



MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

September 28 , 2016

At Bernardston Elementary School Cafeteria

Moderator: Geoffrey A. Wilson
Town Clerk: Paul Luther
Check in Clerks: Kathleen Moniglio, Janet Page
Constable: Peter Shedd
Warden: Russell Deane
Secret Ballot Clerks
& Floor Vote Counters: Frank Kromholz, Linda Raymond

Moderator called the meeting to order at: 7:01pm 43 total voters signed in of 1500 registered voters

Selectboard: Andrew Girard, Chair; Stan Garland, Robert Raymond

Finance Committee: Jane Dutcher, Chair; Brian Hervieux,

Town Coordinator: Hugh Campbell; Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol

Non-Resident / Unregister Voters Known to be Present:

Shelby Ashline, Greenfield Recorder, Jared Smith, Bernardston Fire Department (BFD),

Devin Depault, BFD, Donna MacNicol, Town Counsel.

- *Just before the meeting began four or five fire department members who had been checked in left the meeting to respond to a "call" but returned before the meeting adjourned.*

The Moderator read the opening & notice of warrant confirming the proper posting of the warrant.

- *Pledge of Allegiance*

Article 1: The Town voted to appropriate from Free Cash the amount of \$32,400.00 for the purpose of funding a Fire Station Expansion Feasibility study, and create a New Fire Station Feasibility Study Committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen to report recommendations and findings to the Selectmen.

*The article was moved and seconded and after a lengthy discussion of about 20 minutes including an explanation of why the Study was needed, why only the current location was under consideration, a detailed description of the specific services which would be provided and many positive statements about the need for a new building and the need to support the members of the fire department; **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

Article 2: **THE TOWN VOTED TO PASS OVER** the proposal to appropriate from Free Cash the amount of \$25,000.00 for the Town's contribution to the Town Hall furnace replacement project partially funded by a Green Communities grant award from the Department of Energy Resources.

*The Article was moved and seconded as read and printed in the warrant, after some questions and comments, the selectmen moved and it was seconded that the Article be **PASSED OVER** and **the Moderator declared it passed over by a unanimous voice vote (without objection)***

Article 3: The Town voted to adopt a bylaw as follows:

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 39, section 15, the Town Moderator, at any Town Meeting, may declare any article that requires a 2/3 vote passed on a voice vote and record the vote as 2/3 in his/her discretion.

*The article was moved and seconded and after a brief discussion and clarification of its purpose and its consequences for voters and residents at town meetings, **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection).***

Article 4: The Town voted to appropriate from Free Cash the amount of \$3,992.55 to pay FY15 heating oil expenses for the Highway Department to Global Montello Group Corp.

*The article was moved and seconded and after a brief explanation from the Selectboard those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 9/10 majority requirement.***

Article 5: The Town voted to appropriate from Free Cash the amount of \$141.75 to pay FY16 wages to the Conservation Commission/ZBA Clerk.

*The article was moved and seconded and after a brief explanation from the Selectboard those present were given time to speak to the article and hearing no questions or comments, **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 9/10 majority requirement.***

Article 6: The Town voted to appropriate from Free Cash the amount of \$20,000.00 to remove trees within Town roadways considered to be hazardous to public safety. Said trees shall be inspected and prioritized for removal by the Highway Department in consultation with the Tree Warden.

*The article was moved and seconded and after a brief explanation from the Selectboard and discussion of the risks to residents, other liabilities, how the removals will be conducted, and notification of owners of the property adjacent to said trees, **the Moderator declared it approved by a unanimous voice vote (without objection) and further declared that therefore the vote satisfied the 9/10 majority requirement.***

Meeting Adjourned: 7:41pm, September 28, 2016

A True Copy:

Attest: October 12, 2016

