

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Annual Town Meeting
May 11, 2007

I, Melanie A. Mangum, as Town Clerk of Royalston, do hereby certify that these are the actions taken on the articles of the Annual Town Meeting, held at 7 p.m. at the Royalston Community School, and the Annual Town Meeting Reconvened held on June 22, 2007, at the Royalston Community School, 7 p.m. (** denotes an action taken at the Reconvene)

Melanie A. Mangum

Approximately 60 voters out of 914 registered voters were in attendance.

- Article 1.** To choose one or more persons to act for the town in lawsuits.
Voted to choose that the selectmen will act for the Town in lawsuits. 58-0
- Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, any sums of money to meet the appropriations under this warrant, or act anything thereon.
Article passed as read. 58-0
- Article 3.** To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 and to issue or renew notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with Section 17, Chapter 44 of the General Laws as amended, or act anything thereon.
Article passed as read. 59-0
- Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, or act anything thereon.
Article passed as read. 57-2
- Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer sums of money from the expense accounts of the Police and Fire Departments to the Highway General Account for the purchase of fuels used in department vehicles or take any action thereon.
Voted to transfer the sum of \$5,000 from the Police Department's FY08 Expense Account and \$3,000 from the Fire Department's FY08 Expense Account to the Highway General Account for the purchase of fuels used in department vehicles. 59-0
- Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Assessors to use a portion of funds in the Treasury to reduce the tax rate for this coming year, or to take any other action thereon.
Voted to table this article until the reconvene of this meeting. 59-0
***At the reconvene on June 22, 2007, voted to reconsider this article. The article was moved and Passed 23-0.*

- Article 7.** To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer to pay a sum of money for *total* debt, **raised and appropriated through debt exclusion, \$101,333** for the Royalston Community School, and **\$22,315** for the Athol-Royalston Middle School, or to act anything thereon.
Article passed as read. 59-0
- Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$33,215 to operate the sewer system, the fees from the sewer users to be returned to the Town to this account, or act anything thereon.
Voted to amend the article to read , instead of “to raise and appropriate or take from available funds” to : “take from offset receipts”. Amendment passed 59-0.
Voted to take from offset receipts the sum of \$33,215 to operate the sewer system, the fees from the sewer users to be returned to the Town to this account. 59-0
- Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for capital expenditures for the waste water treatment plant, or act anything thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000. 59-0
- Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health Agent Revolving Account to be expended for the administration and enforcement of Title V and other health regulations; that departmental receipts from persons making application for septic installation and other Board of Health permits be credited to said fund; that the Board of Health be authorized to spend monies in the Fund, and that the limit on the total amount spent from the account for the ensuing year shall be Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or act anything thereon.
Article passed as read. 59-0
- Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Plumbing Inspector fee account to be expended for the purpose of paying an inspector; that department receipts from fees charged to persons installing plumbing be credited to said account, that the Plumbing Inspector be authorized to spend monies in the account, and that the limit on the total amount spent from the account for the ensuing year shall be Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000); or act anything thereon.
Voted the article as read except with the change of the words “fee account” to the words “Revolving Account”. 59-0
- Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Wiring Inspector fee account to be expended for the purpose of paying an inspector; that Department receipts charged to persons who are installing wiring be credited to said account, that the wiring inspector be authorized to spend monies in the account, and that the limit on the total amount spent from the account for the ensuing year shall be Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000), or act anything thereon.
Voted the article as read except with the change of the words “fee account” to the words “Revolving Account”. 60-0

- Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to pay the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for engineering, plans, and authorized roadwork up to the reimbursable amount according to the provisions of Chapter 90 Massachusetts General Laws, and the same to be spent with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and Massachusetts Highway Department, or to act anything thereon.
Article passed as read. 61-0
- Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$31,116 for the third payment of a five year lease of a 10-wheel dump truck for the Highway Department, or take any action thereon.
Voted to take from the Stabilization Account the sum of \$31,116. (2/3 vote required) 61-0 (passed).
- Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$10,658 for the fourth payment of a five year lease of a 1-ton dump truck for the Highway Department, or take any action thereon.
Voted to take from the Stabilization Account the sum of \$10,658. (2/3 vote required) 61-0 (passed).
- Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$40,000 for the second payment of a five year lease/purchase of a road grader for the Highway Department, or take any action thereon.
Voted to take from the Stabilization Account the sum of \$40,000. (2/3 vote required) 61-0. (passed)
- Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$3,200 to provide police patrols of Tully Dam area to be reimbursed by the Corps of Engineers, or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,200. 61-0.
- Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws Article IV, Section 1 by replacing the current wording with the following, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Proposed Text Article IV, Section 1: Advisory Committee

There shall be an Advisory committee consisting of the Chairman of the Selectmen, the Chairman of the Board of Assessors, one Royalston member of the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee (appointed by the Selectmen), the Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee, the Town Accountant, **Overseers of the Poor (elected as Board of Public Welfare: a requirement of the JN Bartlett Fund)** and five other members-at-large who shall be appointed for one year by the Moderator of the Annual Town Meeting, within ten days thereafter. Members-at-large shall be Town residents, and shall not be an appointed department head. One member-at-large shall be elected chairman.

Voted to table this article – 37-10.

- Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws Article IV, Section 1 by replacing the current wording with the following, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Proposed Text Article IV, Section 1: Advisory Committee

There shall be an Advisory committee consisting of the Chairman of the Selectmen, the Chairman of the Board of Assessors, one Royalston member of the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee (appointed by the Selectmen), the Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee, the Town Accountant and six other members-at-large who shall be appointed for one year by the Moderator of the Annual Town Meeting, within ten days thereafter. Members-at-large shall be Town residents, and shall not be an appointed department head. One member-at-large shall be elected chairman.

Voted to table this article. 37-5.

- Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of five persons (one member-at-large of the Advisory Committee, one parent of district student, one educator and two at large) to explore the implications, advantages and costs if the Town withdrew from the Athol-Royalston Regional School District and joined another district, or alternative method to provide quality education for students, and to present a report to the Board of Selectmen and the Town by December 15, 2007, or take any action thereon.

Voted to table this article. 34-8.

- Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a section in the General Bylaws of Royalston entitled “Planning Board” and include a provision for an associate member to the Planning Board as authorized in MGL Chapter 40A, Section 9 as follows and or take any action thereon:

Proposed Bylaw amendment:

One (1) position of Associate Planning Board member will be added to the five (5) member Planning Board. To fill a vacancy, and initiate this position, the Associate Member will be chosen by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board, each having one vote. The appointed member will have a 5-year term. Thereafter, the Associate Member position will be listed on the Town General Election Ballot and elected by a majority vote of registered voters of Royalston for a 5-year term.

Voted to table this article. 27-11

- Article 22.** To see if the Town of Royalston will vote to amend the Regional Agreement (Athol Royalston Regional School District) to designate the Royalston Community School as a pre-kindergarten through sixth grade school.

Voted to recommend to amend the Regional Agreement (Athol Royalston Regional School District) to designate the Royalston Community School as a pre-kindergarten through sixth grade school. 57-3

- Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to make the position of Administrative Assistant a thirty (30) hour per week position and fund that position as fulltime with benefits or to take any other action thereon.
Motion to table the article was defeated. (requires a 2/3 majority vote) 27-15. After discussion, motion to move the question, passed 20-4. Motion on article as read – 8 in favor, 26 opposed. Article was defeated.
- Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to apply for a Massachusetts STRAP grant for \$665,000 to fund the reclamation and repaving of Athol Road and Winchendon Road or to take any other action thereon.
Voted to direct the Board of Selectmen to apply for a Massachusetts Strap Grant for \$500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Dollars) to fund the reclamation and repaving of Winchendon Road. 45-0
- Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$244.12 to pay a Fire Department bill from Athol Automotive from Fiscal Year 2006 or to take any other action thereon.
Voted to table this article. 43-0
- Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$5,800 to fund a triennial revaluation or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,800. 43-0
- Article 27.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$6,000 for a financial audit of Town financial records for Fiscal Year 2007 or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000. 43-0
- Article 28.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$4,305 to fund the Town's five percent match requirement of a Federal Assistance to Firefighter's Grant to purchase turn-out gear for the Fire Department or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,305. 43-0
- Article 29.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$3,000 to replace or upgrade the Town's Automated Emergency Defibrillators (AED) or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000. 43-0
- Article 30.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$4,000 to replace a heating system furnace in the Town Hall or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000. 43-0

- Article 31.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$2,700 to replace the fire alarm system at the Raymond School building or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,700. 43-0
- Article 32.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$3,500 for the purchase of office and computer equipment for Town offices or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000. 43-0
- Article 33.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$14,000 for the purchase of a truck scale and pad for the transfer station or take any action thereon.
Voted to table this article. 28-5.
- Article 34.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$20,000 to fund capital improvements in the Athol-Royalston Regional School District or take any action thereon.
Voted to take from the Royalston Community School Mortgage Reduction Account the sum of \$18,852.00. 33-0
- Article 35.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$60,000 to purchase new radios for emergency personnel or take any action thereon.
Voted to take from the Stabilization Account the sum of \$20,000. 33-0.
- Article 36.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$3,500 to repair or purchase new windows at the Phinehas Newton Library or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500. 32-1
- Article 37.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$1,500 to repair and repoint the granite steps at the Phinehas Newton Library or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to repair and repoint the granite steps and all the masonry at the Phinehas Newton Library. 33-0
- Article 38.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$10,000 to repair and restore the cupola on the Town Hall or take any action thereon.
Voted to table this article. 25-1
- Article 39.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$6,000 to repair the cupola on the Raymond School building or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000. 26-0

- Article 40.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$20,000 for the first payment of a 5-year lease/purchase and outfitting of a Forestry fire truck or take any action thereon.
Voted to table this article. 27-2
- Article 41.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$10,000 to repair and pave Town Dump road or take any action thereon.
Voted to table this article. 24-5
- Article 42.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$25,000 to purchase a roadside mower attachment or take any action thereon.
Voted to take from the Stabilization Account the sum of \$25,000. 35-0
- Article 43.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$1,500 for interior painting at the Phinehas Newton Library or take any action thereon.
Voted to table this article. 25-4
- Article 44.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$7,500 for an engineering design of a septic system for the Town Hall or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500. 29-1
- Article 45.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$17,500 to install a septic system at the Town Hall or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,500. 30-0.
- Article 46.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds a sum of money to purchase or lease a shared copier for Whitney Hall offices or take any action thereon.
Voted to table this article. 26-1
- Article 47.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$5,000 for 1000 feet of four inch hose for the Fire Department or take any action thereon.
Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,800. 30-0

Article 48. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of One Million Five Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two Dollars (\$1,598,272) to fund the budgets for the following accounts or take any action thereon ***Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Five Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Two Dollars (\$1,575,672) to fund budgets for the following accounts: (passed 30-0)***

****Note: The only line item that was changed was # 9 (Athol-Royalston School). The amount was changed from \$428,372.00 to \$430,987.00. All other line items were passed as read.***

NO.	Department	Floor final/fincom	FY2008 Selectboard	Dept. Request FY2008	FY07 Town Mtg
1	Animal Control Expense	\$4,000.00	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$2,600
2	Animal Control Salary	\$6,303.00	\$6,303	\$6,500	\$6,150
3	Animal Inspector	\$615.00	\$615	\$600	\$600
4	Assessors Clerk Wages	\$6,500.00	\$6,300	\$6,300	\$6,456
5	Assessors Expenses	\$4,616.00	\$4,616	\$5,116	\$5,316
6	Assessors WA- Chair	\$1,575.00	\$1,538	\$1,500	\$1,538
7	Assessors WA -Clerk	\$1,366.00	\$1,333	\$1,300	\$1,333
8	Assessors WA -Member	\$1,366.00	\$1,333	\$1,300	\$1,333
9	Athol-Royst. School	430,987.00	\$428,372	\$418,000	410,920
10	Bartlett Fund, JN Treas	\$20.00	\$20	\$20	\$20
11	Board of Health Expenses	\$77,000.00	\$77,000	\$77,000	\$75,000
12	Board of Health Wages	\$10,750.00	\$10,750	\$10,750	\$10,750
13	Bd. Of Health - Management	\$2,385.00	\$2,385	\$2,385	\$2,340
14	Bd. Of Health Chair	\$1,200.00	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
15	Bd. Of Health Clerk	\$1,100.00	\$900	\$900	\$900
16	Bd. Of Health Member	\$1,000.00	\$750	\$750	\$750
17	Bonds for Town Officials	\$1,500.00	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,022
18	Building Inspector Exp.	\$3,250.00	\$3,250	\$4,456	\$2,398
19	Building Inspector Salary	\$10,769.00	\$10,768	\$10,821	\$10,506
20	Care of Comm. & Parks	\$8,500.00	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
21	Care of Town Clock	\$52.00	\$52	\$52	\$52
22	Cemeteries Care	\$10,000.00	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$8,500
23	Cemetery Commissioner	\$50.00	\$50	\$50	\$50
24	Cemetery Member	\$25.00	\$25	\$25	\$25
25	Cemetery Member	\$25.00	\$25	\$25	\$25
26	Clearance Tax Titles	\$3,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
27	Civilian Defense (Emer M)	\$1,650.00	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$1,650
28	Conservation Comm.	\$500.00	\$500	\$500	\$500
29	Council on Aging	\$800.00	\$800	\$800	\$800
30	Custodian of Tax Title	\$50.00	\$50	\$50	\$50
31	DPW - Highway General	\$73,750.00	\$76,950	\$76,950	\$65,750

NO.	Department	Floor final/fincom	FY2008 Selectboard	Dept. Request FY2008	FY07 Town Mtg
32	DPW- Highway Maint.	\$31,000.00	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
33	DPW - Salaries	\$191,284.00	\$191,284	\$191,284	\$180,000
34	DPW - Contractor Wages	\$0.00	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
35	DPW - Snow and ICE	\$100,000.00	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
36	Elderly Transportation	\$200.00	\$200	\$200	\$200
37	Elections	\$4,604.00	\$4,604	\$4,604	\$5,332
38	Fire Wages / Chief	N/A	N/A	N/A	See next
39	Fire Expenses / Wages	\$66,300.00	\$66,300	\$73,800	\$63,800
40	Dispatch Fire/Police	\$21,200.00	\$21,200	\$22,778	\$22,778
41	Historic District Comm.	\$250.00	\$250	\$250	\$250
42	Insurance (property)	\$43,000.00	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$35,000
43	Insurance (NORWORCO)	\$1,900.00	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,500
44	Insurance (medical)	\$64,000.00	\$64,000	\$64,000	\$61,500
45	Interest	\$500.00	\$500	\$500	\$500
46	Legal Counsel	\$6,000.00	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$5,000
47	Library Expense	\$20,026.00	\$20,026	\$20,026	\$17,062
48	Library Wages	\$26,108.00	\$26,105	\$26,105	\$25,324
49	Medicare	\$6,400.00	\$6,200	\$6,200	\$6,200
50	Contributory Unemployment	\$3,914.00	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$3,800
51	Memorial Day / Soldiers Graves	\$750.00	\$750	\$750	\$600
52	Moderator	\$100.00	\$100	\$100	\$100
53	Montachusett Reg Tech School	\$55,093.00	\$55,093	\$55,093	\$58,016
54	Planning Board	\$900.00	\$900	\$900	\$400
55	Police Dept. Expense/Sal	\$74,000.00	\$75,000	\$76,125	\$66,985
56	Public Halls	\$45,000.00	\$48,000	\$44,812	\$43,276
57	Open Space Committee	\$250.00	\$250	\$250	\$250
58	Reserve Fund	\$20,000.00	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$20,000
59	Registrars of Voters	\$150.00	\$150	\$150	\$150
60	Selectmen Chairman	\$2,417.00	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,358
61	Selectmen Member	\$2,100.00	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,050
62	Selectmen Member	\$2,100.00	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,050
63	Selectmen - Misc.	\$2,700.00	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,400
64	Selectmen's Secretary	\$2,412.00	\$2,412	\$2,412	\$2,358
65	Administrative Assistant	\$13,813.00	\$13,813	\$13,750	\$13,477
66	Admin. Assistant Misc.	\$750.00	\$750	\$750	\$750
67	Sewer Comm. Chair	\$300.00	\$300	\$300	\$500
68	Sewer Comm. Member	\$250.00	\$250	\$250	\$150
69	Sewer Comm. Member	\$250.00	\$250	\$250	\$150
70	Street Lights	\$5,000.00	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,500
71	Tax Collector	\$10,769.00	\$10,769	\$11,500	\$10,506

NO.	Department	Floor final/fincom	FY2008 Selectboard	Dept. Request FY2008	FY07 Town Mtg
72	Tax Collector - Misc.	\$4,800.00	\$4,800	\$5,220	\$4,623
73	Town Account Exp.	\$1,750.00	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$750
74	Town Acct. Salary	\$10,769.00	\$10,769	\$10,769	\$10,506
75	Town Acct. - Schedule A	\$225.00	\$225	\$225	\$225
76	Town Clerk Wages	\$8,000.00	\$8,304	\$8,304	\$6,304
77	Town Clerk Misc.	\$1,000.00	\$1,700	\$2,100	\$1,600
78	Print Town Reports/St lists	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
79	Treasurer	\$10,769.00	\$10,568	\$10,506	\$10,506
80	Treasurer - Misc.	\$2,600.00	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,400
81	Tree Department	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
82	Veterans Benefit	\$6,000.00	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
83	Veterans Services	\$3,007.00	\$3,007	\$3,007	\$2,945
84	Workers Comp.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
85	Worcester County Retire.	\$19,558.00	\$19,558	\$19,558	\$16,594
86	Zoning Taskforce	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
87	Zoning Board of Appeals	\$700.00	\$700	\$700	\$700
		\$1,575,672	\$1,598,272	\$1,598,878	\$1,515,259

Voted to reconvene this Annual Town Meeting on June 22, at 7 p.m. at Royalston Community

School. 30-0

The only article reconsidered at the reconvene of the meeting June 22, 2007 was Article 6 (see action with article). No other business was conducted except to allow Rep. Robert Rice to address the town meeting with information about healthcare and possible broadband access in Royalston.

Voted to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting – 23 in favor, 0 opposed.