

Annual Town Meeting
Princeton, Ma 01541
May 10, 2011

Warrant duly posted: April 28, 2011
Inhabitants notified by website posting: April 28, 2011
Advisory Board Hearing: May 2, 2011
Quorum needed: 81
Voters Present: 134
Moderator: Harry Pape
Checkers/Counters: Ellen O'Brien, Susan Schlaikjer, Linda Albrecht
Constable: Michele Powers
Meeting called to order: 7:05PM
Meeting dissolved: 9:18PM

The Moderator opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the full warrant.

Unanimous

7:06

Moderator read the charge to the Constable, noting that this warrant included the Town Election as well as the Town Meeting, and the Return of the Warrant.

The Moderator asked that all non-voters identify themselves for the tellers.

The Constable for the meeting was identified by the Moderator as Michele Powers

All motions are approved by the Advisory Board unless otherwise noted.

Announcements:

- Selectman Raymond Dennehy presented the Citizen of the Year award to Louis J. Trostel, Jr. recognizing his years of service and leadership roles with the Princeton Arts Society, Historical Commission , and Cemetery Commission, and his dedication to the students of Wachusett High School as a volunteer science advisor for 45 years.
- Moderator read the results of the Annual Town Election
- Selectman Raymond Dennehy recognized retiring selectman Joe O'Brien. The Board thanked him for his time, interest, and tireless efforts serving the town.

ARTICLE 1. Voted to receive the reports of the Town Officers and any outstanding committees.

Unanimous

7:19PM

ARTICLE 2. Voted to vote under the provisions of Section 108, Chapter 41, of the Massachusetts General Laws to fix the salaries of the following Town Officers for the ensuing year (FY11).

FY12
Moderator \$ 25
Selectmen \$1,500
Assessors \$4,500

Unanimous

7:20PM

ARTICLE 3. Voted the bulk of the FY12 appropriation by department as set forth in Article 3 with the following two exceptions:

- Police Dispatch - \$739,176
- Tree Warden - \$12,000

Unanimous

7:25PM

Discussion of Police/Dispatch item

Kathy Sweeney, Mirick Rd. – requested opinion of Advisory Board

Terry Hart, Radford Rd. – Chairman of Advisory Board – originally did not have hard numbers, but at the May 2nd Advisory Board the vote was 5-0 in favor of the budget.

With no further discussion a vote was taken on the HELD Police/Dispatch budget item:

Unanimous

7:26PM

Discussion of Tree Warden Account:

Charlie Cary – Merriam Rd. – Is there any opportunity to look at reducing the \$12000 expense by generating some revenue through the sale of the wood?

Raymond Dennehy –Board of Selectman – stated that there was no accounting for that opportunity in the budget number but it would be looked into.

With no further discussion a vote was taken on the HELD Tree Warden budget item:

Unanimous

7:29PM

DEPARTMENT	FY11 BUDGET VOTED	FY12 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY12 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY12 AB RECOMMENDS
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:				
Moderator				
Salary	25.00	25.00		
Expense	50.00	75.00		
Sub-Total	75.00		100.00	100.00
Board of Selectmen				
Salaries	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Expense	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Sub-Total	4,500.00		4,500.00	4,500.00
Annual Audit				
Expense	14,500.00	9,500.00	9,500.00	9,500.00

DEPARTMENT	FY11 BUDGET VOTED	FY12 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY12 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY12 AB RECOMMENDS
Town Administrator				
Salary	88,496.00	88,496.00		
Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00		
Sub-Total	90,996.00		90,996.00	90,996.00
Administrative Assistants				
Salaries	33,660.00	34,333.00		
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Sub-Total	35,160.00		35,833.00	35,833.00
Reserve Fund				
Expense	47,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Town Accountant				
Salary	24,823.00	25,319.00		
Expense	3,319.00	3,478.00		
Sub-Total	28,142.00		28,797.00	28,797.00
Board of Assessors				
Assessors Salaries	4,500.00	4,500.00		
Assessor Clerk Salary	18,797.00	19,173.00		
Principal Assessor Salary	26,860.00	27,397.00		
Info. Tech. Mgr. Salary	12,535.00	12,786.00		
Revaluation Salary	6,120.00	6,242.00		
Expense	22,582.00	22,582.00		
Sub-Total	91,394.00		92,680.00	92,680.00

DEPARTMENT	FY11 BUDGET VOTED	FY12 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY12 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY12 AB RECOMMENDS
Treasurer				
Salary	28,186.00	28,750.00		
Expense	7,800.00	7,800.00		
Sub-Total	35,986.00		36,550.00	36,550.00
Tax Collector				
Salary	38,561.00	39,332.00		
Expense	8,225.00	8,225.00		
Sub-Total	46,786.00		47,557.00	47,557.00
Town Counsel				
Expense	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Town Clerk				
Salary	31,028.00	31,649.00		
Expenses	4,700.00	4,950.00		
Sub-Total	35,728.00		36,599.00	36,599.00
Elections & Registration				
Salaries	2,400.00	1,525.00		
Expense	4,625.00	4,485.00		
Sub-Total	7,025.00		6,010.00	6,010.00
Conservation Commission				
Salaries				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Sub-Total	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00

DEPARTMENT	FY11 BUDGET VOTED	FY12 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY12 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY12 AB RECOMMENDS
Planning Board				
Administrative Asst. Salary	14,472.00	14,761.00		
Expense	2,636.00	2,636.00		
Sub-Total	17,108.00		17,397.00	17,397.00
Board of Appeals				
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Open Space Committee				
Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Agricultural Commission				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Town Building Operations				
Salaries	21,882.00	22,320.00		
Expense	49,845.00	53,095.00		
Sub-Total	71,727.00		75,415.00	75,415.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	550,127.00		555,934.00	555,934.00
PUBLIC SAFETY:				
Police/Dispatch				
Police non-union Salaries	118,505.00	118,825.00		118,825.00
Police Union Salaries	319,198.00	332,050.00		TBD
Dispatch Union Salaries	189,413.00	193,201.00		193,201.00
3rd Shift Recall Salary				
Expense	88,600.00	95,100.00		
Sub-Total	715,716.00		739,176.00	TBD

DEPARTMENT	FY11 BUDGET VOTED	FY12 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY12 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY12 AB RECOMMENDS
Fire Department				
Salaries	115,060.00	142,361.00		
Ambulance Readiness	36,000.00	36,000.00		
Vehicle Allowance; Chief	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Expense	69,515.00	75,471.00		
Sub-Total	223,575.00		256,832.00	256,832.00
Animal Control				
Animal Inspector Salary	500.00	500.00		
Animal Control Salary	8,638.00	8,811.00		
Expense	1,900.00	1,900.00		
Sub-Total	11,038.00		11,211.00	11,211.00
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:	950,329.00		1,007,219.00	TBD
SCHOOLS				
Wachusett Regional School				
Wachusett Min. Contribution	3,934,450.00	4,053,653.00		
Operations Assessment	323,370.00	321,607.00		
Transportation	175,409.00	225,823.00		
Long Term Debt	206,220.00	235,696.00		
Capital Program Assessment	-			
Environmental Clean-up	7,969.00	7,735.00		
Sub-total	4,647,418.00		4,844,514.00	4,844,514.00
Montachusett Reg. Vocational	212,844.00	185,190.00	185,190.00	185,190.00
TOTAL SCHOOLS	4,860,262.00		5,029,704.00	5,029,704.00

DEPARTMENT	FY11 BUDGET VOTED	FY12 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY12 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY12 AB RECOMMENDS
PUBLIC WORKS:				
Highway				
Salaries	289,766.00	299,773.00		
Expense	220,325.00	231,000.00		
Sub-Total	510,091.00		530,773.00	530,773.00
Snow/Ice Removal				
Expense	140,000.00	140,000.00	140,000.00	140,000.00
Road Reconstruction	175,000.00	175,000.00	175,000.00	175,000.00
Street Lights				
Expense	10,175.00	9,746.00	9,746.00	9,746.00
Tree Warden				
Salary	1,361.00	1,388.00		
Expense	12,000.00	12,000.00		
Sub-Total	13,361.00		13,388.00	13,388.00
Cemeteries				
Salaries	17,613.00	17,965.00		
Expense	4,372.00	4,372.00		
Sub-Total	21,985.00		22,337.00	22,337.00
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	870,612.00		891,244.00	891,244.00

DEPARTMENT	FY11 BUDGET VOTED	FY12 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY12 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY12 AB RECOMMENDS
HUMAN SERVICES:				
Council on Aging				
Salary	14,004.00	14,284.00		
Expense	1,700.00	1,700.00		
Sub-Total	15,704.00		15,984.00	15,984.00
Veterans Services				
Salary	750.00	1,500.00		
Expense	6,765.00	6,765.00		
Sub-Total	7,515.00		8,265.00	8,265.00
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	24,249.00		24,249.00	24,249.00
CULTURE & RECREATION:				
Library				
Salaries	96,064.00	97,985.00		
Expense	47,944.00	53,857.00		
Sub-Total	144,008.00		151,842.00	151,842.00
Parks & Recreation				
Salaries	4,000.00	4,080.00		
Expense	4,100.00	4,100.00		
Sub-Total	8,100.00		8,180.00	8,180.00
Historical Commission				
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Memorial Day				
Expense	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	154,608.00		163,022.00	163,022.00

DEPARTMENT	FY11 BUDGET VOTED	FY12 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY12 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY12 AB RECOMMENDS
DEBT & INTEREST:				
Library Renovation (Exterior)	33,465.00	32,310.00	32,310.00	32,310.00
Highway Facility	46,067.00			
Police Cruisers (3)	32,469.00	33,821.00	33,821.00	33,821.00
Fire Truck	76,703.00			
Bentley Purchase	46,760.00	45,290.00	45,290.00	45,290.00
General Interest	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
TOTAL DEBT	250,064.00		126,421.00	126,421.00
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Retirement	141,403.00	174,111.00	174,111.00	174,111.00
Life & Fringe	10,700.00	10,900.00	10,900.00	10,900.00
FICA/Medicare	34,000.00	35,400.00	35,400.00	35,400.00
Health Insurance	324,359.00	335,582.00	335,582.00	335,582.00
Town Insurance	105,000.00	135,000.00	135,000.00	135,000.00
Wachusett Earthday	1,155.00	1,278.00	1,278.00	1,278.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	616,617.00		692,271.00	692,271.00
GRAND TOTAL:	8,276,235.00		8,490,064.00	

ARTICLE 4. Voted that the Town appropriates the sum of Two Million, Two Hundred Twenty Two Thousand, Eight Hundred Twenty Four (\$2,222,824) Dollars for repairs and/or replacement of roofs, windows, and/or boilers at the Thomas Prince School, 170 Sterling Road, Princeton, which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, said sum to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee, and to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority; that the Town acknowledges that the Massachusetts School Building Authority’s (“MSBA”) grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) Fifty Two and Eighty Nine Hundredths percent (52.89%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2½); and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town and the MSBA.

Discussion:

John Lebeaux, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, took the audience through a brief presentation titled “Proposed Green Repairs to Thomas Prince School” that described the program, timeline, architect findings, proposal, value, and cost to the tax payer.

Dominic Golding – Hubbardston Rd – can the energy savings be quantified.

John Lebeaux- Energy bills for Thomas Prince are paid for by the District. Savings from the project are shared by the five towns. Numbers may be in feasibility survey.

Bob Imber, Sterling Rd, Princeton School Committee member – spoke in favor of the article. Repairs to building are inevitable. This process saves the town money, fifty cents on the dollar, and saves energy costs as a district.

Corey Burnham Howard, Osgood Rd.- given a 20% mandated savings in energy were the materials chosen simply modern materials or the most efficient materials.

Architect Ron Alex responded that the materials are state of the art proven technology for long endurance and good practical value.

Ed Cichon, Radford Rd. - asked for specifics about the interest rate for the borrowing.

John Lebeaux responded that it would be a fixed rate and the estimated interest rate used for the proposal was conservative.

2/3 Vote required

Unanimous (by voice vote)

7:58PM

ARTICLE 5. Voted to authorize that all funds granted to the Town by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) as reimbursement for the Thomas Prince School Green Building Repair Feasibility Study are applied to the Building Maintenance Program (Account #03-5-192-204).

Unanimous

7:59PM

ARTICLE 6. Voted to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to the Town Environmental Clean-up Account #03-5-420-201 for ground water monitoring at the former town landfill.

Unanimous

8:01PM

ARTICLE 7. Voted to transfer the sum of \$45,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to the Town Environmental Clean-up Account #03-5-420-201 for remedial activity of contaminated soil located at the public safety complex and town hall/library area.

Unanimous

8:02PM

ARTICLE 8. I move to establish the FY12 ambulance operating budget. Receipts for ambulance services received in FY12 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account #15-5-231-000 established in FY01. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years. The FY12 ambulance-operating budget is \$48,960.00 for salary and \$43,150.00 for expenses for a total budget of \$92,110.00.

Unanimous

8:05PM

ARTICLE 9. Voted to establish the FY12 trash operating budget. Receipts for trash disposal services received in FY12 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into the Solid Waste Enterprise Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account #65-5-460-000 established in FY08. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years. The FY12 trash-operating budget is \$80,000.00, of which \$70,000 be appropriated from Solid Waste Enterprise-Receipts Reserved for Appropriation and \$10,000 be appropriated from Solid Waste Enterprise-Available Retained Earnings.

Unanimous

8:06PM

ARTICLE 10. Voted to authorize FY12 revolving funds for certain Town departments as written under Article 10 in the town warrant.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	FY2011 Spending Limit	FY2012 Spending Limit
Building Department	Bldg. Inspector Town Admin	Fees from Bldg, Wiring, Fire and Plumbing Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$72,732	\$69,371
Library	Library Director Town Admin.	Copy Machine, FAX, Fines and Fees	Defray Operational Expenses	\$4000	\$4000
Parks and Recreation	Recreation Comm. Chairman, Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Provide Recreational Programs & Pay Salaries	\$36,366	\$34,685
Parks and Recreation	Recreation Comm. Chairman, Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Maintenance of Parks	\$36,366	\$34,685
Princeton Center	Princeton Center Director, Town Admin.	Rental Fees	Defray Operational & Maintenance Exp.	\$72,732	\$69,371
Board of Health	Board of Health Town Admin.	Permits & Inspections	Salary & Expense	\$35,000	\$35,000
Cemetery	Cemetery Comm. Chairman, Town Admin.	Burial Fees	Salary & Expense	\$0	\$5,000
Total Spending				\$257,196	\$252,112

Article 10 cont.

Unanimous

8:08PM

ARTICLE 11. Voted to transfer the sum of \$32,203.52 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 to the FY11 Snow and Ice Removal expense account #01-5-423-780.

Unanimous

8:09PM

ARTICLE 12. Voted to pass over this article.

Unanimous

8:10PM

ARTICLE 13. Voted to transfer the sum of \$50 to the Goodnow Book Expense Account from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 for the purchase of books for the Library, as required by the terms of the Goodnow Deed of Gift.

Unanimous

8:11PM

ARTICLE 14. Voted to amend Chapter IX (Town Property), of the bylaws of the Town of Princeton by deleting the language in Section 1 in its entirety and re-titling the existing Section 2 as Section 1.

Unanimous

8:12PM

ARTICLE 15. Voted to authorize the Selectmen to contract with and accept any grants from the Mass. Department of Transportation-Highway Division for the construction of any road or related work that may be allotted to the Town for the ensuing year.

Unanimous

8:13PM

ARTICLE 16. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$50,000 to the General Stabilization Account #83-5-041-000, and further move to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$75,000 to the Infrastructure Stabilization Account #85-5-041-000.

2/3 Vote Required

Unanimous (By voice Vote)

8:14PM

ARTICLE 17. Voted to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 20 and to establish a separate fund known as the "Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund"

Unanimous

8:17PM

ARTICLE 18. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$87,062 to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

Unanimous

8:24PM

ARTICLE 19. Voted to pass over this article. Accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 18A which will require that all retirees who retire after the acceptance of this section, their spouses and dependents who are enrolled in Medicare Part A at no cost to a retiree, their spouse or dependents, or eligible for coverage thereunder at no cost to a retiree, his spouse or dependents, be required to enroll in a Medicare health benefits supplemental plan offered by the Town.

Discussion:

Question from the floor on why the Article should be passed over.

Selectman Dennehy stated that the Selectboard feels they need to refine the article. The effects of the article are downstream it's not imperative that it pass tonight. The Selectboard would like the opportunity to refine the language and review at a later date.

Unanimous

8:25PM

ARTICLE 20. Voted to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54, exempting from taxation personal property accounts having a valuation of less than \$10,000.

Unanimous

8:27PM

ARTICLE 21. Voted to transfer the sum of \$1,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to the Band Concert Expense account #03-5-692-781 for town concerts, the expenditure of such funds to be authorized by the Board of Selectmen.

Unanimous

8:27PM

ARTICLE 22. Voted to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 19K allowing for additional compensation for the Town Clerk upon certification, and further move that the town transfer the sum of \$1,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund to fund the additional compensation in FY 12.

Unanimous

8:29PM

ARTICLE 23. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$2,200 to establish a Special Fund for the Planning Board to fund staff time and expenses for assistance from the planning staff of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to develop a concept plan for a Post Office Place Village District.

Discussion:

Tom Daly – Planning Board Chair- Described the process as a 1st step to determine the viability of a mixed use area as suggested in the Town Plan. CMRPC would assist the Planning Board in exploring the feasibility of establishing a Post Office Place overlay district. CMRPC would provide technical support conduct public forums and workshops to determine appropriate uses in the area and develop a 10-20 year vision. Once a plan has been developed Planning Board will request that Selectboard appoint a project committee consisting of community members, dept. and board members.

Kathy Conway, Mirick Rd. - spoke against the article and was concerned that zoning would change for residents in that area.

Geoffrey Yaglou, Worcester Rd. spoke against the article in agreement with Ms. Conway.

Jerry Gannelli, Sharon Dr.- Planning Board Member spoke in favor of the article explaining that the overlay district does not change the underlying zoning and invited those that are interested to participate in the development process.

Moderator declared that the motion carried

8:38PM

ARTICLE 24. Voted to transfer the sum of \$3,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund to purchase an Exterior Bookdrop and any related appurtenances for the use of the Library Department.

Unanimous

8:42PM

ARTICLE 25. Voted to transfer the sum of \$3,500 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to the Meetinghouse Cemetery Expense account #03-5-491-097 to continue the ongoing restoration of Meetinghouse Cemetery and its historic gravestones.

Unanimous

8:44PM

ARTICLE 26. Voted to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund to purchase a used dump truck or trucks and any related appurtenances for the use of the Highway Department.

Unanimous

8:45PM

ARTICLE 27. Voted to transfer the sum of \$5,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund to purchase a replacement base radio and any related “appliances” (accepted by Moderator as a substitute for the term “appurtenances”) for the use of the Police Department.

Unanimous

8:47PM

Motion to reconsider Article 23. After a brief discussion, there was no action taken to reconsider the article.

ARTICLE 28. Voted to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund to fund any costs associated with a transition by the Town entering into a Regional Public Safety Dispatch System.

Discussion:

Dominic Golding, Hubbardston Rd.– What are “any costs”

Selectman Dennehy- Transition costs to accommodate new technologies. Town has done a feasibility study with Worcester and has recently entered into an agreement to do a study with Holden; both have different technologies. Selectboard would like to have the cash available to provide the necessary transition without going to town meeting for that specific purpose.

Phillip Mighdoll – Redemption Rock Tr. – Has Selectboard decided to move to regional dispatch. Wording implies that study is complete and the \$25000 is for hardware costs. Would like town meeting approval for regionalization.

Selectman Dennehy – Town has not made decision. The study is funded is by grant money.

Jerry Gannelli, Sharon Dr. – spoke against article –expected the decision to regionalize would be made by Town Meeting.

Neil Sulmasy, Thompson Rd. – Public Safety Committee Chair

- 8 month effort by committee
- intention is not to do anything without the consensus from the town
- goal has been to figure out how to streamline services to the town
- essence of the article is to provide flexibility and fiscal responsibility in responding to a regionalization effort if approved

Susan Ulrich, Mountain Rd. - Is Town Meeting vote necessary to approve?

Selectman Moss – Member of Public Safety Committee- State is trying to encourage communities to regionalize to improve efficiency and to elevate the level of public safety. There is a current proposal (not yet approved) by state to require 2 dispatchers per shift.

Alan Sentkowski, Goodnow Rd.- Compare Massachusetts dispatch centers to other states, MA has multiple times more centers. Respect the work committees have done. Considering the state requirements can a town our size afford it? Does not believe we can.

David Krashes, Rhodes Rd. – Trust the Selectmen to make the decision.

Greg Miranda, Worcester Rd – How will the decision be made, by Selectman or Town Meeting?

Selectman Dennehy stated that to the best of his understanding the action does not require a town meeting vote; Town Counsel was unsure.

Motion was made by Phillip Mighdoll and seconded to Table Article 28.

After card count, Moderator declared that we are not going to table the article.

Discussion cont.

Matt Lindberg, Leominster Rd.– Would defeat of Article 28 preclude the town from continuing the study work?

Selectman Dennehy answered that it does not.

Tess Bois, Mirick Rd. – Explain how \$25K number was derived?

John Lebeaux, Town Administrator – Estimate of unknowns; felt that it was a reasonable number considering there are multiple technologies involved.

David Krashes, Rhodes Rd. – I move the question

Moderator asked for a vote to move the question

Moderator declared that motion carried

9:12PM

ARTICLE 29. Voted to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund to purchase turnout gear for the use of the Fire Department.

Unanimous

9:13PM

ARTICLE 30. Voted to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund to provide for mechanical and electrical improvements to, and for the painting of Ambulance A1.

Unanimous

9:14PM

ARTICLE 31. Voted to transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 to the Town Building Maintenance Program account #03-5-192-204 to continue to defray the costs for materials and repairs to town buildings.

Unanimous

9:15PM

ARTICLE 32. Voted to transfer the sum of \$8,000 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation-Cemetery Lots account # 27-5-491-000 to the Cemetery Maintenance Account for the care and improvement of town cemeteries, including landscaping, stonewall repair, and equipment.

Unanimous

9:17PM

Motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting.

Unanimous

9:18PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne F. Grettum, Town Clerk