

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Dolores Harasyko  
P.O. Box 163  
Sandisfield, MA 01255

RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 13, 2006

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.. There were 71 registered voters present along with Town Council Jerome Scully. Moderator Barbara Cormier opened the meeting by thanking the American Legion for replacing the flag at the Town Hall and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Article 1. The Town voted by majority to accept the reports of the Town Officers.
- Article 2. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Moderator \$400: \$150 for Salaries and \$250 for Expenses.
- Article 3. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$200 for Administrative Costs for a Grant Writer.
- Article 4. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the General Government \$28,446: \$22,046 for Salaries and \$6,400 for Expenses.
- Article 5. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$12,057 for the Board of Selectmen's Secretary Salary.
- Article 6. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$400 for Finance Committee Expenses.
- Article 7. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Board of Assessors \$30,395: \$21,750 for Salaries and \$8,645 for Expenses.
- Article 8. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue Mandated Triennial Recertification Expenses.
- Article 9. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600 to re-link the Assessors' database with the Town's digital tax map, current color orthophotos, topo maps and various MA GIS databases (includes wet lands and Title V overlays). The resulting information is used by the Assessors, Board of Health, Planning Board and the Conservation Commission.
- Article 10. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate for the Treasurer's Office \$19,010: \$13,855 for Salaries and \$5,155 for Expenses.
- Article 11. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Treasurer Tax Lien Expense.
- Article 12. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Tax Collector \$12,700: \$5,000 for Salaries and \$7,700 for Expenses.
- Article 13. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for Computer Technical Support for Town office computers.
- Article 14. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Town Clerk \$18,748: \$12,062 for Salaries and \$6,686 for Expenses.

- Article 15. The Town voted by majority to amend Article 15 to read: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town Clerk Archive Project \$5,000 or any other sum for Expenses.
- Article 15.  
Amended. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate for the Town Clerk Archive Project \$5,000 for Expenses.
- Article 16. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Conservation Commission \$2,700: \$1,500 for Salaries and \$1,200 for Expenses.
- Article 17. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$1.00 for Conservation Consultation Fees.
- Article 18. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Planning Board \$600: \$200 for Salaries and \$400 for Expenses.
- Article 19. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Zoning Board \$350: \$100 for Salaries and \$250 for Expenses.
- Article 20. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for Highways & Bridges Maintenance \$143,540: \$98,540 for Salaries and \$45,000 for Expenses and Equipment.
- Article 21. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate for Snow and Ice Removal \$180,111: \$90,111 for Salaries and \$90,000 for Expenses and Equipment.
- Article 22. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate for Machinery Maintenance \$50,134: \$5,982 for Salaries and \$44,152 for Expenses and Equipment.
- Article 23. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Tree Account \$2,000 for Expenses.
- Article 24. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate for Yanner Park \$5,000: \$1,000 for Salaries and \$4,000 for Expenses.
- Article 25. The Town voted unanimously to accept any monies for Chapter 90 that have been approved by the Mass Highway Dept. for projects approved by the Mass Highway Dept.
- Article 26. The Town failed by majority to amend Article 26 to read: To see if the Town will vote zero dollars.
- Article 26.  
Amended. The Town voted by 2/3 (42 in favor, 11 against) to appropriate \$143,000 for a 4-Wheel Drive Truck with four seasons body, approximately 41,000 GVW, and to meet that appropriation transfer \$143,000 from the Stabilization Account.
- Article 27. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate \$834,905 for School Operations.
- Article 28. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the School Committee \$1,300 for Salaries.
- Article 29. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$57,749.90 for Dept Service on the School Building Bonds.
- Article 30. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$600 for the Farmington River Regional School P.T.O. Ski Program at Otis Ridge.

- Article 31. The Town voted unanimously to appropriate for the Library Account \$10,202: \$8,102 for Salaries and \$2,100 for Expenses, and to meet that appropriation raise \$7,100, transfer \$1,176.84 from the revolving Dog Licensing Fees, transfer \$1,688.82 from State Aid to Libraries, transfer \$215.18 from Municipal Equalization Grant to Libraries, and transfer \$21.16 from Non-Resident Grant to Libraries.
- Article 32. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$2,986 for the Veteran's Service District.
- Article 33. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$1.00 for Veteran's Death Benefits.
- Article 34. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$8,558 for the Custodian of Town Buildings Salary.
- Article 35. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for Mowing and Maintenance of town properties and Cemeteries \$7,803: \$5,253 for Salaries and \$2,550 for Expenses and Equipment.
- Article 36. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate for the Protection of Persons and Property \$40,730: \$26,540 for Salaries and \$14,190 for Expenses.
- Article 37. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Berkshire County Sheriffs' Communication Center \$6,782 for Expenses.
- Article 38. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Fire Department and Ambulance Maintenance \$33,114: \$6,786 for Salaries and \$26,328 for Expenses.
- Article 39. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$530 for Forest Fire Salaries.
- Article 40. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$14,299 for New Equipment for Fire Department and Ambulance Expenses.
- Article 41. The Town voted to raise and appropriate for Training of Fire Department and Ambulance Members \$3,256 for Expenses.
- Article 42. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for Fire House Rental Expenses (Route 8).
- Article 43. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$3,000 for Fire House Rental Expenses (Route 57).
- Article 44. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for Ambulance Billing Fee Expenses.
- Article 45. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for ALSS Paramedic Intercept Expenses.
- Article 46. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate \$2,750 for Street Light Expenses.
- Article 47. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$1.00 for the Building Inspector.
- Article 48. The Town voted unanimously to amend Article 48 to read: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1.00 or any other sum for the Plumbing Inspector Expenses.

- Article 48. Amended. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$1.00 for the Plumbing Inspector Expenses.
- Article 49. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for Emergency Management \$900 for Expenses.
- Article 50. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Inspector of Animals \$500 for Salaries.
- Article 51. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Dog Officer \$2,000: \$800 for Salaries and \$1,200 for Expenses.
- Article 52. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate for Solid Waste Disposal \$65,000 for Expenses.
- Article 53. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Board of Health \$2,800: \$800 for Salaries and \$2,000 for Expenses.
- Article 54. The Town failed by majority to raise and appropriate the sums of money, or any other sums, as may be necessary to pay the Expenses of the various departments as follows:
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| Lee Regional Visiting Nurse Association     | \$2,800 |
| Children's Health Program                   | 1,000   |
| Brien Mental Health Serv. of the Berkshires | 300     |
- Article 54. Amended. The Town voted by majority to raise and appropriate the sums of money as may be necessary to pay the Expenses of the various departments as follows:
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| Lee Regional Visiting Nurse Association     | \$2,800 |
| Children's Health Program                   | 1,000   |
| Brien Mental Health Serv. of the Berkshires | 100     |
- Article 55. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$1.00 for Interest for Loans.
- Article 56. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$80,685 for the Stabilization Fund.
- Article 57. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate for the Operation and Maintenance of Town Property \$47,280: \$46,280 for Expenses and \$1,000 for Salaries.
- Article 58. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$300 for Good Will Gifts.
- Article 59. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the expense accounts of:
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|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Memorial Day Parade.....          | \$ 1,500 |
| Council on Aging.....             | 2,500    |
| Elderly Transportation.....       | 4,749    |
| Sandisfield Cultural Council..... | 250      |
| Recreation Committee.....         | 5,000    |
- Article 60. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sums of money as may be necessary to pay the expenses of the following accounts:
- |                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Berkshire County Retirement Fund..... | \$36,583 |
| Town Employee Benefits.....           | 23,402   |

Unemployment Insurance.....	425
Town's Share Group Insurance.....	41,400
Town's Share Medicare.....	5,685
Ins. Premiums & Bonds for Town Officers.....	50,000

- Article 61. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$499 for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.
- Article 62. The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Reserve Fund.
- Article 63. The Town voted unanimously to fix the salary of all elective officers of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41, and Section 108A of Chapter 41, General Laws as amended:

Moderator.....	\$ 150.00 per year
Town Clerk.....	5,969.00 per year
Treasurer.....	5,479.00 per year
Tax Collector.....	5,000.00 per year
Selectmen.....	5,220.00 per year
Assessors.....	2,079.00 per year
Auditor.....	5.00 per hour
School Committee Chairmen.....	500.00 per year
School Committee Member.....	400.00 per year
Library Trustee.....	25.00 per year
Constables.....	10.00 per hour

- Article 64. The Town voted unanimously to authorize the use of revolving funds for the following programs and purposes:

a. Town Sanitary Inspector	\$ 7,500
b. Town Plumbing Inspector	2,500
c. Town Building Inspector	2,500
d. Town Wiring Inspector	2,500
e. Town Gas Inspector	2,500
f. Dog Licensing Fees	2,500
g. Dump Sticker Fees	7,500
h. Legal Ad Fees	2,000

which revolving funds together shall not exceed the sum of twenty-nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$29,500), which shall be under the control of the Town Treasurer, which shall be accounted for separately and to which shall be credited only the departmental receipts received in connection with the programs supported by each revolving fund; further to authorize the Town Treasurer to expend from such funds in accordance with Chapter 44 Section 53 E ½ of the General Laws, provided however that said expenditures for all revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for such funds.

- Article 65. The Town voted unanimously to appropriate \$50,000 from Free Cash to reduce the FY2007 Tax Rate.
- Article 66. The Town voted unanimously to authorize the Selectboard to sell at a price no less than \$65,000.00 property formerly owned by David and Marie Hecht and described in a deed from Otis Woodlands LTD to the

said Hechts dated December 20, 1976 and recorded in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds in Book 425 at Page 122, said lot being known as Lot #223.

Article 67. The town voted unanimously to accept M.G.L. Ch. 59 Clause 37A, which provides for a real estate tax exemption of \$500.00 for blind persons.

Article 68. The Town voted by majority to support:

Citizens' Petition #1

Proposed Article for Town Warrant

Town of Sandisfield

Submitted by Lauren Paul, 219 Sandisfield Rd.

Because the citizens of Sandisfield are concerned about the long-term health of our environment ; because Genetically Engineered crops have not been proven safe for humans or for the ecosystems with which the crops interact; because Genetically Engineered crops have been found to contaminate other crops and local flora through cross pollination causing unintended and unknown changes to their geology and because the U.S. Congress and Federal regulatory agencies have not adequately responded to these important concerns, We, the people of Sandisfield, would like to follow the lead of those in many New England Towns and Cities and more than 30 other countries in a resolution to:

1. Call upon our state and federal governments, including the Massachusetts Legislature, the U.S. Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to support the mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered foods and seeds and the full assignment of liability to the commercial developers of genetically engineered foods.
2. Encourage a local moratorium on growing genetically engineered crops until there is credible and scientific evidence that these products are not harmful to our health or our environment.
3. Send copies of this article to the elected representatives of this town, including the Massachusetts State Legislators, the Governor, the Commission of the Department of Food and Agriculture, and our Congressional Representative and Senators.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm

Respectfully Submitted

  
Dolores Harasyko

Town Clerk

True copy attest