



TOWN OF SPENCER

Office of the Town Clerk

Memorial Town Hall

157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562

Laura J. Torti, Town Clerk

Special Town Meeting

November 19, 2015

Memorial Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Moderator Peter J. Adams after determining a quorum was present.

Reading of the Return of the Warrant was waived. Meeting was posted in accordance with the law. The Moderator led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor those who have been victims of recent acts of terrorism.

Moderator Adams noted the following:

“Every day we make history in the conduct of our normal affairs. Tonight we will make history as we exercise our right of self-determination to settle the affairs of our town government by consensus as a free and equal people in this 262nd year of our existence as a body politic. Our decisions will be chronicled and preserved. In future days, others will reflect on our actions through the lenses of time and judgment to discern the jewels worthy of inclusion into the lore of our combined experiences as a town, a state or a nation. And yet, though we are the creators of this history, by necessity, we often fail to realize the historical significance of what we do.

I believe there is no better example of this than what transpired on this date 152 years ago—November 19, 1863—when President Abraham Lincoln rose before 9,000 people convened in a semicircle around a platform as part of the dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery at Gettysburg, put on his steel frame glasses, and delivered a two minute speech for the ages—one that would ultimately be deemed the guiding force of this Republic that ‘government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.’

When he finished, the audience, having just endured a two address by a noted orator and stunned by the brevity of Lincoln’s words, stood transfixed. Applause followed only when Lincoln returned to his chair. As he did so, he remarked to an aide that the speech was a ‘flat failure and the people are disappointed.’ In historical perspective, it wasn’t and they weren’t.

Tonight and in the nights of future years may be honor the spirit of that now famous address by governing wisely in behalf of all the people as we continue this grand experiment of governance by and for the people.”

The Moderator introduced to attendees; himself, members of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator Adam Gaudette, Finance Committee Chair Mary Braney and Town Clerk Laura Torti. The Moderator thanked Spencer Cable Access for broadcasting the meeting and reviewed the ground rules and parliamentary procedure for Town Meetings.

Town Administrator Adam Gaudette informed those present that a Comprehensive Road Project Analysis was available to those who wished to review it and also noted that information and staff persons pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant was available in the rotunda.

The following articles were acted upon:

Article 1:

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY A PRIOR FISCAL YEAR'S EXPENSE

The Moderator declared a unanimous vote of 100 to 0 to appropriate the sum of Ninety Dollars, and No Cents (\$90.00) to pay a prior year expense (Laboratory Water Quality Testing) for the Water Department and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from certified and available Retained Earnings of the Water Enterprise Fund.

Article 2:

AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ARTICLE

The Moderator declared a majority vote to amend Article 11 from the May 7, 2015 Annual Town Meeting in order to raise and appropriate an additional sum of One Thousand, Eight Hundred Ten Dollars and No Cents (\$1,810.00) for additional Smith Regional Agricultural High School Tuition (\$10 to Account #11300-52000) and Additional Transportation Assessment (\$1,800 to Account #11300-52100) for Fiscal Year 2016.

Selectman Anthony D. Pepe spoke on this article.

Article 3:

AUTHORIZATION TO RESCIND THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ARTICLE FOR THE FY2016 GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING BUDGET

The Moderator declared a majority vote to rescind Article 14 from the May 7, 2015 Annual Town Meeting for the purposes of voting to approve the following Article #4 that will adjust the Fiscal Year 2016 General Government Operating Budget; said rescission is contingent upon the approval of Article #4.

Article 4:

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROPRIATE THE REVISED FY2016 GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING BUDGET

The Moderator declared a majority vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Million, Seven Hundred Sixteen Thousand, One Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars and No Cents (\$8,716,147.00) to pay for the operations of the General Government expenses for Fiscal Year 2016, and to meet said appropriation from a transfer of Ninety-Nine Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$99,000.00) from the Overlay Surplus Account, a transfer of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) from the Wetlands Protection Fund, Thirty-One Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$31,000.00) from Available and Certified Free Cash, and from taxation, from available funds in the Treasury, and anticipated receipts as may be needed or decided necessary.

Note: The amended Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget is attached.

Town Administrator Adam Gaudette reviewed the amendments to the budget for those present.

Article 5:

AUTHORIZATION TO RESCIND THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ARTICLE FOR THE FY2016 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The Moderator declared a majority vote to rescind Article 15 from the May 7, 2015 Annual Town Meeting for the purposes of voting to approve the following Article #6 that will adjust the Fiscal Year 2016 Water Department Budget; said rescission is contingent upon the approval of Article #6.

Article 6:

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROPRIATE THE REVISED FY2016 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The Moderator declared a majority vote to:

1. to appropriate the sum of One Million, Three Hundred Seventy Thousand, Six Hundred Ten Dollars and No Cents (\$1,370,610.00) for the use of the Water Department for Fiscal Year 2016, and to fund said appropriation with a transfer from the receipts and revenue of the Water Enterprise Fund collected by the Water Department for said Fiscal Year;
2. authorize Indirect Costs for Fiscal Year 2016 at One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars and No Cents (\$129,583.00); and
3. to have the Board of Water Commissioners set the Fiscal Year 2016 rates and fees to meet said appropriation and level of Indirect Costs.

Article 7:

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONIES TO A RESERVE FUND

The Moderator declared a majority vote to appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$1,000.00) for the Sick Leave Buy Back Fund (Account #083-83000-39800) and to meet said appropriation by transferring from previously certified and available Free Cash.

Article 8:

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONIES TO A RESERVE FUND

The Moderator declared a majority vote to appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$5,000.00) for the Board of Health Site Clean-up Fund (Account #60000-59145) and to meet said appropriation by transferring from previously certified and available Free Cash.

Article 9:

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONIES TO FUND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

The Moderator declared a majority vote to appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$25,000.00) for a Water Department SCADA Upgrade capital project, as approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC), and to meet said appropriation by transferring said sum from previously certified and available Retained Earnings of the Water Enterprise Fund.

Article 10:

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONIES BETWEEN CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

The Moderator declared a majority vote to transfer the sum of Eleven Thousand, Seven Hundred Thirty-One Dollars and Eighty-Four Cents (\$11,731.84) from the Water Department Water Meters Capital Account (Account #15000-58840) to the Water Department Capital Efficiency Plan Account (Account #15000-58860), and to transfer the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred Sixteen Dollars and Eighty-Seven Cents (\$134,516.87) from the Water Department Capital Outlay Account (Account #15000-58000) to the Water Department Capital Efficiency Plan Account (Account #15000-58860).

Article 11:

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONIES TO FUND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

The Moderator declared a majority vote to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$200,000.00) for a Sewer Department Clarifiers Upgrade capital project, as approved by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC), and to meet said appropriation by transferring the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$100,000.00) from previously certified and available Retained Earnings of the Sewer Enterprise Fund and by transferring the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$100,000.00) from the Sewer Department Capital Account (20000-58600).

Article 12:

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONIES TO FUND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

The Moderator declared a majority vote to appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$350,000.00) for capital equipment purchases and capital improvements, as generally illustrated below, and to meet said appropriation by transferring Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$270,000.00) from previously certified and available Free Cash and Eighty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$80,000.00) from the Landfill Cap Repair capital account (Account# 60000-59248).

<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Library	Copier Replacement	\$ 3,000.00
Fire Department	Emergency Generator	\$ 4,000.00
Fire Department	Pagers	\$ 6,500.00
Fire Department	Communications Upgrades	\$122,000.00
Fire/Police Dept.	Phone Systems Replacement	\$ 25,000.00
Highway Department	Fuel Pump Card Reader (additional)	\$ 10,000.00
Highway Department	Additional Garage Roof Repair Funds	\$ 50,000.00
Highway Department	Mechanic Street Parking Lot Repairs	\$ 75,000.00
Town Hall	Consultant Services (Solar Landfill RFP)	\$ 10,000.00
Town Hall	Design Services (Demo Cherry/Pleasant)	\$ 10,000.00
Town Hall	Buildings Study (Lake, Maple, Sugden)	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>
Total:		\$ 350,000.00

Article 13:

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER MONIES TO BALANCE A CAPITAL ACCOUNT

The Moderator declared a majority vote to appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$14,000.00) for the Town Hall Boiler Replacement Project (Account #60000-59237) and to meet said appropriation by transferring from previously certified and available Free Cash.

Barbara Grusell and Town Administrator Adam Gaudette spoke on this article.

Article 14:

AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL BYLAWS

The Moderator declared a majority vote to amend the Personnel Bylaws, becoming effective January 1, 2016, by amending the Section entitled “Health, Dental, & Life Benefits” by striking the words “begin the first of the month immediately following a full 30 days of employment” and replacing with the words “begin the first date of employment.

Selectman John F. Stevens spoke on this article.

Article 15:

AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL BYLAWS

The Moderator declared a majority vote to amend the Personnel Bylaws, becoming effective January 1, 2016, by eliminating the entire Section entitled “Sick Leave Incentive”, and amending the Section entitled “Personal Days” by striking the word “three” and replacing with the word “six”.

Selectman John F. Stevens spoke on this article.

Article 16:

AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL BYLAWS

The Moderator declared a majority vote to amend the Personnel Bylaws, becoming effective January 1, 2016, amending Schedule C, by inserting the new position of “Police Detail Officer” and inserting the Compensation rate of “\$45.00 hourly”.

Selectman John F. Stevens spoke on this article.

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Meeting.

Majority voted at 8:05 p.m. to dissolve this Meeting.

A total of 172 registered voters attended.

Laura J. Torti
Town Clerk