

**MINUTES
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2005**

At a legal meeting of voters of the Town of Sterling qualified to vote in town affairs held on Monday the twenty fourth day of October at seven (7:00) o'clock in the evening at the Chocksett School on Boutelle Road, the registrars checked in 124 of the 5352 registered voters of the town. The Moderator, Peter Monaghan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ARTICLE 1. Voted to amend Article #2 of the May 16, 2005 Annual Town Meeting by reducing the Inspectional Services, Building Inspector, Salary /Wage Account by \$9,000.00. There was no discussion on this article.

PASSED UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 2. Voted to amend Article #2 of the May 16, 2005 Annual Town Meeting by reducing the Public Services, Department of Public Works, Wage Account, by reducing the raise and appropriated amount by \$17,000.00 and to transfer to the DPW Wage Account the amount of \$17,000.00 from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Account. There was no discussion on this article.

PASSED UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 3. Voted to amend Article #2 of the May 16, 2005 Annual Town Meeting by reducing the Financial Items & Benefits, Workers Comp/Medicare/ Liability, Group Insurances and Unemployment Account by \$20,000.00. There was not discussion on this article.

PASSED UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 4. Voted to amend Article# 2 of the May 16, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, General Government, Treasurer/Collector budget by transferring \$2,100.00 from the Salary Line item to the Wages Line Item. There was no discussion on this article.

PASSED UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 5. Voted to amend Article# 3 of the May 16, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, which funded a part-time secretary in the Building Department, by reducing the appropriation by \$11,075.00. There was a typographical error in the warrant which showed the amount to be \$12,075.00 instead of \$11.075.00. No discussion on this article.

PASSED UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 6. Voted to amend Article# 21 of the May 16, 2005 Annual Town Meeting, which funded the Reserve Fund for fiscal year 2006, by reducing the raise and appropriated amount by \$65,000.00 and to transfer the sum of \$40,000.00, from Article #48 of the May 14, 2001 Annual Town Meeting, to the FY 2006 Reserve Fund. No discussion on this article.

PASSED

UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 7. Voted to raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$138,977.00 above the net minimum contribution for the Town's share of costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District for fiscal year 2006. Norman Plourde of WRSD spoke on this article. There was no discussion on this article.

PASSED

2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to affirm to its elected and appointed officials its support for the principles of Proposition 2 ½ as defined by MGL Ch. 59, Section 21C, that future municipal and educational budgets supported in any way by the local tax levy shall each be annually prepared not to exceed the limitations of Proposition 2 ½ and to the extent available, 65% of the annual revenue generated by a 2 ½ percent increase in the tax levy and also that known as "New Growth" will be allocated to the District school budget and 35% will be allocated to the Town municipal budget. Notwithstanding the above, if a future budget presentation exceeds the limitations of Proposition 2 ½ the proposal will not seek revenues from the respective municipal or educational budget as an offset; instead, that excess will be subject to the successful passage of a Proposition 2 ½ override from the citizens of the community or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion made to table this article.

TABLED

2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR

ARTICLE 9. Voted to amend the General By-Laws of the Town under "Town Meeting" by inserting a new Section 13 as follows:

"Section 13. All Town Boards, Commissions, Committees, etc. are prohibited from holding public meetings on the day of any Special or Annual Sterling Town Meeting later than one (1) hour prior to the start of said Town Meeting except for meetings made necessary for consideration of matters before the Town Meeting and which are held at the time and place of said Town Meeting."

PASSED

UNANIMOUS VOTE

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to pay for the costs associated with the plowing of private roads and further that this be subject to a proposition 2 ½ over- ride.

Motion made to table article. Motion defeated.

Paul Sushchyk made motion to move words of the article, motion seconded. Barbara Roberti of the Private Roads Committee spoke on behalf of this article. They received three bids and that the plowing of these roads would not exceed \$10, 220 per year. Numerous residence spoke for and against this article. Ken Williams of the Planning Board stated that some of the roads were common drives and not actual roads.

Motion made to vote on this article. Motion passed. Vote was taken and then a hand count was done. Counters sworn in were Robert (Duffy) Lanciani, James French, John Bouvier and William Tuttle.

DEFEATED

NO-56

YES-55

Motion made to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm

Respectfully submitted

Melanie J. Clark
Town Clerk