

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2020**

Narrative:

John Arnold, Moderator, welcomed all. Mr. Arnold asked everyone if able, to “Please stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.”

Mr. Arnold noted on the overhead screen a Notice of Elections and Town Meetings for March and the fall.

“There are four requirements we need to hold a Town Meeting; a Moderator, a Town Clerk, a Quorum and a posted warrant. All have four have been met.”

“Welcome to the newly renovated Great Hall in the Forbes Municipal Building. An Open House is being planned for the future. The Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, the Assistant Town Manager, and Town Counsel are seated in front. The Advisory Finance Committee is here to your left and have provided us with a warrant which includes AFC and BOS recommendations. I’d also like to thank Mark Stockman, Westborough TV and all those employees who helped to set up for tonight’s meeting.”

Mr. Arnold continued, “As your elected Moderator, I am to nominate a Deputy Moderator. The meeting elects the Deputy Moderator. I nominate Joseph Harrington, former Town Moderator. You will use your paper slip to vote. All those in favor raise your voter slip; all those opposed? It is a unanimous vote in favor. Mr. Harrington, will rise for the Oath.”

Mr. Arnold asked, “Are there any Non-Voters who wish to speak? Non apparent.” He noted the Advisory Finance Committees report and vote on the bottom of the warrant, along with the Board of Selectmen’s vote.

Mr. Arnold noted that the Boy Scouts are unavailable tonight, so there is a standing MIC for anyone who wishes to speak to use. He gave the rules of Checking-In and how participation to speak allows for one person at a time. He noted that he allows a limit up to 10 minutes for a formal presentation. A voter questioning or commenting is given 2.5 minutes and is allowed only 2 time’s to speak. If the same voter wishes to speak more than two times it requires a Vote of the audience. If anyone has any questions, you may stand and call out “Point of Order” and you will be acknowledged. The Emergency exits were pointed out and Mr. Arnold asked that all should wait for safety officers to give instructions.

Mr. Arnold stated, “I now call the meeting to order.”

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS**

**TO ANY CONSTABLE IN THE TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH, IN THE COUNTY OF
WORCESTER, GREETINGS:**

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – January 9, 2020

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Westborough, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet in the Forbes Municipal Building Great Hall, 45 West Main Street, Westborough, Massachusetts on Thursday, the 9th day of January, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. then and there to act on the following articles:

The Article Information printed in italics are not part of the formal articles of the warrant. They constitute additional information offered for the benefit of the voters, true and correct as of the time of the posting of the warrant, but subject to change as called for. They are not to be construed so as to broaden or limit the scope of the formal articles.

ARTICLE 1: Authorization to Extend Time to Sell the Spurr House

To see if the Town will vote to extend the period in which the Board of Selectmen is authorized to sell the property located at 7 Parkman Street, commonly known as the Spurr House, as originally authorized under the vote taken under Article 41 of the March 17, 2018 Annual Town Meeting, said period to be extended from 18 months from the date of said prior vote, to a date certain, being December 31, 2020, or take any other action thereon.

Article Information – The vote at the March 17, 2018 Annual Town Meeting authorized the Board of Selectmen to sell the Spurr House for an 18 month period from the date of the vote. A binding Purchase and Sale Agreement was executed within the 18 month period, but the Town and the buyers were not able to close within that time frame. The Board of Selectmen is seeking additional time to close on the property with the buyers, which the Town anticipates will happen shortly after an affirmative vote on this article. The December 31, 2020 date is purely a precaution.

- Motion: Shelby Marshall, BOS - I move the article as printed in the warrant
- Speaker: Elaine Desjardins prospective buyers for 7 Parkman St.

VOTE:

Yes = more than a 2/3 vote

No = appx 5+-

Motion carries, a 2/3 vote achieved

ARTICLE 2: Authorization for Special Legislation to Allow the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to Sell Property to the Town

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for a special act providing that legislation be adopted to authorize the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to sell to the Town a parcel of land shown as “Parcel ‘C-5’ Area – 0.31 Acres,” on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Westborough, MA Prepared for Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance,” dated October 31, 2011, recorded with the Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book in Plan 893, Plan 24, on file with the Town Clerk, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition, or take any other action thereon.

Article Information – This article seeks to authorize the Board to petition the legislature for a special act that would allow the Commonwealth to convey a small parcel of land behind the

DPW to the Town of Westborough. This parcel was intended to go to the Town with the disposition of the Lyman School but was never completed. The Town currently uses this property for DPW needs and the Police shooting range. This is time sensitive as the Police Department is working to obtain a grant that would fund significant upgrades to the range and would impact this property.

Motion: Ian Johnson, BOS - I move the article as printed in the Warrant

VOTE:

Yes = Unanimous

No = 0

Motion carries.

ARTICLE 3: Advisory Finance Committee Reserve Fund Transfer (DPW Director)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars to the Advisory Finance Committee Reserve Fund for the purpose of replenishing the Reserve Fund of monies used for the DPW Salt Shed Roof replacement and associated costs or take any other action thereon.

Article Information – This article seeks to replenish the money anticipated to be appropriated from the AFC Reserve Fund for the emergency repair of the DPW salt shed roof. In December the roof tore leaving a large hole in the roof. The DPW sought emergency funds from the Advisory Finance Committee as the current damage could compromise the salt and sand materials intended to be protected by the structure.

Motion: I move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate \$165,177 for the purpose stated in the article as printed in the warrant.

Questions:

- Elise Levine-Kanji questioned the amount in the article vs amount in motion
- Ms Hensley addressed the question
- Gerry McCullough: Roof repair questions
- Mr Payant addressed the question

VOTE:

Yes = Unanimous in favor

No=0

Motion carries, unanimous vote.

Ian Johnson, Chairman BOS, moved to dissolve the STM.

Vote

Yes= Unanimous

No=0

Motion carries. The meeting is dissolved at 7:15pm on January 9, 2020.

Given under our hands the 17th day of December in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen.

s/Ian Johnson, Chair
s/Shelby Marshall, Vice Chair
s/Syed Hashmi

SELECTMEN OF WESTBOROUGH Worcester, ss

I have this day served the within Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Library Bulletin Board and Town Hall Bulletin Board in said Westborough and by mailing a copy thereof to the residence of the Town Moderator all on December 18, 2019.

s/Gregory McRae
Constable of Westborough

Attest:

Town Clerk