

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Northbridge
PROCEEDINGS OF FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009
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. The invocation was given by the Reverend Charles F. Sutton, Jr., retired Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, and was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

The Moderator announced that Northbridge High School Social Studies teacher, René Lafayette, who teaches a class called Citizenship In Action, was in attendance with some of his students. Mr. Gould explained that their presence at Town Meeting was part of their class work.

The following tellers were appointed by the Moderator and duly sworn in by the Town Clerk: Richard Sasseville, Sharon Susienka, Paula McCowan, Denis LaTour, and Norman Armstrong.

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

Attendance at 7:00 p.m.: 78

ARTICLE 1: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous
Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 4 of the 2009 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 5, 2009), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, as follows:

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Line 15B (Fire Expenses)

By **transferring from Line 15A [Fire Personnel]**

the sum of

\$ 2,500

TOTAL FIRE: \$ 2,500

CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARY:

Line 27B (Library Expenses)

By **transferring from Line 27A [Library Personnel]**

the sum of

\$ 800

TOTAL LIBRARY: \$ 800

BUDGET REDUCTION(S):

NON-DEPARTMENTAL:

Line 41 (Employee Insurance Benefits)

By **reducing** the amount previously appropriated by

\$220,000

TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL: \$220,000

ARTICLE 2: Voted **APPROVED** Majority

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Water Enterprise Fund the sum of \$1,000,000, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, acting as Water Commissioners, for the purpose of reducing Northbridge water system user charge increases resulting from increases in water purchase rates payable by the Town to the Whitinsville Water Company, whether by direct payment to the Whitinsville Water Company or otherwise.

ARTICLE 3: Voted **DEFEATED** Standing Vote
YES 37 NO 51

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 64L, §2(a) authorizing the imposition of a local excise in the statutory amount of .75% on the sale of restaurant meals originating within the town to take effect January 1, 2010.

Attendance at 7:20 p.m.: 93

ARTICLE 4: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept nominations from the floor and elect one (1) Advisory Trustee to the Arthur Fletcher Whitin Fund in accordance with the provisions of Mr. Whitin's will which stipulates as follows: "...when a vacancy occurs in the position of Second Advisory Trustee, a successor shall be elected by a majority vote at a town meeting of the voters of Northbridge. Any person shall be eligible for this position who has been a resident of Northbridge at least ten (10) years before his election".

The Moderator accepted nominations from the floor. Joseph Montecalvo was nominated, and the nomination was seconded. Barbara Gaudette was nominated, and the nomination was seconded. Voters used secret ballots to cast their votes. The results were: Barbara Gaudette 66 votes and Joseph Montecalvo 29 votes. Barbara Gaudette was elected Advisory Trustee to the Arthur Fletcher Whitin Fund.

Attendance at 7:35 p.m.: 98

ARTICLE 5: Voted **APPROVED** Standing Vote
YES 70 NO 22

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to charge for each written demand issued by the Collector a fee of \$25 to be added to and collected as part of the tax, as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, Section 15, effective as of January 1, 2010.

ARTICLE 6: Voted **DEFEATED** Standing Vote
YES 56 NO 29
2/3 vote not attained

Moved and seconded that the Town vote, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, section 5B, to establish a Capital Construction and Equipment Stabilization Fund to be used to fund design and construction costs of capital projects and purchases of capital equipment; and further vote to transfer to said Fund the entire amount currently held in the Capital Construction & Equipment Account (Receipts Reserved for Gravel/Capital Account) created pursuant to the vote under Article 5 of the warrant for the June 24, 1997 Special Town Meeting, and to terminate said Capital Construction & Equipment Account (Receipts Reserved for Gravel/Capital Account).

ARTICLE 7: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to pass over Article 7.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Capital Construction and Equipment Stabilization Fund established by the vote under Article 7 of this Warrant the sum of \$80,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning and Construction Committee, for the purpose of funding design service costs, including engineering and architectural services, for a new Public Works facility; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: Voted **APPROVED** Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$50,000 for a Triennial Revaluation analysis of properties of the Town of

Northbridge in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40 section 56 and Chapter 58 sections 1, 1A, and 3.

ARTICLE 9: Voted

APPROVED

Voice Vote
2/3 vote attained
Moderator declared
2/3 vote by virtue of
Town By-Law
C. 3-106

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept as a public way, Olivia Drive (Marino Estates), 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 Town, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1.00 for the cost of such acquisition.

ARTICLE 10: Voted

APPROVED

Unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept as a public way, Prairie Street (Rocky Hill Farm Estates), 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 purpose for which public ways are used in Town.

Action having been completed on all of the Articles on the Warrant for the **Fall Annual Town Meeting of October 27, 2009**, a motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Warrant and adjourn the meeting.

Voted unanimously at 8:24 p.m. to dissolve the Warrant and adjourn the Fall Annual Town Meeting.

A TRUE COPY

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