

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Proctor School – Woodbury Auditorium
June 20, 2017

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

The Moderator called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:09 p.m., stating a quorum was present. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator followed by confirming with the Town Clerk that the meeting warrant 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 Karen Dow, Dana Warren, Eric Menzer, Jonathan Guido, Che Elwell, Michael Hartmann, and Louis Ross. The Board of Selectmen, Chairman Boyd Jackson, Mark Lyons, Laura Powers, John Spencer and Dick Gandt were also introduced, along with Town Administrator Kellie Hebert, and the Town Council Lauren Goldberg. The Moderator introduced several out of town guests. He asked permission for the guests present who were part of projects to be discussed, be allowed to sit with their Town Counterparts. Acknowledged on stage with the Moderator were Mary (Beth) Willis, the Town Clerk, and her assistant Erin Merrill.

The Moderator described the Warrant for tonight's meeting. He reviewed the ground rules for the meeting.

He advised that citizens wishing to speak would be limited to three minutes. Microphones have been provided in the auditorium for their convenience. He asked that they use them when addressing the meeting.

All comments should be directed to the Moderator. He also requested that anyone desiring to address the meeting, state his or her name and street address after being recognized by the Moderator. He advised speakers to keep remarks within the scope of the Warrant and that all remarks should be respectful and civil.

The Moderator then moved to Article First.

ARTICLE FIRST:
REPORTS

There were no reports for this meeting.

ARTICLE SECOND:
CITIZEN'S PETITION

To see if the Town will vote to: modify the scope and cost of the project proposed in Article Twenty-Fourth of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, so call "Town Hall Project", to that of only renovating Topsfield's existing Town Hall and eliminating from the project any building additions, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended that the Town vote to take no action.

The Moderator began by clarifying what a vote for or against Article Two meant, and he defined what would be within the scope of discussion of this particular article. Then, the Moderator introduced Toni Pizzinato Hatfield, of 96 North Street, who presented on behalf of the Citizen Petition. Member of the Town Hall Building Committee, Josh Rownd, of 110 Salem Road, presented on behalf of the Town Hall Building Committee. Following the presentations, a robust discussion ensued, during which many residents voiced comments, questions, and concerns.

At 8:41 PM, Phil Knowles, 75 High Street, made a motion to move the question, and it was so voted. The Moderator called for a voice vote on Article Two. Unsure of the outcome, and a hand count was necessary. The recommendation of the Finance Committee was upheld with a vote of 268 Yeas and 228 Nos.

ARTICLE THIRD:

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

The Finance Committee recommended that the Town vote to appropriate \$10,000,000 for the purpose of constructing a water treatment facility including water transmission mains, pressure boosting station, control upgrades and other associated costs of the project including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c. 78; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$8,850,000 and issue bonds and notes therefor under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c. 78; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c. 78; that \$850,000 be appropriated from Water Department Enterprise Retained Earnings; that \$200,000 be transferred from Article Fortieth of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting; that \$100,000 be transferred from Article Thirty-Second of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting; that the Board of Selectmen, with the advice of the Board of Water Commissioners, is authorized to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Member of the Finance Committee, Lou Ross, of 48 Kinsman Lane, announced that the Finance Committee's recommendation differs from what was printed in the warrant. The final motion follows:

The Finance Committee recommended that the Town vote to appropriate \$10,400,000 for the purpose of constructing a water treatment facility including water transmission mains, pressure boosting station, control upgrades and other associated costs of the project including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c. 78; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$9,250,000 and issue bonds and notes therefor under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c. 78; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c. 78; that \$850,000 be appropriated from Water Department Enterprise Retained Earnings; that \$200,000 be transferred from Article Fortieth of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting; that \$100,000 be transferred from Article Thirty-Second of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting; that the Board of Selectmen, with the advice of the

Board of Water Commissioners, is authorized to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

A healthy discussion ensued, during which Water Commissioner Phil Knowles, of 75 High Street, and Greg Krom, Water Department Superintendent, fielded the questions and concerns of residents. At 9:25 PM, as a technical amendment to the Article, Lou Ross, of 48 Kinsman Lane, moved to insert "and/or any other enabling authority" into the following: "... is authorized to borrow \$9,250,000 and issue bonds and notes therefor under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c. 78 and/or any other enabling authority".

Immediately following, Dick Cullinan, of 25 Howlett Street, made a motion to move the question. The Moderator allowed one final question and the Town so voted to move the question. The Town then voted unanimously to amend the motion as previously presented by Lou Ross, of 48 Kinsman Lane. The Finance Committee recommendation as amended passed by the required 2/3 majority.

ARTICLE FOURTH:

PUBLIC WORKS FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to pay costs of project management services, construction management services and construction of fire sprinkler improvements for the Public Works Building, including connection to water mains installed as part of the water treatment plant project, installation of piping and valve arrangements needed to connect said mains to the buildings sprinkler system and required control and alarm changes; or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommended no action and the Town so voted unanimously.

The Moderator entertained a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded. The meeting was dissolved at 9:33 PM. There were 526 residents in attendance.

A true copy attest:

Mary E. Willis
Town Clerk