

Town of Lanesborough, Massachusetts
Minutes of the Special Town Meeting
October 23, 2018
Fiscal Year 2019

The Special Town Meeting was held on October 23, 2018, at the Lanesborough Elementary School. Moderator, Chris Dodig stated that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The head table was introduced which consisted of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, Finance Committee members, the Town Clerk, the Town Secretary and Town Counsel. Fran Kelly and Shirley Zurrin checked in registered voters. There were 39 registered voters in attendance.

Moderator Dodig stated that the Special Town Meeting Warrant had been properly served and posted and asked residents if there was any objection to waiving the reading of the Warrant. No objection, so moved.

Moderator Dodig moved for non-registered voters to be able to speak. No objection, so moved.

MOTIONS ON ARTICLES

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, from available funds, such sums of money as may be necessary to pay the following prior year bills:

Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association -	\$ 296.00
Action Ambulance Services, Inc. -	\$ 420.00
Action Ambulance Services, Inc. -	\$ 420.00
Guardian Uniform and Supply -	\$ 253.99
KP Law	\$3,564.37
Berkshire Septic/Village Truck	\$ 270.00

Or take any other action relative thereto.

(9/10 vote required)
(Recommended 4-0 by the Finance Committee)

Motion to move Article 1 made by Lee Hauge, seconded by Barbara Hassan.

Donald Dermyer asked if the invoices could be paid using Free Cash. Town Counsel Jeffrey Blake stated that they could not because Free Cash has not been certified and is not an available funding source at this time.

Vote: Ayes have it. Unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from Town Building Repair Engineering Services to the Building Maintenance Projects account to pay for the current repairs and construction costs for the Police Station or take any other action relative thereto.

(Recommended 4-0 by the Finance Committee)

Motion to move Article 2 made by Barbara Hassan, seconded by Lee Hauge.

Motion to amend the Article by striking out “the current repairs and construction costs for the police station” and in place add “an engineering study for a new police station” made by William Mahon, seconded by Linda Pruyne. Police Chief Timothy Sorrell stated that a feasibility study would need to be done in order to obtain grant funding for the building of a new station. He stated that Senator Hinds had toured the station and believed that renovations would not solve the problems in the building. Vote on proposed amendment: Nays have it.

Robert Ericson gave a brief summary of the work that needed to be done to complete the project. Jim Neureuther stated that that the repairs were necessary to make it a functioning building for the police officers. Mr. Dermyer stated that he would like to postpone the Article to the Annual Town Meeting so residents could have a chance to collect more information before voting. Barbara

Hassan asked for more clarification on the project. Town Manager Kelli Robbins stated that \$13,000, which is the amount of money proposed in Articles 2, 3, and 4 would not be enough money for a feasibility study and this will have to be readdressed at the Annual Town Meeting. Linda Pruyne stated that more information should be given before a vote is taken. Mr. Dermyer and Al Terranova stated that there is not enough information to vote. Mr. Ericson stated that 1/3 of the renovations have been completed and gave a summary of the remaining work to be done. Police Chief Sorrell asked Mr. Ericson if the \$13,000 being proposed would be enough money to complete the renovations. Mr. Ericson stated that it would.

Vote: Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,946.24 from Parking Lot Repaving to the Building Maintenance Projects account to pay for the current repairs and construction costs for the Police Station or take any other action relative thereto.

(Recommended 4-0 by the Finance Committee)

Motion to move Article 3 made by Lee Hauge, seconded by Barbara Hassan.

Vote: Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,053.76 from Backhoe line item to the Building Maintenance Projects account to pay for the current repairs and construction costs for the Police Station or take any other action relative thereto.

(Recommended 4-0 by the Finance Committee)

Motion to move Article 3 made by Barbara Hassan, seconded by Lee Hauge.

Vote: Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000.00 from Retaining Wall Engineering line item to the Building Maintenance Projects account to pay for roof repairs and saving cupola on the Town Hall, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Recommended 4-0 by the Finance Committee)

Motion to move Article 3 made by Lee Hauge, seconded.

Jody Szczepaniak-Locke asked if the cupola could be removed instead of repaired to cut costs. James Neureuther asked if this would be enough money to cover the costs of the repairs. Town Manager Robbins stated that the \$20,000 will cover the cost of the repairs with or without the cupola.

Vote: Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to borrow the sum of \$ _____ to connect Berkshire Village to the public water supply managed by the Lanesborough Village Fire and Water District (the "District"), a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established under the Massachusetts Legislature Acts of 1938 c. 255 (the "Special Act") with a principle place of business at Bridge Street, Lanesborough, MA., or take any other action relative thereto.

($\frac{2}{3}$ vote required)

(Without any Recommendation by the Finance Committee)

Motion to move Article 6 made, seconded by Don Dermyer.

Moderator Dodig stated that the Town had not received an amount from the State for the project and asked that the Article be indefinitely postponed, so moved.

Vote: Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the town will vote to transfer from Tax Collection Software the funds in the amount of \$12,777.10, to Software account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Conversion is being done in house as opposed to out sourcing.

(Recommended 4-0 by the Finance Committee)

Motion to move Article 7 made by Don Dermyer, seconded by William Mahon.

Vote: Ayes have it.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Chapter 1: Town Meeting, A., by removing the stricken words and adding in place thereof the words in bold, or take any other action relative thereto,

“Annual town meeting shall be held on the ~~second Tuesday~~ **first Saturday** of June of each year.”

Explanation: To allow for greater attendance for Lanesborough voters.

(Without any Recommendation by the Finance Committee)

Motion to move Article 8 made by Barbara Hassan, seconded by Linda Pruyne.

Ronald Tinkham stated that he believed more senior citizens would be able to attend if the meetings were moved to a Saturday. Town Manager Kelli Robbins stated that the Council on Aging van is available to those seniors who do not wish to drive at night if the meeting remains on Tuesday evenings.

Robert Ericson moved to amend the Article to read “second” Saturday in June as he stated that the first Saturday will conflict with Mount Greylock’s High School, seconded.

Vote on amendment #1: Nays have it.

Don Dermyer moved to keep the bylaw as written but add “or” second Saturday, seconded.

Al Terranova stated that there is never going to be a time that does not conflict with residents’ schedules and it should be kept on Tuesday evenings. Lori DiLego stated that moving the existing date will just make things more complicated. Diane Stevens stated that keeping it consistent is better as it will allow other entities to work around the Town’s meeting as it will be the same each year.

Vote on amendment #2: Nays have it.

Don Dermyer moved to state that the Annual Town Meeting shall be held at a date and time as selected by the Board of Selectmen within the months of May or June, seconded.

Vote on amendment #3: Nays have it.

Vote on original motion: Nays have it.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Capital Stabilization the sum of \$9,420.00 to cover the cost of replacing the library air conditioner or take any action relative thereto.

*($\frac{2}{3}$ vote required)
(Recommended 4-0 by the Finance Committee)*

Motion to move Article 8 made by Don Dermyer, seconded.

Vote: Ayes have it by a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 22F, in its entirety.

Explanation: To allow the schedule of fees to be charged by the Town Clerk and any municipal board or officer empowered to issue a license, permit, certificate, or to render a service or perform work for a person or class of persons, to set reasonable fees.

(Without any Recommendation by the Finance Committee)

Motion to move Article 10 made and seconded.

Moderator Dodig stated that the Town had already voted to accept this General Law at a previous meeting and asked that the Article be indefinitely postponed, so moved.

Vote: Ayes have it.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Knysh
Town Clerk