

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
PROCEEDINGS FOR SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019 - 7:00 P.M.
NORTHBRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
171 LINWOOD AVENUE

The Fall Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Town Clerk, Doreen A. Cedrone, at the Northbridge Middle School, 171 Linwood Avenue, in Whitinsville, in said Northbridge, Massachusetts.

The Town Clerk declared the Town Quorum of 50 present. The number of registered voters in attendance at 6:56 p.m. was 142.

The Town Clerk stated that the Moderator, Harold D. Gould, Jr., was unable to attend the Town Meeting.

Due to the Moderator's absence at this Town Meeting, per MGL, Ch. 39, Section 14, the Town Clerk held an election by ballot of a Temporary Moderator. Henry J. Lane, 39 Heritage Drive, was the only nomination. Mr. Lane received the required vote, and the Town Clerk declared that Henry J. Lane, 39 Heritage Drive, had been elected Temporary Moderator. Mr. Lane was duly sworn in by the Town Clerk.

The invocation was given by Ethan Drutchas, Pastor, Village Congregational Church. The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag followed.

The following tellers were appointed by the Temporary Moderator and duly sworn in by the Town Clerk: Sharon Susienka, Kelly Bol, Julie Harris, Philip Cyr, Richard Sasseville, and Harry Berkowitz.

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

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to pass over Article 1.

APPROVED

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; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2:

Voted

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2018 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 1, 2018), and under Article 1 of the 2018 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 23, 2018), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article as follows

APPROVED

BUDGET TRANSFERS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CENTRAL SERVICES:

Line 13B: Central Services Expenses

By transferring from Line 13A [Central Services Personnel]

The additional sum of

\$10,000

TOTAL CENTRAL SERVICES: \$10,000

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT: \$10,000

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE:

Line 14B: Police Expenses

By transferring from Line 14A [Police Personnel]

The additional sum of

\$16,000

TOTAL POLICE: \$16,000

FIRE:

Line 15B: Fire Expenses

By transferring from Line 15A [Fire Personnel]

The additional sum of

\$20,000

TOTAL FIRE: \$20,000

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY: \$36,000

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Line 21C: Snow/ice Personnel

By transferring from the undesignated fund balance (free cash)

the additional sum of

\$ 260,000

TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: \$ 260,000

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

RETIREMENT SYSTEM:

Line 38: Retirement System

By transferring from Line 26B [Veterans Expenses]

The additional sum of

\$ 9,100

TOTAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM: \$ 9,100

WORKERS COMPENSATION:

Line 39: Workers' Compensation

By transferring from Line 42 [Property & Liability Ins.]

The additional sum of

\$ 42,000

TOTAL WORKERS COMP.: \$ 42,000

TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL: \$51,100

TOTAL ARTICLE 2: \$357,100

ARTICLE 3:

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury such sums of money, not to exceed \$44,221,765, to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2020, beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 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

130,260

Total Selectmen

135,410

2 TOWN MANAGER

2A Personnel

298,622

2B Expenses

22,239

Total Town Manager

320,861

3 FINANCE COMMITTEE

3B Expenses

10,000

Total Finance Committee

10,000

4 TOWN ACCOUNTANT

4A Personnel

131,270

4B Expenses

15,380

Total Town Accountant

146,650

5 ASSESSORS

5A Personnel

175,955

5B Expenses

16,532

Total Assessors

192,487

6 TREASURER/COLLECTOR

6A Personnel

164,733

APPROPRIATE FROM PARKING TICKET RECEIPTS

6A Personnel

0

RAISE AND APPROPRIATE

6B Expenses

37,300

Total Treasurer/Collector

202,033

7 INFORMATION SYSTEMS

7A Personnel

78,121

7B Expenses

109,540

Total Information Systems

187,661

8 TOWN CLERK/ELECTIONS

8A Personnel

134,971

8B Expenses

39,355

Total Town Clerk/Elections

174,326

9 CONSERVATION

9A Personnel

35,074

APPROPRIATE FROM WETLAND FEES

9A Personnel

5,000

9B Expenses

0

RAISE AND APPROPRIATE

9B Expenses

2,515

Total Conservation

42,589

10 PLANNING BOARD			
10A Personnel			100,446
10B Expenses			9,923
Total Planning Board			110,369
11 ZONING/APPEALS BOARD			
11A Personnel			9,609
11B Expenses			6,260
Total Zoning/Appeals Board			15,869
12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
12A Personnel			0
12B Expenses			0
Total Economic Development			0
13 TOWN HALL/CENTRAL SERVICES			
13A Personnel			24,000
13B Expenses			58,625
Total Town Hall/Central Services			82,625
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	Voted	<u>APPROVED</u>	1,620,880
PUBLIC SAFETY			
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE			
14 POLICE			
14A Personnel			2,628,255
14B Expenses			299,679
Total Police			2,927,934
15 FIRE			
15A Personnel			858,285
15B Expenses			156,995
Total Fire			1,015,280
APPROPRIATE FROM AMBULANCE RECEIPTS			
16 AMBULANCE			
16A Personnel			730,890
16B Expenses			111,300
Total Ambulance			842,190
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE			
17 CODE ENFORCEMENT			
17A Personnel			148,639
APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT			
17A Personnel			5,000
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE			
17B Expenses			10,172
APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT			
17B Expenses			1,500
Total Code Enforcement			165,311
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE			
18 CIVIL DEFENSE			
18A Personnel			3,500
18B Expenses			10,300
Total Civil Defense			13,800
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	Voted	<u>APPROVED</u>	4,964,515
EDUCATION			
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE			
20 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT			
20 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT			23,839,465
20A TRANSPORTATION			0
20B TRADE SCHOOL			100,000

20C BLACKSTONE REGIONAL	Voted	1,710,782
TOTAL EDUCATION	<u>APPROVED</u>	25,650,247

PUBLIC WORKS		
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
21 DPW HIGHWAY DIVISION		
21A Personnel		542,885
21B Expenses		598,836
21C Snow/Ice Personnel		100,000
Total Highway (Includes Snow & Ice)		1,241,721

21 DPW FACILITIES DIVISION		
21D Energy and Utilities		0
21E Building Maintenance (non-personnel)		0
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	<u>APPROVED</u>	1,241,721

BUILDING, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION COMM.		
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
21F BUILDING, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION COMM.		
21F Expenses		0
TOTAL BUILD, PLAN, & CONSTRUCT	NO VOTE REQUIRED	0

HUMAN SERVICES		
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
22 BOARD OF HEALTH		
22A Personnel		57,684
22B Expenses		20,212
Total Board of Health		77,896

23 LANDFILL ANALYSIS		
23A Expenses		15,000
Total Landfill Analysis		15,000

24 COUNCIL ON AGING		
24A Personnel		162,954
24B Expenses		20,508
Total Council On Aging		183,462

25 DISABILITY COMMISSION		
25A Personnel		0
25B Expenses		1,000
Total Disability Commission		1,000

26 VETERANS		
26A Personnel		0
26B Expenses		236,570
Total Veterans		236,570

TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	<u>APPROVED</u>	513,928
----------------------	-----------------	---------

CULTURE & RECREATION		
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
27 LIBRARY		
27A Personnel		217,710
27B Expenses		29,018
Total Library		246,728

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	15,000	
30B Veterans Celebrations	1,900	
Total Memorials	16,900	
31 RECYCLING		
31A Personnel	0	
31B Expenses	7,500	
Total Recycling	7,500	
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	283,628	<u>APPROVED</u>
DEBT SERVICE		
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
32 Debt Principal	392,000	
APPROPRIATE FROM RECEIPTS RESERVED - TITLE V		
32 Debt Principal	15,108	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
33 Debt Interest	111,730	
34 Short Term Interest	20,000	
35 BVRS Debt	72,404	
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	611,242	<u>APPROVED</u>
NON-DEPARTMENTAL		
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
36 Medicare	345,000	
37 Life Insurance	10,000	
38 Retirement System	1,902,451	
39 Workers' Compensation	200,000	
40 Unemployment Comp.	131,300	
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	5,350,000	
APPROPRIATE FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS [FREE CASH]		
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	750,000	
APPROPRIATE FROM OVERLAY SURPLUS		
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	100,000	
APPROPRIATE FROM HEALTH INSURANCE STABILIZATION		
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	0	
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE		
42 Property & Liability Ins.	359,603	
43 Reserve for Wage Adj.	12,500	
44 Stabilization Fund	0	
45 Reserve Fund	150,000	
46 Retirement Benefits	24,750	
TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL	9,335,604	<u>APPROVED</u>
TOTAL	\$ 44,221,765	

ARTICLE 4:

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,281,729 for expenses and debt service to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2020, said sum to be offset by the sum of \$2,281,729 from betterments and other revenues received by the Sewer Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2020, said appropriations to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	\$ 424,746
Expenses	\$ 925,333
Interest on long term debt	\$ 69,561
Sewer maturing principal	\$ 618,529
Total:	\$2,038,169;

and further vote to transfer \$243,560 from said \$2,281,729 to the General Fund as reimbursement for shared costs and fringe benefits.

ARTICLE 5:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,596,170 for expenses and debt service to operate the Water Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2020, said sum to be offset by the sum of \$1,596,170 from revenues received by the Water Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2020, said appropriation to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	\$ 26,176
Expenses	\$1,493,821
Interest on long term debt	\$ 10,075
Water maturing principal	\$ 35,000
Total:	\$1,565,072;

and further vote to transfer \$31,098 from said \$1,596,170 to the General Fund as reimbursement for shared costs and fringe benefits.

ARTICLE 6:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$469,343 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 to see if the Town will 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

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for FY 2020, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the M.G.L.

ARTICLE 8:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to set the FY20 spending limits for the Town's revolving funds under section 5-113 of the Northbridge Code as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2020 Spending Limit
Playgrounds and Recreation	\$20,000
Food Health and Safety	\$20,000
Compost Site	\$10,000

ARTICLE 9:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2018 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 1, 2018), and under Article 1 of the 2018 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 23, 2018), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by transferring the sum of \$24,750 from Line 46 Retirement Benefits to the Compensated Absences Fund.

ARTICLE 10:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$74,100 from the Pine Grove Cemetery Trust to fund operations of the Pine Grove Cemetery for FY 2020 beginning July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2020, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works.

ARTICLE 11:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$87,000 from the Overlay Surplus to be expended by the Board of Assessors for the revaluation of properties in the Town of Northbridge in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40 section 56, Chapter 58 sections 1 and 1A, and the regulations of the Department of Revenue.

ARTICLE 12:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21A ½ , Certified Assessors; compensation, which allows an assessor or assistant assessor who has completed necessary courses of study and training, and who has been awarded a certificate as a Certified Massachusetts Assessor, to receive as compensation from the Town, in addition to regular compensation from the Town, an amount equal to ten percent of such regular compensation.

ARTICLE 13:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer funds from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund, the amount of \$150,000 to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works, for the purpose of funding work recommended as a result of the Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) and infiltration & inflow reports for the 3rd segment of a multi- year program to make physical improvements to the Town's sewer collection system, including the sealing/replacement of leaking manhole structures and relining/replacement of deficient/cracked/broken sewer lines.

ARTICLE 14:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund, the amount of \$360,000 for the purpose of the development of a Technically Based Metal Reduction System for the Northbridge sewer system to comply with EPA Administrative Order CWS-01-18-001.

ARTICLE 15:

Voted

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the unexpended balance of Sewer Capital

Account 60002118-530300 the amount of \$52,200 for the Removal and Replacement of an Underground Fuel Oil Storage Tank at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ARTICLE 16: **Voted**

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Water Enterprise Fund the amount of \$619,920 for the purpose of financing water infrastructure repairs, including the replacement of water mains, within the streets of Linwood Avenue, Court Street, Jon Circle, and Edgemere Avenue.

ARTICLE 17: **Voted**

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) the following sums of money for the following purposes, said sums to be expended by the head of the department designated: \$25,000 for a Town-Wide Sidewalk Maintenance Program (Public Works); \$66,684 for a Town-wide Pavement Maintenance Program (Public Works); \$25,000 to replace Fire Department Communication Radios; \$15,000 for a Police Department Assessment Center; \$35,000 for Police Station Security Cameras; and \$20,000 for Town Hall Underground Fuel Oil Storage Tank Removal (Public Works); and to transfer the amount of \$25,000 from Ambulance Receipts to replace Fire Department Radios; and to transfer the amount of \$31,000 from the unexpended balance of the Fire Department Capital Account 01021816-XXXXXX, for the Fire Station Feasibility Study; and to transfer the unexpended balance of \$1,168 from the Dump Truck Capital Account 01021705-585002, the unexpended balance of \$35,231 from the DPW Underground Utility Capital Account 01021810-521900, the unexpended balance of \$5,000 from the Bylaw Review Committee Account 01021104-542000, the unexpended balance of \$4,000 from the Town Hall Annex Slate Roof Capital Account 01021915-585310, the unexpended balance of \$1,881 from the Senior Center Carpet & Window Treatments Capital Account 01021915-585311, and the unexpended balance of \$3,220 from the Town Hall Annex Hot Water Tank Capital Account 01021915-585314, for the following purposes: \$7,500 for Green Community Projects, and \$43,000 for the Town Hall VRF System Project; said sums to be expended by the Director of Public Works; and to transfer the amount of \$30,000 from the unexpended balance of the Pine Grove Cemetery Gift Account for the following purposes: \$20,000 for driveway/road improvements and \$10,000 for Tree and Stump Removal within the Pine Grove Cemetery grounds, said sum to be expended by the Director of Public Works.

ARTICLE 18: **Voted**

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer the following sums of money from the Town Building Maintenance Fund, established pursuant to Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2012, for maintenance of Town-owned buildings and facilities in Fiscal Year 2020, as follows: \$10,000 for Town Hall Annex Slate Roof Repairs; \$4,500 for the Town Hall Slate Roof Evaluation; \$10,000 for Town Hall Entryway Flooring and Stairway Treatment Improvements; \$12,000 to install an ADA-compliant door at the rear entry of Town Hall; and \$13,100 to purchase two Floor Burnishers and two Floor Buffing Machines for the School Department.

ARTICLE 19: **Voted**

APPROVED

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) the following sums of money to be expended under the direction of the School Committee: \$106,400 for District-wide Technology Purchases; \$32,000 for Heating System Repairs at the Middle School, \$12,000 to install a railing on the stairs leading to the High School Upper Fields, and \$46,500 to Abate Asbestos in the Middle School Boiler Rooms.

At 8:00 PM the Temporary Moderator introduced the Board of Selectmen, Town Counsel, Town Manager, Town Clerk and Finance Committee. He spoke of Moderator Harold Gould Jr.'s 45 years of extraordinary service to the Town of Northbridge.

Attendance at 8:00 p.m.: 311 registered voters.

ARTICLE 20: **Voted**

APPROVED

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

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw and the Zoning Map by rezoning the parcels of land identified as 1734 Providence Road (Assessors' Parcel 23-6), 1702 Providence Road (Assessors' Parcel 23-10), 1700 Providence Road (Assessors' Parcel 23-12), and 1682 Providence Road (Assessors' Parcel 23-14) from Residential-Three (R-3) to Business-Two (B-2).

ARTICLE 21: **Voted**

APPROVED

Voice Vote
2/3 vote attained.
Moderator declared 2/3 vote by
Virtue of Town Bylaw C.3-106
Moderator declared unanimous

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to borrow the sum of \$2,775,000 for the purpose of funding the engineering, design and installation of athletic turf at Lasell Field; making associated capital improvements to the Lasell Field complex, including the track, bleachers and lighting; and purchasing the necessary capital equipment to maintain the turf, provided, however, that no borrowing shall be made nor debt incurred hereunder unless and until the Town first votes to exempt from the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2½, so-called), the amounts required to pay the principal and interest of said borrowing and debt.

ARTICLE 22:

Voted

DEFEATED
Standing Vote
Yes 108 No 88
2/3 vote not attained.

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by ADDING footnote 7-to the Table of Use Regulations, section 173-12, as follows:
7 Marijuana Cultivator, as an accessory use may be permitted by Special Permit of the Planning Board in the Residential-Two (R-2) Zoning District in accordance with Section 173-18.6 [Recreational Marijuana Establishments] of the Northbridge Zoning Bylaw provided the subject property consists of more than 12 acres and associated structures are setback a minimum of 100-feet from the property line.

Moved and seconded to move the previous question.
Voted

APPROVED
Voice Vote
2/3 vote attained.
Moderator declared 2/3 vote by
Virtue of Town Bylaw C.3-106

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 9:23 p.m. to dissolve the Warrant and adjourn the Spring Annual Town Meeting.

A TRUE COPY

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

COPY