

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

October 28, 1997

Voters of the Town of Boxford met at the Masconomet Regional High School Auditorium on Tuesday, October 28, 1997. Moderator Gerald R. Johnston called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Members of the Police and Fire Departments were commended for their prompt action during two town emergencies during the year. The articles of the warrant were disposed of as follows:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to instruct its representatives to the General Court to file a home rule petition to authorize the Conservation Commission to impose consultant fees and to account for and spend such fees in the manner provided by MGL Chapter 44, Section 53G, or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority hand vote, to instruct the Boxford representatives to the General Court to file a home rule petition to authorize the Conservation Commission to impose consultant fees and to account for and spend such fees in the manner provided by MGL Chapter 44, Section 53G.

Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Boxford School Committee to enter into leases or contracts for the maintenance of the telephone systems at the Harry Lee Cole Elementary School and the Spofford Pond Elementary School authorized by the School Committee for a period of up to 5 years in length, pursuant to MGL Chapter 30B; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous hand vote, to authorize the Boxford School Committee to enter into leases or contracts for the maintenance of the telephone systems at the Harry Lee Cole Elementary School and the Spofford Pond Elementary School authorized by the School Committee for a period of up to 5 years in length, pursuant to MGL Chapter 30B.

Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund the 1996-1998 collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Boxford and the Boxford Communications Dispatchers and Police Secretary Employees Association; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous hand vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,826 to fund the balance of the 1996-1997 contract and fund the 1997-1998 collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Boxford and the Boxford Communications Dispatchers and Police Secretary Employees Association.

Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, Section 2A(a) to allow the Town to assess new buildings, structures, or other physical improvements added to real property between January second and June thirtieth for the fiscal year beginning on July first; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority hand vote, to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, Section 2A(a) to allow the Town to assess new buildings, structures, or other physical improvements added to real property between January second and June thirtieth for the fiscal year beginning on July first.

Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds a sum of money for expenses necessary to computerize, codify, update, and reprint all Town Bylaws, Regulatory Board Rules and Regulations, and all other official actions of the Town of Boxford, many of which have not been reprinted and updated since their original adoption and publication; said funds to be spent under the direction of the Town Clerk; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority hand vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for expenses necessary to computerize, codify, update, and reprint all Town Bylaws, Regulatory Board Rules and Regulations, and all other official actions of the Town of Boxford, many of which have not been reprinted and updated since their original adoption and publication; said funds to be spent under the direction of the Town Clerk.

Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$500 to be added to the salary account of the Council on Aging; said funds to be spent under the direction of the Council on Aging; or take any other action thereon.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous hand vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to be added to the salary account of the Council on Aging; said funds to be spent under the direction of the Council on Aging.

Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to purchase new computers, monitors, hardware, software, networking cables and other materials including computer stands for computers in the following offices: Town Clerk, Selectmen and Department of Public Works, as per the recommendation of the Computer Study Committee; said funds to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action thereon.

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Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority hand vote, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to purchase new computers, monitors, hardware, software, networking cables and other materials including computer stands for computers in the following offices: Town Clerk, Selectmen and Department of Public Works, as per the recommendation of the Computer Study Committee; said funds to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

Finance Committee recommended adoption of this article.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Boxford Historic District Commission Bylaw (adopted pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40C by the Town on March 1, 1971) as shown below: (proposed changes are shown in bold type); or take any other action thereon.

First proposed change: Amend "District" to read: "Districts" in all portions of the text;

Second proposed change: Remove the sentence shown below in bold which deals with the nomination of members from outside agencies:

BOXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION BYLAW

1. There is hereby established a Boxford Historic District Commission under the provisions of the "Historic Districts Act," General Laws, Chapter 40C, consisting of five (5) members and three (3) alternate members, appointed by the Selectmen, including one member, where possible, from two nominees submitted by the Boxford Historical Society, one member, where possible, from two nominees, one of whom shall be submitted by the Massachusetts State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and one of whom shall be submitted by the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, and one member, where possible, from two nominees of the Board of the Historic Districts established in Boxford pursuant to the Historic Districts Act. When the Commission is first established, one (1) member shall be appointed for a term of one year, two (2) shall be appointed for a term of two years, and two (2) shall be appointed in like manner for three years, and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three years.

When the Commission is first established, one (1) alternate member shall be appointed in like manner for a term of one year, one (1) alternate member shall be appointed for a term of two years, one (1) alternate member shall be appointed for a term of three years, and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three years.

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Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority hand vote, to amend the Boxford Historic District Commission Bylaw (adopted pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40C by the Town on March 1, 1971) as shown below:

BOXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION BYLAW

1. There is hereby established a Boxford Historic Districts Commission under the provisions of the "Historic Districts Act," General Laws, Chapter 40C, consisting of five (5) members and three (3) alternate members, appointed by the Selectmen, including one member, where possible, from two nominees submitted by the Boxford Historical Society, one member, where possible, from two nominees, one of whom shall be submitted by the Massachusetts State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and one member, where possible, from two nominees of the Board of Realtors covering Boxford. One or more of the foregoing shall be a resident of the Historic Districts established in Boxford pursuant to the Historic Districts Act. When the Commission is first established, one (1) member shall be appointed for a term of one year, two (2) shall be appointed for a term of two years, and two (2) shall be appointed in like manner for three years, and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three years.

When the Commission is first established, one (1) alternate member shall be appointed in like manner for a term of one year, one (1) alternate member shall be appointed for a term of two years, one (1) alternate member shall be appointed for a term of three years, and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of three years.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$40,000 to be expended under the direction of the Boxford School Committee, with the advice and counsel of an oversight committee consisting of a member of the Board of Selectmen, to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, a member of the Finance Committee, to be appointed by the Finance Committee, the chair of the Boxford PK-12 Municipal School District Feasibility Study Advisory Committee, the chair of the Boxford School Committee and a member at large to be appointed by the Boxford School Committee, to fund a professional feasibility study for the construction of a Boxford Municipal 7-12 Junior/Senior High School, including but not limited to costs of legal and financial studies, architectural studies, and an education plan as it pertains to the Space Needs Study required for submission to the Massachusetts Department of Education; or take any other action thereon.

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Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by majority hand vote, to move the question.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, Article 9 was defeated by hand count vote, 317 in favor and 522 opposed.

Finance Committee, by a 4-3 vote, recommended adoption of this article.

NOTE: At this time we anticipate that Article 10 and debt authorization will be offered as a "contingent appropriation." This means that although the appropriation could be approved at the Special Town Meeting, that appropriation would be fully contingent upon successful passage of the related Proposition 2½ ballot question. Should the override question fail, the appropriation would be rendered null and void.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to approve the indebtedness authorized by the Regional District School Committee of the Masconomet School District on October 6, 1997, for the purpose of architectural and engineering services and other preliminary expenses for expansion and renovation of district school buildings and facilities, including outdoor athletic facilities and sewerage facilities; and that this appropriation be raised by incurring debt by the issuance of bonds or notes under Section 16 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws as amended provided that said approval shall be contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion referendum under MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C, for the amounts required to pay the Town's share of the principal and interest on the borrowing authorized by the District, and if such referendum is not passed, this vote will be deemed to be a disapproval; or take any other action relative thereto.

Estimated Total Design Cost: \$2,995,000
Estimated Boxford Share: \$1,262,692 (FY98 = 42.16%)

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by hand count vote, 552 in favor and 92 opposed, to approve the indebtedness authorized by the Regional District School Committee of the Masconomet School District on October 6, 1997, for the purpose of architectural and engineering services and other preliminary expenses for expansion and renovation of district school buildings and facilities, including outdoor athletic facilities and sewerage facilities; and that this appropriation be raised by incurring debt by the issuance of bonds or notes under Section 16 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws as amended provided that said approval shall be contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion referendum under MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C, for the amounts required to pay the Town's share of

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the principal and interest on the borrowing authorized by the District, and if such referendum is not passed, this vote will be deemed to be a disapproval.

Finance Committee, by a 4-3 vote, recommended against adoption of this article.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED, by unanimous vote, to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 p.m. to Wednesday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Masconomet Regional High School Auditorium.

Registered voters attending the meeting were 928.