

MASON TOWN MEETING

MARCH 13, 1990

The Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. The Town Clerk read the Warrant through Article #1. The polls were declared open at 12:01 p.m. There were 608 on the check list. The polls were closed at 7:03 p.m. after 151 had voted. This included two absentee ballots.

The results were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years: Anne Richards 122, Write ins: Shirley Morley 13
Moderator for 2 years: Catherine Schwenk 110 Write Ins: Alwin Hodson 24
Treasurer for 3 years: Ann Gavin 141
Town Clerk for 3 years: Charlotte N. Hastings 146
Tax Collector for 3 years: Charlotte N. Hastings 147
Auditor for 1 year: Write ins: James Losee 13
Supervisor of the check list for 6 years: Shirley Morley 129
Library Trustee for 3 years: Pamela J. Steinberg 140
Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: David Morrison 146
Trustee of Trust Funds for 2 years: George G. Schwenk 132
Trustee of Trust Fund for 3 years: Write ins: James Losee 19

Planning board amendment:

Are you in favor of amending the Town of Mason Planning Ordinance of 1967 by adding an Article 18 containing the New Hampshire Model Flood Plain Development Ordinance dated 11/24/89.

This passed by a ballot vote 119 yes, 29 no.

The meeting was reopened at 8:00 p.m. Scout John Dube presented the colors. Jeremy Castonguay was the color guard. Rev. William J. Donoghue gave the invocation. Mrs. Deborah Downey led us in the salute to the flag.

A standing ovation was given to Rev. Donoghue in tribute to all the work he has done for the church and the town. He and his family are soon moving from Mason. Rev. Donoghue reflected on his 10 years in Mason. Mr. James Rowse read an "Ode To Our Minister" that he had written.

The moderator thanked Mrs. Downey for filling in as Moderator during special elections last summer. Special thanks also to Mrs. Downey and to Mrs. Joan Losee for all the work done in regards to the school play ground.

The reading of the Warrant articles was waived.

The Moderator read RSA 40 which pertains to the delivery of Town reports 7 days before the Town Meeting. Our reports had been delayed. The voters agreed to take no action in this matter.

A motion was made and seconded to allow Chief Robert L. Malboeuf to speak when the police budget was discussed. This motion passed.

A motion to advance Article #17 passed.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28 V & VI to expand the Veterans' exemption from \$50 to \$100, and to expand the Veteran Disability Exemption from \$700 to \$1,400 RSA 72:35 IV.

The polls were opened at 8:19 and closed at 8:45.

Article #17 passed by ballot vote. 81 yes, 13 no.

The Moderator brought to the attention of the voters the fact that a Space Need Study Committee that was authorized at last year's meeting had not been formed. She felt it may have a bearing on Article #8.

Mr. Michael Bromberg gave a report on the progress of obtaining cable TV. There will be a public meeting on this on April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. At that time the proposals of two companies will be discussed.

A tribute to Mr. Theodore Stewart was given in recognition of his many years of service on the Planning board.

A motion to advance Article #4 passed.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,000 for the purchase of a grader for the Highway Department. The funds for this vehicle to be raised as follows: \$40,000 Highway Equipment Capital Reserve; \$20,000 taxation; and \$50,000 by borrowing or take any action relative thereto.

A discussion on this was led by Mr. Millbrandt and Mr. Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised us as to the condition of the old grader and how expensive it is to get parts, if available, and he felt a newer grader would be the best choice. He is leasing one now and if we were to buy it, the lease payments would be applied to the cost. He also told us the price of a brand new one would be around \$110,000. The used one, \$78,000.

Article 4. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$78,000 for the purchase of a grader for the Highway Department. The funds for this vehicle to be raised as follows: \$40,000 Highway Equipment Capital Reserve, \$20,000 by taxation, \$18,000 by borrowing.

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

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$533,150 for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing, or take any other action relative thereto.

The line items of the budget were reviewed, and note was made of two addition errors. The Reappraisal total should be 5,800. The Planning and zoning total 6,340. This did not change the budget figure.

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$954 to maintain the Town's membership in the Southwest Region Planning Commission. This motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to change the officer's salaries in the Police budget from \$12,700 to \$20,200.

Chief Malboeuf explained the need for a second full-time police officer. The Town has grown so, and his time is taken up with investigations and other necessary police work. He has been putting in 12 to 14 hour days, and feels the need of the additional help.

The motion to change the officer's salaries from \$12,700 to \$20,200 passed. This would change the Police Department total from 54,300 to \$61,800.

A motion was made and seconded to modify Employment and Insurance expenses from \$64,630 to \$72,630. This would change the Retirement Insurance from \$6,000 to \$8,000, the Health insurance from \$15,000 to \$20,000 and the Payroll taxes from \$15,000 to \$16,000.

The motion to modify the Employment and Insurance Expenses passed. Police budget from \$500 to \$6,500.

An update was given as to the condition of the two police vehicles. Chief Malboeuf would like to lease a new car for the department. A discussion followed as to the type of vehicles available. The \$6,000 increase would pay for one year's leasing.

The town voted to amend the miscellaneous line of the Police budget from \$500 to \$6,500 and to proceed with the leasing of a car for the department. This would make the Police department total come to \$67,800.

Article 4. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$555,604 for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing. This included the following increases. \$8,000 in the Employment and Insurance expenses, \$954 in the Planning and Zoning budget, and \$13,500 in the Police budget.

Article 5. A motion to postpone this article indefinitely passed.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,800 for a used dump truck.

Article 7. The Town voted to establish the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, for the purpose of building additional library facilities, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund.

This was a ballot vote. 58 yes, 36 no.

Article 8. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of 5+/- acres of Town owned land, described as parcel 48 on the tax map, located adjacent to the Mason Congregational Church, such parcel having been acquired by donation from James and Anna Rowse in 1976, for the purpose of erecting town offices upon, and to dispose of said property in exchange for a right of way granted to the Town to access the back town owned cemetery parcels.

Article 9 was read through and Mrs. Fletcher explained the workings of RSA 22:1-1. Many questions were brought up. After a long discussion, a motion to stop debate was passed.

Article 9. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the gross sum of \$500,000, to be used only for acquisition in the name of the Town of the fee or lessor interest in Conservation land and other costs associated therewith for permanent conservation use and further authorized the Selectmen to accept private donations of land, interest in land, or money for the purposes of contributing to the local matching portion required for acquiring Conservation land or interest in land or other costs associated therewith permanent conservation use under the NH Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) RSA 22:1-1, and authorized the Selectmen to apply for and accept the State matching funds under the LCIP in an amount up to \$250,000 for the purposes of acquisition of the fee or less interest in Conservation land. This appropriation is contingent upon the receipt of State funds and Private donations. The portion of this appropriation to be raised by taxation, will be no more than \$15,000. Said appropriated funds and State matching funds may be expended by majority vote of the Conservation Commission. This article passed by a voice vote. Then a count vote was requested. The result was 55 yes, 22 no.

Article 10. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,680 to purchase fire pants and boots for the use of the Mason Volunteer Fire Department.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Cemetery Land Purchase and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 12. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to remove material from the railroad bed.

A motion to advance Article 18 passed. It was voted to allow Pat Johannesen to speak on the upcoming recycling article.

Article 18. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,622 for the purchase of a horizontal baler, waste fuel furnace, furnace ducting, and thermal insulating strips for the Wilton Recycling Center. It also authorized the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept and expend grants from the Governor's Recycling Grants Program in the amount of \$2,311 for the purchase of the above-mentioned equipment, with the balance of \$2,311 to be raised by general taxation. This appropriation is contingent upon receipt of State funds by Mason and the receipt of State funds and the matching of State funds by Mason and the receipt of State funds and the matching of State funds by Mason and the receipt of State funds and the matching appropriation by other municipalities participating in the Wilton Recycling Center. The total sum of purchase, including Mason's share is \$47,635.

Article 13. A motion to postpone this article indefinitely passed.

Article 14. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to join the Regional Family Health program for one year.

Article 15. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$328 for lettering

on a stone to be erected in honor of two Mason men Joseph Blood and Ebenezer Blood, Jr. who never returned from the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 14, 1775.

Article 16. The Town voted to amend the Town of Mason Planning Ordinance of 1967, by adding an Article 18, to contain the New Hampshire Model Floodplain Development Ordinance, dated 11-24-89, and any revisions thereafter. This was by ballot vote during the day. 119 yes, 29 no.

A motion was passed that in addition to Townspeople pursuing whatever other avenues of addressing problems in the school district, that a committee be formed of volunteers to again research the viability of Mason's participation in the Mascenic School District and joining or participating in another school district that might more appropriately meet the educational objectives of the Town's citizens. The committee would also have the objective of assessing the Town's peoples interest in such an action, the alternatives that might exist in forming other school alliances and in formulating the probable costs, or other impact in changing school districts. The committee would further attempt to outline the manner in which such alternative school alliances might practically be achieved. The committee would publish a report of its findings by no later than October 31, 1990. The committee will have no authority to commit the Town to any action whatsoever.

The voters decided that no further action would be taken in regards to the Space Need Study Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 11:56 p.m. Motion passed.

The Moderator thanked the Wilsons and others for setting up the Town Hall. Special thanks to Mr. Ivan Johnson for the use of his microphone.

George G. Schwenk, Anne Richards, Charlotte N. Hastings, David Morrison, Pamela J. Steinberg, Ann Gavin and James Losee, who accepted the Trustee of Trust Fund position, were duly sworn in by the Moderator. Catherine Schwenk and Shirley Morley were sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte N. Hastings
Town Clerk