

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Proctor School – Woodbury Auditorium
September 30, 2014

The two articles in the Warrant for the Meeting and the action of the Town thereto.

The Moderator called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., stating a quorum was present. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator followed with the reading of the Warrant and the Return of the Constable noting the meeting had been duly posted and advertised as required by law.

The Moderator moved to his introductions. He introduced the members of the Finance Committee, Chairman Mark Lyons, Vice Chairman Karen Dow, Dana Warren, Heidi Bond, Eric Menzer and Jonathan Guido. The Board of Selectmen, Chairman Dick Gandt, Martha Morrison, Eldon Goodhue, J. Stephen Lais, and Laura Powers were also introduced along with Town Administrator Kellie Hebert, and the Town Council Laura Goldberg. Acknowledged on stage with the Moderator were Ann Gill, the Town Clerk, and her assistant Mary Beth Willis.

He continued with the following announcements:

Visitors should be seated in the Visitors section. Visitors are here to observe and if acknowledged by the Moderator, can participate. They are however, not allowed to vote.

Boxford Cable is taping our meeting for future broadcast. We thank Jonathan Rivers and Baxter and Ben Demers for this service.

The Moderator will generally determine the results of a vote by a voice vote or a show of hands, but in the event a standing vote is necessary there are Tellers available to count, who have been duly sworn in. Those Tellers are Ruth Lucey, Darcy Fulton, Dotty Wass, Elizabeth Collins and Elizabeth Dorn.

Microphones have been provided in the auditorium for your convenience. We ask that you use them when addressing the meeting.

He also requested that anyone desiring to address the meeting, state his or her name and street address after being recognized by the Moderator.

By long standing tradition in the Town, a recommendation of the Finance Committee amounts to a motion, made and seconded and before the town for debate.

If the Finance Committee recommended “no action” on a particular article, and a voter desires positive action on the article, the voter may and should, during discussion of the Finance Committee recommendation, state his or her intention to move for positive action on the article or an amended article if the Finance Committee’s “no action” recommendation is voted down; but, the vote will be taken on the Finance Committee’s recommendation of “no action” before a motion for positive action is in order.

Finally, if a voter desires to move an amendment to a Finance Committee recommendation or to any other motion, the Moderator will require a written proposed motion to amend for review by himself and Town Counsel prior to any action on it. There are printed forms for these motions and we will be happy to help anyone who needs assistance in making it out.

The Moderator then moved to Article First.

ARTICLE FIRST: REPORTS

No reports were presented and Article was passed over.

September 30, 2014 Special Town Meeting

ARTICLE SECOND: CITIZENS PETITION: FLUORIDATION OF THE TOWN'S PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

To see if the Town will hold a vote at the Special Town Meeting on the following question: "Shall the water supplied by the Town of Topsfield continue to be fluoridated?"

Or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee, at their September 22, 2014 meeting made a recommendation that the Town Meeting authorize the Moderator to appoint a five (5) member study committee to report to the next duly convened Annual Town Meeting on the subject of this Petition.

Finance Committee Chairman, Mark Lyons provided a report on Article Second, and read the warrant question.

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Chairman Dick Gandt stated that the Board supported the Finance Committee recommendation unanimously.

Jeffy Demeter of 4 Great Hill Drive, the petitioner for Article Second was acknowledged by the Moderator and approached the podium. She asked residents to vote against the Finance Committee's recommendation, stating that compared to 1953, we are now overdosed with fluoride from many sources, and that it is wasteful and harmful to our environment.

William Hunt of 222 Perkins Row, Chairman of the Topsfield Board of Health stated that the Town Board of Health supported the recommendation of the Finance Committee unanimously.

Resident Matthew Cardello of 161 High Street approached the podium and spoke in favor of the Finance Committee's recommendation stating that fluoride has had an impact in lowering the percentage of tooth decay, and that the environmental impact is not a significant fact as it is a natural mineral and that there is no negative effect on aquatic life.

The Moderator stated that comments should be directed to the Finance Committee's recommendation, which is to refer this to a committee for a report at a future Town Meeting. If the motion fails, then a debate will ensue.

Resident Paul Nowak of 11 Orchard Lane was acknowledged by the Moderator and was in favor of a discussion since the meeting was being held, to discuss the pros and cons of fluoridation.

No one else addressed the meeting, and seeing none, the Moderator called for a vote. After the vote was challenged, seven people stood up representing a request for a standing vote. Tellers were then requested to count and the result was 98 in favor of the Finance Committee recommendation, 38 against.

The Moderator announced that the Finance Committee's recommendation has been adopted, and asked for a motion to dissolve the meeting.

The meeting was dissolved at 7:33 p.m.

Attest:_____

Ann D. Gill
Town Clerk