VOTE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF DRACUT
JUNE 6, 2016

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Dracut was held on Monday, June 6, 2016 at the Lester G. Richardson Center for the Performing Arts, Dracut High School, 1540 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut, MA.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 P.M. with a quorum certified by the Town Clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ARTICLE #1:
Unanimously, the Town voted to waive the reading of the Town Meeting Articles as printed in the warrant.

Submitted by Kathleen M. Graham, Town Clerk
Board of Selectmen recommended approval

ARTICLE #2:
Unanimously, the Town voted to waive hearing the report of the Town Accountant, the Board of Selectmen, and any other committee having a direction from previous Town Meetings.

Submitted by Kathleen M. Graham, Town Clerk
Board of Selectmen recommended approval

ARTICLE #3:
Unanimously, the Town voted to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as permitted by General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 5F.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #4:
By majority, the Town voted to defeat the following amendment to Article #4:

"I move that the Town vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elective officers of the Town, as provided by General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended, to be effective July 1, 2016, and to raise and appropriate such sums of money under the various departments shown below:

Moderator:	$ 0.00
Board of Selectmen:	$ 0.00
School Committee:	$ 0.00

Submitted by Brian J. Bond

By majority, the Town voted to fix the salaries and compensation of all elective officers of the Town, as provided by General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended, to be effective July 1, 2016, and to raise and appropriate such sums of money under the various departments shown below:

Moderator:	$ 550.00
Board of Selectmen:	$2,000.00
School Committee:	$2,000.00

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

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ARTICLE #4 (Cont'd):
Seven voters stood to challenge the vote called by the Moderator. The Moderator called for a standing vote.

By standing vote (Yes – 233, No – 94), the Town voted to fix the salaries and compensation of all elective officers of the Town, as provided by General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended, to be effective July 1, 2016, and to raise and appropriate such sums of money under the various departments shown below:

Moderator:	$ 550.00
Board of Selectmen:	$2,000.00
School Committee:	$2,000.00

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #5:
By majority, the Town voted to defeat the following amendment to Article #5:

"I move to amend the budget by removing $200K from Health Insurance line item and by adding $140K to Dracut Public Schools Capital Improvements and $60K to public safety. This reduces the budget for the Town by $140K and increases the overall school budget.

Submitted by Rich Cowan

Unanimously, the Town voted to raise and appropriate, borrow and/or transfer Seventy Three Million Eight Hundred Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Dollars ($73,812,910) from available funds, to defray Town charges and expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 as follows:

School Department:	
School Department Operations:	$28,700,000
Transportation	1,966,096
Greater Lowell Regional Technical High School	
Education Assessment	$ 4,150,187
Transportation Assessment	221,213
Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School	
Education/Transportation Assessment	174,000
Town Manager:	
Salaries, Wages, Expenses & Transfers	$38,038,414
Snow and Ice Removal	563,000
Total Budget:	$73,812,810

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #6:
By majority, the Town voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of Seven Million Six Hundred Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Two Dollars ($7,659,202) to operate the Sewer Department. Said sum shall be from the retained earnings and revenues of the Sewer Enterprise Fund and will be segregated and expended in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 as follows:

ARTICLE #6 (Cont'd):
Sewer Department:

Salaries, Wages and Expenses	$ 599,230
Lowell/Methuen Sewer Treatment Charges	1,810,000
Debt Service	4,991,377
Capital Outlay	152,595
Fund Transfer	106,000
Total Amount:	$7,659,202

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #7:
Unanimously, the Town voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds One Million Three Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($1,387,500) for the Kenwood Water Department. Said sum shall be from the retained earnings and revenues of the Water Enterprise Fund and will be segregated and expended in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 as follows:

Water Department:

Salaries, Wages and Expenses	$ 366,545
Water Charges	800,000
Debt Service	55,955
Capital Outlay	50,000
Fund Transfer	115,000
Total Budget:	$1,387,500

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #8:
Unanimously, the Town voted to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of Eight Hundred Five Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Three Dollars ($805,653) said sum to be used for the Town's Chapter 90 Program, reconstruction and improvement of Town roads and/or sidewalks, said sum to be reimbursed on a 100% basis by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #9:
Unanimously, the Town voted to raise and appropriate, borrow and/or transfer from available funds Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00) to be used for the repayment of medical bills that have been incurred pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 100, and are outstanding from previous years.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

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ARTICLE #10:
Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate and/or transfer from the Wetland Protection Fund Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) to be used in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 for the purpose of defraying the costs of the Conservation Commission in the performance of its duties.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #11A:
Unanimously, the Town voted to authorize the Board of Library Trustees, with the approval of the Town Manager, to expend the funds from registration fees, activities fees, rental fees, lost books, fines, donations and grants to credit to the same to defray operational expenses and library patron activities for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2016; said expenditures shall be in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and shall not exceed in total the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000).

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #11B:
Unanimously, the Town voted to authorize the School Department to expend the funds received from registration fees, activities fees, rental fees, lost books, fines and donations to defray operational expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016; said expenditures shall be in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and shall not exceed in total the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000).

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #11C:
Unanimously, the Town voted to authorize the Council on Aging to expend the funds received from registration fees, activities fees, rental fees, bus fares, grants, and donations to defray operational expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016; said expenditures shall be in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and shall not exceed in total the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000).

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #12:
By 2/3rds majority (voice vote clearly heard and so called by the Moderator), the Town voted to appropriate and/or transfer from the Stabilization Fund Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($67,500) for the purchase of a pickup truck, sidewalk roller, and plows for the Highway Department.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

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ARTICLE #13:
Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate and/or transfer from the Tip Fee Reserve Fund Sixty Four Thousand Dollars ($64,000) to be used in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 to defray costs incurred for trash removal.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #14:
Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate and/or transfer from the Cemetery Trust Fund Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000) to be used in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 to defray costs associated with the expansion of cemeteries.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #15:
Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate and/or transfer from the Englesby Debt Account One Hundred Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($103,500) to be used in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 to defray Town charges and expenses.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #16:
Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate and/or transfer Eight Thousand Dollars ($8,000) from the Cemetery Trust Fund to be used in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 to defray costs incurred by the Cemetery Department in the performance of its duties.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #17:
Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate and/or transfer Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000) from the Extra Polling Hours Reserve Fund to be used in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 to defray costs incurred by the Election Department in the performance of its duties.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #18:
Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate and/or transfer from the Town Hall Stabilization Fund Eighty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Six Dollars ($86,756) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 to be used to defray the debt costs associated with the debt obligation.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

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ARTICLE #19:
Unanimously, the Town voted to appropriate, borrow and/or transfer from available funds of the Capital Improvement Fund the sum of One Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirteen Dollars ($165,213) to be used in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 for the purchase of the following:

Voting Machines	$ 63,000
Altair Gas Detectors	18,213
Cruiser Technology (MDT's)	44,000
Classroom Computers	30,000
DATA VIS – Police	10,000
Total:	$165,213

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #20:
By majority, the Town voted to increase the exemption amount of Clause 41C from $500 to $600, for the purpose of reducing the property tax for those that meet the income and asset qualifications.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #21:
By majority, the Town voted to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, debt service, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2017, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation as follows:

	Recommended Amount	Funding Source
OPEN SPACE:		
Capital Outlay	$1,500,000	Open Space Reserve
(Funds to be used only for available Ch. 61A land purchases)		
ADMINISTRATIVE:		
Personnel Services	$ 2,000	Administrative Reserve
Professional & Technical Services	57,000	Administrative Reserve
Supplies & Maintenance	350	Administrative Reserve
Other Charges & Expenses	2,650	Administrative Reserve
DEBT SERVICE		
Debt Service	65,350	Historic/Open Space Reserves
Total Appropriations:	$1,627,350	
RESERVES:		
Open Space	$ 610,500 (55%)	
Historic Resources	111,000 (10%)	
Community Housing	333,000 (30%)	
Administrative	55,500 (5%)	
Total Reserves:	$1,110,000	

ARTICLE #21 (Cont'd):
Further, that any expenditure from the One Million Five Hundred Dollars ($1,500,000) appropriated above for Capital Outlay (purchase of Ch. 61A land) must be recommended by a majority of the CPA Committee and a majority of the Finance Committee after a hearing and vote of the Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee has been held on the recommended purchase.

Submitted by Helen Dunlap, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #22:
By majority, the Town voted to appropriate Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000) from the Community Preservation Historic Resources Reserve Fund for the purpose of completing a survey of properties in Town. The requested amount is subject to a reimbursement of Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($15,000) from a grant secured from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Submitted by Helen Dunlap, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #23:
By majority, the Town voted to appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000) from the Open Space/Recreation Community Preservation Reserve Fund for the purpose of supplementing existing funds (voted by Article 10 of the November 3, 2014 Town Meeting) for the construction of the High School Middle School Field House. In the event that any funds are remaining, they are to be returned to the fund.

Submitted by: Helen Dunlap, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

ARTICLE #24:
By 2/3rds majority (voice vote clearly heard and so called by the Moderator), the Town voted to withdraw Article #24.

Motion to withdraw submitted by Helen Dunlap, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee
Board of Selectmen recommended withdrawal of the motion
Finance Committee recommended withdrawal of the motion

ARTICLE #25:
By majority, the Town voted to clarify Article #23 of the June 1, 2015 Town Meeting relating to the acquisition and care of Beaver Brook Farm, located at 761 Mammoth Road in Dracut, MA. Article #23 passed at the June 1, 2015 Town Meeting, and allowed for the funds to be used to acquire the property as well as "to pay all costs incidental and related thereto". The Beaver Brook Farm Committee and the Community Preservation Committee want to clarify and confirm that the funds can be used for: normal and extraordinary repairs to the structures; stabilization of portions of buildings in need of repair or removal; acquisition of building materials related to the stabilization and repair; acquisition of services of professionals who can assist the Beaver Brook Farm Committee in the development of a master plan for the re-use of the property; and any other related expenses relative to the long-term use of the Beaver Brook Farm.

Submitted by Helen Dunlap, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee
Board of Selectmen recommended approval
Finance Committee recommended approval

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ARTICLE #26:
By majority, the Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a petition with the Massachusetts General Court for special legislation, as set forth in Article #26 of this Town Warrant, to allow the Town, notwithstanding Section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, to add four additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises pursuant to Section 12 of said Chapter 138, provided that the General Court may make grammatical and/or editorial changes of form only to such a Bill, so long as the Board of Selectmen approves the amendments to the Bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to approve amendments that shall be within the scope of the general public purpose of this petition.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval

ARTICLE #27:
By ballot vote (Yes – 198, No – 278), the Town defeated a motion to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a petition with Massachusetts General Court for special legislation as set forth in Article #27 to allow the Town to remove the position of Police Chief from Civil Service, provided that the General Court may make grammatical and/or editorial changes of form only to such Bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approve amendments to the Bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to approve amendments that shall be within the scope of the general public objective of this petition.

Submitted by James A. Duggan, Town Manager
Board of Selectmen recommended approval

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to adjourn the June 6, 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

Unanimously, the Town voted to adjourn the June 6, 2016 Town Meeting at 10:09 P.M.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST: Kathleen M. Graham
Kathleen M. Graham, Town Clerk