

Results of the special town meeting January 31, 2011

The special town meeting was called to order by the moderator, Joseph Kearns led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance, then the warrant was read. There were 47 people in attendance. Also Paul Mark, our state representative, was in attendance.

Article 1. A motion was made seconded to see if the town will vote to rescind \$11,900 from the \$175,000 net borrowing authorized by the approval of article 28 of the warrant for the annual town meeting of May 2, 2009, to replace the heating controls, install a heat recovery ventilation system, and install a fire alarm system. After some discussion of the whys and wherefores, the moderator explained that this was just a bookkeeping consideration. A vote was taken and the article passed.

Article 2. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to transfer \$25,000 from free cash to the window replacement project at the town hall. There was much discussion concerning this such as "because this such a large sum, should the article wait until the annual town meeting so more people could vote on it, or maybe raise and appropriate the money to pay for the radios." Following more discussion and motion was made and seconded to call the vote. There was a standing vote taken and the results are: yes-29, no-12. This a simple majority vote and the article passed.

Article 3. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to transfer \$18,000 from free cash to the window replacement project at the town hall. This article also created a good deal of conversation. "Why are we borrowing from free cash when we have \$20,000 left in the building project?" After more discussion, a vote was taken and the article did not pass.

Article 4. A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to authorize the board of selectmen to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 164 of the general laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the department of public utilities and the department of telecommunications and cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications system and any related services. Noreen Suriner, selectman, is also our representative (Middlefield's) from wired west spoke to this article. This article takes a 2/3 vote to be passed. She also explained that this vote would be the first of two votes that are necessary to pass. There was much discussion, then the vote was taken. The article passed by the 2/3.

Article 5. A motion was made and seconded to see the town will vote to transfer \$450 from the selectmen's' salary account to the town counsel account. Discussion followed and it was explained that because Noreen Suriner was the only selectman after the resignation of the two previous, that their salaries were not paid out, and that she had to consult with town counsel many times to do her

job as selectman. Some people felt that the money should go to help defray the town snow account. Being no more discussion, a vote was taken and the article passed by a majority vote.

Article 6. Under this article to transact any other business, a gentleman asked if the people in charge of flags for the town flag poles could come up with \$90.00 to purchase flags for the poles, as we had a veteran in town who gave up his life for our country, and also there are many other veterans in town. Mr. Raymond Gero, veterans agent, and Larry Pease, both spoke to issue and said that the purchase of flags was already in the works and the flags would be flying soon(it should be noted that the flags were down because of the high winds and the way the flags were being torn from the force of the wind.)

A question was also asked about the status of the new truck that was purchased a year ago. There was no answer and the road superintendent was not present to answer questions concerning this. Finally a motion was made and seconded to adjourn this meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Marjorie Batorski
Town Clerk