

PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD ON MAY 3, 2008

PURSUANT TO THE FOREGOING WARRANT, THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM MET AT OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 9 OAKMONT DRIVE, ASHBURNHAM ON MAY 3, 2008. MODERATOR DONALD "JEFF" LAWRENCE PRESIDED AT THE MEETING WHICH WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:10 A.M. WITH A QUORUM PRESENT. A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED FOR ROBERT L. POWERS, CHARLES O. REED, AND EVELYN VON DECK. THEY WERE REMEMBERED FOR THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TOWN. THE VETERANS PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE RECOGNIZED. ALSO, A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS HELD FOR ALL THE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY. A TEN MINUTE RECESS WAS THEN GRANTED. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 10:30 A.M.

ARTICLE 1: To accept the reports of several town officers and all outstanding committees, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 1 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to receive the reports of several town officers and all outstanding committees.

Unanimous "YES"

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or appropriate by transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2008 and to set the salary of elected officials; or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

LINE	DEPARTMENT	FY07 SPENT	FY08 BUDGET	FY09 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR RECOMMEND	FY09 ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMEND
1	Moderator	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
2	Board of Selectmen	9,154	10,300	9,261	9,261
3	Town Administrator	167,752	139,280	145,217	145,217
4	Advisory Board	51,500	51,500	51,455	51,455
5	Town Accountant	51,681	53,700	56,278	56,278
6	Board of Assessors	56,696	68,306	69,674	69,674
7	Treasurer	73,320	106,418	158,686	158,686
8	Tax Collector	53,864	65,280	66,431	66,431
9	Town Clerk	46,923	46,723	53,709	53,709
10	Land Use	102,583	88,893	89,520	89,520
11	Town Hall	55,597	40,512	52,871	52,871
12	VMS Bldg.	35,323	31,000	25,000	25,000
13	Non-Departmental	125,509	139,501	129,043	129,043
14	Police, Emergency Dispatch & Public Safe	941,219	1,017,772	1,201,364	1,201,364
16	Fire	455,395	498,143	528,411	528,411
17	Inspections	40,098	49,658	41,615	41,615
18	Dog Officer	22,816	25,779	24,851	24,851
19	Trade & Monty Tech	403,929	379,476	387,776	387,776
20	Ash-West Regional School District	6,184,920	5,882,504	6,039,298	6,039,298
21	DPW	841,722	788,301	682,035	682,035
22	Snow and Ice			130,000	130,000
23	Board of Health	17,005	19,100	18,545	18,545
24	Conservation Commission	23,568	51,215	51,918	51,918
25	Council on Aging	38,110	45,264	45,202	45,202
26	Veterans' Services	3,316	10,687	10,687	10,687
27	Library	182,525	199,696	198,303	198,303
28	Historical Commission	500	500	500	500
29	Debt Service	153,828	311,808	749,597	749,597
30	Employee Ins. Benefits	801,345	883,282	787,253	787,253
31	Water Fund	502,195	604,753	594,821	594,821
32	Sewer Fund	730,528	928,049	945,969	945,969

	ARTICLE 3 TOTAL	12,173,021	12,542,500	13,396,390	13,396,390

Setting of Elected Salaries under Article 3:

- a. Town Moderator: \$100
- b. Board of Selectmen: Chairman - \$1,300; Clerk - \$1,100; Member - \$1,100
- c. Town Clerk: \$39,124
- d. Board of Health: \$140 per member

ARTICLE 2 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,589,627 for the Departments and purposes noted in the Warrant, and to set the salaries for all Elected Officials as printed in the Warrant, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$12,058,539 be raised and appropriated, that \$590,470 be raised and appropriated from the Water Enterprise Fund, that \$941,618 be raised and appropriated from Sewer Enterprise Fund, that \$210,000 be transferred from Light Department receipts, that \$18,400 be transferred from Conservation Commission receipts, and that \$19,854 be raised and transferred from Septic Repair Loan Assessment Program and \$147,000 transferred from Overlay Surplus.

LINE	DEPARTMENT	FY09 RECOMMEND
1	Moderator	\$ 100
2	Board of Selectmen	9,261
3	Town Administrator	138,853
4	Advisory Board	51,455
5	Town Accountant	56,278
6	Board of Assessors	68,059
7	Treasurer	156,641
8	Tax Collector	64,937
9	Town Clerk	52,599
10	Land Use	87,040
11	Town Hall	51,825
12	VMS Bldg.	25,000
13	Non-Departmental	129,043
14	Police, Emergency Dispatch & Public Safe	1,201,364
16	Fire	528,411
17	Inspections	41,088
18	Dog Officer	24,851
19	Trade & Monty Tech	387,776
20	Ash-West Regional School District	6,327,298
21	DPW	670,076
22	Snow and Ice	130,000
23	Board of Health	18,545
24	Conservation Commission	50,487
25	Council on Aging	44,318
26	Veterans' Services	10,687
27	Library	194,197
28	Historical Commission	500
29	Debt Service	749,597
30	Employee Ins. Benefits	787,253
31	Water Fund	590,470
32	Sewer Fund	941,618
	ARTICLE 3 TOTAL	13,589,627

Majority "YES"

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: ADVISORY RECOMMEND: TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 3 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to withdraw this article.

Unanimous "YES"

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of \$40,000 from any excess in the Municipal Light Plant Funds to the town treasury, as authorized by its Light Board in accordance with Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Light Department)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 4 VOTED: On motion of George Ainsleigh, it was voted to authorize the transfer of \$40,000 from any excess in the Municipal Light Plant Funds to the Town Treasury, as authorized by its Light Board in accordance with Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for Fiscal Year 2009 pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the General Laws, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Treasurer)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 5 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for Fiscal Year 2009 pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the General Laws.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2008, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Treasurer)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 6 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to authorize the Town Treasurer, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2008, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for the construction and maintenance of town roads in conformance with the Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 7 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for the construction and maintenance of town roads in conformance with the Massachusetts General Laws.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money if funds become available from the Mass. Highway Department Chapter 90 bond issue proceeds to be used by the Highway Department for the repair and maintenance of town roads in conformance with the Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 8 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$263,969 from the Massachusetts Highway Department Chapter 90 bond issue proceeds to be used by the Highway Department for the repair and maintenance of town roads and for the purchase of qualifying equipment or vehicles, and to authorize the use of leasing for a period of three years, in connection with the purposes of this article, all in conformance with the Massachusetts General Laws.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by borrowing the sum of \$7,000,000 for the repair and reconstruction of town roads and sidewalks with permanent pavement of a

lasting character including but not limited to any and all engineering and inspection fees, to be spent in accordance with the Town's ten (10) year road improvement program, provided that no funds shall be spent and no bonds or notes be issued unless the Town has voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by DPW Director and Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: \$.08

ARTICLE 9 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by borrowing the sum of \$7,000,000 for the repair and reconstruction of town roads and sidewalks with permanent pavement of a lasting character including but not limited to any and all engineering and inspection fees, to be spent in accordance with the Town's ten (10) year road improvement program, provided that no funds shall be spent and no bonds or notes be issued unless the Town has voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called

Majority 2/3 "YES"

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$170,000 for the reconstruction of town roads and sidewalks with permanent pavement of a lasting character including necessary engineering and inspection fees, provided that no funds be spent unless the Town has voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: \$.26

ARTICLE 10 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to PASS OVER this article.

Unanimous "YES"

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a Revolving Fund, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to receive one half of the boat excise revenues collected under G.L. c. 60B, Sec. 2 (i): Said funds to be expended for waterways improvement and maintenance by the Ashburnham Lakes Coalition without further appropriation; said expenditures shall not exceed \$3,000, unless an increase in such limitation is approved by the Board of Selectmen, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Ashburnham Lakes Coalition)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 11 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it voted to authorize a revolving fund, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Sec. 53E ½, and that said funds be expended for waterways improvement and maintenance by the Ashburnham Lakes Coalition without further appropriations; and further that said expenditures shall not exceed the current balance of \$8,700.

Unanimous "YES"

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a Revolving Fund, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to be expended by the Town Administrator, for the purpose of demolishing, removing, securing or otherwise remedying conditions on real property determined to be unsafe or dangerous under G.L. c. 143, Sec. 6, et. seq. or G.L. c. 139, Sec. 3A, including the costs of engineering and legal services related thereto; said fund to be established from money recovered from demolition liens; said expenditures not to exceed \$10,000 unless an increase in such limitation is approved by the Board of Selectmen, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 12 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to authorize a revolving fund, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Sec. 53E ½, to be expended by the Town Administrator, for the purpose of demolishing, removing, securing or otherwise remedying conditions on real property determined to be unsafe or dangerous under G.L. c. 143, Sec. 6, et. seq. or G.L. c. 139, Sec. 3A, including the costs of engineering and legal services related thereto; said fund to be established from money recovered from demolition liens; said expenditures not to exceed \$10,000 unless an increase in such limitation is approved by the Board of Selectmen,.

Unanimous "YES"

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money for the revaluation of real estate and personal property in the town, including the hiring of consultants or others for the purposes of conducting property valuation updates, building permit inspections, and measurements and valuation of property, and for all expenses related thereto, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Assessors)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: ADVISORY RECOMMEND: NO TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 13 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to PASS OVER this article.

2/3 Majority “YES”

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay for legal and other professional services, as well as all other reasonable related expenses, in connection with the collection of certain delinquent taxes owed to the Town, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 14 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to pay for legal and other professional services, as well as all other professional services, and other reasonable related expenses, in connection with the collection of certain delinquent taxes owed to the Town.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer custody of a portion of the premises described in a deed from the Ashburnham Cemetery Association to the Town of Ashburnham dated July 28, 1904 and recorded in the Worcester Northern District Registry of Deeds, Book 216, Page 253, being the portion shown as Parcel A on a plan entitled “Proposed Conveyance of a Portion of Town of Ashburnham ‘New Cemetery’ Land in Ashburnham, Mass.” and recorded in the Worcester Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 474, Page 6, consisting of .17 acres, more or less, to the Board of Selectmen for purposes of conveying said property, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey said property to the Trustees of Cushing Academy for consideration of less than \$100.00, or act in relation thereto. *(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel; this is the small portion of cemetery land for which no deed was found previously and which the Town authorized the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent domain at the last Annual Town Meeting to clear the title. Subsequently, a title company retained by the Town and Cushing identified the deed and Cushing engaged an engineering firm to prepare the plan showing the area so no taking is necessary.)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 15 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to transfer custody of a portion of the premises described in a deed from the Ashburnham Cemetery Association to the Town of Ashburnham dated July 28, 1904 and recorded in the Worcester Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 474, Page 6, consisting of .17 acres, more or less to the Board of Selectmen to convey said property to the Trustees of Cushing Academy for consideration of less than \$100.00.

EXPLANATION: Submitted by the Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel; this is the small portion of cemetery land for which no deed was found previously and which the Town authorized the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent domain at the last Annual Town Meeting to clear the title. Subsequently, a title company retained by the Town and Cushing identified the deed and Cushing engaged an engineering firm to prepare the plan showing the area so no taking is necessary.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds the sum of \$90,000 to pay for the architectural services to design plans, drawings, and to prepare bid ready specifications for the renovation of the VMS Building in order to apply for a community development block grant, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by Citizens Petition)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: NO TAX RATE IMPACT: .12

ARTICLE 16 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Connor, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$80,000 to pay for the architectural services to design plans, drawings, and to prepare bid ready specifications for the renovation of the VMS Building in order to apply for a community development block grant, provided that no funds shall be spent and no bonds or notes be issued unless the Town has voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½, so called.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the \$140,000 debt authorization from Article 37 of the Annual Town Meeting dated May 7, 2007 for the purchase of a tractor with boom mower, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by Town Administrator and the Town Treasurer)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 17 VOTED: On motion of George Ainsleigh, it was voted to PASS OVER this article.

Majority “YES”

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer land located at 2-12 River Street (Bresnahan Community Center) consisting of approximately 2.70 acres being the same parcel shown on Assessors Map 62, Parcel 72, to the Board of Selectmen for purposes of sale or lease to a lawfully constituted non-profit entity that will construct a new community use facility, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to so convey or lease said land on such terms and conditions as are in the best interest of the Town, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Bresnahan Scouting & Community Center Building Committee)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 18 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to transfer land located at 2-12 River Street (Bresnahan Community Center) consisting of approximately 2.70 acres being the same parcel shown on Assessors Map 62, Parcel 72, to the Board of Selectmen for purposes of sale or lease to a lawfully constituted non-profit entity that will construct a new community use facility, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to so convey or lease said land on such terms and conditions as are in the best interest of the Town.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$34,000 for the purchase of a new police cruiser, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Police Chief, Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 19 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to PASS OVER this article.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator to contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Service for the purposes of scheduling a Financial Management Review, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by Citizens Petition)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: .26

ARTICLE 20 VOTED: On motion of Bill Johnson, it was voted to direct the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator to contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Service for the purposes of scheduling a Financial Management Review.

Majority “YES”

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Bylaws of the Town of Ashburnham at Chapter 5, “Capital Budgeting,” as indicated below, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by Citizens Petition)*

- 5.1 *The Board of Selectmen shall establish and appoint a committee to be known as the Capital Planning Committee, composed of one member of the Board of Selectmen, two members of the Advisory Board, one member of the Planning Board, the Town Treasurer/Collector and two citizens at large. The Town Accountant, Treasurer/Collector and Town Administrator shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Committee. The Committee shall choose its own officers.*
- 5.2 *The Committee shall study proposed capital projects and improvements involving major tangible assets and projects which: 1) have a useful life of at least three years; 2) have a dollar value of \$15,000 or greater.*
- 5.3 *The Committee shall develop policies and procedures, as necessary, to establish and maintain a capital improvement program.*
- 5.4 *All officers, boards and committees shall each year, on or before September 30th of each year, give to the Committee, on the forms prepared by it, information concerning all anticipated projects and capital requests requiring Town Meeting action during the ensuing five years. The Committee shall consider the existing and probable future needs of the town for public improvement and purchases of major equipment, their relationship to the probable future growth of the town, relative needs, impact, timing and cost of these expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the town. No appropriation shall be voted for a capital improvement requested by a department, board or commission at an Annual Town Meeting, or at any Special Town Meeting, unless the Committee has first made a recommendation to such Annual Town or Special Town Meeting with respect to such proposed capital improvement unless the proposed capital improvement is*

considered in the Committee's report, or the Committee shall first have submitted a report to the Board of Selectmen explaining the omission.

5.5 The Committee shall prepare an annual report recommending a Capital Improvement Program for the next fiscal year, and Capital Improvement Program including recommended capital improvements for the following five fiscal years after that. The report shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for its consideration and approval by December 1st of each year. The Board shall submit its approved Capital Budget to the Annual Town Meeting for adoption by the town.

5.6 Such Capital Improvement Program, after its adoption, shall permit the expenditure on projects included therein of sums from departmental budgets for surveys, architectural or engineering advice, options or appraisals; but no such expenditure shall be incurred on projects which have not been so approved by the town through the appropriation of sums in the current year or in prior years, or preliminary planning for projects to be undertaken more than five years in the future.

5.7 The Committee's report and the Selectmen's recommended Capital Budget shall be published and made available in a manner consistent with the distribution of the Advisory Board report. The Committee shall file its original report with the Town Clerk.

Or act in relation thereto. (Citizens Petition)

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: NO

ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 21 VOTED: On motion of Bill Johnson, it was voted to delete Chapter 5 Capital Budgeting of the bylaws of the Town of Ashburnham and replace as indicated in the Warrant.

5.1 The Board of Selectmen shall establish and appoint a committee to be known as the Capital Planning Committee, composed of one member of the Board of Selectmen, two members of the Advisory Board, one member of the Planning Board, the Town Treasurer/Collector and two citizens at large. The Town Accountant, Treasurer/Collector and Town Administrator shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Committee. The Committee shall choose its own officers.

5.2 The Committee shall study proposed capital projects and improvements involving major tangible assets and projects which: 1) have a useful life of at least three years; 2) have a dollar value of \$15,000 or greater.

5.3 The Committee shall develop policies and procedures, as necessary, to establish and maintain a capital improvement program.

5.4 . All officers, boards and committees shall each year, on or before September 30th of each year, give to the Committee, on the forms prepared by it, information concerning all anticipated projects and capital requests requiring Town Meeting action during the ensuing five years. The Committee shall consider the existing and probable future needs of the town for public improvement and purchases of major equipment, their relationship to the probable future growth of the town, relative needs, impact, timing and cost of these expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the town. No appropriation shall be voted for a capital improvement requested by a department, board or commission at an Annual Town Meeting, or at any Special Town Meeting, unless the Committee has first made a recommendation to such Annual Town or Special Town Meeting with respect to such proposed capital improvement unless the proposed capital improvement is considered in the Committee's report, or the Committee shall first have submitted a report to the Board of Selectmen explaining the omission.

5.5 The Committee shall prepare an annual report recommending a Capital Improvement Program for the next fiscal year, and Capital Improvement Program including recommended capital improvements for the following five fiscal years after that. The report shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for its consideration and approval by December 1st of each year. The Board shall submit its approved Capital Budget to the Annual Town Meeting for adoption by the town.

5.6 Such Capital Improvement Program, after its adoption, shall permit the expenditure on projects included therein of sums from departmental budgets for surveys, architectural or engineering advice, options or appraisals; but no such expenditure shall be incurred on projects which have not been so approved by the town through the appropriation of sums in the current year or in prior years, or preliminary planning for projects to be undertaken more than five years in the future.

5.7 The Committee's report and the Selectmen's recommended Capital Budget shall be published and made available in a manner consistent with the distribution of the Advisory Board report. The Committee shall file its original report with the Town Clerk.

Unanimous "YES"

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Town of Westminster for shared Animal Control Services on such

terms and conditions as are in the best interest of the Town, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Police Chief and Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 22 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Town of Westminster for shared Animal Control Services on such terms and conditions as are in the best interest of the Town, for a period of time not to exceed 25 years.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Sec. 53E½, to be expended by the Police Chief for the purpose of defraying all costs associated with animal control services; said fund to be established from impounding and reclaiming fee receipts; said expenditures not to exceed \$10,000, unless an increase in such limitation is approved by the Board of Selectmen, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Police Chief and Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 23 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to authorize a revolving fund in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Sec. 53E½, to be expended by the Police Chief for the purpose of defraying all costs associated with animal control services; said fund to be established from impounding and reclaiming fee receipts; said expenditures not to exceed \$10,000, unless an increase in such limitation is approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of monies from available funds for the purpose of moving the Town Offices back to Town Hall and purchasing furniture for the recently refurbished Town Hall, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 24 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to transfer \$27,500 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the purpose of moving the Town Offices back to Town Hall and purchasing furniture for the recently refurbished Town Hall.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Sec. 53E½, to be expended by the DPW Director, for the purpose of trash removal, (MSW) from the transfer station; said fund to be established from trash tag receipts; said expenditures not to exceed \$50,000 unless an increase in such limitation is approved by the Board of Selectmen, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the DPW Director)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 25 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to authorize a revolving fund, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Sec. 53E½, to be expended by the DPW Director, for the purpose of trash removal, (MSW) from the transfer station; said fund to be established from trash tag receipts; said expenditures not to exceed \$50,000 unless an increase in such limitation is approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Bylaws of the Town of Ashburnham at Chapter VIII, Records and Reports by adding the following to the end of Section 1 thereof:

“In addition, all such officers, boards and committees shall file with the Town Clerk copies of all meeting minutes, whether in draft or final approved form, within 45 days following each meeting. Said 45 days shall not include Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays.”, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 26 VOTED: On motion of Christopher Gagnon, it was voted to amend the Bylaws of the Town of Ashburnham at Chapter VIII, Records and Reports by adding the following to the end of Section 1 thereof:

“In addition, all such officers, boards and committees shall file with the Town Clerk copies of all meeting minutes, whether in draft or final approved form, within 45 days following each meeting. Said 45 days shall not include Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays”.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer, from available funds, a sum of money for the operating budget of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, in addition to the sum voted under Article 2 for said operating budget, provided that no funds shall be expended and no bonds shall be issued unless the Town has first voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so-called, and further provided that the Town of Westminster also votes to approve and fund its proportional share of such additional appropriations, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Committee)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: \$ 26

ARTICLE 27 VOTED: On motion of David Christianson, it was voted to raise and appropriate, or transfer, from available funds, the sum of \$174,565 for the operating budget of Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, provided that no funds shall be expended and no bonds shall be issued unless the Town has first voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½, so called, and further provided that the Town of Westminster also votes to approve and fund its proportional share of such additional appropriations.

Majority “YES”

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, by borrowing or otherwise, \$400,000 to be expended under the direction of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Building Committee for a feasibility study for the J.R. Briggs Elementary School, located at 96 Williams Road, Ashburnham, Massachusetts, for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), which program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need as determined by the MSBA, and which provides that any costs the town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA is the sole responsibility of the town, provided that no funds shall be spent and no bonds or notes shall be issued unless the Town has voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½ so called, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Committee and the Board of Selectmen: This will allow the school committee to apply for and accept funding from MSBA for the Briggs feasibility study; however, any costs incurred by the Town in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approval or outside of the MSBA guidelines is the sole responsibility of the Town and will not qualify for reimbursement.)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES ADVISORY RECOMMEND: YES TAX RATE IMPACT: \$.61

ARTICLE 28 VOTED: On motion of David Christianson, it was voted to raise and appropriate, by borrowing or otherwise, \$400,000 to be expended under the direction of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Building Committee for a feasibility study for the J.R. Briggs Elementary School, located at 96 Williams Road, Ashburnham, Massachusetts, for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), which program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need as determined by the MSBA, and which provides that any costs the town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA is the sole responsibility of the town, provided that no funds shall be spent and no bonds or notes shall be issued unless the Town has voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2½.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money into the Capital Improvement Fund, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: ADVISORY RECOMMEND: TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 29 VOTED: On motion of Margaret Whitney, it was voted to PASS OVER this article.

Unanimous “YES”

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money into the Stabilization Fund, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: ADVISORY RECOMMEND: TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 30 VOTED: On motion of Bill Johnson, it was voted to PASS OVER this article.

Unanimous “YES”

Meeting Adjourned at 2:51 P.M.

Linda A. Ramsdell
Town Clerk

