



**Town of Otis, Massachusetts
Special Town Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2008**

In attendance:

Selectperson: Andrew Pyenson, Clayton Chaffee, Donald Hawley

Moderator: Andrew Pyenson

Town Clerk: Lyn Minery

Town Administrator: Chris Morris

Selectperson's Secretary: Emily Piacquadio

Total Registered Voters: 1037

Total Registered Voters in attendance: 35

Meeting Called to order at 7:01 pm by the Moderator.

The moderator confirmed with the Town Clerk that there was the required quorum in attendance.

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the warrant and to proceed to Article 1.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$16,000.00 from Free Cash for the purpose of purchasing a new compactor for the transfer station or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made to accept Article 1 as read.

The motion was seconded.

Article 1 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$25,000.00 from Free Cash for the purchase of installing a well and electricity at the Otis Center Cemetery or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made to accept Article 2 as read.

The motion was seconded.

Article 2 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$5,000.00 from Free Cash for the purpose of installing a card swipe system at the Otis Town Hall or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made to accept Article 3 as read.

The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Is there a bid? Selectmen replied that there are three bids, and explained that the card swipe system would be for the locks on the exterior doors.

Article 3 passed unanimously

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$3,500.00 from Free Cash for the purpose of purchasing a new town hall sign or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made to accept Article 4 as read.

The motion was seconded.

Article 4 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$8,000.00 from Free Cash for the purchase of a new copier or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made to accept Article 5 as read.

The motion was seconded

Article 5 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$5,000.00 from Free Cash to the Reserve Fund to cover Fiscal Year 2008 expenditures or take any other action thereon.

By recommendation of the selectmen it is suggested to pass over Article 6.

A motion was made to pass over Article 6.

The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Does the town have a reserve for the increase in oil and for energy emergencies?

Joy Brown, Finance Board Chairperson, explained what the Reserve Fund was and stated how it was for emergencies, however the voters question does not pertain to this Article. She also explained there is always \$13,000 in the reserve fund for emergencies and at the end of the year unused monies are returned back to the General Fund.

Article 6 was passed over unanimously.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$30,000.00 from Free Cash for the installation of a new roof at the Highway Garage or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made to accept Article 7 as read.

The motion was seconded.

Discussion: Why is this article not on an annual town meeting warrant? The selectmen said they wanted to get some articles out of the way now, and there will be similar articles at the annual town meeting. A voter wanted to know what kind of a roof replacement it would be, and Highway Superintendent, Chris Bouchard, said it would be a flat roof. Another voter wanted to know if there were bids. Selectmen said the price was an estimate, with help by the building inspector, and they are hoping the bids will come in at a lot less. The voter suggested getting a definite price and voting on this article at the annual town meeting.

Article 7 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$17,000.00 from Free Cash for the installation of new gas furnaces at both fire stations or take any other action thereon.

A motion was made to accept Article 8 as read.

The motion was seconded.

A voter wanted to know why gas? The selectmen explained that gas is a lot cheaper than oil. They said they have bids. A bid from Generra came in for \$15,440 for the Otis Center Station, and \$4,660 for the East Otis Station. The East Otis Station already has gas. The total Generra bid is \$20,100. The second bid is higher than Generra's.

A motion was made to amend Article 8 as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum not to exceed \$21,000.00 from Free Cash for the installation of new gas furnaces at both fire stations or take any other action thereon.

The motion to amend Article 8 was seconded.

Discussion: A voter was concerned if this will be enough money. The selectmen said the lowest bid is 20,100, and they are hoping more bids that come in will be less.

The amendment to Article 8 passed unanimously.

Article 8 passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Minery

Town Clerk