

TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
OCTOBER 26, 2015

The Special Town Meeting of October 26, 2015 was held at the High School Auditorium and brought to order by Moderator Kevin Clancy at 7:35 with a quorum of 101, and growing.

The moderator read the warrant and went over the preliminary rules for Town Meeting and then read the following motion as required by the Town By-Laws.

**PRIOR TO ARTICLE 1**

**MOTION:** Moved that the following non-resident Town officials, consultants to committees and petitioners be allowed to speak during the course of this Special Town Meeting:

Health Director/Agent	Scott Moles
Leslie McDonnell	Library Director
Mary Bousquet	Treasurer/Collector
Kathryn Peirce	Principal Assessor
Peter Tartakoff	Building Inspector
Brad Jackson	Superintendent of Schools
Sara Ahern	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Sean Reese	DPW Director
Tom Smith	Highway Superintendent
Karen Sherman	Town Planner
John Moore	Police Chief
Dona Walsh	Animal Control Officer
Chris Meo	Technology Director
Charles Katuska	Conservation Agent
Jeff Ritter	Town Administrator
Sharon Emerick	Town Accountant
Jean Boulette	Senior Center Director

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** Our Town By-Laws require that the Town Meeting vote to allow non-residents and non-voters to address the Town Meeting.

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Prior to Article 1, Ken Szajda, Finance Committee Chairperson, gave an update on the status of the Town's budget.

The quorum had grown to 125 at 7:45 PM.

**ARTICLE 1.           FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**       To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of supplementing various accounts of the Town's Fiscal Year 2016 annual budget, previously voted by the Town under Article 17 of the Warrant for the 2015 Annual Town Meeting; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town vote to make the following change in the fiscal year 2016 Omnibus Budget:

1.       raise and appropriate and transfer \$1,077.60 to account 01122-57500 Property Insurance
2.       raise and appropriate and transfer \$33,925.00 to account 01710-57610 Debt Payments
3.       raise and appropriate and transfer \$250,000 to account 01423-51000, 52000, 54000

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** Bill Dowd, 95 Shaw Farm Rd., asked why Labor Contracts are not brought before Town Meeting, because 10's of thousands of dollars are spent without any question.

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 1 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 2.           FUND TRANSFER TO AFFECT THE TAX RATE**       To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of reducing the amount of money to be raised through property taxes for fiscal year 2016; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town appropriate \$2,083,684 from Free Cash for the purposes stated in the article.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 2 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 3.           STABILIZATION FUND**       To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Stabilization Fund; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,833,684 for the Stabilization Fund.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 3 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 4.           CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUND**       To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Capital Expenditure Fund; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town Indefinitely postpone this Article.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote to indefinitely postpone Article 4.

**ARTICLE 5.           SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**       To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to hold a public auction for the purpose of disposing of surplus departmental equipment; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

**MOTION:** Moved that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to dispose of surplus equipment during Fiscal Year 2016.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 5 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 6.           CAPITAL BUDGET** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of capital expenditures, including replacement and new vehicles and equipment, for the following departments: Police, School, Fire, Technology, DPW (Water) Golf Course , Police Auxiliary and Town Clerk and authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell used equipment toward part of the purchase price; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town appropriate \$30,000 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for Fire Department Paratech Stabilization Equipment; appropriate \$80,323 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for two (2) fully equipped police cruisers; appropriate \$32,347 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for Police Department Tasers; appropriate \$58,339 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for Police Department Portable Radios; appropriate \$46,672 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for Portable Radios for the Police Auxiliary; appropriate \$247,627 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for School Department Capital Requests Listed in the “School Committee Approved FY16 Fall Capital Project Requests” Spreadsheet (available on the School Department website [www.holliston.k12.ma.us](http://www.holliston.k12.ma.us)); appropriate \$26,729 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for Network/Server Upgrades at Town Hall;

and to appropriate \$3,200 from the Pinecrest Capital Account for an aerator;

and to appropriate \$214,000 from the Water Surplus Account for water main upgrades at Oakridge Road and Birchwood Drive;

and to appropriate \$47,791 from the Water Surplus Account to replace a Water Department Vehicle

## **SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** John Varrell, 928 Washington St., asked if we got the correct life expectancy out of the boilers at the Placentino School. Brad Jackson, Supt. of Schools, stated that 2 of the 4 boilers at the Miller/Placentino complex have unrepairable leaks and they are working with the Town’s insurance company to resolve this and not need the funds. Mark Kaplan, 72 Norfolk St., said that he thought the Police Chief wasn’t moving forward with the Tasers. Jay Marsden, 32 Wendy Lane, said that since this issue came up last year, they have held meetings and public hearings to get feedback from the community, Mental Health Professionals, and the Police. The Board of Selectmen, feel that enough research was done to bring this item forward tonight. Mr. Kaplan made a motion to amend Article 6 to remove the Tasers from the Motion. The motion was seconded and discussion ensued. Mr. Kaplan said that in a climate of people overreacting to situations, he feels less safe having the Tasers, and he’s not convinced that our community need these at this time. Martin Sawzin, 45 School St., works with special needs groups and noted that someone with special needs may sometimes present themselves as being aggressive. He met with the Police Chief, and they came up with a plan to recognize this type of person. However, he still feels there are other populations that could be affected badly with a Taser, such as elderly and people with a heart condition. Jay Leary, 147 Karen Circle, noted that the Police are required to have extensive training before they can use them. Diana Vossberg, 19 Constitution Circle, congratulated Holliston Police Department for ranking 17<sup>th</sup> in the State, she then spoke against the use of Tasers. Chief Moore said that this is just a tool the department can use, it is not a substitute for talking to people and negotiations. Carl Damigella, 448 Underwood St., recalled that when Officer John Johnson was killed, due to the circumstances, he may be alive today if he had a Taser. Tom Anguish, 542 Winter St., feels that if our Police Chief agrees that this would be a necessary tool, we should trust and support his opinion.

The motion to amend was defeated by a hand count vote of 32 Yes and 79 No.

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 6 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 7. VOTING MACHINES (TABULATORS)**

**SPONSORED BY:** Town Clerk

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$15,000 for the purchase of four (4) voting machines (tabulators) to be used by the Town Clerk's Office for the tabulations in the four voting precincts; or to take any action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town appropriate \$15,000 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for the purpose of purchasing four (4) voting machines/tabulators.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 7 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 8. DOG LICENSING PROGRAM**

**SPONSORED BY:** Town Clerk

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$2,290 for the purchase of a dog licensing program to be used by the Town Clerk's Office; or to take any action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,290 for the purchase of software for dog licensing management.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 8 as stated in the Motion.

**ARTICLE 9. AMBULANCE PAGERS** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$23,000 from receipts reserved for appropriation account into the ambulance capital expense account; or take any action relative thereto.

**MOVE:** Moved that the Town vote to appropriate \$23,000 from the ambulance revolving fund for the purchase of ambulance/EMS pagers.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 9 as stated in the Motion.

**ARTICLE 10.**        **AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE FUND** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F ½, as amended, of the Massachusetts General Laws establishing an ambulance enterprise fund effective July 1, 2016 or the start of Fiscal Year 2017, or take any action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town Indefinitely postpone this Article.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed by voice vote to indefinitely postpone Article 10 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 11.**        **WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT (Oakridge Road and Birchwood Drive)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$214,000 for the replacement of water main(s) on Oakridge Road and Birchwood Drive; or take any action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town Indefinitely postpone this Article.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Passed by voice vote to Indefinitely Postpone Article 11 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 12.**        **WATER DEPARTMENT VEHICLE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$47,791 for the replacement of water main(s) on Oakridge Road and Birchwood Drive; or take any action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town Indefinitely postpone this Article.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Passed by voice vote to Indefinitely Postpone Article 12 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 13. REVOLVING FUND SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**SPONSORED BY: School Committee**

To see if the Town will vote, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ as amended, to authorize the creation of a Technology Repair and Replenishment account into which shall be deposited receipts received for an optional insurance policy for families who have borrowed student technology under the care and custody of the School Committee and from which account expenditures for the costs of repair, replacement, and future replenishment may be made with the approval of the School Committee in an amount not to exceed \$30,000; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town vote to accept G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ as amended to establish a Technology Repair and Replenishment account for the collection of deposits received and expenses incurred related to the repair, replacement, and replenishment for student technology with the approval of the School Committee not to exceed \$30,000.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** Charles Kaslow, 19 Kingsbury Lane, asked Mr. Dowd and Ms. Liberty why they opposed this article. Bill Dowd, 95 Shaw Farm Rd., felt that he didn't have enough information from the School Committee and that they did not present this to the Finance Comm., he also noted that the other person who opposed was Ms. Nersession not Ms. Liberty. Mark Shultz, 21 Wedgewood Dr., explained how a Revolving Fund operates, and that it is self funded. Ken Szajda, 676 Fiske St, noted that the Finance Committee Liason to the School Committee was made aware of this request and the liason reported back to the Finance Committee.

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed by voice vote to accept Article 13 as stated in the Motion.

**ARTICLE 14. SALE OF ANDREWS SCHOOL**

**SPONSORED BY: Board of Selectmen**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell the building and property known as the Andrews School, located on School Street and shown in the Assessor's records as Map 8E, Block 4, Lot 41 for the following purposes, market rate housing, market rate/affordable senior housing or demolition, or take any action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Moved that the Town Indefinitely postpone this Article.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed by voice vote to Indefinitely Postpone Article 14 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 15. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE BUDGET**

**SPONSORED BY: Community Preservation Committee**

To see if the Town will vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the fiscal year 2016 Community Preservation budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of community preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year; or take any action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** The Community Preservation Committee will make a motion at Town Meeting.

**MOVE:** To appropriate up to \$8,500 in fiscal 2016 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space (Recreation) Reserve to assist the Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust with the creation of public recreational access for the Wenakeening Woods conservation area through the construction of a public parking area off of Summer Street. Funds to be used for hardscaping (tree clearing and stumping, excavation and disposal, and purchase of materials (gravel and stone dust) with all funds to be expended within one year from date of appropriation.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** Frank Chamberlain, 333 Hollis St., gave an overview of the requests. John Varrell, 928 Washington St., feels that a parking lot is not what the CPA was created for.

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed by voice vote to accept this motion under Article 15.

**MOVE:** To appropriate up to \$22,000 in fiscal 2016 from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Preservation Reserve to assist the Town Clerk's office in the de-acidification, restoration and filming/digitization for the purpose of preserving and expanding/enhancing public access to historic town records. Records to be preserved consist of Selectmen's records Vol. 1-10, dated from 1724-1925, plus the index to records 1724-1850. The appropriation is requested subject to the understanding that the Town Clerk will seek to make copies of microfilm or digital media available to researchers through placement in the Town Library or other publicly accessible place in addition to the Town Clerk's office. All funds are to be expended within one year from date of appropriation.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed by voice vote to accept this motion under Article 15.

**MOVE:** To appropriate \$133,457 for fiscal 2016 from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve and \$16,543 from the Community Preservation Fund General Reserve for a total of \$150,000 to support the Holliston Housing Trust's programs to provide affordable housing in Holliston, and for the administrative and contract support of thereof.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed by voice vote to accept this motion under Article 15.

**MOVE:** To appropriate \$7,500 for fiscal 2016 from the Community Preservation Fund General Reserve to support the administrative functions of the Community Preservation Committee for the Town of Holliston, for expenses incurred in fiscal 2016.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed by voice vote to accept this motion under Article 15.

**ARTICLE 16: AMEND THE TOWN'S GENERAL BYLAWS, ARTICLE IV, FINANCE COMMITTEE, SECTIONS 2, 3 & 6**

**SPONSORED BY: Finance Committee**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article IV, Finance Committee, Section 2, as follows:

“Section 2. No person holding any other elected or appointed office and no person employed by the Town, ~~other than those who serve on the part-time call Fire Department,~~ shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Finance Committee, except that, any member of the Finance Committee who holds another appointed office on the effective date of this amendment shall be allowed to continue in such appointed office for so long as he or she remains as a member of the Finance Committee;”

and to vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article IV, Finance Committee, Section 3, as follows:

“Section 3: The Finance Committee shall, promptly after the Annual election and assumption of office of new members, meet for the purpose of organization, and shall elect from its members a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and ~~Secretary;~~ Clerk,”

and to vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article IV, Finance Committee, Section 6, as follows:

“Section 6: All officers, boards, or committees of Town, elected or appointed shall on request, furnish to the Finance Committee or any delegated member or authorized agent thereof any

desired ~~financial~~ information about Town affairs and Town funds under their control”, relevant to financial decisions.  
or take any action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town vote to approve the revisions to the Town’s General By-Laws as it is printed in the Warrant.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed by voice vote to accept Article 16 as stated in the motion.

**ARTICLE 17: TRANSFER OF LAND (Old Sawmill Estates) to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**SPONSORED BY: Planning Board & Conservation Commission**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody and control of a certain parcel of property shown as Lot 82 of Block 3 on Assessor’s Map 4 located off Courtland Street (Old Sawmill Estates Cluster Open Space), from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission; or take any action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town vote to transfer a parcel shown as Lot 82 of Block 3 on Assessor’s Map 4 located off Courtland Street (Old Sawmill Estates Cluster Open Space) from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission.

**SECONDED**

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed by voice vote to accept Article 17 as stated in the motion.

A true record, ATTEST:



Elizabeth T. Greendale, Town Clerk