

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
MAY 11, 2009**

<b>Attendance</b>	
<b>Precinct A:</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Precinct B:</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Precinct C:</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Precinct D:</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total -----</b>	<b>156</b>

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 Monday, May 11, 2009. At 7:10 PM Moderator Anthony Scibelli noted a quorum was present and called the meeting to order after recessing from the Annual Town Meeting. The call of the meeting was then read by Town Clerk Beverly J. Litchfield.

**ARTICLE 1. Funding Transfers FY 2009. Finance Committee Recommends -**

Pursuant to Section 33B of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, Passing by a majority vote that the Town transfer the sums of:

- \$192,000 from previously appropriated but unexpended funds in the FY09 Budget #122 Selectmen Salaries (\$40,000), #420 Highway Salaries (\$16,500), #154 Information Technology Salaries (\$40,000), #194 Group Insurance (\$70,000), #210 Police Salaries (\$20,000), and #137 Assessors Salaries (\$5,500) to budget #420 Highway Expense.
- \$600 from #137 Assessors Salaries (\$600) to budget #134 Accounting Salaries.

**ARTICLE 2. Ambulance Fund transfer. Finance Committee Recommends -** Passing by a majority vote that the town appropriate \$25,000 from Receipts reserved for Appropriation for Ambulance to the FY 09 Ambulance Budget to cover overtime.

**ARTICLE 3: Wastewater Enterprise Fund transfer. Finance Committee Recommends -** Passing by a majority vote to transfer \$100,893 from the Wastewater Enterprise Fund retained earnings to the FY 2009 Wastewater Enterprise Fund.

**ARTICLE 4: Water Enterprise Fund transfer. Finance Committee Recommends -** Passing by a majority vote to transfer \$40,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund retained earnings to the FY 2009 Water Enterprise Fund.

**ARTICLE 5. Washington Road (Coleman) Land Purchase. Finance Committee & Community Preservation Committee Recommend -** Passing by a declared 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote by the Moderator, following the approval of an amendment to this article, that \$400,000 is appropriated for the acquisition by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise of all or a portion of the following described land for conservation, open space and passive recreational use under the care and control of the Conservation Commission pursuant to G.L. c.40, §8C and G.L. c.44B, otherwise known as the Community Preservation Act: the property known as 72 Manchonis Road and 12V Washington Road, consisting of 28.92 acres, more or less, and adequate legal access in, to and over Washington Road and all rights and ways appurtenant thereto and identified more specifically in the Purchase and Sale Agreement dated March 30, 2009 between and among Marlene Helena McDonald

Coleman, Walter P. Coleman and the Town, which agreement is on file in the office of the Town Clerk; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$400,000 under G.L. c.44 and G.L. c.44B or any other enabling authority, with the intent that, although any bonds or notes issued hereunder shall be general obligations of the Town, the debt service on any such bonds or notes will be paid from annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund to the extent not paid from federal or state aid, private donations or other amounts available for the project as described below; that the Town, acting through the Conservation Commission, is authorized to apply for funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant program; that the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission are authorized to apply, contract for and expend any other federal or state aid and any private donations available for the project, provided that the amount of the borrowing authorized under this vote shall be reduced by any federal or state aid or private donations received prior to the issuance of any bonds or notes hereunder; that the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission are authorized to grant a conservation restriction meeting the requirements of G.L. c.184 on said property to the Minnechaug Land Trust or any other non-profit land trust or similar entity; that the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission are authorized to take any action necessary, appropriate or expedient to carry out this project; and that the land, or the interests therein, to be acquired pursuant to this vote, shall be held under the care, custody, management and control of the Conservation Commission on behalf of the Town.

As soon as original article was read there was amendment from Attorney Hassett to insert "Washington Road" into the article following these words "legal access in, to and over". Amendment passed by a majority vote.

Following the amendment vote, Town Planner John Pearsall gave a brief presentation concerning the article to those in attendance. It was mentioned that the piece of land would be named "McDonald Nature Preserve" in memory of Alton and Helen McDonald.

Steve Lawson gave a presentation for the Minnechaug Land Trust in favor of this article. This piece of property would be owned by the town but managed by the Minnechaug Land Trust if this article passed. Mr. Lawson gave a slide presentation which included maps showing the land layout and areas surrounding it.

A question and answer session followed the presentations. Questions asked referred to development of this property, placement of a second access road, parking, marked trails, and hours of use, rubbish and hunting.

Another amendment was attempted by Robert Anderson of 84 Washington Road. This amendment would lock in the area for the second access road. Attorney Hassett stated that all of that has already been considered and placed in the agreement. This amendment failed to pass by a majority.

Mr. Lawson then thanked Town Planner John Pearsall for all of his hard work to make this happen.

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider this article. Motion failed to carry by a majority vote.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully,

  
Beverly J. Litchfield, MMC, CMMC  
Town Clerk of Wilbraham