

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
October 15, 2001**

**Attendance**  
**Precinct A: 32**  
**Precinct B: 44**  
**Precinct C: 44**  
**Precinct D: 46**  
**Total ----- 166**

In accordance with the Warrant, as posted, the inhabitants of the Town of Wilbraham, qualified to vote in Town affairs, met in Minnechaug Regional High School on October 15, 2001. At 7:00PM the Moderator, Arthur F. Dionne, noted a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. Moderator Dionne explained the reason for the cameras in the auditorium and that Public Access Cable TV would air this meeting beginning on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001. He then asked all in attendance to rise for a moment of silence for those who were victims in the September 11, 2001 tragedy. The Pledge of Allegiance followed this and Town Clerk Beverly J. Litchfield then read the call of the meeting.

**ARTICLE 1. Acceptance of Community Preservation Act:** Finance Committee Recommends. Passing by a majority vote that the Town accept Sections 3 through 7 of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, known as the Community Preservation Act, which establishes a special "Community Preservation Fund" that may be appropriated and spent for certain open space, historic resources and affordable housing purposes, to approve a property tax surcharge that shall be in the amount of three per cent of the taxes assessed annually on real property and shall be dedicated to the fund, such surcharge to be imposed on taxes assessed for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2002, and to exempt from the surcharge property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the community and \$100,000 of the assessed valuation of Class One, Residential, parcels.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the article to read one and one half percent instead of the three percent. Mr. Lovejoy explaining his reasoning behind the amendment gave a brief presentation.

Dr. Alan Peck then came forward and made a motion to amend the amendment to one percent instead of the one and one half percent. His motion was seconded. The motion to amend the amendment failed to pass. The motion to amend the original article also failed to pass.

Following article one, the Moderator read a correction to the call of the meeting requested by the Town Clerk. It was noted that the warrant was posted 14 (fourteen) days not 7 (seven) days before said meeting.

**ARTICLE 2. Library Feasibility Study:** Finance Committee Recommends. Passing by a majority vote that the Town authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Wilbraham Public Library to proceed with a feasibility study to examine the options for expanding and renovating its current library building or building a new facility.

Library Trustee Llewellyn Merrick gave a presentation.

**ARTICLE 3. Library Feasibility Study Grant:** Finance Committee Recommends. Passing by a majority vote that the Town authorizes the Trustees of the Wilbraham Public Library to apply for, accept and expend any state grants which may be available for a feasibility study to examine the options for expanding and renovating its current library building or building a new facility, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Library Director, Christine Bergquist, spoke on the grant process and how the Library would proceed. It was mentioned that an article was printed in the Union News newspaper on October 11, 2001, which explained things quite well.

**ARTICLE 4. Parliamentary Procedure:** Finance Committee Recommends. Passing by a unanimous vote that the Town adopt special parliamentary procedures for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Chapter 580 of the Acts of 1980 (Proposition 2 ½ ) as amended, and as set forth in a document entitled "Article 4, Exhibit A," on file with the Town Clerk.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the second reading of article 4. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**ARTICLE 5. Funding Transfers:** Finance Committee Recommends. Passing by a unanimous vote, pursuant to Section 33B of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, that the Town transfer the sum of \$77,845 from the FY 2002 Budget 420, Highway Expenses, to the FY 2002 Budget 420, Highway Salaries.

**ARTICLE 6. Budget Amendments:** Finance Committee Recommends. Passing by a unanimous vote that the Town amend Article 11 as approved by Annual Town Meeting on May 7, 2001, by the following amounts:

- Decrease Budget #122, Selectmen's Office Salaries, by \$15,300
- Decrease Budget #122, Selectmen's Office Expenses, by \$5,600
- Decrease Budget #134, Accounting Expenses, by \$1,300
- Decrease Budget #138, Treasurer/Collector Expenses, by \$1,000
- Decrease Budget #154, Data Processing Expenses, by \$3,300
- Decrease Budget #161, Town Clerk Salaries, by \$260
- Decrease Budget #192, Town Properties Expenses, by \$24,000
- Decrease Budget #194, Group Insurance, by \$22,000
- Decrease Budget #199, Town Office Expenses, by \$5,100
- Decrease Budget #210, Police Salaries, by \$8,990
- Decrease Budget #211, Police Nonrecurring Expenses, by \$22,700
- Decrease Budget #220, Fire Salaries, by \$1,200
- Decrease Budget #221, Fire Nonrecurring Expenses, by \$4,500
- Decrease Budget #410, Engineer Salaries, by \$12,200
- Decrease Budget #541, Council on Aging Expenses, by \$600
- Decrease Budget #610, Library Salaries, by \$3,000
- Decrease Budget #610, Library Expenses, by \$2,000
- Decrease Budget #620, Recreation Salaries, by \$1,400
- Decrease Budget #620, Recreation Expenses, by \$4,133

Decrease Budget #702, Interest Expenses, by \$45,000

And that the Town further amend Article 11 to appropriate the sum of \$23,877,011 to cover the necessary capital and expenditures and operating expenses of the Town for Fiscal year 2002 (July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002) per appropriations listed separately and incorporated hereby by reference, and to provide said appropriations as follows:

Transfer	from: Water Receipts	\$1,035,091
	to: Water Enterprise Fund	
	from: Solid Waste Receipts	\$ 337,805
	to: Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	
	from: Sewer Receipts	\$ 450,361
	to: Sewer Enterprise Fund	
	from: Offset Receipts	\$ 18,000
	to: Dog Officer Expenses	

Amount of Certified Free Cash Required for FY 2002 Municipal Appropriations: \$467,650

**ARTICLE 7. Overlay Reserve Fund:** Finance Committee Recommends. Passing by a unanimous vote that the Town appropriate \$22,000 in overlay funds certified as excess by the Board of Assessors pursuant to Section 25 of Chapter 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws to the FY 2002 Budget 194, Group Insurance.

**ARTICLE 8. Insurance Proceeds:** Finance Committee Recommends. Passing by a unanimous vote that the Town appropriates the sum of \$27,500 from the Insurance Reimbursement Account to the FY 2002 Budget 421, Highway Nonrecurring Expenses, in accordance with Section 53 of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

**ARTICLE 9. Authorization to Borrow for Capital Outlays:** Finance Committee Recommends. Requiring a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote, declared passed by the Moderator by a unanimous vote that the Town borrow the sum of \$237,500 in accordance with Section 7 (9) of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws for the cost of departmental equipment.

**ARTICLE 10. Change By-laws to Permit Automatic Amusement Devices:** A motion was made and seconded by the Board of Selectmen to move no action on this article. The vote to move no action passed by a majority vote.

The Board of Selectmen decided to move no action when Attorney Hassett informed them that the article was unlawful. Attorney Hassett went on to explain the issues with the petitioned article that made it unlawful. Attorney Hassett supported the Board of Selectmen's motion to move no action.

The owner of Fun Stop Amusements spoke about concerns with this article also.

Kevin Baker, not a town resident but a business owner in town, spoke concerning his article and the reasons behind it.

According to Attorney Hassett, the Selectmen have offered to work with the parties involved to prepare a proper article for the next annual town meeting but they have not been taken up on their offer as of yet. Attorney Hassett commended the Board of Selectmen for their being a business friendly board and working with businesses closely to help them in any way they could.

A lengthy discussion continued concerning the pros and cons of this article.

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting. This motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Meeting dissolved at 8:58 PM.



Attest: Beverly J. Litchfield, CMC  
Town Clerk