

TOWN OF MASON

TOWN ELECTION MARCH 8, 2005 TOWN MEETING MARCH 9, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. Polls were declared open at 7:05 A.M. Checklist total was 933. Polls were closed at 7:17 PM after 399 had voted. This included 17 absentee voters. Checklist total was now 940.

Results of the election were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years: Anne Richards 308

Town Clerk for 3 years: Lucie F. Gauthier 84
Carolyn L. Place 97
Susan Wagoner 189

Tax Collector for 3 years: Lucie F. Gauthier 91
Carolyn L. Place 108
Susan Wagoner 170

Treasurer for 3 years: no one was elected.

Auditor for one year: no one elected

Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Jeanine Phalon 10 write-ins

Library Trustee for 3 years: Judith Forty 21 write-ins

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years: Donald Hager III 257

Trustee of Trust Funds for 2 years: Mark Calderan 2 write-ins

The Town voted to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, with the adoption of Amendment # 1 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend the Wetlands Conservation District Ordinance of the Mason Zoning Ordinance. This was by ballot vote: Yes 307 No 63.

The Town voted to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, with the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend the Mason Zoning Ordinance. This was by ballot vote: Yes 310 No 73.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, with the adoption of Petitioned Amendment # 1 as proposed by legal voters of the Town of Mason to amend the Town of Mason Zoning Ordinance. This was by ballot vote: Yes 63 No 321.

The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk at 7:50 P.M. She reviewed the procedure we would follow. Note was made of the fire and emergency exits. Thanks were expressed to all whom were involved in the election process. She introduced those who were sitting at the head table. Mrs. Schwenk acknowledged the 22 years Charlotte N. Hastings had served as Town Clerk and Tax Collector.

Mrs. Hastings received a standing ovation and was presented some gifts by Selectman Chairman Anne Richards.

Colors were presented by Boy Scout Troop 264.

Corinne Babel led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Corinne is President of the Sophomore Class and excels in academics.

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

A correction was made to the Town Report as follows:
Page 7. Robert Bergeron is the Emergency Management Director.

Article 5. The Town voted in favor of the withdrawal of the Town from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25 or take any other action thereto. The authority granted to the Selectmen to act on behalf of the town shall remain in force and effect until such time as the earlier of a vote at subsequent town meeting rescinding the authority or the successful placement of a warrant article at the Annual or Special Meeting of the Mascenic Regional School District under the provisions of RSA Chapter 195, Section 29. The vote was unanimous.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One million one hundred thirteen thousand, three hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$1,113,327) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

The Town Budget was reviewed the budget by line item.

On page 12. A motion was made and seconded to reduce the \$13,300 for assessing to \$0:00. This motion failed to pass. A second motion was made and seconded to reduce the \$13,300 to \$ 5,000. This motion passed.

Page 15 under Highway Town Maintenance.

A motion was made and seconded to increase the amount for salt from \$6500 to \$8500. This motion passed.

Page 16 Under Highway Dept. Expenses:

A motion was made and seconded to increase the fuel from \$19,000 to \$23,000.

This motion passed.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of One million one hundred eleven thousand, twenty-seven dollars (\$1,111,027) which represents The operating budget. This included a reduction in the assessing fund of \$8,300, an increase of \$2000 for salt and an increase of \$4,000 for fuel. Said sum is exclusive of all special and Individual Articles addressed.

Article 7. The Town voted to change the purpose of an existing Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to the Highway Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (2/3 vote required) and further to appoint the Board of Selectmen and the Road Agent as agents to expend from the Highway Vehicle and Equipment Fund. By hand vote: Yes 85 No 6.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the newly created Highway Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve fund.

Article 9. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to be added to the newly created Highway Vehicle and Equipment Fund and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 2004 Fund Balance of that amount received from the 2004 sale of Highway Equipment for this purpose.

Article 10. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000) to replace the roof on the fire station. The vote was unanimous.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the feasibility study for a new police station.

Article 12. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixteen thousand five hundred twenty dollars (\$16,520) for the purchase of a computer and accessories and software for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office. By ballot vote: Yes 67 No 21.

Article 13. 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. This vote was unanimous.

Article 14. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) for the maintenance of the town forestlands. Such funds will come from the Forest Maintenance Fund. This vote was unanimous.

Article 15. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand six hundred four dollars (\$2,604) for the balance of the cost of the work on the new ball field. This vote was unanimous.

Article 16. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of One thousand six hundred fifty dollars (\$1,650) for the cost of the audit of the previous Tax Collector's MS-61, per RSA. This vote was unanimous.

Article 17. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-four cents (\$133.34) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from December 31, 2004 Fund balance of that amount received from the 2004 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose. This vote was unanimous.

Article 18. 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 Playground Fund, for the purpose of establishing a playground for the Town and furthermore to appoint the Board of Selectmen and the Recreation Committee as agents to expend from the Town of Mason Playground Fund.

Article 19. The Town voted to accept a donation for the playground fund of One thousand seven hundred eighteen dollars and ninety-four cents (\$1,718.94) from the Mason MOMs group. This vote was unanimous.

Article 20. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the amount of one thousand seven hundred eighteen dollars and ninety-four cents (\$1,718.94) to be placed in the town of Mason Playground Expendable Trust Fund. This vote was unanimous.

Article 21. The Town voted to discontinue the Town of Mason Communications Fund created in 2000. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. This vote was unanimous.

Article 22. The Town voted to designate Darling Hill Road from the end of its paved portion at the Mason Elementary School to the Greenville town line as a Scenic Road under the provisions of RSA 231:157 and 158, for the purpose of protecting the scenic beauty of this road, considering that much of its frontage has been protected in its natural state through the D'Arbeloff family's conservation easement gifts to the Town, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen is designated as the official municipal body to implement the provisions of this Scenic Road.

Article 23. The Town voted to adopt 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 shall be \$2,000. (This raises the existing yearly optional tax credit for service-connected total disability from \$1,700 to \$2,000.)

Article 24. The Town voted to adopt 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 shall be \$500. (This raises the existing yearly optional veterans' tax credit from \$300 to \$500.)

Article 25. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department. This vote was unanimous.

Article 26. 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.

The Meeting was adjourned at Sine Dai at 10:32 P.M.
Charlotte Hastings, Town Clerk