THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Annual Town Meeting May 8, 2015

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, 2015, which opened at 7 p.m. on that date and was adjourned on June 24, 2015. **denotes action taken at the reconvene of this town meeting. :true copy attest

Melano Le Manyen

:town seal

Melanie A. Mangum, Town Clerk

Moderator George Northrop called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. There were 39 voters at the first day of this town meeting.

Motion was made to take Article 34 out of order, to consider budget line items 9 and 58, (Athol-Royalston Regional School Assessment and Monty Tech Assessment), and to allow Superintendent of ARRS, Anthony Polito, and Business Manager of Monty Tech, Tammy Lajoie, to speak. Motion seconded, passed. Line item 9 amount voted was \$479,131.00, line item 58 amount voted was \$114,159. Both items passed unanimously.

The meeting was reconvened on June 24, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Article 1. To choose one or more persons to act for the Town in lawsuits, or act anything thereon.

Moved to choose the <u>Selectboard</u> to act for the Town in lawsuits, seconded. <u>Passed Unanimously</u>

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.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

Article 3. To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 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.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

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 Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded, Passed 34 in favor, 1 opposed.

Article 5. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$36,667 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, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

Article 6. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$65,295.35 to pay debt service on the borrowing authorized by the vote of the May 10, 2013 Town Meeting, Article 23, for a pumper/engine for Fire Department Station 2, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

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 \$10,000, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

Article 8. 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 \$8,000; or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

Article 9. 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 \$8,000, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

Article 10. To see if the Town will 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 and departmental receipts from charges for postage, shipping, and sale of shipping supplies and any other receipts of the Post Office 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 FY2016 shall be \$12,500, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to close the General and Zoning Enforcement Revolving Account and to use the \$2,000 in that account to partially fund the FY2016 budget, or act anything thereon.

Moved to table this article, seconded. 29 in favor, 1 opposed. ARTICLE TABLED **Motion to reconsider, seconded. Opposed Unanimously, article remains tabled.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization, the sum of \$8,600 to provide police patrols for the Tully and Birch Hill Dam areas, to be reimbursed by the Corps of Engineers, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,200 for the third yearly payment of a four year lease/purchase for the new police cruiser, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of General Law Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ and establish a Sewer Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer System, to be managed by the Sewer Commission, said Fund to be effective beginning Fiscal Year 2016, or act anything thereon.

Moved article as read, seconded. Passed 18 in favor, 6 opposed. Carla Rabinowitz, an original voter to pass the article, voted to reconsider Article 14, seconded - 27 in favor, 4 opposed. Motion to table, seconded - 30 in favor, 3 opposed. ARTICLE TABLED. **Moved to take Article 14 from the table, seconded- motion fails 7-1. Article remains \overline{TABLED}

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Sewer Enterprise, or act anything thereon.

That the following sums be appropriated for the Sewer Enterprise:

Total	\$50,335
Debt	\$0
Capital outlay	\$13,737
Expenses	\$21,598
Operator Contract	\$15,000

And that \$50,335.00 be raised as follows:

\$50,335
\$ 1,300
\$12,437
\$36,598

Moved to transfer from the Sewer Enterprise fund \$50,335 to operate the Sewer Enterprise. Much discussion, including how to properly word the article. Moved to raise and appropriate a sum of money that the operating sums be appropriated with

the total of \$50,335 and that the amount be raised as written. Moved to see if the town will vote to fund the Sewer Enterprise with \$50,335, with the money raised as written in the article: Move to table the article, seconded. 32 in favor, 2 opposed. ARTICLE TABLED

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds, the sum of \$1,300 for capital expenditures for the sewer system, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article to raise and appropriate \$1,300 for capital expenditures for the sewer system, seconded. Motion to table, seconded - 28 in favor, 3 opposed. Article tabled.

**Motion to take this article from the table, seconded. Motion passed Unanimously, article removed from Table. Article as written PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. **

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise the amount of \$36,598 to operate the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer System, the amounts to be raised from user fees, or act anything thereon.

Moved to table the article, seconded - 26 in favor, 6 opposed. ARTICLE TABLED. **Moved to reconsider this article, seconded. Passed Unanimously, article removed from table. ARTICLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Act FY 2016 estimated annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2016, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, or act anything thereon:

Appropriations:

•	•
Reserves:	
From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$ 3,200
From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$ 3,200
From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$ 3,200
From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve	\$20,800

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously

From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to pay the sum of \$600,000 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 Select Board and Mass DOT, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Much discussion. Passed Unanimously.

\$ 1,600

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or take from available funds, the sum of \$105,000 to balance the Snow & Ice Account, or act anything thereon.

Moved to raise and appropriate \$13,811, and to take \$1,189 from the Storm Account, and to take \$90,000 from the Stabilization account, for a total of \$105,000 to balance the Snow & Ice Account. (Christine Long reports that Town Counsel stated this article requires a 2/3 vote because it involves the Stabilization account). Motion seconded. Discussion. Passed Unanimously.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$4,000 for the purpose of designing and constructing structural modifications to the fire escape at Town Hall, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved to raise and appropriate \$4,000, seconded. Discussion. Passed 32 in favor, 2 against.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$5,000 to design and construct a roof over the ramp at Whitney Hall, including any costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved to raise and appropriate \$5,000, seconded. Motion to move the question, seconded. Article <u>Passed with 3 against</u>.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$26,500 to scrape and paint Whitney Hall and to restore its historic front doors, or act anything thereon.

Moved to table the article, seconded. 29 in favor, 3 against - ARTICLE TABLED

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$28,400 to repair, scrape and paint Town Hall, or act anything thereon.

Moved to table the article, seconded. 28 in favor, 4 against – ARTICLE TABLED.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to transfer to the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$25,000 from the amounts appropriated under Article 34 of the 2011 Annual Town Meeting (which approved the paving of the Town Hall parking lot, and which funds are no longer needed for such purposes), or act anything thereon.

Moved to transfer to the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$22,000 from the amounts appropriated under Article 34 of the 2011 Annual Town Meeting, seconded. Passed Unanimously

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to purchase and equip a vehicle to replace the 1984 brush truck for the Fire Department, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed with 2 against.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to purchase two sets of structural firefighting gear, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to support the erection of a metal building with an insulation package for the purpose of housing Fire Department and Department of Public Works equipment and vehicles currently stored outside; a portion of this building will be financed with donated funds and the remaining cost will be financed with 100 percent reimbursable Chapter 90 funds, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Much discussion, motion to move the question, seconded, passed unanimously. Article Passed 21 in favor, 9 against. **Moved to reconsider this article, seconded. Motion to reconsider fails, 4-2. Article as written remains PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or take from available funds, a sum of money to demolish the building located at 1 School Street, including all costs incidental or related thereto, or act anything thereon.

Moved to table the article, seconded. Motion to table passed unanimously. ARTICLE TABLED.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the design and construction of an elevator for Town Hall, including any costs incidental or related thereto, said funds to be used as a match for a grant, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Article Passed 24 in favor, 3 against.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to design and construct improvements to the Riverside Cemetery hearse house, including any costs incidental and related thereto, said sum shall be used to supplement a gift in the amount of \$6,000, which was accepted at the June 25, 2014 Special Town Meeting, or act anything thereon.

Moved to table the article, seconded. Motion to table passed 28 in favor, 4 against. ARTICLE TABLED

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to take from the Post Office Revolving Fund the sum of \$15,822 and transfer it to the Stabilization Fund, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Article Passed Unanimously.

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,800 for hardware upgrades to three Town computers, or act anything thereon.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Moved to amend the article to raise \$4,800 for computer hardware upgrades to town systems, seconded.

Motion to amend passed 26 in favor, 2 against.

Article as amended Passed 23 in favor, 6 against.

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or take from available funds, the sum \$1,912,909 to fund the budgets for the following accounts, or take any action thereon.

Motions to vote the following amounts in the following line items, seconded and Passed Unanimously:

- Line 13, Board of Health Chair \$1,545
- Line 14, Board of Health Clerk \$1,357
- Line 18, Board of Health Wages \$14,500
- Line 33, in the FinCom column (to correct a typographical error in the warrant) \$8,260 (instead of \$8,620).

Moved and seconded the article to raise and appropriate \$1,905,482., and to take from the General and Zoning Enforcement Revolving Account the sum of \$2,000, and to take the sum of \$7,178 from Post Office Revolving Fund, for a total amount of \$1,914,660 to fund the following accounts: PASSED

No.	Department	FY 2015	Dept. Req.	Selectboard	Fin Com	Floor/
	-	Actual	FY 2016	FY 2016	FY 2016	Final
1	24 Hr. Dispatch	\$16,780	\$17,060	\$17,060	\$17,060	\$17,060
2	Admin Asst	\$15,245	\$15,636	\$15,636	\$15,636	\$15,636
3	Admin Asst Expense	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800
4	Agriculture Commision	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
5	Animal Control Budget	\$5,484	\$4,549	\$4,549	\$4,549	\$4,549
6	Animal Inspector	\$754	\$773	\$773	\$773	\$773
7	Assessor's Clerk's Salary	\$8,349	\$8,563	\$8,563	\$8,563	\$8,563
8	Assessor's Expense	\$5,447	\$5,447	\$5,447	\$5,447	\$5,447
9	Athol - Royalston Reg Assess	\$448,000	\$479,131	\$479,131	\$479,131	\$479,131
10	Board of Assessors Chair	\$1,737	\$1,782	\$1,782	\$1,782	\$1,782
11	Board of Assessors Clerk	\$1,506	\$1,545	\$1,545	\$1,545	\$1,545

No.	Department	FY 2015 Actual	Dept. Req. FY 2016	Selectboard FY 2016	Fin Com FY 2016	Floor/ Final
12	Board of Assessors Member	\$1,506	\$1,545	\$1,545	\$1,545	\$1,545
13	Board of Health Chair	\$1,506	\$1,506	\$1,506	\$1,506	\$1,545
14	Board of Health Clerk	\$1,324	\$1,324	\$1,324	\$1,324	\$1,357
15	Board of Health Expenses	\$55,000	\$53,000	\$53,000	\$53,000	\$53,000
16	Board of Health Member	\$1,214	\$1,245	\$1,245	\$1,245	\$1,245
17	Board of Health Mgmt Acct	\$2,340	\$2,385	\$2,385	\$2,385	\$2,385
18	Board of Health Wages	\$12,500	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$12,821	\$14,500
19	BOH Landfill Monitoring	\$0	\$3,885	\$3,885	\$3,885	\$3,885
20	Building Inspector Expense	\$3,461	\$5,461	\$5,461	\$5,461	\$5,461
21	Building Inspector Salary	\$12,300	\$12,300	\$12,300	\$12,300	\$12,300
22	Care of Town Clocks	\$52	\$52	\$52	\$52.00	\$52
23	Cemetery Comm Chair	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250.00	\$250
24	Cemetery Comm Member	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200.00	\$200
25	Cemetery Comm Member	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200.00	\$200
26	Cemetery Expense	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
27	Clearance of Tax Title	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
28	Conservation Commision	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450
29	Council on Aging	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
30	County Retirement	\$25,333	\$46,578	\$46,578	\$46,578	\$46,578
31	Custodians of Tax Title	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
32	Elderly Transportation	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
33	Election Expense	\$9,750	\$8,260	\$8,260	\$8,260	\$8,260
34	Emergency Management Dept.	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
35	Energy Committee	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
36	Fire Chief Stipend	\$3,500	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
37	Fire Department Wages	\$31,160	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000
38	Fire Department Expenses	\$46,562	\$47,756	\$47,756	\$47,756	\$47,756
39	Harper's Payroll	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
40	Health Insurance	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
41	Highway Contractor Wages	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
42	Highway General	\$70,705	\$72,518	\$72,518	\$72,518	\$72,518
43	Highway Maintenance	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000

No.	Department	FY 2015 Actual	Dept. Req. FY 2016	Selectboard FY 2016	Fin Com FY 2016	Floor/ Final
44	Highway Salary	\$239,420	\$246,000	\$246,000	\$246,000	\$246,000
45	Historic Commision	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
46	Information Technology	\$3,000	\$4,100	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
47	Information Technology Dir.	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
48	Insurance - Norworco	\$1,974	\$1,974	\$1,974	\$1,974	\$1,974
49	Interest Expense	\$2,000	\$9,200	\$9,200	\$9,200	\$9,200
50	J.N. Bartlett Treasurer	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
51	Legal Expense	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
52	Liability Insurance	\$34,000	\$36,300	\$36,300	\$36,300	\$36,300
53	Liability Insurance-F/P	\$10,200	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
54	Library Expenses	\$23,510	\$24,434	\$24,191	\$24,191	\$24,191
55	Library Wages	\$29,794	\$32,274	\$31,342	\$31,342	\$31,342
56	Memorial Day	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650
57	Moderator's Salary	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
58	Mont Tech Assessment	\$115,473	\$114,159	\$114,159	\$114,159	\$114,159
59	Muncipal Buildings	\$69,706	\$71,491	\$71,491	\$71,491	\$71,491
60	Officer Bonding	\$1,000	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
61	Open Space Committee	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
62	Planning Board	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
63	Police Dept Expense	\$21,443	\$21,976	\$21,976	\$21,976	\$21,976
64	Police Dept Salary	\$66,761	\$71,050	\$71,050	\$71,050	\$71,050
65	Registrars	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
66	Reserve Account	\$32,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
67	Royalston Post Office	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
68	Schedule A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
69	Select Board Chair	\$2,667	\$2,735	\$2,735	\$2,735	\$2,735
70	Select Board Clerk	\$2,318	\$2,377	\$2,377	\$2,377	\$2,377
71	Select Board Member	\$2,318	\$2,377	\$2,377	\$2,377	\$2,377
72	Select Board Misc	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
73	Select Board Secretary	\$2,662	\$2,730	\$2,730	\$2,730	\$2,730
74	Sewer Comm Chair	\$308	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
75	Sewer Comm Member	\$257	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250

No.	Department	FY 2015 Actual	Dept. Req. FY 2016	Selectboard FY 2016	Fin Com FY 2016	Floor/ Final
76	Sewer Comm Member	\$257	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
77	Snow & Ice	\$160,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000
78	Street Lights	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
79	Tax Collector's Expense	\$5,150	\$5,375	\$5,375	\$5,375	\$5,375
80	Tax Collector's Salary	\$12,889	\$13,184	\$13,184	\$13,184	\$13,184
81	Town Accountant Expense	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600
82	Town Acccount Salary	\$11,887	\$12,192	\$12,192	\$12,192	\$12,192
83	Town Clerk's Expense	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700
84	Town Clerk's Salary	\$10,780	\$11,050	\$11,050	\$11,050	\$11,050
85	Town Reports & Street List	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300
86	Town Share Medicare	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
87	Treasurer's Expense	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
88	Treasurer's Salary	\$11,887	\$12,184	\$12,184	\$12,184	\$12,184
89	Tree Department	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
90	Unemployment - Contributory	\$9,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
91	Veterans' Benefits	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
92	Veterans' Services	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700
93	Workmen's Compensation	\$20,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000
94	Z.B.A. Expense	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
	TOTALS	\$1,836,276	\$1,913,584	\$1,912,909	\$1,912,909	\$1,914,660

Article 35. 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.

Moved the article as read, seconded. Passed unanimously motion to reconvene the town meeting Wednesday , June 24 at 7 p.m. At town hall. Passed unanimously.

^{**}Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m June 24, 2015., second, passed unanimously.