

On May 02, 2015, an Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 10:04am in the Town Hall Prior to the call to order, a flag ceremony and pledge was allegiance was led by Doug Cranson and the girl scouts. Moderator Buz Eisenberg presided.

Select Board: Tom Carter, Chair, Ron Coler, Vice-Chair, Todd Olanyk

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

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

Check-In: Anne Yuryan, Poppy Doyle, Lynn Taylor, Kyle Taylor

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

Town Clerk read the return of the warrant.

The Moderator read the list of deceased residents since last town meeting, and read the bylaws regarding conduct at town meeting.

ARTICLE 1:

Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town choose a Moderator and a Tree Warden, both for one year terms;

A Select Board Member, a Board of Assessors Member, a Finance Committee Member, a School Committee Member, a Board of Health Member, a Constable, a Park Commissioner, and a Sewer Commissioner, all for three year terms; a Planning Board Member, and a Library Trustee, for five year terms; a Board of Health Member for an unexpired term of one (1) year and a Planning Board Member for an unexpired term of three (3) years.

And 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 to the 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 town's portion to purchase a school bus to be used district wide?

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 to Sanderson Academy?

Polls to be closed at 6:00 PM.

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 2:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town act on the reports of the Town Officers.

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 3:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town 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, 2015, as contained in the budget.

Finance Committee recommends unanimously 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 4:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town 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, 2015, 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 Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 5:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **transfer from Free Cash** the sum of \$75,000 for the purchase of a Highway sweeper and a mower.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Discussion

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 6:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$1,000 to pay for SCHOOL COMMITTEE STIPENDS, \$66,274 for EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL EXPENSES and **\$490,313 for VOCATIONAL SCHOOL EXPENSES** for a total of **\$557,587**.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 7:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate **\$2,028,973** for Regional Educational Expenses.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Discussion

After a long discussion motion was made by Brian Clark to call the question.

Motion to call the question passed by 2/3rds voice vote. No objections

Main Motion: request from the floor to hand count.

Vote: YES 64 NO 13 ABSTAIN 5

Article 7 passed by majority

ARTICLE 8:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **allow the District to borrow**, a sum of money, not to exceed \$250,700 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: boiler, doors, locker room, security, ventilation, and window upgrades totaling \$250,700.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 9:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **allow the District to borrow**, a sum of money, not to exceed \$90,000 to be expended under the direction of the School Committee to purchase a school bus to be used district wide totaling \$90,000.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Discussion

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 10:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **allow the District to borrow**, a sum of money not to exceed \$100,000, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the Sanderson Academy located at 808 Cape Street in Ashfield, Massachusetts, to include boiler replacement and heat valve replacement totaling \$100,000.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Discussion

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 11:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town postpone indefinitely Article 11.

“To see if the Town will vote to **accept the amended Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement** which provides for the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District effective July 1, 2016. *Copies of the twenty-five page Mohawk Trail Regional School District Regional District Agreement are available at Town Hall.*”

The Mohawk Trail Regional School District Regional District Agreement is attached to this certified warrant.

Requires to 2/3 majority vote.

Article passed unanimously by voice vote. No objections

ARTICLE 11A:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT** by striking the following language contained in Section III(B):

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that all residents of the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne (the “K-12 Member Towns”) in grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, will receive their education in facilities located in the District: Ashfield and Plainfield residents at Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents at the Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents at the Buckland-Shelburne Regional School and Heath residents at the Heath Elementary School.

and replace said language with the following:

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that elementary students residing in the members towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield and Shelburne (the “K-12 Member Towns”) will receive their education in facilities located in the District and will be assigned as follows: Ashfield and Plainfield residents to Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents to Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School; and Heath residents to Heath Elementary School. Notwithstanding the above, students may be educated in a District school other than as assigned above upon (i) a majority vote of the School Committee, and (ii) an affirmative vote by both (a) the member town or towns whose students are so assigned, and (b) the member town or towns served by the District school to which such students will be assigned, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

However, it is also the intent of this Agreement that the closure of a District elementary school building and the reassignment of all students being educated in that building may not be accomplished under this section. Rather such action requires an amendment to this Agreement, the process for which is contained in Section XIV.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Motion to amend made by Norman Russell and seconded from the floor

“To replace the word “majority” with the word $2/3$ as follows:

Notwithstanding the above, students may be educated in a District school other than as assigned above upon (i) ***a $2/3$ vote*** of the School Committee, and (ii) an affirmative vote by both (a) the member town or towns whose students are so assigned, and (b) the member town or towns served by the District school to which such students will be assigned, acceptance by each town to be ***a $2/3$ vote*** at an annual or special town meeting.

Require a $2/3$ vote to amend.

Motion to amend fails by unanimous voice vote

Main Motion: Article passed unanimously

Motion was made and seconded to advance Article 15

Motion to advance article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 15:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **raise and appropriate \$347,268 and transfer \$5,000** from the Fred Cross General Fund for a total of \$352,268 for GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES.

Appeals Board	780
Elected Assessor Chair	1,500
Elected Assessor Salaries (2) @ 1,250	2,500
Assessors' Clerk	16,000
Assessor Expenses	33,379
Auditor	6,500
Energy Manager	3,506
Conservation Commission	1,380
Bonds	1,200
Insurance Buildings/Liability	41,815
Town Hall Steward	600
Town Hall Building Committee	5,000
Information Technology Expenses	12,170
Planning Board	1,000
Elections	4,000
Registrars of Voters	400
Town Administrator	60,000
Street Lists	800
Special Project Staffing	1,000
Municipal Town Clerk	31,000
Assistant Municipal Clerk	25,969
Town Clerk Expenses	1,850
Town Report	750
Collector	23,849
Town Collector Expenses	10,905
Legal Expenses	7,000
Town Hall Expenses	14,000
Town Hall Utilities	12,000
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	14,900
Treasurer Expenses	3,365
Tax Title	7,000
TOTAL	352,268

Finance Committee Recommendation: 4-0-0

Discussion

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 12:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$42,472 for Highland AMBULANCE SERVICE Assessment and \$1,667 for Highland AMBULANCE SERVICE Radio Assessment for a total of \$44,139 for Highland Ambulance.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 13:

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

Finance Committee Recommendation: 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 14:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town adopt the following bylaw for the Town of Ashfield pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, section 21 (13): The Collector shall pay all fees received by him/her by virtue of his/her office into the town treasury; and, all other officers who receive fees by virtue of their office shall report the amount thereof from time to time to the Select Board who shall publish them in the annual report.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 16:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$3,214 for Ambulance Capital Debt and \$3,010 for Ambulance Capital Building Debt for a total of \$6,224 for CAPITAL EXPENDITURES.

Ambulance Capital	3,214
Ambulance Capital Building Debt	3,010

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

Recess for lunch at 1:05pm

Reconvened at 2:04pm

ARTICLE 17:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **raise and appropriate** \$182,229 and **transfer** \$2,900 from the Revolving Dog Fund for a total of \$185,129 for PUBLIC SAFETY expenses.

Animal Control Salary	2,000
Animal Control Expenses	900
Fire Chief Salary	7,500
Fire Chief Expenses	340
Fire Department Expenses	50,000
Fire Department Fuel	3,509
Emergency Manager Exp.	1,000
Emergency Mngr. Stipend	550
Emergency Mngr. Asst.	350
Emergency Call System	2,486
Lake Dam Inspection	2,000
Police Chief Salary	50,388
Police Department Exp.	50,000
Police Department Fuel	5,200
Drug/Alcohol Testing	300
Tree Warden	300
Tree Warden Expenses	8,000
Firearms Clerk	306
TOTAL	185,129

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 18:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$58,882 for CULTURAL/RECREATIONAL EXPENSES.

Belding Memorial Library	43,012
Belding Memorial Park	12,370
Lake Invasives Removal	2,000
Historical Commission	500
Veterans Graves	1,000
TOTAL	58,882

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 19:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **transfer from Free Cash \$125,339** for SANITATION SERVICES.

Hilltown Resource Management	5,824
Transfer Station	98,765
Transfer Station Eng. Studies	19,500
Transfer Station Utilities	900
Inspector of Animals	350
TOTAL	125,339

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 20:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **transfer from Free Cash \$8,900** and **raise and appropriate \$2,250** for a total of \$11,150 for HEALTH SERVICES.

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

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 21:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **raise and appropriate \$509,131** for HIGHWAY AND ROAD EXPENSES.

General Highway	100,000
Labor	170,680
Highway Fuel	58,246
Highway Superintendent	56,721
Winter Roads	110,000
Street Lights	2,484
Lake Dam Maintenance	3,000
Retention Wall Repair	3,000
Winter Sidewalks	5,000
TOTAL	509,131

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 22:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$48,740 for HUMAN SERVICES EXPENSES.

Senior Center	28,605
Local Council on Aging	750
Veterans' Council	3,837
Veterans' Benefits Local	15,548
TOTAL	48,740

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 23:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$159,910 for EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES.

Health Insurance	50,590
Medicare/FICA	11,220
Retiree Benefit-Health	8,568
Retirement Sys. Contributions	74,532
Unemployment	3,000
Workers Compensation	10,000
OPEB Stabilization	2,000
TOTAL	159,910

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 24:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$49,963 for FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXPENSES.

Core Assessment	14,503
Accountant	22,167
Software	750
Procurement	2,560
Radio Maintenance	3,333
REPC	150
Building Inspector Program	6,500
TOTAL	49,963

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 25:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town **appropriate** \$140,426 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund for sewer expenses and to meet that appropriation by **raising** \$130,426 from sewer charges and **transferring** \$10,000 from retained earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund to pay for SEWER EXPENSES.

Salaries and Benefits	79,306
Fixed Operating Costs	500
Volume Based Costs	55,620
Emergency Fund	5,000
TOTAL	140,426

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 26:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$152,417 for DEBT EXPENSES.

Short Term Interest	7,500
Highway Debt - Garage	77,917
Highway Dump Truck	67,000
TOTAL	152,417

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 27:

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

Finance Committee Recommendation: 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 28:

Motion was made, and seconded that the Town authorize the following Revolving Fund Accounts pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, to account for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 as follows: up to \$2,500 for the Dog License and Control Fund; up to \$1,500 for the Park Fund; up to \$2,500 for the Library Fund.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	Use of fund	FY2015 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	\$2,500

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 29:

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 Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

ARTICLE 30:

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

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommends 4-0-0

Article passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn meeting at 2:42pm passed unanimously.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Ann Dunne, Town Clerk