

MASON TOWN MEETING

MARCH 14, 1989

The Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. After reading the Warrant through Article 1, the polls were declared open at 12:00 Noon. There were 605 on the check list. The polls were closed at 7:04 P.M., after 138 had voted. This included four absentee ballots.

The results were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years: Wolfgang Millbrandt 116
Selectman for 1 year: Shirley Morley 119
Auditor: Write Ins: George Schwenk 19, Deborah Downey 6, Paul Downey 5
Library Trustee: Kathleen Chase 127
Trustee of Cemeteries: Wallace Brown 125
Trustee of Trust Funds 3 years: Deborah Downey 135
Trustee of Trust Funds 2 years: Write ins: Ronald Youngblood 3, Arthur Rafter 3

School Board member: Susan Rantamaki 131
School Auditors: Write ins: George Schwenk 12, Deborah Downey 5

The meeting was reopened at 8:00 P.M. Scout Steven Chase presented the colors, after which, Rev. William Donoghue gave the invocation. Stephen Eisenhaure lead us in the salute to the flag. Mrs. Schwenk made reference to Stephen's high scholastic standing and the Gold Key Award he received from the Boston Globe for his stenciled pottery.

Mr. Gary Elsworth made a motion that we adjourn our meeting at 10:30 P.M. and reconvene at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday the 18th to complete Town business. Mrs. Schwenk informed him that we could not act on his motion at this time because the Bond Issue in Article 3, by law, has to be discussed first.

The moderator expressed our appreciation to Wolfgang Millbrandt, for stepping in last summer, when Robert McManus resigned due to a job change. Also, to Leo Bergergon for filling in as acting Police Chief for a few months due to the resignation of Chief Hartley. He gave much time to the town, including a vacation from his regular job. Thanks, also, to Deborah Downey for her work in bookkeeping and accounting.

Tribute was given to Curtis Dunn for 15 years service as road agent. A letter was read from Mr. Paul Ralston, principal of the elementary schools, praising Curt for keeping roads plowed and for his help in other matters. A folder containing notes from our second graders was presented, along with a poster made by students and signed by them.

Mrs. Schwenk read parts of a letter from former Selectman Henry Abbott, who now resides in Florida.

The Town Clerk read the Warrant through the list of officers to be elected. The reading of the warrant articles was waived.

A motion to advance Article 3 passed. RSA 33-8, section 2, says that bond or note issues exceeding \$100,000.00, shall be acted on prior to other business.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$153,000.00 for the purchase and original equipping of a new Fire Truck and for the costs incurred in issuing bonds or notes to purchase said truck; and to authorize the issuance of \$100,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance act, (RSA: Chapter 33) and to authorize the Selectmen and the Town Treasurer to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of \$53,500.00 from the Fire Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose, or take any other action relative thereto.

Chief Berry explained the need for the new Fire Truck and answered questions as to the condition of other fire equipment. Suggestions were shared and comments were given on other options. Deborah Downey explained the financial costs in regard to our Tax Rate.

A motion to move the question passed. Mrs. Schwenk reviewed the section of RSA 33:9 which covered the voting on a bond or note issue. The polls were declared open at 8:37 P.M. and closed at 9:42 P.M.

Article 3 passed by a ballot vote: 89 yes, 24 no.

During the time the polls were open, we proceeded with other matters. Michael Bromberg, representing the Cable TV Committee mentioned the upcoming meeting on May 2nd. Questionnaires were passed out to be returned in the near future with input from the residents on what they would like from Cable TV.

Mr. Millbrandt paid tribute to Deborah Phillips for her work as a selectman, and as a parting gift, presented her with a thick volume on the "Hydrogeological Investigation of the Ruggiero Pig Farm Site" prepared for the N.H. Department of Environmental Service Waste Management Division.

Mr. Elsworth again presented his motion to adjourn at 10:30 P.M. and reconvene at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday the 18th, to complete town business. A lengthy discussion was held as to the feasibility of this idea. The motion failed to pass.

Article 2. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Town Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of tax receipts.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, or borrowing, or otherwise, the sum of \$505,435.00 for the the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing, or take any other action relative thereto.

Mr. Millbrandt reviewed the line items of the budget, noting where big changes had been made. Questions were answered by different department representatives.

A motion was made, seconded to add \$3,125 to the salaries in the Library budget. This motion passed.

Motion to move the question at 9:40 P.M. was defeated. 61 no, 41 yes.

A motion was made and seconded to let Chief Fanning address the meeting in regards to the Police Department. Motion passed. A heated discussion was held on matters pertaining to the Police Chief.

Motion to move the question passed at 9:59 P.M.

Article 4. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$508,560.00 for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing. This included an increase in the Library budget of \$3,125.00

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to improve and pave a section of Darling Hill Rd.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to install two fuel tanks at the Highway Town Barn.

Article 7. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Cemetery Land Purchase and Improvement Fund, and authorized the Selectmen to expend \$10,000.00 from this fund for the acquisition or improvement of land.

Article 8. A motion to postpone this article indefinitely passed.

Article 9. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$4,424.38, representing the Town's portion of the cost of road repairs relating to the 1987 flood monies granted under the Federal Emergency Management Act, such funds to be used for road repairs.

Article 10. That the Town vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$18,000.00 to purchase the portable school building that is presently located on the Town Common.

Mr. Godjikian informed us of the offers available to us in the possible purchase of this building. After a discussion, the vote was unanimous not to buy the building.

Article 10. The motion on article 10 failed to pass.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to purchase a used dump truck.

Article 12. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be added to the Highway Capital Equipment Reserve Fund, and authorized the use/transfer of the December 1988 fund balance for this purpose.

Article 13. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to transfer any and all interest in the Town's 30 year old fire pumper to the Mason Volunteer Fire Department.

Article 14. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Town Fire Chief to enter into agreements under RSA 154:24 with other Towns within the Souhegan Mutual

Aid Fire Association and the Town's of Townsend and Ashby, Massachusetts, for the purpose of giving and receiving mutual aid.

Article 15. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to expend Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) funds and state emergency funds paid to the Town for all highway expenses in compliance with State and Federal law.

Article 16. That the Town vote to hold the annual Town Meeting on the Saturday following the second Tuesday in March at 9:00 A.M. in the Mason Town Hall, or other facility as appropriate to house the number of attendees.

A discussion was held and input received on the advantages of changing our Town Meeting to another time.

Article 16. The motion on article 16 failed to pass.

The Town voted to establish a Space Needs Study Committee Consisting of five members appointed as follows: two members appointed by the Selectmen, one member appointed by the Planning Board, one member appointed by the Moderator, one member appointed by the Fire Chief, said committee to be appointed forthwith and charged with the responsibility of studying the existing structures and space needs of all town boards and making a report with recommendations at the next Annual Town Meeting.

The moderator expressed thanks to the Kenneth Wilson's for the work they do for the setting up of Town Meeting. Also, to the Congregational Church for letting us use their flag and podium.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:55 P.M. This motion passed.

Wolfgang Millbrandt, Shirley Morley, Deborah Downey, Wallace Brown and Kathleen Chase were duly sworn in by the moderator.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte N. Hastings, Town Clerk