



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON

Special Town Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2010

STABILIZATION: \$354,473.94

FREE CASH: \$258,375.00

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the voters of the Town of Hubbardston assembled at the Center School cafeteria to act on the articles in said warrant. Present were Moderator Edward Leonard; Board of Selectmen, Matt Castriotta, Michael Stauder, and Ernest Newcomb; Town Clerk Joyce Green; Finance Committee members Edward Blanchard (Chair), Mark Connery, Chris Norcross, David Simmerer, Jamie Pitney, Benjamin Prentiss, and Town Administrator Debra Roussel.

A total of 93 registered voters were checked in by Marcia Howlett and Kellianne Becker. A quorum of 50 voters was present throughout the meeting. Two voters, Peter Carmosino and Barbara Hubbard, were selected as vote counters by the Moderator.

The Moderator announced that the Board of Selectmen intends to pass over Articles 4 and 7 unless there is a motion made from the floor. He also noted the presence of 2 groups with informational tables; the Hubbardston Center School Playground Committee offering information and looking for donations for a playground and the Montachusett Regional Planning Committee with information on the Community Development Building Grant.

Moderator Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following business was transacted:

ARTICLE 1. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from Account #300-5807** (Out of District Tuition and Transportation) **the sum of \$5,000.00** (Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents) **to Account #543-5700** (Veteran's Benefits), **for payment of approved benefits.**

Second: Michael Stauder

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 2. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from Account #300-5807** (Out of District Tuition and Transportation) **the sum of \$3,500.00** (Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents) **for website design, content development and user training** by Virtual Town Hall, a municipal web hosting and support service.

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 3. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from Account #300-5807** (Out of District Tuition and Transportation) **the sum of \$10,000.00** (Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents) **to Account #122-5207** (Computer Maintenance) **for costs associated with software and computer support, hardware acquisition and installation.**

Second: Michael Stauder

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 4. PASSED OVER

[To see if the Town will vote to **transfer from Account #300-5807** (Out of District Tuition and Transportation) **the sum of \$15,000.00** (Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents) **for engineering/design of parking at the Hubbardston Center School**, or take any other action relative thereto.]

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

(FinCom Does Not Recommend)

ARTICLE 5. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from Account #300-5807** (Out of District Tuition and Transportation) **the sum of \$2,000.00** (Two Thousand Dollars and No Cents) **for acquisition and installation of a cluster mail box unit** for town departments.

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 6. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from Account #300-5807** (Out of District Tuition and Transportation) **the sum of \$1,403.03** (One Thousand Four Hundred Three Dollars and Three Cents), for costs associated with the 30% lump sum contribution to achieve a 15% discount **for purchase and installation of lighting equipment** as recommended by audit.

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 7. PASSED OVER

[To see if the Town will vote to **transfer from Account #300-5807** (Out of District Tuition and Transportation) **the sum of \$9,156.97** (Nine Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars and Ninety-Seven Cents) **to fund efficient removal of snow and ice on Town properties**, or take any other action relative thereto.]

(Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

(FinCom to Report at STM)

ARTICLE 8. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from Account #01-610-5800** (New Electrical Heat/Upgrade) **the sum of \$889.00** (Eight Hundred Eighty Nine Dollars and No Cents) **to pay an unpaid bill incurred in excess of appropriation in a prior fiscal year** for needed plumbing supplies and services, as certified by the library trustees.

(9/10 Vote Required)

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: Motion carries; Yes-66, No-1, Abstain-0

ARTICLE 9. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from funds remaining after conclusion of project from prior appropriation in Account #01-300-5810** (Hubb Center School Water Tank) **the sum of \$2,100.00** (Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars and No Cents) **to Account #01-122-5205** (Slade Building Improvements) **for purchase and installation of a dehumidifier** in the basement of the Slade Building.

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: MOTION FAILS; Yes-30, No-37, Abstain-0

ARTICLE 10. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from Account #141-5104** (Deputy Assessor Salary) **the sum of \$25,700.00** (Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars and No Cents) **to Account #141-5206** (Assessors' Property Update), **for contracted Assessing Services** and **transfer from Account #141-5104** (Deputy Assessor Salary) **the sum of \$8,292.64** (Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars and Sixty-Four Cents) and **from Account #141-5103** (Assessor's Certification) **the sum of \$500.00** (Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents) for a total of **\$8,792.64** (Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Two Dollars and Sixty-Four Cents) **to Account #141-5105** (Municipal Office Clerk II) for additional staffing in the Assessors' office.

Second: Michael Stauder

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 11. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **appropriate the residual borrowing remaining in Account #01-000-2720** (Loans Payable) **the sum of \$779.00** (Seven Hundred Seventy Nine Dollars and No Cents) **to apply to Account #01-710-5900** (Retirement of Debt Principal for Fire Truck), in accordance with Chapter 44, §20.

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 12. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer the sum of \$4,984.57** (Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars and Fifty-Seven Cents) which represents **the balance of funds currently held in separate special purpose targeted stabilization accounts** for capital equipment purchase for police, fire, highway, libraries and municipal facilities **into the newly created municipal capital stabilization account.**

2/3 Vote Required

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: Motion carries; Yes-74, No-1, Abstain-1

ARTICLE 13. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **amend** the action taken under Article 19 of the June 18, 2002 Annual Town Meeting by revising **rules established for the Senior Work-off Program**, pursuant to Chapter 59, §5K as follows: 1) by **allowing committee members to designate a representative** to serve in their stead; 2) by **increasing the program's annual limit to fifteen (15) participants, each eligible to earn up to \$750.00** (Seven Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars) in property tax abatements; 3) by **limiting abatement allowance for each real estate tax bill to one**; and 4) **allowing an approved representative to provide for such services to the Town for persons physically unable**, as provided in §43 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010.

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 14. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **rescind the action taken under Article 18 of the December 10, 2009 Special Town Meeting** "To appropriate from Account #24-600-5040

(Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Account) the sum of **\$26,000.00** (Twenty Six Thousand Dollars and No Cents) as a match to a grant from the Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation program in the amount of \$494,000.00 (Four Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Dollars and No Cents) to purchase a permanent deed restriction on 110 acres of land owned by Sawyer's Farm Trust, said acreage being located on portions of assessors parcels 1-18, 1-20, 1-22 and 1-23."

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: Motion carries; unanimous in favor

ARTICLE 15. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote **to terminate all current appointments to the Community Preservation Committee** effective June 30, 2011 and instead appoint nine members to the Community Preservation Committee with the initial appointments effective July 1, 2011 to be staggered as Three appointments for One year terms, Three appointments for Two year terms and Three appointments for three year terms, all with subsequent appointments to those positions for a three year period.

Second: Michael Stauder

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 16. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from Account #300-5807** (Out of District Tuition and Transportation) **the sum of \$29,156.97** (Twenty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars and Ninety-Seven Cents) and the sum of **\$60,968.90** (Sixty Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars and Ninety Cents) **from Certified Free Cash** for the purpose of funding the cleanup of the December 2008 Ice Storm.

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

ARTICLE 17. Motion, Matt Castriotta, that the Town vote to **transfer from Free Cash** the sum of **\$10,000.00** (Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents) for the purpose of funding services of an engineer/consultant to determine the feasibility of a municipal sewer and/or water system on a parcel of land on Route 68.

Second: Ernest Newcomb

Discussion: Bill Murray, member of Capital Improvement Planning Committee, spoke in favor of this article saying it is the starting point to a Master Plan for the town. This study will answer the critical question whether the center of town can function as a real center. Residents, businesses, and town offices on Main Street have issues with wells and septic systems. The Department of Conservation & Recreation has an interest in protecting their watershed and the results of this study could put us in line for a lot of grants from the State.

Selectmen Michael Stauder spoke in favor saying this project is not a commitment to any one parcel of land or even to any sewer system; it is a study to see what if anything is viable in the center of Town.

Funding sources for any potential system, including betterments, have not been considered at this point. The Town is applying for a grant to cover the cost of the study. Bill Murray stated that the septic system for the school, library, and Slade Building is at capacity.

Finance Committee gave their position in a handout which stated they take no position on this article as it was a late submission and they had very little information on the article. They recommended that an expense of this nature should be done in conjunction with a Town Master Plan.

Vote: Motion carries; majority affirmative vote

Moderator Ed Leonard recognized the Boy Scouts who came to Town Meeting to see how community government works. He explained that the people sitting up front and some in the audience work to plan for the future of the town and those attending the meeting come to vote on that plan.

Selectmen Michael Stauder asked for volunteers to serve on the Cable Committee so that meetings could be video-taped and broadcast on cable. There is money available for equipment; all that is needed are people to perform the tasks.

Meeting adjourned by the Moderator at 7:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce E. Green, Town Clerk

(Town Seal)