

Annual Town Meeting Minutes

1st Session

JUNE 29, 2020

Town Moderator Steve Doherty, called the Annual Town Meeting to order on June 29, 2020 at at 7:37pm
VIA ZOOM Meeting ID 862 2181 8291 Password 004929 with 47 + moderator is present. A quorum
was met.

NO Tellers

Pledge of Alliance 7:37pm

Roll Call at 7:38pm

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	Doherty, S.	4	P	Paloma, A.	1	P
Ayube, S.	7	P	Dunn, S.	1	P	Panico, A.	6	P
Bartolo, J.	6	P	Fowler, J.	8	P	Paolini, M.	7	P
Berube, K.	9	P	Goodwin, P.	5	P	Riley, C.	2	P
Brown, W.	6	P	Jones, C.	1	P	Ring, D.	10	P
Camuso Sr, R.	2	P	Kelly, D.	9	P	Rossetti Jr, P.	2	P
Cicolini, J.	8	P	Lavoie, R.	7	P	Scrivano, M.	6	P
Connors Jr, A.	3	P	Leuci, W.	4	P	Smith, R.	3	P
Costello, M.	10	P	Long, R.	9	P	Spencer, B.	5	P
Cottam, J.	9	P	Lopresti, A.	8	P	Stewart, W.	3	A
Cross III, W.	8	P	Manoogian Sr, P.	10	P	Thompson, R.	3	P
Currie, K.	6	P	McCarthy, S.	7	P	Traverse, T.	8	P
Davis, G.	4	P	Migliore, M.	5	P	Vecchione IV, J.	2	P
Delios, P.	10	A	Mitchell, J.	5	P	Wallace, R.	5	P
Devlin, F.	1	P	Moore, W.	2	P	Whitcomb, M.	4	P
DiNardo, A.	4	P	Nickolas, G.	3	P	Worthley, J.	9	P
Divirgilio, S.	10	P	Palleschi, R.	7	P	Total Present=		48
Town Meeting:			2020 Annual Town Meeting			Absent count=		2
		Date: 6/29/2020						

Making the Motion this Evening: Al DiNardo Precinct 4


Town Moderator mentions accepting the minutes from the last meeting. Explains why it was decided to
go forward as a ZOOM Meeting. Instructions on how the meeting will be conducted.

Ken Depatto Chairman Finance Committee speaks at 7:58 pm on the articles for tonight’s meeting. The
town level funded all the departments. Decreased the local aid 25% and the local receipts 10%. Sound
financial recommendations.

No other committees.

Roll Call vote to move forward as a ZOOM meeting at 7:57pm

Vote to Continue						2020 Annual Town Meeting		
	Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote
Arone, A.	1	Y	Doherty, S.	4	Y	Paloma, A.	1	Y
Ayube, S.	7	Y	Dunn, S.	1	Y	Panico, A.	6	Y
Bartolo, J.	6	Y	Fowler, J.	8	A	Paolini, M.	7	Y
Berube, K.	9	Y	Goodwin, P.	5	Y	Riley, C.	2	Y
Brown, W.	6	Y	Jones, C.	1	Y	Ring, D.	10	Y
Camuso Sr, R.	2	Y	Kelly, D.	9	Y	Rossetti Jr, P.	2	Y
Cicolini, J.	8	Y	Lavoie, R.	7	Y	Scrivano, M.	6	Y
Connors Jr, A.	3	Y	Leuci, W.	4	Y	Smith, R.	3	Y
Costello, M.	10	Y	Long, R.	9	Y	Spencer, B.	5	Y
Cottam, J.	9	Y	Lopresti, A.	8	Y	Stewart, W.	3	A
Cross III, W.	8	Y	Manoogian Sr, P.	10	Y	Thompson, R.	3	Y
Currie, K.	6	A	McCarthy, S.	7	Y	Traverse, T.	8	Y
Davis, G.	4	Y	Migliore, M.	5	Y	Vecchione IV, J.	2	Y
Delios, P.	10	A	Mitchell, J.	5	Y	Wallace, R.	5	Y
Devlin, F.	1	Y	Moore, W.	2	Y	Whitcomb, M.	4	Y
DiNardo, A.	4	Y	Nickolas, G.	3	Y	Worthley, J.	9	Y
Divirgilio, S.	10	Y	Palleschi, R.	7	Y			



Yea=	46
Nay=	0
Abst=	4

Vote passes unanimously by Roll Call at 8:00pm

As a courtesy, Mr. DiNardo Precinct 4 moves Article 2 to the floor for consideration as recommended.

Seconded at 8:01.p.m.

Article as written:

Article 2. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2021. (Town Manager)

Bob Palleschi Precinct 7 states the Stabilization fund needs to have the 2/3 vote and needs to be separate. Town Council agrees with Bob on his recommendation.

Town Manager speaks at 8:05pm about the revenues’ going into it FY 2021. No data on going forward. He with Wendy have spoken to different towns and the State on what to do on this fiscal budget. Very difficult to predict. The purpose is to use the Stabilization fund, but need to replenish the monies. Without the Stabilization fund there will be cuts on the school and town side. The cost of Covid 19 that may come up. A lot of unknowns. AA+ Bond rating crucial. Have concerns like every other community. Trying to be conservative on the finances, while still trying to make the necessary repairs. Collectibles are uncertain. Please support the Article.

Wendy Hatch Treasury Director speaks at 8:15pm reiterates what the Town Manager was saying. Had to look at a few different scenarios, developing the budget in decrease in local aid and decrease in local receipts. Large commercial on RT 1 needs an abatement property values and this will probably happen with other commercial properties. Speaking with the State notice from the Dept of Revenue on local aid because they don’t know what the Legislation will vote and recommendation 25% reduction. Trying to have little effect on the bottom line in 2020 and 2021. There are fixed Costs that needs to be paid and insurances that cost is out of our control and must be paid. Trying to be proactive as possible and not over extend the town.

Town Manager speaks at 8:23pm on the timing issues that the town is struggling with. Grant reimbursements may be delayed. Hoping the Stabilization number will not need as much and this is only temporary. Stabilization is temporary. Other communities are pink slipping people. Reiterates we need to maintain bond rating

Bob Palleschi Precinct 7 speaks at 8:25pm wants to commend the Manager and his team.

Peter Manoogain Precinct 10 speaks at 8:26pm about the Budget being increased. Water and Sewer budget being 10.8% and 13% increases. School Department increased. There were water and sewer raises. Did Finance Committee think of that?

Ken DePatto Finance Committee Chairman speaks at 8:28pm that the municipal side goes up more than the school side because the fixed expenses goes up.

Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 speaks at 8:29pm about the fixed costs and increase the municipal side 5.7% and the Water and Sewer and fairness of it.

Ken DePatto Finance Committee Chairman speaks at 8:30pm would like to have the fixed costs to stay constant year to year but this doesn't happen. Expenses go up. Projects drive expense.

Chris Riley Precinct 2 speaks at 8:31pm asks the Town Manager he didn't see in the budget costs associated with the Covid 19. Is there any money coming back from the Cares Act?

Town Manager speaks at 8:32pm on answering the question regarding the Cares Act money or FEMA money. This could change when the State lets the towns know. It could alleviate budget issues. Schools have already applied for Covid relief. Different dates to apply for the monies. Difficult to predict a dollar amount.

Chris Riley asks about the Fall.

Town Managers answers at 8:35 about the upcoming fall. We are keeping track of responses and consequences to see if there is relief. Not knowing the numbers puts us in insecure territories.

Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 asks Wendy Hatch at 8:40pm in looking at the Source and use document provided about the charges are the same but on the revenue side it is not the same. But you are provided a cut in local aid in 1,184,593.00?

Wendy Hatch answers at 8:41pm that the Town is trying to be conservative as possible and we don't know what the State is actually going to do. Put together the worst case scenario.

Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 asks Wendy at 8:43pm on Article 3 where is the remaining \$2MM?

Wendy Hatch answers at 8:43pm about discussion with the Auditors on using free cash. Use as little as free cash as possible to help mitigate negative outcomes and year end. Help maintain the Bond Rating. We are already seeing a reduction in excise, licensing, and permits.

Ryan Fisher Vice Chair School Committee speaks at 8:46pm on the School Dept fixed costs is projecting over \$1m this year absorbing from last year in to the budget

Town Moderator goes through the Budget at 8:47pm

Holds:

Darren Ring Precinct 10 asks Town Manager at 8:56pm on the maintenance equipment on Emergency Management. There are no people in Emergency Management so why is there money there. Doesn't understand the numbers.

Town Manager answers at 8:57pm Emergency Management has been absorbed by the Fire Department. There are still equipment still being used.

Darren Ring Precinct 10 continues to ask where this money can be absorbed someplace else.

Town Manager states the Fire Chief texted him and they can talk off line on these monies.

Mike Newbury Saugus Fire Chief speaks at 9:01pm spending on past years has been using the EPG Grant Consolidated a bunch of different line items into one line item. Utilize the grant system for many areas including equipment.

Joe Vecchione Precinct 2 on Planning and Development t at 9:03pm about the a new Director being hired.

Town Manager answer at 9:04pm that he correct.

Joe Vecchione Precinct 2 on the Plumbing and Electrical Inspectors the new salary increases at 9:05pm

Town Manager speaks at 9:05pm informs that the plumbing and electrical inspectors have moved to other communities because of the increase in salary. We needed to make it comparable to bring people onboard.

Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 speaks at 9:06pm that this is not a level funded budget. Asks about the vocation school budget, did the amount the vocation school go down to this amount or did the finance committee make the recommendation.

Peter Rossetti Precinct 2 answers that the budget is down because the students decreased this year by 13. It could go lower because it is funded at the 2020. It could be the Essex School also included in this number.

Chris Riley Precinct 2 speaks at 9:10pm on the Health Department. Asks the Town Manager is there sufficient coverage there working? Need more people working at Town Hall.

Town Manager answers at 9:12pm about bringing in additional nursing staff and consulting staff through the temporary Care Act. Looking to try and restructure that department.

Chris Riley Precinct 2 speaks on Employee Benefits at 9:14pm wants to shine a light on this high number. Need to address this.

Town Manager answers at 9:14pm and some of that money includes Pensions.

Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 speaks at 9:15pm about the ongoing issue with the Noise from the Wheelabrator. Does the Health Department have the ability to buy the Noise/Sound system.

Town Manager answers at 9:16pm looking to do something proactively.

Glen Davis Precinct 4 speaks at 9:16pm on Building Maintenance costs? Where are numbers coming from?

Town Manager speaks at 9:17pm on allocations that are place holders and what the actual expenses are. Never enough money in building maintenance.

Martin Costello Precinct 10 speaks at 9:19pm on Elections and Registration funds for mailing voting aspects.

Ellen Schena Town Clerk answers on what the State provides us for Elections.

Town Manager answers on early voting at 9:22pm saying Cares Act monies will help. Being very diligent with changes for elections.

Robert Palleschi Precinct 7 speaks at 9:23pm sidewalk and brook cleaning list.

Town Manager answers at 9:23pm sidewalks and brook cleaning already going on. Will get it.

Tom Whittredge School Committee Chairman speaks at 9:23pm on the School Budget on the increase on the fixed cost. MCAS and School ranking are low by paid experts. Laid out a budget to get back on track with shaved money off the budget. Full day kindergarten not known. Need extra bodies. Time to invest in the schools. Need Chromebooks, ELL materials.

Chris Riley Precinct 2 speaks at 9:28pm agrees with Mr. Whittredge is saying but where is the money coming from make a suggestion to hold on positions.

Dennis Gould School Committee Member speaks at 9:31pm on the increase the Stabilization Fund 3,608,837 with the increase going to the schools.

Town Manager thinks it is a challenge stating other departments want the extra money. Where does that money come from in the next years. School Budget is very complicated.

Steve Diviriglio Precinct 10 speaks at 9:36pm that the reality is that there is a drop in receipts and next year as well. Might not get any of the grants. Shouldn't be messing with the stabilization. We are lucky to have the \$9m to weather the storm. The residents are going to higher taxes and higher water and sewer rates. Increased stabilization is a bad idea.

Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 speaks at 9:39pm about the cuts in the Town. What we are seeing tonight is unfavorable.

Substitute Motion from Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 to increase by \$300,000 go to the schools and increase the Stabilization to \$2,736,951 at 9:42pm.

Robert Long Precinct 9 at 9:43pm about it being a separate article.

Town Moderator on the 2 different articles as adjusted.

Robert Palleschi Precinct 7 speaks at 9:45pm shouldn't be used for operating expenses but for emergency expenses. Cannot treat it an operating fund.

John Vasapolli Town Council speaks at 9:46pm agreeing with procedures on the motion for the Stabilization fund.

Jeff Cicolini speaks at 9:47pm BOS totally agree with Mr. Palleschi on using the Stabilization Fund to use as operating fund. He is concerned about the long term ramifications because that number is not sustainable. Caution everything we take out of the Stabilization needs to be replaced. Strong bond rating is saving us millions in financing.

Steve Divirglio Precinct 10 speaks at 9:51pm agrees with Mr. Cicolini.

Chris Riley speaks at 9:51 agrees with Peter Manoogian with the \$300,000. Not in favor of town manager picking and choosing. Stop hiring new positions. Scott can figure out who doesn't get hired.

Town Manager speaks at 9:53pm he puts a budget together to fund those positions. The schools put their budget together. Getting chastised for not having jobs filled. He doesn't want to turn this into a School Budget verse the Town Budget. Extremely careful on how to spend the money.

Town Moderator to adjust Article 2 Schools to \$29,875,250.00 with an increase from the Stabilization Fund \$2,736,951.00.

Seconded by Darren Ring Precinct 10 at 9:57pm.

Peter Manoogian Precinct 10 speaks at 9:58pm addresses that the Finance Committee opened the door. Finance Committee recommended stabilization to level fund. Bleeding the students.

Steve Divirgilio Precinct 10 speaks at 10:01pm wants to clarify that he was against the Stabilization fund as a Finance Committee Member.

Jeff Cicolini Board of Selectmen speaks at 10:01pm that the largest portion of the increase is the pension and healthcare which is the School Budget; it's all town employees. This is past teachers as well. Health insurance has gone up \$1.5 million. 60% representative of schools.

Town Manager speaks at 10:04pm this Zoom Meeting is an open debate. Commends everyone.

Bob Palleschi Precinct 7 speaks at 10:05pm that we should hear from the Superintendent.

Dennis Gould School Committee Member speaks at 10:05pm about the Stabilization Fund usage. He would put the Town against the schools.

David DeRuosi Superintendent speaks at 10:06pm the school district has made different effectives and made process. He agrees with the Town Manager. How do we make the numbers work when you don't know what the numbers will be, 3 different reopening plans possible due to Covid 19. They will do the best with numbers.

Article 2	Stabilization Fund Amendment					2020 Annual Town Meeting		
	Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote
Arone, A.	1	N	Doherty, S.	4		Paloma, A.	1	Y
Ayube, S.	7	Y	Dunn, S.	1	N	Panico, A.	6	Y
Bartolo, J.	6	Y	Fowler, J.	8	A	Paolini, M.	7	N
Berube, K.	9	N	Goodwin, P.	5	N	Riley, C.	2	N
Brown, W.	6	Y	Jones, C.	1	Y	Ring, D.	10	Y
Camuso Sr, R.	2	Y	Kelly, D.	9	N	Rossetti Jr, P.	2	N
Cicolini, J.	8	N	Lavoie, R.	7	Y	Scrivano, M.	6	Y
Connors Jr, A.	3	N	Leuci, W.	4	Y	Smith, R.	3	N
Costello, M.	10	Y	Long, R.	9	N	Spencer, B.	5	Y
Cottam, J.	9	N	Lopresti, A.	8	N	Stewart, W.	3	A
Cross III, W.	8	N	Manoogian Sr, P.	10	Y	Thompson, R.	3	N
Currie, K.	6	A	McCarthy, S.	7	N	Traverse, T.	8	N
Davis, G.	4	Y	Migliore, M.	5	N	Vecchione IV, J.	2	Y
Delios, P.	10	A	Mitchell, J.	5	N	Wallace, R.	5	Y
Devlin, F.	1	N	Moore, W.	2	Y	Whitcomb, M.	4	N
DiNardo, A.	4	N	Nickolas, G.	3	N	Worthley, J.	9	N
Divirgilio, S.	10	N	Palleschi, R.	7	N			

Date: 6/30/2020

2020 Annual Town Meeting

Yea= 18

Nay= 27

Abst= 4

Stabilization Fund Amendment by Roll Call fails my majority vote No at 10:09pm.

Article as voted: Voted to recommend the sum of \$93,448,989.00 for Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2021 as follows:

Municipal Department Operating Budgets	\$63,873,739.00
School Department Operating Budget	\$29,575,250.00
Total	\$93,448,989.00

Source of funding to be provided from the tax levy, local aid, estimated receipts and an amount not to exceed \$2,436,951.00 from the Stabilization Fund of the General Fund.

Town Moderator states that the first roll call vote will be to move money from the Stabilization Fund. Second roll call vote will to vote on the article as written and recommended.

Article 2	Stabilization Fund					2020 Annual Town Meeting		
	Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote
Arone, A.	1	Y	Doherty, S.	4		Paloma, A.	1	Y
Ayube, S.	7	Y	Dunn, S.	1	Y	Panico, A.	6	Y
Bartolo, J.	6	Y	Fowler, J.	8	A	Paolini, M.	7	Y
Berube, K.	9	Y	Goodwin, P.	5	Y	Riley, C.	2	Y
Brown, W.	6	Y	Jones, C.	1	Y	Ring, D.	10	Y
Camuso Sr, R.	2	Y	Kelly, D.	9	Y	Rossetti Jr, P.	2	Y
Cicolini, J.	8	Y	Lavoie, R.	7	Y	Scrivano, M.	6	Y
Connors Jr, A.	3	Y	Leuci, W.	4	Y	Smith, R.	3	Y
Costello, M.	10	Y	Long, R.	9	Y	Spencer, B.	5	Y
Cottam, J.	9	Y	Lopresti, A.	8	Y	Stewart, W.	3	A
Cross III, W.	8	Y	Manoogian Sr, P.	10	Y	Thompson, R.	3	Y
Currie, K.	6	A	McCarthy, S.	7	Y	Traverse, T.	8	Y
Davis, G.	4	Y	Migliore, M.	5	Y	Vecchione IV, J.	2	Y
Delios, P.	10	A	Mitchell, J.	5	Y	Wallace, R.	5	Y
Devlin, F.	1	Y	Moore, W.	2	Y	Whitcomb, M.	4	Y
DiNardo, A.	4	Y	Nickolas, G.	3	Y	Worthley, J.	9	Y
Divirgilio, S.	10	ABSTAIN	Palleschi, R.	7	Y			

Date: 6/30/2020

2020 Annual Town Meeting

Yea= 44

Nay= 0

Abst= 4

Stabilization Fund vote passes by Roll Call unanimous vote at 10:19pm

Breakdown of the Town's Operating Budget

<u>Department</u>	<u>Sum of Money</u>
Town Moderator	\$ 1.00
Board of Selctmen	\$ 59,561.00
Town Manager	\$ 765,106.00
Finance Committee	\$ 105,000.00
Accounting	\$ 659,142.00
Assessors	\$ 431,734.00
Treasurer/Collector	\$ 437,330.00
Legal Counsel	\$ 401,939.00
Human Resources	\$ 213,539.00
Information Technologies	\$ 337,500.00
Town Clerk	\$ 154,668.00
Election & Registration	\$ 158,583.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 54,311.00
Planning Board	\$ 44,013.00
Board of Appels	\$ 31,521.00
Department of Planning & Economic Development	\$ 240,208.00
Public Safety - Police Department	\$ 7,999,249.00
Public Safety - Fire Department	\$ 5,556,949.00
Code Enforcement - Building Inspections	\$ 182,167.00
Code Enforcement - Building Gas & Plumbing	\$ 78,015.00
Code Enforcement - Sealer of Weights & Measures	\$ 13,942.00
Code Enforcement - Electrical Inspections	\$ 78,870.00
Public Safety - Emergency Management	\$ 25,000.00
Public Safety - Animal Control	\$ 61,492.00
Harbormaster	\$ -
Public Safety - Dispatchers	\$ 828,095.00
Vocational Education Regional Schools Assessments	\$ 3,566,295.00
Department of Public Works	\$ 5,400,156.00
Engineering Department	\$ 112,401.00
Building Maintenance & Grounds	\$ 1,442,421.00
Health Department	\$ 247,546.00
Council on Aging	\$ 259,871.00
Veteran Services	\$ 384,390.00
Handicap Commission	\$ 950.00
Fair Housing Commission	\$ 300.00
Library	\$ 718,590.00
Youth & Recreation	\$ 143,686.00
Lobsterman's Landing	\$ 17,082.00
Celebrations	\$ 2,000.00
Debt Services Principal	\$ 3,171,000.00
Debt Services Interest LTD	\$ 5,237,207.00
Debt Services Interest STD	\$ 35,000.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 23,346,628.00
Other Insurance	\$ 870,281.00
Total	\$ 63,873,739.00

Article 2		BUDGET				2020 Annual Town Meeting		
	Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote		Pct	Vote
Arone, A.	1	Y	Doherty, S.	4		Paloma, A.	1	Y
Ayube, S.	7	Y	Dunn, S.	1	Y	Panico, A.	6	Y
Bartolo, J.	6	Y	Fowler, J.	8	A	Paolini, M.	7	Y
Berube, K.	9	Y	Goodwin, P.	5	Y	Riley, C.	2	Y
Brown, W.	6	Y	Jones, C.	1	Y	Ring, D.	10	Y
Camuso Sr, R.	2	Y	Kelly, D.	9	Y	Rossetti Jr, P.	2	Y
Cicolini, J.	8	Y	Lavoie, R.	7	Y	Scrivano, M.	6	Y
Connors Jr, A.	3	Y	Leuci, W.	4	Y	Smith, R.	3	Y
Costello, M.	10	Y	Long, R.	9	Y	Spencer, B.	5	Y
Cottam, J.	9	Y	Lopresti, A.	8	Y	Stewart, W.	3	A
Cross III, W.	8	Y	Manoogian Sr, P.	10	N	Thompson, R.	3	Y
Currie, K.	6	A	McCarthy, S.	7	Y	Traverse, T.	8	Y
Davis, G.	4	Y	Migliore, M.	5	Y	Vecchione IV, J.	2	Y
Delios, P.	10	A	Mitchell, J.	5	Y	Wallace, R.	5	Y
Devlin, F.	1	Y	Moore, W.	2	Y	Whitcomb, M.	4	Y
DiNardo, A.	4	Y	Nickolas, G.	3	ABSTAIN	Worthley, J.	9	Y
Divirgilio, S.	10	N	Palleschi, R.	7	Y			

Date: 6/30/2020

2020 Annual Town Meeting

Yea= 42

Nay= 2

Abst= 4

Articles 2 passes by Roll Call majority vote at 10:20pm

Discussion to continue on with the next few Articles or adjourn until tomorrow night via ZOOM.

Bob Long makes the motion to adjourn at 10:35pm.

Adjournment to tomorrow night June 30, 2020 at 7:00pm