

TOWN of MASON ELECTION MARCH 14, 2006

The polls were declared open at 7:05 AM. Checklist total was 906. The polls were closed at 7:11 PM after 543 had voted. This included 18 absentee voters. There were 19 newly registered voters making the total checklist 925.

The results of the Town Election were as follows:

Moderator for 2 years: Catherine Schwenk 465

Selectmen for 3 years: C. Christopher Guiry 318
Patricia Letourneau 101

Treasurer for 2 years: Debra A. Morrison 475

Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years: Jeannine Phalon 18 write-ins

Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Wally Brown 24 write-ins
Robert LaRochelle 17 write-ins

Library Trustee for 3 years: Lynn McCann 472

Trustee of Trust Funds 3 years: George Schwenk 24 write-ins
Stuart R. Sherman 432

School Board Results: Wolfgang Millbrandt 273
Raymond Scholl 259

Susan J. Wagoner
Town Clerk

MASON TOWN MEETING MARCH 15, 2006

At 7:30PM The Moderator reviewed the meeting procedures, indicated the fire and emergency exits, acknowledged all those who were involved in the election, and introduced those who were sitting at the head table.

Mrs. Schwenk gave thanks to the retiring members of the election team – Sandy LeClair, retiring from the position of Supervisor of the Checklist and Terri Parker, retiring from the position of Ballot Clerk.

She also thanked Lauren Mann who served 9 years as School Board Member and George Schwenk who served as Trustee of the Trust Fund.

Appreciation was noted for Wally Brown's setting up the election facilities, the dedicated election workers, the Town Clerk and Deputy, the Supervisors of the Checklist, Selectmen, and Barbara Milkovits, Selectmen's Assistant.

There were 175 voters and 10 non voters present.

There was general consent to allow Senator Gottesmann to speak to the assemblage prior to the meeting.

The Moderator announced the results of the Town elections and the school district which were:
Article 2 – Accept Reports: Yes 1407 No 318
Article 3 – Budget: Yes 1086 No 836

Article 4 – \$50,000 hire architectural firm: Yes 896 No 1054
Article 5 – Accept Collective Bargaining Agreement: Yes 1070 No 866
Article 6 – Call Special Meeting if Art 5 Defeated: Yes 1170 No 726
Article 7 – Additional Costs: Yes 1173 No 767
Article 8 – Call a Special Meeting if Art 7 Defeated: Yes 1140 No 747
Article 9 – \$16,000 for New lift for Alignment Machine: Yes 1121 No 820
Article 10 – \$75,000 for Capital Reserve Fund: Yes 991 No 922
Article 11 – Allow Mason to withdraw from district: Yes 635 No 1354
Article 12 – Juniors and Seniors to tuition back: Yes 1517 No 463

The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk at 7:55 PM.

The colors were presented by Robert Guiry, Chris Elliot, Dan McGuire, Nat O'Brien and Shawn O'Grady of Boy Scout Troop 264

Diane Blaine, a member of the Honor Society and Treasurer of the Senior Class, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no objection to waiving the reading of the Warrant.

There were no corrections to the Town Report.

Dr. Christopher Guiry moved to permit the following individuals to speak to Article 13: Paula Clemente, NH DRA and Richard Rockwood, Town Assessor.

Article 2: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to build, equip, and furnish a new police station for the Town of Mason and to authorize the issuance of not more than Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Budget Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon.

After discussion the polls opened at 8:34.

On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED to advance Article 13.
Article 13: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) to fund a sales analysis and to adjust inequitable property values, on a universal basis, as created/indicated by market data. The monies are to come from general taxation, or take any other action relative thereto. (Required by the Department of Revenue to maintain equitable property valuations and certification.)

The discussion was led by Paula Clemente from the DRA and Richard Rockwood, Town Assessor. After much discussion it was passed.

Article 3: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the gross sum of Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to be used only for acquisition in the name of the town of the fee or lesser interest in Conservation land and other costs associated therewith for permanent conservation use, and further to authorize the Selectmen to accept private donations of land, interest in land, or money for purposes of contributing to the local matching portion required under the Federal USDA Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program and further to authorize the Selectmen to apply for and accept the matching funds under the Forest Legacy Program in an amount up to One million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) (75% of the total) for the purposes of acquisition of the fee or lesser interest in Conservation land. This appropriation is contingent upon the receipt of grant funds, private donations and other sources of funds. The portion of this appropriation to be raised by taxation,

borrowing, or otherwise will be no more than One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). Said appropriated funds and the Forest Legacy Program matching funds and other funds raised for this Conservation land acquisition may be expended by majority vote of the Mason Conservation Commission.

The moderator announced the results on Article 2. Total ballots cast were 169. Necessary to pass was 113. The article passed with 136 Yes and 33 No.

Article 4: Anne Richards moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One million two hundred sixty-seven thousand, eight hundred thirty-two dollars (\$1,267,382) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

Amendment: Chief Hutchins moved and it was seconded to amend the Police Budget line items to the following:

Full time Salaries: from \$143,593 to \$136,750

Retirement: from \$14,775 to \$14,283

Payroll Taxes: from \$3,880 to \$3,769

Changing the total Police Budget: from \$236,445 to \$228,860

The amendment was passed.

The new budget total of \$1,259,797.00 was voted unanimously.

Article 5: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved the petition article to see if the Town will vote to pave Hurricane Hill Road from Townsend Road to the intersection of Campbell Mill Road and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for this purpose, or take any other action relative thereto. The following reasons should be considered: deteriorating road conditions from increased traffic, breathing in the road dust which could cause silicosis, slow response time from emergency vehicles, school bus being re-routed due to poor road conditions, maintenance issues.

Amendment: Michael Bromberg moved to amend "to see if the Town will vote to repair Hurricane Hill Road from Townsend Road to the intersection of Campbell Mill Road and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for this purpose".

The amendment passed and Article 5, as amended, passed.

Article 6: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty thousand three hundred dollars (\$20,300) for the proposal of the Southwest Region Planning Commission for their planning assistance to update the Town of Mason Master Plan.

Article 7: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED by more than a 2/3 vote that the Town ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into three year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing and equipping a new four-wheel drive vehicle for the Police Department, total cost of the new vehicle will be Thirty-one thousand dollars (\$31,000) and to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the first year's payment of the lease.

Article 8: Dr. Christopher Guiry MOVED to see if the Town will vote to establish a kindergarten for the Town of Mason and to further authorize the Selectmen to appoint a school board, whose members will have staggered three year terms, to administer the kindergarten, or take any other action relative thereto.

There were three (3) amendments to this article:

Amendment 1: Mark Place handed the moderator a motion that she felt was not germane to the Article 8 Kindergarten, but to another subject, the school withdrawal, and the requirement of

notice for warrant articles. After discussion on the Kindergarten she said she would accept Mr. Place's motion and let the voters decide.

Discussion continued and a vote was taken to sustain the ruling of the chair. This was not passed.

Amendment 2: On motion of Charles Moser it was VOTED unanimously to see if the Town will vote to “study the establishment of” a public kindergarten for the Town of Mason.

Amendment 3: On motion of Michael Bromberg it was VOTED to amend as follows – to see if the town will vote “to have the Selectmen appoint a committee” to study the establishment of a public kindergarten for the Town of Mason.

Article 8, as amended, was VOTED unanimously.

Article 9: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seven thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$7,450) for the purchase of a new gasoline pump at the Mason Highway Department.

Article 10: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500) for work on a drainage project on Greenville Road.

Article 11: On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six thousand four hundred (\$6,400) for converting the electric heat at the Mason Highway Office to an alternate heating system.

Article 12: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Highway Construction Capital Reserve, previously established.

Article 14: On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously that the town raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established.

Article 15: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for tape and compass surveys of the town forestlands, or take any other action relative thereto. Such funds will come from the Forest Maintenance Fund, previously established.

Article 16: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the maintenance of the Mason Railroad Trail, or take any other action relative thereto. Such funds will come from the Forest Maintenance Fund, previously established.

Article 17: On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously that the town accept the provisions of RSA 31:19-I, II, III providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the Selectmen to accept and expend, without further action by the town meeting, from trust gifts and legacies for any other purpose that is not foreign to the town's institution or incompatible with objects of the town's organization. This authorization will remain, in effect, until rescinded by a vote at town meeting.

Article 18: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED that the Town shall authorize the Selectmen to lease town owned land for agricultural purposes. Such lease would be done on an annual basis.

There was discussion as to the definition of “agricultural” and also how to control any abuse of the land.

Article 19: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED that the Town authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department.

Article 20: On motion of Christopher Guiry it was VOTED that the town authorize the Selectmen and Police Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment form the Police Department.

Article 21: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED that the Town authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department.

There were additional motions from the floor.

On motion of Garth Fletcher it was VOTED unanimously that the Selectmen be asked to report at next Town meeting on the following issues:

- The number of town reports printed

- The number of reports picked up prior to Town meeting

- The number of households with registered voters

- The cost of mailing a report to each household

Mr. Gary Wolpert moved that “Article 5 from the 2005 Mason Town Meeting should be clarified and reaffirmed as a result of the results of the school district vote. He said the Selectmen's authority relative to the withdrawal issue has been rescinded by the vote.” He referred the Town Meeting to Article 5 on page 39 in the 2005 Annual Report.

On motion of James Losee it was VOTED unanimously to restrict reconsideration of all 2006 articles.

On motion of Wolfgang Millbrandt it was VOTED unanimously to recess Town meeting to April 5 at 7:30PM at the Mason Town Hall.

The meeting was recessed at 12:05AM.

Susan Wagoner, Town Clerk