

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
**TUESDAY**  
**November 13, 2007**

The Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7 PM in the High School Auditorium.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

We have a quorum.

Phil Trapani, our newest member of the Board of Selectmen led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The tellers were introduced and the non-voting members in the audience were recognized by the Moderator.

At this time, the Moderator entertained a motion from George Moker and a second from Joe Soucy to adopt a 3-minute speech rule.

There was no discussion.

The motion passed by a 2/3 majority by a show of hands.

**ARTICLE 1: Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2008 operating budget**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 3 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting warrant for the purpose of adjusting line items in the FY08 budget, such as funding union and non-union proposed wage increases, reallocations within the Highway Department Budget, and other departmental transfers if needed, and, as necessary, to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds a sum

Line Item	Departments	Original	(-) Decrease	(+) Increase	Revised
		Appropriation			Appropriation
11222	Selectmen Staff Salary	32,310.00		967.00	33,277.00
11351	Accountant Salary	60,320.00		1,508.00	61,828.00
11412	Assessors Asst Salary	62,400.00		1,560.00	63,960.00
11413	Assessors Staff Salaries	38,622.00		2,169.00	40,791.00
11454	Tax Collector/Treasurer Salary	60,320.00		1,508.00	61,828.00
11455	Asst Tax Collector Salary	35,314.00		883.00	36,197.00
11456	Asst Treasurer Salary	41,058.00		1,027.00	42,085.00
11611	Town Clerk Salary	32,006.00		801.00	32,807.00
11612	Town Clerk Staff Salaries	16,941.00		481.00	17,422.00
11712	Conservation Comm Salaries	51,944.00		1,299.00	53,243.00
11713	Conservation Comm Staff Salaries	4,543.00		114.00	4,657.00
11752	Planning Board Salaries	43,280.00		2,563.00	45,843.00
11761	Z B Appeals Clerk Salaries	10,169.00		255.00	10,424.00
12111	Police Salaries	959,790.00		26,364.00	986,154.00
12115	Police School Crossing	14,122.00		354.00	14,476.00
12121	Comm Center Wages	190,616.00		6,893.00	197,509.00
12951	Inspectors Services Salaries	119,121.00		2,979.00	122,100.00
14212	Highway Salaries	181,215.00		5,849.00	187,064.00
15111	Health Salaries	68,031.00		1,701.00	69,732.00
15411	Council on Aging Salaries	61,421.00		1,536.00	62,957.00
16111	Library Salaries	157,700.00		3,943.00	161,643.00
		2,241,243.00	-	64,754.00	2,305,997.00

of money for this purpose, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Motion:** Phil Trapani moved and it was seconded by Don Cudmore to amend the vote taken under Article 3 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting warrant by: (1) adjusting line items in the FY08 Budget as set forth in the spreadsheet below, and by transferring from the General Fund “free cash” the amount of \$64,754 for wage adjustments for union and non-union personnel; and, (2) appropriating by transfer from budget line 14215 Road Maintenance and Repairs to Capital Projects Fund, the sum of \$27,650 for the purchase of a winter sanding unit and a dump body for the Highway Department.

**MOTION TO AMEND:** Sandy Gerraughty moved and it was seconded by Matt Vincent that the article 1 question be divided.

The first part would be the employee raises and the second part would be Highway Department transfers.

**DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENT:** None

**ACTION ON AMENDMENT:** This amendment passed by a majority vote by a show of hands.

The Finance and Advisory Board recommends approval of the wage increases in this article. (Vote: 4-3-0) on the first part of the amendment.

**EXPLANATION:** Matt Vincent reminded the voters that at the annual town meeting that giving the employees would be the Town's first priority at Special Town Meeting. No raises were given at the Annual Town Meeting to avoid any employee cuts. This is not a merit raise but a cost of living raise and their health insurance costs along with heating fuel and gasoline continue to rise. We need to keep good employees and not to lose them to other employers. In the spring the voters were told that we would have a special town meeting

even if were only one article to give the employees increases.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION:** By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the motion passed unanimously.

**The Finance and Advisory Board recommends approval of the Highway Department Budget transfer in this article. (Vote: 7-0-0)**

**EXPLANATION:** Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor explained that we have one sander which is in disrepair. We also have only one truck with a dump body. We could accomplish our jobs in a more efficient manner if we had another truck with a dump body on it.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION:** By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the motion carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 2: Appropriation of Free Cash for the reduction of the tax rate and to offset a State charge**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and or transfer and appropriate from available funds, including Free Cash, or any combination of the foregoing, a sum of money to reduce the tax rate for FY08, or take any other action related thereto.

**Motion:** Sandy Gerraughty moved and it was seconded by Chris Rich to appropriate from the General Fund (free cash) the sum of \$125,000 for the purpose of reducing the tax rate for FY08, which action will thereby offset unexpected school choice charges against the Town on the Town's so-called tax recapitulation sheet prepared by the Board of Assessors.

**The Finance and Advisory Board recommends approval of this article. (Vote: 7-0-0)**

**EXPLANATION:** Steve Delaney explained that there was an unexpected number of out of school students which was determined by the state. As we were already at our levy capacity this needs town meeting approval.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION:** By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**ARTICLE 3: Water Department authorization to use retained earnings**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and or transfer and appropriate from available funds, including Water Department Retained Earnings, or any combination of the foregoing, a sum of money to be applied to a Water Department revenue shortfall of a prior fiscal year, or take any other action related thereto.

**Motion:** Sandy Gerraughty moved and it was seconded by Reg Tardif to appropriate the sum of

\$145,452 from the Water Department Retained Earnings to be used to offset a revenue shortfall from a prior fiscal year.

**The Finance and Advisory Board recommends approval of this article. (Vote: 7-0-0)**

**EXPLANATION:** Steve Delaney explained that this was a bookkeeping issue needed to adjust and balance the Water Dept. books.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION:** By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the motion carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 4: School Facilities Committee Proposed Funding for Architectural Design Services**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$30,000 as requested by the School Facilities Committee to be expended by the School Department, for the purpose of procuring architectural design services for a new elementary school/middle or to take any other action in relation thereto.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hanlon moved and it was seconded by David Bjork to transfer from the General Fund (Free Cash) the sum of \$30,000 to be expended by the School Department for the purpose of procuring architectural design services for a new elementary/middle school.

**The Finance and Advisory Board recommends approval of this article. (Vote: 6-0-1)**

**EXPLANATION:** Mr. Hanlon explained that this money is for the reconfiguration of the Penn Brook School architectural design. The schools would now be Perley Preschool and Kindergarten, Penn Brook School 1-6 and the high school 7-12.

**DISCUSSION:** Joe Soucy stated that he was going to vote for this article however, we were told at the Annual Town meeting that the next time this committee asked for money it would be for a new school and not for more design money.

**ACTION:** By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the motion carried unanimously.

**ARTICLE 5: Senior Citizen Tax Exemption, to amend clause 41 C**

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 59, section 5, clause 41C to change the tax exemption for senior citizens, which changes to be effective in the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007, in one or more of the following manner:

(a) to increase the whole estate limitations to \$40,000 for a single person and \$55,000 for married persons;

(b) to decrease the age of eligibility from 70 years old to 67 years old or some age there between; and/or

(c) to increase the abatement dollar amount from \$500.00 up to \$750.00, or take any action in relation thereto.

**This article was passed over.**

**ARTICLE 6: Fire Department: Protective Clothing**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$15,000 for the purchase of Protective Clothing and related equipment for Firefighters including all costs related thereto or take any other action related thereto.

**Motion:** Mike Anderson moved and it was seconded by Chris Rich to transfer from the General Fund (Free Cash) the sum of \$15,000 to be expended by the Fire Department, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, for firefighter protective clothing and related equipment.

**The Finance and Advisory Board recommends approval of this article. (Vote: 7-0-0)**

The CIP voted 5-0 in favor.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION:** By a show of hands the moderator declared the motion passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 7: Fire Department: Firefighting Hose Replacement**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of firefighting hose and related equipment including all costs related thereto or take any other action related thereto.

**MOTION:** Mike Anderson moved and it was seconded by Chris Rich to transfer from the General Fund (Free Cash) the sum of \$10,000 to be expended by the Fire Department, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, for firefighting hose and related equipment.

The Finance and Advisory Board recommends approval of this article. (Vote: 7-0-0)

CIP voted 5-0 in favor.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**ACTION:** By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the motion passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 8: Highway Department: Road Machinery Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting to increase the authorized expenditure level of the Road Machinery Fund from the current level of \$10,000 to a new authorized level of \$25,000, or take any other action related thereto.

**Motion:** Peter Durkee moved and it was seconded by Don Cudmore to amend the vote taken under Article 10 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting authorizing the continuation of a Road Machinery Fund pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E ½, for the purpose of increasing from \$10,000 to \$25,000, the amount that the Highway Surveyor, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, may expend from said fund.

**The Finance and Advisory Board does not recommend approval of this article. (Vote: 3-4-0)**

**EXPLANATION:** Peter Durkee that this account was set up in 1932 for the rental of equipment to other Town departments. The money is deposited into this revolving fund and is used for the purchase or lease of equipment. The Highway Department owns the equipment and it's an inexpensive way for other departments to rent equipment.

**Sandy Gerraughty was concerned that \$10,000 was the limit before having to go before the CIP for approval. Past history does now show that much money being in that account.**

**Peter Durkee explained that they were going to try and get a brush cutter in the spring and the Light Department would be renting this equipment from them and that would be how the payments would be made.**

**Robert Kelley asked if there were any other revolving funds and what are the limits.**

**Sandy Gerraughty responded that 10,000 is the highest. Steve Delaney also mentioned that this revolving fund was unique.**

**Harry LaCortiglia stated he was voting yes for this article. Let's give the new guy a chance to run his department the way he would like to.**

**ACTION:** By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the motion carried unanimously.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Elizabeth Tollman 2nd by Harry LaCortiglia.

**The motion was declared unanimous by a show of hands.**

**The Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM**