

Members Present afternoon of 3/12: Gary Wells, Chair, Jim Tepper, Phyllis Jaffee, Jim Driscoll, Hank Rauch, Tara Howard (arrived 12:44 p.m.), Beth Blumberg (arrived 1:59 p.m.). Absent: Lisa Blazejewski.

At 12:39 p.m. Mr. Wells called the meeting to order in the Auditorium of the Westborough High School.

### **Open Forum**

There were no requests to address the Committee

### **Annual Town Meeting (ATM) – Outstanding Business**

Mr. Wells presented the first order of business. Town Moderator, John Arnold, addressed the Committee on Town Clerk, Wendy Mickel's behalf. He mentioned that they would like to have the clickers available for Monday night if Town Meeting runs over, and possibly Tuesday night as well. Mr. Arnold pointed out that there are some votes with a 2/3 requirement and it would be easier to count. He reviewed the speed and efficiency of the clickers and stated that voters have become accustomed to electronic voting, which allows them to vote on contentious issues the way they want by providing anonymity. Since there would be an extra cost by having the clickers on additional night(s), Mr. Arnold asked if the AFC would support the cost out of their Reserve Fund should it exceed the Town Clerk's budget. He thought the cost shouldn't surpass \$10,000. It was noted that Ms. Mickel is asking for \$9,820 under the line item Town Clerk – Elections & Registrations – Professional Services – electronic handsets. Mr. Rauch made a motion to authorize the transfer of \$9,820 from the AFC Reserve Fund to the Town Clerk – Elections & Registrations budget for the purpose of the additional time needed for the electronic handsets. Voted: 5-0-0.

Annual Town Meeting began at 1:00 p.m.

The AFC recessed at 5:00 p.m. when the ATM recessed.

The AFC reconvened at 7:00 p.m. when the ATM reconvened.

Members Present evening of 3/12: Gary Wells, Chair, Jim Tepper, Lisa Blazejewski, Jim Driscoll, Hank Rauch, Tara Howard. Absent: Phyllis Jaffee, Beth Blumberg.

Regarding Article 12 Amend Zoning Bylaw: Senior Living Overlay District, a resident modified the motion to allow children 18 years of age or younger to reside in the Independent Senior Housing. The AFC took a vote and were unanimously opposed to this amendment. Voted: 6-0-0.

There was also discussion on Article 13 Transfer of a Portion of the former Westborough State Hospital Land to the Conservation Commission. A resident proposed an amendment to remove the parcel of land along Lake Chauncy designated as "A1". The AFC took a vote and supported this change. Voted: 4-2-0.

The AFC recessed at 10:46 p.m. when the ATM recessed.

The AFC reconvened on Monday, 3/14 at 6:56 p.m.

Members Present 3/14: Gary Wells, Chair, Lisa Blazejewski, Tara Howard, Jim Driscoll, Hank Rauch, Phyllis Jaffee, Jim Tepper (left at 9:20 p.m.), Beth Blumberg (arrived 7:45 p.m.).

Mr. Wells reminded the Committee that he will not be here tomorrow night should Town Meeting continue. He wanted to appoint a Vice Chair in his absence. Mr. Driscoll nominated Lisa Blazejewski as temporary Vice Chair and Ms. Howard seconded. Voted: 6-0-1 (abstention: Blazejewski).

Annual Town Meeting continued at 7:00 p.m.

Article 19B - Rules and Regulations was discussed on Town Meeting floor. This article stated that rules and regulations become effective immediately, however, this article didn't address as to when the change needed to be filed in the Town Clerk's office. A resident proposed requiring that any rules and regulations that are adopted need to be filed in the Town Clerk's office within 5 business days. The Charter Review Committee agreed to make this amendment the main motion. Another resident asked to modify this motion further and have it state that the new rules and regulations don't become effective immediately but rather in 5 business days, so it gives people time to comply, and that's also when it needs to be filed with the Town Clerk's office. The AFC discussed this amendment and voted not to support this modification. Voted: 7-0-1 (abstention: Tepper).

There was a change suggested by a resident on Article 20A - Time of Meeting for Town Meetings. After some discussion the word "regular" was reinstated. The Charter Review Committee agreed with this change. The AFC did not take a vote.

Mr. Wells presented the AFC's position on Article 20E – Residency Requirement. He informed voters that the AFC had a split vote on this article since they didn't want to exempt current employees. Mr. Wells showed the slide prepared with the AFC's amendment where there was a strike through over the last sentence and replaced with "This residency requirement shall not apply to any employee currently filling these positions at the time of adoption of this section of the Charter". Mr. Wells answered questions from the audience regarding how the AFC voted on the amendment (5-3-0) and also provided clarification on what is considered a residence. There was continued discussion on Town Meeting floor. A vote was taken and residents did not support the amendment presented by the AFC.

A resident proposed a change to Article 20N – Town Wide Management Team. The amendment was to add the word "preliminary" when referring to the performance reviews conducted by the Town Manager of each department head appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The AFC voted and did not support this amendment. Voted: 7-0-0.

The AFC recessed at 11:04 p.m. when the ATM recessed.

The AFC reconvened on Tuesday, 3/15 at 7:00 p.m. when the ATM reconvened.

Members Present 3/15: Vice Chair, Lisa Blazejewski, Tara Howard, Jim Driscoll, Phyllis Jaffee, Beth Blumberg.  
Absent: Gary Wells, Chair, Jim Tepper, Hank Rauch.

Ms. Blazejewski presented an amendment from the AFC for Article 20Q – Action on the Budget where the AFC would like to change the timing of the joint meeting regarding the budget for the following fiscal year from January to February. The Board of Selectmen voted to support this amendment. Residents voted to approve this change as well.

### **Adjournment**

The ATM concluded at 9:51 p.m. Ms. Jaffee made a motion to adjourn at 9:51 p.m. and Ms. Howard seconded. Voted: 5-0-0.

### **Document List**

Report & Recommendations Book – AFC

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Thomas  
AFC Administrative Assistant