

Special Town Meeting

December 11, 2017 (FY18)

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Moderator Michael M. Seele. He asked for the count of voters. Patrolman Stephen I. Drass announced the count of the voters present was 160, constituting the quorum requirement of 150 voters. The meeting pledged allegiance to the flag.

Michael Seele announced the first time use of Electronic Check in and Electronic Voting. Moderator Seele explained how the devices worked and that you would be viewing on the projection screen each article and that you would have 10 seconds to vote on each article. He then had the voters use the devices on a test question.

Town Clerk Dawn M. Varley swore in the following tellers: Frederick M. Small, 87 Hilltop Rd., Scott M. McCarthy, 92 Sportsmen's Trl., Carl E. Horger, Jr., 3 Old Coach Rd. Warrant was then read by the Town Clerk. Moderator Seele went over the rules governing town meeting. Moderator Seele acknowledged the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee on their service to the town.

Article 1

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 144 and NO – 3 as AMENDED to transfer **\$6,400.49** from Budget Line 125-Animal Control to Budget Line 124-Animal Control of the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Article 2

After much discussion over the replacement of water meters; Ms. Moniz stated that the newspaper article said the town has 25% of water unaccounted for, and did not feel that assuming it was from water meters without doing research was the correct thing to do and it could be from leaking pipes. Town Administrator Frank Lynam and DPW Bruce Martin explained why the water meters would be good to replace. Mr. Martin stressed how difficult it was for his staff to get accurate meter readings and with the updated meters they would be able to obtain reading from outside of the houses.

Motion to amend failed by a vote of the Electronic Device YES – 79 and NO – 86 – To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,500,000 to pay the costs of water system improvements solely related to the intersection improvements being made at the intersection of Routes 18 and 27 and the intersection of Routes 18 and 14, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto.

Proposed by Tina M. Moniz

The Town Voted by **Electronic Device YES – 113 and NO – 33** meeting the 2/3 requirement as AMENDED to appropriate **\$3,000,000** to pay costs of (i) water system improvements related to intersection improvements being made at the intersection of Routes 18 and 27 and the intersection of Routes 18 and 14, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, in an approximate amount of \$1,500,000, and (ii) the replacement of water meters throughout the Town, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, in an approximate amount of **1,500,000**, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7 and 8, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. 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.

Proposed by the Board of Public Works commissioners and Town Administrator

Article 3

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 151 and NO - 21 as AMENDED to appropriate **\$20,000.00** from Sewer/Water Free Cash to purchase water meters, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Public Works Commissioners

Article 4

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 149 and NO - 20 to appropriate \$485,000 from Sewer/ Water Free Cash for sewer easement surveying and clearing and test boring, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Public Works Commissioners

Article 5

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 163 and NO - 10 to appropriate \$445,966.71 from Sewer/Water Enterprise Free Cash to pay costs associated with the repair of a sewer force main pipe or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Public Works Commissioners

Article 6

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 157 and NO - 15 to transfer \$7,000 from Free Cash to pay costs associated with installing a generator at the Department of Public Works facility or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Public Works Commissioners

Article 7

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 150 and NO - 18 to transfer \$96,500.00 from Free Cash to Budget Line 133-All Other Services of the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting to fund the cost items of the first year of a three year Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 between the Town and Local 1769, International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Article 8

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 162 and NO - 12 to transfer \$7,921.00 from Free Cash to the following budget lines of the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Line 227-Youth Services Librarian | \$ 1,022 |
| Line 228- Circulation Supervisor | 2,825 |
| Line 229-Library Technicians | 2,829 |
| Line 231-Senior Library Technician | 1,245 |

to fund the cost items for the first year of a three year Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 between the Town and the Whitman Public Library Employees, SEIU, Local 888, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Article 9

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 134 and NO - 39 to transfer \$2,183 from Free Cash to Budget Line 226- Assistant Library Director of the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting to fund a 4½ % salary increase for fiscal year 2018 or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Library Trustees and the Town Administrator

Article 10

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 129 and NO - 37 to transfer \$66,000.00 from Free Cash to Budget Line 123-All Other Services of the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting to fund the cost items for the first year of a three year Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 between the Town and Local 509, I.B.P.O. or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Article 11

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 146 and NO - 25 to transfer \$3,804.71 from Free Cash to Line 197-Health Inspector of the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting to fund the cost of additional hours for the Health Inspector position or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen

Article 12

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 150 and NO – 23 to transfer \$5,000 from Free Cash to fund a Phase 1 assessment of Hobart’s Pond as required by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Dam Safety, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Article 13

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 161 and NO - 8 to appropriate \$15,000 from Free Cash to reimburse the Whitman Hanson Regional School District for the capital cost to replace (2) Roof Top Units at Whitman Middle School which is no longer working and needs replacement , or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District School Committee

Article 14

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 142 and NO - 27 to appropriate \$26,536 (Cost = \$44,360 x 59.82%) from Free Cash to reimburse the Whitman Hanson Regional School District for preliminary costs associated with moving the Pre-Kindergarten program from the Maquan School to the Whitman Hanson Regional High School, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District School Committee

Article 15

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 147 and NO - 19 (meeting the 2/3 requirement)to transfer \$300,000 from the Town Capital Stabilization Account to pay for costs associated with the repair of the Duval School Roof, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Article 16

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 158 and NO - 14 to transfer \$26,744 from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Fund to pay for costs associated with replacing Rooftop Air Units at the Fire Station, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Article 17

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 155 and NO - 14 as AMENDED to transfer **\$25,000** from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Fund to be added to budget line 135 Fire Department Expense of the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Article 18

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 153 and NO - 17 to transfer \$50,000 from the Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account to repair, upgrade or replace the Fire Department Radio System or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Article 19

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 160 and NO - 12 to transfer \$15,000 from The Reserve for Appropriation Ambulance Account to supplement a \$60,000 appropriation voted in Article 25 of the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting for the refurbishing of a 1990 Pumping Engine, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 20

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 158 and NO - 12 to approve the amendment to the South Shore Regional Vocational School District Agreement, a copy of which is available in the Town Clerk's office and at the Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the South Shore Regional Vocational School Committee

Article 21

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 125 and NO - 41 to amend the Town's General Bylaw by adding a new Article 37, that would provide as follows:

ARTICLE XXXVII
Marijuana Establishments

Consistent with M. G. L. c. 94G, § 3 (a)(2), all types of non-medical "marijuana establishments" as defined in M. G. L. c. 94G, § 1, including marijuana cultivators, independent testing laboratories, marijuana product manufacturers, marijuana retailers or any other types of licensed marijuana-related businesses, shall be prohibited within the Town of Whitman. This prohibition shall not apply to the sale, distribution or cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes licensed under Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012. This Section shall be effective upon passage by the voters at a Town Election.

Or take any action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Article 22

The Town voted by Electronic Device YES - 143 and NO – 16 as AMENDED pursuant to provisions of MGL 32B § 7A to establish the Town’s contribution towards the health insurance premiums for all eligible employees, retirees and surviving spouses at sixty-five percent (65%) and eliminate the \$9,500 maximum limit imposed by Article 49 of the May 1, 2006 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

The Special Town meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm. There were 182 total voters checked off of the voting list.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

TOWN CLERK - WHITMAN