

Town of Hamilton
Special Town Meeting
 Held
October 20, 2014
 At
Hamilton - Wenham Regional High School

At the close of registration on October 10, 2014 there were 5605 registered voters.

Precinct 1 – 48
 Precinct 2 – 39
 Precinct 3 – 36

Head Teller Linda Greeley 212 Moulton St

Appointed Tellers:

Left Donna Flint 82 Lake Dr
 Susan Lawrence 105 Rock Maple Ave

Center William Sullivan 66 Woodbury St
 Robert Bannon 45 Willow St

Right Warren Gray Jr 935 Bay Rd
 Arthur Crosbie Jr 944 Bay Rd

Front: Linda Greeley 212 Moulton St
 Thomas Lawnsby 36 Stopford St

Moderator declared a quorum present (75) and the Warrant returned showing it had been properly served, opened the Special Town Meeting at 7:11 P.M. with 123 voters checked and present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Moderator read: I have asked non-resident Town officials and those assisting the Selectmen or Finance Committee to be present here so they may be available to answer questions. Members of the press [and the video crew] have also been allowed to be present. I remind those allowed here to do nothing which may influence the counting of a vote.

All other non-registered visitors must be seated in the visitors area located in the left section of the auditorium.

Another procedural note, we record these proceedings so as to have an accurate record of the meeting and to help everybody know who is speaking and hear what is said. Therefore please

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use the microphones provided and, unless I recognize you by name, please give your name and address when you address the moderator.

An announcement as to Holds. Some of our motions will include a listing of items that will be voted on as a group unless a voter shouts HOLD on the item. When there is a shouted HOLD during the reading of a list for consideration by the meeting, I may condition acceptance of the Hold on obtaining the identity of the voter requesting the Hold. This information is for the minutes of the meeting and to save meeting time when a held item is considered later in the meeting. If I am unable to identify a voter requesting a Hold, I may disregard such purported action for a Hold.

All registered voters have been given a distinctive voter ID card when checking into the meeting. Do not lose or destroy this card. You will need to show the card on any counted vote. If you cannot show the card, your vote will not be counted.

The Moderator recognized Leandra DeFeo who provided a progress report on the work that she is performing under a Grant to the Town from the Mass. Cultural Council to study the feasibility of engaging a non-profit, § 501(c)(3) organization to assume an archival and management role at the Patton Homestead, and Rick Sprenkle, Chair of the Finance and Advisory Committee, who gave his Committee's Report and acknowledged John McWane for developing a three-year financial forecast for the Town. The Moderator recognized former Town Clerk Jane Wetson for her service to the Town of Hamilton.

SECTION 1: REPORTS

ARTICLE 2014/10 1-1 Reports

The Moderator recognized Scott Maddern. Moved by Scott Maddern, Chair Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the reports of Town Officers and committees be received and placed on file.

The Moderator called for the voice vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2014/10 1-2 Article for Consent Motion

The Moderator recognized Scott Maddern. Moved by Scott Maddern, Chair Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town take **no action** on this article.

The Moderator called for the voice vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

To take No Action

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2014/10 2-1 Classification/ Compensation Table

The Moderator noted that there are a few corrections to this table. All voters should have a copy of the Appendix A Compensation/Classification Table that has in the bottom left hand corner “STM Revised 10/20/14”.

The Moderator recognized Rick Sprenkle. Moved by Rick Sprenkle, Chair Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town amend the Personnel By-law by adopting changes to the classification and compensation table as set forth in the Revised **Appendix A** for the Special Town Meeting Warrant 10/20/14, a copy of which has been provided to the voters in attendance and given to the Town Clerk for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.

The Moderator called for the voice vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2014/10 2-2 General Fund Appropriation Transfer

The Moderator recognized Rick Sprenkle. Moved by Rick Sprenkle, Chair Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town transfer \$70,000 from Unclassified to General Government.

The Moderator called for the voice vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2014/10 2-3 Amendments to Annual Appropriations

The Moderator recognized Rick Sprenkle. Moved by Rick Sprenkle, Chair Finance and Advisory Committee, duly seconded, that the Town do the following:

- a. Raise and appropriate \$7,100 and transfer from Certified Free Cash \$5,900, both to General Government, and increase the General Government budget by \$83,000;
- b. Raise and appropriate \$6,700 and transfer from Certified Free Cash \$8,200, both to Protection of Persons and Property;

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- c. Raise and appropriate \$10,280 and transfer from Certified Free Cash \$4,500, both to Department of Public Works;
- d. And raise and appropriate \$15,918 and transfer from Certified Free Cash \$5,900, both to Health & Human Services.

Rick Sprenkle provided details about the article.

The Moderator called for the voice vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

ARTICLE 2014/10 2-4 Community Preservation Committee Budget

The Moderator asked voters to turn to **Appendix B** for the Special Town Meeting Warrant and he read the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee, and said shout out a “HOLD” for any item for which you would like separate discussion. The proposed financial actions are as follows:

Item 1 – Open Space and Recreation – to appropriate \$15,000 from FY’15 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund the renovations to the infrastructure of the big baseball diamond at Patton Park.

Item 2 – Historic Preservation – to appropriate \$10,000 from FY’15 Community Preservation Fund Revenues to fund the renovation and restoration of the antique cannons at Patton Park.

Item 3 – Historic Preservation – to transfer \$7,119.56 from the FY’13 appropriation for the Hamilton Meeting House to the Senior Center Balustrade appropriation.

There were no HOLDS.

The Moderator recognized Jennifer Scuteri. Moved by Jennifer Scuteri, Selectmen liaison and member of Community Preservation Committee, duly seconded, that the Town act on the Community Preservation Committee recommended specified projects and appropriate \$15,000 from FY ’15 community preservation fund revenues to fund the renovations to the infrastructure of the big baseball diamond at Patton Park, appropriate \$10,000 from FY ’15 community preservation fund revenues to fund the renovation and restoration of the antique cannons at Patton Park, and transfer \$7,119.56 from the FY ’13 appropriation for the Hamilton Meeting House to the Senior Center Balustrade appropriation.

The Moderator recognized Tom Catalano, Chair Community Preservation Committee. Tom Catalano recapped what Community Preservation Act does, and revenue raised through CPA surcharge and state match. Also, that there are abatements available for low and moderate income households based on income not assets. He also thanked former CPC Coordinator Christine Berry for her many years of service and Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena for assisting the Committee while it searches for a replacement coordinator.

The Moderator called for the voice vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

**ARTICLE 2014/10 2-5 Ladder Truck for Fire Department
Requires a 2/3rds Vote**

The Moderator recognized Charles Chivakos. Moved by Charles Chivakos, Finance and Advisory Committee member, duly seconded, that the Town appropriate \$940,000 to pay the costs of purchasing and equipping a new ladder/pumper truck for the use of the Fire Department, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town reserves, appropriates and authorizes the Assessors to use \$100,000.00 of available certified free cash to offset partially the cost, and the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow the remaining amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(9) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore.

Fire Chief Phil Stevens and Town Manager Michael Lombardo spoke to the article and need for the Town to replace the existing ladder truck for the Fire Department due to corrosion and delamination on the current truck. A quint truck is proposed to replace the ladder truck and pumper truck since it serves both functions as a combined aerial ladder and pumper truck with 100'+ ladder required to reach all buildings in Town. Charles Chivakos described the intent to use bonding for the truck for a 12-year period so that financing would be completed many years before the useful life of the vehicle is finished, and based on an \$86,000 annual assessment the tax increase for a median residential property of \$399,600 would be \$24.06, and the vehicle could be delivered in 60 days from the purchase order. He reiterated that the Finance and Advisory Committee recommend favorable action on this article. The Town will then have two pumper trucks and one ladder truck that is a pumper in the Fire Department. Town officials responded to inquiries from Bob Bullivant, 101 Woodbury Street, and Jack Lawrence, 105 Rock Maple, relative to lack of availability of used quint trucks, and research being done on truck wash down capabilities for public safety building to extend longevity of useable life of vehicle.

The Moderator noted that since debt would be incurred for the purchase of the quint truck a 2/3rds vote was required.

The Moderator called for a card vote.

CARD VOTE: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Two-thirds requirement was met as declared by the Moderator

SECTION 3: PLANNING/ZONING ACTIONS

None.

SECTION 4: TOWN BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 2014/10 4-1 Council on Aging By-law

The Moderator recognized Scott Maddern. Moved by Scott Maddern, Chair Board of Selectmen, duly seconded, that the Town amend Town By-law Ch. XXXIII – Council on Aging by deleting the current language of the by-law and replacing it with the language set forth in **Appendix C** for the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Council on Aging Director Marybeth Lawton described how the article brings the 1966 language up-to-date in the by-law.

The Moderator called for the voice vote.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION PASSES

SECTION 5: OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ACTIONS

None.

SECTION 6: CLOSING FINANCIAL ACTIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator said: This Special Town Meeting is dissolved at 8:05 p.m.

A TRUE COPY: ATTEST:

Andrea J. Carlson
Town Clerk