

TOWN MEETING — MARCH 5, 1974

Town meeting called to order by Moderator Clark at 2:00 P.M. Warrant read — voting articles only — polls declared open. Voting followed — votes cast 174 — polls closed 7:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order 7:40 P.M. Warrant read. Result of voting announced by Moderator.

Article 1:

Selectman for 3 years — Harold Elliott

Delegates to Constitutional Convention — Final count gave Milford four delegates, who also represent Mason.

School Board — 3 years — Donna Lawler

Article 2: Planning Ordinance Amendments passed 89 to 78.

Article 3: To choose all necessary Town Officers.

3 year Library Trustee — Janet Stevens — elected by show of hands

3 year Trustee of Cemetery — Frank Newell — Clerk authorized to cast 1 vote

3 year Trustee of Trust Funds — Robert Marshall — Clerk authorized to cast 1 vote

1 year Trustee of Trust Funds — Bowman Stone — show of hands

1 year Auditor — Isabelle Anderson — Clerk authorized to cast 1 vote

Duly sworn into office by Moderator were R. Marshall, B. Stone, F. Newell, J. Stevens and D. Lawler.

Article 4: Selectmen Chairman Henry Abbott "moved to raise and appropriate a sum of money as may be needed to defray town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations of the same". It was quickly pointed out that no specific sum of money was designated. Discussion established that; 1. County Tax is set by County Delegates, 2. School Tax is set at school meeting, 3. Town meeting establishes only total town expenditures which are listed in town report as \$89,539.00. Selectman Abbott withdrew his motion and moved to raise and appropriate \$89,539.00 to defray town charges for the ensuing year. Much discussion followed on all line items. Delaying tactics were evident. Comments were; 1973 tax rate up \$5.00, 1974 tax rate headed for 30% increase, too much too fast, highway funds should be cut \$7,000 saving \$5.00 on tax rate not increasing it. Road Agent pointed out costs of labor and materials up, tar up, trying to build up new equipment and bring roads back from neglect of past few years. Town hall expense high for use it gets, roof damage covered by insurance. Question moved, voice vote on budget motion doubtful, hand count, lost. Isn't Revenue Sharing to be spent not saved, town obligations to be considered, tax map, dump, fire truck.

The people decide how to spend Revenue Sharing money on budget items and stipulate how much on what. Selectmen cannot decide, must be instructed. Why not cut budget 10 to 20% and leave solution to Selectmen as to what items to cut. Recess called by Moderator Clark — chance for informal talk — all amendments to change motion on floor to be in writing and better not mess with Revenue Sharing and T.R.A. road money. Meeting called to order 9:55. Motion by Strauss to amend motion on Article 4 to read \$93,539 to defray town charges including \$83,539 for town expenses and \$10,000 for County Tax and to direct Selectmen to recognize the use of Revenue Sharing funds both past and future on certain budget items.

Question moved on amendment by Strauss to Article 4, lost.

Question moved on original Article 4 motion to end debate or continue. Passed — no more debate. Moved and seconded to adjourn, declared illegal by Moderator. Motion on floor who wants to conclude Article 4 — positive — by show of hands. Motion to amend Article 4 to read \$93,539 including \$83,539 for town charges and \$10,000 County Tax — cuts budget \$6,000 — standing vote — not passed. Motion to close debate on original article — standing vote — passed. Voting on Article 4 to raise and appropriate \$89,539 to defray town charges passed in the affirmative.

Moved to adjourn to Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Passed in the affirmative at 10:25 P.M.

Article 5: Passed authorizing borrowing money against taxes.

Article 6: Increased salary of Treasurer \$300 to \$400.

Article 7: Appropriated \$2,863.99 for new police cruiser.

Article 8: Authorized payment of \$5,000 using Revenue Sharing Money for first of 4 payments on town note for purchase of fire truck.

Article 9: Authorized payment of \$2,293.20 Revenue Sharing money for purchase of Sand Spreader.

Article 10: Approved \$500 payment for necessary adjustments on 1974 property assessments by Tax Commission appraisers.

Article 11: \$407.32 voted as town's share of S.W.N.H.R.P.C.

Article 12: Couldn't look gift horse in the face — passed \$840 for breathtesting device. Fully reimbursed by State.

Article 13: Voted \$874 for two fire proof files (amended to use Revenue Sharing Funds).

Article 14: Passed \$300 for repairs to vault roof at Pleasant View Cemetery. Illegal to use Revenue Sharing money for wages.

Article 15: Voted \$250 for repair of entrances to Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Article 16: Defeated — no cap stones for Town Pound.

Article 17: Amended to read "to join in study with other communities concerning use of" a Solid Waste Disposal. Excellent pre-

sentation of dump problem by Selectman Elliott. Passed with amendment.

Article 18: Negative vote.

Article 19: Dept. of Public Works tabled for more study.

Article 20: Voted to establish Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 21: Tabled \$1,000 for police cruiser to be put in Reserve Fund.

Article 22: Authorized forming permanent Water Hole Committee of 3 including 1 member of Fire Dept., and appointed by Selectmen. Committee appointed December 1974 — B. Berry, C. M. Dunn, C. Fifield.

Article 23: \$250 for water hole maintenance.

Article 24: Amended to read "Balance of 1974 Revenue Sharing plus interest" to Reserve Fund for tax map of town.

Article 25: Authorized Selectmen to accept Federal and State aid after natural disasters.

Article 26: Approved budget of \$150 for M.A.R.B.C. and committee of 3 to be chosen by Historical Society.

Article 27: Semi-Annual Tax Billing defeated.

Article 28: 2% discount on taxes defeated.

Article 29: Scenic roads to be established — defeated.

Article 30: Passed.

Article 31: Voted to reopen and maintain Scripps Lane 1,215 feet from Brookline Road to James Washburn residence.

Voted to adjourn 11:52 P.M.

CHARLES F. H. CRATHERN, Town Clerk