



**TOWN of MASON ELECTION MARCH 13, 2012  
at the MASON Town Hall, 7 Meetinghouse Hill Road**

The Moderator, Catherine Schwenk, declared the polls open at 11:04 AM.

The total number of voters on the checklist was 928. There were 8 walk-in new voters and 32 absentee voters. A total of 440 residents voted:

In the morning the Moderator installed Wallace Brown as Deputy Supervisor of the Checklist.

The ballot clerks were Pauline Bergeron, Florence Wilson, Lauren Mann and Kenneth Greene.

In the afternoon the Moderator installed William Weiss as Deputy Supervisor of the Checklist.

The following ballot counters had previously taken the oath of office: Robert Doyle, James DeMarco, Nancy (Anne) Richards, Garth Fletcher, Patricia Cross, George Schwenk, Douglas Whitbeck, Linda Cotter-Cranston, Rebecca Partridge, John Diefenbach, Bill Weiss, Chris Guiry, Robert Peter (Pete) McGinnity, Kathy Wile, Dotsie Millbrandt and Wolfgang Millbrandt.

The Moderator installed the following ballot counters: Nancy DeMarco, Mary McDonald, and Lee Ann Currier.

**The Town of Mason New Hampshire Election Results are as follows:**

**Moderator**

Catherine Schwenk 352

**Selectmen**

Charles Moser 236

John Lewicke 174

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

Debra Morrison 306

Martin Milkovits 116

**Treasurer**

Patricia Letourneau 221

Kerri Griffith 150

**Cemetery Trustee**

Robert Laroche 360

**Library Trustee**

Lynn McCann 364

**Supervisor of the Checklist**

Wallace Brown 362

**Trust Fund Trustee**

Charles Pierce 346

**Article 2 (SB2)**

Yes 236 No 199 261 needed to pass

**Article 3 (increasing Selectmen to 5)**

Yes 212 No 210

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**The Town of Mason New Hampshire School District Election Results are as follows:**

**School Board**

Theresa Williams 138  
Donald Hodges Jr 100  
Jeannine Phalon 140

**Treasurer**

Susan Schulman 179  
Jeannine Phalon 168

**Article 2 (Accept Reports)**

Yes 360 No 41

**Article 3 (Proposed Budget)**

Yes 348 No 65

The Moderator, Catherine Schwenk, declared the polls closed at 7:06PM. Ballot counting ended at 9:16PM.

Susan J. Wagoner, Town Clerk

Debra A. Morrison, Deputy Town Clerk



**MASON TOWN MEETING MARCH 17, 2012 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 Peter (Pete) McGinnity, and Dr. Christopher Guiry; and Susan Wagoner, Town Clerk and Debra Morrison, Town Clerk Elect.

The Moderator acknowledged that preparation for this meeting is a coordinated effort of many individuals. It includes school district building staff, Richard Griffith, Supervisors of the checklist, Town Clerk Susan Wagoner 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 Moderator; 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.

The Moderator announced the results of the Town elections and the School District. Total votes cast were 440 out of a total of 928. She declared the winning candidates elected to their respective office, except the School Board (recount pending).

Moderator for 2 years: Catherine Schwenk 352

Selectmen for 3 years: John Lewicke 174  
Charles Moser 236

Town Clerk/Tax Collector for 3 years: Martin Milkovits 116  
Debra Morrison 306

Treasurer for 3 year: Kerri Griffith 150  
Patricia Letourneau 221

Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Robert Larochelle 360

Library Trustee for 3 years: Lynn McCann 364

Supervisor of the Checklist for 3 years: Wallace Brown 362

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years: Charles Pierce 346

The following articles were voted on at the polls on Tuesday, March 13, 2012

The results of **Article 2** – To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14 (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 236 No 199 261 Needed to pass. Article 2 fails

The results of **Article 3** – To see if the Town is in favor of increasing the Board of Selectmen to 5 members pursuant to RSA 41:8-b. By petition. A recount is pending.

Yes 212 No 210

### **Mason School District Results:**

District Treasurer 2 Years – Jeannine Phlaon 168  
Susan Schulman 179

School Board Member 3 Years – Donald Hodges 100  
Jeannine Phalon 140  
Theresa Williams 138

A recount is pending for the School Board.

The results of **Article 2** – Shall the Mason School District accept the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen as printed in the Annual Mason School District Report.

Yes 360 No 41 Article 2 carries

The results of **Article 3** – 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 Eighty One Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Three Dollars (\$2,981,373.00), Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Three Million Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Six Dollars (\$3,076,296.00), 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. The School Board recommends this warrant article.

Yes 348 No 65 Article 3 carries

The Moderator, Catherine Schwenk, called the Town Meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

There were 129 voters and 1 non-voter present.

The colors were presented by the following members of the Mason Boy Scout Troop 264: Ian Alton, Max McDonald, Cole Vocell and Kaleb Kearney and Webelos Mike McGuire and Mason McDonald,

It was a distinct pleasure by the Moderator to present Katie Lannin who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Katie is an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student who has achieved either honor or high honor status all quarters of her high school career. She was inducted into the National Honor Society at the earliest possible opportunity. She is a valued member of "We The People", an advanced placement government team who won first place in the Statewide competition. The team will be traveling to Washington DC for the National competitions.

The colors were posted and the Moderator thanked Mike McGuire, Scoutmaster.

The Moderator read the following tribute to retiring Selectman, Dr. C. Christopher Guiry.

*Twelve years ago Dr. C. Christopher Guiry joined the Mason Select Board.*

*Later he joined Wolfgang Millbrandt as Mason representatives to the Mascenic Regional School Board. During this period the towns of New Ipswich and Greenville wanted to amend the school district funding formula. (We cannot forget those meetings.)*

*Mason fought the change and was ultimately unsuccessful. However, a school bond was paid off giving Mason a "window of opportunity" to withdraw from the Mascenic Regional School District.*

*Dr. Guiry, a retired Colonel, was the appropriate person to "lead the charge." The Moderator appointed a withdrawal committee and the Town responded by a positive vote to set up our own School District and build an addition to the school to accommodate the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.*

*The other problem addressed by Dr. Guiry and the Board was the “road situation.” Residents of Hurricane Hill Road and those who live on our other dirt roads know full well the conditions or lack thereof. Improvements and teamwork from many residents and the Highway Department are resolving the road issues.*

*These two issues were the major topics during his term of office.*

*Today we offer our thanks to Dr. Guiry for his service and leadership to the Town. A special thank you to his wife Colleen, who also gave generously of her time to the Town.*

Selectman Robert Peter (Pete) McGinnity expressed his appreciation to Dr. Guiry for his service and personal mentoring. The Select Board presented Dr. Guiry with a plaque of appreciation.

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The Moderator read the following tribute to outgoing Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Susan Wagoner.

*Susan Wagoner became Town Clerk and Tax Collector in 2005. She brought to the office the necessary skills to enable us to become fully computerized. Vehicle registrations and license plates could be picked up here rather than in Milford.*

*She secured several substantial grants to conserve our oldest vital records and documents.*

*She initiated a bi-annual tax payment plan and a system where we could pay by credit card.*

*We voted to combine the offices of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector.*

*Rabies clinics were continued for our dogs.*

*She initiated a system of town wide computer notices of meetings and events.*

*She established a budget for the Town Clerk office.*

*She is one of the founders of the free monthly dinners.*

*She welcomed our visits to her office in a friendly, cheerful manner.*

*She leaves for Arkansas on Tuesday. Let us send her off with a round of applause for all she has done for us. Sue, it's been a pleasure, thank you.*

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The Moderator recognized Chief Barry Hutchins who presented a special award.

*Chief Barry Hutchins presented to Nathan O'Brien, a Mason Eagle Scout, a special award for his 2011 Eagle Scout project. He raised over \$2000.00 for materials and spent over 2,000 hours as community service designing and building the canine search boxes for the Mason Police Department canine program.*

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

On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry duly seconded it was VOTED unanimously to accept the reports of agents, auditors, committees and officers as printed in the Annual Town Report.

**Article 4:** Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One million six hundred forty thousand, seven hundred thirty-one dollars (\$1,640,731.00) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

Suzanne Kelly proposed an amendment and it was seconded by Charles Moser that stated: Strike out the sum of \$1,000.00 on line 6001-18 and insert the sum of \$5,000.00 into line 6001-03, so the total sum shall be \$25,600.00.

The Town Clerk spoke to this motion explaining that the line item 6001-18 was no longer valid as a separate payment for performing the State portion of motor vehicle registration duties as Municipal Agent. These fees were not included in the line 6001-03, the Town Clerk salary. The intent of the motion was to move a flat fee for performing these duties into the Town Clerk salary line.

Selectmen Robert Peter (Pete) McGinnity brought up the RSA detailing compensation for Town Clerks as it relates to the State Municipal Agent program. The RSA states that Town Clerks now may not receive salary and fees as Municipal Agents. It is an either/or situation. The Town Clerk then explained that the State did not say the Clerk should not be paid for performing those duties, just the manner in which the Clerk should be paid.

The Motion carries to amend by striking out the sum of \$1,000.00 on line 6001-18 and insert the sum of \$5,000.00 into line 6001-03, so the total sum shall be \$25,600.00.

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Harvey Jodoin proposed an amendment and it was seconded by Shawn Jodoin that stated: Re: line item 6005-03 Health and Dental to read: As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, any full-time employee of the Town of Mason who reaches the age of sixty-five (65) must apply for Medicare. The Town of Mason will only be responsible for paying Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D).

There was discussion as to the legality of requiring a person who reaches a specific age to apply for Medicare. After further discussion Anne Richards moved the question which carries. The amendment fails.

Mr. Jodoin then presented a request for a ballot count on the question. However, the Moderator ruled that it was too late. The request should have had been made prior to the voice vote as per RSA 40:4-a.

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Harvey Jodoin proposed an amendment and it was seconded by Shawn Jodoin that

stated: To see if the Town of Mason will vote to amend the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual for the Town of Mason, Article VIII additional policies, forms, and guidelines for retirement. To read: Any employee receiving benefits that have retired from the Town of Mason with twenty (20) years of consecutive full-time employment prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 will continue to receive the Town of Mason Dental benefits with Medical benefits ending at the age of sixty-five (65). Full-time employees retiring after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 will not receive medical or dental benefits.

After some discussion it was determined that this amendment was not germane to the budget article because it was discussing personnel policies and procedures. The Moderator ruled that this amendment was out of order and she put the question to the voters (shall the ruling of the Moderator be sustained).

The Moderator explained that if one voted “yes”, one was agreeing with the Moderator's ruling that the amendment is out of order. If one voted “no”, one was agreeing with Mr. Jodoin.

The ruling of the Moderator carries.

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Patricia Letourneau proposed an amendment and it was seconded by Timothy Kelly that read: I move to double the line item of 6002-01 from \$550.00 to \$1100.00

She spoke to the issue of the Treasurer assuming more responsibility over the last 2 years and felt that it warranted the increase. The outgoing Treasurer, Suzanne Kelly, also confirmed the changes.

Anne Richards moved the previous question which carries.

The amendment fails.

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Jeffrey Babel proposed an amendment and it was seconded by Alan Wolfe that read: to reduce the line item 6012-20 (Police Chief Salary) by \$10,000.00 to \$68,000.00.

The Selectmen and Chief Hutchins spoke to this issue explaining that they combined other paid duties performed by the Chief into this salary as well as the changes in the job functions.

Discussion continued until Robert Bergeron moved the question. The motion carries and debate was stopped. The Babel amendment fails.

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After all the above discussions and amendments, Article 4 carries as amended to the sum of \$1,644,731.00.

**Article 5:** Robert Peter (Pete) McGinnity moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-five thousand dollars

(\$35,000.00) to purchase a truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Fred Greenwood, Road Agent, spoke to this article. Since many of the Town trucks are in marginal condition at best, he has proposed this article as a plan to start putting money in reserve to be available to replace equipment in an orderly manner. This will help allay a request for a large amount all at once in the future.

Article 5 carries

**Article 6:** Anne Richards moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000.00) to purchase a stainless steel sander for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Anne Richards moved to amend Article 6 by striking out the sum of twenty eight thousand (\$28,000.00) and inserting the sum of twenty thousand five hundred (\$20,500.00).

The amendment carries.

Article 6, as amended, carries unanimously.

**Article 7:** Dr. Guiry moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Nineteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$19,500.00) for the erection of a communications tower on town property, four thousand six hundred eighty-three dollars (\$4,683.00) to come from the 2011 unreserved fund balance (sum represents the sale of the 2006 Police Cruiser) with the balance of fourteen thousand eight hundred seventeen dollars (\$14,817.00) to come from taxation, or take any other action relative thereto.

Fire Chief Baker displayed a blown up photograph of the existing wooden poles which have been destroyed by pileated woodpeckers.

Chief Hutchins and Fire Chief David Baker both spoke to this motion. Currently there are sections of Town that are out of emergency communication range. The proposed tower would be a 150' metal, guyed tower on the current location of 960 Townsend Road. A Mason resident, Matthias Strelow, whose business is erecting towers, will be in charge of building it.

Steve Hoffman of the Broadband Committee spoke to the advantage of having the tower, such as leasing out space on the tower to add wireless support to the community, similar to the AT&T tower in the church steeple.

After continued discussion Anne Richards moved the question which carries.

Article 7 carries.

**Article 8:** On motion of Robert Peter (Pete) McGinnity, duly seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for road improvements, said sum is to come from the unreserved 2011 fund balance (amount is from unexpended chip seal project of last year), or take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 9:** On motion of Anne Richards, duly seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$9,500.00) for the following purposes: survey of town owned lot G-61 to establish bounds for selective lot, RR Trail maintenance, tree planting and other future projects, and to authorize the withdrawal of said sum from the Forest Maintenance Fund, previously established, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 10:** Dr. Guiry moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a Fire Station addition and to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen and Fire Chief as agents to expend from this fund.

Fire Chief David Baker spoke to this issue. The fire station currently is cramped for space. The Chief's plan was to put some money aside to apply toward the expansion. His current estimate for the addition is approximately fifty eight thousand dollars (\$58,000.00).

Article 10 carries.

**Article 11:** Robert Peter (Pete) McGinnity moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a Highway Barn/Garage and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen and Road Agent as agents to expend from this fund.

Fred Greenwood, Road Agent, said that this motion is also meant to start putting some money aside to accomplish this task rather than request the full amount all at once.

Article 11 carries.

**Article 12:** Anne Richards moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, previously established.

Chief Hutchins explained that this was just adding to the fund which was established at last Town meeting.

Article 12 carries.

**Article 13:** On motion of Dr. Guiry, duly seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Three thousand four hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$3,468.00) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously established and to authorize the transfer from the December 31, 2011 Fund Balance of that amount received from the 2011 sale of highway scrap equipment for this purpose.

**Article 14:** On motion of Robert Peter (Pete) McGinnity, duly seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to be

added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund, previously established and to authorize the transfer from the December 31, 2011 Fund Balance of that amount received from the 2011 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose.

**Article 15:** Anne Richards moved and it was seconded 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 into the existing Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2012, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting. Recommended by the Conservation Commission. By Petition. (Majority vote required.)

Many members of the Conservation Commission spoke to this issue and explained their handout detailing Conservation in Mason. Dr. Guiry spoke - "in the beginning" and explained the difference between "Land Use Tax", also known as "Current Use Easements" and Conservation land; the former being taxable land at a lower rate and the latter being tax free as it is Town owned.

Mike Bromberg moved the question which carries.

Article 15 carries.

Barbara DeVore then spoke to the assembly regarding the Drug Take Back program being run by the Mason Conservation Commission and the Mason Police Department. The take back will be on April 28 at the Police Department from 10-noon.

*The Moderator then acknowledged David Morrison of Greenville Road for his 38 years of service to the Town in the Highway Department. During this time period Mr. Morrison served twice as Acting Road Agent. Mr. Morrison was given a standing ovation.*

On motion of Garth Fletcher, and seconded by many voices, the meeting was adjourned Sine Dai at 12:12 PM

Susan J. Wagoner  
Town Clerk