

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 14, 1991

Voters of the Town of Boxford met at the Masconomet Regional High School Auditorium on Tuesday, May 14, 1991. Moderator DeWitt T. Minich called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Ruth Bortzfield of the Finance Committee gave an oral report of Boxford's present financial condition including the sources of income from property taxes limited by Proposition 2 1/2, declining aid from the State of Massachusetts and a reduction in local receipts (Excise taxes). Ms. Bortzfield stated the only recourse available is to cut services or increase taxes with overrides. There are ten overrides included on the ballot for voter consideration on election day, Tuesday, May 21, 1991.

The meeting continued at 7:50 p.m. and the articles of the warrant were disposed of as follows.

**ARTICLE 1.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay bills of charge from prior fiscal years; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2082.00 to pay a bill of charge from previous fiscal years.

NOTE: Bills of Charge require an 80% vote.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 2.** To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to receive and place on file the reports of the Town Officers and Committees without ratification of any action taken or authorization of any action proposed.

**ARTICLE 3.** To see if the Town will vote to amend various portions of Article 5 of its bylaws, known as the Personnel Bylaw, by deleting the Classification Plan, of Section 9, "Position Classes: Salary, Wages and Miscellaneous Compensation Schedules" and replacing it with the Classification Plan as submitted by the Personnel Board as printed in this warrant; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to amend various portions of Article 5 of the General Bylaws of the Town, known as the Personnel Bylaw, by deleting the Classification Plan, of Section 9, "Position Classes: Salary, Wages and Miscellaneous Compensation Schedules" and replacing it with the Classification Plan as submitted by the Personnel Board and as printed in this warrant.

The Finance Committee did not have a position on this article.

**ARTICLE 4.** To act on the proposed budget and see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, for use of several departments for fiscal year 1992, to wit: General Government, Finance, Public Safety, Education, Town Maintenance and all other necessary proper expenses during said fiscal year; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$236,243 for General Government.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$188,363 for Finance.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$837,747 for Public Safety.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,377,048 for Education.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to amend the Cemeteries budget by adding \$500.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$470,879 for Town Maintenance.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,292 for Inspectors.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to amend the Health and Life Insurance budget by reducing it by \$500 to \$258,500.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$443,600 for Insurance and Pensions.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,594,172 for the total Town Budget.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

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NOTE: It was anticipated that Articles 5-13 would be offered by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen as "contingent appropriations". This means that although the appropriation could be approved at the Annual Town Meeting, that appropriation would be fully contingent upon successful passage of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question. Should the override question fail, the appropriation would be rendered null and void.

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**ARTICLE 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,536,962 to fund the fiscal year 1992 Masconomet Regional School District Assessment; or take any other action thereon.

An amendment, duly made and seconded, to change the amount to that listed in the proposed FY92 Budget of \$2,477,364, was defeated by hand count vote, 108 in favor and 324 opposed.

A short recess was called by Moderator Minich to obtain advice from Town Counsel. Donald J. Scutiere, Town Counsel, advised those present that the assessed amount must be approved or disapproved as certified. Moderator Minich called the meeting back to order at 8:41 p.m.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,477,364 to partially fund the fiscal year 1992 Masconomet Regional School District assessment, and to raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$59,598 to complete funding of the Fiscal 1992 Masconomet Regional School District assessment contingent upon the subsequent approval of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question in the amount of said \$59,598 thereby approving the District budget.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article

**ARTICLE 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,164 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Elementary School budget; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,164 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Elementary School budget, said appropriation is fully contingent upon subsequent approval of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question for \$175,164.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,000 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Department of Public Works budget as follows: \$22,000 to the salary line item; \$36,000 to the All Other line item; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,000 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Department of Public Works budget as follows: \$22,000 to the salary line item; \$36,000 to the All Other line item; said appropriation is fully contingent upon subsequent approval of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question for \$58,000.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Library budget; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Library budget; said appropriation is fully contingent upon subsequent approval of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question for \$55,000.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,614 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Planning Board/Conservation Commission Office budget; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,614 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Planning Board/Conservation Commission Office budget; said appropriation is fully contingent upon subsequent approval of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question for \$23,614.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of \$19,000 for Public Safety as follows: to additionally fund \$17,000 to the Police Department Reserve Overtime account for the fiscal year 1992 budget and to additionally fund \$2,000 for fiscal year 1992 to the Fire Department All Other budget; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the total sum of \$19,000 for Public Safety as follows: to additionally fund \$17,000 to the Police Department Reserve Overtime account for the fiscal year 1992 budget and to additionally fund \$2,000 for fiscal year 1992 to the Fire Department All Other budget; said appropriation is fully contingent upon subsequent approval of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question for \$19,000.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,200 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Recreation Committee budget; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,200 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Recreation Committee budget; said appropriation is fully contingent upon subsequent approval of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question for \$13,200.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of \$10,600 for General Government as follows: to additionally fund \$5,000 to the fiscal year 1992 Building Department budget and to additionally fund \$5,600 to the Fiscal Year 1992 Selectmen's Office budget; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the total sum of \$10,600 for General Government as follows: to additionally fund \$5,000 to the fiscal year 1992 Building Department budget and to additionally fund \$5,600 to the fiscal year 1992 Selectmen's Office budget; said appropriation is fully contingent upon subsequent approval of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question for \$10,600.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Council on Aging budget; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to additionally fund the fiscal year 1992 Council on Aging budget; said appropriation is fully contingent upon subsequent approval of a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question of \$6,000.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 p.m. to a time certain, Wednesday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Masconomet Regional High School auditorium.

Registered voters attending the meeting were 474.

**ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**May 15, 1991**

Moderator DeWitt T, Minich called the second session of the Boxford Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Ruth Bortzfield of the Finance Committee gave an oral report indicating the financial health of the Town.

With a quorum being present, the articles of the warrant were disposed of as follows:

**ARTICLE 14.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Wetlands Protection Act fees collected, the sum of \$2,265.68, to supplement the fiscal year 1992 Conservation Commission operating budget; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote to appropriate from the Wetlands Protection Act fees collected, the sum of \$3,225.68, to supplement the fiscal year 1992 Conservation Commission operating budget.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to fund the repair and maintenance of various roads in the Town, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action thereon.

NOTE: A Stabilization Fund expenditure requires a 2/3 vote.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, to transfer from Article 24 of the May 10, 1988, Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$328; and from Article 16 of the May 9, 1989, Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$1,444.27; and from Federal Revenue Sharing the sum of \$1,303.28; and from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$46,924.45; to fund the repair and maintenance of various roads in the Town, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, it was VOTED, to defeat the article by hand count vote, 89 in favor and 56 opposed.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to reconsider this article.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to amend the article by changing "the Stabilization Fund" to "Free Cash".

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to transfer from Article 24 of the May 10, 1988, Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$328; and from Article 16 of the May 9, 1989, Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$1,444.27; and from Federal Revenue Sharing the sum of \$1,303.28; and from Free Cash the sum of \$46,924.45; to fund the repair and maintenance of various roads in the Town, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds the sum of \$7,600.00 to remove the existing underground fuel storage tank and to purchase additional above ground fuel storage tanks for the Department of Public Works; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$7,600.00 to remove the existing underground fuel storage tank and to purchase additional above ground fuel storage tanks for the Department of Public Works, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$2,574.00 to remove the existing underground fuel storage tank and replace it with an above ground tank at the West Boxford Fire Station; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority voice vote, to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$2,574.00 to remove the existing underground fuel storage tank and replace it with an above ground tank at the West Boxford Fire Station; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 18.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 291 of the Acts of 1990, thereby allowing the Town to receive Enhanced 9-1-1 service as defined in said Act and, if acceptance and notification to the Secretary of the Commonwealth of said acceptance occur on or before December 11, 1991, the Town will also receive, at no cost to it, the benefits of Enhanced 9-1-1 network features and components and any other Enhanced 9-1-1 network features that may be made available by the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to accept the provisions of Chapter 291 of the Acts of 1990, thereby allowing the Town to receive Enhanced 9-1-1 service as defined in said Act and, if acceptance and notification to the Secretary of the Commonwealth of said acceptance occur on or before December 11, 1991, the Town will also receive, at no cost to it, the benefits of Enhanced 9-1-1 network features and components and any other Enhanced 9-1-1 network features that may be made available by the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

At 8:17 p.m., Moderator Minich called a short recess. The meeting was called to order again at 8:18 p.m.

NOTE: Articles 19, 20 and 21 are requests for expenditures from the Stabilization Fund and require a 2/3 vote.

**ARTICLE 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$5,000 to purchase a new recording system for the Communications Center; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by hand count vote, 163 in favor and 9 opposed, to transfer from the Stabilization Fund, the sum of \$5,000 to purchase a new recording system for the Communications Center; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 20.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$6,575 for the purchase of a semi-automatic defibrillator for the Emergency Medical Technicians of the Fire Department, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to transfer from the Stabilization Fund, the sum of \$6,575 for the purchase of a semi-automatic defibrillator for the Emergency Medical Technicians of the Boxford Fire Department, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 21.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$19,803 for the purchase of 2800 feet of large diameter water supply hose and support equipment for the Fire Department, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by hand count vote, 67 in favor and 111 opposed, to defeat this article.

The Finance Committee recommended rejection of this article.

Moderator Minich advised those present that he would allow Articles 22 through 28 to be discussed together, but voting on the articles would occur in their order on the warrant.

After lengthy discussion on the articles, the Moderator ordered a five-minute recess at 10:00 p.m. The meeting was recalled to order at 10:05 p.m.

**ARTICLE 22.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to establish a town-wide curbside collection service for solid wastes commencing July 1, 1991, including trash and recyclable materials; said appropriation to be contingent upon the creation of a waste management user fee of a specific amount; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health; or take any other action thereon.

(Estimate: \$105,000)

**Estimated Fee:** \$66.00/year for participating household OR \$.65 per 30 gallon bag or container - each use (based on 1600 households).

Upon motion made and duly seconded, to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$105,000 to establish a town-wide curbside collection service for solid wastes commencing July 1, 1991, including trash and recyclable materials; said appropriation to be contingent upon the creation of a waste management user fee of a specific amount; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health, it was VOTED, to defeat the article, by hand count vote, 76 in favor and 113 opposed.

The Finance Committee did not recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 23.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, or authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to Bond or borrow from State House Notes, a sum of money to construct, equip, staff, operate and maintain a Transfer Station/Recycling Center at the Sanitary Landfill; said appropriation and/or debt service to be contingent upon the creation of a waste management user fee of a specific amount; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action thereon.

(Estimate: \$60,000 - First full year operating cost;  
and \$418,000 Ten Year Construction Bond)

**Estimated Fee:** \$82.00/year for participating household OR \$.80 per 30 gallon bag or container - each use (based on 1600 households)

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to Bond or borrow from State House Notes, the sum of \$418,000 and raise and appropriate \$15,000 to construct, equip, staff, operate and maintain a Transfer/Recycling Center at the Sanitary Landfill; said appropriation and debt service to be contingent upon the creation of a waste management user fee of a specific amount; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by hand count vote, 94 in favor and 83 opposed, to amend the motion on Article 23 to read as follows: "To authorize the

Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to Bond or borrow from State House Notes, the sum of \$535,900 to construct, equip, staff, operate and maintain a Transfer Station/ Recycling Center at the Sanitary Landfill; said appropriation and debt service to be contingent upon the creation of a waste management user fee of a specific amount; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen".

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by hand count vote, 52 in favor and 102 opposed, to defeat a proposed amendment to add "and raise and appropriate \$15,000" to the amended article.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by hand count vote, 116 in favor and 55 opposed, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to Bond or borrow from State House Notes, the sum of \$535,900 to construct, equip, staff, operate and maintain a Transfer Station/Recycling Center at the Sanitary Landfill; said appropriation and debt service to be contingent upon the creation of a waste management user fee of a specific amount; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

**ARTICLE 24.** To see if the Town will vote to create an annual waste management user fee of a specific annual amount per participating Boxford household; said fee to be regulated and administered by the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made and seconded to create an annual waste management user fee of \$60.00 per participating Boxford household; said fee to be regulated and administered by the Board of Selectmen.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the motion by reducing the waste management user fee to \$12.00.

Following discussion and the lateness of the hour, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to withdraw the motion on Article 24.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous voice vote, to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 p.m. to a time certain, Wednesday, May 22, 1991, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masconomet Regional High School auditorium.

Registered voters attending the meeting were 205.