

The following is a list of warrant articles and the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen, the Advisory Board and the Capital Planning Committee for the October 27, 2015 Special Town Meeting.

| Article | Description | Board of Selectmen Recommend | Advisory Board Recommend | Capital Planning Recommend |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Art. 1 | Replace bulletproof vests for police | YES | YES | N/A |
| Art. 2 | Replace police electronic control weapon (Tasers) and related equipment | YES | YES | N/A |
| Art. 3 | Pay sick leave buyback cost associated with employee retirement | YES | YES | N/A |
| Art. 4 | Pay costs associated with retirement benefits for Town Clerk | YES | YES | N/A |
| Art. 5 | Increase sewer budget by \$40,000- for sewer charges | YES | YES | N/A |
| Art. 6 | AWRSD regional agreement amendment | TBD | TBD | N/A |
| Art. 7 | Put the railroad property under the control of the recreation for purposes of developing a rail trail | YES | YES | N/A |

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
PROCEEDING OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 27, 2015

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Ashburnham met at Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium on October 27, 2015. Moderator, Ronald Reed presided at the meeting which was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The veterans at the meeting were recognized for their service to our country. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Also recognized was Linda Ramsdell, Town Clerk who is retiring after 30 years of service to the town. New Town Clerk, Michelle Johnson was introduced.

Article 1.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to purchase police officer bullet resistant vests, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by Town Administrator)

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Explanation: The Police Department is requesting \$6,000 to replace 6 police officer's bullet resistant vest/body armor. The material in these vests begin to breakdown and lose their full protection in about 3 years. The Department of Justice recommends that these vests be replaced every 3 to 5 years. The vests being replaced are currently 4 years old. Each vest is specifically measured, cut, and fitted to a particular officer. The price of the vests is on the state bid list and the department applies for 50% reimbursement from the Federal Government, which if received will be turned into the town's general fund.

Article 1 Voted: On motion of Duncan Phye it was voted to transfer from available funds (free cash) the sum of \$6,000 to purchase 6 police officers bullet resistant vest/body armors for the police department.

Unanimous "YES"

Article 2.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to purchase electronic controlled weapons (Tasers) and related equipment, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by Town Administrator)

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Explanation: The Police Department is requesting \$12,000 to replace its current Electronic Control Weapons (Tasers) and related equipment. The department's Tasers are almost 5 years old and are no longer covered under warranty or supported by Taser International. The new Taser's are all digital technology and allows for digital evidence management through provided software. They have updated new functions that lower the liability to the Town and allows an officer the capability to bring a volatile situation under control in a non-lethal way that has proven to reduce injuries to police officers and the subjects involved.

Article 2 Voted: On the motion of Kyle Johnson it was voted to transfer from available funds (free cash) the sum of \$12,000 to purchase electronic controlled weapons (Tasers) and related equipment for the police department.

Majority "YES"

Article 3.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds (free cash) a sum of money to pay the employee sick leave buyback retirement benefit, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Explanation: Qualified employees upon retirement from Ashburnham can receive one-half of their accumulated sick time up to 960 hours. This has been a benefit for many years that in 2009 with the addition of short and long disability for non-union personnel was capped. Employees that are hired after July 1, 2009 are no longer eligible for this benefit. With the current employees, total exposure for the "sick leave buyback" retirement benefit is at about \$123,000. Over the next 5 years it is projected that

through retirements \$45,000 will be required. We started funding this account last year and it is hoped that by putting monies into it yearly it will not add stress to our otherwise tight finances.

Article 3 Voted: On motion of Leo Janssens II it was voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$10,000 to pay employee sick leave buyback retirement benefit.

Unanimous "YES"

Article 4.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, (free cash) a sum of money to account number 11161-51100 to pay the retirement benefit costs for the Town Clerk, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Explanation: *On October 31, 2015 Linda Ramsdell will retire as Town Clerk for the Town of Ashburnham. We are asking the Town to vote to transfer \$3,000.00 to the Town Clerk wage account to help cover the additional costs of overlapping/training of the new Town Clerk, retiree healthcare, and unused vacation benefit. Linda's retirement was unknown at our Annual Town Meeting and was therefore not budgeted.*

Article 4 Voted: On motion of Duncan Phyfe it was voted to transfer from available free cash a sum of \$3,000 to account number 11161-51100, Town Clerk wages account, Town Clerk wages account.

Unanimous "YES"

Article 5.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the budget approved for the Sewer Department under Article 12 of the May 5, 2015 Annual Town Meeting to change the "Sewer Transportation" from \$260,000 to \$300,000. The total budget will increase from \$830,940 to \$870,940, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by Town Administrator)

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Explanation: *The City of Gardner has been the treatment center for our sewerage for the past twenty years. For FY16 they have increased our sewer rate by approximately 10% from \$4.10 to \$4.50 per hundred cubic feet (approximately 748 gallons). The rate increase is the first in five (5) years and it is projected to increase 5% over the next two years. This increase only affects the sewer users in town and the Ashburnham sewer proposed rate will increase to \$13.75/Hcuft which is \$0.15 greater than the \$13.60/Hcuft rate in 2008.*

Article 5 Voted: On motion of Bill Johnson it was voted to amend the budget approved for the Sewer Department under Article 12 of the May 5, 2015 Annual Town Meeting from \$830,940 to \$870,940.

Majority "YES"

Article 6.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Ashburnham/ Westminster Regional School Agreement, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Regional School District)

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Explanation: *Waiting for Final revision from District.*

Article 6 Voted: On the motion of Leo Janssens II it was voted to **PASS OVER** this article.

Unanimous "YES"

Article 7.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer custody of the portion of the rail trail consisting of approximately 2.5 miles from the center of Ashburnham to South Ashburnham as shown on Assessor's Map 61, Parcel

47; Map 20, Parcel 52 a portion thereof; Parcel 93 a portion thereof, and Parcel 95 to the Ashburnham Parks and Recreation Committee for the purpose of constructing and maintaining the rail trail, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Explanation: The town owns this property, but there was never a vote to authorize any group to have governance over this land or with a purpose in mind. The current Rail Trail committee is a private organization that would like to start work on establishing this rail trail that will extend from the current DPW site to down by Mr. Mike's in South Ashburnham. Raising funds will be a major endeavor which as a town committee could be more constrained. Discussion with the leaders of both the recreation department and the rail trail committee have indicated that they would like to work together with the Park and Recreation overseeing the improvements and the Rail Trail committee committing to do the work. With the evolution of the center of town, opening up a passageway to other sections of town will truly enhance the town's vision.

Article 7 Voted: On motion of Leo Janssens II it was voted to transfer custody of the portion of the rail trail consisting of approximately 2.5 miles from the center of Ashburnham to South Ashburnham as shown on Assessor's Map 61, Parcel 47; Map 20, Parcel 52 a portion thereof; Parcel 93 a portion thereof, and Parcel 95 to the Ashburnham Parks and Recreation Committee for the purpose of constructing and maintaining the rail trail.

Unanimous "YES"

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda A. Ramsdell, CMMC
Town Clerk