
April 3, 2021

A Summary of The Spring April 2021 Annual Town Meeting

APRIL SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Town meeting opened at 8Am on the 3rd of April with the exciting news from the moderator that the town meeting members had broken all records with 131 people in attendance. That lasted less than 45 minutes as Article 4, the first article after some housekeeping votes, showed 118 voters and the trend stayed in the 118 to 127 range until the final motion to dissolve was 122 to 0.

Some articles were consolidated together and other numbers had no motion or no vote so below are not consecutively numbered.

A Special Town Meeting was the first order of business in that monies approved may be committed before July 1st of the current year.

Article 4- for \$1,228,524 for various capital projects was approved 115 to 3-0

Article 6- \$185,000 to pay for a “innovative fire service consulting firm with experience proposing long range solutions for facilities and operational efficiency in staffing and deployment”. This was questioned as to how the dollars were quoted and no one after extensive questioning would say if 3 or 4 firms were asked to give an estimate for this work. Every TMM knows that is what is needed in Plymouth but by a noted authority and not a local friendly review. Voted 97-27-0

Article 7- Vote to create a Maintenance Stabilization fund with \$ 2.5M for town Buildings. There was extensive discussion on this subject as Plymouth currently has 1 worker but no maintenance managerial authority to decide what is the next project. The vote reflected the discussion. Voted 110-8-0.

Article 8- Town of Plymouth School Building committee for \$ 247,100 for design and engineering for a project to repair/replace 3 roofs ,. Voted 126-0-0

Article 9- \$ 80,000 for a pedestrian Bridge near Billington Street paid for by the Community Preservation Act Fund [not from Free cash] Voted 115-6-1

Note: the CPC is funded by a 1.5% tax on everyone’s tax bill raising some \$ 2.5 million plus a year for projects in preserving open space, renovating Historic structures, acquisition, preservation and support of Community Housing . Each segment must obtain at least 10% of funding but could obtain more. This year \$ 185,000 was set aside for administrative expenses and debt service as well as \$350,000 for budgeted reserve in addition to 2021 causes.

Article 10- support for the work of the Charter Commission if approved. This created much discussion because the town manager had added an extra \$2500 to the state required \$7500 and with the proponents for preserving the present outmoded government system, it was revenge time and the whole article was the only one defeated in the entire day. Voted 53-71-2 This was the highest no vote by a large margin during the entire meeting.

Article 11-the appropriation of \$1 Million from free cash to the Nuclear Plant Mitigation Stabilization Fund was swiftly approved and added to the previous \$7.5Million balance. This has been done annually for the past 3 or 4 years to have a reserve set aside, when Holtec, responsible for dismantling the nuclear plant, abandons the town with its everlasting presence close to the road. Voted 122-5-1

Article 12- From free cash the town appropriated \$697,473 to the pavement Management Plan Debt Stabilization Fund used for road repair and maintenance. The monies represent excess motor vehicle receipts. Voted 123-2-0

Article 14- to amend the zoning by-law of the Acquirer Protection District was passed 126-1-0

A motion to dissolve the SPRING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING was approved 126-0-0. This provides that no previous motion can be reconsidered.

THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING reopened at 11:11 AM

The 6 articles packaged in the Consent agenda were not approved and all must be voted on individually.

