

TOWN of MASON ELECTION MARCH 13, 2007

The Moderator, Catherine Schwenk, called the town election to order. The polls were declared open at 8:00 AM. Checklist total was 927. The polls were closed at 7:10 PM after 220 had voted.

The Moderator administered the oath to the following ballot counters:

George Schwenk, Douglas Whitbeck, Mary McDonald

The results of the Town Election on Article 1 were as follows:

Selectmen for 3 years: Mark Richardson 168
Victor Tweedy 39
There were 3 write-in votes

Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Wally Brown 41 write-ins

Dave Morrison 3 write-ins
There were 6 additional write-in votes

Library Trustee for 3 years: Robin Smith 201

Library Trustee for 1 year: Elena Kolbenson 194

Trustee of Trust Funds 3 years: George Schwenk 193

Barbara Milkovits 1 write-in
There were 5 write-in votes

The results of the election on Article 2 the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance question

Yes 179 No 31

School Board Results: C. Christopher Guiry 169

Article 2 – Budget: Yes 1014 No 664

Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Yes 995 No 594

Article 4 – Call Sp Meeting if #3 fails: Yes 1009 No 554

Article 5 – Put \$75000 in Cap Reserve Fund: Yes 1004 No 560

Article 6 – Withdrawal from SAU: Yes 1050 No 524

Article 7 – Accept Reports: Yes 1308 No 246

Susan J. Wagoner, Town Clerk

MASON TOWN MEETING MARCH 14, 2007

At 7:30 PM Moderator, Catherine Schwenk, 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.

We have implemented the new HAVA voting booth provided by the State and also the new election database management system, ElectioNet.

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.

We thank Steve Tamulonis for donating the sound equipment to the town.

Wally Brown was presented a plaque in appreciation of his 20 years of service on the Recreation Committee. He was also recognized for his 27 years of service on the Fire Department.

There were 96 voters and 2 non voters from Peterborough present. There were 2 members of the press present.

There was no objection to Senator Gottesmann's speaking to the assemblage prior to the meeting.

The Moderator announced the results of the Town elections and the school district. She declared the winning candidates elected to their respective office.

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The following errors or omissions were in the town report:

Page 11, Article 17 should be deleted. It was voted on at the February special town meeting.
Page 29, the second line in the Fire Department report should read 27 years of service by Wally Brown.

The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk at 7:40 PM.

The colors were presented by Robert Guiry, Chris Elliot, Dan McGuire, Nat O'Brien and Shawn O'Grady of Boy Scout Troop 264 and Katie Lannin and Samantha Guiry of Girl Scout Troop 101. Corinne Babel, the Honor Society President and founder of the Mascenic School Culture Club, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Business from 2006 Town Meeting kindergarten article: Linda Lannin presented a projected budget to include a teacher, assistant teacher, supplies and space. She noted we could start the kindergarten as a

municipality or as part of the school district which would avail us of state funds. The major issue is location and space.

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

Article 3: Mark Richardson moved and it was seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) to purchase and equip a new loader for the Mason Highway Department and to authorize the issuance of not more than One hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) 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 7:51pm. The polls closed at 8:51pm. The moderator announced the results on Article 3. Total ballots cast were 90. Necessary to pass was 60. The article passed with 65 Yes and 25 No.

Article 4: Anne Richards moved and it was seconded 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 Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) in grant funds, private donations and other sources of funds. The remaining portion of this appropriation to be raised by taxation will be no more than One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). And to further authorize the issuance of not more than One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) 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. 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 Conservation Committee made a motion to postpone this article indefinitely because they were unable to get funding. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 5: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the gross sum of Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) 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. This appropriation is contingent upon the receipt of Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) in private donations and other sources of funds. The remaining portion of this appropriation to be raised by taxation will be no more than One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). And to further authorize the issuance of not more than One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) 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. Said appropriated funds and other funds raised for this Conservation land acquisition may be expended by majority vote of the Mason Conservation Commission. **(This article will only be voted on if Article # 4 fails.)**

A motion was made to strike out the sentence stating "The remaining portion of this appropriation to be raised by taxation will be no more than One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)." This amendment was defeated.

Leland Craig questioned the bold type statement about #4 failing, since #4 was withdrawn. It was noted that this statement was advisory information only and that Garth Fletcher had take to town council who concurred with the Moderator's opinion to postpone indefinitely.

After discussion the polls opened at 8:30pm. The polls closed at 9:33pm. The moderator announced the results on Article 3. Total ballots cast were 90. Necessary to pass was 60. The article passed with 75 Yes and 17 No.

Article 6: Mark Richardson moved and it was seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One million four hundred twenty-two thousand, one hundred six dollars (\$1,422,106) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

Dave Cook recognized Robin Berry's retirement after 19 years of service with the Highway Department.

Dave Cook made an amendment to change the Paved Road Restoration line item from \$55,000 to \$80,000. The amendment carried.

The article as amended making the new operating budget one million four hundred forty seven thousand one hundred six dollars (\$1,447,106) carried unanimously.

Article 7: Anne Richards moved and it was seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Highway Construction Capital Reserve, previously established, or take any other action relative thereto.

Dave Cook made a motion to postpone this article indefinitely. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 8: On motion of Dr Christopher Guiry it was VOTED to raise and appropriate the sum of Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to be added to the Highway Construction Capital Reserve, previously established, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 9: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500) to purchase new defibrillators for the Mason Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 10: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Three thousand six hundred fifty dollars (\$3,650) for the purchase of Tazers for the Police Department and to authorize the use/transfer from the December 31, 2006 Fund Balance of that amount received from the 2006 sale of the Crown Victoria police cruiser.

Article 11: On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of paving the Town Office parking lot, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 12: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for the purpose of preservation of the Town records, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 13: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$1,875) for the purchase of new polling booths, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 14: On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED that the town raise and appropriate the sum of One thousand six hundred sixty-eight dollars and eighty cents (\$1,668.80) for the purpose of additional interior improvements to the police station and authorize the use in that amount of the December 31, 2006 Fund Balance for that purpose. (This amount represents the interest earned on bond proceeds that was transferred to the general fund on or before December 31, 2006.)

Article 15: On motion of Mark Richardson it was DEFEATED that the Town authorize Twenty-five

thousand dollars (\$25,000) of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited in the Land Protection Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25 II. The balance of the tax will be deposited into the General Fund. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2007, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by a future vote of the Town meeting. (This article was previously voted at 100% of the Land Use Change Tax deposited into the Land Protection Conservation Fund at the March 2000 Town Meeting.)

Article 16: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously that the Town modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Mason based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$70,000, for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$100,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$130,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$30,000 or, if married, a net income of not more than \$40,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$60,000 excluding the value of the person's personal residence.

Article 17: On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously that the Town authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Capital Improvement Program Committee, represented by at least one member of the Planning Board, to prepare and amend, with input from municipal departments and committees, a recommended program of municipal capital improvement projects projected over a period of at least six years to aid the Selectmen and the Budget Committee in their consideration of the annual budget as permitted by RSA 674:5.

Article 18: On motion of Mark Richardson it was DEFEATED that the Town go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Mason.

These actions include:

1. Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.
2. Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.

In addition the Town of Mason encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions.

The record of the vote on this article shall be transmitted to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States, and to declared candidates for those offices. By petition.

Article 19: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously that the Town authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 20: On motion of Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously that the town authorize the Selectmen and Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment form the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 21: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED that the Town authorize the Selectmen and the Police Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

On motion of Michael Bromberg and seconded by many voices, the meeting was adjourned sine dai at 10:25 PM

Susan J. Wagoner, Town Clerk