

On May 2, 2009, an Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am in the Town Hall. Moderator Buz Eisenberg presided. Check in person was Renee Rastorfer. Tellers were Lynn Dole, Sarah Holbrook, Betty Stewart and Emma Svoboda.

The following is a true copy of the votes taken:

**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, BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEMBER, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER, BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER, CONSTABLE, PARK COMMISSIONER, , and A SEWER COMMISSIONER all for three year terms; A LIBRARY TRUSTEE and a PLANNING BOARD MEMBER, both for five years; A BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER for an unexpired term. To vote on the following question:

“Shall the town of Ashfield cease assessing the excise imposed under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 81 on certain animals, machinery and equipment owned by individuals and non-corporate entities principally engaged in agriculture?”

**Polls to be closed at 6:00 PM.**

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 2:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town accept 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 from July 1, 2009, as contained in the budget.

Finance committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 4:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **VOCATIONAL SCHOOL EXPENSES AND EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL EXPENSES.**

Capital	132,975
Vocational	300,000

Finance committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 5:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$1,594,679 and transfer from free cash \$250,000 for a total of \$1,844,679 to pay for **REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES**.

Finance committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 6:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town accept the amended Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement as posted at the Ashfield Town Hall and the Ashfield Post Office.

Finance committee unanimously did not recommend this article.

After discussion, motion was made, and seconded, to call the question. The motion passed by the required two-thirds.

**Article passed by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 7:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **AMBULANCE SERVICE**.

Highland Assessment	20,241
Radio Assessment	1,180

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously with 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 8:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$4,500 to pay for the **RESERVE ACCOUNT**.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 9:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$193,033 and transfer from \$20,300 from excess overlay, \$2500 from Grant Program Income and \$2000 from the Fred Cross Fund for a total of \$217,833 to pay for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES**.

Appeals Board	167
Elected Assessor Chair	1,500
Elected Assessor Salaries (2) @ 1,250	2,500
Assessor's Clerk	12,812
Assessor's Expenses	26,440
Accounting Expenses	200
Auditor	9,000

Conservation Commission	905
Bonds	1,000
Insurance Buildings/Liability	29,000
Office Expenses	2,000
Office Supplies	3,500
Postage	500
Computer/Internet	2,500
Planning Board	708
Elections	1,500
Registrars of Voters	800
Town Administrator	27,816
Street Lists	600
Municipal Town Clerk Salary	7,628
Municipal Town Clerk Asst.	6,864
Town Clerk Expenses	376
Town Report	500
Collector	16,754
Town Collector Expenses	8,654
Town Counsel	3,000
Town Hall Maintenance	8,000
Town Hall Utilities	17,000
Elected Select Board Chair	1,500
Elected Select Board Salaries (2) @ 1,250	2,500
Select Board Expenses	1,000
Elected Moderator	100
Treasurer Salary	12,509
Treasurer Expenses	2,000
Tax Title	6,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>217,833</b>

Finance Committee did not recommend this article. It was an even split (2 for; 2 against).

Motion was made, and seconded to amend Article 9 to reduce all salaries by the proposed 1.7% COLA. Thus The following salary figures would be reduced:

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	
Assessor's Clerk	\$12,812	\$12,597	
Town Administrator	27,816	27,351	
Municipal Town Clerk Salary	7,628	7,500	
Collector	16,754	16,473	
Treasurer Salary	12,509	12,299	
 Total	 \$217,388	 \$216,534	 [-\$1,200]

And the amount to be "raised and appropriated" would correspondingly be reduced from \$193,033 to \$191,734 [-\$1,299].

**Amendment was defeated by majority.**

**Article, as originally moved, passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 10:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for the following **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**.

Police Cruiser	Not to Exceed 10,401
Ambulance Capital	Not to Exceed 3,205

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 11:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate \$179,820 and transfer \$2279 from the Revolving Dog Fund for a total of \$182,099 to pay for **PUBLIC SAFETY** expenses.

Animal Control Salary	1,729
Animal Control Expenses	550
Fire Chief's Salary	2,594
Fire Chief's Expenses	380
Fire Department Expenses	32,500
Fire Department Utilities	7,900
Fire Department Fuel	3,000
Emergency Management	5,000
Lake Dam Inspection	1,500
Police Chief Salary	48,315
Police Sergeant Salary	39,000
Police Department	21,531
Police Department Fuel	10,000
Drug/Alcohol Testing	300
Tree Warden	300
Tree Warden Expenses	7,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>182,099</b>

The majority of the Finance Committee recommended this article. One member spoke against it.

After discussion, motion was made, and seconded, to call the question. The motion passed by the required two-thirds.

**Article passed by a majority.**

Motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:37 pm.

**ARTICLE 12:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town authorize the Select Board to appoint Bill Perlman to serve as Emergency Management Director, and to supervise him in that position, while he continues to serve as a select board member.

Finance Committee had no recommendation.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 13:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **CULTURAL/RECREATIONAL EXPENSES:**

Belding Memorial Library	30,625
Belding Memorial Park	12,061
Veterans Graves	800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,486</b>

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

Motion was made, and seconded, to amend the article to increase the Belding Memorial Library by \$1678.

Because this motion exceeded the post warrant by 5%, the moderator asked for a motion which was then seconded, to allow an amendment to exceed the warrant by 5%. The motion passed by a majority. (30 yes; 22 no)

Motion was then made, and seconded, to amend the amendment to state that the money would come from free cash.

After discussion, motion was made, and seconded, to call the question. Motion passed by the required two-thirds.

Motion to amend the amendment failed by a majority.

After discussion on the original amendment, motion was made, and seconded, to call the question. Motion passed by the required two-thirds.

Motion to amend the article failed by a majority. (30 yes; 32 no)

**Article as originally moved passed by a majority.**

**ARTICLE 14:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **SANITATION SERVICES.**

Hilltown Resource Management	6,131
Transfer Station	80,982

Transfer Station Utilities	1,000
Inspector of Animals	350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88,463</b>

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 15:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **HEALTH SERVICES**.

Foothills Health District	15,852
Health Board Expenses	1,000
Elected Board of Health Salaries 3 @ 450	1,350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,202</b>

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 16:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town vote to give one (1) year's notice of termination from the Foothills health District, as of July 1, 2009, per the regional agreement.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed by majority (1 no).**

**ARTICLE 17:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **HIGHWAY AND ROAD EXPENSES**:

General Highway	98,882
Benefits	33,000
Machinery Maintenance	74,765
Highway Fuel	48,000
Highway Department Utilities	14,000
Uniforms	3,000
Highway Superintendent	51,374
Winter Roads	150,000
Street Lights	2,250
Lake Dam Maintenance	2,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>477,571</b>

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 18:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **HUMAN SERVICES EXPENSES:**

Council on Aging/Senior Center	23,919
Local Council	50
Veterans' Council	3,705
Veterans' Benefits Local	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,674</b>

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 19:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES:**

Health Insurance	80,000
Medicare/FICA	11,000
Retiree Benefit-Health	10,000
Retirement Sys. Contributions	66,732
Sick Leave (Departing Employee)	500
Unemployment	5,000
Workers Compensation	12,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185,232</b>

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 20:** Motion was 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	15,766
Accountant	17,903
Software	1,250
Procurement	2,635
Radio Maintenance	2,360
Inspector Program	43,659
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83,573</b>

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 21:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$138,762 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund for sewer expenses and to meet that appropriation by

raising \$128,762 from sewer charges and transferring \$10,000 from retained earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund for a total of \$138,762 to pay for **SEWER EXPENSES**:

Salaries and Benefits	67,062
Fixed Operating Costs	2,000
Volume Based Costs	64,700
Emergency Fund	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138,762</b>

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 22:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town appropriate \$70,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund to replace the heating system in the greenhouses.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 23:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate the following sums of money to pay for **DEBT EXPENSES**:

Short Term Interest	15,000
Town Common Principal	15,000
Town Common Interest	3,960
Highway Debt	86,535
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120,495</b>

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 24:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town raise and appropriate up to \$50,000 to pay **ICE STORM EXPENSES**.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 25:** 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, 2009:

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	Use of fund	FY2010 Spending
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				<b>Limit</b>
Dog License and Control	Town Clerk	Licenses, fines and donations	Supplies, animal care, by law permitted expenses	\$3,000
Youth Activities	Youth Commission	Program fees, donations	Recreational supplies and programs	\$5,000
Park	Park Commission	Program fees, donations	Park Expenses	\$1,500
Library	Library Board of Trustees	Fees, rental	Library expenses	\$2,000

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 26:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town repeal and replace Article 5c, Section 1.2 and 1.3 of the Dog Bylaw to read as follows: Section 1.2 The fees shall be as prescribed in MGL chapter 140, except that the annual fee for the licenses shall be set by the Select Board, pursuant to section 1.4 of the bylaw and Section 1.3 An additional late fee shall be set by the Select Board, pursuant to section 1.4 of the bylaw, shall be assessed to a dog owner who fails to properly license his dog by the last day that town hall is open for business in April of any year.

Finance Committee unanimously recommended this article.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 27:** 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.

**Article passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 28:** Motion was made, and seconded, that the Town authorize the Select Board to dispose of any unused town-owned equipment and/or property.

**Article passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

A true copy attest:

\_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk  
Maryellen Cranston

