

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Annual Town Meeting
May 9, 2008

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 27, 2008, at the Royalston Community School, 7 p.m. (** denotes an action taken at the Reconvene)

Melanie A. Mangum

**Approximately 76 voters out of 876 registered voters were in attendance May 9.
37 voters were in attendance at the reconvened meeting June 27.**

- Article 1.** Voted to choose the selectmen to act for the town in lawsuits. **UNANIMOUS**
- Article 2.** Voted to transfer from available funds in the Treasury, any sums of money to meet the appropriations under this warrant. **UNANIMOUS**
- Article 3.** Voted to 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, 2008 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. **UNANIMOUS**
- Article 4.** Voted to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108. **(UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 5.** Voted to transfer Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) from the Police expense account and Three Thousand Dollars (\$3000) from the Fire Department expense account to the Highway General Account for the purchase of fuel used in department vehicles. **(UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 6.** Voted to authorize the Assessors to use a portion of funds in the Treasury to reduce the tax rate for this coming year. **UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 7.** Voted to authorize the Town Treasurer to pay a sum of money for *total* debt, raised and appropriated through debt exclusion, Sixty Two Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$62,516) for the Royalston Community School, and Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Eight Dollars (\$19,928) for the Athol-Royalston Middle School, or to act anything thereon. **(UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$32,880) 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 table this article (52 in favor, 3 opposed.)
****(Reconvene)Voted to remove from table, (34 in favor, 0 opposed)**
**** Voted to take from OFFSET RECEPTS \$33,880.00 to operate the sewer system, the Fees from the sewer users to be returned to the Town to this account.(34 in favor,0 op)**

- Article 9.** Voted to **raise and appropriate** the sum of One Thousand Three Hundred Dollars **(\$1,300)** for capital expenditures for the waste water treatment plant. **(71 in favor, 5 opposed)**
- Article 10.** Voted to **raise and appropriate** the sum of Five Thousand Dollars **(\$5,000)** for capital expenditures and repairs to the Wastewater Treatment System. **(72 in favor, 4 opposed)**
- Article 11.** Voted 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). **(UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 12.** Voted to authorize the Plumbing Inspector Revolving 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). **(UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 13.** Voted to authorize the Wiring Inspector Revolving 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). **(UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 14.** Voted to authorize the Treasurer to pay the sum of Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000) for engineering, plans, and authorized roadwork up to the reimbursable amount according to the provisions of Chapter 90 Massachusetts General Laws and/or STRAP grant, and the same to be spent with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and Massachusetts Highway Department. **(UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 15.** Voted to **raise and appropriate** or take from available funds the sum of Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Sixteen Dollars **(\$31,116)** for the fourth payment of a five year lease of a 10-wheel dump truck for the Highway Department. **(UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 16.** Voted to **raise and appropriate** the sum of Ten Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars and thirty-four cents **(\$10,657.34)** for the final payment of a five year lease of a one-ton dump truck for the Highway Department. **(UNANIMOUS)**
- Article 17.** Voted to **take from Stabilization** the sum of Forty-One Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars **(\$41,150)** for the third payment of a five year lease/purchase of a road grader for the Highway Department. **(59 in favor, 2 opposed)**
- Article 18.** Voted to **raise and appropriate** the sum of Three Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$3,600) to provide police patrols of Tully Dam area to be reimbursed by the Corps of Engineers. **(UNANIMOUS)**

- Article 19.** Voted to take from the Mortgage Reduction Account the sum Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (**\$11,775**) to fund technology improvements in the Athol-Royalston Regional School District. (UNANIMOUS)
- Article 20.** Voted to take from the Mortgage Reduction Account the sum of One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Three Dollars (**\$1,353.00**) to pay for Royalston's portion of funds needed to repair the fence at Athol High School. (**73 in favor, 2 opposed**)
- Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) for interior painting at Whitney Hall, or take any action thereon. VOTED TO TABLE THIS ARTICLE (**55 in favor, 2 opposed**)
- Article 22.** Voted to take from the Mortgage Reduction Account the sum of Six Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (**\$6,956**) for Royalston's portion of the cost to replace the bleachers at Athol High School. (**1 opposed**)
- Article 23.** Voted to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 41, Sec. 108P, which provide that a collector or treasurer who completes the necessary training and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal collector or a certified Massachusetts municipal treasurer or a certified Massachusetts district treasurer will receive additional compensation in the amount of ten percent of the collector or treasurer's regular compensation, not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000). (UNANIMOUS)
- Article 24.** Voted to accept Sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, otherwise known as the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, by approving a surcharge on real property for the purposes permitted by said Act, including the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space, the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources, the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use, the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing, and the rehabilitation and restoration of such open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created as provided under said Act; that the amount of such surcharge on real property shall be three percent (3%) of the annual real estate tax levy against real property commencing in fiscal year 2010; and that the Town hereby accepts the following exemptions from such surcharge permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town, as defined in Section 2 of said Act; and (2) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property. (**47 in favor, 7 opposed**)
- Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to approve a bylaw for the composition and appointment of the local Community Preservation Committee. The Committee will consist of nine members; one each from the Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectman, Capital Planning, Open Space Committee, and the Building Inspector, in addition to two at large members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, or act anything thereon. VOTED TO TABLE THIS ARTICLE UNTIL THE RECONVENE OF THIS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (UNANIMOUS)

****Voted to remove from table, Unanimous**

**** Voted to approve a bylaw for the Community Preservation Act which will read as follows: (SEE LANGAUGE APPENDED TO CERTIFIED COPY) 26 in favor, 3 opposed.**

Article 26. Voted to **raise and appropriate** the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars **(\$2,300)** to fund the summer playground program. (UNANIMOUS)

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to replace the Police Department's in-car video system, or act anything thereon. **ARTICLE FAILED – UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for used equipment replacement of the Ford Sander, or act anything thereon. **VOTED TO TABLE THIS ARTICLE UNTIL THE RECONVENE OF THIS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (UNANIMOUS)**
****Voted to remove from table – Unanimous**
**** Voted to take from Stabilization the sum of \$30,000 for used equipment replacement of the Ford Sander. 37 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for a quick attach ditching bucket, or act anything thereon. **VOTED TO TABLE THIS ARTICLE UNTIL THE RECONVENE OF THIS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. (47 in favor, 4 opposed)**

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for rehabilitation and paving of Stone Road, or act anything thereon.

1. Motion made and seconded to take from Stabilization \$150,000.
2. Motion made and seconded to amend the motion on floor to raise and appropriate \$150,000.00 subject to a Proposition 2 and a half debt exclusion. **Amendment Failed 23 in favor, 30 opposed**
3. **Motion to take from Stabilization \$150,000 for rehabilitation and paving of Stone Road. FAILED (UNANIMOUS)**

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to ratify the contract with the AFSCME Council 93 labor union, dated July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011, or take any action thereon. **VOTED TO TABLE THIS ARTICLE. (UNANIMOUS)**
****Voted to remove from table, Unanimous**
****Voted as read - Unanimous**

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for an apparatus replacement account for the Fire

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to replace the 1978 Brush Chipper, or take any action thereon. **VOTED TO TABLE THIS ARTICLE (40 in favor, 3 opposed)**

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds a sum of money to pay for work associated with the cleanup of 2 King Street, or take any action thereon. **VOTED TO TABLE THIS ARTICLE (37 in favor, 4 opposed)**

Article 43. Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Six Hundred Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,635,150) to fund the budgets for the following accounts:
Note: Motion to Amend Line Item # 19 of Article 43 as read to \$12,000 passed 31 in favor, 10 opposed)

Motion to Amend Line Item #76 of Article 43 as read to \$8,200 passed 37 in favor, 2 opposed)

Article 43 passed unanimously

<u>NO.</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY2009 Selectboard</u>	<u>Fin Com FY2009</u>	<u>Floor Final</u>
1	Animal Control Expense	\$4,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
2	Animal Control Salary	\$6,303.00	\$6,460.00	\$6,460.00	\$6,460.00
3	Animal Inspector	\$615.00	630.00	630.00	630.00
4	Assessors Clerk Wages	\$6,500.00	\$6,663.00	\$6,663.00	\$6,663.00
5	Assessors Expenses	\$4,616.00	\$7,366.00	\$7,366.00	\$4,731.00
6	Assessors WA- Chair	\$1,575.00	\$1,615.00	\$1,615.00	\$1,615.00
7	Assessors WA –Member	\$1,366.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
8	Assessors WA -Member	\$1,366.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
9	Athol-Royalston School	428,372.00	437,263.00	\$437,263.00	\$437,263.00
10	Bartlett Fund, JN Treasurer	\$20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
11	Board of Health Expenses	\$77,000.00	75,070.00	75,070.00	75,070.00
12	Board of Health Wages	\$10,750.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
13	Bd. Of Health - Management	\$2,385.00	2,385.00	2,385.00	2,385.00
14	Bd. Of Health Chair	\$1,200.00	1,230.00	1,230.00	1,230.00
15	Bd. Of Health Clerk	\$1,100.00	1,128.00	1,128.00	1,128.00
16	Bd. Of Health Member	\$1,000.00	1,025.00	1,025.00	1,025.00
17	Bonds for Town Officials	\$1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
18	Building Inspector Exp.	\$3,250.00	3,741.00	3,741.00	3,350.00
19	Building Inspector Salary	\$10,769.00	12,550.00	11,038.00	12,000.00
20	Care of Comm. & Parks	\$8,500.00	8,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00

NO.	Department	FY 2008	FY2009 Selectboard	Fin Com FY2009	Floor Final
21	Care of Town Clock	\$52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00
22	Cemeteries Care	\$10,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
23	Cemetery Commissioner	\$50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
24	Cemetery Member	\$25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
25	Cemetery Member	\$25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
26	Clearance Tax Titles	\$3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
27	Civilian Defense (Emer. Mgmt)	\$1,650.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
28	Conservation Comm.	\$500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
29	Council on Aging	\$800.00	800.00	800.00	800.00
30	Custodian of Tax Title	\$50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
31	DPW - Highway General	\$73,750.00	84,450.00	82,000.00	77,450.00
32	DPW- Highway Maint.	\$31,000.00	31,000.00	31,000.00	31,000.00
33	DPW - Salaries	\$191,284.00	198,671.00	198,671.00	198,671.00
34	DPW - Contractor Wages	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	DPW - Snow and ICE	\$100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
36	Elderly Transportation	\$200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
37	Elections	\$4,604.00	8,427.00	8,427.00	8,427.00
38	Fire Wages / Chief		2,300.00	2,300.00	2,400.00
39	Fire Expenses / Wages	\$66,300.00	71,700.00	70,000.00	67,958.00
40	Dispatch Fire/Police	\$21,200.00	19,411.00	19,411.00	19,411.00
41	Historic District Commission	\$250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
42	Insurance (property)	\$43,000.00	43,000.00	43,000.00	43,000.00
43	Insurance (NORWORCO)	\$1,900.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
44	Insurance (medical)	\$64,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
45	Interest	\$500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
46	Legal Counsel	\$6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
47	Library Expense	\$20,026.00	21,472.00	21,472.00	20,530.00
48	Library Wages	\$26,108.00	26,892.00	26,892.00	28,290.00
49	Medicare	\$6,400.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00
50	Contributory Unemployment	\$3,914.00	4,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
51	Memorial Day / Soldiers Graves	\$750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
52	Moderator	\$100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
53	Montachusett Reg. Tech School	\$55,093.00	56,499.00	56,499.00	56,499.00
54	Planning Board	\$900.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
55	Police Dept. Expense/Sal	\$74,000.00	84,500.00	82,500.00	75,850.00
56	Public Halls	\$45,000.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	55,000.00
57	Open Space Committee	\$250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
58	Reserve Fund	\$20,000.00	25,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
59	Registrars of Voters	\$150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
60	Selectmen Chairman	\$2,417.00	2,477.00	2,477.00	2,477.00

NO.	Department	FY 2008	FY2009 Selectboard	Fin Com FY2009	Floor Final
61	Selectmen Member	\$2,100.00	2,153.00	2,153.00	2,153.00
62	Selectmen Member	\$2,100.00	2,153.00	2,153.00	2,153.00
63	Selectmen - Misc.	\$2,700.00	2,700.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
64	Selectmen's Secretary	\$2,412.00	2,472.00	2,472.00	2,472.00
65	Administrative Assistant	\$13,813.00	14,158.00	14,158.00	14,158.00
66	Admin. Assistant Misc.	\$750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
67	Sewer Comm. Chair	\$300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
68	Sewer Comm. Member	\$250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
69	Sewer Comm. Member	\$250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
70	Street Lights	\$5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
71	Tax Collector	\$10,769.00	11,038.00 1,000 cert	11,038.00 1,000 cert	12,038.00
72	Tax Collector - Misc.	\$4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
73	Town Account Exp.	\$1,750.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
74	Town Acct. Salary	\$10,769.00	11,038.00	11,038.00	11,038.00
75	Town Acct. - Schedule A	\$225.00	250.00	250.00	225.00
76	Town Clerk Wages	\$8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,200.00
77	Town Clerk Misc.	\$1,000.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
78	Print Town Reports/St lists	\$3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
79	Treasurer	\$10,769.00	11,038.00	11,038.00	11,038.00
80	Treasurer - Misc.	\$2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00
81	Tree Department	\$3,000.00	--	--	800.00
82	Veterans Benefit	\$6,000.00	6,000.00	6,500.00	7,600.00
83	Veterans Services	\$3,007.00	3,007.00	3,063.00	3,063.00
84	Workers Comp.	\$10,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
85	Worcester County Retire.	\$19,558.00	22,777.00	22,777.00	22,777.00
86	Zoning Taskforce	\$0.00	--	--	--
87	Zoning Board of Appeals	\$700.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
88	Technology		2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
		\$1,573,057	\$1,665,231	1,647,825	1,635,150.00

VOTED TO RECONVENE THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING UNTIL JUNE 27, 7 P.M. AT

ROYALSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL . RECONVENE WAS OPENED ON JUNE 27, AT 7:08

P.M. AT THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL, ACTIONS TAKEN THEREON ARE

NOTED. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:50 P.M. NOTE: A COPY OF THE

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BYLAW FOLLOWS (ARTICLE 25)– AS READ ON THE

FLOOR AND VOTED IN FULL :

Community Preservation Committee Bylaw

A: Establishment

There is hereby established a permanent committee of the Town to be known as the Community Preservation Committee, consisting of eight (8) voting members, pursuant to G.L. c. 44B, §5. The composition of the committee, the appointing authority and the term of office for the committee members shall be as follows:

- (1) One member of the Conservation Commission as designated by the Commission;
- (2) One member of the Historical Commission as designated by the Commission;
- (3) One member of the Planning Board as designated by the Board;
- (4) One member ; the Building Inspector
- (5) One member of the Open Space Committee as designated by the Committee;
- (6) One member of the Board of Selectman as designated by the Board.
- (7) One member of the Board of Public Welfare as designated by the Board;
- (8) One member at large appointed by the Board of Selectman;

Each member of the committee shall serve for a term of three years or until the person no longer serves in the position or on the board or committee as set forth above, whichever is earlier.

Should any of the officers and commissions, boards, or committees who have appointing authority under this bylaw be no longer in existence for whatever reason, the Board of Selectmen shall appoint a suitable person to serve in his/her place.

Any member of the committee may be removed for cause by his/her respective appointing authority after hearing.

B: Duties

(1) The community preservation committee shall study the needs, possibilities and resources of the town regarding community preservation. The committee shall consult with existing municipal boards, including the conservation commission, the historical commission, the planning board, the department of public works, and the housing authority, or persons acting in those capacities or performing like duties, in conducting such studies. As part of its study, the committee shall hold one annual public informational hearing, or more at its discretion, on the needs, possibilities and resources of the town regarding community preservation possibilities and resources, notice of which shall be posted publicly and published for each of two weeks preceding a hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the town.

(2) The community preservation committee shall make recommendations to Town Meeting for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, restoration and

rehabilitation of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; for the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of such open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created as provided in the Community Preservation Act. With respect to community housing, the community preservation committee shall recommend, wherever possible, the reuse of existing buildings or construction of new buildings on previously developed sites. Recommendations to Town Meeting shall also include the committee's anticipated costs.

(3) The community preservation committee may include in its recommendation to Town Meeting a recommendation to set aside for later spending funds for specific purposes that are consistent with community preservation but for which sufficient revenues are not then available in the Community Preservation Fund to accomplish that specific purpose or to set aside for later spending funds for general purposes that are consistent with community preservation.

(4) In every fiscal year, the community preservation committee must recommend either that Town Meeting spend, or set aside for later spending, not less than 10% of the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund for open space (not including land for recreational use); not less than 10% of the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund for historic resources; and not less than 10% of the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund for community housing.

C: Effective Date

This bylaw shall take effect upon acceptance by the voters at the November 4, 2008 State Election and approval by the Attorney General of the Commonwealth, and after all requirements of G.L. c.40, §32 have been met. Each appointing authority shall have thirty days after approval by the Attorney General to make its initial appointment.

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