

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
2015 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES
March 3, 2015

At 10:00 a.m. the Moderator declared the meeting opened. In attendance were Moderator Robert Fisher; Selectboard members Jim Burke, Susie Haughwout (also Town Clerk), Diane Chapman, Jake White, Tom Fitzgerald; Town Manager Scott Murphy; Police Chief Joe Szarejko; Fire Chief Ken March; Road Supervisor Bill Hunt; Wastewater Plant Operator John Lazelle; Town Treasurer and Finance Officer Christine Richter; Assistant Town Clerk Patricia Johnson; members the Wilmington Board of Civil Authority; official poll workers and approximately 80 voters and members of the public.

Cub Scout Pack #461 posted the colors and led pledge of allegiance. The Moderator recognized his predecessors Frank Spencer and Wayne Rowell. He made a few announcements and went over the requirements for participating and voting at Town Meeting and asked those who are not registered voters to identify themselves. The Moderator asked if there was any objection to allow non-voting members of the town's administration to speak without having to suspend the rules each time. Hearing no objection the Moderator then read the following Town Meeting Warning:

Article 1: To elect all Town and Town School District Officers required by law and the vote of the Town. (Australian Ballot - Polls open 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M.)

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Town Report.

Article 3: To see what date or dates will be set for the payment of taxes (8/14/15 and 2/26/16).

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,866,778 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2016 (7/1/15 to 6/30/16).

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,167,098 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Town Road Budget for fiscal year 2016 (7/1/15 to 6/30/16).

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$200,000 for the Highway Town Road Equipment Capital Fund

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 for the Fire Department Equipment Capital Fund

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for the Memorial Hall Capital Fund

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,000 to fund the Library Capital Reserve Fund

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to fund the Playground Capital Reserve Fund

Article 11: To transact any non-binding business.

The Moderator, after hearing no objection, declared a recess and gave the floor to Representative Ann Manwaring, State Treasurer Beth Pierce and Senator Brian Campion at 10:10 am.

The Moderator reconvened the meeting at 10:25 am.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Town Report to include addendum which reflects corrections made by Susie Haughwout, seconded by Diane Chapman.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): The addendum was necessary due to printer error; thank you to Jessica DeFrancesco for her work on the report; report neglected to mention the forty plus years of combined volunteer work of former development review board members Nicki Steel, Andy Schindel, Shelia Osler and Sherry Brissette in addition to all the hard work all of our volunteers contribute to the town's safety, well-being and quality of life.

SPEAKERS: Scott Murphy, Tom Consolino

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it. MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 3: To see what date or dates will be set for the payment of taxes (8/14/15 and 2/26/16) made by Susie Haughwout, seconded by Jim Burke.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it. MOTION CARRIED – SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,866,778 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2016 (7/1/15 to 6/30/16) made by Jim Burke, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): question of how the school user fee was being used since the high school is no longer in the building; object of user fee is to offset taxes since the onset of Act 68; building is still being used by the town; future of building is unknown so that line item should be left for now; Green Mountain Beach line item increase of \$5,000 is because the town will be surveying the land around the beach to make sure the town knows exactly where town-owned land is; Cemetery budget has doubled in the last two years to bring it back to where it was at before Tropical Storm Irene; another printer error was pointed out when duplicate line items were noticed.

SPEAKERS: Bill Spirka, Scott Murphy, Christine Richter, Barker Willard, Susie Haughwout, Meg Streeter, Nicki Steel, Adam Grinold, Tom Consolino, Jim Burke, Bill Adams

VOICE VOTE – ayes have it. MOTION CARRIED. SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,167,098 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Town Road Budget for fiscal year 2016 (7/1/15 to 6/30/16) made by Jim Burke, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – Ayes have it. MOTION CARRIED. SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$200,000 for the Highway Town Road Equipment Capital Fund made by Jake Whites seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – Ayes have it. MOTION CARRIED. SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 for the Fire Department Equipment Capital Fund made by Jake White seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): a rescue truck was next on the departments list as well as a new pumper truck in 2022; once an agreement with the Hermitage Club is finalized the developers will pay for a portion of the cost of a ladder truck that would be useful in fighting possible fires at their proposed hotel; appropriation is also for long term capital investment.

SPEAKERS: Merrill Mundell, Jake White, Barker Willard, Ken March

VOICE VOTE – Ayes have it. MOTION CARRIED. SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for the Memorial Hall Capital Fund made by Diane Chapman by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): the town intends to insulate the building, repair storm windows and replace exterior doors; asked to double the appropriation amount by using money from the 1% option tax fund and was told they could apply for funding through the Selectboard.

SPEAKERS: Diane Chapman, Jeanne MacDougall, Barker Willard, Jake White

VOICE VOTE – Ayes have it. MOTION CARRIED. SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,000 to fund the Library Capital Reserve Fund made by Tom Fitzgerald, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): None

SPEAKERS: None

VOICE VOTE – Ayes have it. MOTION CARRIED. SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to fund the Playground Capital Reserve Fund made by Tom Fitzgerald, seconded by Susie Haughwout.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): the town is moving toward the creation of a new playground in town; would welcome volunteers to form a committee to help get the project off the ground.

SPEAKERS: Elaine Crawford, Scott Murphy

VOICE VOTE – Ayes have it. MOTION VOTED. SO VOTED.

MOTION ON ARTICLE 11: To transact any non-binding business

DISCUSSION TOPICS (including but not limited to): Thanks to Jack Deming of the Deerfield Valley News who is moving to start a new job. 40th Army band will be at Memorial Hall, veterans will be given special priority and event is free, applications are in the lobby for Fire Department and rescue volunteers, Fire Chief Ken March reminded to have CO detectors in place, explanation of how to request 1% local option tax use of - guideline is on the town's website; dates for Hungry Heart movies showings and a community forum about substance abuse on March 23 is scheduled to be held at former high school; concerns about the former Wilmington Home Center exterior was allowed to be stripped and left for the winter, there is nothing in the zoning document that addresses "blight" so there is no ability to enforce, Jim Barnes is to be watched, nothing has been done to our rivers to prevent future flooding, the Agency of Natural Resources and the Army Corps will not allow the town to work in the rivers, thanks to the town employees for all their work; concerned about sidewalk clearing during the winter and how it relates to effects on businesses; thanks to road crew for great job on the road; drawing was held for the Friends of Library raffle.

SPEAKERS: Nicki Steel, Jeanne MacDougall, Ken March, Carol DeBarba, Peter Park, Ralph Staib, Susie Haughwout, Barker Willard, Bill Adams, Jim Burke, Elaine Crawford, Laura Stevenson

MOTION TO ADJOURN: made by Susie Haughwout; seconded by Jim Burke

VOICE VOTE – ayes had it. **MOTION CARRIED** – SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:45 am

PREPARED MARCH 6, 2015



ATTEST: _____

**SUSAN JOY HAUGHWOUT
WILMINGTON TOWN CLERK**

DATE: MARCH 6, 2015