

Article 9 – Replace Boiler at Appleton School: Yes 1114 No 455
Article 10 – Place \$75,000 in Capital Reserve Fund: Yes 842 No 709
Article 11 – Accept Reports: Yes 1210 No 305

Susan J. Wagoner, Town Clerk

MASON TOWN MEETING MARCH 12, 2008

At 7:30 PM the Moderator, Catherine Schwenk, came to the microphone and requested that non voters should wear non voter credentials and sit in the first row to the Moderator's left. There was no request for interpretive services. She then 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: Selectmen - Anne (Nancy) Richards, Mark Richardson, and Dr. Christopher Guiry; Town Clerk, Susan Wagoner and Wally Brown, Audio Specialist.

The Moderator reviewed the procedures for voters: Voters wishing to speak should use the microphones and address any questions to the chair; all amendments and substantive motions must be in writing and signed by the maker and seconded; every voter is entitled to speak on a debatable motion unless the body by a two-thirds vote has ordered discussion stopped; a voter is entitled to speak a second time on the same question provided all voters who wish to speak have spoken.

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.

The two March 12th birthdays were acknowledged – George Schwenk and David Baker

Dr. Christopher Guiry announced the Florence Roberts' bequeathing of the 40 acres on Valley Road to the Town of Mason a timeless gift and a unity of purpose. There will be no clearing or selective cutting allowed.

There were 130 voters and 4 non voters.

There was no objection to Richard Rockwood, the Town's Assessor, speaking to the meeting regarding Articles 9 and 18.

The Moderator announced the results of the Town elections and the school district. Total votes cast were 394. She declared the winning candidates elected to their respective office.

Moderator for 2 years: Catherine Schwenk 355
There was 1 write-in vote

Town Clerk for 3 years: Susan Wagoner 357
There were 3 write-in votes

Selectmen for 3 years: Anne (Nancy) Richards 314
There were 20 write-in votes

Tax Collector for 3 years: Susan Wagoner 356
There were 3 write-in votes

Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years: Kathy Chapman 349
There were 2 write-in votes

Library Trustee for 3 years: Elena Kolbenson 343
There was 1 write-in vote

Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years: Jeannine Phalon 340
There were 17 write-in votes

Trustee of Trust Funds 3 years: Mark Calderan 63 write-in votes
There were 10 write-in votes

The results of the election on Article 2 the Town of Mason Planning and Zoning Ordinance question
Yes 179 No 31

The results of the election on Article 3 combining the office of Town Clerk and Tax Collector question
Yes 289 No 50

School Board Results:

Article 2 – Budget: Yes 821 No 749

Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Yes 849 No 725

Article 4 – Call Sp Meeting re #3: Yes 896 No 645

Article 5 – Collective Bargaining Agreement Cost Items: Yes 842 No 720

Article 6 – Call Sp Meeting re #5: Yes 861 No 680

Article 7 – Mason Withdrawal: Yes 946 No 617

Article 8 – Withdrawal from SAU: Yes 1020 No 524

Total ballots cast: 1540 Necessary to pass 3/5 vote RSA 194:c2
Received 65.81%

Article 9 – Replace Boiler at Appleton School: Yes 1114 No 455

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There were no errors or omissions in the town report.

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

The colors were presented by J. Robert Guiry, Christopher Elliot, Daniel McGuire, Nathan O'Brien, Nicholas Calderan, Thomas McGuire, Robert Anderson and Shawn O'Grady of Boy Scout Tr. 264 It was a distinct pleasure by the Moderator to present Cristina Calderan, the President of the Mascenic Student Council, member of the Honor Society and a leader in three sports, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Dave Cook was recognized by the Moderator. He read a letter thanking the Highway Department workers, the Police officers, the Building Inspector, the Selectmen, the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant, the Emergency Director, the private contractors and the residents of the town for their patience and understanding during the major road repairs caused by the April 2007 floods.

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

Article 4: Mark Richardson moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One million five hundred thirty-five thousand, one hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$1,525,138) which represents the operating budget. Said sum is exclusive of all Special or Individual Articles addressed.

Mark Richardson proposed an amendment to correct the discrepancy between the dollar figure and the written figure of the budget. This amendment carried unanimously.

Mark Richardson proposed an amendment to correct the 6030-02 figure by \$5033 to be \$21033. This carried unanimously.

Dave Cook proposed an amendment to change the total of lines 6018 and 6019 by a total of \$50,000. This carried unanimously.

The new proposed budget, as amended, of \$1,580,171.00 carried unanimously.

Joe McGuire made a motion and it was carried to advance Article 17 to be heard prior to Article 5.

Article 17: Mark Richardson moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to authorize fifty- percent of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A: 25 to be deposited into the existing Conservation Land Protection Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A: 5, III as authorized by RSA 79-A: 25, II and the balance (fifty- percent) of the Land Use Change Tax will be deposited into the General Fund. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2008, 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.) After much discussion Robert Lavoie, in memory of Don Richards, moved the previous question which carried unanimously. There was no objection by Garth Fletcher. This motion was defeated.

Article 5: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to 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 twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000) in private donations and other sources of funds. And to further authorize the issuance of not more than Eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) 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. A two thirds (2/3) ballot vote is required. After much discussion, the polls were opened at 9:14 pm and closed at 10:14pm. The motion carried with 110 Yes and 20 No.

Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded to move articles 9 and 18 to be heard next. The motion carried.

Article 9: Anne Richards moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to 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, for the tax year April 1, 2008. The monies are to come from general taxation. (Required by the Department of Revenue to maintain equitable property valuations and certification.)

Mr. Rockwood, the Town's assessor, spoke to this issue to explain the process. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 18: Dr Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to modify a restrictive covenant imposed on Tax Map B, Lot 24 on the eastern side of Starch Mill Road, which now provides that there will be no building, structure, or other development on the lot so that the restrictive covenant as modified will provide that there will be no residential building structure or other structures requiring sewage disposal facilities, but that structures such as a garage for motor vehicles, barn, maple sugar house, or shed would be permissible. By petition.

Mr. Rockwood spoke to this issue.

Robert Lavoie made a motion to amend this to insert before garage to read "2 car" and after garage to read "maximum". The amendment was defeated. The original motion was defeated.

Article 6: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve, previously established.

Article 7: Mark Richardson moved and it was seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand five hundred dollars (\$10,500) to pay the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)

for the costs resulting from the Town of Mason joining NRPC. These costs are primarily administrative costs and costs associated with updating NRPC's Geographic Information System (GIS) database and Regional Travel Demand Model to include the Town of Mason. This will be a non-transferable appropriation per RSA 32:10, I and shall only be used for this express purpose.

Mark McDonald, Chairman of the Planning Board, spoke to this issue explaining the reasoning behind changing from South West Region Planning Commission to Nashua Regional Planning Commission. The motion carried

Article 8: On motion of Dr Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand seven hundred dollars (\$8,700) for the following purposes: \$5,000 for a tape and compass survey of town forestlands to include deed research of land for future selective cutting; \$2,500 for the maintenance of the Mason Railroad Trail as fire lane access to the Mason Town forests; \$1,000 for blue bird establishment and view maintenance on land, donated by Bronson Potter, on Greenville Road and \$200 for lecture series for topics covering forestry and ecology management. Such funds will come from the Forest Maintenance Fund, previously established.

Article 10: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established.

Article 11: Dr. Christopher Guiry moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the support of the activities of Old Home Day to be held in Mason on September 13, 2008. By petition.

Charles Moser spoke to this issue – the celebration will be for the 240th year of the charter and also the birthday of Uncle Sam Wilson.
The motion carried unanimously.

Article 12: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for the purchase of a new copier for the Town Office.

Article 13: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Three thousand one hundred fifty dollars (\$3,150) for the completion of work on water hole at Mason Fire Station and to authorize the use/transfer from the December 31, 2007 Fund Balance of that amount received from FEMA for the April flood damage.

Article 14: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Five hundred fifty dollars (\$550) to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund, previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from the December 31, 2007 Fund Balance of that amount received from the 2007 sale of cemetery lots for this purpose.

Article 15: On motion of Dr Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Town of Mason K-9 Program Expendable Trust Fund, for the purpose of establishing a fund for the support of the Mason Police Department K-9 Program, and furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of Five hundred dollars (\$500) to be placed in this fund, and furthermore to appoint the Board of Selectmen and the Police Chief as agents to expend from the Town of Mason K-9 Program Expendable Trust Fund.

Article 16: On motion of Anne Richards it was VOTED unanimously to accept the donation of a thermal imaging camera from the Mason Fire Department Association.

Article 19: Mark Richardson moved and it was seconded that the Town vote to support the following finding:

Whereas converting unmaintained town roads (Class 6) to town maintained roads (Class 5) can be done either by the Selectmen under RSA 231:8 or by the Town Meeting under RSA 231:22-a, and

Whereas Class 6 roads were originally abandoned as not serving sufficient public need, and

Whereas such conversions impose a long-term obligation on the taxpayers for annual maintenance expenses (about \$10,000 per year per Class 5 mile in 2006), and

Whereas Mason taxpayers already pay to maintain more Class 5 road mileage per household than 76 of the 79 comparable NH towns (2001 study), and

Whereas such conversions by-pass any Planning Board review for compatibility with the town's Master Plan or the needs of the community,

Therefore the Town Meeting concludes that such conversions require broad based public review and respectfully requests that the Selectmen defer such conversion decisions to the Town Meeting under its RSA 231:22-a authority. By petition.

After much discussion, a motion to move the previous question carried. The motion carried by hand count - Yes 38 No 27

Article 20: The withdrawal article on the school district warrant carried and Mason may withdraw. On motion of Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously that the Town postpone indefinitely the vote in favor of the withdrawal of the Town of Mason from the Mascenic Regional School District in accordance with RSA 195:25.

Article 21: 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.

Article 22: On motion of Mark Richardson it was VOTED unanimously that the Town authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Fire Department.

Article 23: On motion of Dr. Christopher Guiry it was VOTED unanimously that the Town authorize the Selectmen and the Police Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Police Department. On motion of Anne Richards and seconded by many voices, the meeting was adjourned Sine Dai at 11:10 PM

Susan J. Wagoner, Town Clerk