

**TOWN OF LEICESTER
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
November 1, 2016**

The following is a report of the Doings of the Special Town Meeting held at the Leicester Town Hall, Washburn Square on Tuesday, November 1, 2016. The Moderator, Donald A. Cherry, Jr., opened the meeting at 7:01 pm with 56 voters present stating the Town Clerk has informed me that a quorum is present; the meeting will come to order. Per General By-Laws of the Town of Leicester, this meeting is open only to Registered Voters of the Town of Leicester. If you are not a registered voter, or not a resident of Leicester, please take a seat to my left, behind the press table. Any person who is employed as an attorney by another interested in any matter under discussion at a Town Meeting shall disclose the fact of his or her employment before speaking thereon.

I would ask you to stand and join me in The Pledge of Allegiance. Please remain standing at the conclusion of the pledge.

Twice this past year, far too soon, the Town of Leicester had to bid farewell to two long time employees, Collen Cooney and Linda Rowden. Please join me in a moment of silence as we remember Colleen and Linda.

Senator Moore joined by Representative Campanale and Selectman Harry Brooks presented a commendation from the State House to Robert (Robbie) Kemp. Robbie who is a high school student and a Selectmen student liaison found a wallet with four thousand dollars in it at a softball game and turned it in to the owner. The owner of the wallet was struck by Robbie's kindness and honesty and commended his parents for molding this wonderful young man and stated he is destined for great things. Congratulations Robbie!!!!

Douglas A. Belanger moved that the Town vote to dispense with the reading of the warrant, which is in the hands of the voters. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Douglas A. Belanger moved that the Town vote to dispense with a hand count by tellers on motions requiring a two-thirds vote, except when the vote or the method of voting is challenged, or when in the opinion of the Moderator, a hand count is necessary to establish a quantum of vote, or when the vote involves the potential to borrow money.
VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY

Article 1. Michael Shivick moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$620.00 in order to pay bills from prior fiscal years as follows:
\$620.00 to the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District for the Selectmen's Office
VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
The Finance Advisory Board recommends approval of this article.

Article 2. Thomas E. Buckley III moved that the Town vote to set the annual salary for the Town Clerk position at \$56,000. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Richard Antanavica moved that the Town vote to amend the motion on the floor and raise the annual salary for the Town Clerk position to 61,000.00. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
The Finance Advisory Board recommends increasing the Town Clerk's salary to \$61,000.

Article 3. Dianna Provencher moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation the sum of \$40,596 and adjust the following budgets to defray the expenses in the Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget of the Town:

Transfer \$1,000 from Treasurer/Collector to Board of Selectmen; and
Reduce the School Department Budget by \$26,000; and
Transfer \$25,000 from Maturing Debt Principal to Maturing Debt Interest; and
Increase Maturing Debt Interest by \$40,596; and
Reduce the Temporary Loan Interest by \$550; and
Transfer \$26,991 from Employee Benefits to the account for Fiscal Year 2017 Vocational Tuition established in Article 11 of the May 2016 Annual Town Meeting; and
Transfer \$24,500 from Employee Benefits to the account the High School Roof Replacement established in Article 5 of the October 2015 Special Town Meeting; and
Transfer \$128,195 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved Account to the Ambulance Budget to defray the costs of ambulance services; and
that Article 10 of the May 2016 Annual Town Meeting be confirmed in all other respects and that the balance of funds to be raised and appropriated by taxation needed to fund the 2016 budget be adjusted accordingly.
VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Advisory Board recommends approval of this article.

Article 4. Michael Shivick moved that the Town vote to transfer \$18,009 from Free Cash to the account established for Fiscal Year 2017 Vocational Tuition in Article 11 of the May 2016 Annual Town Meeting. VOTED BY A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Advisory Board recommends approval of this article.

Article 5. Thomas E. Buckley III moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$8,500 for the repair of and/or to purchase replacement compacting equipment used at the Town Recycling Center.

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Advisory Board recommends approval of this article.

Article 6. Douglas A. Belanger moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into Tax Agreements, pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 59, Section 38H, with the lessees/operators of solar photovoltaic energy generating facilities or their successors/assigns, for a period of up to twenty (20) years, and to approve said Agreements under which lessees/operators, or its successors/assigns, will pay the Town a sum of money per year pursuant to structured Tax Agreements for taxation of the real and personal property on various properties in Town as properly approved in accordance with the Town's Zoning Bylaws, due to the proposed construction and operation of Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations, and further allow the Board of Selectmen to negotiate any amendments necessary to said Tax Agreements to reflect any changes in the size of the parcel of land or size of the system so long as the payments reflected in the Tax Agreements rise or lower commensurately as the Board deems is in the best interest of the Town.
VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Advisory Board recommends approval of this article

Article 7. Harry R. Brooks moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, all public way easements and rights in the land including drainage easements, utility easements, construction easements and sidewalk easements (both permanent and temporary) necessary for the laying out, construction, maintenance, replacement and repair of the Rawson Street Bridge and to cover the cost of such land acquisition, the Board of Selectmen is authorized to expend from all available Ch. 90 Highway funds such monies necessary to cover the cost of appraisals, legal fees, recording fees, land damages and such other necessary and incidental fees and costs as may be incurred in the process of acquiring and laying out the foregoing easements and further that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to enter into any federal and state project agreements relating to the layout, construction and repair of the Rawson Street Bridge and to expend all federal and state funds available for the Rawson Street Bridge project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project. VOTED AFFIRMATIVELY BY A 2/3 VOTE

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Advisory Board recommends approval of this article.

Article 8. Dianna Provencher moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$9,000 to fund the costs associated with the development of specifications and procurement documents for the selection of a developer for a solar electricity development at the Town's closed landfill listed on Map 12 as Lot C12 and Map 15 Parcel A3 on the Town's Tax Maps, said funds to be expended by the Board of Selectmen. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Advisory Board recommends approval of this article

Article 9. Harry R. Brooks moved the Town vote to supplement each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money to pay capital costs, so as to permit, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the application of any net premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder to pay project costs and thereby reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for each such project, by the amount of any such net premium so applied. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Advisory Board recommends approval of this article.

Douglas A. Belanger moved that the Town vote to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:54 pm with 101 voters present. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah K. Davis
Leicester Town Clerk