

TOWN MEETING MARCH 12, 1991

The Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. She read the Warrant through Article #3. The polls were declared open at 12:02. There were 673 on the checklist. Polls were closed at 7:02 after 218 had voted. This included 3 absentee ballots.

Results were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years: Clifton W. Hastings 199

Treasurer for 2 years: Deborah Downey 210

Auditor for 1 year: Elisabeth Scanlon 53, Patricia A. Greene 135

Supervisor of the checklist for 1 year: Doris M. Polk

Library Trustee for 3 years: Bette Lewicke 192

Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Wolfgang Millbrandt 200

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years: George G. Schwenk 204

School Board member for 3 years: Arthur Godjikian 170

Write ins: Frank Cadwell 42

School Moderator for 3 years: Catherine Schwenk 198

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following provision with regard to the procedures for changing party affiliations: "Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 554:34-a permitting applications for changes in party affiliations to be made with the Town Clerk". (By petition, by ballot)

By ballot during voting hours: Yes 181, No 16

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to adopt Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Mason Planning Ordinance, as follows: "Delete Article XVII, Growth Management Ordinance, in its entirety, or take any other action relative thereto.

By ballot during voting hours: Yes 116, No 92

The Meeting was reopened at 8:02. Mrs. Schwenk went over the rules and procedure for the meeting. Note was made of minor errors in the Town Report.

Mrs. Schwenk presented a podium to the Town. It was one she had bought and then Mr. James Rowse added a top section and a light. Mr. Rowse had also made a ballot box for the Town's use.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the gift of Catherine Schwenk of a podium with a light and a ballot box from James Rowse. Mrs. Schwenk presented Mr. Rowse with a golden apple in appreciation of his work.

Selectman Anne Richards presented a plant to Mrs. Helen Craig in appreciation of her several years of service as Secretary to the Selectmen.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fletcher reported that the Town had received a grant of \$150,000 from the N.H. Land Conservation Investment Program. This will allow us to buy 163 acres from the Fletcher Liquidating Trust. This was made possible through easements given by Mr. Theodore Stewart and Mr. Kenneth Doonan. The land will be owned by the Town, to be used for conservation and other uses. Money had been voted in last year for surveying and appraising purposes.

Scout Jeremy Castonguay presented the colors. Mrs. Deborah Downey gave the invocation, after which Mrs. Schwenk led us in the salute to the flag.

The reading of the Warrant Articles was waived.

Permission was given to Pat Johannesen and Charles Kelley to speak on articles pertaining to them.

Article 4. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Town Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of tax receipts.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, or borrowing, or otherwise, the sum of \$554,904 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. Note was made of an increase in the amount due the Wilton Recycling Center. Mrs. Johannesen reviewed the budget of the center and answered questions pertaining to it. Comments were made on the use of the center. A show of hands pointed out that about half of the voters present used the center.

The town voted to change the amount due the Wilton Recycling Center from \$24,00 to \$30,811.

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$561,715 for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing. This included an increase of \$6811 in the cost of the Recycling Center.

The Town voted to advance Article 20 before Article 6.

Article 20. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,033.46 for the purchase of trailers, bucket/grapple, glass crusher, and roof for the Wilton Recycling Center, and authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend grants from the Governor's Recycling Grant Program in the amount of \$4,016.73 for the above mentioned equipment. This was by ballot vote. Yese 121, No 42.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,150 for the purchase of a used tanker truck for the fire department, and to authorize the withdrawal of 47,150 from the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund created for this purpose. This was by ballot vote. Yes 93, No 71.

Article 7. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200 to purchase radios for the Highway Department.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,857.91 to be added to the Highway Reserve Fund, and authorized the use/transfer of this same amount from the general fund balance.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,00 to be added to the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made, seconded and passed, and we voted to postpone Article 9 until our March 26th session. It will be item No 1 at that time.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$2,500 for the purchase of a work area desk for the Town Library, and to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw \$2,500 from the Ellen Augusta Worcester Wilson Trust Fund to make this purchase, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 10. This article was defeated by hand vote. Yes 65, No 76.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of \$375 to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund.

Article 12. The Town voted unanimously to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of Town owned property known as the Judith Pomerleau property (J-29) which was deeded to the Town in 1990, for consideration of Taxes, fees, penalties, and other associated costs, as justice may require.

Article 13. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,400 to purchase +9 acres of land from mr. Charles E. Kelley (B-3) and authorized the Selectmen to dispose of this property at a price not less than the purchase price.

Article 14. The Town voted unanimously to accept the gift of a parcel of land, lot G6-1 of +1.605 acres, donated by Sandra Gray in memory of George Shaeffer, to be used to expand cemetery space.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to charge a fee of \$25.00 for all applications for tax abatements, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made seconded and passed to amend Article 15 as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to charge a fee of \$25.00 for all applications for tax abatements. This fee would be returned, if the abatement has legitimate claim, if the taxes were indeed wrong.

This amendment was passed by hand vote. Yes 86, No 50.

Article 15. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to charge a fee of \$25.00 for all applications for tax abatements. This fee would be returned, if the abatement had legitimate claim, if the taxes were indeed wrong.

Article 16. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to make repairs to the Town hall building.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to change the intent of the Trust Fund set up by Article 15 at the 1986 Town Meeting from renovation of the stable located on the Benjamin Mann property to equipment for the Police Department and improvement of the present facility used by the Police Department.

Discussion was held as to the intent of the original Trust Fund. It was suggested that all donors to said fund be notified of the change, and to get permission from them to make this change.

Article 17. A motion was made seconded and passed to postpone this article until we reconvene on the 26th. It will be the 2nd item.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200 for the purchase of two radios for the Police Department, and to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw the monies to make this purchase from the Police Equipment Trust Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 18. A motion was made, seconded and passed to postpone this article until we reconvene on the 26th. It will be the 3rd item.

Article 19. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to apply for matching funds from the State's Hazard Mitigation Funds, to match \$10,000 in funds appropriated at the 1990 Town Meeting, in the amount of \$10,000, and authorized the Selectmen to expend these funds for the repair and improvement of a section of the railroad bed.

This session of the Town Meeting was adjourned at 11:28 P.M.

We reconvened at 7:30 P.M. on March 26th for the continuation of the Town Meeting.

Moderator Catherine Schwenk called the meeting to order. Rev. Bonnie C. Evans gave the invocation, after which, Mrs. Schwenk led us in the salute to the flag.

Mrs. Schwenk thanked Mr. Ivan Johnson for the use of his sound equipment. She then made note of the fire exits, and reviewed rules and procedure for the meeting. Special mention was made of the fact that generally we do not reconsider articles once we start in on the next article.

Permission was given to Mr. Greg Hanselman to speak during the meeting.

Article 9 was read through and questions were answered pertaining to future plans for the library. During this time, Mr. Norman Ayzazian asked to speak. He made a few comments and requested that a limit be put on spending to help the retired tax payers.

Article 9. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund. This was by ballot vote. Yes 86, No 56.

A motion was made by Mr. Alfred Broadbent and seconded by Mr. Norman Ayzazian to reconsider Articles 6, 7, 13, and 19.

Mrs. Schwenk then asked, "Shall the ruling of the chair be sustained?" The Town voted to sustain the ruling of the chair, so no reconsideration was possible.

Article 17 was read and Mr. David Baker reported that they had sent letters to the 16 who had given money to the trust fund that had been set up at the 1986 Town Meeting. The 12 replies gave permission for the suggested change. He had spoken to the Municipal Association and they felt it proper to bring this article before the Town.

Article 17. The Town voted unanimously to change the intent of the Trust Fund set up by Article 15 at the 1986 Town meeting from renovations of the stable located on the Benjamin Mann property to equipment for the Police Department and improvement of the present facility used by the Police Department.

Article 18. The Town voted unanimously to indefinitely postpone this article, since it was not necessary to precede with it.

Questions were then asked about the money. Mr. Baker said it was for equipment for the Police Department, and would not effect the Tax Rate. There were no negative comments in regards to this action.

Article 21 was read and a discussion held. Mr. Kurt Lynn gave a media presentation showing some of the differences in the three Towns general outlook on education and on a comparison of data from other districts. Many had input on this subject.

Article 21. The Town voted to direct the Mascenic Regional School Board to conduct a study of the feasibility and suitability of the withdrawal of the Mason School District from the Mascenic Regional district, in accordance with RSA 195:25.

This was by ballot vote. Yes 112, No 29

The following were sworn in at this time: Clifton W. Hastings, Deborah S. Downey, Patricia A. Greene, Doris M. Polk, Bette Lewicke, Wolfgang Millbrandt and George G. Schwenk.

Mr. Michael Bromberg gave a report on the status of the Cable con-

tract. Hopefully, work will start within a year. He explained the different programs being offered.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to direct the Selectmen to conduct a study of the feasibility and suitability of implementing tax abatements of no more than \$1,000 per student to families who have students who pay tuition out of district for primary or secondary education, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 22. The Town voted unanimously to indefinitely postpone this article.

We adjourned at 9:44 P.M. Sine Dai

Charlotte N. Hastings, Town Clerk