

TOWN ELECTION MARCH 9, 2004
TOWN MEETING MARCH 10, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. Polls were declared open at 7:07 A.M. Checklist total was 829. Polls were closed at 8:09 P.M. after 590 had voted. This included 19 absentee voters. Checklist total was now 857.

Results of the election were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years: Isabelle Davis 170

Kenneth Greene 158

Mark Richardson 207

Moderator for 2 years: Catherine Schwenk 501

Auditor for 1 year: no one elected

Library Trustee for 3 years: Jenny Scholl 499

Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years: James R. DeMarco 13 Write-ins.

Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Wallace A. Brown 523

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years: no one elected

Trustee of Trust Funds for 1 year: no one elected

1. The Town voted to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, **Article III, Section C** to increase the minimum fee from \$9.00 to \$30.00. This was by Ballot. 285 yes, 221 no.
2. The Town voted to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, under **Fire and General Information**, to increase the Oil Burner Permit inspection fee from \$6.00 per inspection to \$30.00, with \$20.00 allocated to the inspector and \$10.00 to the Town. This was by Ballot. 253 yes, 250 no.
3. The Town voted to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, **Article III** by adding a new subsection **G. Section Title: "Requirements for a building permit on a lot without an existing dwelling"**. **Paragraph: "Prerequisites for Building Permit: permanent boundary markers on lot; proof of ownership of lot; state septic approval; driveway permit from NH Department of Transportation or Town Road Agent; building plans; copy of New Hampshire Plumber's License; and copy of New Hampshire Electrician's License"**. This was by Ballot. 296 yes, 203 no.

School Board results: C. Christopher Guiry 298

Rachel Peterson 230

Note was made that 75/25 school funding passed.

The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk at 7:30 P.M. She reviewed the procedure we would follow. Note was made of the fire and emergency exits. Thanks were expressed to all who were involved in the election process. She introduced those who were sitting at the head table. Mrs. Schwenk acknowledged the 20 years of service by Wolfgang Millbrandt as a selectman. Mrs. Richards presented him with a plaque, followed by a standing ovation. Also, it was noted that Karen Chemello had retired as a Supervisor of the Checklist.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the Warrant.

Boy Scout Troop 264 presented the colors. Tom McGuire led us in the pledge of Allegiance.

Corrections to the Town Report were as follows: On page 6, George Schwenk 's expiration should be 2006. On page 21, the Tax Rate is for 2004. On page 24, replace "our" with "my" in the Trustees of Trust Funds report. On page 3, add scholar after Senior Road. On page 17, it should read Warrant Articles 2004.

Article 5. The Town voted to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that seven year

lease agreement, for the purpose of leasing a fire tanker truck with equipment for the Fire Department, total cost of the new tanker will be One hundred ninety-two thousand five hundred seventy dollars (\$192,570) and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-seven thousand five hundred ten dollars (\$27,510) for the first year's payment of the lease. This lease agreement contains a fiscal funding escape clause.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to advance Articles 20, 21, and 22.

Article 20. The Town voted to withdraw from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25. This was by Ballot Vote. Polls were opened at 8:35 and closed at 8:42. 141 Yes and 34 no.

A very long discussion was held on this article, before the vote. Questioned why it was necessary to vote again this year. Residents were very emotional about this subject.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to negotiate with the North Middlesex Regional School District and enter into an agreement enabling the tuitioning and transportation of Mason students in the grades of six through twelve to schools in said district.

Considerable debate on this article preceded the vote.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to replace "North Middlesex Regional" with "another". Also added " of six or eight" and "said agreement to be conditional on approval by the Mascenic Withdrawal Committee Plan".

Article 21. The Town voted to authorize the selectmen to negotiate with another School District and enter into an agreement enabling the tuitioning and transportation of Mason students in the grades of six or eight through twelve to schools in said district. Said agreement to be conditional on approval by the Mascenic Withdrawal Committee Plan".

Article 22. To see if there is a consensus in the Town of Mason for the following:

- ◆ to raise and appropriate sufficient funds to cover the withdrawal costs from the Mascenic Regional School District, approximately \$700,000
- ◆ to enlarge and modify the existing Mason Elementary School to accommodate kindergarten through grade five, approximately \$380,000, (half to be funded from state new construction aid)
- ◆ to tuition Mason students, grades six through twelve, to North Middlesex Regional School District at approximately \$680,000, including transportation.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to change the wording in paragraph 3 to read "another" and add "grades 6 or 8".

A lot of concern was expressed about the total costs and other items, for example salaries, which were not mentioned in this article.

Article 22. There is a consensus in the Town of Mason for the following:

- ◆ to raise and appropriate sufficient funds to cover the withdrawal costs from the Mascenic Regional School District, approximately \$700,000
- ◆ to enlarge and modify the existing Mason Elementary School to accommodate kindergarten through grade five, approximately \$380,000, (half to be funded from state new construction aid)
- ◆ to tuition Mason students, grades six or eight through twelve, to another School District at approximately \$680,000, including transportation.

This consensus was by Ballot Vote. Polls were opened at 9:36 and closed at 9:45. 123 yes, 34 no.

The Town budget was reviewed page by page.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine hundred seventy-one thousand four hundred forty-four dollars (\$971,444) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

Article 7. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-one thousand eight hundred thirty-

six dollars (\$21,836) for the second year's payment of the lease for the Highway Department's dump truck as voted for at Town Meeting, March 2003.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen thousand seven hundred dollars (\$13,700) for the balance of the cost of the revaluation of the town.
A motion was made, seconded to amend that the payment to be contingent upon standards being made available at Mann House or by mail. The motion to amend was lost.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that three year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing and equipping a new four wheel drive vehicle for the Police Department, total cost of the new vehicle will be Twenty-eight thousand six hundred dollars (\$28,600) and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand six hundred dollars (\$9,600) for the first year's payment of the lease, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made and seconded to change the total from \$28,600.00 to \$26,719.00. This amendment passed unanimously.

A second motion was made and seconded to change the first year's payment from \$9,600.00 to \$8,907.00. This motion passed unanimously.

Article 9. The Town voted to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that three year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing and equipping a new four wheel drive vehicle for the Police Department, total cost of the new vehicle will be Twenty-six thousand seven hundred nineteen dollars (\$26,719) and the Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight thousand nine hundred seven dollars (\$8,907) for the first year's payment of the lease.
This was by Ballot Vote. Polls were opened at 10:50 to 10:59. 81 yes, 16 no.

Article 10. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$9,500) to re-side the fire station.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Highway Construction Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The vote was unanimous.

Article 12. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-four cents (\$533.34) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 2003 Fund balance of that amount received from the 2003 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 13. The Town voted to discontinue the Town Reevaluation Capital Reserve Fund created in 1982. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund.
The vote was unanimous.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to designate Darling Hill Road, Cascade Road and Old Ashby Road as Scenic Roads under the provisions of RSA 231:157 and 158 for the purpose of protecting the scenic beauty of these roads, or take any other action relative thereto. By petition of the Conservation Commission.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to, after Cascade Road add " the part of Old Ashby Road that runs from Merriam Hill Road to Cascade Road. At the end add "Prior written consent (required in some situations) shall be by Selectmen pursuant

to RSA 231:158.

The amendment passed unanimously.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to designate Darling Hill Road, Cascade Road and the part of Old Ashby Road that runs from Merriam Hill Road to Cascade Road as Scenic Roads under the provisions of RSA 231:157 and 158 for the purpose of protecting the scenic beauty of these roads, or take any other action relative thereto. Prior written consent (required in some situations) shall be by Selectmen pursuant to RSA 231:158. By petition of the Conservation Commission.

This article failed to pass by hand vote. 32 yes, 47 no.

Article 15. The Town voted to discontinue absolutely Mitchell Hill Road as a public highway from the intersection with Black Brook Road to the power line crossing.

Article 16. The Town adopted the provisions of RSA 72.35, I-a, II and III for an optional tax credit for taxes due on residential property for service-connected total disability (total disability is defined as someone who has a permanent service-connected disability, or who is a double amputee or paraplegic because of a service-connected injury). The yearly amount of the optional tax credit for service-connected total disability for 2004 shall be \$1,700.

This was by hand vote. Yes 39, 22 no.

Article 17. The Town adopted the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, III, IV and V for an optional veterans' tax credit for taxes due on residential property. The yearly amount of the optional veterans' tax credit for 2004 shall be \$300.

Article 18. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department.

Article 19. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department.
The vote was unanimous.

The Meeting was adjourned at Sine Dai at 11:59 P.M.

Charlotte N Hastings, Town Clerk