

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

October 28, 2008

The meeting was called to order in Bromfield's Cronin Auditorium at 7:12 p.m. by Moderator, Robert Eubank. The call of the meeting and the return of service were found to be in order by Town Clerk Janet A. Vellante.

Moderator Robert Eubank requested that the town allow the following non-voters to speak to the meeting if necessary:

Timothy Bragan	Town Administrator
Edward Denmark	Police Chief
Mark Lanza	Town Counsel
Lorraine Leonard	Finance Director
Robert Mignard	Fire Chief

### ARTICLE 1: CITIZENS PETITION – NO BILLING FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES

“To see if the Town will vote to compel the Board of Selectmen to maintain the Harvard Ambulance Service as an all-volunteer, State-certified, citizen-EMT organization whose mission is to provide superior, cost-effective BLS emergency medical services for *all residents, without billing*. The current Board is guided by the majority vote at this Special Town Meeting. Future substantive changes to the Service's operations will require consult with the Ambulance Director and interested citizens, followed by Town Meeting article and vote.”

The following principles apply:

Past and present Board of Selectmen agreements, whether verbal or otherwise, should be honored.

- Selectmen work for the citizens of Harvard, and fundamentally must respect their interest.
- Decisions related to the provisioning and administration of Town emergency medical services are first and foremost the purview of the Harvard Ambulance Service Director, as a representative for the Service, in concert with Police, Fire, and Dispatch operations. BOS financial decisions should not encroach or interfere with the Service's ability to provide standard-of-care EMS to all citizens and visitors.

(Inserted by Citizens' Petition)

The following motion was made by Steven Beckman, 19 Withington Lane, Ambulance Service Acting Director, and seconded,

I move that the citizens' petition be heard, discussed and voted on.

George McKenna, 41 Old Littleton Road, Finance Committee, stated that the Finance Committee did not support this article.

A motion by Timothy Clark, 114 Bolton Road, to move the question, was seconded and voted greater than 2/3rds yes.

Voted 71 yes, 164 no [does NOT pass] to compel the Board of Selectmen to maintain the Harvard Ambulance Service as an all-volunteer, State-certified, citizen-EMT organization whose mission is to provide superior, cost-effective BLS emergency medical services for ***all residents, without billing***. The current Board is guided by the majority vote at this Special Town Meeting. Future substantive changes to the Service's operations will require consult with the Ambulance Director and interested citizens, followed by Town Meeting article and vote."

The following principles apply:

Past and present Board of Selectmen agreements, whether verbal or otherwise, should be honored.

- Selectmen work for the citizens of Harvard, and fundamentally must respect their interest.
- Decisions related to the provisioning and administration of Town emergency medical services are first and foremost the purview of the Harvard Ambulance Service Director, as a representative for the Service, in concert with Police, Fire, and Dispatch operations. BOS financial decisions should not encroach or interfere with the Service's ability to provide standard-of-care EMS to all citizens and visitors.

## **ARTICLE 2: AMBULANCE SERVICES – BILLING INSURANCE PROVIDERS**

To see if the Town will vote to confirm the policy instituted by a unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen to maintain the Harvard Ambulance Service as an all volunteer, state certified organization whose mission is to provide superior emergency medical services at no cost to residents, by billing only the insurance providers for recipients of these services, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Inserted by Board of Selectmen)

On a motion by Leo Blair, 106 East Bare Hill Road, Board of Selectmen, and seconded,

Voted majority yes to pass over this article.

## **ARTICLE 3: DOG LICENSES – AMEND FEES**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Harvard, Chapter 24, Article III, § 24-9 (A and B) as follows:

[Key to revisions: underlining = additions; ~~striketrough~~ = deletions]

### **ARTICLE III, Dog Licenses [Adopted 11-15-1988 STM by Art. 17]**

§ 24-9. Fees. [Amended 4-30-1994 ATM by Art. 32; 12-3-2002 STM by Art. 10]

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 139 of Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other provision to the contrary, the annual fees to be charged by the Town of Harvard for the issuance of licenses for dogs shall be as follows: males and females, \$20 25, and altered males and spayed females, \$12 15.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 137A of Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other provision of the law to the contrary, the annual fees to be charged by the Town of Harvard for the issuance of licenses for kennels shall be as follows: not more than four dogs, \$35 45, more than four but not more than 10 dogs, \$50 65, and more than 10 dogs, \$75 100.

Or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.  
(Inserted by Town Clerk)

On a motion by Janet Vellante, 83 Ann Lees Road, Town Clerk, and seconded,

Voted majority yes to amend the Code of the Town of Harvard, Chapter 24, Article III, § 24-9 (A and B) as follows:

[Key to revisions: underlining = additions; ~~striketrough~~ = deletions]

### **ARTICLE III, Dog Licenses [Adopted 11-15-1988 STM by Art. 17]**

§ 24-9. Fees. [Amended 4-30-1994 ATM by Art. 32; 12-3-2002 STM by Art. 10]

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 139 of Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other provision to the contrary, the annual fees to be charged by the Town of Harvard for the issuance of licenses for dogs shall be as follows: males and females, \$20 25, and altered males and spayed females, \$12 15.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 137A of Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other provision of the law to the contrary, the annual fees to be charged by the Town of Harvard for the issuance of licenses for kennels shall be as follows: not more than four dogs, \$35 45, more than four but not more than 10 dogs, \$50 65, and more than 10 dogs, \$75 100.

Approved by the Attorney General on November 6, 2008, and effective on posting date of November 10, 2008.

### **ARTICLE 4: CLOSE TOWN HALL ON SATURDAYS**

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 110A to keep the Harvard Town Hall closed to the public on Saturdays, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Inserted by Board of Selectmen)

On a motion by Lucy Wallace, 18 Orchard Hill, Board of Selectmen, and seconded,

Voted majority yes that the Town vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 110A to keep the Harvard Town Hall closed to the public on Saturdays.

The meeting was dissolved at 8:50 P.M.

Checkers for the meeting were Gail Conlin, Marty Green, Paul Green, and Fran Maiore. They checked in 254 voters out of a total of 4084 registered voters (3888 active voters).

Tellers for the meeting were Christopher Kruegler, Joseph Sudol, and Dennis Wagner.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet A. Vellante  
Town Clerk