

# Annual Town Meeting

## May 5, 2014 (FY15)

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m. by Moderator Michael F. Hayes. The meeting pledged allegiance to the flag and Father James Mahoney of the Holy Ghost Church gave the invocation. A moment of silence was held for deceased Town employees who died in 2013. Town Clerk Dawn M. Varley swore in the following tellers: Lawrence Roache, 26 Acorn Rd., William V. Glynn, 11 Lazel St., Daniel P. Cullity, 4 Locust Hill Ln., Michael G. Seele, 253 School St. She then read the warrant. Moderator Hayes recognized new voters and went over the rules governing town meeting. Detective Sergeant Joseph Bombardier announced the count of the voters present was 134, constituting the quorum requirement of 50 voters.

A presentation to the Moderator Michael F. Hayes. Moderator Hayes has decided to not seek re-election after 30 years of dedicated service. Town Administrator Frank Lynam opened up the presentation, thanking Michael. Carl Kowalski thanked Michael for his service to the town and presented Michael with a proclamation naming May 5th Michael Hayes Day. Congressman Stephen Lynch presented Michael with a proclamation and a U.S. flag that flew over the Capital. State Representative Geoff Diehl also thanked Moderator Hayes and presented him with a proclamation. Town Clerk Dawn Varley read a Citation issued to Michael from Governor Deval Patrick's Office, and later read a list of all the moderators that have served the town and presented him with a mounted gavel. Thomas Evans who represented the Democratic Town Committee presented Michael with a gift and emphasized that Michael has been a fair and unbiased moderator, along with a bouquet of flowers for his wife Michele Hayes. Moderator Michael Hayes thanked the speakers, recognized his family and thanked the Whitman voters, and the Finance Committee members for putting in countless hours and making difficult decisions.

### ARTICLE 1

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to bring in their vote for the following Town Officers: One Moderator for Three Years; One Treasurer/Collector for Three Years; Two Selectmen for Three Years; One Assessor for Three Years; Two PK-12 Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Committee Members for Three Years; Two Department of Public Works Commissioners for Three Years; Two Public Library Trustees for Three Years; One Whitman Housing Authority for Five Years; One Planning Board Members for Five Years; One Board of Health Member for Three Years; and to choose all other necessary officers.

The polls for the election of officers will be opened in said Town Hall at nine o'clock in the forenoon on said Saturday, the 17th day of May, 2014, and kept open until five o'clock in the evening. Both of which days will constitute the Annual Meeting and this call is issued in accordance with the vote of the Town passed January 29, 1902.

At 8:02 P.M. a motion was made by Town Administrator Frank Lynam to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting and open the Special Town Meeting and voted **UNANIMOUSLY**.

**The Special Town Meeting is recorded in a separate document.**

Special Town Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. and the Annual Town Meeting was reconvened.

## ARTICLE 2

To determine how much money the Town will raise and appropriate for General Government, Protection of Persons and Property, Health and Sanitation, Public Works, Veterans' Benefits, Education, Library, Recreation and Unclassified, specifying what appropriations shall be taken from the receipt of a department, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee

The following Line Items were questioned: 5, 25, 41, 64, 110, 117, 121, 170, 184, 400, 401. All other line items were voted unanimously

**Motion** was made and seconded to amend Article 2, Line 5 to read \$ 119,000.00 – This Article and Line were **DEFEATED BY STANDING VOTE YES – 42 NO – 62.**

**Motion** was made and seconded to amend Article 2, Line 117 to read 191,000.00 – The Town voted **IN THE MAJORITY** to accept this Line as amended.

**For continuity in recording Article 2 is listed at the end of this recording**

## ARTICLE 3

### REVOLVING ACCOUNTS

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED**, as authorized by MGL C 44 §53E ½ as amended by Chapter 275 of the Acts of 1990, to continue for fiscal year 2015, the following Revolving Accounts for purposes as indicated and limited as set forth below or take any action relative thereto:

Revolving Account Description / Name	Source of Receipts	Use of Funds	Receipts Limit	Disbursed by
Council on Aging Revolving Account	Minibus Fares and Program Fees	Defray Council on Aging Expenses	\$10,000.00	Director, Council on Aging
Library Fines and Fees Revolving Account	Library Fines	Defray Library Expenses	\$20,000.00	Board of Library Trustees
Passport Fees Revolving Account	Sale of Passport Photographs	Defray Expenses for Photo Supplies	\$3,000.00	Treasurer-Collector
Fire Alarm Revolving Account	Construction, Repair and Maintenance of Town Municipal Fire Alarm System	Defray Cost to Maintain and Repair Town Fire Alarm System	\$10,000.00	Fire Chief
Planning Board Revolving Account	Fees Paid on Submission of Plans to the Planning Board	All expenses except Personnel Salaries	\$75,000.00	Planning Board by Majority Vote
Police Department	Fines assessed	Police Training and	\$10,000.00	Chief of Police

Revolving Account (Marijuana Fines)	under MGL C. 42 §21D	Equipment		
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Proposed by disbursing departments; the Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend

## **BORROWING AUTHORIZATIONS AND DEBT PAYMENT**

### **Article 4**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to raise and appropriate outside the levy limit the sum of \$567,030.29 to pay Whitman-Hanson Regional School Department debt payments, which debt was authorized by Article 7 of the May 7, 2002 Annual Town Meeting and the May 18, 2002 debt exclusion vote, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer-Collector  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: This allows the Town to raise money necessary to pay debt in the tax rate.*

### **Article 5**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$100,000.00 from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account to the Debt Service Reserve Account from which account monies may be appropriated to pay the principal and/or interest on debt authorized under Article 41 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 19, 1998, for the purposes of renovations, additions and remodeling to the Town Hall, Police Station, Fire Station, Town Library and other capital projects, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief and Treasurer-Collector  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend

*This article uses money raised from ambulance fees to pay a portion of the town debt rather than raising it by taxation.*

### **Article 6**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to appropriate \$100,000.00 from the Reserve for Appropriation Town Debt Service Reserve Account and to raise and appropriate \$111,317.50 to make payments on debt authorized by Article 41 of the May 19, 1998 Annual Town meeting for the purposes of renovations, additions and remodeling to the various Town capital projects, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer-Collector  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: This money, along with money from Article 5, funds the debt payment for previous building repairs. The total debt payment due in fiscal year 2015 is \$211,317.50*

## Article 7

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$846,662.50 from free cash to make payment on debt authorized by Article 1 of the November 17, 2008 Special Town Meeting for the construction of a new Police Station, and the renovation of the Town Hall and Fire Station, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer-Collector  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: This article uses free cash, rather than taxation, to pay this debt.*

## Article 8

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$5,935.77 from the Reserve for Appropriation Title V Loans Account to make fiscal year 2015 debt payments, with any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year to be returned to the Reserve for Appropriation Title V Loans Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer-Collector  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: this article authorizes payment of debt using funds collected from persons who have borrowed to repair or connect to town sewer.*

## Article 9

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$128,257.78 from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account to make the following payments:

- A. \$45,141.26 to pay the second of four lease-purchase payments for a 2012 Ambulance
  - B. \$43,171.64 to pay the fourth of five lease-purchase payments for the purchase of equipment as authorized on the May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting
  - C. \$39,944.88 for the fifth and final lease-purchase payment for a 2010 ambulance
- or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief  
Finance Committee voted 7-0-1 to recommend.

*Note: This article uses the Ambulance Account (local receipts) to pay for capital expenditures that would otherwise require appropriation from the Levy Limit, raising property taxes. (TA 10, 11,12)*

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

### Article 10

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED** to transfer \$ 96,350.00 from free cash to make the following Capital Improvements to town property:

- \$ 18,000.00 To install a new hot water system in the Duval Elementary School and
- \$ 44,500.00 To pave the Town Library parking lot.
- \$ 33,850.00 To purchase and install a freezer in the Conley School

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee  
Finance Committee will make recommendation on floor of Town Meeting

### Article 11

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$26,822.45 from the Reserve for Appropriation Motor Vehicle Fine account to make the following payments:

- A. \$9,532.14 for the final lease-purchase payment for a police cruiser
- B. \$13,690.31 for the second of three annual lease-purchase payments for a police cruiser
- C. \$3,600.00 for the annual lease of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle

Proposed by the Police Chief  
Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend.

*Note: this article uses funds generated from motor vehicle citations to fund vehicle purchases that would otherwise require appropriation from the Levy Limit, raising property taxes.*

### Article 12 Deleted

### Article 13

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$16,110.51 from the Reserve for Appropriation Motor Vehicle Fine Account for the first of three annual lease-purchase payments to purchase and equip a motor vehicle to be used as a police cruiser, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Police Chief  
Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend.

*Note: As previously stated this uses funds generated from motor vehicle citations to pay for a patrol vehicle.*

### Article 14

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$12,320.00 from the Reserve for Appropriation Motor Vehicle Fine Account to fund the purchase of Electroshock weapons and training on said weapons for departmental personnel, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by Police Chief  
Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend.

*Note: This uses funds generated from motor vehicle citations to fund the purchase of safety equipment for police officers.*

## Article 15

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$5,625.81 from the Reserve for Appropriation Motor Vehicle Fine Account for the purchase and installation of one Toughbook computer in a police department cruiser or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by the Police Chief  
Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend.

## Article 16

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$20,000.00 from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account for the purchase of EMS reporting documentation software and related equipment to be used by Firefighter/Paramedics for mandated electronic reporting of patient care records, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: This will upgrade software on the portable computers in the town ambulances to enter medical reporting data and synchronize with Fire server records for reporting to the State and aid in ambulance billing.*

## Article 17

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to appropriate \$25,000.00 from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account to refurbish and equip a surplus Department of Forestry vehicle to be used as the Town's Forest Fire Brush Truck, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief  
Finance Committee voted 7-0-1 to recommend.

## Article 18

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account for the purchase and equip of a new Fire Command vehicle to be used by the Fire-Rescue Department, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend

*Note: This vehicle will replace a 2006 vehicle currently used by the Shift Commanders for emergency response.*

## Article 19

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$10,000.00 from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account to replace the current heating units on the main apparatus floor at the fire station, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: Two of the three heating units (all 18+ years old) in the fire bay are not working and need replacement before the next heating season*

## Article 20

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$10,000 from free cash to purchase a new multi-function printer-scanner-copier for the Selectmen's Office, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Director of Technology  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: This will replace the current Multi-Function Copier that was purchased in April, 2002*

## Article 21

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$80,000.00 from Sewer-Water retained earnings to purchase and install back-up power generators and the cost of related site work for the Rowena Avenue and Old Coach Road pumping stations, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Public Works Commissioners  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: These stations are the largest source for effluent pumped to the Commercial Street and Auburn Street primary stations. Extended loss of power can result in sewer backup to properties served by these pumping stations.*

## Article 22

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$100,000.00 from Sewer-Water retained earnings to pay costs associated with repairing and replacing pumps, fixtures and related equipment in various sewer pumping stations, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Public Works Commissioners  
Finance Committee Recommendation

*Note: Parts that need replacing are transfer switches, blades (for main stations), grinder pumps (which are dull due to wear), breakers, air release valves, compressors and controls. Some of these stations are up to thirty (30) years old and these parts are starting to tire. Replacement – rather than repair – is inevitable.*

## Article 23

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$15,000.00 from free cash for the purchase of three solar powered traffic pedestrian warning beacons, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Public Works Commissioners  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: This proposal is to enhance safety at the pedestrian crossing area near the MBTA Train Station.*

#### **Article 24**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to appropriate \$324,201.00 in available Chapter 90 funds for the purpose of resurfacing and/or installing surface treatments to streets and sidewalks on various town streets and ways, and to purchase a cold plan attachment to repair streets, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Public Works Commissioners  
Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend.

*Note: This article allocates state funds for street, road and sidewalk repairs and authorizes the purchase of a Cold Plan attachment to be used in repairing road surfaces.*

#### **Article 25**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$12,000 from the Reserve for Appropriation Motor Vehicle Fine Account for a new voice recording system for the Police Department to replace the existing voice recorder, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Director of Technology  
Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend

*Note: The existing recording system for the Police Department telephones is nine years old and is no longer supported by the manufacturer. This device is used to record all 911 and public incoming calls.*

### **OTHER APPROPRIATIONS**

#### **Article 26**

The Town voted **IN THE MAJORITY** to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 to pay for the cost of safety and condition assessments of town-owned buildings as needed, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Town Administrator  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: This article will enable the town to contract with qualified engineer(s) for the purpose of determining the need for and the scope of repairs to town buildings. In particular this is intended to provide funds to assess the condition of the Middle School roof.*

#### **Article 27**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 to be used for the purpose of holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day and to allow Whitman residents with the Board of Health's authorization to visit another town's Household Hazardous Waste Collection within the South Shore Recycling Coop, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Health  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: This funding will facilitate Whitman's participation in an area hazardous waste disposal day providing residents with a means to dispose of oil based paint, chemicals and insecticides.*

### **Article 28**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Other Post - Employment Benefits Liability Trust fund (OPEB) Account, or take any action relative thereto.

*Note: This appropriation is a token payment toward our unfunded liability which was estimated in 2013 to be \$12,988,785*

Proposed by the Treasurer-Collector  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

### **Article 29**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account for the yearly payment to the Town of Holbrook to fund Regional Dispatch for the Fire-Rescue Department, and to return any unused funds to the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account, or take any relative action thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief  
Finance Committee Recommendation

*Note The Town of Whitman presently operates with five firefighter/EMTs on shift, and the Norfolk County Control Group in Holbrook answers all 911 calls for Whitman and transfers the calls to Fire and Police as needed. When the Fire Department has multiple calls, the Norfolk Control Center also handles Fire dispatch until replacement personnel arrive. If funded, this would permit Norfolk to handle and dispatch fire calls at all times, not just during multiple calls.*

## **Local Acceptance of Statutes and Citizen Petitions**

### **Article 30**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 59 Sec 5(54) to allow the Town to exempt from taxation certain Personal Property and to establish a minimum value of \$3,000.00 for personal property subject to taxation.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors  
Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend.

*Note: Presently all Personal Property taxes are billed quarterly. At our tax rate of \$15.81 per \$1,000 value, we have been mailing quarterly bills of 78 cents. By exempting assessments under \$3,000.00 we will substantially reduce the number of bills with negligible financial impact.*

**Article 31 – PASSED OVER**

“The Town voted to accept the provisions of Chapter 48 Section 57H of the Massachusetts General Laws, which allows the elected officer of the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, AFL-CIO\_CLC shall be granted leave, if on duty, by the municipal employer for those regularly scheduled work hours spent in the performance of their elected responsibilities in such organization.”

Submitted by Citizens Petition

**Article 32**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 97 A, the so-called ‘Strong Police Chief’ law, or take any action relative thereto.”

Submitted by Citizens Petition

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

**Article 33 – PASSED OVER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay for the first year cost items of a three year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Whitman and Local 1769, International Association of Firefighters or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen  
Finance Committee Recommendation

**Article 34 – PASSED OVER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay for the first year cost items of a three year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Whitman and Whitman Public Library Employees, SEIU, Local 888, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen  
Finance Committee Recommendation

### **Article 35 – PASSED OVER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay for the first year cost items of a three year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Whitman and Whitman Police Association, IBPO Local 509, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen  
Finance Committee Recommendation

### **Article 36 – PASSED OVER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay for the first year cost items of a three year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Whitman and the Whitman DPW Unit, AFSCME Council 93, Local 1700, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen  
Finance Committee Recommendation

### **Article 37 – PASSED OVER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay for the first year cost items of a three year collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Whitman and the Whitman Town Hall Employees OPEIU, Local 6, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen  
Finance Committee Recommendation

## **STABILIZATION ACCOUNTS**

### **Article 38**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to transfer \$40,000.00 from free cash to the Technology Stabilization account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Director of Technology  
Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend.

*Note: This article accrues funds for the eventual upgrade of our technology infrastructure.*

### **Article 39**

The Town voted **UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED** to transfer \$ 200,000.00 from free cash to the Town Capital Stabilization Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Finance Committee

### **Article 40 – PASSED OVER**

The Town voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be added to the Town Stabilization Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Finance Committee

Moderator Hayes recognized the Finance Committee for all of their hard work. The Town meeting was adjourned at 10:52p.m. There were 161 total voters checked off of the voting list.

A TRUE RECORD, ATTEST:

TOWN CLERK - WHITMAN