

Town of Rowley, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Special Town Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2018

Tellers/Counters were appointed and Sworn in by Town

Clerk:

Elizabeth Cullen, 283 Wethersfield St., David Masher, 74 Wethersfield St.,
Maryann Levasseur, 6 Leslie Rd., and Janet Peabody, 41 Bradford St.

Quorum (100) was declared at 7:20 and Moderator Joan Petersen opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Petersen spoke about the need for this Special Town Meeting as the state required a balanced budget as of July 1st and with the failure of the Override question at the Town Election, we needed to re-address the Omnibus Budget passed at the Annual Town Meeting to cover the Triton assessment. She confirmed that all audience members had a copy of the warrant, explained how to ask a question (up front, at the mic, w/ name and address) and that she was going to enforce the three (3) minutes rule, furthermore, she would stop people if the question had already been addressed or was off topic.

Town Clerk began the reading of the Warrant:

Town of Rowley, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
June 18, 2018

Essex, ss.

To the Constables in the Town of Rowley in the County of Essex, Greetings:
In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Rowley, qualified to vote in elections and Town Affairs, to meet in the Pine Grove School, 191 Main Street, Route 1A, on Monday, the 18th day of June 2018 at 7:00 p.m., then and there to act on the following articles:

MOTION: Madame Moderator, I move to suspend further reading of the June 18, 2018 Special Town Meeting Warrant because present Town Meeting members have a copy of this warrant.
Motion by Joe Perry, seconded by Cliff Pierce, passed voice unanimous at 7:25pm

ARTICLE 1. Move the Town vote to suspend in the Town Meeting the application of Section 19 and Section 20 of the Town Meeting Bylaw pertaining to the reconsideration of all money articles, such suspension intended for the specific purpose to balance the total level of funds raised and appropriated within the limitations of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 Section 21C [Proposition 2-1/2, so-called] and to give blanket warning hereby that any money article may, at the end of the meeting and after all articles have been acted upon, be moved for reconsideration in order to balance the total level of funds raised and appropriated within the limitations of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 Section 21C.

Inserted by the Board of Selectmen

Motion by Bob Snow, seconded by Bob Merry, passed voice unanimous at 7:27pm

ARTICLE 2. Move the Town vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget by amending the following budget lines:

Line		Revised Budget Lines to be Amended
Item	Description	FY 2019
65	Police Department Wages	1,389,937
71	Firefighter Wages	243,280
86	Tree Department Expenses	15,000
99	Triton Regional Assessment	10,137,192
105	Snow & Ice Removal Expenses	175,000
107	Recycling Expenses	19,000

and to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$139,809 from Free Cash and to raise and appropriate \$75,000 for a total amendment of \$214,809 and for a grand total FY 19 Omnibus Budget of \$18,785,110 to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2019.

Inserted by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee Recommendation from the Floor – Recommends/Larry White

Explanatory Note: *The initial assessment to the Town for Triton’s FY19 budget was \$10,255,513, which was a \$732,640 increase over the FY18 assessment. The Town ‘s FY19 Operating Budget, as approved during the April 30, 2018 Annual Town Meeting, reflects a \$200,000 increase to the Triton Assessment. The Proposition 2 ½ Override Question on the May 8, 2018 Town Election Ballot to fund the remaining assessment amount of \$532,640 failed as follows: NO 722; YES 468. The Triton Regional School Committee voted on a revised FY 19 budget on May 16, 2018 and set the Town’s FY assessment as \$10, 137,192 for a total increased assessment of %514,319. The adjustment in Town budget line, appropriations, and savings to fund the additional \$314,319 for Triton’s Assessment is shown below:*

AMENDMENT FOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
TRITON ASSESSMENT		
<i>Police Dept. Wages</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>Defer Sergeant promotion until the Fall</i>
<i>Fire Dept. Wages</i>	<i>\$85,000</i>	<i>Defer hiring 2 full-time firefighters until March</i>
<i>Tree Dept. Expense</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>Reduce Tree Department Budget</i>
<i>Snow and Ice Removal Exp.</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>Reduce Snow and Ice Removal Budget</i>
<i>OPEB</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>Take out \$25,000 that was added to the OPEB Trust at the Annual Town Meeting (See Article 3 and 4 below)</i>

<i>Stabilization</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>Take out \$50,000 that was added to Stabilization at Annual Town Meeting (See Article 5 below)</i>
<i>FY19 Town Reductions to Fund Triton Revised Assessment</i>	<i>\$185,000</i>	<i>This line and the line below fund the Additional Revised Triton Assessment.</i>
<i>Free Cash Contributions to Fund Triton Revised Assessment</i>	<i>\$129,319</i>	
<i>Triton Revised Assessment Increase</i>	<i>\$314,319</i>	

Article 2 also funds a \$10,490 increase to the FY19 Recycling Budget. The Board of Selectmen was recently informed by the Town's recycling vendor that the disposal costs for recycling are increasing due to changes in the global recycling market. Also, two of the Town's recycling containers have deteriorated and can no longer be used, resulting in additional rental costs.

<i>AMENDMENT FOR</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
<i>RECYCLING BUDGET</i>		
<i>Additional Free Cash Contribution</i>	<i>\$10,490</i>	<i>FY19 Recycling Expense Budget was approved for \$8,510</i>
<i>Additional Recycling Expense</i>	<i>\$10,490</i>	<i>Recycling costs are increasing due to global recycling market issues.</i>
<i>Total Recycling Expense</i>	<i>\$19,000</i>	
<i>TOTAL FREE CASH APPROPRIATED</i>		
<i>Total Free Cash Contribution</i>	<i>\$139,809</i>	<i>the Total amount of additional Free Cash used for Article 2.</i>

Motion by David Petersen, seconded by Bob Merry, passed by Paper Ballot Vote (88 YES to 19 NO) at 8:19pm

ARTICLE 3. Move the Town vote to rescind the vote on Article 23 of the April 30, 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

Inserted by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee Recommendation from the Floor – Finance Committee Recommends

Explanatory Note: Article 23 of the April 30, 2018 town Meeting Warrant reads as follows:

“Article 23 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (Retiree Health Insurance) or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Board of Selectmen”

The Board of Selectmen is replacing this article with Article 4 as shown below.

Motion by Cliff Pierce, seconded by Joe Perry, passed Voice Unanimous at 8:20pm.

ARTICLE 4. Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (Retiree Health Insurance).

Inserted by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee Recommendation from the Floor – Finance Committee Recommends

Explanatory Note: *The Board of Selectmen is reducing the amount of the FY19 OPEB appropriation by \$25,000 in order to partially fund the FY 19 Triton Assessment Increase. Passage of this article allows the Board of Selectmen to continue with its plan of funding the OPEB Trust Fund, which will offset the future healthcare costs of retired employees. The Town’s financial advisors and auditors recommend the Town pay into this Trust Fund each year. An actuarial study recommends that the FY19 appropriation be \$678,382. The net liability of the Town as of June 2017 is \$8,577,789. This appropriation excludes the Water Department and Rowley Municipal Light Plants portions of their retiree health insurance contributions, which are funded through separate accounts.*

Motion by Cliff Pierce, seconded by Joe Perry, passed voice unanimous at 8:21pm.

ARTICLE 5. Move the Town vote to rescind the vote on Article 24 of the April 30, 2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Inserted by the Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee Recommendation from the Floor – Finance Committee Recommends

Explanatory Note: *Article 24 of the April 30, 2018 Town Meeting Warrant reads as follows:*

“Article 24 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Board of Selectmen”

While the Board of Selectmen feels it is essential to annually contribute to the Town’s Stabilization or ‘rainy-day’ savings account each year, this contribution is being rescinded in order to partially fund the FY 19 Triton assessment increase. The balance of the Stabilization account is \$1,092,090. The purpose of Stabilization Account is to provide a source of funds for the Town to use if faced with a catastrophic situation.

Motion by Joe Perry, seconded by Cliff Pierce, passed voice unanimous at 8:23pm.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to Adjourn the June 18, 2018 Special Town Meeting.

Motion by Bob Merry, seconded by David Petersen, passed voice unanimous at 8:24 pm.

And you are hereby instructed to serve this warrant by posting copies in at least seven public places in town not less than 14 days before the day fixed for such meeting, as directed by the laws of the Town and to make due return of the Warrant to the Town Clerk at least two days before said meeting. Given under our hands this 31st day of May in the year two thousand eighteen.

Clifford Pierce, Chairman

*Joseph Perry, Vice Chair
Robert Snow, Clerk
David C. Petersen
G. Robert Merry*

I have served this Warrant by posting in at least seven public places in the Town not less than fourteen days before the day fixed for such meeting and have made the return of the Warrant to the Town Clerk at least two days before the time of said meeting.

Notices posted at Town Hall, Rowley Pharmacy, Inc. Public Library, Knowles Filling Station, Market Basket, Town Hall Annex, The First Ipswich Bank, formerly known as First National Bank of Ipswich – Rowley Office.

Richard C. MacDonald, Constable of Rowley

June 1, 2018

Certification: I, Susan G. Hazen, duly elected and qualified Town Clerk for the Town of Rowley do hereby certify that the statements contained above with regard to the Town of Rowley June 18, 2018 Special Town Meeting are true and accurate according to documents maintained by this office.

***Susan G. Hazen, Town Clerk
Town of Rowley
June 19, 2018***