Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Northbridge
PROCEEDINGS OF SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015
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 7:00 p.m. was 68. The invocation was given by the Rev. Valerie May Roberts-Toler, Pastor of the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church, and was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

The Moderator requested that all in attendance join together in solidarity to observe a moment of silence to remember and honor Army Corporal John M. Dawson, a Northbridge resident, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his Country at the age of 22. Corporal Dawson was killed in action on April 8, 2015 while serving on an escort mission in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Mr. Charles Ampagomian, Jr., Chairman of the Northbridge Board of Selectmen, read a letter from Corporal Dawson's family thanking the officials and residents of the Town for their support, kindness, and assistance. A copy of the letter is included with these minutes.

The Moderator recognized and thanked Mrs. Paula McCowan for her dedication and commitment over the past 30 years in beautifying Memorial Square from late Spring to early Fall with a series of large wooden buckets filled with beautiful flowers which she watered and tendered to on a daily basis.

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 is hereby, ratified.

The following tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn in by the Town Clerk: Sharon Susienka, John Crawford, Jeanne Gniadnek, Philip Cyr, Maureen Briand, and Jeanne Gould.

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.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or transfer from the unexpended appropriated funds of one or more of the departments of the Town the following sums of money and authorize the payment of prior year bills.

ARTICLE 2: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2014 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 6, 2014), and under Article 2 of the 2014 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 28, 2014), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article as follows:

BUDGET TRANSFERS
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:
PLANNING BOARD
Line 10A: Planning Board Personnel
By **transferring from Line 23A [Landfill Analysis]**
the additional sum of $ 1,671
TOTAL GENERAL GOVT.: $ 1,671

PUBLIC SAFETY:
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Line 14B: Police Expenses
By **transferring from Line 14A [Police Personnel]**
the additional sum of $ 15,000
FIRE DEPARTMENT
Line 15A: Fire Personnel

By **transferring from Line 14A [Police Personnel]**
the additional sum of $ 60,000
and
By transferring from Line 40 [Unemployment]
the additional sum of $ 20,000
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY: $ 95,000

PUBLIC WORKS:
DPW HIGHWAY DIVISION
Line 21B: DPW Highway Expenses
By **transferring from Line 21A [DPW Highway Personnel]**
the additional sum of $ 12,000
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS: $ 12,000

HUMAN SERVICES:
BOARD OF HEALTH
Line 22A: Board of Health Personnel
By **transferring from Line 23A [Landfill Analysis]**
the additional sum of $ 1,066
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES: $ 1,066

NON-DEPARTMENTAL
Line 36: Medicare
By **transferring from Line 26B [Veterans Expenses]**
the additional sum of $ 10,000
TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL: $ 10,000
TOTAL ARTICLE 2: $ 119,737

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 $39,640,000 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2016, beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 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	243,527
2B Expenses	12,509
Total Town Manager	**256,036**
3 FINANCE COMMITTEE	
3B Expenses	15,000
Total Finance Committee	**15,000**
4 TOWN ACCOUNTANT	
4A Personnel	109,786
4B Expenses	15,350
Total Town Accountant	**125,136**
5 ASSESSORS	
5A Personnel	155,003
5B Expenses	12,200
Total Assessors	**167,203**
6 TREASURER/COLLECTOR	
6A Personnel	148,829
APPROPRIATE FROM PARKING TICKET RECEIPTS	
6A Personnel	5,000
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
6B Expenses	58,240
Total Treasurer/Collector	**212,069**
7 INFORMATION SYSTEMS	
7A Personnel	72,360
7B Expenses	67,295
Total Information Systems	**139,655**
8 TOWN CLERK/ELECTIONS	

8A Personnel	113,230
8B Expenses	33,720
Total Town Clerk/Elections	**146,950**
9 CONSERVATION	
9A Personnel	15,248
APPROPRIATE FROM WETLAND FEES	
9A Personnel	5,000
9B Expenses	0
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
9B Expenses	1,923
Total Conservation	**22,171**
10 PLANNING BOARD	
10A Personnel	91,073
10B Expenses	6,227
Total Planning Board	**97,300**
11 ZONING/APPEALS BOARD	
11A Personnel	9,088
11B Expenses	6,255
Total Zoning/Appeals Board	**15,343**
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	**1,390,623**

PUBLIC SAFETY	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
14 POLICE	
14A Personnel	2,343,445
14B Expenses	248,892
Total Police	**2,592,337**
15 FIRE	
15A Personnel	507,775
15B Expenses	131,963
Total Fire	**639,738**
APPROPRIATE FROM AMBULANCE RECEIPTS	
16 AMBULANCE	
16A Personnel	606,553
16B Expenses	70,000
Total Ambulance	**676,553**
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
17 CODE ENFORCEMENT	
17A Personnel	140,564
APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT	
17A Personnel	4,000
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
17B Expenses	9,865
APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT	
17B Expenses	1,500
Total Code Enforcement	**155,929**
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
18 CIVIL DEFENSE	
18A Personnel	3,500
18B Expenses	9,500
Total Civil Defense	**13,000**

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	**4,077,557**

EDUCATION	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
20 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	
20 SCHOOL DISTRICT	21,829,443
20A TRANSPORTATION	0

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20B	TRADE SCHOOL	275,000
20C	BLACKSTONE REGIONAL	1,152,230

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL EDUCATION **23,256,673**

PUBLIC WORKS
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE
21 DPW HIGHWAY DIVISION (Includes Snow & Ice)

21A	Personnel	500,326
21B	Expenses	522,273
21C	Snow and Ice	75,000

TOTAL HIGHWAY DIVISION **1,097,599**

21 DPW FACILITIES DIVISION

21D	Energy & Utilities	0
21E	Building Maintenance (non-personnel)	0

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS **1,097,599**

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	50,229
22B Expenses	15,583
Total Board of Health	**65,812**

23 **LANDFILL ANALYSIS**

23A Expenses	15,000
Total Landfill Analysis	**15,000**

24 **COUNCIL ON AGING**

24A Personnel	143,638
24B Expenses	20,508
Total Council On Aging	**164,146**

26 **VETERANS**

26A Personnel	72,598
26B Expenses	200,000
Total Veterans	**272,598**

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES **517,556**

CULTURE & RECREATION
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE
27 **LIBRARY**

27A Personnel	144,540
27B Expenses	25,250
Total Library	**169,790**

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	**189,190**

DEBT SERVICE	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
32 Debt Principal	232,000
APPROPRIATE FROM RECEIPTS RESERVED – TITLE V	
32 Debt Principal	15,108
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
33 Debt Interest	87,175
34 Short Term Interest	20,000
35 BVRS Debt	83,487

Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	**437,770**

NON-DEPARTMENTAL	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE	
36 Medicare	315,000
37 Life Insurance	10,000
38 Retirement System	1,470,405
39 Workers' Compensation	146,000
40 Unemployment Comp.	131,300
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	5,178,123
APPROPRIATE FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS [FREE CASH]	
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	756,877
APPROPRIATE FROM OVERLAY SURPLUS	
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	50,000
APPROPRIATE FROM HEALTH INSURANCE STABILIZATION ACCOUNT	
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	150,000
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	**8,651,355**
TOTAL ARTICLE 3:	**$ 39,618,323**

ARTICLE 4: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,242,656 for expenses and debt service to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2016, said sum to be offset by the sum of $2,242,656 from betterments and other revenues received by the Sewer Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2016, said appropriations to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	$ 388,945
Expenses	$ 859,391
Interest on long term debt	$ 158,145
Sewer maturing principal	$ 592,615
Total:	**$1,999,096;**

and further vote to transfer $243,560 from said $2,242,656 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 $1,645,005 for expenses and debt service to operate the Water Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2016, said sum to be offset by the sum of $1,645,005 from revenues received by the Water Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2016, said appropriation to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	$ 23,911
Expenses	$1,541,662
Interest on long term debt	$ 19,637
Water maturing principal	$ 28,697
Total:	**$1,613,907;**

and further vote to transfer $ 31,098 from said $1,645,005 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 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 2016, 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 ½ 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 2016 is $20,000.

ARTICLE 9: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize a revolving account pursuant to MGL Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the Northbridge Board of Health to which shall be credited funds received for food related permit fees, plan reviews, and non-compliance fees and from which funds may be expended to carry out the duties of the Board of Health related thereto including but not limited to inspections, plan reviews, purchasing of supplies and any other administrative related costs, provided, however, that the maximum amount of money that may be expended from the account for FY 2016 is $20,000.

ARTICLE 10: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize a revolving account pursuant to MGL Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the Northbridge Board of Health to which shall be credited funds received from the sale of compost site stickers and from which funds may be expended to carry out the duties of the Board of Health related thereto including but not limited to the salary of the compost site monitor, the purchase of supplies and any other administrative related costs, provided, however, that the maximum amount of money that may be expended from the account for FY 2016 is $10,000.

ARTICLE 11: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L c. 40, §13D for the creation of a reserve fund, to be known as the Compensated Absences Fund, for future payment of accrued liabilities for compensated absences owed to employees and full-time officers of the Town when they terminate employment.

ARTICLE 12: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2014 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 6, 2014), and under Article 2 of the 2014 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 28, 2014), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by transferring the sum of $49,750 as follows: $24,750 from Line 38: Retirement Benefits and $25,000 from Line 42: Property & Liability to the newly created Compensated Absences Fund.

ARTICLE 13: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000 for deposit into the Compensated Absences Fund for FY 2016.

ARTICLE 14: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2014 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 6, 2014), and under Article 2 of the 2014 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 28, 2014), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by transferring from Line 41, Employee Insurance Benefits, the sum of $150,000 to the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 15: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to pass over Article 15.

(Board of Selectmen)
To see if the Town will vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2014 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 6, 2014), and under Article 2 of the 2014 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 28, 2014), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by transferring a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the sum of $12,700 from the Pine Grove Cemetery Trust to fund operations of the Pine Grove Cemetery for FY 2016 beginning July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2016, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works.

ARTICLE 17: Voted **APPROVED** Majority
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $192,500 for the purpose of financing the purchase of a 2015 Street Sweeper for use by the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works; subject to the condition that the Town shall have first voted, at an election, to allow the Town to assess said additional sum in real estate and personal property taxes pursuant to MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C (i ½) (Proposition 2½ so-called).

ARTICLE 18: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $189,000 for the purpose of financing the purchase of a 2015 Combination Dump Truck with Wing Plow for use by the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works; subject to the condition that the Town shall have first voted, at an election, to allow the Town to assess said additional sum in real estate and personal property taxes pursuant to MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C (i ½) (Proposition 2½ so-called).

ARTICLE 19: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund the sum of $73,000 for the purpose of financing the purchase of a 2015 4-Wheel Drive Utility Body Truck – with snow plow (with foil), hydraulic crane, radio and light safety package for use by the Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works.

ARTICLE 20: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from available funds [Free Cash and Ambulance Receipts] the sums of $109,972 and $95,028 respectively, for the purchase of an ambulance and associated appurtenances and equipment.

ARTICLE 21: Voted **APPROVED** Standing Vote: **YES** 46 **NO** 21
Moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Water Enterprise Fund the sum of $300,000 for the purchase and installation of radio communication equipment for a meter reading system, for the Town of Northbridge Water Distribution System.

ARTICLE 22: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund the sum of $140,000 to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works, for the purpose of financing reporting and document preparation required under the EPA issued Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES discharge permit, including a collection system annual operations report, a full collection system operations and maintenance (O&M) plan with gap analysis, system

capacity, management operations and maintenance (CMOM), user fees evaluation, public outreach, an emergency overflow response plan, a preventative maintenance plan, EPA coordination and an update of the collection system mapping.

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 9:14 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

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