

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF WHATELY  
November 12, 2014**

Pursuant to the recorded warrant a special town meeting of the Town of Whately held at the Whately Elementary School, 273 Long Plain Road was called to order Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 7:04 p.m. by Moderator Paul Fleuriel, Jr. There were 130 voters in attendance. Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley, read the return of the warrant. Moderator Fleuriel appointed Larry Ashman, Bill Obear, Bill Orloski and Paul Antaya as tellers. The Moderator also asked that everyone wait to be acknowledged and to use a microphone so that everyone can hear and the viewing audience on Channel 15 will be able to hear as well.

**ARTICLE 1.** A motion was made and seconded,

Prior to making a motion Paul Newlin explained the purpose of the meeting. There was much concern over the events at the October 21, 2014 meeting. There was a tie vote, which was broken by the Moderator which was within his rights as Moderator to do but there was a call for a recount which was not heard and the meeting was adjourned. In fairness to all who attended, the Selectmen felt that the topic should be brought back for a second vote.

Paul Newlin then moved to rescind the vote on Article 3 at the Special Town Meeting of October 21, 2014 and replace it with "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$10,000 for the facilitation of community meetings to consider and all options related to the consolidation of town offices".

There was some discussion regarding why the posted article didn't include the rescinding of the previous vote. It was stated that it was an oversight and Town Counsel advised that putting it into the motion falls within the scope of the article.

An amendment to the motion was then made by John Wroblewski to split the article into 3 separate motions as follows but there was no second.

- A. Motion to rescind the previous vote.
- B. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$10,000 for the facilitation of community meetings
- C. For town meeting to consider any and all options related to the consolidation of town offices or take any other action relative thereto.

There was much discussion regarding point of order. Paul Newlin amended his article into two motions.

- A. Moved to rescind the vote on Article 3 at the Special Town Meeting of October 21, 2014.
- B. Moved to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$10,000 for the facilitation of community meetings to consider and all options related to the consolidation of town offices".

Again a point of order was brought up by Neal Abraham. He indicated that the Town Meeting should vote on a motion to divide the original motion into two parts.

A motion was made and seconded to divide the original motion into two parts.

It was voted (116 Yes and 0 No) to divide the original motion into two parts. A recount was requested because people didn't hear the original request for the No votes. The final vote was 116 For and 3 Against so the motion passed.

Paul Newlin then made a motion to rescind the vote of October 21, 2014 under Article 3. The motion was seconded. After much discussion a vote was taken with 105 Yes votes and 18 No votes so the motion passed.

Paul Newlin then made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the facilitation of community meetings to consider any and all options related to the consolidation of town offices.

John Wroblewski made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to divide the motion into two parts:

Motion #1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$10,000 for the facilitation of community meetings.

Motion #2: for town meeting to consider any and all options related to the consolidation of town offices or take any action relative thereto.

Before a second on the amendment could be received, the Selectmen asked for clarification of the second part of the motion. They wanted to know if it was this present Town Meeting that was to consider the options. Mr. Wroblewski indicated that it was this town meeting. The Selectmen felt that the second motion was not within the scope of the article.

Mr. Wroblewski indicated that the Western Mass. Regional Library was available for purchase and this town meeting should instruct the Selectmen to make an offer on the building to be used as a Town Hall.

Again, a point of order was raised regarding the legality of the second motion. A determination needed to be made as to whether town meeting would be voting on an illegal amendment. The Moderator has the authority to determine whether any motion is within the scope of the article. The Moderator was deliberating this question when Mr. Wroblewski withdrew his motion.

Lynn Sibley asked for a friendly amendment to the original motion to have the \$10,000 come from Free Cash rather than raise and appropriate as the tax classification hearing was held already. Paul Newlin who made the original motion approved the amendment.

The motion on the floor now reads as follows:

Moved that the town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 for the facilitation of community meetings to consider any and all options related to the consolidation of town offices.

A vote was taken on the motion and there were 74 yes votes and 44 no votes so the motion passed as only a majority vote was required.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting without date and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A true record,

Attest:

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Lynn M. Sibley, MMC, CMMC  
Town Clerk of Whately