

TOWN of MASON ELECTION MARCH 8, 2011
at the MASON Town Hall, 7 Meetinghouse Hill Road

The Moderator, Catherine Schwenk, called the Town Election to order. The polls were declared open at 11:02 AM. Seventeen absentee ballots were opened by the Moderator at 1pm. Checklist total was 993 (990 plus 3 newly registered voters). The polls were closed at 8:08 PM after 441 had voted.

The ballot clerks were Florence Wilson and Pauline Bergeron in the morning and Lauren Mann and Kenneth Greene for the afternoon into the evening. The Supervisors of the Checklist were Jeannine Phalon, Charles Moser and Deputy Anita Crehan. The Moderator installed Kathy Wile and Bill Weiss as Deputy Supervisors.

The following ballot counters were previously installed:
George Schwenk, Douglas Whitbeck, Lauren Mann, Nancy Richards, Jim DeMarco, Sally Wilson, Wolfgang Millbrandt, Dorothy Millbrandt, John Lewicke, Linda Cotter-Cranston, Ken Green, Jeannine Phalon, Pauline Bergeron, Bill Weiss and Trish Cross.

The results of the Town Election on Article 1 were as follows:

Selectmen for 3 years: Robert Peter McGinnity	201
Mark Hager	174

Selectmen for 2 years: Shane Robinson	192
Anne Richards	202

Treasurer for 1 year: Suzanne Kelly 365

Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Jeannine Phalon 366

Library Trustee for 3 years: Elena Kolbenson 367

Supervisor of the Checklist for 3 years: Kathy Wile 376

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years: 5 write in votes for Mark Calderan
11 write in votes for George Schwenk

Zoning Questions:

The results of **Article 2** – Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment No. 1, as proposed by the Mason Planning Board, to the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, as follows:

AMEND Article IXX: Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance; Item IV, Location of Telecommunications Facilities; to replace “view to ____.” with “scenic view”., so the sentence reads, “In no case, however, shall such a facility be sited in a location that would impact any scenic view.”

The purpose is to clearly state that scenic views shall not be impacted by the location of a telecommunication facility. Approved by the Mason Planning Board.

Yes 294 No 124 Article 2 carries

The results of **Article 3** – Are you in favor of the adoption of amendment No. 2, as proposed by the Mason Planning Board, to the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance, as follows:

AMEND new Article IXX: Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance; Item VII, Conditional Use Permits; to replace “every 3 years” with “annually”, so the sentence reads, “Permits shall be renewed annually.”

The purpose is to require renewal of Conditional Use Permits annually, to better monitor for changes affecting compliance. Approved by the Mason Planning Board.

Yes 255 No 158 Article 3 carries

The results of **Article 4** – To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the TOWN on the second Tuesday of MARCH or whenever as required by RSA 40:13. By petition. (By ballot, requires 3/5 vote)

Yes 255 No 185 264 Needed to pass. Article 4 fails

Mason School District Results:

District Clerk 2 Years – Rebecca Partridge 353

District Treasurer 3 Years – Susan Wagoner 377

School Board Member 3 Years – Robert Doyle received 55 write ins

School Board Member 2 Years – John Diefenbach 332

School Board Member 3 Years – Stephanie Syre-Hager 331

The results of **Article 2** – Shall the Mason School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Two Million Nine Hundred Fifty Four Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six Dollars (\$2,954,526.00), Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Two Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six Dollars (\$2,957,136.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Mason School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. **NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles.** The School Board recommends this warrant article. **(Majority vote required.)**

Yes 313 No 103 Article 2 carries

The results of **Article 3** – Shall the Mason School District raise and appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010) with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2011, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. The School Board recommends this warrant article. (**Majority vote required.**)

Yes 216

No 203

Article 3 carries

The results of **Article 4** – Shall the Mason School District raise and appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the Unanticipated Tuition Cost Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010) with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2011, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. The School Board recommends this warrant article. (**Majority vote required.**)

Yes 194

No 224

Article 4 fails

Susan J. Wagoner
Town Clerk

**MASON TOWN MEETING MARCH 12, 2011 at
the Mason Elementary School, 13 Darling Hill Road**

At 9:00AM The Moderator, Catherine Schwenk, came to the microphone and requested that non voters wear non voter credentials and sit in the first row to the Moderator's left. There was no request for interpretive services. She then indicated the fire and emergency exits, and introduced those who were sitting at the head table: Selectmen - Anne (Nancy) Richards, Robert (Pete) McGinnity, and Dr. Christopher Guiry; and Susan Wagoner, Town Clerk.

The Moderator acknowledged Rick Griffith and Jeannine Phalon for setting up the Mason Elementary Multi-Purpose room. She also thanked the tireless election workers – ballot clerks and counters, Supervisors of the Checklist, Town Clerk, Susan Wagoner, Deputy Town Clerks Dee Mitchell and Deb Morrison, School District Clerk, John Lewicke, The Select Board and Select Board Assistant, Barbara Milkovits.

The Moderator reviewed the procedures for voters: Voters wishing to speak should use the microphones and address any questions to the chair; all amendments and substantive motions must be in writing and signed by the maker and seconder; every voter is entitled to speak on a debatable motion unless the body by a two-thirds vote has ordered discussion stopped; a voter is entitled to speak a second time on the same question provided all voters who wish to speak have spoken. Five voters may request a ballot vote on any article.

The Moderator announced the results of the Town elections and the school district. Total votes cast were 441 out of a total of 993. She declared the winning candidates elected to their respective office.

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11 write in votes for George Schwenk

The following articles were voted on at the polls on Tuesday March 8, 2011

Results of the Zoning Questions:

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Yes 255 No 158 Article 3 carries

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Yes 313 No 103 Article 2 carries

The results of **Article 3** – Shall the Mason School District raise and appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010) with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2011, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. The School Board recommends this warrant article. **(Majority vote required.)**

Yes 216 No 203 Article 3 carries

The results of **Article 4** – Shall the Mason School District raise and appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the Unanticipated Tuition Cost Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010) with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2011, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. The School Board recommends this warrant article. **(Majority vote required.)**

Yes 194 No 224 Article 4 fails

The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk at 9:05 AM.

There were 126 voters and 8 non voters.

The colors were presented by the following members of the Mason Boy Scout Troop 264 all of whom are Eagle Scout candidates: Jack McGuire, Nathan O'Brien, Nicholas Calderan and Robbie Anderson.

It was a distinct pleasure by the Moderator to present Morgan J. Siegmann who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Morgan is an outstanding student and member of the National Honor Society. He has taken many advance placement courses. Among his many accomplishments is his athletic ability as a cross country runner.

The colors were posted and the Moderator thanked Mark Calderan, Scoutmaster.

The Moderator acknowledged the retirement of Wolfgang Millbrandt after his almost thirty years involvement in Town affairs as Selectmen and School Board member for the Mascenic School Board and then as member of the newly constituted Mason School District. Our friendly curmudgeon has kept us fiscally sound and addressed many issues important to our Town.

She also acknowledged another resident, John Lewicke, who has volunteered as a Mascenic School Board and School District Clerk pro-tempore for the founding years of our school district.

There was no objection to waiving the reading of the warrant.

On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously to accept the reports of agents, auditors, committees and officers as printed in the annual report.

On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously to permit the Town Assessor, Richard Rockwood and Ken Hajjar, a representative from LHS (Voting Machine) to address the assembly.

Article 5: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One million five hundred sixty three thousand, six hundred fifty seven dollars (\$1,563,657.00) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

There was much discussion related to salaries and benefits. Harvey Jodoin presented an amendment and it was seconded by Shawn Jodoin to line item #6005-03 Health and Dental Insurance \$196,795.00, "to see if the town of Mason will vote to provide 100% of medical and dental insurance benefits for full-time employees who are single and to provide 80% of medical and dental insurance benefits for those with spouses or dependents. This change in benefits to occur April 1st 2011, with annual contributions of 10% in 2011 and 10% in 2012".

The motion to move the previous question which stopped debate failed Yes 38
No 47. Debate continued.

There was a request from Martha Jacques, Pat Letourneau, Stanley Brown, John Lewicke, and Bernie O'Grady to require a ballot vote for the Jodoin amendment.

Polls opened at 11:00AM and closed 11:05AM.

Total ballots cast 118 Yes 28 No 90

This amendment fails.

Dr. Christopher Guiry moved to amend line item #6005-03 and it was seconded by Carol Iodice "to see if the Town will vote to require new full time employees to pay 20% of medical benefits starting in 2011". A standing vote was taken.
Yes 62 No 38 This amendment carries.

Pamela Lassen made a motion and seconded by Philip Phalon to amend the Health and Dental benefits line item #6005-03 to read "to provide 100% Health Insurance to full time employees with the offer of \$1,000.00 annually to any who wish to opt out (decline Town insurance)".

The motion to move the previous question which stopped debate carries.

The Lassen amendment fails.

Robert McGinnity, Selectman, moved and it was seconded by Dr. Christopher Guiry to amend line item #6021-01 under Sanitation-Wilton Recycling Center to strike the sum of \$41,134.00 and insert \$49,479.00 (a difference of \$8,345.00).
The amendment carries.

Carol Iodice made a substitute motion and it was seconded by Constance Lacasse on line item #6005-03 Health and Dental Insurance "to see if the Town will vote to require all new employees of the Town of Mason to pay 20% of their medical benefits starting March 14, 2011".

The polls opened at 11:48AM and closed at 11:55AM Yes 57 No 53 The amendment carries.

Article 5, the Town budget, as amended to \$1,572,002.00 carries.

Note: Due to multiple ballot vote requests, several articles were advanced before returning to article 5. Discussion on this article continued for more than 3 hours. The Town Meeting lasted 6 hours with no lunch break.

Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded by Robert McGinnity to advance Articles 11 and 13.

Article 11: Anne Richards moved and it was seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000.00) for the purpose of conducting a Statistical Update of property values, as required by the State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Town Assessor, Richard Rockwood, spoke to this issue explaining that this is a requirement of the State of NH and that, if the Town voted this down, the State would then come in and bill the Town for the cost of their doing the re-assessment.

Article 11 carries.

Article 13: Robert McGinnity moved and it was seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500.00) to purchase a voting machine, or take any other action relative thereto.

Ken Hajjar, representative of LHS Associates, demonstrated the optical ballot reader. The cost of the machine was lowered to \$4,500.00 and the cost per election would be \$400.00 per election to program the card plus the cost of the ballots.

Dr. Christopher Guiry made an amendment and it was seconded by Robert McGinnity to strike \$6,500.00 and insert \$4,500.00 for the purchase of the machine. The amendment carries.

Article 13, as amended, failed unanimously.

Dr. Christopher Guiry made a motion and it was seconded by Anne Richards to advance the deliberation of Article 14.

Article 14: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to authorize 20% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited in the existing Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. The remaining 80% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A: 25 will be deposited in the Town's General Fund. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2011, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Robert Bergeron made a motion and it was seconded by Ken Spacht to amend the article to read "To see if the Town will vote to authorize 100% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited in the Town's General Fund. If adopted, this article shall take effect April 1, 2011 and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the Town meeting. (Majority vote required.)"

There was much discussion on the amendment. There were multiple requests for a secret ballot on the amendment and original article. The following residents request a ballot vote for Article 14: Martha Jacques, Pat Letourneau, Stanley Brown, Michael Goen, Bernie O'Grady, Michael McGuire, Donald Hodges, Susan Wagoner, Debra Morrison, Dee Mitchell, Barbara Milkovits, Susanne Wolpert and Martin Milkovits.

The polls were opened at 12:38PM to vote on the amendment. The polls closed at 12:58PM There were 96 ballots cast. Yes 29; No 67. The amendment fails.

Liz Fletcher and Ann Moser of the Conservation Committee gave a presentation of the Town's current conservation holdings and discussed the future plans of the commission.

The polls were then opened on the original article at 1:30PM and were closed at 1:37PM 89 votes were cast. Yes 47 No 42 The original Article 14 carried.

Article 6: Anne Richards moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of thirty nine thousand eight hundred twenty-five dollars (\$39,825.00) to purchase a pickup truck for the Mason Highway Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen thousand one hundred nineteen dollars and twenty cents (\$14,119.20) for the first year's payment. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Dave Morrison, Interim Road Agent, moved and it was seconded by Barry Hutchins "to amend the article to strike out the \$39,825.00 (thirty nine thousand eight hundred twenty five dollars) and insert \$32,525.00 (thirty two thousand five hundred twenty five dollars) appropriate the sum of eleven thousand five hundred thirty one dollars and twelve cents (\$11,531.12) for the first year's payment". The amendment carried.

Article 6 as amended carried unanimously.

Article 9: Anne Richards moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for the purpose of chip sealing on Town roads, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Dave Morrison, Interim Road Agent, and Curt Dunn, Roads Committee Chairman discussed the condition of the roads and possible solutions.

Article 9 carries unanimously.

Dr. Christopher Guiry made a motion and it was seconded by Anne Richards to advance Article 7.

Article 7: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of Thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000.00) payable over a term of three years to purchase a new cruiser for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000.00) for the first year's payment. (Requires 2/3 ballot vote and the polls open 1 hour.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

The polls were open at 1:52PM and closed at 2:52PM. There were 81 ballots cast. 54 were needed to pass.

Yes 66 No 15 Article 7 carried.

On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry and seconded by Robert McGinnity it was VOTED to put Article 8 aside until after the results of the ballot vote of Article 7.

Article 8: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for the purpose of equipping the new Police cruiser, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Selectmen.
Article 8 carried unanimously.

Article 10: Robert McGinnity moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) to purchase a truck for the Highway Department, with the funding as follows: Seven thousand five hundred eighty-four dollars (\$7,584.00) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose and the balance to come from general taxation, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Robert McGinnity made a motion and it was seconded by Dr. Christopher Guiry to amend the article and strike the amount of \$30,000.00 and insert \$22,000.00.

The amendment carries.

There was discussion on having a demonstrable maintenance plan for all the vehicles.

Motion to move the previous question which stops debate, carries.

Article 10 as amended carries.

Article 12: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a Police Cruiser and to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen and the Police Chief as agents to expend from this fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Chief Barry Hutchins spoke to the article explaining the common sense of planning ahead for planned obsolescence of cruisers. Article 12 carries.

Article 15: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of the sum of One hundred thirty-three dollars (\$133.00) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund, previously established and to authorize the transfer from the December 31, 2010 Fund Balance of that amount received from the 2010 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 16: Robert McGinnity moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven thousand five hundred eighty-four dollars (\$7,584.00) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from the December 31, 2010 Fund Balance of that amount received from the 2010 sale of highway equipment for this purpose. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 16 carries.

Article 17: On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously that the Town authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto. This article shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting.

Article 18: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously that the Town authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto. This article shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting.

Article 19: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously that the Town authorize the Selectmen and the Police Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto. This article shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting.

On motion of Charlie Moser, and seconded by many voices, the meeting was adjourned Sine Dai at 3:05 PM

Susan J. Wagoner
Town Clerk