

## MARCH 14, 1978 — MASON TOWN MEETING

Moderator McCaffery opened Town Meeting in the Town Hall March 14, 1978, at 2:00 P.M.

Warrant read calling for polls to be open from 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on March 14th and to meet Wednesday, March 15th at 7:30 P.M. to act upon the remaining articles. Voting followed. Polls closed 7:10 P.M. Votes counted — results announced. Votes cast, 192; absentee votes, 19; total votes, 211. Checklist 363.

Selectman, 3 years — Michael J. Farrey  
Town Clerk, 3 years — Charles F. H. Crathern  
Tax Collector, 3 years — Linda J. Rousseau  
Treasurer, 3 years — Mary Gilson  
Moderator, 2 years — Marie McCaffery  
Supervisor, 6 years — Cedric Valentine

State legislature made two changes this year in Town Meeting elections, adding Moderator and Supervisor of Check List — previously on State biennial ballot — and prohibiting any town officer from also holding the office of Town Treasurer. Charles Crathern had been Mason Clerk and Treasurer for 26 years.

Three referendum questions were voted affirmatively by large majority. Two applied to expanded exemptions on real estate for the elderly based on actual assessed valuation and one for tax exemption on wind powered energy system.

Meeting recessed to March 15, Town Hall, 7:30 P.M. by Moderator.

Recessed Town Meeting called to order by Moderator McCaffery at 7:40 P.M., March 15, 1978. Warrant articles read. Rules of procedure — Roberts Rules — attendance 130 approx.

Article 1. Town officer and referendum votes as cast yesterday announced. Town officers elected from the floor were:

Library Trustee — Lillius Johnson  
Cemetery Trustee — Edith Marshall  
Trust Funds Trustee — Anne Richards  
Auditor — Cedric Valentine

Article 2. Moved — Selectman Parker — 2nd from floor, that town appropriate the sum of \$154,356.00 to defray town charges for 1978. Several of the larger items that had increased over last year were pointed out and good explanations given as to why by Ray Parker.

Town Officers' Exp. — Inflation with all costs up. Time and mileage. Insurance was explained by Paul Stevens, an insurance executive, in a very thorough and understanding manner. "An era of claims and suits. You must be protected. Town, officials, police, etc. All insurance costs higher as a result. Late 1976 billing included in 1977."

Legal Expenses — False arrest suit vs. Town and Police Chief. Legal costs to date, \$2,500. No final settlement as yet.

Communications Service provided by Fred Nelson discontinued. New service (Draper Oil) means new equipment expanded to meet required 24 hour increased service. Final costs and figures not available. Takes over later this fall.

Old Age or Senior Citizens — general increased costs and needs.  
Workmen's Compensation — Something we have to swallow.  
Final passage strongly affirmative.

Article 3. Moved and seconded. Affirmative vote.

Article 4. Moved and seconded and explained by Selectman Harold Elliott. Bronson Potter purchased land when placed for sale by Lewis Whitaker, to hold it for Town until after a Town Meeting vote. Road frontage on Old Ashby Rd. and Old Mill Rd. — 10 acres more or less. Only land available in center of Town. Investment not development. Question moved — voted in affirmative — Article voted in affirmative. Carries by  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

Article 5. Moved and seconded. Old sander 5 years old. Two sanders cut cost of sanding, one man per sander. \$1,000 rental of sander this winter applied to cost of new one. Bob Robidoux moved amendment, "Town raise \$2,000 and borrow for 1 year balance of \$2,787." Defeated. Question moved — passed. Article voted affirmative, carried by  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

Article 6. Moved and seconded — Article voted in affirmative.

Article 7. Moved and seconded — no questions — voted 100% affirmative.

Article 8. Moved and seconded. Voted in affirmative after discussion. \$11,600 already in Library and Town Office Fund. Request cut to \$1,000 to hold taxes down.

Article 9. Moved and seconded. Voted in affirmative. Fred Gilson, Chief, stated mileage per year ran 20,000 miles.

Article 10. Moved and seconded — no questions — voted in affirmative — last payment.

Article 11. Moved and seconded — no questions — voted in affirmative.

Article 12. Moved and seconded and passed. It was then pointed out article not needed. Fund already established.

Article 13. Moved and seconded. Discussion — motion withdrawn. Moved to table. Passed by hand vote.

Article 14. Moved and seconded — discussion — passed in affirmative. Run off of surface water without proper drainage will affect household wells in the area. State could be called in.

Article 15. Moved, seconded and passed in affirmative. Pointed out that we were spending money to "catch ourselves for speeding". Police have many speeding cases. Evidence not valid in court. This will provide valid one man evidence.

Article 16. Moved and seconded that playground area work be carried on. Passed.

Article 17. Moved and seconded that Town Clerk be exempt from register voters. Defeated. State law requires Town Clerk to register voters unless Town votes not to.

Article 18. It was moved and seconded — To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate and enter into a contract with a commercial company to provide communication facilities and services for said Town, said contract to be for such number of years or other period of time and upon such terms and conditions as are mutually acceptable to Mason and the said company, and to vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$3,000.00 inclusive of any unexpended balance remaining in the Communications Service Account, to pay said company for communications services for the remainder of 1978.

Communication service to area towns in a complete muddle. Nelson suddenly discontinuing and Draper Co. developing new service. No one knows anything definite as to who, what, when, where. Turnover day set for July 1. No choice for Mason except to go along. Passed in affirmative.

Article 19. Moved and seconded. No one is able to locate the "dump" because of the heavy fog enveloping it. Local Greenville inaction vs. State pressure for action will explode soon. Three possible choices for Mason — 1. Chew our own refuse, 2. Give it to Greenville, 3. Send it to Wilton. Discussion only made the fog thicker. The question was moved and passed. Motion passed in affirmative to "Appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,000.00 to pay such other Town (you name it) for the disposal of Mason refuse for the remainder of 1978".

Motion to adjourn passed at 10:30.

CHARLES F. H. CRATHERN, Town Clerk