

On May 3, 2014, an Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am in the Town Hall. Moderator Buz Eisenberg presided.

Select Board: Tom Carter, Chair, Ron Coler, Vice-Chair.

Finance Committee: Ted Murray, Chair, Janet Rogers, Tom Schreiber, Ricki Carroll, David Newell.

Town Clerk: Ann Dunne; Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Check-in: Anne Yuryan, Helen "Poppy" Doyle

Tellers: Faye Whitney, Nina Coler, Jane Shaney, Caroline Murray, Marcine Eisenberg, Betty Stewart, Sandy Lilly.

ARTICLE 1:

Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town open the polls to choose a MODERATOR and a TREE WARDEN, both for one year terms. A SELECT BOARD MEMBER, A BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEMBER, TWO (2) FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, A BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER, A PARK COMMISSIONER, A SEWER COMMISSIONER, all for three year terms: A PLANNING BOARD MEMBER, A LIBRARY TRUSTEE, for five year terms, A BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEMBER for an unexpired term of one (1) year. A BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER for an unexpired term of one (1) year. A SEWER COMMISSIONER for an unexpired term of two (2) years.

And to vote on the following questions:

Ballot Question 1: Shall the Town of Ashfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the town's portion for repair work for Mohawk Trail Regional Middle & High School?

Ballot Question 2: Shall the Town of Ashfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the purchase of a highway truck?

Ballot Question 3: Shall the Town of Ashfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the town's portion for repair work for Sanderson Academy?

Polls to be closed at 6:00 PM.

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 2:

Motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of the Town Officers.

Motion was made and seconded to amend Article 2 to read: to accept the reports of the Town Officers with the exception of the Board of Health report.

After some discussion of the proposed amendment, motion made and seconded to call the question. Motion to call the question passed by 2/3rds voice vote.

Motion to Amend failed by majority vote.

Original motion passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 3:

Motion was made and seconded to set the salary compensation for all elected officials of the town (Select Board, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Moderator, Tree Warden and Constable) as provided by MGL Chapter 41, Section 108, to be made effective as of **July 1, 2014**, as contained in the budget.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 4:

Motion was made and seconded to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the Fiscal Year beginning **July 1, 2014**, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 5:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town borrow up to \$167,000 for the purpose of purchasing a **highway truck**, provided however, that no amounts shall be borrowed or expended hereunder unless and until the Town votes at an election to exempt from the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C, Proposition 2 ½, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds or notes therefore.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by 2/3rds vote. (Hand-count 112 yes, 5 no.)

ARTICLE 6:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town allow the MTRSD District to borrow, as provided by M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16(d), a sum of money not to exceed \$228,850, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the **Sanderson Academy** located at 808 Cape Street, Ashfield, Massachusetts, to include drainage upgrades, sidewalk replacement, snow bar installation on roof, window caulking and replacement, major service to Bioclere sanitary water treatment, condenser unit replacement totaling \$228,850, provided however, that no amounts shall be borrowed or expended hereunder unless and until the Town votes at an election to exempt from the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C, Proposition 2 ½, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds or notes therefore.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Select Board recommended this article 2-1-0

Motion was made and seconded to call the question. Motion passed by 2/3 YES 111 NO 15

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 7:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town allow the MTRSD District to borrow, as provided by M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16(d), a sum of money not to exceed \$542,778, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the **Mohawk Trail Regional Middle & High School** located at 26 Ashfield Road in Buckland, Massachusetts, to include drainage upgrades, parking lot resurfacing, re-pointing /re-caulking work, floor replacements, heating, ventilation and air condition upgrades, auditorium lighting equipment upgrades and installation of a second means of egress from main electrical switchgear room totaling \$542,778, provided however, that no amounts shall be borrowed or expended hereunder unless and until the Town votes at an election to exempt from the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C, Proposition 2 ½, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds or notes therefore.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Select Board recommended this article 2-1-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 8:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$1,000 to pay for **SCHOOL COMMITTEE STIPENDS**, \$61,978 for **EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL EXPENSE**, \$16,626 for **GREEN ROOF CAPITAL**, and raise and appropriate \$457,569 and transfer \$80,000 from **FREE CASH** for a total of \$537,569 for **VOCATIONAL SCHOOL EXPENSES**.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 9:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$1,949,819 to pay for **REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES**.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 10:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town adopt the following provision of Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2012 – An Act Further Regulating Animal Control, Section 11. (c) No fee shall be charged for a license for a dog owned by a person aged 70 years or over in a city or town that accepts this provision.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

After some discussion motion made and seconded to call the question. Motion to call the question passed by 2/3rds voice vote.

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 11:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town change the day of holding the Town Caucus from the seventh Tuesday prior to the Annual Town Meeting and Election as voted at the Special Town Meeting, January 19, 1983, to hold Town Caucus on a Tuesday, not later than the **thirty-eighth** day preceding Town Elections in compliance with MGL C.53, Section 72A.

Motion made and seconded to amend the Article to read: to change the day of holding the Town Caucus from the seventh Tuesday prior to the Annual Town Meeting and Election as voted at the Special Town Meeting, January 19, 1983, to hold Town Caucus on a Tuesday, not later than the **forty-second** day preceding Town Elections in compliance with MGL C.53, Section 72A.

Motion to amend the Article passed by majority vote.

Article as amended passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 12:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$600 to help pay for the newly established part-time position of **ENERGY MANAGER**, contingent upon receiving an Energy Manager grant from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

After some discussion motion made and seconded to call the question. Motion to call the question passed by 2/3rds voice vote.

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 13:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town petition the Massachusetts General Court to enact special legislation allowing **Douglas Field**, a call firefighter, to continue in his position until the date of his retirement or until his non-reappointment, which first occurs; and to ask that this special legislation take effect upon its passage.

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 14:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town authorize the Select Board to discharge the lien on the Ashfield House, LLC, for a cash settlement.

Finance Committee recommended this Article by majority: 4-1-0

After some discussion, motion made and seconded to call the question. Motion to call the question passed by 2/3rds voice vote.

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 15:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$34,851 for Highland Assessment and \$1,545 for Radio Assessment, for a total of **\$36,396** to pay for **AMBULANCE SERVICE**.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

Motion made and seconded to suspend the meeting at 1:20pm.

The meeting reconvened at 2:05 pm.

ARTICLE 16:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town transfer \$3,000 from Free Cash for the **RESERVE ACCOUNT**.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 17:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town transfer \$10,000 from Free Cash and \$10,000 from the Fred Cross Fund for a total of **\$20,000** to pay for repair of **TOWN HALL STEEPLE**.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 18:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate a total of \$293,475 to pay for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES**, as follows:

Appeals Board	350
Elected Assessor Chair	1,500
Elected Assessor Salaries (2) @ 1,250	2,500
Assessors' Clerk	13,587
Assessor Expenses	33,679
Conservation Commission	1,340
Bonds	1,200
Insurance Buildings/Liability	35,910
Town Hall Steward	600
Special Project Staffing	1,000
Information Technology Expenses	11,600
Planning Board	986
Elections	4,000
Registrars of Voters	400
Executive Administrator	28,642
Street Lists	770
Municipal Town Clerk	30,392
Assistant Municipal Clerk	25,459
Town Clerk Expenses	1,000

Town Report	600
Collector	18,136
Town Collector Expenses	10,241
Legal Expenses	15,000
Town Hall Expenses	17,000
Town Hall Utilities	13,610
Elected Select Board Chair	1,500
Elected Select Board Salaries (2) @ 1,250	2,500
Select Board Expenses	2,000
Elected Moderator	150
Treasurer Salary	14,608
Treasurer Expenses	3,215
Tax Title	0
TOTAL	293,475

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 19:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$3,061 for Ambulance Capital and \$3,010 for Ambulance Building Capital for a total of \$6,071 to pay for **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 20:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$169,240 and transfer \$2,450 from the Revolving Dog Fund and \$24,000 from Free Cash for a total of **\$195,690** to pay for **PUBLIC SAFETY** expenses as follows:

Animal Control Stipend	1,850
Animal Control Expenses	600
Fire Chief Stipend	7,500
Fire Chief Expenses	340
Fire Department Expenses	44,000
Fire Department Fuel	3,509
Emergency Manager Exp.	1,000
Emergency Mgr. Stipend	500
Emerg. Mgr.Assist.Stipend	300
Emergency Call System	2,486
Narrowband/EC Tower	24,000
Lake Dam Inspection	1,000
Police Chief Salary	49,400
Police Department	45,105
Police Department Fuel	5,200
Drug/Alcohol Testing	300
Tree Warden Stipend	300
Tree Warden Expenses	8,000
Firearms Clerk Stipend	300
TOTAL	195,690

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article Passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 21:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate a total of \$55,987 to pay for **CULTURAL/RECREATIONAL EXPENSES** as follows:

Belding Memorial Library	41,117
Belding Memorial Park	11,370
Veterans Graves	1,000
Historical Commission	500
Town History Fund	2,000
TOTAL	55,987

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 22:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate a total of \$87,829 to pay for **SANITATION SERVICES** as follows:

Hilltown Resource Management	5,824
Transfer Station	80,755
Transfer Station Utilities	900
Inspector of Animals	350
TOTAL	87,829

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 23:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate a total of \$11,150 to pay for **HEALTH SERVICES** as follows:

Health Agent	8,000
Health Board Expenses	900
Elected Board of Health Stipend 3 @ 750	2,250
TOTAL	11,150

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Finance Committee member rose to rescind previous vote. Finance Committee recommended this Article 4-1-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 24:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$482,624 and transfer \$62,000 from FREE CASH for a total of **\$544,624** to pay for **HIGHWAY AND ROAD EXPENSES** as follows:

General Highway	100,000
Labor	167,285
Highway Fuel	58,246
Highway Superintendent	55,609
Winter Roads	95,000
Street Lights	2,484
Lake Dam Maintenance	62,000
Retention Wall Repair	4,000
TOTAL	544,624

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 25:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate a total of **\$43,186** to pay for **HUMAN SERVICES EXPENSES** as follows:

Senior Center	28,560
Local Council on Aging	750
Veterans' Council	3,607
Veterans' Benefits Local	10,269
TOTAL	43,186

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 26:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate a total of \$164,951 to pay for **EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES** as follows:

Health Insurance	50,590
Medicare/FICA	11,220
Retiree Benefit-Health	8,568
Retirement Sys. Contributions	73,357
Unemployment	5,000
Workers Compensation	14,216
OPEB Stabilization	2,000
TOTAL	164,951

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 27:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate a total of **\$51,002** to pay for **FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXPENSES** as follows:

Core Assessment	17,245
Accountant	21,644
Software	750
Procurement	2,310
Radio Maintenance	2,553
Building Inspector Program	6,500
TOTAL	51,002

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 28:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town appropriate \$139,057 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund and to meet that appropriation by raising \$124,057 from sewer charges and transferring \$15,000 from retained earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund to pay for **SEWER EXPENSES** as follows:

Salaries and Benefits	77,287
Fixed Operating Costs	500
Volume Based Costs	56,270
Emergency Fund	5,000
TOTAL	139,057

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 29:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town appropriate up to \$10,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund to convert the oil boiler to propane and remove the underground oil tank.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 30:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate a total of **\$223,647** to pay for **DEBT EXPENSES** as follows:

Short Term Interest	7,500
Highway Grader Principal	88,206
Highway Grader Interest	617
Highway Debt - Garage	79,353
Fire Debt - Truck	47,971
TOTAL	223,647

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 31:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town authorize the following **Revolving Fund Accounts** pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, Dog License and Control \$2,500, Park \$1,500 and Library \$2,800, to account for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2014** as follows:

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	Use of fund	FY2014 Spending Limit
Dog License and Control	Town Clerk	Licenses, fines and donations	Supplies, animal care, bylaw permitted expenses	\$2,500
Park	Park Commission	Program fees, donations	Park Expenses	\$1,500
Library	Library Board of Trustees	Fees, rental	Library expenses	\$2,800

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 32:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town authorize the Select Board to accept any monies from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Chapter 90) for highway construction or maintenance work.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 33:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town authorize the Select Board to accept and expend any grants and/or gifts that may become available.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 34:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town authorize the Select Board to dispose of any unused town-owned equipment and/or property.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article: 5-0-0

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 35:

Motion was made and seconded that the Town direct the Select Board establish a maintenance policy for our village sidewalks, including winter snow removal, and to transfer \$5,000 From Grant Program Income into an account for this purpose.

Finance Committee recommended against this Article: 0-5-0

Motion was made and seconded to amend the motion to remove the dollar figure.

After some discussion a motion was made and seconded to call the question. The motion to call the question on the motion to amend passed by a 2/3rds hand-count vote.

YES 72 NO 30 ABSTAIN 2

Amended Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 36:

ARTICLE 35: Citizen Petition: Ashfield Community Rights Resolution

Whereas representatives from large-scale energy infrastructure projects have approached Ashfield landowners as regards to, but not limited to, the installation of industrial-scale wind turbines, the cutting of trees along utility lines on Ashfield's roads, and most recently the proposed routing of a high-pressure gas pipeline to carry shale gas through 76 Ashfield properties; and

Whereas landowners have been approached without advance notice from town officials or police due to there being no regulation requiring a corporation, county or state to contact local authorities prior to contacting property owners; and

Whereas landowners are being asked to permit surveying or to sign agreements to lease land;
and

Whereas, there exists the inherent right of the residents of Ashfield to govern their own community, including, without limitation, the Declaration of Independence's declaration that governments are instituted to secure the rights of people, and the recognition within the State Constitution that all power is inherent in the people.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE CALL UPON OUR LEADERS TO ADOPT RULES, BYLAWS, OR TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTION AS NECESSARY

TO SUPPORT the right of the people of Ashfield to hold public hearings and make motions to vote on all corporate, state or federal energy infrastructure and other large-scale projects within the town as they arise. Such projects may include, but are not limited to: pipeline construction, resource extraction, the removal of ground water for bottling and export, transmission line expansion, industrial wind installations, large-scale solar arrays, and the dumping of toxic fracking wastewater from neighboring states.

TO DEFEND majority rule, as determined by that vote, as the ultimate authority in approving such projects, affirming the rights of the people who live here over the rights of an absentee entity.

TO PROHIBIT any activity by the developers of such projects in Ashfield before the people of Ashfield have had the opportunity to put motions to vote, and only then if the majority has ruled in favor of allowing the project. Activities include, but are not limited to, entering private property, surveying, photographing private property, negotiating leases, blasting, removing trees and road construction.

TO ENSURE that our Select Board is informed of any proposed project prior to any contact with landowners and that the residents of Ashfield learn of each proposal first through their elected officials.

TO PROTECT the right of Ashfield farms, businesses and companies to engage in resource harvesting and/or industrial activity as currently permitted in our by-laws.

or act relative thereto.

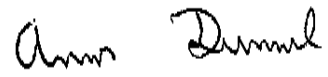
Motion was made and seconded that the Town table Article 36 to a date certain

Select Board will hold a Special Town Meeting on June 23, 2014 and place this article on their warrant.

Motion to table Article 36 passed by majority vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

A true copy attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Dunne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "D".

Ann Dunne
Town Clerk