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 Gniadziek, 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  
and  
By transferring from Line 40 [Unemployment]  
the additional sum of  
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:  

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

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

NON-DEPARTMENTAL  
Line 36: Medicare  
By transferring from Line 26B [Veterans Expenses]  
the additional sum of  
TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL:  
TOTAL ARTICLE 2:  

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  
By allocating $1,150 to the Chairman and $1,000 to each of the other 4 Selectmen  
1B Expenses  
Total Selectmen  
6 TOWN MANAGER  
2A Personnel  
2B Expenses  
Total Town Manager  
3 FINANCE COMMITTEE  
3B Expenses  
Total Finance Committee  
4 TOWN ACCOUNTANT  
4A Personnel  
4B Expenses  
Total Town Accountant  
5 ASSESSORS  
5A Personnel  
5B Expenses  
Total Assessors  
6 TREASURER/COLLECTOR  
6A Personnel  
6B Expenses  
Total Treasurer/Collector  
APPROPRIATE FROM PARKING TICKET RECEIPTS  
6A Personnel  
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE  
6B Expenses  
Total Treasurer/Collector  
7 INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
7A Personnel  
7B Expenses  
Total Information Systems  
8 TOWN CLERK/ELECTIONS  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8A Personnel</td>
<td>113,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8B Expenses</td>
<td>33,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Town Clerk/Elections</td>
<td>146,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 CONSERVATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9A Personnel</td>
<td>15,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9B Expenses</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROPRIATE FROM WETLAND FEES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9A Personnel</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9B Expenses</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Conservation</td>
<td>1,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 PLANNING BOARD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A Personnel</td>
<td>91,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10B Expenses</td>
<td>6,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Planning Board</td>
<td>97,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 ZONING/APPEALS BOARD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11A Personnel</td>
<td>9,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11B Expenses</td>
<td>6,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Zoning/Appals Board</td>
<td>15,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12A Personnel &amp; Expenses</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Economic Development</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 TOWN HALL/CENTRAL SERVICES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13A Personnel</td>
<td>24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13B Expenses</td>
<td>43,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Town Hall/Central Services</td>
<td>67,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted</td>
<td>APPROVED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unanimous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,390,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC SAFETY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 POLICE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14A Personnel</td>
<td>2,343,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14B Expenses</td>
<td>248,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Police</td>
<td>2,592,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 FIRE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15A Personnel</td>
<td>507,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15B Expenses</td>
<td>131,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fire</td>
<td>639,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROPRIATE FROM AMBULANCE RECEIPTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 AMBULANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16A Personnel</td>
<td>606,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16B Expenses</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Ambulance</td>
<td>676,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 CODE ENFORCEMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17A Personnel</td>
<td>140,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17B Expenses</td>
<td>9,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17B Expenses</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Code Enforcement</td>
<td>155,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 CIVIL DEFENSE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18A Personnel</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18B Expenses</td>
<td>9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Civil Defense</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted</td>
<td>APPROVED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unanimous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,077,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 SCHOOL DISTRICT</td>
<td>21,829,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20A TRANSPORTATION</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20B TRADE SCHOOL 275,000
20C BLACKSTONE REGIONAL 1,152,230

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

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS 1,097,599

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

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

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

Page 4 of 8
Total Memorials
31 RECYCLING
31A Personnel 6,900
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 15,108
32 Debt Principal

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] 756,877
41 Employee Ins. Benefits

APPROPRIATE FROM OVERLAY SURPLUS 50,000
41 Employee Ins. Benefits

APPROPRIATE FROM HEALTH INSURANCE STABILIZATION ACCOUNT 150,000
41 Employee Ins. Benefits

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 M.G.L. 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 M.G.L. 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 7/8) (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 1/2) (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, CMC, CMMC
Town Clerk