TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT



FY 2010 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

May 4, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. Pioneer Valley Regional School 97 F. Sumner Turner Road Northfield, Massachusetts

Town of Northfield Notes from the Moderator

WELCOME TO TOWN MEETING

Some Frequently Used Rules and Procedures: Rules of Debate

We have used the following rules of debate for several years:

- 1. All motions need to be in writing and given to the Town Clerk when presented.
- 2. The person responsible for the article may make the first motion.
- 3. Speakers may not speak for more than ten minutes at a time.
- 4. These rules may be waived by the Moderator or the voters by a 2/3 vote.

Motions

The sponsor of the article may make the first motion. The motion must be within the scope of the article printed in the warrant. After the motion is seconded, substitute motions and amendments may be offered.

Discussion of Articles

Persons wishing to speak should raise their hand until recognized by the Moderator. They should begin remarks by stating their name and address.

Point of Order

Point of order is used to raise procedural questions only. It may be used at any time. It may interrupt the speaker, requires no second and is debatable.

To Stop Debate

Debate may be stopped by the Moderator or a motion by a voter. The motion should be "I move the previous question," or words to that effect. The Moderator may or may not accept the motion which requires a 2/3 vote.

Questioning the Vote:

When 7 voters question the Moderator's call on an uncounted vote, a counted vote shall be taken.

Motion to Reconsider or Rescind

Whether to accept a motion to reconsider or rescind is a judgment call by the Moderator. I have not accepted these motions unless new compelling circumstances seem to justify a departure from the accepted practice. There has been only one reconsideration in the past 8 years.

Authority

I am guided by the guidelines contained in the most current issue of Town Meeting Time, a handbook of parliamentary law by the Massachusetts Moderators Association. However, I reserve the right to make final judgment on all issues not specifically provided for by state law or town bylaw.

Thomas R. Shearer, Moderator

April 6, 2000

Annual Town Meeting Warrant COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS

To any of the Constables in the Town of Northfield, in the County of Franklin,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Northfield, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the

Pioneer Valley Regional School

in said Town on Monday, May 4, 2009 at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 p.m.), then and there to act on the following:

Article 1. (Submitted by the Selectboard)

To see if the Town will vote to waive the reading of the Warrant and the Notice to the Constables and act on the motions of the following articles, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Article 2. (Submitted by the Selectboard)

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the reports of the several Town Officers, Boards, Committees, Commissions and Trustees, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Article 3. (Submitted by the Selectboard)

To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any sum or sums of money that may be available from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Massachusetts Highway Department) for Chapter 90-type construction/improvements/reconstruction of public ways and associated equipment; and authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts relative thereto, and to appropriate said sum or sums in anticipation of reimbursement from the Commonwealth, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Article 4. (Submitted by the Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to approve that, upon exceeding the levy limit, any monies appropriated that exceed the Town Finance Committee recommendation under Article 5, or any other article of this Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Town Meeting, may be contingent upon the approval by the voters of an "Override of Proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$," or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Article 5. (Submitted by the Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will vote, under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 41, Section 108, or any amendments thereto, to fix the salaries of all elected officials for Fiscal Year 2010, and raise and appropriate any sum or sums therefor, and further raise and appropriate any sum or sums of money for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in Money Column 3 of the Warrant , or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

		FINANCE
APPROPRIATION	REQUESTED	COMM
FY2009	FY2010	RECOMMENDS

MODERATOR SALARY				50.00	50.00	50.00
MODERATOR EXPENSE				30.00	30.00	30.00
SELECTMEN SALARIES				0.00	5322.00	5322.00
	2009	2010req	2010rec			
chairman	0.00	1844.00	1844.00			
others	0.00	1739.00	1739.00			
SELECTMEN EXPENSE				12500.00	10030.00	10030.00
ADMIN ASST SALARY				50849.00	53033.00	53033.00
ADMIN ASST EXPENSE				850.00	825.00	825.00
SECRETARY SALARY				32812.00	33531.00	33531.00
FINANCE COMM EXPEN	SE			1346.00	1391.00	1391.00
RESERVE FUND				15000.00	15000.00	15000.00
ACCOUNTANT SALARY				23219.00	24216.00	24216.00
ACCOUNTANT EXPENS	E			335.00	335.00	335.00
ASSESSORS SALARIES				0.00	4884.00	4884.00
	2009	2010req	2010rec			
chairman	0.00	1712.00	1712.00			
others	0.00	1586.00	1586.00			
ASSESSORS CLERK SA	LARY			32290.00	33677.00	33677.00
ASSESSORS PROPERT	Y INSPI	ECTOR		6026.00	6000.00	6000.00
ASSESSORS EXPENSE				20765.00	15155.00	15155.00
TREASURER SALARY				10622.00	11078.00	11078.00
TREASURER EXPENSE				3000.00	3000.00	3000.00
TAX COLLECTOR SALAR				10622.00	11078.00	11078.00
TAX COLLECTOR EXPE	_			4700.00	4700.00	4700.00
TOWN LEGAL COUNSEL				15000.00	15000.00	10000.00
COMPUTER SUPPLY/SE				10360.00	11771.00	11771.00
TAX TITLE FORECLOSU	RE			2300.00	2300.00	2300.00
COPY MACHINE SUPPLA	SERVIC	CE		2100.00	2100.00	2100.00
TOWN CLERK SALARY				24143.00	25180.00	25180.00
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE				3470.00	3455.00	3455.00
ELECTIONS & REGISTR	ATIONS	8		6625.00	6625.00	6625.00
CONSERV COMMISSION	1			1842.00	1862.00	1862.00
PLANNING BOARD				1964.00	1984.00	1984.00
ZONING/APPEALS BOAF	RD			3020.00	3064.00	3064.00
OPEN SPACE COMMITT	EE			200.00	200.00	200.00
LAND DAMAGES				1.00	1.00	1.00
TOWN HALL CUSTODIAL	N			12440.00	12974.00	12974.00
CUSTODIAN EXPENSE				175.00	175.00	175.00

TOWN CLOCK 150.00 150.00 15	
TOTAL 357611.00 365331.00 36033	31.00
POLICE WAGES & SALARIES 193913.00 193518.00 19351	8.00
2009 2010req 2010rec	
chief 58872.00	
sergeant 47487.00	
third ofcr 36171.00	
F.T. wages 135656.00 135656.00 P.T. wages 20213.00 21637.00 21637.00	
holiday 3926.00 5492.00 5492.00	
O.T. wages 9374.00 11881.00 11881.00	
Quinn Bill 17870.00 18852.00 18852.00	
POLICE OPER EXPENSE 25273.00 26433.00 2643	3.00
	9.00
2009 2010req 2010rec	
chief 2523.00 2573.00 2573.00	
frst fire warden 505.00 515.00 515.00	
pub safety ofcr 253.00 258.00 258.00	
fire dept secy 336.00 343.00 343.00	
asst. chief 514.00 524.00 524.00	
captain 257.00 262.00 262.00	
lieutenants 386.00 394.00 394.00	
FIRE DEPT WAGES 36000.00 36720.00 3672	
	0.00
	00.00
	00.00
	50.00
	0.00
	1.00
	0.00
BLDG INSPECTOR SALARY 22891.00 23349.00 2334	
	50.00
	00.00
WIRE INSPECTION 4000.00 4050.00 405	0.00
	00.00
	00.00
DOG OFFICER EXPENSE 1450.00 1450.00 145	0.00

TREE DEPT WAGES & EXPENSE CONSTABLES WAGES CONSTABLES EXPENSE FENCE VIEWERS, ETC	8500.00 829.00 30.00 1.00	8500.00 846.00 30.00 1.00	8500.00 846.00 30.00 1.00
TOTAL	376901.00	382936.00	382177.00
PVRS-OPER ASSMNT PVRS-BLDG PROJ ASSESSMENT PVRS-TCHRS SALARY DEFERRAL FRKLN CTY TECH SCHOOL-OPER ASSMNT FRKLN CTY TECH SCHOOL-CAPTL ASSMNT	3323785.43 415830.98 4536.47 310236.00 0.00	3321171.00 393289.76 4536.47 285320.00 0.00	3321171.00 393289.76 4536.47 285320.00 0.00
TOTAL	4054388.88	4004317.23	4004317.23
HWY SUPT EXPENSE	8200.00	8200.00	8200.00
HIGHWAY & SNOW REMOVAL WAGES	221674.00	228448.00	228448.00
HWY, BRIDGES & RAILS	150000.00	150000.00	150000.00
OILING & STONING	55000.00	60000.00	60000.00
HIGHWAY TOOLS	1200.00	1200.00	1200.00
SNOW REMOVAL EXPENSE	71800.00	71800.00	71800.00
STREET LIGHTS	13700.00	13700.00	13700.00
MACHINERY MAINTENANCE	76500.00	76500.00	76500.00
MAINT HIGHWAY GARAGE HWY	11000.00	11000.00	11000.00
BOUNDS,SURVEY,LISTS	1.00	1.00	1.00
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT	7480.00	7580.00	7580.00
WASTE DISPOSAL	128470.00	128470.00	128470.00
SEWER COMM SALARIES	0.00	1344.00	1344.00
SEWER COMM EXPENSE	50.00	50.00	50.00
SEWER DEPT COLLECTOR	3125.00	3188.00	3188.00
SEWER DEPT WAGES	66246.00	68209.00	68209.00
OP & MAINT SEWER PLANT	68186.00	67535.00	67535.00
CEMETERY WAGES & EXPENSE	11000.00	11000.00	11000.00
TOTAL	893632.00	908225.00	908225.00

BD OF HEALTH SALARIES BD OF HEALTH EXPENSE PLUMBING INSPECTOR SHARED HEALTH AGENT SEPTIC SYSTEM INSP FEES ANIMAL INSPECTOR COUNCIL ON AGING SOLDIERS RELIEF		0.00 8101.00 4500.00 9522.00 2750.00 2250.00 27720.00 2500.00	2237.00 8285.00 4500.00 9760.00 2750.00 2250.00 27713.00 2500.00	2237.00 8285.00 4500.00 9760.00 2750.00 2250.00 27713.00 2500.00
DICKINSON LIBRARY WAGES DICKINSON LIBRARY EXP NFLD FARMS LIBRARY RECREATION COMM REC COMM TRAINING & RECO REC PROGRM DIRECTR MAINT ATHLETIC FIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMORIAL DAY ALEXANDER HALL FRCOG ASSESSMENT VETERANS DISTRICT	GNITION	91091.00 38055.00 575.00 5750.00 250.00 3688.00 3000.00 375.00 1600.00 340.00 26353.00 5985.00	94557.00 37465.00 575.00 5750.00 250.00 3762.00 3000.00 375.00 1600.00 340.00 25344.00 6176.00	94557.00 37465.00 575.00 5750.00 250.00 3762.00 3000.00 375.00 1600.00 340.00 25344.00 6176.00
MATURING DEBT- PRIN 2009 sewer(bnds 1/92) 20000.00 sch (bnds 1/92) 170000.00 sewer(bnds 7/93) 37870.82 libry proj note 189356 INT ON LONG TERM DEBT 2009 sewer(bnds 1/92) 1900.00	2010 20000.00 170000.00 39859.03 0.00 2010 635.00	417226.82 38372.32	229859.03 17644.47	229859.03 17644.47

sch (bnds 1/92) sewer(bnds	16150.00	5397.50			
7/93)	13600.18	11611.97			
libry proj notes	6722.14	0.00			
INT ON SHORT TE	RM DEBT		3000.00	3000.00	3000.00
TOTAL			458599.14	250503.50	250503.50
TOTAL			430399.14	230303.30	230303.30
COUNTY RETIREM	ΛΕΝΤ		129765.00	129293.00	129293.00
WORKERS COMP	INSURANCE		15000.00	12000.00	12000.00
UNEMPLOYMENT			2000.00	1500.00	1500.00
HEALTH INSURAN	ICE		161352.00	186000.00	186000.00
LIFE INSURANCE			2100.00	1700.00	1700.00
MEDICARE/FICA			15500.00	15500.00	15500.00
OTHER INSURANCE	CE		75850.00	65000.00	65000.00
TOTAL			401567.00	410993.00	410993.00
GRAND TOTAL			6777104.02	6561494.73	6555735.73

Article 6. (Submitted by the Board of Library Trustees)

404=000

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 172, to transfer from the "Dog Fund" account a sum or sums of money to supplement the Dickinson Memorial Library operating budget for the purpose of paying a portion of the annual fee to be a member of the regional library system, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Estimated amount requested \$3,500.00

Article 7. (Submitted by the Selectboard)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase and install a snowplow and associated equipment on a Highway Department truck, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Estimated amount requested \$10,000.00

Article 8. (Submitted by the Selectboard)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to replace the currently leaking flat section of roof located at the north building of the Northfield Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Estimated amount requested \$15,000.00

Article 9. (Submitted by the Selectboard)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to repave the entry at the fire station, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Estimated amount requested \$5,000.00

Article 10. (Submitted by the Pioneer Valley Regional School District Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to install central heating with hot water coils in air ducts and also add central air at all three buildings at the Pioneer Valley Regional School Central Office, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

> Estimated amount requested \$21,375.00

Article 11. (Submitted by the Pioneer Valley Regional School District Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to repaint first floor Phase 1 classrooms and corridors, reseal and re-stripe drives and lots and replace carpet in Phase 1 classroom and main office at the Pioneer Valley Regional School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

> Estimated amount requested \$26,125.00

Article 12. (Submitted by the Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the Stabilization Fund/Account, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

> Estimated amount requested \$30,000,00

Article 13. (Submitted by the Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Assessors to transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for the purpose of reducing the Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2010, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Article 14. (Submitted by the Selectboard)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following General Bylaw, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Obedience to Traffic Signs, Signals and Markings

The driver of any vehicle or of any street car shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control sign, signal, device, marking or legend unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

Violation of this Bylaw may be penalized by a non-criminal disposition of the violation as provided in the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 40, Section 21D.

Penalty: \$100.00 Enforcing Persons: Police Officers

Article 15. (Submitted by the Selectboard)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following General Bylaw, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

> TOWN OF NORTHFIELD Community Preservation Committee Bylaw

1. Establishment

The Town of Northfield hereby establishes a Community Preservation Committee (CPC), consisting of nine (9) voting members pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5. The composition of the committee, the appointing authority, and the term of office for the Committee members shall be as follows:

- One member of the Conservation Commission as designated by the Commission
- One member of the Historical Commission as designated by the Commission

- One member of the Planning Board as designated by the Board
- One member of the Recreation Commission as designated by the Commission
- One member of the Open Space Committee as designated by the Committee
- One member of the Finance Committee as designated by the Committee
- One member to act in the capacity of, or perform like duties of, a member of a Housing Authority; this member is to be appointed by the Selectboard
- Two community-at-large members to be appointed by the Selectboard

The term for appointed and designated CPC members shall begin on July 1, 2009, or the effective date of this bylaw, whichever is later and shall end on June 30, 2010. Thereafter, each member of the CPC shall serve for a term of one year 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 commissions, boards, or committees who have appointing authority under this bylaw be no longer in existence for whatever reason, the appointing authority for that commission, board, or committee shall become the responsibility of the Selectboard.

2. Duties

The CPC shall study the needs, possibilities, and resources of the town regarding community preservation. The committee shall consult with existing municipal boards and committees, including those having representatives on the CPC, or persons acting in those capacities or performing like duties, in conducting such studies. As part of its study, the committee shall hold one or more public informational hearings each calendar year 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.

3. Recommendations to the Town

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5, the CPC shall make recommendations to the Town Meeting for the acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration 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 open space, land for recreational use, and community housing that is acquired or created as provided in this section. With respect to community housing, the CPC shall recommend, wherever possible, the reuse of existing buildings or construction of new buildings on previously developed sites. The terms of this section are correspondingly adjusted to the terms of any successor to M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5.

4. Set Aside Recommendations

The CPC may include in its recommendation to the 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.

5. Annual Revenues: Open Space, Historic Resources and Community Housing

In every fiscal year, the CPC must recommend either that the 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.

6. Requirement for a Quorum and Cost Estimates

The CPC shall not meet or conduct business without the presence of a quorum. A majority of the members of the CPC shall constitute a quorum. The CPC shall approve its actions by majority vote of the entire membership. Recommendations to the Town Meeting shall include their anticipated costs.

7. Amendments

The CPC shall, from time to time, review the administration of this bylaw, making recommendations, as needed, for changes in the bylaw and in administrative practice to improve the operations of the CPC. The first review shall be completed no later than January 1, 2012, and subsequent reviews shall be completed in no more than five-year intervals.

This bylaw may be amended from time to time by a majority vote of the Town Meeting, consistent with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44B.

8. Severability.

In case any section, paragraph or part of this bylaw is for any reason declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court, every other section, paragraph or part shall continue in full force and effect.

9. Effective Date

This bylaw shall take effect upon approval by the Attorney General of the Commonwealth and after all requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 32 have been met. Each appointing authority shall have thirty (30) days after the effective date to make its appointments.

And you are directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Northfield, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at the

Northfield Town Hall

in Northfield on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 12:00 o'clock (noon), then and there to bring in their votes by ballot for the following officers for the coming year:

Selectboard (3 year term); Board of Assessors (3 year term); Board of Health (3 year term); Board of Health (3 year term); Board of Library Trustees (3 year term); Board of Library Trustees (3 year term); Moderator (3 year term); Planning Board (5 year term); Recreation Commission (3 year term); Recreation Commission (2 year term); Board of Sewer Commissioners (3 year term); Town Clerk (3 year term); Treasurer (3 year term); Board of Trustees of Veterans Memorials - Veteran (3 year term)

QUESTION 1:

Shall this Town amend its acceptance of sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body?

SUMMARY

This question involves amendment of the Town's acceptance of G.L. c.44B, §§3-7, also known as the Community Preservation Act (the "Act"), by decreasing the surcharge imposed on real property from three percent (3%) to ½ percent (.05%) of the tax levy, as determined annually by the Board of Assessors.

The Act establishes a dedicated funding source to acquire, create and preserve open space and land for recreational use; acquire, preserve, rehabilitate and restore historic resources; create, preserve and support community housing; and to rehabilitate and restore open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created in accordance with the Act. The following exemptions from such surcharge, permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act,

apply: (1) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; and, upon application and a determination of eligibility, (2) property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge.

As approved by the voters at the 2008 State Election, the surcharge was initially fixed at three percent (3%) of the annual property tax assessed on real property. On a motion made under Article 2 of the March 26, 2009 Special Town Meeting, it was voted to decrease the surcharge to ½ percent (.05 %). If approved, the reduced surcharge would be imposed on taxes assessed for fiscal years beginning July 1, 2009.

The polls will open at 12:00 o'clock (noon) and close at eight p.m.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall; the U. S. Post Office in Northfield; the Dickinson Memorial Library; the Field Library, Northfield Farms and the V.F.W., West Northfield, in said Town seven days at least before holding said meeting.

rant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at theday of April in the year of our Lord two thousand
A True Copy Attest:
Constable of Northfield
Date

posting up attested copies of the same at the	d and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Northfield by Town Hall, the U.S. Post Office in Northfield; the Dickinson Farms and the VFW, West Northfeld, in said Town seven cted.
Constable of Northfield	
Date	