

TOWN ELECTION MARCH 14, 2000

TOWN MEETING MARCH 15, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. The Clerk read the Warrant through Article 2.

Polls were declared open at 11:03 A.M. Checklist total was 727. Polls were closed at 7:07 P.M. after 200 had voted. New checklist is 733. This included 4 absentee voters.

Results of the elections were as follows:

Moderator for 2 years:	Catherine Schwenk	167
Selectman for 3 years:	Kenneth Greene	174
Auditor for 1 year (write ins)	Patricia A. Greene	5
Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years:	Sandra L. LeClair	186
Library Trustee for 3 years	Lynn McCann	183
Cemetery Trustee for 3 years:	Robert B. Larochele	176
Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years:	George Schwenk	175
Trustee of Trust Funds for 2 years:		

The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk at 7:30 PM Mrs. Schwenk reviewed the procedure that we would follow. Note was made of the fire and emergency exits. She introduced those sitting at the head table. Thanks were expressed to all whom were involved with the election process.

We paused momentarily in respect for Fred Gilson and others that had passed away.

Colors were presented by the Swift Water Girl Scout Junior Troop 500. Laura Demanche led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Note was made of Mason's newest Eagle Scout Jesse Knisley. Representative Jeffrey MacGillivray brought greetings from the Legislature.

Note was made of a correction on page 20 of the Town Report. Under excess (deficit) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses should be \$55,448. For 1999 fund balance beginning amount should be \$194,308.

Reading of the Warrant was waived. 123 voters checked in and there were 4 non-voters present.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight hundred thirty-one thousand two hundred eighty-one dollars (\$831,281) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

We reviewed the line items. A motion was made and passed to increase the Moderator's salary from 100 to 500. Under Highway Town Maintenance and Highway Department Expenses the following changes were made Plowing was decreased 1,000, making the new total 11,000. 1,500 was added to edges for plows & grades. Equipment maintenance was reduced 500 making the new total 1,500. Under Police Department the following changes were made. The position for a third officer was eliminated, decreasing 20,535. Officers' and other salaries was increased to 35,000. Payroll taxes were increased to 3,720. Health insurance was decreased to 13,500 and retirement was decreased to 3,600. New total for Police Department is 153,817.

Article 2. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight hundred twenty-two thousand four hundred twenty-three dollars (\$822,423) which represents the operating budget.

Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed. This included the changes noted above. Vote was unanimous.

Article 3. The Town voted to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that lease agreement for the purposes of leasing a 2000 GMC vehicle for the Police Department. The vote was unanimous.

Article 4. The Town voted to ratify and adopt the By-laws for the Town of Mason Cemeteries as proposed by the Board of Cemetery trustees. The vote was unanimous.

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to upgrade gravel roads to paved roads. This was by ballot vote. Yes 73, no 49.

A discussion had been held. Many expressed concern about keeping our rural character. Others were concerned about this year's project, which is the paving of 3800 feet on Campbell Mill Rd.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to purchase a new backhoe for the Highway Department and authorize the withdrawal of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) is to come from general taxation.

A motion was made by Wolfgang Millbrandt and seconded by Kenneth Greene to change the amount to raise and appropriate from \$75,000 to \$65,000 and to change the amount to come from General Taxation from \$40,000 to \$35,000. The motion passed.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) to purchase a new backhoe for the Highway Department and authorize the withdrawal of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) is to come from general taxation. The vote was unanimous.

At this time Mr. Dunn announced that he would be retiring this year as our Road Agent. He received a standing ovation.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established, or take any other action relative thereto. A motion was made and seconded to postpone this article indefinitely. The vote was unanimous.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the third payment of the radio frequency link of the communication system as voted for at Town Meeting, March 1998. The vote was unanimous.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5000) for the purpose of exploring new options for the municipal buildings or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made by David P. Cook and seconded by Elisabeth Malboeuf to substitute the following article. To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund for the purpose of building a new police station and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4950 to be added to this fund and to establish a committee for the purpose of exploring new options for the municipal buildings and raise and appropriate the sum of \$50 for this committee for expenses or take any other action relative thereto. This motion passed.

Article 9. The Town voted to establish a capital reserve fund for the purpose of building a new police station and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4950 to be added to this fund and to

establish a committee for the purpose of exploring new options for the municipal buildings and raise and appropriate the sum of \$50 for this committee for expenses.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two hundred and sixty-five dollars (\$265) for the purchase of web site space to house a Town of Mason home page, or take any other action relative thereto. This article failed to pass.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 1999 Fund balance of that amount received from the 1999 sale of surplus Highway Department equipment for this purpose. The vote was unanimous,

Article 12. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-five dollars (\$25) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 1999 Fund balance of that amount received from the 1999 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose.

Article 13. The Town voted to accept the donation of air bags from the Mason Volunteer Fire Department Association.

Article 14. The Town voted to create an expendable general fund trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Town of Mason Communications Fund, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining communications for the Town, and to appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the December 31, 1999 Fund Balance to be placed in this fund, and furthermore to appoint the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Chief as agents to expend from the Communications Fund. The vote was unanimous.

Article 15. The Town voted to accept a donation for improvements to communications of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the Mason Volunteer Fire Department Association. The vote was unanimous.

Article 16. The Town voted to deposit 100% of the revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (the land use change tax) in the Land Protection Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25 II. (The land use change tax comes from property taken out of Current Use taxation for development or other non-conservation purposes.) Petition Warrant Article proposed by the Conservation Commission.

A discussion was held concerning Conservation funds and the advantages of voting this article. A ballot vote was required. Polls were opened at 10:08 and closed at 10:18. Yes 63, no 30.

Article 17. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department. The vote was unanimous.

Article 18. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department. This vote was unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:24 PM.

We adjourned at 10:24 PM Sine Dai.

Charlotte N. Hastings Town Clerk