

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Special Town Meeting**

Middlesex, ss:

To: Constable of the Town of Ashby in said County:

Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Ashby, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the Elementary School Auditorium in said Ashby, Saturday, July 28, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. to act on the following articles:

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$194,395 which appropriation shall be contingent upon the passage of a Proposition two and one-half override vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g), or any other enabling authority, to fund the North Middlesex Regional School District assessment, and, if said ballot vote passes, to amend the FY2008 operating budget under Article 6 of the May 5, 2007 Annual Town Meeting by increasing line number 91 by \$194,395 for the purpose of paying for the North Middlesex Regional School District assessment, or take any action thereon.

Finance Committee Action: **Approved** **Disapproved** **No Action**

Finance Committee Report: If this override fails at the ballot, the School Committee has 30 days to certify another budget and the Town has 45 days to hold another STM. This can continue until December 1st, at which time the State Department of Education mandates the school budget for the Town and the NMRSD. If all overrides fail for the NMRSD assessment, then Ashby's portion of the assessment will come out of the operating budget. Additional cuts equal to the amount of the school assessment would be necessary for the FY08 budget, established at the Annual Town Meeting. Please see the Assessor's Report for tax impact figures.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$53,493.72 which appropriation shall be contingent upon the passage of a so-called Proposition two and one-half override vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g), or any other enabling authority, and, if said ballot vote passes, to amend the FY2008 operating budget under Article 6 of the May 5, 2007 Annual Town Meeting by adding a Firefighter/EMT wages account in the amount of \$36,000, by adding a Firefighter/EMT overtime wages account in the amount of \$4,373.04 and by increasing line number 142 by \$12,598.68 and line number 144 by \$522 for the purpose of paying for a full time Firefighter/EMT wages and benefits, or take any action thereon.

Finance Committee Action: **Approved** **Disapproved** **No Action**

Finance Committee Report: During normal business hours there is insufficient staffing to handle emergency ambulance calls. These calls represent a source of revenue for the town. According to Fire Chief Seymour, approximately 30 ambulance calls in FY07 were handled by an outside ambulance service, and the revenue for those calls went directly to that outside service. Filling this position facilitates recapturing that revenue.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,085.58 under and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g), or any other enabling authority, to supplement the FY2008 operating budget of the Town, which appropriation shall be contingent upon the passage of a Proposition two and one-half override vote, and, if said ballot vote passes, to amend the FY2008 operating budget under Article 6 of the May 5, 2007 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the following line numbers by the corresponding amounts for the purpose of paying for a salary and wage increase for employees:

<u>Budget Line Number</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>
2	\$1,275.39
4	\$2,087.81
9	\$ 964.41
14	\$ 540.55
16	\$ 570.80
18	\$ 796.90
21	\$1,161.77
22	\$ 26.25
26	\$ 955.36
28	\$ 232.55
37	\$ 542.50
42	\$ 147.06
54	\$1,697.00
56	\$ 198.56
57	\$ 77.22
58	\$ 558.46
65	\$ 577.16
68	\$ 120.43
70	\$ 110.31
71	\$ 300.51
74	\$ 184.03
77	\$ 184.03
80	\$ 21.00
83	\$ 560.00
87	\$4,701.90
94	\$1,696.29
95	\$6,429.37
96	\$ 20.00
111	\$ 18.62
112	\$ 367.50
121	\$ 56.54
125	\$ 512.18
126	\$ 393.12

, or take any action thereon.

Finance Committee action: _____ **Approved** **Disapproved** _____ **No Action**

Finance Committee Report: Finance Committee recommends approving this article for the ballot.

Inflation and the increase in Health Insurance costs, along with level funding has resulted in decreased Town Employee take home pay. However, this warrant article does not address the disparity that exists for specific salaries. The Finance Committee would like to see the Salary Study completed, resulting in raises based on greatest need. It is the opinion of this Finance Committee that raises should not be funded with an override.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or borrow an amount not to exceed the sum of \$3,000,000 under and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 10, or any other enabling authority, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$3,000,000, provided that this appropriation shall be contingent upon receipt of a grant, and further provided that this appropriation shall be contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ twenty year debt exclusion pursuant to G.L. c.59, §21C(k), for the purpose of paying the Town's matching portion of a grant to construct a public safety building or police station, and that the Board of Selectmen are further authorized to apply for and accept grants or contributions that may be available toward the cost of said project, or take any action thereon.

Finance Committee Action: _____ **Approved** **Disapproved** _____ **No Action**

Finance Committee Report: This Finance Committee would like to see the Public Safety study, for which funds have been appropriated, completed and recommendations for the needs of our community be assessed before committing to a course of action. This Grant would be subject to State requirements that were unavailable for the Finance Committee to review. Since the preliminary application needs to be submitted before the end of July 2007, pursuing this grant means foregoing the study as well as any review of the grant requirements.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting an attested copy in at least three (3) public places in said Ashby fourteen (14) days at least before holding of said meeting. Hereof, fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 11th day of July, 2007.

Peter McMurray, Chair

Geoffrey Woollacott, Procurement

Gerard Houle, Clerk

ASHBY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

By virtue of this precept, I have posted three (3) attested copies of the foregoing warrant in three (3) public places in said Ashby at least fourteen days before the time of said Special Town Meeting.

Date: _____

William Davis
Constable of Ashby