
TOWN CLERK - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES MAY 1, 2018

**Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2018
William E. Norris School
34 Pomeroy Meadow Rd., Southampton, MA**

The Annual Town Meeting was held. Town Moderator, Robert Floyd, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present. Three hundred thirty six (336) registered voters were present. The workers were Luci Dalton, Kristine Canton, Debra Pinsky, Eileen Hamel, and Abby Dalton.

After the pledge of allegiance, a brief moment of silence, welcome message, and reading a disclosure statement, Mr. Moderator proceeded to read the warrant, and return warrant. He announced that the town meeting was being televised live. Karl Kuehner was unanimously named Deputy Moderator for another year and sworn in by Town Clerk Janine Domina.

Mr. Moderator spoke of the benefits of the informational sessions prior to town meeting, and read an introduction on town meeting guidelines.

Mr. Moderator then called for a motion for Article 1.

Article 1: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to hear presentations of the Richard C. Allen Educational Awards sponsored by the Southampton Highway Department and Transfer Station.

Article 1 passed unanimously to hear presentations

Randall Kemp, Highway Superintendent, presented the awards to the following citizens:

David Helems
William Lafosse
Molli Loud
Charlotte Reynolds
Emma Taylor
Lydia Touchette

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Article 2: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to hear presentations of State Certificates.

Article 2 passed unanimously to hear presentations

In presenting Senate Citation Certificates, Charles Kaniecki, Selectboard Chair, acknowledged our appreciation to the following individuals, who are retiring or moving out of town, for their many years of dedicated service to the town:

Henry & Theresa Barton,
Velda Goldberg,
Jackie Sears

THANK YOU!!!!

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Article 3: It was moved as a Citizen Petition and seconded to see if the Town would vote to amend the Town of Southampton General Bylaws, Article 1, Town Meeting, by adding a new Sec. 9 to be worded as follows: "Sec. 9. "The formal Rules of evidence, including those relating to hearsay evidence, that apply at formal proceedings such as court trials, shall not be applied to Town Meetings, inasmuch as their complexity makes it difficult, if not impossible, to apply consistently. Accordingly, duly recognized speakers, whose statements comport with requirements for decorum, shall not be prevented from speaking by the Moderator when the speakers are acting in good faith, with the reasonable belief their statements are true and that their statements are material and pertinent to matters legitimately before the Town meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 3 passed by majority vote

Article 4: It was moved as a Citizen Petition and seconded to see if the Town would vote: "(a) to raise, appropriate, or transfer from available funds, accept gifts and grants and/or borrow up to One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000) for the purpose of acquiring, for municipal use, certain real estate located at the College Highway now or formerly owned by the heirs of Frank and Lucille Wayne consisting of 51.89 acres, more or less, and shown on Southampton Assessor Maps as parcels Map 19 Parcel 141; Map 19 Parcel 144; and Map 24 Parcel 15. (b) and further to authorize the town to acquire said property by gift, negotiated purchase, eminent domain or other lawful means, for purposes such as, but not limited to, locating a shared Police and Emergency Services Facility; developing a site to meet Southampton's community housing obligation; location for future school building; a Senior Center; open space, conservation, passive recreation, or other municipal purpose as voters deem appropriate, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 4 failed (Ayes 73; Nays 217)

Article 5: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Treasurer/Collector to an appointed position to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a term of up to three years; provided, however, that such change shall not take effect unless it is also approved by the voters at the 2019 Annual Town Election, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 5 passed by majority vote

Article 6: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.41, §1B to change the position of elected Town Clerk to an appointed position to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a term of up to three years; provided, however, that such change shall not take effect unless it is also approved by the voters at the 2019 Annual Town Election, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 6 passed by majority vote

Article 7: It was moved and seconded to pass over this article in accepting the provisions of G.L. c.59, §5, Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, and 22F Veterans Exemptions, or take any other action relative thereto.

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Article 7 - majority vote to pass over

Article 8: It was moved and seconded to take no action on this article, which was to amend the Town By-Laws by adding an Article Mandatory Recycling By-Law, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 8 – majority vote to take no action

Article 9: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend Article 1, Section 6 of the Town By-laws to read as set forth:

“At all Town Meetings, except meetings that are devoted exclusively to the election of officers, fifty (50) legal voters shall be necessary to constitute a quorum; provided that a number less than a quorum may from time to time adjourn the same, or take any other action relative thereto.”

Article 9 passed by majority vote

Article 10: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town would raise and appropriate \$16,480,135.00 to fund all municipal departments and the public schools during fiscal year 2019, as shown in the Town’s Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 as shown in the Column Labeled FY 19 Base Budget (Non Override) A (chart at the end of this document), or take any other action relative thereto. The Moderator divided the budget into the following groups:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	591,543	Passed unanimously
PUBLIC SAFETY	1,713,632	Passed unanimously
EDUCATION	10,720,501	Passed unanimously
HIGHWAY	792,325	Passed unanimously
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	112,026	Passed unanimously
CULTURE & RECREATION	155,803	Passed unanimously
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,156,799	Passed by majority vote
DEBT SERVICE-PRINCIPAL	176,850	Passed unanimously
DEBT SERVICE-INTEREST	<u>60,657</u>	Passed unanimously

TOTAL FY 2019 BUDGET \$16,480,135

It was unanimous to allow two students from HRHS to speak in support of the schools.

Article 11: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town would vote to raise and appropriate a supplemental sum of money of Four Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars and Forty-One Cents (\$493,163.41) for the purposes of funding the following departments and accounts in the operating budget for the Town: Elementary School Department, Police Department, Fire/EMS Department, Highway Department, Public Library, Council on Aging, Parks Commission, Street Lighting, Select Board, Administration, Accounting Department, Assessors Department, Treasurer/Collector Department, Legal Department, Town Clerk Department, Telephone, Town Hall Building, Board of Health, Building Department, IT expenses and equipment and Emergency Management Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of a Proposition 2 ½, so-called, override question, allowing the Town to raise the additional amount appropriated hereunder, outside the limits imposed by said

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Proposition 2 ½, all in accordance with M.G.L. c.59, §21C(g), or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 11 passed by majority vote

Article 12: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds One Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$193,720) to operate the Transfer Station Enterprise according to the following budget:

Wages	37,980
Operating Expenses	132,215
<u>Debt Services</u>	<u>23,525</u>
Total	193,720

And that \$188,551 be raised from Transfer Station Enterprise Revenues and \$5,169 to be taken from retained earnings, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 12 passed by majority vote

Article 13: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds Seven Hundred Forty-One Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$741,560) to operate the Water Enterprise, according to the following budget:

Wages	210,263
Operating Expenses	168,462
Capital Outlay	125,000
<u>Debt Services</u>	<u>237,835</u>
Total	741,560

And that \$721,060 be raised from Water Enterprise Revenues and \$20,500 from retained earnings, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 13 passed by majority vote

Article 14: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$20,401 from the WPAT Loan Repayment Account to fund amortization of the WPAT Bonds in the Water Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 14 passed unanimously

Article 15: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$100,000 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriations account to the Fire/EMS Department Expense account to fund ambulance transportation, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 15 passed unanimously

Article 16: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$18,877.47 from the Peg Programming Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account to pay Easthampton Media for audio visual services per the Town's Contract, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 16 passed unanimously

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Article 17: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000 from the Operational Stabilization Fund to the Assessor's Capital Budget for the replacement of the Assessors Financial Software for the Assessors Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 17 passed unanimously, therefore meeting the 2/3rds requirement

Article 18: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$7,500 from the Operational Stabilization Fund to the Town Hall IT Capital Budget for replacement of the IT server in Town Hall, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 18 passed unanimously, therefore meeting the 2/3rds requirement

Article 19: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Operational Stabilization Fund to the Norris School Capital Budget to fund repair of a boiler at the Norris School, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 19 passed unanimously, therefore meeting the 2/3rds requirement

Article 20: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to approve a five-year lease for a new postage meter at the Town Hall for use by all Municipal Departments.

Article 20 passed unanimously, therefore meeting the 2/3rds requirement

Article 21: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend Article XLII of the Town General by Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E1/2 of Chapter 44 of Massachusetts General Laws, as most recently amended, by inserting a new category to the revolving funds, "Conservation" specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, with the new language noted in italics below:

Program or Purpose	Representative or Board Authorized to Spend Fund	Department Receipts
<i>Conservation</i>	<i>Conservation Commission</i>	<i>Receipts from Fees and filings</i>
Council on Aging Van	Council on Aging Director	Receipts from Operation of Van
Dog Licensing and Control	Town Clerk and Dog Officer	Dog License Fees and Other Related Charges
Electrical Inspections	Electrical Inspector	Electrical Inspection Receipts
Park Commission	Park Commission	Field Usage Fees
Planning Board	Planning Board	Filing Fees
Planning Board	Planning Board	Consultant Charges
Plumbing Inspections	Plumbing Inspector	Plumbing Inspection Receipts
Tax Title	Treasurer/ Collector	Receipts from Tax Title
Weights & Measures	Weights & Measures	Receipts from fees
Zoning Board of Appeals	Zoning Board of Appeals	Receipts from Fees

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**An amendment was made and seconded to strike this article, which failed
A motion was made and seconded to vote on the article
Article 21 passed by majority vote**

Article 22: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to set the limitation on expenditures for each Revolving Fund to be established as set forth; or take any other action relative thereto.

Program or Purpose	Use of Fund	FY 19 Spending Limit
Conservation	Operating Expenses/Admin. Expenses	\$10,000
Council on Aging Van	Payment for Operation of COA Van	\$31,000
Dog Licensing & Control	Expenses Related to Admin. Of Licenses & Dog Control	\$8,000
Electrical Inspections	Payment for Electrical Inspection services	\$20,000
Park Commission	Operating Expenses/Admin Expenses	\$10,000
Planning Board	Admin. Expenses	\$10,000
Planning Board	Consultant Costs	\$15,000
Plumbing Inspections	Payment for Plumbing inspection services	\$20,000
Tax Title	Tax Title related costs	\$10,000
Weights & Measures	Weights & Measures Fees	\$3,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	ZBA Expenditures	\$5,000

Article 22 passed unanimously

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Article 23: It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to hear and act, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, on the report of the Community Preservation Committee for the Fiscal Year 2019 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund the following sums of money as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other necessary and proper expenses in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, with each item to be considered as a separate appropriation:

Administrative Expenses..... \$7,500

Reserves:

From FY19 Estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$27,000

From FY19 Estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve.... \$27,000

From FY19 Estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve..... \$27,000

Article 23 passed unanimously

Article 24: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$10,000 from the Community Preservation Fund to the Southampton Historical Commission to provide for the restoration and cleaning of revolutionary War and Civil War grave sites and stones, said funds to be transferred from Community Preservation Surcharges – Historical Preservation Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 24 passed unanimously

Article 25: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$675,000 from the Community Preservation Fund – Undesignated Account to the Southampton Park Commission to fund Phases 2 through 4 for the Labrie Field Improvements.

Article 25 passed by majority vote (ayes 112; nays 39)

A motion was made and seconded to continue the meeting past 10 pm; Unanimous vote in favor

Article 26: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to accept Woodmar Lane, as a public way, as shown on a plan entitled Woodmar Estates prepared for the Southampton Planning Board and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds Plan Book 236, Pages 76-79, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 26 passed by majority vote (ayes 43; nays 38)

Article 27: It was moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board, acting through the Water Commission, to acquire by gift, purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, an easement interests for the purpose of the construction, operation and maintenance of a pumping station and related facilities and appurtenances, in Easthampton, in, upon and across property, being Easthampton Tax Map 164, Lot 11, described in a deed recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 2284, Page 250, or in, upon and across property, being Easthampton Tax Map 164, Lot 12, described in a deed recorded with the Hampshire County

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Registry of Deeds in Book 2414, Page 230, including easements for access and the installation of utilities upon said properties to the pumping station, all as shown on the sketch plan, on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Select Board to acquire said easement interests, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, and, further, to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation as set forth below, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, and to authorize the Select Board to approve such amendments, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 27 passed unanimously, therefore meeting the 2/3rds requirement

**A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 10:15 P.M.
Approved unanimously**

A true copy of the warrant, return of the warrant, and the minutes of the meeting.

Attest:

Janine Domina, Clerk
Town of Southampton