

Minutes of the Special Town Meeting – November 21, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Edward Goddard at 7:30 PM at the King Philip Regional High School Auditorium. As of November 21, 2022 there were 9,664 registered voters of which 192 were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by new elected State Representative Marcus Vaughn. Tellers appointed were Jeff Hall and Andrea Sweed.

The warrant was properly posted and all motions were received in a timely fashion. Selectman, James Anderson motioned to waive the reading of the Town Meeting Warrant.

The Moderator welcomed newest Finance Committee Members, Stephen Johnson and Kristen Andreozzi. He congratulated Marcus Vaughn and Senator Rebecca Rausch on their recent election. He thanked his friend Shawn Dooley for his 8 years of dedicated service as our State Representative.

The Moderator also remembered residents Kathleen Marino and Richard Bassett who passed away during this year. He also recognized and remembered Marjorie Immonen who served on many committees in town and retired Police Chief, Richard Gillespie.

Mr. Goddard updated the residents on the fund raising for Wrentham's 350th Anniversary and thanked all the donors and sponsors who have given money to help with the celebration.

This years' Volunteers of the Year were Libby Lewis and Andrea Sweed. Both were recognized for their exceptional dedication and volunteerism to the community

TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

Article 2 – Move that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by deleting the word “Selectmen” each time it appears in said bylaw and inserting the term “Select Board” in place thereof, and further, deleting the words “Board of Selectmen” each time it appears and inserting in place thereof the term “Select Board” and further that the Town Clerk be authorized to make clerical, editorial or other adjustments related to the non-gendered reference to effectuate the purposes hereof.

The General Bylaw Review Committee made their recommendation to not support this article and postpone it at this time.

Motion carries – 120 yes, 20 - no

Article 3 – Move that the Town vote to amend the Town of Wrentham Zoning Bylaws by deleting the word “Selectmen” each time it appears in said bylaw and inserting the term “Select Board” in place thereof, and further, deleting the words “Board of Selectmen” each time it appears and inserting in place thereof the term “Select Board” and further that the Town Clerk be authorized to make clerical, editorial or other adjustments related to the non-gendered reference to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 4 – Move that the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a Home Rule Petition with the Great and General Court amending Chapter 116 of the Acts of 2014, by deleting the word “Selectmen” each time it appears in said Special Act and inserting the term “Select Board” in place thereof, and further, deleting the words “Board of Selectmen” each time it appears and inserting in place thereof the term “Select Board” and further that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to make clerical, editorial or other adjustments to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 5 – Move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for a special act reading as follows:

"SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the position of deputy fire chief in fire department of the Town of Wrentham shall be exempt from chapter 31 of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act shall not impair the civil service status of any person holding the position of deputy fire chief in the fire department of the Town of Wrentham on the effective date of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.";

,to authorize the General Court to make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and the Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; and (b) to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all other action necessary or advisable to remove the position of the Deputy Fire Chief in the Town of Wrentham from Civil Service.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 6 – Move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,850 to fund an unpaid bill from the prior fiscal year.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 7 – Move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$51,500 to fund the settlement of the Wrentham Police Union Contract negotiations for FY2023.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 8 - Move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,400 and to raise from Water Enterprise Fund Revenue the sum of \$14,900 to fund the settlement of the Wrentham Department of Public Works Union Contract negotiations for FY2023.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 9 – Move the Town vote to amend Chapter 390, Wrentham Zoning Bylaw as printed under Article 9 in the Warrant for this Town Meeting.

Chairman Michael McKnight read the Planning Board Report recommendation for Article 9.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 10 – Move that Article 10 be withdrawn.

Motion carries.

Article 11 – Move that Article 11 be withdrawn.

Motion carries.

Article 12 – Move that Article 12 be withdrawn.

Motion carries.

Article 13 – Move that the Town vote to amend the Town of Wrentham General Bylaws by adding new Chapter 351, Stormwater Management as printed under Article 13 in the Warrant for this this Town Meeting.

The General Bylaw Review Committee read their recommendation for Article 13.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 14 – Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 from the Undesignated Fund account of the Community Preservation Fund, for the purpose of establishing a Conservation and Recreation Land Acquisition Fund. Acquisitions must adhere to CPA land acquisition rules at the time of the acquisition, and a conservation restriction, in accordance with G.L. c. 184 sections 31-33 shall be required to be recorded for the acquired land. Funds appropriated must be used by December 31, 2032 or will be returned to their source, and no longer be available for expenditure on this project.

Chairman Scott Manchuso spoke about the four (4) Community Preservation Committee articles. Article 14 requires the Board of Selectmen approval for Conservation Commission to purchase land, should it become available.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 15 – Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$125,000 from the Historical Reserve account of the Community Preservation Fund and \$90,000 from the Undesignated Funds, for the purpose of funding the preservation and restoration of the External Pillars of the Old Congregational Church in Wrentham MA. Funding is contingent upon OCC applying for a Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund Grant and also upon successfully placing a preservation restriction in accordance with G.L. c. 184 sections 31-33 on the OCC Property prior to the release of the full amount of the funds. Funds appropriated must be used by December 31, 2025 or will be returned to their source, and no longer be available for expenditure on this project.

Chairman Manchuso pointed out that Article 15 meets the criteria required for approving monies to the church:

- Important historical building; project beneficial to community;
Requirement of a grant agreement signature

Selectmen Harrington amended the motion.

Article 15 - Move to amend Article 15 by adding the following:

Funding is contingent upon OCC applying for a Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund Grant and also upon successfully placing a preservation restriction in accordance with G.L. c184 section 31-33 *“and a deed restriction requiring the repayment of funds granted if the property is sold for private for profit use before the expiration of 99 years”*, on the OCC Property prior to the release of the full amount of the funds.

Amendment carries.

The Finance Committee recommends supporting this article.

Original motion with amendment carries.

Article 16 – Move that the Town appropriate \$1,280,000 to pay costs of the Rice Complex Walking Pathway Construction Project, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, \$300,000 be transferred from the Community Preservation Fund balance and that \$980,000 be borrowed by the Treasurer, who with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44B (also known as the Community Preservation Act), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any borrowing pursuant to G.L. c. 44B, shall be paid, in the first instance, from the Open Space and Recreation Reserve account and, in the absence of a sufficient balance in said account, from the Undesignated Fund Balance account of the Community Preservation Fund.

This article was brought to the Community Preservation Committee by the Recreation Commission. Funds would be transferred from the CP fund balance and the rest borrowed for a 10 year note accompanied by an application to be submitted for a Mass. Trails grant.

There was much discussion, both favorable and unfavorable for this article.

A standing vote was taken: yes – 78, no - 72

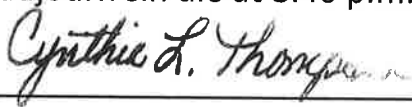
Motion failed.

Article 17 – Move that Article 17 be withdrawn.

Motion carries.

Motion by Selectmen Gallo to adjourn sin die at 8:40 p.m. *Motion carries.*

A True Copy, Attest:



Cynthia L. Thompson, Town Clerk