

**MINUTES  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MAY 17, 2004**

At a legal meeting of voters of the Town of Sterling qualified to vote in town affairs held on Monday the seventeenth day of May at seven (7:00) o'clock in the evening at the Chocksett School on Boutelle Road, the registrars checked in 218 of the 5010 registered voters of the town. Counters sworn in were Larry Noyes, Robert (Duffy) Lanciani James French and Ronald Pichieri. The Moderator, Peter Monaghan called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Paul M. Sushchyk, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen recognized Dr. Alan H. Hoffman for his 27 years as an elected official on the Board of Health. Mr. Sushchyk presented Mr. Hoffman with a certificate of Recognition.

**ARTICLE 1.** Voted to raise by taxation and appropriate the sum of \$6,766,907.00, or any other sum for the payment of salaries and compensation, payment of debt and interest and for charges, expenses and outlays of the several town departments, for the ensuing fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2005.

William Gauld of 155 Kendall Hill Rd questioned why is the recommended budget for the DPW wage account was lower than the requested amount? Tim Bragan, Executive Secretary and Louis Manring, DPW Superintendent explained that they had a loss of two employees and the request for an additional mechanic was denied.

Russell Fitch, Veterans Agent, moved to amend the salary of the Veterans Agent from \$3,000.00 to \$10,000.00 and the Miscellaneous Expenses from \$900.00 to \$1303.00 with said funding to be raised and appropriated. Amendment was defeated.

**PASSED                      MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 2.** Voted to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as amended, and as voted in Article #1 of this warrant.

**PASSED                      MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 3.** Voted to raise and appropriate \$303,925.00 in accordance with Section 16B of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and Section #4C and E of the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District Agreement for its share of operational and capital costs of the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District, and to transfer, from the Capital Fund, the sum of \$10,476.00, for the purpose of paying the town's portion of the debt and interest for the Montachusett Regional High School Building Project for a total appropriation of \$314,401.00.

**PASSED                      MORE THAN A 2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 4.** Voted to raise and appropriate \$7,560,582.00, which is equal to Sterling's net minimum contribution, as provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, plus the cost of Sterling's share of transportation costs and WRSD debt costs, minus the FY 2000 high school renovation costs, in accordance with Section 16B of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and Section #4 of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as amended, for its share of operational costs and of debt and interest charges of the Wachusett Regional School District, and to transfer \$20,413.00 from the Capital Fund to pay Sterling's portion of debt associated with the Wachusett Regional School District's borrowing of \$600,000.00, as authorized by the member towns at their FY2000 town meetings, to remodel, reconstruct and make extraordinary repairs and additions to the Wachusett Regional High School, for a total appropriation of \$7,580,995.00.

**PASSED**

**2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 5.** Voted as amended, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$387,365.00 and to transfer from stabilization the sum of \$213,851.00 for a combined sum of \$601,216.00 above the net minimum contribution as requested by the Wachusett Regional School District.

Charles Capparelli of the School Committee read article making a motion to amend the article by removing the wording for a proposition 2 ½ override. Motion made and second to amend. Motion was carried.

Robert Heppe of the Finance Committee made a motion to amend article by putting the proposition 2½ override wording back in the article. Motion was seconded.

Motion made to move the amendment to stop debate. Motion carried.

Vote on amendment was defeated. 86 -yes      111 – no

**2/3rds vote required on motion for transfer and majority vote required to raise and appropriate. Counters were called.**

**YES-131      NO-68**

**PASSED-TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$387,365.00.**

**FAILED TO MEET 2/3rds VOTE - TRANSFER FROM STABILIZATION THE SUM OF \$213,851.00**

**ARTICLE 6.** Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,125 to provide courtesy busing for students of the Houghton and Chocksett schools that live within a mile and a half of the schools.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

After article 6 Norman Plourde of the School Committee made a motion to reconsider Article 5. A two thirds vote was required, counters were called.

**DEFEATED**

**YES-116**

**NO-77**

**ARTICLE 7.** Voted to set the salary of the Municipal Light Board as follows: Chairman \$600; Clerk \$600; Third member \$600; said sum to be an expense of the Municipal Light Department.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 8.** Voted to include in the tax levy for electricity used for street lights the sum of \$25,412.00 as amended, and that said sum and the income from the sale of electricity to private consumers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings or for municipal power, and for jobbing and other revenues during the current fiscal year, be appropriated for the Municipal Lighting Plant or Department, the whole to be expended by the Manager of municipal lighting under the direction and control of the Municipal Light Board for the expense of the Plant or Department for the said fiscal year, as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other appropriate sections or chapters and that is sum and said income shall exceed said expense for said fiscal year, such excess shall be transferred to the Depreciation Fund, Construction Fund or any fund of said Department and appropriated and used for the purpose of maintaining the Plant or Department thereto as may thereafter be authorized by the Municipal Light Board.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 9.** Voted to authorize the town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2004, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4fl., Section 4, of the General Laws, as amended, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 17, of the General Laws, as amended.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 10.** Voted to accept Chapter 44, Section 53F of the General Laws, as amended, authorizing the town Treasurer/Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements, for FY2004.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 11.** Voted to raise and appropriate \$682,956.00 to operate the Water Department. The Finance Committee recommends that the following sums be appropriated to operate the water department:

Salaries                \$142,254.00

Expenses             \$259,600.00

Debt & Interest \$173,353.00

Subtotal                \$575,207.00

Indirect Costs        \$107,749.00

Total                    \$682,956.00

\$682,956.00 as amended, to come from water revenue with \$107,749.00 of that amount to be appropriated to the general fund.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 12.** Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,100 for hydrant rental, said sum to be paid to the DPW and used as revenue for the Water Department.

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 13.** Voted to transfer \$15,000.00 from the DPW's Cemetery Expendable Perpetual Care Account to the DPW Wage Account.

## MAJORITY VOTE

**ARTICLE 14.** Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00, to be used for expenses for Wachusett Greenways, a six town collaborative, said funds to be administered and expended by Wachusett Greenways.

Joe O'Connor of 79 Bean Rd. made motion to amend article to change wording by including "said money to be expended within the Town of Sterling". *Amendment was defeated.*

### MAJORITY VOTE

**ARTICLE 15.** Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 to be used for expenses for The Sterling Land Trust, an organization dedicated to the preservation of the various parcels of land within the town, said funds to be administered and expended by the Trust.

### MAJORITY VOTE

**ARTICLE 16.** Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 to fund the Reserve Fund for fiscal year 2005 in accordance with the provisions of General Law Chapter 40, Section 6, as amended.

### MAJORITY VOTE

**ARTICLE 17:** Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 for the purposes of leasing space for the Veteran's Agent, to be expended by the Board of Selectmen.

Kevin Shaughnessy made motion to table the article. *Motion was defeated.* Motion was then made to move the question. *Motion carried.*

### MAJORITY VOTE

**ARTICLE 18:** Voted to transfer from stabilization a sum of \$45,000.00 to purchase the land currently owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and being located off of Route 190 and consisting of 30 +/- acres.

## 2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR

**ARTICLE 19.** Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to fund the maintenance of the 1835 Town Hall for fiscal 2005 Said sum to be expended by the Town Hall Committee.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 20.** Voted to transfer from the Capital Fund the sum of \$86,278.00 to the General Fund to offset the cost of the Library renovation debt and interest cost for fiscal 2005.

**PASSED**

**2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 21:** Voted to transfer from the Capital Fund the sum of \$31,820 to purchase various capital items for various departments.

**PASSED**

**2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 22.** Voted to transfer from the Capital Fund the sum of \$45,000 to purchase a new 1-ton 4x4 pickup truck with snowplow and sander and all other pertinent attachments and equipment and to authorize the payment of the purchase price in part from proceeds of the trade in or auction of a 1996 Ford F-350 and the balance in cash out of said appropriation, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works.

**PASSED**

**2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 23.** Voted to borrow the sum of \$650,000 to purchase a new quint aerial truck with appurtenant equipment for the fire department and to authorize payment of said borrowing with funds from the Capital Fund. Funding will also be offset by the proceeds of a trade in or outright sale at auction of apparatus to be replaced, said sum to be expended by the Fire Chief.

**PASSED**

**2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 24.** Voted as amended, to authorize the transfer from the Ambulance receipts reserved for appropriation account the sum of \$168,780.00 and to further accept from Sterling EMS, Inc. a gift in the amount of \$63,220.00 to cover the second year operating cost for the Town of Sterling EMS which will total \$232,000.00.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 25.** Voted to approve the provisions of Chapter 41 - Section 111M of the Massachusetts General Laws stating that: an employee of a city or town who is responsible for delivering emergency medical services under the provisions of Chapter 111C (Emergency Medical Care), and who is incapacitated for d11ty because of injury sustained in the performance-of his duty without fault of his own shall be granted leave without loss of pay for the period of such incapacity.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 26.** Voted to accept the provisions of Section 12 of Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2003, which amended MGL Chapter 32B, Section 2(d). This shall provide for call members of the Sterling Fire Department and Sterling Fire Department Ambulance to participate in the Town's group health insurance plan. The department member shall pay 100% of the monthly plan premium.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 27.** Voted to accept the provisions of Section 100G1/4 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws. This shall provide for the town to pay up to \$5,000 towards the funeral expense of any career, call or volunteer firefighter or Emergency Medical Technician who is killed in the line-of-duty.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 28.** Voted to accept the provisions of Section 89B of Chapter 32 of the General Laws. This shall provide a Town paid survivor pension for on-call personnel to the spouse and minor children in the event of a line of duty death. The survivor pension will be equal to 2/3 of the starting salary of a career firefighter in the department.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 29.** Voted to authorize the addition of a Toxic and Hazardous Waste By-law to the Town's General By-Laws by approving the following:

**Hazardous Materials and Waste Recovery By-Law**

**General**

This by-law is designed to hold accountable any individual, corporation or organization which, whether deliberately or accidentally, releases, causes a release or threat of release of any hazardous material or hazardous waste as defined in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 21-C, D, or E, upon public or private property within the boundaries of the Town of Sterling. Such party causing a release shall be liable to the town for any and all response costs directly incurred by the Town as a result of said release or threat of release including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) The cost of complete cleanup and disposal of the material released or contaminated by the release, and all costs incurred by the town as a result of remediation required due to the release or threat of release, including all costs incurred or authorized by any officer of the town having jurisdiction over such matters.
- b) Replacement or cost of replacement of any reusable equipment and/or material damaged due to the incident.
- c) Replacement or cost of replacement of any disposable equipment and/or materials used during the incident.
- d) Reimbursement of any funds expended by the town for food and/or shelter, upon determination by the town, that expenditures are necessary due to a threat to the public health and safety as a result of the release or threat of release.

- e) Reimbursement of any funds expended by the town for evacuation and/or relocation, upon determination by the town, that such expenditures are necessary due to a threat to public health and safety as a result of the release or threat of release.
- f) Reimbursement of any funds expended by the town for personnel expenditures incurred by the town as a result of the release or threat of release.

### **Exceptions**

The following are excluded (as defined in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 21-E):

- a) Emissions from exhaust of an engine.
- b) Normal application of fertilizer and application of pesticides consistent with their labeling and with regulations of the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Board.
- c) Application of road salts in conformance with the Snow and Ice Control Program of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works.

### **Definitions**

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

#### **1) Release:**

The accidental or intentional spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping of toxic or hazardous material upon or into any land or waters of the Town of Sterling. "Release" includes, without limitation, leakage of such materials from failed, damaged or discarded containers or storage systems and disposal of such materials into any on-site sewage disposal system, dry well, catch basin or unapproved landfill.

#### **2) Toxic or Hazardous Material:**

Any substance or mixture of such physical, chemical or infectious characteristics as to pose, in the Fire Department or Board of Health's judgment, a significant actual or potential hazard to water supplies or other hazard to human health if such substance or mixture were discharged to land or waters of this town. "Toxic or Hazardous Materials" include, without limitation, organic chemicals, petroleum products, heavy metals, radioactive or infectious waste, acids and alkalis, and includes products such as pesticides, herbicides, solvents and thinners.

### **Reporting of Spills and Leaks**

Any person having knowledge of a spill, leak or other loss of hazardous material shall report the same to the head of the Fire Department, Board of Health or its agents immediately.

### **Right of Entry/ Enforcement**

The Fire Department, Board of Health and its agents may enter upon privately owned property for the purpose of performing their duties under this By-Law.

**Penalty**

Failure by any individual, corporation or organization responsible for any costs incurred by the town pursuant to Section 7.1 to reimburse the town for said costs within thirty (30) days of demand, shall entitle the town pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D, to bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to recover said costs.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 30.** Voted to authorize the establishment of a Hazardous Materials Recovery Revolving Account as provided for under Section 53E-1/2 of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, into which account receipt for charges to responsible parties for the containment of hazardous materials pursuant to the Town's Hazardous Materials and Waste Recovery By-law shall be deposited and to authorize the Fire Chief to expend funds received and deposited into said account. The total amount which may be expended in the current fiscal year shall not exceed \$10,000.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**Motion was made to use the consent agenda for articles 31-39 which allows voters to vote at one time for all articles. Motion carried**

**Articles 31 - 39 were voted under the consent agenda**

**ARTICLE 31.** Voted to continue a revolving fund under G.L. Ch. 44 §53E1/2 for the purposes of administering the Deputy Tax Collector fees and the amount spent from this account not to exceed \$12,000 in the fiscal year.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 32.** Voted to continue a Revolving account as allowed by Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the General Laws, as amended, for the purpose of collecting fees and revenue, income to defray the expenses of the 1835 Town Hall, and to be used for its upkeep, the amount spent from this account not to exceed \$25,000.00 within the fiscal year, with said account to be under the control of the Town Hall Committee.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 33.** Voted to continue a Revolving Account as allowed by Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½, of the General Laws, as amended, for the purpose of collecting Planning Board Fees not covered by other General Laws and using said funds for the operation of the Planning Board, the amount spent from this account not to exceed \$25,000.00 within the fiscal year, with said account to be under the control of the Planning Board.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**



**ARTICLE 34.** Voted to continue a Revolving Account as allowed by Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ of the General Laws, as amended, for Council on Aging said account to be used for the purpose of expenses, contractual services, and equipment for COA related programs, the amount spent from this account not to exceed \$25,000 within the fiscal year, with this account to be under the control of the Council on Aging.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 35.** Voted to continue a Fair Revolving Account as allowed by Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ of the General Laws, as amended, the amount spent from this account not to exceed \$100,000 within the fiscal year, said account to be used to receive funds for and to pay the expenses of running the town fair, with this account to be under the control of the Fair Committee.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 36.** Voted to continue a revolving Account as allowed by Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the General Laws, as amended, for the purpose of Recycling, the amount spent from this account not to exceed \$39,000.00 within the fiscal year, with said account to be under the control of the Department of Public Works.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 37.** Voted to continue a revolving account as allowed by Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the General Laws, as amended, for the purpose of providing a Fuel Revolving Fund, the amount spent from this account not to exceed \$66,000 within the fiscal year, said account to be used for the purchase and accounting of fuel for the various town departments with said account to be under the control of the Department of Public Works.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 38.** Voted to appropriate, from the Commonwealth, the sum of \$424,078, contingent upon the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' funding of the Chapter 90 program, said sum to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway resurfacing and/or other related work or expenditures as allowed by the State Chapter 90 regulations, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 39.** Voted to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds the sum of \$7,000.00 to pay for the painting of road lines on Town roads, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 40.** Voted to borrow the sum of \$360,000 to install a new 12 inch water line from Taft Road to the intersection of Main and Cross Street, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works and all costs associated with this borrowing are to be paid back with funds from the Water Enterprise Account.

**PASSED**

**2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 41.** Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000, as a portion of the sum needed to be used with funds already appropriated, to pay the cost of the work necessary to provide for the ongoing revaluation and the annual operation of the Assessors' department, said sum to be expended by the Board of Assessors for said purposes.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 42.** Voted to amend the General Bylaws, Acceptance of Public Ways, by adding section two (2):

**Section 2.** The acceptance of ways may only take place at an Annual Town Meeting.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**Motion made to reconsider Article 39. Motion carried.**

Louise Manring, DPW Supervisor moved words of the article to read "raise and appropriate".

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 43.** Vote to acquire by gift, purchase, or eminent domain the real property described as follows: Hardscrabble Road, a.k.a./p.k.a. North Nelson Road, with all improvements therein, for a distance of 700 feet +/- northerly of the residence of Leonard Morris; and to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money for the purposes of this article; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate, deliver, and execute on behalf of the Town such agreements and other documents as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

**TABLED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**Motion was made to use the consent agenda for articles 44 - 51 which allows voters to vote at one time for all articles. Motion carried.**

**Articles 44 - 51 were voted under the consent agenda**

**ARTICLE 44.** Voted to approve the amendment of Section 1. MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 9, 2004.

The proposed amendment updates the references to the calendar years for the five (5) year Census Review, deletes references to past years and deletes a reference to the Town of Sterling 2000 annual town meeting; a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 45.** Voted to approve the amendment of Section 2. LOCATION of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 9, 2004. The proposed amendment is a technical correction which deletes the date (1959) of a prior amendment; a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 46.** Voted to approve the amendment of Section 5. PAYMENTS TO THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL TREASURER of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 9, 2004. The proposed amendment is a technical correction which deletes reference to 1951 legislation; a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 47.** Voted to approve the amendment of Section 8. WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER TOWNS-PRE-KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 12 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 9, 2004. The proposed amendment is a technical correction which deletes the reference to the 1951 and 1977 legislation; a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 48.** Voted to approve the amendment of Section 9. ANNUAL REPORT of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on March 8, 2004. The proposed amendment deletes the references to the School Committee and inserts the term Regional School District which reflects the current practice whereby the District acting through the Superintendent, submits the Annual Report to the Member Towns; a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 49.** Voted to approve the amendment of Section 10. BUDGET of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 9, 2004. The proposed amendment deletes outdated Budget categories and incorporates the statutory authority for the adoption of the Regional School District Budget; a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 50.** Voted to approve the amendment of Section 12. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 9, 2004. The proposed amendment is a technical correction which deletes an asterisk for which there is no reference and deletes the Note reference to the General Laws; a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk.

**PASSED                      MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 51.** Voted to approve the amendment of Section 17. LEASE OF SCHOOLS of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 9, 2004. The proposed amendment deletes Section 17.7 in its entirety which was applicable to the first year of the school leases (FY 1994-1995); a copy of the proposed Amendment is on file at the office of the Town Clerk.

**PASSED                      MAJORITY VOTE**

**ARTICLE 52.** Voted to transfer from stabilization the sum of \$2,600 to provide a new 6 inch layer of mulch to the existing playground area at the Houghton School, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works.

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 53.** Voted to transfer from stabilization the sum of \$2,890 to reseed grass in front of the entire school complex and a 100 foot wide strip in the back of the school for the whole length of the school, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works.

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 54.** Voted to transfer from stabilization a sum of \$300,000.00 to stabilize the tax rate.

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 55.** Voted to elect by ballot on Monday, May 24, 2004, at 10:00 AM at the Houghton School on Boutelle Road, the following officers:

- One Selectman to serve for three years
- One Assessor to serve for three years
- One Health Board Member to serve for three years
- Two Constables to serve for three years
- Two Library Trustees to serve for three years
- One Public Works Board Member to serve for three years
- One Light Board Member to serve for three years
- One Planning Board Member to serve for five years
- One Wachusett School Committee Member to serve for three years

Also to choose by ballot or otherwise, such other officers as may be necessary.

The polls shall be opened on Monday, May 24, 2004 at ten (10:00) o'clock in the forenoon and shall remain open until eight (8:00) o'clock in the evening.

**PASSED**

**MAJORITY VOTE**

The Moderator declared the meeting dissolved at 11:24pm.

Respectfully submitted

Melanie J. Clark Town Clerk