



**Annual Town Meeting
April 2, 2022
9:00 am
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School**

At the close of voter registration on March 11, 2022 there were 5669 registered voters. There were 163 present:

Precinct 1 - 100

Precinct 2 - 63

William Bowler, Town Moderator, stated that the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting has been properly posted, a quorum is present, and the April 2, 2022 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Hamilton is open. Mr. Bowler noted his pleasure with having the Town Meeting inside the auditorium. He stated that there will be tellers appointed to help with the counting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Bowler started with some general reminders: First, registered voter in Hamilton should have picked up a voting clicker and if they did not should get one. Second, cell phones should be silenced and voters should leave the meeting to make a call. Third, non-voters are welcomed at the Town Meeting but are asked to sit in the visitors' area at the back of the auditorium.

Mr. Bowler introduced the officials who were sitting at the front of Town Meeting: Tom McEnaney (KP Law, Town Counsel), Carin Kale (Town Clerk), Joe Domelowicz (Town Manager), Alex Magee (Finance Director), Bill Olson (Select Board, Chair), Jamie Knudsen (Select Board, Vice Chair), Darcy Dale (Select Board), Rosemary Kennedy (Select Board), Shawn Farrell (Select Board), Christina Schenk-Hargrove (FinCom, Chair), John Pruellage (FinCom), Nick Tensen (FinCom), and John McGrath (FinCom).

Mr. Bowler read through various points: Non-resident Town officials and those assisting the Select Board or Finance Committee are present to answer questions. Members of the press (and the video crew) have also been allowed to be present. The agenda, prepared by the Select Board, is the Warrant and copies are available.

Mr. Bowler spoke about Town Meeting procedures: To bring an agenda item before the meeting, he will recognize a member of the sponsoring board, committee, or individual so they can make a motion. If the motion is seconded, he will recognize the proponent to speak. When done, he will open discussion up to the audience who can comment by standing at one of the microphones, ask to be recognized and state their name and address. Comments and questions must be within the 'the four corners of the motion,' no more than three minutes and are to be on the merits of the motion and not

2 | Annual Town Meeting April 2, 2022.

about any person who is in favor of or against the motion. Motions to amend must be submitted to the Town Clerk in writing. If assistance in framing a motion to amend is needed, Town Counsel will assist. Only one amendment may be pending at the same time. A vote is first taken on the amendment and then on the main motion.

Mr. Bowler spoke about voting procedures: Votes will be counted using the electronic voting clickers. In the unlikely event that there is trouble with the new technology, votes will be counted by raising paper voter cards. He will decide visually whether there is the necessary majority or 2/3 vote. If in doubt, or seven voters question the vote, votes will be counted by tellers. The use of the clickers was demonstrated and determined to be in working order.

SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 2022/4 1-2 Reports

To hear reports of Town Officers and selected committees and to take action thereon or relative thereto. Reports will appear in the Town Report for Calendar Year 2021 and be posted to the Town of Hamilton Website. Town Moderator recognized Bill Olson (Chair, Select Board).

Bill Olson said: "I move that the reports of Town Officers and Committees be received and placed on file. Is there a second?" Seconded.

Bill Olson reflected on those suffering in the world today before he said: "Good morning and welcome to our ATM 2022. First of all I want to thank you all for being here. It's great to be inside and see all your faces but more importantly thank you for being part of this great Town of Hamilton and being here today to help us all make the decisions that will strengthen and improve this town. I think the last two years have taught each of us many different things as well as proven how resilient we all are. The one thing I take away is that during trying times, we may not always agree on every decision or every issue but we do have one thing in common, the best interest of our community. It is important for all of us to share our thoughts, listen to others, and to build consensus together.

One of the things we have done over the last year as a Select Board is change our name from Board of Selectmen to Select Board as it better represents who we are and what we do and I think our board has proven that although we come from different backgrounds and different motivations, we debate each issue until we find common ground. That has been our success. I want to thank the rest of the Select Board for their tireless work over the last two years to make sure our town has strong leadership and remains in a strong position. I want to thank all the employees of the town and the school district for all the extra effort put in since March of 2020 to make sure none of our services were interrupted. I want to specifically thank Town Manager Joe Domelowicz, Chief Stevens, and Chief Brunet for their proactive approach to public safety. I want to thank all our town departments, clerk office, boards, committees (over 40 of them) and volunteers who have put tireless hours into town events, town planning, and town goals. We were one of the safest communities during the pandemic and continue to be a leader in vaccination rollouts. We have done a lot over the last year. Most importantly working to maintain the stability of our government through the pandemic.

In terms of financials, we have met all of our financial and budget goals this year, less than five years after we set them. All of our reserve and stabilization funds are at their goal. We have worked to stabilize our tax rate and this year we are well under the override limits. We have worked to be transparent with the town and with the school committee to challenge all costs and expenditures. We have a strong capital plan and are addressing needs as they happen. We have a new Director of

3 | Annual Town Meeting April 2, 2022.

Finance who will help improve on this work and we have just completed an audit showing no issues and maintaining our AAA bond rating.

In terms of revenue, after much planning, we have added over a dozen homes at Canter Brook which are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in new tax revenue this year and we are working with developers on new opportunities. We are about to bring online the new project on Willow Street that will have much needed rental units, senior, housing, affordable units, and retail.

In terms of town strategy, efficiency, and our continued partnership with Wenham and neighboring communities, we have combined the building departments, regionalized health department needs as well as human resources, and we have joined a collaborative to leverage the communities around us in improving our technology infrastructure. We will continue to further this strategy. We have hired a new Council on Aging Director, created the Human Rights Committee, and started to schedule great events at the Patton Estate.

In terms of improving our community, we have continued to make strides with green initiatives by maintaining composting, adding solar panels on town properties, retrofitting LED street lighting, and aggregating energy costs. We also recently invested in improvements to our water infrastructure, improvements to Patton Park, and the Patton Estate such as tennis and basketball courts, and approved additional affordable housing units. We have also continued to support and sponsor community events with shop local and the community house, which included the incredible fall festival last year. In terms of future planning, we are in the middle of our Master Plan which has been a lot of hard work. Rosemary Kennedy will speak to it.”

Town Moderator recognized Christina Schenk-Hargrove (Chair, Finance & Advisory Committee). Christina Schenk-Hargrove said, “The Finance and Advisory Committee is established by State law and by the Town’s Bylaws. The committee’s purpose is to consider ‘any or all municipal questions for the purpose of making reports or recommendations to the town.’ I like to say that the only power we have is to complain.

The Committee has five members who are appointed by the Town Moderator and the Select Board. We volunteer to review all different kinds of issues that affect the Town and make recommendations. One of our major products each year is our book of recommendations, which is sent to residents in the mail with the Warrant. Before making these recommendations, we spend time participating in the Town’s budget process, understanding and evaluating every part of the budget. We meet with the School Administration and the School Committee several times to exchange information about both budgets. For non-budget Warrant articles, we do our due diligence, too, getting input from proponents and opponents, and gathering whatever information we feel we need to be able to reach an educated position.

All through the year, we monitor various subjects, like current and prospective development, the Patton Homestead, and the Hamilton Development Corporation. In the past, we’ve done trash and recycling. We meet about every other week, hosting individuals with knowledge or information about those subjects. We also attend the meetings of other town committees and town administrators to keep informed of what is going on.

4 | Annual Town Meeting April 2, 2022.

In all of these efforts, we are working as the guardians of your interests, the public interest, so that if anything is amiss, we can raise the alarm. I think I speak for all of us when I say that the opportunity to contribute to the welfare of our Town is of significant personal value to each of us. Thank you to all of our Town volunteers, Town employees, elected officials and to each of you for being here today.”

Town Moderator recognized Rosemary Kennedy.

Rosemary Kennedy reviewed the components of a Master Plan. Jack Lawrence (Master Plan Committee) said the Master Plan would reflect where the town wanted to go. More overrides were forthcoming and there was a need to be creative to continue the quality of life as the town changed. Mr. Lawrence encouraged participation by residents and asked residents to take the survey provided.

Electronic Vote: 123 in favor, 0 against. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2022/4 1-3 Articles for Consent Motion

To see if the Town will consolidate in one consent motion containing the motions for those articles that, in the opinion of the Moderator, are not controversial and can be passed without debate, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator said: “I will now read the list of articles to be taken up and voted on as one motion. If you want to ask questions or make comments on an article, shout out ‘Hold’ as the list is read. Any article that is held will be deleted from the Consent Motion and taken up and considered according to its place on the Warrant: Article 2022/4 2-1; Article 2022/4 2-5; Article 2022/4 2-6 (Hold); Article 2022/4 2-7; Article 2022/4 2-8; Article 2022/4 2-14.”

Town Moderator recognized Bill Olson.

Bill Olson said: “I move that the articles included on the list of Articles for Consent Motion for this 2022 Annual Town Meeting, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk to be filed with the minutes of this meeting, be approved by one vote, each motion to be deemed a separate action under the Warrant Article having the same corresponding number, excepting Article 2022/4 2-6.” Seconded.

Electronic Vote: 104 in favor, 4 against. Motion passes.

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2021/5 2-2 Prior Year Bills

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum of money to pay any unpaid bills incurred in prior years, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (Expected request \$9,218.80)

Town Moderator noted the article required a 4/5th vote.

Town Moderator recognized Christina Schenk-Hargrove.

Christina Schenk-Hargrove said: “I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$9,218.80 to pay unpaid bills from Northeast Electrical and DeRosa Environmental for the Electrical Project at Patton Homestead and Environmental Survey work at the landfill, in the amounts of \$1,718.80 and \$7,500, respectively.” Seconded.

Christina Schenk-Hargrove noted that both bills were incurred subsequent to the deadline for the

5 | Annual Town Meeting April 2, 2022.

previous year.

Electronic Vote: 120 in favor, 3 against. A 4/5ths majority was established. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-3 General Town Departmental Appropriations

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to defray the expenses of schools and all other Town expenses for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected requests Town - \$13,078,993 and all educational expenses, including HWRSD and ENSATSD - \$22,530,203*).

Town Moderator said: "This is our annual general Town and School omnibus appropriations article."

Town Moderator said: "I recognized Eric Tracy, Superintendent of Schools, to report on the School District Budget."

Eric Tracy thanked various committees and boards for the cooperation and transparency needed to present a fiscally responsible budget. Hamilton's assessment for the budget for the FY23 school year was \$22,213,519. The previous budget had been reduced by \$1.24M with a result of losing 22 positions and various programs. The current budget allowed for the recovering of losses. There was a \$3.1M surplus from FY20 due to COVID keeping the schools out of session. Some positions were left unfilled. Currently there was an increase in Chapter 70 State aid. The Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) account, which was used to offset payment of retirees' benefits was paid out of the Operating Budget. The Schools would use \$2M to fund the OPEB account to fund the \$40M liability. \$325,000 would be used for repairs and ADA updates. \$775,000 of the \$3.1M excess would be returned to the towns. The Gross Summary sheet illustrated \$42,859,392 with four projects proposed for \$571,960 of which Hamilton's assessment was \$373,885. The budget was lower than previous increases, which were 3.31% over the last few years. Hamilton had an increase in children which resulted in an increase in assessment. Dr. Tracy noted the new Cutler School project and that athletic field improvements would need support over the next few years.

Town Moderator said: "I recognized Joe Domelowicz, Town Manager to report on the Town Budget." Joe Domelowicz and Alex Magee (Finance Director) discussed the \$36,435,101 budget for Town and Schools that featured an increase of \$1.1M over the last year. Town costs increased by 2.98%, which was due to raises for staff and other items such as: debt services, insurance, etc. The budget proposal was displayed. A pie chart showed each portion of expenses. Education for Regional and Essex North Shore Technical schools was the major portion. A slide illustrated individual department increases. Mr. Magee noted that 90% of revenues were derived from property tax and if water were included, the revenue directly from residents was 98%. Only 2.46% of revenue was from State aid and less than 1% from other sources. Changes in revenues were shown. The tax levy of \$842,000 increase was just under 2.5% due to an increase in State aid. Local receipts (motor vehicle excise) increased by \$100,000. An allowance for abatement (uncollected tax) was \$5,000. Excess Levy Capacity analysis was discussed and Mr. Magee noted that the Town had regained \$400,000, which resulted in not having the taxes as close to the maximum as was done in previous years.

Town Moderator said: "I will now read each appropriation and for any item a voter would like to discuss separately, please shout out 'hold'."

\$ 2,296,762.72 for General Town Government

\$ 3,502,800.27 for Public Safety

6 | Annual Town Meeting April 2, 2022.

\$22,213,591.00 for Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District
\$ 316,612.00 for Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District
\$ 2,249,675.94 for Department of Public Works
\$ 338,470.00 for Health and Human Services
\$ 1,082,247.12 for Culture and Recreation (Hold)
\$ 3,609,036.57 for Unclassified
Totaling \$35,609,196.00.

Town Moderator said: "I recognize John Pruellage."

John Pruellage said: "I move that the Town raise and appropriate the sums read by the Moderator for Schools and all other Town expenses which are set forth in the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget in Appendix B of the 2022 Appendix Book and Appendix C of the 2022 Appendix Book with the corrections read by the Moderator excepting those items held." Seconded.

John Pruellage said that the FinCom unanimously supported the budget, which increased 3.2% from the previous year. The Town's increase was about 3% due to personnel expense, which accounted for 60% of the Town's budget. Other increases were elections expenses and DPW work, which were offset by Financial Reserve transfers. Once reserves were netted out, the true increase was 3.4%. School assessment increased 3.3% due in part to the shift in enrollment toward Hamilton. \$3.1 was funded from Excess and Deficiencies (E&D) from two years prior. \$2M would be applied to OPEB (\$56M liability) and the action would save the Towns \$10M over time. The \$775,000 from the E&D fund was required to be returned to the towns, which Mr. Pruellage thought was great for this year but would not be sustainable from year to year. The real operational spending increased by almost 4%. Mr. Pruellage said this year's budget was fiscally responsible. No over-ride was needed. Growth rate was still above 2.5%, which would lead to much higher tax rates unless another revenue source were found to offset the costs. Mr. Pruellage was encouraged by the work of the Town Manager, department heads, and the Schools during the budget process.

A Hold had been placed on Culture and Recreation by Virginia Cookson (318 Forest St.) who questioned how the money had been divided. Alex Magee responded that two departments, the library and recreation were shared with Wenham. Hamilton's share of the library budget was \$908,347 and \$173,900 for the recreation department. Ms. Cookson released her hold. Lynnette Fallon (Goodhue St.) thanked the FinCom for their written report and thanked the Town for the pie charts and explanatory material.

Town Moderator re-read the totals.

Electronic Vote: 125 in favor, 12 against. Motion passes.

Town Moderator recognized Jamie Belsito, State Representative.

Jamie Belsito acknowledged the Town Meeting process and thanked members of the committees, Town Moderator, Town Manager and Department of Health. Ms. Belsito addressed water and other projects that had partnerships with the State and Federal governments. Ms. Belsito said local schools needed to be as well represented as city schools via the Rural School caucus. Ms. Belsito said regional transportation would be funded 90 to 95% in the future. Ms. Belsito noted that updated election rules were in a conference committee. She acknowledged the work of Town Clerks and said that Clerks can't be asked to do more with less and that she is asking for more money for Clerks. Ms. Belsito

7 | Annual Town Meeting April 2, 2022.

noted the SPED Circuit Breaker, the Cutler School application, and that she would “fiercely” represent the Town of Hamilton in the State capital halls.

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-4 Capital Expenditures

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding capital expenditures and further, to authorize the Town Manager to administer and expend funds from said accounts, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$550,905.00*)

Town Moderator recognized Rosemary Kennedy.

Rosemary Kennedy said: “I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$550,905 from Free Cash to fund the purchases and projects identified in the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Projects Plan, with the exception of the Patton Park Master Plan, which will be funded in a separate article. The Capital Projects Plan is set forth in Appendix D of the 2022 Appendix Book. Seconded.

Town Moderator recognized Nick Tensen.

Nick Tensen recognized the Capital Committee as a group that scrutinized capital requests for this year and the future. The Capital Committee had requested \$550,905 for the DPW garage (\$225,000), roads/sidewalks (\$150,000), GIS management system (\$61,500), library IT (\$27,405), patrol car (\$57,000) and eco repeaters (\$28,000). Mr. Tensen referred to the \$4.1M in free cash, which would be used to avoid funding the projects through debt and going into Proposition 2 and 1/2 territory.

Marc Johnson (Patton Drive) suggested reviewing a long term road plan within the Capital Plan. Chris Ellos (Woodland Mead) asked about Town Hall construction. Joe Domelowicz responded that it could be a FY 24 project and it would not be before the voters this year. The Select Board would determine if the project would be brought back. Rosemary Kennedy said she was grateful to the Capital Committee for prioritizing the needs of the town and thanked both the FinCom and the Capital Committee.

Electronic Vote: 133 in favor, 7 against. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-6 Annual Financial Actions

To see if the Town will authorize the following financial actions, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

- A. To transfer \$2,000 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to the General Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- B. To transfer \$447,893 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the General Fund to be used for indirect expenses;
- C. To transfer \$108 from the Clark Fund to the Conservation Trust fund for conservation related expenses.

Town Moderator recognized Christina Schenk-Hargrove.

Christina Schenk-Hargrove said: “I move that the Town authorize the following financial transfers:

- A. To transfer \$2,000 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to the General Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- B. To transfer \$447,893 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the General Fund to be used for indirect expenses;

8 | Annual Town Meeting April 2, 2022.

- C. To transfer \$108 from the Clark Fund to the Conservation Trust fund for conservation related expenses.”

Seconded.

Christina Schenk-Hargrove explained the transfers were a way to reduce the tax rate. Patti Miller (Maple Ave) asked why the Water Enterprise Fund was not being used only for water. Alex Magee responded that it was a separate fund \$2M for the delivery of water and service to residents. Administrative and operational efforts were indirect cost allocations that offset time various people in other departments spent to continue the function of the water enterprise.

Electronic Vote: 128 in favor, 5 against. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-9 Patton Homestead Operating Budget

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$75,000 to defray the expenses of the FY2023 Patton Homestead Budget, as set forth in Appendix F, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$75,000*). (The budget appears as Appendix F to the 2022 Appendix Book.)

Town Moderator recognized Shawn Farrell.

Shawn Farrell said: “I move that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to defray the expenses of the Patton Homestead for FY2023 and further to approve the FY2023 Patton Homestead Enterprise Fund Budget, as set forth in Appendix F to the 2022 Appendix Book.”

Seconded.

Town Moderator recognized John McGrath.

John McGrath explained that the FinCom’s hope was that the property would be self-sufficient, however, usage was down due to the virus. A study group was formed to review the operation and potential of the property. The group would return to the FinCom and Select Board with recommendations and options as to what could be done with the property.

Electronic Vote: 116 in favor, 24 against. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-10 Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$20,000 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$20,000*).

Town Moderator recognized Nick Tensen.

Nick Tensen said: “I move that the Town transfer the sum of \$20,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.” Seconded.

Nick Tensen explained the stabilization fund was established as a backup for emergency funds with 5% of the Town Budget having been fulfilled. As the Town was \$20,000 short of the proposed budget, the void would be paid for out of the fund.

Town Moderator announced the approval would be a 2/3rds vote.

Electronic Vote: 128 in favor, 2 against. A 2/3rds majority was established. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-11 Community Preservation Budget

To see if the Town will act on the Report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation Budget and specified other projects and appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from community preservation fund annual revenues, specific reserves or other available funds for the 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, as set forth in Appendix G, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. [The Budget appears as Appendix G of the 2022 Appendix Book.]

Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Jay Butler "I move that the Town approve Article 2-11 as printed in the Warrant." Seconded.

Jay Butler explained the article was a combination of administrative and internal actions for the transferring of funds between sub accounts. Of the \$1.25M bond for the Donovan fields, \$107,200 would be paid this year with the bond being paid in full in 2032.

Electronic Vote: 114 in favor, 10 against. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 2021/4 2-12 Community Preservation – Patton Park Master Plan

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate \$30,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space and Recreation Account for the purpose of funding a master plan for Patton Park, any funds from this appropriation will be returned to the Community Preservation Fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Jay Butler read: "I move that the Town approve Article 2-12 as printed in the Warrant." Seconded.

Jay Butler explained the grant request was from the Hamilton DPW and Joint Hamilton/Wenham Recreation Committee to hire a landscape architect to develop a Master Plan for the park. Potential cost of \$200,000 for implementation of the plans was presumed but would be discussed and determined at a future date.

Electronic Vote: 120 in favor, 16 against. Motion carries.

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-13 Community Preservation – Community House Centennial Square

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate the sum of \$35,061.52 from the Community Preservation Open Space and Recreation Reserve Account and \$114,938.48 from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund Balance for a total of \$150,000 to the Community House as a grant for the purpose of designing and constructing the Community House Centennial Square project, which consists of the installation of a patio and improvements to the grounds of the Community House; and further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Community House setting the terms for such grant, any funds from this appropriation will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee

10 | Annual Town Meeting April 2, 2022.

determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Jay Butler said: "I move that the Town approve Article 2-13 as written in the Warrant." Seconded.

Town Moderator recognized Steve Decatur.

Steve Decatur (Horseshoe Lane) reviewed the history of the Community House and how the community used the facility. Centennial Square would become an outdoor space for public use, entertainment, markets, and events, which would enhance the viability of the downtown area. In partnership with Hamilton Development Corporation, the space would help local businesses grow their businesses. Along with funding from both Hamilton and Wenham Community Preservation grants and the Hamilton Development Corporation funding, one half of the cost would be raised privately.

Electronic Vote: 109 in favor, 15 against. Motion passes.

SECTION 3: OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2022/4 3-1 Climate Change Resolution

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a non-binding resolution developed by the Hamilton-Wenham Climate Action Team, a citizen-led group of volunteers, that establishes a goal for the municipal government of the Town of Hamilton to achieve Net Zero Carbon Energy by no later than 2040, with the following interim measurable goals: 20% reduction in fossil fuels by 2025 (compared to 2009 baseline), 50% by 2030, and 75% by 2035; provided that these goals shall only apply to municipal and school operations, including the Town's fleet of vehicles; and further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into any agreements upon such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate related to such resolution, including but not limited to any grant agreements with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Resources or any other funding agency, to achieve the resolution's goals, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator recognized Darcy Dale.

Darcy Dale said: "I move that the Town approve Article 3-1 as printed in the Warrant." Seconded.

Darcy Dale said the article was a non-binding resolution establishing goals for the reduction of fossil fuels to achieve net zero carbon energy for the Town and Schools by 2040. The article allows authorization by the Select Board to enter into agreements to achieve the goals and any grant agreement to assist the Town in the regard. The article did not affect private property.

Town Moderator recognized John McGrath. John McGrath said the FinCom unanimously approved the article. The resolution set goals, talks about collaborative and coordinated planning with decisions being made from that process and support for energy efficiency and strategies.

Scott Regan (22 Elliot St.) said all energy consumed by town vehicles or buildings would be produced via renewable resources and if any were consumed via fossil fuels, an offset would be produced through renewable credits. A climate action committee would create a plan to achieve goals and strategies (conservation and efficiency, replace fossil fuels with non-carbon sources, electrify all municipal buildings and vehicles, reduce waste produced by promoting composting and plastic reduction).

Virginia Cookson (318 Forest St.) had concerns with initiatives for creating committee by

11 | Annual Town Meeting April 2, 2022.

appointment and that State conditions might be imposed as they would be the source of funding.

Scott Regan (22 Elliot St.) noted that the State would place the Town higher on its funding list if a regional approach was used.

Nick Tensen thanked Virginia Cookson for her noting the issue of State funding impacts.

Chris Ellos asked for a concrete example of purchasing energy efficient vehicles as the Town is purchasing an SUV currently. Joe Domelowicz said the Town would look for an opportunity for replacing vehicles with electric vehicles along with charging stations after the Capital Committee and FinCom reviewed the proposal.

Bill Olson said the Select Board had reviewed the potential of buying an electric vehicle for this Town Meeting but had decided it was not the time.

Al DeGroot (Chebacco Road) said it was a moral obligation to take issues seriously but wanted to add the importance of open space and the protection of environments in the future.

Bob Knowles (Wenham) discussed State and Federal incentives for solar facilities as well as permitting and zoning issues for siting those facilities at industrial sites rather than open space locations.

Joe Domelowicz explained that the article was to develop a resolution.

Greg Horner (Home St.) added that questions would be taken up by the committee as it is formed.

Gretel Clark (Bay Road) said the existing composting in separate bins was one-fourth of the plan and urged residents to continue the process.

Deb Safford (Maple St.) questioned the non-binding resolution and the establishment of goals with no tax impact currently but wondered about future tax changes. Ms. Safford noted the cost of ownership such as batteries and electricity. Joe Domelowicz said spending money required the Town Manager to present any proposal to the Select Board, the FinCom, and eventually Town Meeting for approval. A resident said there was a transition between now and 2040 but urged the town to do their part.

Rick Mitchell made a motion to call the motion. The Moderator said a motion to call the question was not debatable and asked for a second. Seconded.

Voice vote (because the electronic system was not set up for a vote to move the question): unclear. Moderator called for a paper vote.

Paper voting card Vote: Majority in favor to terminate debate. Motion carries.

The Moderator called for a vote on the warrant article, Climate Change Resolution.

Electronic Vote: 104 in favor of the main article, 21 against. Motion carries.

The Moderator recognized Joe Domelowicz.

Joe Domelowicz noted April was Autism Awareness month. On April 26, 2022 the Police were partnering with Five Sons Pizza to deliver orders and for a percentage of orders to be donated to the school program.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator said: "I will now accept a Motion to dissolve."
So Moved. Seconded.

Voice vote: majority in favor. Meeting is adjourned.

This Annual Town Meeting was dissolved at 11:06 am on April 2, 2022.

ADDENDUM

ARTICLE 2022/4 1-3 Consent Motion Articles included the following articles:

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-1. Compensation/Classification Table

To see if the Town will amend the Personnel Bylaw by adopting changes to the classification and compensation table as set forth in Appendix A, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-5. Water Enterprise Budget

To see if the Town will approve the FY2023 Water Enterprise Budget, as set forth in Appendix E, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$2,022,873*)

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-7. Hamilton Development Corporation

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to the Hamilton Development Corporation, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$55,000*)

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-8. OPEB Trust Fund.

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 for the purpose of funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2022/4 2-14. Community Preservation Transfers.

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to transfer from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$73,000 to the Historic Preservation Reserve Account and an additional \$8,000 to Community Housing Reserves Account, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Carin A. Hale
TOWN CLERK