

Special Town Meeting Minutes 11/19/02

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, a Special Town Meeting was called on November 19, 2002, 7:00 p.m. at Becket Town Hall. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the Moderator. A total of 21 voters were present.

The Moderator introduced the following: Bruce Garlow, Moderator; Robert Beckwith and John Murray, Selectmen; Jeanne Pryor, Town Clerk; Cheryl Powers, Finance Committee; and Richard Furlong, Town Administrator.

The Moderator opened the meeting stating the rules to be followed. He asked for a showing of hands of non-voters. There was one. Town Clerk, Jeanne Pryor, read the warrant and the Moderator noted the warrant as having been duly posted. The Moderator noted that the Finance Committee had approved all articles on the warrant.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,000.00 to do a wage classification and compensation study and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$7,000.00 from Vocational Tuition.

Article 1 was moved by Bill Fuller and seconded on the floor. There was no discussion. **Article 1** passed unanimously.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,500.00 to replace the NT Server with a new server and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$5,500.00 from Vocational Transportation.

Article 2 was moved and seconded on the floor. Richard Furlong made a motion to amend the article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,500.00 to replace the NT Server with a new server and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$5,500.00 from Vocational Tuition.

The amendment was seconded on the floor. No discussion followed. **Article 2**, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for installation of a dry hydrant on the Main Street side of Ballou Dam and a hydrant and connection to the school sprinkler system on the school side of the dam and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$35,000.00 from available funds.

Article 3 was moved by Bill Fuller and seconded on the floor. Richard Furlong made a motion to amend the article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$41,000.00 for installation of a dry hydrant on the Main Street side of Ballou Dam and a hydrant and connection to the school sprinkler system on the school side of the dam and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$41,000.00 from Free Cash.

Madeleine Swindlehurst raised a question concerning raising the amount as noted on the warrant. The Moderator ruled that the difference in the amount was not significant and was within the scope of the article. Following discussion, the amendment was seconded on the floor. **Article 3**, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to the Stabilization Account and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$40,000.00 from available funds.

Article 4 was moved by John Murray and seconded on the floor. Richard Furlong made a motion to amend the article in order to clarify funding by changing the words "available funds" to "free cash". The amended article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to the Stabilization Account and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$40,000.00 from Free Cash.

The amendment was seconded on the floor. **Article 4**, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for the replacement of DARE money not appropriated by the Commonwealth and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$1,000.00 from Vocational Tuition Account.

Article 5 was moved and seconded on the floor. There was no discussion. **Article 5** passed unanimously.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by eminent domain, from Murray E. Stone, his heirs, successors, and assigns, the so-called Silk Mill Dam structure, including both abutments and the land under them for the purpose of removing the dam, being the premises conveyed to him by Sumner A. Knight and Marie B. Knight, dated September 7, 1955, which was recorded in the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 630, Page 444, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from surplus revenue a sum of money as an award for such taking to be held by the Treasurer in a separate account marked "Murray E. Stone, his heirs, successors, and assigns-Silk Mill Dam." or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 6 was moved and seconded on the floor. Richard Furlong made a motion to amend the article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by eminent domain, from Murray E. Stone, his heirs, successors, and assigns, the so-called Silk Mill Dam structure, including both abutments and the land under them for the purpose of removing the dam, being the premises conveyed to him by deed of Sumner A. Knight and Marie B. Knight, dated September 7, 1955, which was recorded in the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 630, Page 444, and to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$500.00 as an award for such taking to be held by the Treasurer in a separate account marked "Murray E. Stone, his heirs, successors, and assigns-Silk Mill Dam." or take any other action in relation thereto.

Madeleine Swindlehurst expressed concern in the difference in wording on the warrant from "to raise and appropriate" to "appropriate" in the motion. Following an explanation by the Moderator, the motion to amend **Article 6** was moved and seconded on the floor. **Article 6**, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to accept as gifts the following parcels of land:

- A. Map 214, Lot 126 (0.40 acre), located on Meadow Lake Drive from the owner James Dunham. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1184, Page 584.
- B. Map 215, Lot 34 (0.56 acre), located on Forest Lane from the owner Thomas P. Kalinoski. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1452, Page 270.
- C. Map 215, Lot 200 (0.24 acre), located on Sherwood Drive from the owners Gerardo & Freasa Merino. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1174, Page 71.

Article 7 was moved by John Murray and seconded on the floor. Richard Furlong made a motion to amend the article by adding two properties to **Article 7** as follows:

- D. Map 216, Lot 632 (0.24 acre), located on Little John Drive from the owner Kathleen Campbell Serafini. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 945, Page 987.
- E. Map 216, Lot 335 (0.25 acre), located on King Richard Drive from the owners Frank & Lydia Wien. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 966, Page 228.

The motion to amend **Article 7** was moved and seconded on the floor. **Article 7**, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to declare the following town owned properties as surplus and direct the Board of Selectmen to sell these parcels at a sealed bid sale at their discretion:

- A. Map 214, Lot 126 (0.40 acre), located on Meadow Lake Drive. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1184, Page 584.
- B. Map 215, Lot 34 (0.56 acre), located on Forest Lane. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1452, Page 270.
- C. Map 215, Lot 200 (0.24 acre), located on Sherwood Drive. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1174, Page 71.

Richard Furlong made a motion to dispense with the reading of **Article 8** and moved to include the two properties attached to Article 7 and to dispense with the reading. It was moved and seconded that **Article 8** be amended by adding the two properties as follows:

- D. Map 216, Lot 632 (0.24 acre), located on Little John Drive. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 945, Page 987.
- E. Map 216, Lot 335 (0.25 acre), located on King Richard Drive. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 966, Page 228.

There was no discussion. **Article 8**, as amended, passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Murray and seconded on the floor. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The Poll Workers were: Carol Elovirta and Jonathan Melle.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne W. Pryor
Town Clerk