



OFFICE OF THE
T O W N C L E R K
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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
June 9, 2009

After determining that a quorum was present, the Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm by Carol A. Skerrett, Town Clerk in the absence of Town Moderator, Anne Farina.

Announcements included introduction of Erik Dichter elected to the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee, and Christine Muir and Dan St. Jean elected to the Advisory Board.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the floor was opened to nominations to elect a temporary Moderator for the Special Town Meeting of June 9. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Ted Gaudette. Members were asked if there were any additional nominations; there were none. Motion made and seconded to close nominations. A vote was taken to close nominations which passed unanimously. Ted Gaudette was declared temporary Moderator for the Special Town Meeting of June 9 and was sworn in by Town Clerk Carol Skerrett.

Tellers appointed by Ted Gaudette were Mary Beth Pallis, Louise Murphy, Brett Rock and John Callahan who were all sworn in by the Town Clerk. The check in table was staffed by Ann Marie Wright and Lorraine West. Ann Marie Wright was duly appointed by the Board of Selectmen as Deputy Warden for the Special Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 1. Motion made and seconded that the Town vote to approve the Town's portion of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District budget for fiscal 2010, as certified or recertified by the District School Committee, as provided pursuant to Section 16B of Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended.

The Advisory Board spoke in favor of the motion reversing their position in May, with the explanation that they noted a somewhat better outlook regarding town receipts than originally anticipated; further they believed that a joint meeting between Dunstable and Groton would not be in the best interest of the Towns or District. Since the State's local aid figures are still unknown, there may be another Special Town Meeting depending on that outcome as well as state receipts to trim with equity both the town operating and school budgets. Following a presentation by Dr. Genovese, Selectman Chair Walter Alterisio said his position has not changed since the Annual Town Meeting where the increase was rejected by the voters and spoke against the vote feeling that approving this increase may result in cutting services for the Town "making it a great place to educate your children but you wouldn't want to live here". He believed the budgeting

process at the school committee did not take sufficiently into consideration the statement provided by Dunstable in January regarding the town's financial position and outlook and that the school committee targeted a percentage increase in the school budget based on Groton's statement of its position.

Motion made and seconded that the Town vote by secret ballot. Following discussion, a vote was taken on the motion for a secret ballot.

Majority Vote Required
Motion Defeated

Back to the main motion which was to vote on the school budget, prior to the vote, a request was made by a voter to allow Representative Hargraves speak as to the status of the state budget which was approved by the Moderator.

Majority Vote Required
Unanimous less One

ARTICLE 2. Motion made and seconded that the Town increase the appropriation voted at the Annual Town Meeting of May 11, 2009 under line item 300.001 GDRSD Operating Budget, in the amount of \$52,048.00 making a total appropriation of \$4,006,243.00.

Fincom supports this article. This vote is necessary to set the tax rate.

Majority Vote Required
Voted in the Affirmative

ARTICLE 3. Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer \$5000.00 from account 0001-07-725-5925, Temporary Loan Interest, to account 0001-01-132-2960, Reserve Account.

Majority Vote Required
Voted in the Affirmative

ARTICLE 4. Motion made and seconded that the Town amend the "Town Elections, Town Meetings & Records Bylaw" by inserting the following Section 4 into "Article 1 – Town Meetings" and renumbering consecutive sections accordingly:

"Section 4. Upon check in, voters shall be issued a voting card for that meeting which must be held up for all hand votes on articles whenever a hand count is required. Only those voters holding cards shall be included in the count."

Majority Vote Required
Voted in the Affirmative

Motion made and seconded to dispense of the reading of the record.

Majority Vote Required
Voted in the Affirmative

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 8:35 pm.

Quorum Certificate

In accordance with The Town of Dunstable's Town Meetings, Town Elections & Records Bylaw, I hereby certify that the quorum for an Annual or Special Town Meeting is 50 registered voters of the Town of Dunstable. Total number of voters checked in at the Special Town Meeting of June 9, 2009: 199

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Skerrett
Town Clerk, CMMC