

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

JANUARY 31, 2022

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 8:11 p.m. by Moderator Michael M. Seele. He asked for the count of voters. Constable Lieutenant Christine M. May-Stafford announced the count of the voters present was 127, this does not constitute the quorum of 150 for a Special Town Meeting. The meeting pledged allegiance to the flag. The Warrant was read by the Town Clerk. Town Clerk Dawn M. Varley swore in the following tellers: Elizabeth M. Murphy, 122 Westwood Drive, Shawn Michael Kain, 31 Forest Street, Michelle Clare LaMattina, 6 River Birch Circle. Moderator Seele reviewed the rules governing town meeting. With guidance from Town Counsel Michelle Allaire-McNulty we could continue with a few articles without the quorum of 150.

Article 1 Payment of Prior Year Expenditures

The Town voted UNANIMOUSLY to appropriate from water-sewer retained earnings the sum of \$352.50 to pay a Professional Engineering Services invoice from Fiscal Year 2021 for which an appropriation does not exist, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator and Town Accountant

Article 2 – PASSED OVER

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from free cash \$60,319 to purchase ballistic vests for members of the police and fire departments, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator, Police Chief, and Fire Chief

Article 3 – PASSED OVER

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$3,000 from budget line “Legal Services” to budget line “Zoning Board of Appeals: Salaries,” and \$30,000 from budget line “Employee Health & Life Insurance” to budget line “Building Inspector’s Office: Salaries” of the June 2, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Article 4 – PASSED OVER

To see if the Town will vote to approve a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Whitman Police Union, MassCOP Local #494 for the period commencing July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, with the cost items funded through monies appropriated as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Article 5 Land Donation – Little Comfort Circle

The Town voted IN THE MAJORITY to accept a gift of land being shown on Assessors map 23D, block 1, lot 46, such property to be under the care, custody, and control of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Article 6 Land Donation – Hogg Memorial Drive

The Town voted IN THE MAJORITY to accept a gift of land being shown on Assessors map 22A, block 8, lot 124, such property to be under the care, custody, and control of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Article 7 – PASSED OVER

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$1,098,100 to create “shovel-ready” architectural drawings so as to allow for the procurement of a new Department of Public Works building to be located at 100 Essex Street, said amount to be expended at the direction of the Whitman Public Works Building Committee and the Town Administrator. Said funds shall be used in part to hire an Owner’s Project Manager for the project, and shall be appropriated as follows: \$713,765 from water-sewer retained earnings, \$234,335 from free cash, and \$150,000 from the capital stabilization fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

The January 31, 2022 Special Town Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. There were 136 total voters checked off of the voting list.

A TRUE RECORD, ATTEST:

TOWN CLERK – WHITMAN