

On May 4, 2013, 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, Paullette Leukhardt, Ron Coler.

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

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

Check-in: Kyle Taylor, Brendan Gray, Lynn Taylor

Teller: Marcine Eisenberg, Nina Coler, Betty Stewart, Virginia Wiswell

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, TWO (2) CONSTABLES, A PARK COMMISSIONER, A SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER, A SEWER COMMISSIONER, all for three year terms: A PLANNING BOARD MEMBER, A LIBRARY TRUSTEE, for five year terms, A FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER for an unexpired term (two (2) years).

And to vote on the following question:

“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 grader?”

Polls to be closed at 6:00 PM.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2:

Motion was made and seconded to accept all published reports with the following exceptions:

Page 18, Board of Health:

Delete the second sentence of the penultimate paragraph.

Pages 11-12 Report of the Select Board:

To reject this report in its entirety and direct the Select Board to publish a revised report in the Ashfield News prior to the next Special Town Meeting, at which time it may be approved.

After lengthy discussion motion was made and seconded to call the question. Motion to call the question passed by 2/3rds.

Vote on the Motion to Amend was defeated by 2/3rds vote.

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

Article passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 3:

Motion 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, 2013, as contained in the budget.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 4:

Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time in anticipation of the revenue of the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2013, 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.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 5:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate \$80,000 and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$55,000 and to borrow up to \$150,000 for a total of up to \$285,000 for the purpose of purchasing a highway grader, 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. c. 59, section 21C, Proposition 2 ½, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds or notes therefore.

Finance Committee recommended this Article 3-1-0.

Article passed by a 2/3rds voice vote.

Moderator stated that if there were any objection to his ruling on the voice-vote a hand-count would be conducted. Moderator then asked meeting for any objection to his ruling. No objection.

ARTICLE 7:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate **\$1,896,594** to pay for **REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES**.

Finance Committee recommended against this Article 0-3-1.

Motion made and seconded to amend Article 7 to read that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,882,354 which is \$14,240 less than requested and was the original amount proposed by the Mohawk budget subcommittee.

The vote to amend the Article was defeated.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 6:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **SCHOOL COMMITTEE STIPENDS, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL EXPENSES AND EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL EXPENSES:**

School Committee 2 @ 500	1,000
Capital	92,530
Vocational	320,000

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 11:

Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into renewable energy purchase and/or net metering credit purchase agreements, including solar energy and related net metering credits, for terms of more than three years, and to take all actions necessary to implement and administer such agreements.

Finance Committee made no recommendation on this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 8:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to the **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** for the purpose of celebrating the founding of the town and the Town Hall building.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 9:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **AMBULANCE SERVICE:**

Highland Assessment	31,053
Radio Assessment	1,277

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 10:

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

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the meeting at 12:35 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 pm.

ARTICLE 12:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES:**

Appeals Board	150
Elected Assessor Chair	1,500
Elected Assessor Salaries (2) @ 1,250	2,500
Assessors' Clerk	13,317
Assessor Expenses	31,925
Auditor	6,000
Personnel Board	250
Conservation Commission	1,300
Bonds	1,200
Insurance Buildings/Liability	34,200
Town Hall Steward	600
Office Supplies/Expenses	0
Postage, Dedicated	650
Information Technology Expenses	12,900
Planning Board	968
Elections	2,500
Registrars of Voters	400
Executive Administrator	28,080
Street Lists	580
Municipal Town Clerk	29,796
Assistant Municipal Clerk	24,960
Town Clerk Expenses	900
Special Project Staffing Fund	0
Town Report	600
Collector	17,780
Town Collector Expenses	9,818
Legal Expenses	10,000
Town Hall Expenses	12,900
Town Hall Utilities	18,610
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	14,321
Treasurer Expenses	3,192

Tax Title	0
TOTAL	288,047

Finance Committee unanimously recommended against this Article.

Motion was made and seconded by the Finance Committee to amend Article 12 to:
delete \$28,080 for Executive Administrator
insert \$26,216 for Executive Administrator
delete \$24,960 for Assistant Municipal Clerk
insert \$22,425 for Assistant Municipal Clerk
for a total of \$283,648

Motion to Amend failed, on a hand-count, by majority vote.

Motion, as originally moved, passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 13:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for the following **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**:

Ambulance Capital	3,082
Fire House Town Hall Capital	10,000

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 14:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSES**:

Animal Control Salary	1,836
Animal Control Expenses	550
Fire Chief Salary	3,060
Fire Chief Expenses	340
Fire Department Expenses	36,907
Fire Department Utilities	7,900
Fire Department Fuel	3,509
Emergency Manager Exp.	1,000
Emergency Mngr. Stipend	500
Emergency Call System	2,486
Lake Dam Inspection	2,000
Police Chief Salary	56,182
Police Department	50,835
Police Department Fuel	5,000
Drug/Alcohol Testing	300
Tree Warden	300
Tree Warden Expenses	8,500
Firearms Clerk	300
TOTAL	181,505

Finance Committee unanimously recommended against this Article.

Motion was made and seconded by the Finance Committee to amend Article 14 to:
delete \$50,835 for Police Department
insert **\$45,035** for Police Department
for a **PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSES** total of **\$175,705**

Motion was made and seconded to amend the Motion to Amend to:
delete \$3,060 for Fire Chief Salary
insert **\$7,500** for **Fire Chief Stipend**

Moderator rules to sever Motions to Amend and vote on original Finance Committee Motion to Amend first, then vote on second citizen Motion to Amend.

First Motion to Amend passed by majority vote.

Amended Article 14 having passed Moderator returns to second Motion to Amend the Article as amended.

Motion and second to call the question passed by 2/3rds vote.

Second Motion to Amend passed unanimously.

(New, final total for PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSES \$180,145.)

ARTICLE 15:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **CULTURAL/RECREATIONAL EXPENSES**:

Belding Memorial Library	37,000
Belding Memorial Park	11,271
Veterans Graves	1,000
TOTAL	49,271

Finance Committee recommended this Article 3-0-1.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 16:

Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Select Board to approve a sum not to exceed \$2,000 to pay for **HISTORY PROJECT EXPENSES** and to transfer the sum from Grant Program Income.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 17:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **SANITATION SERVICES**:

Hilltown Resource Management	5,824
Transfer Station	80,525
Transfer Station Utilities	900
Inspector of Animals	350
TOTAL	87,599

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 18:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay 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 unanimously recommended against this Article.

Motion was made and seconded by the Finance Committee amend Article 18 to:
 delete \$2,250 for Elected Board of Health Stipends
 insert \$1,350 for Elected Board of Health Stipends
 for a Health Services total of \$10,250

Motion to Amend defeated by majority vote.

Article 18, as originally moved, passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 19:

Motion made and seconded that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **HIGHWAY AND ROAD EXPENSES**:

General Highway	95,290
Labor	163,025
Highway Fuel	58,246
Highway Superintendent	54,519
Winter Roads	86,540
Street Lights	2,484
Lake Dam Maintenance	17,000
Retention Wall Repair	15,000

TOTAL	492,104
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Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 20:

Motion made and seconded that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **HUMAN SERVICES EXPENSES:**

Senior Center	28,703
Local Council on Aging	750
Veterans' Council	3,465
Veterans' Benefits Local	9,036
TOTAL	41,954

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 21:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES:**

Health Insurance	50,590
Medicare/FICA	11,220
Retiree Benefit-Health	6,426
Retirement Sys. Contributions	71,704
Unemployment	5,000
Workers Compensation	13,539
TOTAL	158,479

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 22:

Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXPENSES:**

Core Assessment	16,306
Accountant	18,436
Software	1,000

Procurement	2,310
Radio Maintenance	2,553
Building Inspector Program	6,500
TOTAL	47,105

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 23:

Motion made and seconded that the Town appropriate \$134,178 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund for sewer expenses and meet that appropriation by raising \$119,178 from sewer charges and transferring \$15,000 from retained earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund to pay for **SEWER EXPENSES:**

Salaries and Benefits	74,393
Fixed Operating Costs	500
Volume Based Costs	54,285
Emergency Fund	5,000
TOTAL	134,178

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 24:

Motion made and seconded that the Town **raise and appropriate \$187,597** and **transfer \$30,000 from Free Cash** for a total of \$217,597 to pay for **DEBT EXPENSES:**

Short Term Interest	7,500
Town Common Principal	30,000
Town Common Interest	1,320
Highway Debt - Truck	49,541
Highway Debt - Garage	80,790
Fire Debt - Truck	48,446
TOTAL	217,597

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 25:

Motion 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, 2013:

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, by law 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 unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 26:

Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$200,000 to the **STABILIZATION ACCOUNT**.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 27:

Motion 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.

Article passed unanimously.


ARTICLE 28:

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

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this Article.

Article passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm.

(A true copy attest,  Town Clerk, etc.)
May 15, 2013