the Town in regulating medical marijuana, including Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers.

(2) The regulation of medical marijuana raises novel and complex legal, planning, and public safety issues and the Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and address such novel and complex issues, as well as to address the potential impact of the State regulations on local zoning and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Zoning Bylaw regarding regulation of medical marijuana treatment centers and other uses related to the regulation of medical marijuana. The Town intends to adopt a temporary moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town for Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers so as to allow the Town sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address the effects of such structures and uses in the Town and to enact bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives.

B. Definition.

(1) "Medical Marijuana Treatment Center" shall mean a "not-for-profit entity, as defined by Massachusetts law only, registered by the Department of Public Health, that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to qualifying patients or their personal caregivers."

C. Temporary Moratorium.

(1) For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center. The moratorium shall be in effect through June 30, 2014. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of medical marijuana in the Town, consider the Department of Public Health regulations Regarding Medical Marijuana Treatment Facilities and related uses, and shall

consider adopting new Zoning Bylaws to address the impact and operation of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and related uses.

ARTICLE 22: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept as a public way, Gilmore Drive [South Sutton Commerce Park] 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 gift, easements in said way for the purposes for which public ways are used in the Town, and to acquire certain utility, maintenance or related easements in connection therewith.

ARTICLE 23: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept as a public way, the alteration and extension of Ash Street [portion to be discontinued] 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 gift, easements in said way for the purposes for which public ways are used in the Town, including an associated drainage easement.

ARTICLE 24: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to pass over Article 24.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by means of a capital expenditure, the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars for the repair and restructure of both the baseball diamond and the softball diamond located at Lasell Field in order to bring both diamonds into safe playable facilities for the youth of this community; said funds to be expended under the direction of the maintenance director of the Northbridge Public School system; or take any other action relative thereto.

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

Voted unanimously at 9:17 P.M. to dissolve the Warrant and adjourn the Spring Annual Town Meeting.

A TRUE COPY

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