

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2020

The Wenham Annual Town Meeting for 2020 was originally scheduled for April 4, 2020 but was postponed due to COVID19 until July 11, 2020. The location was changed to the outdoor venue of Pingree Park and held under a tent at 9:00 am.

The Meeting opened with Anthony M. Feeherry asking to be nominated to the position of Interim Moderator. It was moved by the Town Clerk, Dianne K. Bucco and seconded by John O. (Jack) Wilhelm, Jr. Mr. Wilhelm cast the one vote.

The Meeting stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The Boy Scout Troop 28 was appreciated for their help in delivering the Town Reports. Residents Michael G. Therrien, Donald J. Killam, Jr and Catherine A. Harrison were honored for their dedication and service to the Town of Wenham.

The quorum of 120 was met at 9am and the meeting called to order at 9:20am.

The Meeting held a moment of silence for those residents who had passed since the last Meeting: Allen, Donald F. - Arthur, Ronald H. - Bonnette, David E. - Bozarjian, Patricia Ann, - Burt, Arthur N. - Cannell, Margaret Johnson - Clark III, Remington A. - Cole, Elizabeth A. - Csigi, Katalin K. - Curto, James A. - Duffy, Donald J. - Durgin, Phillip Richards - Flannagan, Liam P. - Gourdeau, Richard R. - Granz, Leda Jane - Hardy, Wilbur Hopkins - Harriman, William B. - Howland III, Llewellyn - Johnson, Helen S. - Johnson, Elizabeth Jane - Johnson, Sara A. - Lebel, Jean B.- Lebel, Christine Ann - Livas Jr, Frank John - Lund, Joann F. - MacLean, Gail - Maestranzi, Maureen A. - Maguire, Donna M. - McIlvain, Elizabeth L. - Mulry III, Edward J. - Obenschain, Richard Lee - Petronzio, Caroline H. - Reilly III, John Frederick - Roy, Susan Jane - Small, George Franklin - Stuber, Frank E. - Sullivan, Robert J. - Tarr, Jr, Raymond K. - Thompson, Eleanor E. - Vincola, Nancy L. - Wagner, Joyce H. - Waller II, Littleton W,T.

Neither Congressman Bruce Tarr nor Representative Brad Hill could attend our Town Meeting this year.

Articles A-D are required by law to be approved annually but do not garner much discussion and oftentimes voted on with one vote.

ARTICLE A: Cemetery and Other Trust Funds

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Cemetery and other Trust Funds received in FY 2019, as printed in Part I of the Town Report and on file with the Town Clerk.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

ARTICLE B: Cemetery Maintenance Fund Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to transfer the sum of \$6,000 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots - Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account to be used with the amounts appropriated for Highway Department expenditures under Article 1 for the care and operation of the three cemeteries in the Town of Wenham.

Or take any action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

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ARTICLE C: Transfer from Water Operating Budget to Water Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$35,000 from the FY 2021 Water operating budget into the Water Capital Reserve account.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

ARTICLE D: Road Work – Chapter 90 Funding

To see if the Town will vote from available funds a sum of money for work on Town Roads, subject to conditions detailed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division, pursuant to MGL Chapter 30, Section 39M; Chapter 149, Section 44J; and Chapter 149, Section 26-27F; said work to conform to the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

During the reading of the above four (4) articles, there were no holds placed.

David Molitano moved that the Town accept Articles A-D as printed above.

A second was heard.

Articles A, B, C, D were passed as a consent calendar with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 1: Annual Operating Budget Appropriations - Town and Schools (balanced budget)

To see if the Town will determine what sum of money may be necessary to defray the Town's expenses for Fiscal Year 2021, the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, including expenses for the Town and Regional School District; make appropriations for the same and determine the source thereof; provided, however, that the budget proposed hereunder is intended, in concert with Article 2, to provide for a budget within the Town's levy limit.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

Presentations on the budgets were made by Alex Begin, Chair of the Finance & Advisory Committee and Mary Beth Banios, Superintendent of Schools.

Alex Begin, Chair of the Finance & Advisory Committee moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ 21,371,441 to defray the Town's expenses for the fiscal year 2021, the 12 month period beginning July1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, including expenses for the Town and Regional School District, all set forth under Article 1 of the warrant, and for such purposes, to raise from taxation the sum of \$20,409,795.

After the motion was seconded, Mr. Begin read through the budget line by line.

There were neither holds nor any discussion.

Article 1 passed with a unanimous vote.

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ARTICLE 2: Use of Free Cash to Balance the Budget

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash to be used to balance the budget for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

Alex Begin, Chair of the Finance & Advisory Committee moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$499,085 from Free Cash to be used to balance the budget for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

A second was heard and no discussion was had.

Article 2 passed with a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 3: Override - Town Annual Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$237,924 for the purposes of funding a portion of the Town's Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2½, so-called, override allowing the Town to raise the funds appropriated hereunder outside the limits established by MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

Alex Begin, Chair of the Finance & Advisory Committee moved that the Town vote to raise an additional sum of \$237,924 for the purposes of funding a portion of the Town's fiscal year 2021 annual operating budget as approved under Article 1.

A second was heard.

There was no discussion.

Article 3 passed with a majority vote.

ARTICLE 4: Override - Loose Leaf Pick-Up

To see if the Town will vote, only if positive action is taken under Article 3, to raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$50,000 for loose leaf pick-up for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020; provided, further, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2½, so-called, override allowing the Town to raise the funds appropriated hereunder outside the limits established by MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 0-3-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 0-5-0

The Moderator stated that because the override for loose leaf pick up failed at the Town Election held on June 25, 2020, he declared this article lost.

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ARTICLE 5: Debt Authorization and Exclusion - Fire Truck

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$475,000 to purchase and equip a new fire truck, including all other incidental and related costs; and, as funding therefor, to determine whether this amount shall be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds, or borrowed; if borrowed, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 7(1) or any other enabling authority, and, further, that any premiums received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes issued pursuant to this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2½, so-called, debt exclusion allowing the Town to raise the money needed to repay the principal and interest on such bonds or notes outside the limits established by MGL Chapter 59, §21C.

Or take any action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 4-0-0

Mike Therrien of the Finance & Advisory Committee moved that the Town vote to authorize the treasurer, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$475,000 to purchase and equip a new fire truck, including all other incidental and related costs, and to approve Article 5 as printed in the warrant

A second was heard.

Presentations were made by the Fire Chief Stephen Kavanagh and by Select board Chair John O. (Jack) Wilhelm Jr.

Resident George Gilpin of 13 Parson's Hill Road rose to speak in support of the Article and to bring attention to the fact that neither State Congressman was present at our Town Meeting.

Resident Martin Adler of 3 Stanton Street questioned the cost of repairs for the current Fire Truck. Chief Kavanagh stated that at a minimum the cost to repair would be \$175K. He added that because the truck would be going into reserve status in 4 years, it is not worth the cost of repairs. There was no further discussion.

Article 5 passed by a 2/3rds majority vote.

ARTICLE 6: Override – Regional School District Annual Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$723,722 for the purposes of funding a portion of the Town's annual assessment for the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2 ½, so-called, override, allowing the Town to raise the funds appropriated hereunder outside the limits established by MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 0-2-1

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 3-2-0

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Carrie Jelsma of the Finance & Advisory Committee moved that the Town vote to raise an additional sum of \$723,722 for the purposes of funding a portion of the Town's annual assessment for the FY2021 Hamilton Wenham Regional School District Budget as approved under Article 1.

A second was heard and there was no discussion.

Article 6 passed with a majority vote.

ARTICLE 7: Debt Authorization and Exclusion – Regional School District Capital Plan

To see what action the Town will take, in accordance with MGL Chapter 71, Section 16(d), with respect to a borrowing authorized by the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District School Committee in the amount of \$958,000 for the purchase and equipping of the below items listed in the District's FY 21 Capital Projects Budget, including the payment of all incidental or related costs:

Security Infrastructure Improvements	\$ 350,000
Elementary School Facilities Study & Educational Plan	\$ 250,000
Classroom Furniture & Equipment	\$ 120,000
Replace Sidewalks at Middle School	\$ 110,000
Athletic Campus Improvement Project - Design/Project Services	\$ 65,000
Network Infrastructure Improvement (Phase 1 of 4)	\$ 63,000
TOTAL	\$ 958,000

provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2 ½, so called, debt exclusion allowing the Town to raise the money needed to repay its share of the principal and interest on such bonds or notes outside the limits established by MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 0-2-1

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 4-0-0

Jim Purdy of the Finance & Advisory Committee moved that the Town vote, in accordance with MGL Ch 71, section 16(D), to approve the \$958,000 borrowing authorized by the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District's School Committee for the purchase and equipping of the capital items listed under Article 7 of the warrant, including the payment of all incidental or related costs.

A second was heard.

There was no discussion.

Article 7 passed by two thirds majority.

ARTICLE 8: CPA Reservations and Appropriations

To see if the Town will vote to: hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee ("CPC") for FY 2021; appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund ("CPF") FY 2021 estimated annual revenues a sum of money to meet the necessary and proper expenses of the CPC for FY 2021; and, further, to expend or set aside, whether from CPF FY 2021 estimated annual revenues or otherwise, as recommended by the CPC, sums of money for: acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of land for recreational

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use; acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources; acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation and restoration of open space or community housing acquired under the Community Preservation Act (“CPA”), to include the following items numbered 1 through 4, below.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

- 1) Transfer from FY2021 CPF FY2021 estimated annual revenues and reserve the total sum of **\$128,025**, for each of the three purposes of the CPA, and the sum of **\$290,225** to the FY 2021 Budgetary Reserve; and, further, appropriate from FY2021 CPF FY2021 estimated annual revenues the sum of **\$8,500** to the CPC Administrative Account for the necessary and proper expenses of the CPC for FY 2021, as follows:

Transfer and Reserve from CPF FY2021 Estimated Annual Revenues	
\$ 42,675	Historic Resources Reserve
\$ 42,675	Open Space & Recreation Reserve
\$ 42,675	Community Housing Reserve
\$290,225	FY 2021 Budgetary Reserve
Appropriate from CPF FY2021 Estimated Annual Revenues	
\$8,500	CPC Administrative Expenses

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

Recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee: 8-0

- 2.) Transfer from the Community Preservation Fund the total sum of **\$124,000** for FY2021 debt service on the borrowing for the rehabilitation of the historic **Town Hall**, of which the sum of **\$42,696** shall come from the **Historic Resources Reserves** and the sum of **\$81,804** shall come from the FY2020 **CPA Budgetary Reserve**.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

Recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee: 8-0

- 3.) Transfer the sum of **\$1,200** from the Community Preservation Fund **Open Space and Recreation Reserve** for the purpose of the purchasing and installing the so-called **Wenham Canal Bench**, including all incidental and related expenses, which project is described in detail in the application submitted to the Community Preservation Committee on December 30, 2019, located on the attached map, such sum to be expended under the direction of the Open Space and Recreation Committee.

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Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

Recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee: 7-1

- 4.) Amend the vote taken under Article 12 of the April 6, 2019 Annual Town Meeting approving a grant of \$50,000 to the Community House, Inc. for the heating system, as part of the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic Community House located at 284 Bay Road, Hamilton, Massachusetts, by reducing the term of the required historic preservation restriction to 29-years, and, further, to reset the deadline provided for commencement of the project and lapse of the appropriation authorized under said Article 12 to July 1, 2021, unless an extension is granted prior thereto by the Board of Selectmen following a determination that the project has moved forward in good faith.

Recommendation of the Board of Selectmen: 3-0-0

Recommendation of the Finance & Advisory Committee: 5-0-0

Recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee: 8-0

Hearing no holds as Patrick Waddell, vice-chair of the CPC read through the motions. The motion was moved by Mr. Waddell that the Town vote to approve Article 8 sections 1, 2, and 4 as printed in the warrant and pass over Article 8 Section 3.

A second was heard. No discussion followed.

Article 8 was passed by a majority vote.

Moderator Feeherry requested a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and the meeting was concluded at 10:10am. There were 450 registered voters in attendance and 48 non-voters.