

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 27, 2015**

Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Town Moderator, Wayne C. Perkins, who declared a quorum present in the Middleborough High School Auditorium.

The Moderator invited Reverend Chong Choi, Pastor of the Methodist Church to offer the invocation.

The Veterans' Council led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator then introduced the following: Miss Taunton Devon Elizabeth Williams who sang the National Anthem, and acknowledged and thanked the members of the Middleborough High School Student Council for acting as pages and counters for the evening. The Moderator introduced and gave warm Middleborough welcome to the new Town Manager Robert Nunes.

The Moderator made an announcement on behalf of the Peirce Trustees regarding the retirement of one of their members, Donald Atkins. Mr. Atkins was originally appointed to the Peirce Trust in 1986, filling the position previously held by Fletcher Clark, who also acted as Town Moderator for many years. Mr. Atkins provided dedicated service to the Town, managing investments of the Peirce Trust and working closely with the Town officials over the years for the benefit of our residents. The Peirce Trustees were pleased to announce Dr. Stephen Morris has been nominated to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Atkins' resignation. Dr. Morris has served the Town in a variety of positions over the years including many years as a member of the Board of Selectmen, the Capital Planning Committee and the Town Manager Search Committee. Through his volunteer work he has demonstrated his commitment to the Town. The Moderator asked everyone to join him in thanking Mr. Atkins for his 29 years of service and welcoming Dr. Morris as a new Trustee.

Voted unanimously to allow as necessary the following non-resident individuals to address Town Meeting: Robert G. Nunes, Town Manager; Steven Dooney, Town Accountant; Lance Benjamino, Fire Chief; Joseph Silva, Water Superintendent; Christopher Peck, DPW Director; Michael Malone, Acting Superintendent of Schools; Kathleen Piatelli, School Department Business Manager, Ellen Driscoll, Information Technology Director, Jane Kudcey, Director of the Office of Economic and Community Development, Fran Cass, Parks Superintendent, Ruth Geoffroy, Town Planner; Brandon Riley of Weston and Sampson, Dean Harrison of Neighborhood Corporation; and further for approval of taking a voice vote first on those votes requiring a super majority.

Before any action was taken, the Moderator asked if everyone had a copy of the articles and the budget book. He stated copies were available in the lobby. In addition, he noted the budget pages and motions would be projected on the screen for Town Meeting. He reminded those in attendance to turn off all cell phones and pagers; a motion to amend must be in writing for the record allowing time for those to write out the amendment if needed; anyone who would like to address the meeting to use the microphone stating their name and address to be recognized by the Moderator; debate and questions are healthy but to maintain order should be directed through the Moderator and as always maintain civility as Town Meeting is not the place for personal attacks or derogatory comment.

The Moderator certified that the warrant had been posted, served and returned in a proper fashion by Police Chief Joseph M. Perkins.

The following act on was taken:

ARTICLE 1: The following was voted unanimously:

- Voted unanimously to transfer from Debt Services, number 710, Account 591500, the total sum of \$75,000.00 to Veterans Department, number 543, Account 577000, Medical & Cash Aid.
- Further voted unanimously to transfer from Employee Fringe Benefits department, number 919, Health and Life Insurance, Account 517400, the total sum of \$460,000.00 to DPW – Highway, number 422, Account 015293, Snow Removal.
- Further voted unanimously to transfer from Employee Fringe Benefits department, number 919, Health and Life Insurance, Account 517400, the total sum of \$25,000.00 to Administrative Office Buildings, number 193, Account 543000, Building, Repairs & Maintenance.
- Further voted unanimously transfer from Employee Fringe Benefits department, number 919, Health and Life Insurance, Account 517400, the total sum of \$11,000.00 to Treasurer/Collector, number 145, Account 531000, Tax Title.
- Further voted unanimously to transfer \$30,000.00 from School Transportation Miscellaneous, number 899, Mini Bus Drivers, Account 511165, and \$45,000.00 from School Transportation, number 900, Homeless Contracted Services, Account 530407, the total sum of \$75,000.00 to School Department, number 313, Account 563150, Tuition Out of District.

*A motion was made and seconded to **amend Article 2** to change the amount from Workers' Compensation Account in order to pay previous years, unpaid bills, Account 595227 for Massachusetts Education and Government Association from \$32,670.52 to **\$39,745.83** (increasing the amount by \$7,075.31); motion **passed** unanimously.*

ARTICLE 2: Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$13,380.00 from Debt Services, number 710, Account 591500 and \$32,670.52 from Workers' Compensation Account 517100, in order to pay previous years, unpaid bills, Account 595227, for the following:

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| • Lynch, Malloy, Marini | \$12,000.00 |
| • H.T.Drummond | \$1,120.00 |
| • School Dept. Employee Reimbursements | \$260.00 |
| • Massachusetts Education and Government Association | \$32,670.52 |

ARTICLE 3: Voted unanimously that \$43,075.00 be transferred from Debt Services, number 710, Account 591500 to the Fire Department 220, Account 519700, for the payment of accumulated sick leave buyback.

ARTICLE 4: Voted unanimously that \$14,000.00 be transferred from Debt Services, number 710, Account 591500 to the Park and Recreation Department to repair the bleachers at Battis Field.

Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action

ARTICLE 5: Voted unanimously to appropriate \$150,000 by borrowing to purchase a tax collection and assessing software package for the Assessors and Treasurer/Collector Department and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow \$150,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44.

Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action

ARTICLE 6: Voted unanimously that \$18,566.51 be transferred from the unexpended balance from the borrowing proceeds authorized under Article 16 of the warrant of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting and \$31,433.49 to be transferred from School Transportation Miscellaneous Department, number 899, Mini-bus driver's, Account 511165, the total sum of \$50,000.00 to fund a site evaluation and design of a new police station.

ARTICLE 7: Voted unanimously to table indefinitely.

ARTICLE 8: Voted unanimously that the unexpended balance \$85,627.58 from the borrowing proceeds authorized under Article 15 of the warrant of the 2004 Annual Town Meeting, \$120,000.00 appropriated under Article 10 of the October 3, 2011 Special Town Meeting and \$240,000.00 from the Wastewater Department Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, for a total sum of \$445,627.58, be transferred to the Wood Street sewer main replacement project.

Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action

ARTICLE 9: Voted unanimously that the Town appropriate \$98,000.00 by borrowing for improvements and related infrastructure with regard to the municipal parking lot on Pearl Street and to meet this appropriation to Authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectman, to borrow \$98,000.00 under General Laws, Chapter 44, with the borrowing to be paid from a donation to the town of \$98,000.00 from High Point Treatment Center, Inc.

ARTICLE 10: Voted unanimously that the Town appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, debt service, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2015, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation as follows – from FY2015 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$2,400.00, from FY2015 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$2,400.00 and from FY2015 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$2,400.00.

Voted unanimously to dissolve the meeting at 7:32 PM.

A true copy, attest:

ALLISON J. FERREIRA
Town Clerk