



## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, October 17, 2022**

Uploaded to the website on: October 19, 2022

*A True Copy Attest:*

*Jeanne M. Hudson*

Jeanne M. Hudson, Town Clerk

At 7:27PM on Monday, October 17, 2022 a Special Town Meeting was held at the Wachusett Regional High School Auditorium at 1401 Main Street in the Town of Holden. Holden Town Bylaws Article 1, Section 5 which states *one percent of the registered voters of the Town shall constitute a quorum*. As of October 7th, the last day to register as a voter there were 15,028 registered voters requiring 150 voters to be in attendance. At 7:45PM, there were five hundred and eighteen (518) registered Holden voters who attended and an additional thirteen (13) guests.

All non-voters or non-residents of the Town were asked to be recognized by the Moderator:

Jeanne M. Hudson, Town Clerk  
Liz Monahan, Assistant Town Clerk  
Lori Rose, Town Accountant  
Brian Faulk, Town Counsel  
Russ Hall, Fire Chief  
John Woodsmall, DPW Director  
Patrick Wood, DPW  
Rosemary Scully, Principal Assessor  
Laurie Gaudet, Town Treasurer  
Mahmoud Elgenedy, Non-registered Holden Resident  
Anne M. Gobi, State Senator  
Nikki J. Peters, Mass DOT  
Greg Russell, VHB

Holden Police Officers:  
John Santimore  
Todd Ventres  
Ray Sherbourne

There were no tellers appointed by the Moderator but on standby were three (3) tellers.

Amy-Laing Bobkowski  
Michael Greene  
Janet Price

The following Election Workers checked in voters for the ATM:

Connie Hamilton	Bonnie Cassidy
Lisa M. Deciero	Suzanne Lucia

## **ARTICLE 1 –SHREWSBURY STREET TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or taking by eminent domain any parcels of real property, permanent easements, and temporary easements, for public way purposes, including without limitation, for drainage, utility, slope, grading, road realignment, sidewalks, construction of improvements and structures, and other related purposes, as may be necessary to complete the Mass DOT Shrewsbury Street Transportation Improvement Project, said parcels and easement areas being generally shown on a plan entitled “Holden; Shrewsbury Street, Project File NO. 609219”, on file in the Town Clerk’s Office and available for public inspection during regular business hours, and as may be amended through final project design; and further to raise and appropriate, transfer from available associated services and for the acquisition of said

parcels of real property and easements, including but not limited to acquisition costs, the award of eminent domain damages, and related expenses and fees, or act or do anything relative thereto.

**MOTION MADE:** Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, or taking by eminent domain, parcels of real property, permanent easements, and temporary easements, for public way purposes, including without limitation drainage, utility, slope, grading, road realignment, sidewalks, construction of improvements and structures, and other related purposes, as may be necessary to complete the MassDOT Shrewsbury Street Transportation Improvement Project, said parcels and easement areas being generally shown on a plan entitled “Holden; Shrewsbury Street, Project File No. 609219”, and as may be amended through final project design; and further to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from available funds held by the Treasurer and received under the Chapter 90 Program, so called, for engineering, design, and other associated services, and for the acquisition of said parcels of real property and easements, including but not limited to acquisition costs, the award of eminent domain damages, and related expenses and fees.

**MOTION SECONDED**

**MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION**

**MOTION SECONDED**

**MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR TO MOVE THE QUESTION**

**2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED**

**MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR**

## **ARTICLE 2 – ATHLETIC FIELDS AT 18 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by borrowing in order to design, construct and equip new athletic fields to be constructed on Town-owned property located at 18 Industrial Drive and to design and construct improvements to and expand the existing athletic fields and replace a playground area located at the Dawson Recreation Area, located at 200 Salisbury Street, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto, and to meet said appropriation, authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue bonds or notes therefore, or act or do anything relative thereto.

**MOTION MADE:** Christopher Lucchesi, Finance Committee

The Finance committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to:

- I. Appropriate and borrow the sum of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) to design, construct and equip new athletic fields to be constructed on Town-owned property located at 18 Industrial Drive and to design and construct improvements to and expand the existing athletic fields and to replace a playground area located at the Dawson Recreation Area, located at 200 Salisbury Street, including the payment of costs incidental and related thereto, and
- II. Authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for such purposes, as authorized by MGL Chapter 44, Section 7(1) or any other general or special law enabling the Town, provided, however, that this appropriation and debt

authorization is contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion question pursuant to MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C(k)

**MOTION SECONDED**

**MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION**

**MOTION SECONDED**

**MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR TO MOVE THE QUESTION**

**2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED**

**MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR**

### **ARTICLE 3 – PLANNING AND DESIGN OF AN INCLUSIVE ACCESS PLAYGROUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer a sum of money for the planning and design of an Inclusive Access Playground and other recreational amenities and improvements to be constructed and installed on the Town-owned property located at 1 Holden Street, or act or do anything relative thereto.

**MOTION MADE:** David White, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to transfer from the General Stabilization Fund and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 for the planning and design of an Inclusive Access Playground and other recreational amenities and improvements to be constructed and installed on the Town-owned property located at 1 Holden Street.

**MOTION SECONDED**

**2/3rds VOTE REQUIRED**

**MOTION PASSED BY A 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR**

**MOTION MADE BY SELECTMEN ANTHONY RENZONI TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**MOTION SECONDED**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR**

**TOWN MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:01PM**