

Moderator Richard W. Tracy called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. A quorum was present. Moderator asked if there were any objections to having nonresidents, Clark Rowell, Financial Advisor, John McMillan, Architect from Caolo & Bieniek, Police Chief, David White speak as needed. There were no objections. By request of the Moderator a moment of silence on behalf of victims of 9-11 was held. Moderator read the warrant.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to borrow or otherwise provide a sum of money to pay costs of designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new public safety complex to be located at 48 Stage Road in Westhampton, the site of the current fire station, to pay costs of demolishing the current structure, and to pay all other costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee approved the article as presented 6-0-0

Motion and second was made that the Town appropriates four million, four hundred thousand dollars (\$4,400,000.00) to pay costs of designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new public safety complex to be located at 48 Stage Road in Westhampton, the site of the current fire station, to demolish the current structure, and to pay all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation, Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum of money, under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount. No amounts shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this vote unless the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts required to be raised to repay any borrowing pursuant to this vote from the limitations on local property taxes set forth in M.G.L. c. 59, §29C (also known as Proposition 2½).

Finance Committee approved motion 6-1-0

Steve Holt spoke on behalf of the Public Safety Complex Study Committee. Meetings commenced on May 9, 2016. Feasibility study was completed on the renovations of and additions to the current facility vs. construction of a new facility. Cost estimates to renovate the current structure were substantially more expensive. Committee is presenting a concept design to seek approval for funding.

Chris Norris, Fire Chief gave a presentation of the feasibility study describing deficiencies in the current structure to support the request for new construction. The structure was built in 1948 to house the vehicles of the highway department with additions added over the years to create space for fire apparatus. The highway department eventually moved to a new garage and the original facility was transformed into the public safety complex, housing police, fire, & EMS.

Clark Rowell spoke to the financial planning of the project. The concept is as current debt is falling away it will be filled in with the bond. The debt structure provides a level debt service over the life of the bond. The anticipated timeline is the bond will sell in 2020 with the first payment in 2021. The tax rate impact will be outside the levy limit. Four equipment are included in the debt, with two already authorized (highway truck and loader).

John McMillan, Caolo & Bieniek answered questions regarding the feasibility study and concept design.

Point made for consideration of alternate funding.

Arguments in support of the project included infrastructure update of the public safety departments as other departments have been provided over the years, the deficiencies of the current structure must be addressed, new construction is better than renovation, will be more expensive if done later.

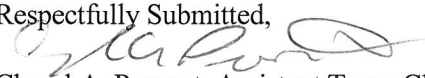
Arguments against the project included cost, effect on tax bill, scope of project (too large).

**Motion made and seconded to hold secret vote – Motion carried**

Shirl Morrigan and Peter Cleary were sworn in as counters by Assistant Town Clerk, Cheryl Provost.  
**Final count was 182 votes cast: 125 Yes 57 No – Motion passed by 2/3 majority.**

**Motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to dissolve the Special Town Meeting at 9:37 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Cheryl A. Provost, Assistant Town Clerk