

DOINGS AT THE AUG 28, 2017 S. SPECIAL FALL TOWN MTG

Registrars Karen Czerwinski, Gladys Nichols and Beverly Rhodes were checkers for this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Brian West @ 7:10pm @ Hopkins Academy. Proper return of service for the warrant was noted and Pledge of Allegiance was given. The Moderator waited until 7:40 before addressing articles as attendance was unusually high. Moderator appointed Tim Neyhart Assistant Moderator to assist with the overflow of voters. A total of 492-voters (of 3891) were checked off for this meeting.

The Moderator announced they were taking Article 3 out of order as it was to be passed over. Chief Spanknebel explained more research had to be done before voting additional funds for North Hadley Fire Substation.

Article 3 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer to borrow, or otherwise provide **\$810,800.00** to build a fire substation and pay for associated costs, or take any action relative thereto.

PASSED OVER

Article 1 Motion was made and seconded that the Town appropriate **\$1,800,000.00** to pay costs of designing, constructing and originally equipping a new Senior Center, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters to exclude the amounts to pay for the bonds or notes authorized for this purpose from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called.

Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

There was much debate for the support and opposition of this Article. Concern of project cost increase was countered by “never gonna get cheaper”. Many voters encouraged the idea of a Community Center for all rather than strictly a Senior Center for few. An amendment request to change wording from Senior Center to Community Center was denied as out of scope of article as it was in conjunction with the original vote taken Oct 27, 2016. After 50 minutes of comments a motion was made (Ken Jacobson) and seconded to move the question. The Moderator declared the motion passed.

The Moderator declared Art 1 passed. Yes = 414, No = 62.

Article 2 Motion was made and seconded that the Town appropriate **\$405,000.00** to pay costs of acquiring land for general municipal purposes located at the intersection of River Drive and Stockbridge Road and containing approximately 9 acres (Assessors Map 12A, Lot 19), and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

After 9 minutes of discussion on use of land, a motion was made (Jane Nevinsmith) and seconded to move to the question. The Moderator declared the motion passed.

The Moderator declared Art 2 passed. Yes = 478, No = 4

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Article 4 Motion was made and seconded that the Town appropriate **\$3,786,292.00** to pay costs of designing, constructing and originally equipping a new library on the parcel of Town-owned land known as the “Hooker School”, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters to exclude the amounts to pay for the bonds or notes authorized for this purpose from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called.

Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

A winning grant to cover 50% of this \$7.5 million dollar project generated much support from the voters who attended. Community Center use was again mentioned along with need to be accessible to all. Finance Committee members who opposed the project simply stated “We can’t afford it”. After 30 minutes of discussion a motion was made (John Sylvestro) and seconded to move the question. The Moderator declared the motion passed.

The Moderator declared Art 4 passed. Yes = 449, No = 28

ATTEST:

Jessica Spanknebel
Town Clerk
Hadley, MA