

***THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS***  
***Annual Town Meeting***  
***May 8, 2009***

I, Melanie Mangum, as Town Clerk of Royalston, do hereby certify that the following are the actions taken at the Annual Town Meeting of May 8, 2009 and reconvened on June 19, 2009. (\*\* denotes action taken at the reconvene)

:true copy attest

:town seal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie A. Mangum, Town Clerk

Out of 875 registered voters, 53 (add those present at reconvene) were in attendance at this meeting, 28 voters at the reconvened meeting.

Moderator George Northrop called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

The Moderator allowed Superintendent Anthony Polito and Business Manager Mary Jane Handy from Athol-Royalston Regional School District to speak concerning the school's budget, and Business Manager Tammy Lajoie from Montachusett Regional Tech to speak to that budget, and to consider the following articles and line items out of order.

Article 5, Article 28, and line items 9 and 53 of Article 30 were discussed. Line items 9 and 53 of Article 30 were voted at this time, as was Article 5.

Motion from the floor to allow Ed Wheeler, Accountant to provide information on financial matters of the town as he is not a resident of Town. Seconded. Passed.

John Morse made a motion that the FinCom's FY10 recommendation amount on all line items in the budget article (Article 30) be the amount moved when the budget article is considered. Motion was seconded. Motion passes 48-4

**Article 1.** To choose one or more persons to act for the town in lawsuits.  
**Voted to choose the Board of Selectmen to act for the town in lawsuits.**  
**Passed**

**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.  
**Moved as read, seconded**  
**Passed**

**Moved and seconded to consider Article 28 out of order. Motion passed.**

**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, 2009 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.

**Moved as read, seconded.**

**Passed**

**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.

**Moved as read, seconded**

**Passed**

**Article 5.** 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, Fifty Three Thousand Dollars (\$53,000) for the Royalston Community School, and Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Forty Two Dollars (\$18,442) for the Athol-Royalston Middle School, or to act anything thereon.

**Moved: That the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$53,935 to pay debt service on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the September 10, 1993 Town Meeting Article 1 for the Royalston Community School and to raise and appropriate \$18,442 to pay debt service for the borrowing authorized by the vote of the May 7, 2004 Town Meeting under Article 5 for the Athol-Royalston Middle School Building Project.**

**Seconded**

**Passed**

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Thirty Seven Thousand Ten Dollars (\$37,010) to operate the sewer system, the fees from the sewer users to be returned to the Town to this account, or act anything thereon.

**Moved to take from Offset Receipts the sum of \$37,010, seconded.**

**Passed**

**Article 7.** Moved to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for capital expenditures for the waste water treatment plant, seconded.

**Passed**

**Article 8.** 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.

**Moved as written and seconded**

**Passed**

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote 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); or act anything thereon.

**Moved as written and seconded**

**Passed**

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote 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), or act anything thereon.

**Moved as written and seconded**

**Passed**

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote 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, or to act anything thereon.

**Moved as written and seconded**

**Passed**

**Moderator allowed discussion of state of town finances before considering Article 12.  
The Town Accountant presented.**

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$31,116) for the fifth payment of a five year lease of a 10-wheel dump truck for the Highway Department, or take any action thereon.

**Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$31,116, seconded.**

**Passed**

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Forty-One Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$41,150) for the fourth payment of a five year lease/purchase of a road grader for the Highway Department, or take any action thereon.

**Moved to raise and appropriate \$41,150, seconded.**

**Passed**

**Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to provide police patrols of Tully Dam area to be reimbursed by the Corps of Engineers, or take any action thereon.

**Moved to raise and appropriate \$4,000, seconded.**

**Passed**

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$2,300) to fund the summer playground program, or act anything thereon.

**Moved to table the article, seconded – motion to table passed.**

**Article TABLED**

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to enter into a five year lease/purchase agreement for a new Ford Expedition to replace the 2000 Ford Explorer currently used by the Police Department, the first two payments to be made with Community Policing funds in the amount of Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000), the remaining three (3) annual payments of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) to begin July 1, 2012 to be paid with funds received through Community Policing grants and/or funds raised and appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action thereon.

**Move to table until the reconvened meeting, seconded. Motion carries.**

**Article TABLED until the reconvene.**

**\*\*Motion to take article off table by the original maker of the motion – seconded –**

**Motion to remove from table Passed 13-5.**

**\*\*Motion made to amend the motion to eliminate the second instance of the words “Community Policing” so that the motion states “to be paid with funds received through grants” – seconded.**

**Article Defeated 16-10.**

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 57C, for the purpose of establishing a semi-annual preliminary tax billing system, to be effective beginning in fiscal year 2010.

**Moved as written and seconded**

**Passed**

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to impose the charges of a lien posted against 63 North Fitzwilliam Road and to follow Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 58, instructing the tax collector to certify this amount, the sum of Four Thousand Seventy Five Dollars (\$4,075) to the Assessors, who shall add it to the real estate tax.

**Moved as written and seconded.**

**Passed**

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to clean up the site of 2 King Street, to include grading and reseeding of the property, or act anything thereon.

**Moved as written and seconded.**

**Article DEFEATED 50- 2**

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to borrow funds under Chapter 44, Section 8, Clause 9, for the Board authorized state of emergency over a period of two (2) years to cover the December 2008 Ice Storm costs, or act anything thereon.

**Original motion: That the Town authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$300,000 pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 8, or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of funding clean-up and other costs associated with the December 2008 Ice Storm Seconded.**

**Motion to amend Article 20 to: That the Town authorize the Treasurer to borrow up to \$300,000 pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 8, or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of funding clean-up and other costs associated with the December 2008 Ice Storm, for a period of two years.**

**Motion to Amend seconded and Passed.**

**Motion to vote on Article 20 AS AMENDED, seconded.**

**Passed unanimously**

**Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund, the amount of Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$38,500), received from the insurance company, to purchase a dump truck for the DPW, or act anything thereon.

**Moved as written and seconded.**

**Passed**

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Six Thousand Eight Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$6,816) for radio equipment to continue the conversion needed for Shelburne Control Dispatch services, or act anything thereon.

**Moved to raise and appropriate \$6,816, seconded.**

**Move to amend the amount to \$5,216, NO second – Amendment not considered.**

**Original Motion passed 52-1**

**Article 23.** To authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the following land parcels and/or rights in land parcels for the purpose of obtaining a secure and public right of way. This will allow for construction, maintenance, and roadway safety improvements on the Athol Richmond Road (Route 32) Rehabilitation Project.

	<u>Total # Parcels</u>	<u>Area (Square Feet)</u>
In Fee	0	0
Permanent Easements	31	11,699
Temporary Easements	18	12,869

Further, that the Selectmen may acquire these parcels, or modification of these parcels or other required parcels, through all legal means. This includes donations, purchase, or eminent domain. The subject parcels are currently identified on plans

Drafted by: Chappell Engineering Associates, Dated: March 2009,

Titled: Preliminary Right of Way Plans, Route 32.

Further, to raise and appropriate an amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to defray any associated right of way expenses connected with this project.

**Moved to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the following land parcels and/or easements for the purpose of obtaining a secure and public right of way, including temporary construction easements, permanent drainage easements and permanent highway purposes easements. This will allow for construction, maintenance, and roadway safety improvements for the Athol Richmond Road (Route 32 Rehabilitation Project.**

Further, that the Selectmen may acquire these land parcels and/or easements through all legal means. This includes donations, purchase, or eminent domain. The subject parcels are identified on plans Drafted by: Chappell Engineering Associates, Dated: March 2009, titled: Preliminary Right of Way Plans, Route 32 and, Further, to take from Stabilization the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to defray any associated right of way expenses connected with this project.

**Requires 2/3 vote: Passed 48-0**

**Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize a Post Office Revolving account to be expended for the administration and operation of the Postal Contract; departmental receipts to be credited to said fund; that the Post Office Manager 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 Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500), or act anything thereon.  
**Moved as read – Then motion withdrawn.**

**Moved: That the Town vote to authorize a Post Office Revolving Account to be expended for the administration and operation of the Post Office; that payments from the United States Postal Service be credited to said fund; that the Post Office Manager be authorized to spend monies in the account for the purpose of the administration and operation of the Post Office, including the payment of salaries of part-time employees, and that the limit on the total amount spent from the account for FY2010 shall be Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500). Motion seconded.**  
**PASSED**

**Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) to purchase new tires for the loader, or take any other action thereon.  
**Moved to table until the reconvene, seconded,  
Passed**  
**Article TABLED until the reconvened ATM**  
**\*\*\*Original maker of motion Moved to remove Article 25 from Table – Motion to remove from Table Defeated 10-7.**

**Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to purchase a new brush chipper motor for the Highway Department, or take any other action thereon.  
**Move to raise and appropriate \$10,000, seconded.**  
**Article DEFEATED - unanimous**

**Article 27.** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to purchase replacement hose for the Fire Department, or take any other action thereon.  
**Move to raise and appropriate \$5,000, seconded,  
Passed**

**Article 28.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Seven Dollars (\$5,847), as Royalston's share of the cost for replacing the outdoor bleachers at the Athol High School, or take any other action thereon.

**Moved to take from the Royalston Community School Mortgage Reduction Account the sum of \$5,847.**

**Passed**

**Article 29.** 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.

**Move as written, seconded.**

**Passed.**

**Article 30.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of One Million, Five Hundred Sixty Six Thousand, Five Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars (**\$1,566,599**) to fund the budgets for the following accounts, or take any action thereon.

**Motion to raise and appropriate \$1,564,099. seconded**

**Passed unanimously**

<b><u>NO.</u></b>	<b><u>Department</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2009 Final/fincom</u></b>	<b><u>FY2010 Selectboard</u></b>	<b><u>Dept. Request FY2010</u></b>	<b><u>Fin Com/Final FY2010</u></b>
1	Animal Control Expense	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,000.00
2	Animal Control Salary	\$6,460.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,460.00	\$5,000.00
3	Animal Inspector	\$630.00	\$630.00	\$630.00	\$630.00
4	Assessors Clerk Wages	\$6,663.00	\$7,144.00	\$7,144.00	\$7,144.00
5	Assessors Expenses	\$4,731.00	\$4,544.00	\$4,544.00	\$4,544.00
6	Assessors WA- Chair	\$1,615.00	\$1,615.00	\$1,615.00	\$1,615.00
7	Assessors WA –Member	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
8	Assessors WA -Member	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
9	Athol-Royalston School	\$437,263.00	\$404,252.00	\$404,252.00	\$404,252.00
10	Bartlett Fund, JN Treasurer	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
11	Board of Health Expenses	\$75,070.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
12	Board of Health Wages	\$11,000.00	\$9,250.00	\$10,500.00	\$9,250.00
13	Bd. Of Health - Management	\$2,385.00	\$2,385.00	\$2,385.00	\$2,385.00
14	Bd. Of Health Chair	\$1,230.00	\$1,230.00	\$1,230.00	\$1,230.00
15	Bd. Of Health Clerk	\$1,128.00	\$1,128.00	\$1,128.00	\$1,128.00
16	Bd. Of Health Member	\$1,025.00	\$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.	\$3,350.00	\$2,843.00	\$3,834.00	\$2,843.00
19	Building Inspector Salary	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
20	Care of Comm. & Parks	\$6,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$3,000.00
21	Care of Town Clock	\$52.00	\$52.00	\$52.00	\$52.00
22	Cemeteries Care	\$16,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$15,000.00

<b>NO.</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>FY 2009 Final/fincom</b>	<b>FY2010 Selectboard</b>	<b>Dept. Request FY2010</b>	<b>Fin Com/Final FY2010</b>
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	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
27	Civilian Defense (Emer. Mgmt)	\$1,800.00	\$5,000.00	\$7,400.00	\$5,000.00
28	Conservation Comm.	\$500.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
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	\$77,450.00	\$69,705.00	\$77,450.00	\$69,705.00
32	DPW- Highway Maint.	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00
33	DPW - Salaries	\$198,671.00	\$183,171.00	\$202,423.00	\$183,171.00
34	DPW - Contractor Wages	-	-	-	-
35	DPW - Snow and ICE	\$100,000.00	\$145,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$140,000.00
36	Elderly Transportation	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
37	Elections	\$8,427.00	\$6,460.00	\$6,460.00	\$6,460.00
38	Fire Wages / Chief	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
39	Fire Expenses / Wages	\$67,958.00	\$61,162.00	\$71,700.00	\$61,162.00
40	Dispatch Fire/Police	\$19,411.00	\$17,318.00	\$17,318.00	\$14,318.00
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)	\$2,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
44	Insurance (medical)	\$70,000.00	\$66,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$66,000.00
45	Interest	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
46	Legal Counsel	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00
47	Library Expense	\$20,530.00	\$17,487.00	\$17,487.00	\$17,487.00
48	Library Wages	\$28,290.00	\$25,809.00	\$28,109.00	\$25,809.00
49	Medicare	\$6,600.00	\$9,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
50	Contributory Unemployment	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
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	\$56,499.00	\$51,238.00	\$51,238.00	\$51,238.00
54	Planning Board	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
55	Police Dept. Expense/Sal	\$75,850.00	\$69,500.00	\$77,261.00	\$69,500.00
56	Public Halls	\$55,000.00	\$48,315.00	\$50,315.00	\$48,315.00
57	Open Space Committee	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
58	Reserve Fund	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
59	Registrars of Voters	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
60	Selectmen Chairman	\$2,477.00	\$2,477.00	\$2,477.00	\$2,477.00
61	Selectmen Member	\$2,153.00	\$2,153.00	\$2,153.00	\$2,153.00
62	Selectmen Member	\$2,153.00	\$2,153.00	\$2,153.00	\$2,153.00

<b>NO.</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>FY 2009 Final/fincom</b>	<b>FY2010 Selectboard</b>	<b>Dept. Request FY2010</b>	<b>Fin Com/Final FY2010</b>
63	Selectmen - Misc.	\$2,400.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
64	Selectmen's Secretary	\$2,472.00	\$2,472.00	\$2,472.00	\$2,472.00
65	Administrative Assistant	\$14,158.00	\$14,158.00	\$14,158.00	\$14,158.00
66	Admin. Assistant Misc.	\$750.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
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	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00
71	Tax Collector	\$12,038.00	\$12,038.00	\$12,038.00	\$12,038.00
72	Tax Collector - Misc.	\$4,800.00	\$4,150.00	\$4,150.00	\$4,150.00
73	Town Account Exp.	\$2,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
74	Town Acct. Salary	\$11,038.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
75	Town Acct. - Schedule A	\$225.00	-	-	-
76	Town Clerk Wages	\$8,200.00	\$8,200.00	\$8,200.00	\$8,200.00
77	Town Clerk Misc.	\$1,700.00	\$1,530.00	\$1,530.00	\$1,530.00
78	Print Town Reports/St lists	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,000.00
79	Treasurer	\$11,038.00	\$11,038.00	\$11,038.00	\$11,038.00
80	Treasurer - Misc.	\$2,600.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
81	Tree Department	\$800.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
82	Veterans Benefit	\$7,600.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$10,000.00
83	Veterans Services	\$3,063.00	\$3,505.00	\$3,505.00	\$3,505.00
84	Workers Comp.	\$11,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
85	Worcester County Retire.	\$22,777.00	\$24,892.00	\$24,892.00	\$24,892.00
86	Zoning Taskforce				
87	Zoning Board of Appeals	\$450.00	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$300.00
88	Technology	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
89	Post Office		\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
		<b>\$1,635,150</b>	<b>\$1,573,099</b>	<b>\$1,592,296</b>	<b>\$1,564,099</b>

Motion to reconvene this meeting on June 19 at 7:00 at RCS, seconded.

**Passed.**

**Reconvened June 19, at 7 p.m, acted on Articles as denoted by \*\***

**Adjourned at 8:00 pm June 19, 2009**