

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
**APRIL 24, 2017**

Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by Town Moderator, Wayne C. Perkins, who declared a quorum present in the Middleborough High School Auditorium.

The Veterans' Council led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator then introduced Sara Achorn who sang the National Anthem. Ms. Achorn holds the title of Miss Plymouth County 2017 and will compete for the state title, Miss Massachusetts 2017, for a chance to compete in the 2018 Miss America pageant in Atlantic City. She is currently finishing her senior year at Old Rochester Regional High School in Mattapoisett and will be attending Lesley University in the fall to study Expressive Art Therapy. During her year of service, Sara promotes her personal platform "IM perfection: Pushing the Importance of Body Positivity in Today's Youth." The Moderator acknowledged and thanked the members of the Middleborough High School Student Council for acting as pages and counters for the evening and their leader Paul Branagan for allowing them to participate.

The Moderator offered the following words in remembrance of Jane Lopes:

*On Tuesday, April 18, 2017 the Town of Middleborough lost one of our most loved and respected individuals. Jane Lopes will be remembered by most as the local journalist who kept us aware of what was happening in our town, but she also served us by being on many Boards and Commissions during her time with us. I do not believe there is one person in Middleborough who was not touched by Jane either directly or indirectly. She genuinely cared about her adopted Town and did everything she could to make it better.*

The Moderator introduced Lincoln Andrews who made the following presentation:

*Mr. Moderator and town meeting attendees:*

*Tonight we remember Jane Phillips Lopes; town preservationist, professional journalist, and editor of our paper of record, The Middleborough Gazette.*

*This is not ordinary protocol for town meeting. Jane Lopes, however, provided extraordinary services to our community.*

*Jane was passionate about preserving Middleborough's historic buildings. She gave a voice to our stoic structures that are alive with silent stories. Our town will long enjoy a certain colonial character because of her advocacy.*

*Jane was a journalist of the highest order. Middleborough was fortunate to have a true journalist faithfully covering our small town happenings. Jane attended almost all Board of Selectmen meetings, and reported on them fairly, without bias. She wrote bi-weekly OP-ED articles that ranged from celebrating the gifts of life in a small town, to keeping public officials honest, and more cognizant of their actions.*

*In 1983 Jane recognized the Selectmen were violating Open Meeting Law by associating in an esoteric form of secrecy in order to accomplish a desired result. The Selectmen disagreed with Jane, refusing her request for access. The District Attorney took the case, which was ultimately resolved by the State Supreme Court. Jane was correct.*

*Jane was once asked what her most important responsibility as Editor of The Middleborough Gazette. Her reply was simple: "To give residents... their moment in the sun." Jane strived to chronicle our lives for posterity. Her articles about our achievements and hardships will live in our personal newspaper clippings for generations.*

*Mr. Moderator, let's provide Jane a warm thank you for all she has done.*

*Lincoln D Andrews  
28 Sachem St  
Middleborough, MA*

The Moderator closed with the following prayer for Jane Lopes:

*"O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Jane Lopes, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy Saints, through Jesus Christ thy son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever, Amen."*

A motion was made by Lincoln Andrews and seconded to dedicate this Town Meeting to Jane Phillips Lopes; voted unanimously.

Selectman Stephen J. McKinnon presented a certificate of appreciation to Richard J. Pavadore for appreciation of his 15 years of service as a member of the Finance Committee for the Town of Middleborough on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

Voted unanimously to allow as necessary the following non-resident individuals to address Town Meeting: Robert G. Nunes, Town Manager; Steven Dooney, Town Accountant; Lance Benjamino, Fire Chief; Joseph Silva, Water Superintendent; Christopher Peck, DPW Director; Kathleen Piatelli, School Department Business Manager; James Hutchinson, Director of Facilities; Ellen Driscoll, Chief Technology Director for the Middleborough Public Schools; Paul Branagan, Principal of the Middleborough High School; Robert Buker, Health Officer; Jason Bloom, Library Director, Jason Cox, Veteran's Agent; Stephen Morris, Capital Planning Committee Chair; and Kelly Jarabek, Animal Control Officer; and further for approval of taking a voice vote first on those votes requiring a super majority.

Before any action was taken, the Moderator asked if everyone had a copy of the articles and the budget book. He stated copies were available in the lobby. In addition, he noted the budget pages and motions would be projected on the screen for Town Meeting. He reminded those in attendance to turn off all cell phones and pagers; a motion to amend must be in writing for the record allowing time for those to write out the amendment if needed; anyone who would like to address the meeting to use the microphone stating their name and address to be recognized by the Moderator; debate and questions are healthy but to maintain order should be directed through the Moderator and as always maintain civility as Town Meeting is not the place for personal attacks or derogatory comment.

The Moderator certified that the warrant had been posted, served and returned in a proper fashion by Police Chief Joseph M. Perkins.

The following action was taken:

**ARTICLE 1:** The following was voted unanimously:

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Employee Fringe Benefits department, number 919, Health and Life Insurance account 517400, the total sum of \$122,657.00 to supplement the following budgets and account numbers for fiscal year 2017.

<i>Department</i>	<i>Dept. No</i>	<i>Account</i>	<i>Line Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Veterans Department	543	577000	Medical & Cash Aid	\$60,000.00
Library	610	543000	Building Repairs & Maint.	\$16,964.00
Administrative Office Bldgs.	193	543000	Building, Repairs & Maintenance	\$13,000.00
Administrative Office Bldgs.	193	585200	New Equipment	\$4,250.00
Treasurer/Collector	145	511117	Reg. Pay Asst. Treasurer & Collector	\$6,204.00
Treasurer Collector	145	511101	Reg. Pay Clerical FT	\$8,013.00
Council on Aging	541	511130	Reg. Pay Driver FT	\$766.00
Health Department	521	511200	Reg. Pay Inspector	\$2,400.00
Health Department	521	571000	In State Travel	\$275.00
Town Manager's Office	123	512700	Temporary Clerical	\$2,500.00
Accountant Office	135	511111	Reg. Pay Clerk & Acct.	\$2,285.00
Law Department	151	530400	Consultant Spec. Counsel	\$6,000.00

- Further voted unanimously that \$152,343.00 be transferred from the Employee Fringe Benefits Department, number 919, Health and Life Insurance account 517400, \$60,000.00 transferred from the Employee Fringe Benefits Department, number 919, Unemployment account 517300 and \$143,202.61 transferred from Free Cash to the Highway Department, number 422, account 015293, Snow Removal.
- Further voted unanimously \$10,000.00 be transferred from the School Transportation Miscellaneous Department, 899, Mini-bus driver's account 511165 to School Transportation, number 900, Homeless Transportation, account 530407 and \$70,000.00 be transferred from School Transportation Miscellaneous, number, 899, Mini-bus

driver's account 511165 to number 313, Tuition Collaborative, account 563150.9460.29990.

**ARTICLE 2:** Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$8,201.33 from the Sanitation Department Retained Earnings and \$1,909.25 from Free Cash in order to pay previous years, unpaid bills for the following:

<b>SEMASS Partnership</b>	<b>\$8,201.33</b>
<b>Atlantic Design</b>	<b>\$1,909.25</b>

**ARTICLE 3:** Voted unanimously to transfer \$28,079.85 from Free Cash to the Planning Department, number 175, Account 519700, for the payment of accumulated sick leave buyback.

- Further voted unanimously to transfer \$21,312.12 from Free Cash to the Treasurer/Collector's Department, number 145, Account 519700, for the payment of accumulated sick leave buyback.
- Further voted unanimously transfer \$8,756.00 from Free Cash to the Police Department, number 210, Account 519700, for the payment of accumulated sick leave buyback.
- Further voted unanimously to transfer \$17,498.40 from Free Cash to the Veterans Department, number 543, Account 519700, for the payment of accumulated sick leave buyback.
- Further voted unanimously transfer \$23,325.64 from Free Cash to the Council on Aging, number 541, Account 519700, for the payment of accumulated sick leave buyback.

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*  
*Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action*

**ARTICLE 4:** Voted by majority vote to transfer \$5,900.00 from Free Cash to pay for the installation of a counter and security glass in the Treasurer/Collector's Department.

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*  
*Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action*

**ARTICLE 5:** Voted by majority vote to transfer \$15,212.33 from Free Cash to pay for the amount due for a septic system betterment with respect to property at #4 Woloski Park (Middleborough Assessors Map 020, Lot 2487) in Middleborough.

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*  
*Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action*

**ARTICLE 6:** Voted unanimously to transfer \$1,879.08 from Free Cash to pay for the installation and operation of a new security system at the Animal Shelter.

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*  
*Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action*

**ARTICLE 7:** Voted unanimously to transfer \$30,000.00 from Free Cash to the Highway Department for street repairs.

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*  
*Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action*

**ARTICLE 8:** Voted unanimously to transfer \$6,550.00 from Free Cash to pay for design work for bathrooms and accessibility issues at the Oliver House.

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*  
*Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action*

**ARTICLE 9:** Voted unanimously to transfer \$2,032.25 from Free Cash to pay for septic system design work and associated costs at the Oliver House.

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*  
*Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action*

**ARTICLE 10:** Voted unanimously to transfer \$25,000.00 from Free Cash to pay for plumbing upgrades at the Oliver House.

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*

**ARTICLE 11:** Voted unanimously to postpone indefinitely Article 11.

**ARTICLE 12:** Voted unanimously to transfer \$18,600 from the CPA Budgeted Reserve account to the following CPA Accounts:

<b>Open Space Fund Balance Reserve</b>	<b>Account 26.3252.00</b>	<b>\$6,200</b>
<b>Community Housing Fund Balance Reserve</b>	<b>Account 26.3253.00</b>	<b>\$6,200</b>
<b>Historic Resources Fund Balance Reserve</b>	<b>Account 26.3254.00</b>	<b>\$6,200</b>

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*  
*Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action*

**ARTICLE 13:** Voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools, Chairman of the School Committee, Chairman of the High School Building Committee and a member of the Board of Selectmen designated by the Board to negotiate an agreement for the purchase of property on Wood Street shown as Lot 1777 on Assessors Map 065 containing 8.9 acres more or less and believed to be owned by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, with the performance of such agreement to be contingent upon Town Meeting authorization to purchase the property and appropriation of funds to pay the purchase price.

*Board of Selectmen Recommended Favorable Action*  
*Finance Committee Recommended Favorable Action*

Voted unanimously to dissolve the meeting at 7:39 PM.

A true copy, attest:

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ALLISON J. FERREIRA  
Town Clerk