

VOTE TAKEN AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at the Westminster Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. by Town Moderator John Bowen. The Constable's Return of the Warrant was read by Town Clerk Ellen Sheehan. A total of 76 voters were in attendance. Dana Altobelli and Kimberly Samson agreed to be checkers if needed. We had a brief recess from this Special Town Meeting for Public Safety Committee Member Von Salmi to give a brief presentation on the committee's current work. The Special Town Meeting resumed at 7:40 p.m.

Voted to give the following non-residents permission to address Town Meeting: Town Planner Stephen Wallace and Town Counsel Brian Riley.

An affirmative vote was taken at this time to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 15, which allows the Moderator to dispense with a count in matters requiring a two-thirds vote by statute, where the vote is unanimous or clearly overwhelming at this Special Town Meeting.

The votes taken were as follows:

ARTICLE 1. Voted to transfer \$550.00 from free cash to pay the following unpaid bill from fiscal year 2016:

Gatehouse New England/The Gardner News	\$550.00
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**(9/10 vote required)
UNANIMOUS**

ARTICLE 2. Voted to accept as public ways the roadways known as Old Mill Circle (shown as Jamie Lane and Elizabeth Lane), Kimberly Lane, and Heritage Lane and shown on a plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision of the Village at Old Mill in Westminster, Massachusetts.", dated December 7, 2001, revised through May 23, 2002, prepared Eastern Land Survey Associates, Inc., recorded with the Worcester North Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 440, Page 13 and on file with the Town Clerk, as heretofore laid out by the Public Works Commission, and authorize the Public Works Commission to acquire on behalf of the town, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in Old Mill Circle, Kimberly Lane, and Heritage Lane for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Westminster and any drainage, utility and/or other easements related thereto.

ARTICLE 3. Voted to:

(a) authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift and for public way purposes, including, without limitation, for roadway, utility, access, drainage and related purposes and for the purpose of undertaking the Worcester Road (Route 140) reconstruction project, permanent and temporary easements in, on, under and over portions of certain parcels of land owned by the City of Fitchburg, identified by the Assessor's as Parcels 186-1 and 120-39 and described in deeds recorded with the Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book 55, Page 318; Book 211, Page

439; Book 259, Page 317; Book 334, Page 601; Book 363, Page 115; Book 376, page 425, or however the same may have been acquired, which portions are approximately shown on a plan entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of Route 140 (Worcester Road) in the Town of Westminster Worcester County", as said plan may be amended from time to time and/or replaced by an easement plan, and land within 200 feet of said parcels; (b) authorize the Select Board to submit a petition to the General Court for a special act authorizing the conveyance of the foregoing easements to the Town under the provisions of Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution; and (c) transfer the care, custody and control of the Town-owned parcel of land located off Dawley Road, identified by the Assessor's as Parcel 123-19, containing 27,878 square feet, and acquired by the Town by instrument recorded in Book 9460, Page 187, from the tax title custodian for tax title purposes to the Select Board for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of conveyance, and, further, to authorize the Select Board to convey said parcel to the City of Fitchburg, as consideration for the easements granted to the Town, for the same purposes for which the aforementioned City-owned parcels are currently held.

(2/3 vote required)
UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 4. Voted to amend the Westminster Zoning Bylaw (Chapter 205 of the Code of the Town of Westminster, Massachusetts) and the rest of the Town Code to change all references to the "Board of Selectmen" or "Selectmen" wherever they appear to "Select Board".

(2/3 vote required)
UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 5. Voted to amend the Westminster Zoning Bylaw (Chapter 205 of the Code of the Town of Westminster, Massachusetts) to revise the Applicability section of the bylaw (Section 205-40.1) for large-scale solar photovoltaic installations as follows:

B. Applicability.

Subject to the requirements below, large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations are permitted by Special Permit in the residential zoning districts (R-I, R-II & R-III), *industrial zoning districts (I-I & I-II)* and commercial zoning districts (C-I & C-II) and upon Site Plan Approval from the Planning Board. For this use, the Planning Board shall be the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA). Large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations are not allowed in the ~~industrial zoning districts (I-I & I-II)~~ or in the village center zoning district (VC).

(2/3 vote required)
UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 6. Voted to transfer \$13,500 from free cash, to Animal Control, to be spent under the direction of the Police Chief, to assist the City of Gardner in the purchase of a new Animal Control vehicle as outlined in the Intermunicipal Agreement.

UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 7. Voted to transfer \$100,000 from free cash to the Information Technology and Telecommunications Stabilization Fund.

UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 8. Voted to transfer \$400,000 from free cash to the Capital Equipment and Improvements Stabilization Fund.

UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 9. Voted to transfer \$200,000 from free cash to the Building Maintenance and Repairs Stabilization Fund.

UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 10. Voted to transfer \$1,500,000 from free cash to the Pension Liability Stabilization Fund.

UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 11. Voted to transfer \$100,000 from free cash to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.

UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 12. Voted to transfer \$100,000 from free cash to the Road Maintenance Stabilization Fund.

UNANIMOUS

Special Town Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen M. Sheehan, CMMC
Westminster Town Clerk