



**Minutes of Special Town Meeting
September 10, 2015
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden, SS.
Town of Blandford**

At a legal meeting of the qualified voters of the TOWN OF BLANDFORD held on September 10, 2015 at the Blandford Town Hall, One Russell Stage Road, Blandford, Massachusetts, the following business was transacted:

Asst. Town Clerk Nicole Barsalou conducted the meeting until Donald Carpenter was elected moderator.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 4 of the May 4, 2015 Annual Town Meeting which vote provided funding for the operation of the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article passed; secret ballot; 47 no to 77 yes, two blank votes

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the operation of the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; and further, to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to provide additional funds required to meet the assessment of the Town's share of the operating costs for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, provided, however, that any such additional appropriation shall be contingent upon approval of the voters at a Town election of an override of Proposition 2 ½ so-called in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.59, §21C; or take any other action relative thereto.

Amendment: motion to divide the question passed by majority

Article 2 AS AMMENDED: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,584,148. for the operation of the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Article passed by majority vote

Article 2, second part AS AMMENDED: and further, to raise and appropriate \$116,058 to provide additional funds required to meet the assessment of the Town's share of the operating costs for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, provided, however, that any such additional appropriation shall be contingent upon approval of the voters at a Town election of an override of Proposition 2 ½ so-called in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.59, §21C; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article failed

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Blandford By-laws, Section IV, Town Counsel, by deleting text of said section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

A. Appointment of Town and Special Counsel: The Board of Selectmen is authorized on behalf of the Town to prosecute and defend matters in which the Town has an interest, or to appear in favor or opposed to matters involving the Town's interest, and employ a Town Counsel and such special counsel as may be needed for such purposes.

B. Duties of Town Counsel: Town Counsel shall be present at all Annual Town Meetings and may be available by telephone for all Special Town Meetings at the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

C. Authorization for Shared/Joint Legal Representation: The official duties of Town Counsel, or special counsel so appointed, shall include simultaneously representing the Town, other municipalities and/or public entities in matters in which the Town has a direct or substantial interest, including but not limited to administrative and judicial proceedings in which the Town is also a party or wishes to be a party. Such representation may be undertaken in each particular matter in which dual or common representation is contemplated only upon the express written permission of the Board of Selectmen and provided that Town Counsel or, as appropriate, special counsel, has complied with all applicable rules of professional responsibility. In granting such permission, the Board of Selectmen shall make a separate finding that such dual or common representation furthers the interests of the Town, including, for example, to facilitate the pooling of resources for a common purpose, development of regional and mutual interests, or preservation of scarce municipal funds.

Article passed by majority vote.

A True Copy

ATTEST: _____

Mary N. Kronholm, Town Clerk, Blandford, Massachusetts