

# Special Town Meeting Minutes

## May 2, 2022


Call to Order: at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Auditorium, 298 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01906

Color guard with nurses from local hospitals

Pledge of Alliance at 7:31pm

Tellers: Maureen Whitcomb Precinct 4 and Glen Davis Precinct 4 sworn in at 7:31 pm

Roll Call at 7:34pm



Town Meeting Member name	Pct	Present /Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Pct	Present /Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Pct	Present /Absent
Arone, A.	1	P	Hickman, J.	5	P	Paolini, M.	7	P
Bartolo, J.	6	P	Jones, C.	1	P	Riley, C.	2	P
Bell, M.	1	P	Kahn, J.	8	P	Ring, D.	10	P
Berube, K.	9	P	Kelly, D.	9	P	Rossetti, Jr., P.	2	P
Brown, W.	6	P	Kramich Jr., W.	8	P	Schena, D.	3	P
Camuso Sr., R.	2	P	LeBrasseur, E.	6	P	Scuzzarella, C.	10	P
Chipouras, J.	7	A	Leuci, W.	4	P	Smith, R.	3	A
Connors, Jr., A.	3	P	Long, R.	9	A	Spencer, B.	5	P
Costello, M.	10	P	Lopresti, A.	8	P	Strasnick, R.	9	P
Cross III, W.	8	A	Manoogian Sr, P.	10	P	Tesora, A.	3	P
Currie, K.	6	P	McCarthy, S.	7	A	Thompson, R.	3	P
D'Anna, S.	7	P	Migliore, M.	5	P	Traverse, T.	8	P
Davis, G.	4	P	Moreschi, C.	2	P	Vecchione IV, J.	2	P
Delios, P.	10	P	Northrup, R.	4	P	Wallace, R.	5	P
Doherty, S.	4	P	Palleschi, R.	7	P	Whitcomb, M.	4	P
Dunn, S.	1	P	Paloma, A.	1	P	Worthley, J.	9	P
Goodwin, P.	5	P	Panico, A.	6	P	Total Present=		45
Town Meeting:						Absent count=		5
		Date: 5/2/2022						

Making the Motion this Evening: Jaclyn Hickman Precinct 5

Moderator Comments: Instructions on Town Meeting and Code of Conduct at 7:46pm.

Acceptance of Minutes of the last session. Minutes accepted unanimously at 7:37pm.  
Town Moderator reads the opinion from Town Counsel Town Meeting articles at 7:40pm.

Move to the Special Town Meeting.

Finance Committee Chairman, Ken DePatto speaks on the Special Town Meeting Articles at 7:41pm. The Finance Committee reviewed and made recommendations on all 12 articles.

Joseph Vecchione IV, Cliftdale Revitalization Committee speaks at 7:42pm , thanking his committee members. The last 12 months they met 5 times and made site walks of the area. The purpose of the committee was making recommendations for the area in business growth, parking, traffic and red tape issues. The deliverable of the committee includes a comprehensive report that meets and exceeds the goals set out from planning dating back to 1982 to present date (list of short term and long term investments). Cliftdale is part of the Town’s Master Plan goals. One of the articles tonight is dealing with Cliftdale issues. Ask the Town Meeting to accept this report of the committee, dated March 7, 2022. Although much work is still needed in Cliftdale, the Committee and completed its tasks and asks the Town Meeting dissolve the committee.

Accept the Report

Seconded at 7:49pm

Acceptance of the Cliftdale Revitalization Committee the Report  
**Unanimous voice Yes at 7:49pm.**

Motion to dissolve the Cliftdale Revitalization Committee at 7:50m

Seconded at 7:50pm

Unanimous voice vote Yes to dissolve Committee at 7:50pm

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 2 for consideration:

Seconded at 7:52pm

Article as Written

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to create a Stabilization Fund for the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School Construction Project under M.G. L. Ch 40 s 5B as amended. (Town Manager)

Town Manager Scott Crabtree speaks at 7:52pm on the statute of MGL that allows us to create a Stabilization Fund especially for a School. He is speaking on the Vocational School Assessment, we can have a public discussion, establish and fund it; \$500,000.00. The Vocational school has had a six year average of 190 students. Last year dropped to 170 students and next year is 155 students. Need to continue a conversation on funding for this school without having significant impact on the Town’s operating budget. He hopes Town Meeting will support this article.

Article as Vote: Voted to recommend to create a Stabilization Fund for the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School Construction Project under M.G.L. Ch 40 §5B as amended.

Article 2 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 7:57pm

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 3 for consideration:

Seconded at 7:58pm

Article as Written

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be transferred to the Stabilization Fund for the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School Construction Project. (Town Manager)

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 7:58pm on the money recommended and the use of free cash.


Peter Manoogian speaks at 8:00pm put forth an amended to the article; “In addition, the Saugus Town meeting urges the Selectmen to call for a debt exclusion for an annual amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 dollars for future construction assessments for the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocation School.”. Mr. Mangooian states it is inconceivable that the budget will be able to sustain the funding without cuts to our services. It seems the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk will need to coordinate this. Yes, the town will need to absorb some of this with possible growth. This is a 30 year cost.

Motion on the Amendment.

Seconded at 8:04pm

Roll Call Vote

Article 3		SPECIAL TOWN MEETING									
	Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote
Arone, A.	1	N	Hickman, J.	5	Y	Paolini, M.	7	N			
Bartolo, J.	6	N	Jones, C.	N	N	Riley, C.	2	N			
Bell, M.	1	Y	Kahn, J.	8	N	Ring, D.	10	Y			
Berube, K.	9	N	Kelly, D.	9	Y	Rossetti, Jr., P.	2	N			
Brown, W.	6	Y	Kramich Jr., W.	8	Y	Schena, D.	3	N			
Camuso Sr., R.	2	Y	LeBrasseur, E.	6	Y	Scuzzarella, C.	10	Y			
Chipouras, J.	7	A	Leuci, W.	4	Y	Smith, R.	3	A			
Connors, Jr., A.	3	Y	Long, R.	9	A	Spencer, B.	5	Y			
Costello, M.	10	Y	Lopresti, A.	8	Y	Strasnick, R.	9	N			
Cross III, W.	8	A	Manoogian Sr, P.	10	Y	Tesora, A.	3	Y			
Currie, K.	6	Y	McCarthy, S.	7	A	Thompson, R.	3	N			
D'Anna, S.	7	Y	Migliore, M.	5	Y	Traverse, T.	8	Y			
Davis, G.	4	N	Moreschi, C.	2	Y	Vecchione IV, J.	2	Y			
Delios, P.	10	N	Northrup, R.	4	Y	Wallace, R.	5	Y			
Doherty, S.	4		Palleschi, R.	7	N	Whitcomb, M.	4	Y			
Dunn, S.	1	Y	Paloma, A.	1	Y	Worthley, J.	9	Y			
Goodwin, P.	5	Y	Panico, A.	6	Y						



Yea=	30
Nay=	14
Abst=	5

Date: 5/2/20220

**Roll call vote to insert Amendment passes by Majority vote: Yes 30, No 14 Absent 5 at 8:08pm.**

**Article as Voted:** Voted to recommend the Town appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 to the Northeast Metropolitan Regional School Construction Project Stabilization Fund. The source of funding is \$500,000.00 from the July 1, 2021 certified free cash. In addition, the Saugus Town meeting urges the Selectmen to call for a debt exclusion for an annual amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 dollars for future construction assessments for the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocation School.”.

Motion to Article 3 with amendment

Hand count vote at 8:09pm

Left Side: 24 Yes

Right Side: 18 Yes, 1 No vote from Rich Thompson Precinct 3

**Article 3 Passes on Majority Hand Count vote at 8:09pm**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 4 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:10pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for purchasing various equipment for town departments, including the payment costs incidental or related thereto; and to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 8:10am explaining that police cruisers we bring on annually, and our Engineer Department the vehicle frame is broken and has 100,000 miles on it. There are a few vehicles in the town that need to be replaced on an annual bases. These police cruisers go on the front lines. Please support this article for Public Safety.

Jean Bartolo, Precinct 6 speaks at 8:13pm asking the question to the Town Manager to explain the Engineer Department Vehicle.

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks explaining the vehicle.

**Article as Voted:** Voted to Recommend \$325,000.00 to be appropriated for the purchase of various equipment for Town Departments, including the payment of cost incidental ore related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c44 §7(1) or any other enabling authority; that the Town manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

**Article 4 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 8:14pm**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 5 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:15pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purchase of an aerial platform ladder truck for the Fire Department; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 8:15pm on the costs for a new Fire Trucks for Articles 5 & 6. Article 5 is the ladder truck which we have talked about the last few years. The ladder truck was down and out for a couple of months and we have been using a loaner. It’s going to take time to build and outfit/customize the truck. This is needed. The next article is the pumper truck we need in the next 4 years. These are much more expensive. Please vote in support of these articles for public safety needs. The ladder truck will be used as a back up in 2 years replaced with the new one.

Martin Costello Precinct 10 speaks at 8:20pm regarding the letter from Chief of Fire Michael Newbury, asking about having until the 15<sup>th</sup> of July to get this price for the equipment. Asks a

question to the Town Manager or the Fire Chief are we locked into this price or will it be increased down the road?

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree answers at 8:21pm the Town needs to order that the truck by the 15<sup>th</sup> to get that price. This is the base price but need to order the hoses and equipment.

Bill Brown, Precinct 6 speaks at 8:22pm asking how old the ladder and pumper trucks are and which pumper?

Town Manager will let the Chief answer.

Chief of Fire, Mike Newbury at 8:23pm states the ladder truck is 17 years old, you get 15 to 20 years for this type of apparatus. There is no trade in value for the Fire Truck after 20 years. There is 3 years of useful service left. Engine 2 is the pumper truck and it is 19 years old. Looking at 4 year plan to replace both these trucks. The price is locked in for delivery, it's a build spec and unique to each community. Once you sign the contract it is locked in until delivery.

**Article as Voted:** Voted to recommend \$2,100,000.00 to be appropriated for the purchase of an aerial platform ladder truck for the Fire Department in the Town, including payment of costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c44 §7(1) or any other enabling authority; that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the project.

**Article 5 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 8:25pm**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 6 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:27pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purchase of a pumper truck for the Fire Department; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

No Discussion on Article 6

**Article as Voted:** Voted to recommend \$950,000.00 to be appropriated for the purchase of a Pumper Truck for the Fire Department in the Town, including payment of costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c44 §7(1) or any other enabling authority; that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the project.

**Article 6 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 8:27pm**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 7 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:28pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for public safety radio infrastructure upgrades, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree at 8:28pm explaining this is more of an insurance to finish this project. Background information, Town Meeting appropriated money for the project. When this started project, the vendor price became different. He wants the vendor to use the correct equipment, so he hired a consultant to do this project soup to nuts without relying on the vendor.

This is in case Article for support and use what is needed. Please support this article, top 4 of the priorities of the town.

Martin Costello, Precinct 10 at 8:34pm asks about the areas being upgraded, are we footing the bill or are the private companies. Town Manager states we are footing the bill.

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree states the places that are listed are repeat accounts. Agreements of our properties and the upgrades needed.

**Article as Voted:** Voted to recommend \$500,000.00 to be appropriated for public safety radio infrastructure upgrades, including payment of costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c44 §7(1) or any other enabling authority; that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the project.

**Article 7 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 8:36pm**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 8 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:37pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding a grant match for the Green Communities Grant. (Town Manager)

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 8:38pm about the Green Community Grant Match concerning the grant money we were awarded. Trying to relocate some of these monies and they are getting more competitive. This is from free cash....had a lot of money over the years awarded for our green community. Please support the article.

**Article as Voted:** Voted to recommend the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$54,392.00 for the Green Communities Grant Match. The source of funding is the July 1, 2021 certified free cash.

**Article 8 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 8:40pm.**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 9 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:41pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of improving, remodeling and/or repairing Town owned buildings and facilities and purchasing equipment, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 8:41pm would not be looking at the money upfront but over the next 5 years. The Town has a Facility Engineer assessing the town buildings. This article is to prevent emergencies and problems in the future, very important for the town. Please support this article.

Chris Riley, Precinct 2 speaks at 8:44pm it is a lot of money, lot of maintenance and a lot of things on the useful life of the town buildings. Please support this article.

**Article as Voted:** Voted to recommend \$2,850,000.00 to be appropriated for the purpose of improving, remodeling and/or repairing Town owned building and facilities and purchasing equipment, including payment of costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow

said amount under G.L. c44 §§ 7 or 8, or any other enabling authority; and that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the projects.

**Article 9 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 8:45pm.**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 10 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:46pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the repair/replacement of the overhead doors at the Hamilton Street Fire Station. (Town Manager)

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 8:46pm and the Fire Chief spoke earlier on this article. The doors have been problematic and the Facilities Manager has shopped around for companies to repair and /or to replace with new door. We have some quotes on the new doors. Please support the article.

**Article as Voted:** Voted to recommend the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 for the repair/replacement of the overhead doors at the Hamilton Street Fire Station. The source of funding for this article is the July 1, 2021 certified free cash.

**Article 10 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 8:47pm.**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 11 for consideration:

Seconded at 8:48pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 11:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire title to the land and buildings located at 481-483 Lincoln Avenue Saugus, MA (Parcel Id Map E5 Block 17 Lot 3) for public parking and other municipal purposes under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40 section 14. (Town Manager)

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 8:49pm authorizing the Board of Selectmen to purchase the property for the town. With the changing of the economy their area is challenging with no parking. The Clifondale Committee chairmen spoke about this earlier. You will look at this in years coming knowing we could have purchased the property. Having more parking will help get future businesses. I saw an opportunity and able to put this together for the town meeting .

Jean Bartol, Precinct 6 speaks at 8:51pm asks why didn't we buy the brown pretty building? I hope you are not tearing it down

Town Manager answers at 8:52pm the other property is under agreement but not sold yet, but we are in good shape with the property we are looking at. First step is to acquire the property.

Bill Brown, Precinct 6 speaks at 8:53pm back in the late 70's earlier 80's his family owned property in Clifondale and this is the first time he has seen a positive step, tackle one problem at a time. He knows it's not popular when money is tight but this is a good idea. Please support the article.

Peter Rossetti Jr., Precinct 2 speaks at 8:55pm he supports this article especially with the public parking.

Jason Kahn, Precinct 8 asks about the price \$775,000.00 and how many parking spots.

Town Manager states \$775,000.00 is to acquire the property and then once we get it what to do with and close to 25 parking spots.

Chris Riley, Precinct 2 speaks at 8:59pm is in support of the article.

Michael Serino, Board of Selectmen speaks at 9:01pm on past properties the Town should have purchased. He is in support of this article.

Debra Panetta, Board of Selectmen, speaks 9:02pm in favor of this article.

Corinne Riley, Board of Selectmen speaks at 9:03pm thanking Joe Vecchione on all his hard work. She is a long time resident of the Cliftondale area where in the past it was hopping. She is in support of this article.

**Article as Voted:** Voted to recommend the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire title to the land and buildings located at 481-483 Lincoln Avenue (Parcel ID Map E5 Block 17 lot 3) for public parking and other municipal purposes under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40 section 14.

**Article 11 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 9:05pm.**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 12 for consideration:

Seconded at 9:11pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of acquiring one parcel of land, building(s), demolition, improvements thereon located at 481-483 Lincoln Avenue, Saugus, MA (Parcel Id Map E5 Block 17 Lot 3) including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

No Discussion

**Article as voted:** Voted to recommend \$775,000.00 to be appropriated for the purpose of acquiring a parcel of land and buildings thereon located at 481-483 Lincoln Avenue (Parcel ID Map E5 Block 17 Lot 13), including payment of costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c44 §7(1), or any other enabling authority; and that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the projects.

**Article 12 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 9:12pm.**

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Jaclyn Hickman, Precinct 5 moves Article 13 for consideration:

Seconded at 9:13pm

**Article as Written**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be transferred to the OPEB Trust (Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust). (Town Manager)

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 9:13pm go backwards and talk about the Vocational fund and this goes along way with the bond companies with the obligations we have and are facing. This is the best thing we can have on the Annual Report. This trust was supported in 2016 and in 5 years we have almost 1.4 million dollars in this account. In 2029, our retirement accounts, the idea is we have enough money to use this for retirement and not out of the operation funds. Please support this article.

**Article as Voted:** Voted to recommend the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 to the OPEB Trust (Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust). The source of Funding is the July 1, 2021 certified free cash.

**Article 13 passes with Unanimous voice vote Yes at 9:15pm.**

Motion to adjourn the Special Town Meeting

Seconded at 9:15pm

Unanimous voice vote to close the Special Town meeting sine die.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Joyce Schena  
Saugus Town Clerk