



TOWN OF GRAFTON

Roger R. Trahan, Jr.
Town Moderator

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Report of the Town Moderator (2009)

In this elected role, I am the presiding officer at Town Meeting, open to all voters, upon which the legislative powers of the Town are exercised. This position entails regulating Town Meeting proceedings, deciding all questions of order, and making public declaration of all votes. I am also the appointing authority of our nine-member Finance Committee. Town Meeting may also determine whether the Moderator will be the appointing authority for other committees which may be called together from time to time. As of December 31, 2009, they included the six at-large members to the nine-member Secondary School Building Committee and some members of the Center Station Building Committee (fire station).

My 2008 report was inadvertently omitted from the bound 2008 Town Report, along with many others (Treasurer/Collector, Energy Study Committee, Recycle Committee, Board of Sewer Commissioners, Grafton Historical Commission, the Henry J. McNamara, Jr. Memorial Committee, and a portion of the Finance Committee's report). However, an unofficial addendum/insert was created for these omitted reports and they are also contained in the on-line version of that Town Report on Grafton's web site, www.grafton-ma.gov. My 2008 report was submitted to the Town Clerk and may also be found on the Town Moderator web page.

In March 2009, I appointed Superintendent of Grafton Public Schools, Dr. Joseph Connors as an at-large member of the Secondary School Building Committee. That vacancy occurred upon the resignation of Bob Rodak whose dedicated service is greatly appreciated. That committee spent a huge amount of time working toward a long-term solution to address the space needs of the district.

During our Town Meeting of May 11, 2009, I re-appointed the following Finance Committee members to three year terms ending June 30, 2012: Don Davison, Robert Foley and David Libbey. A huge thank you goes out to the Finance Committee for all of its hard work and dedication, including countless hours spent on the annual Town budget.

Grafton held Town Meetings on May 11, 2009 and October 19, 2009. The items acted on are detailed in the bound 2009 Town Report but I will touch upon some details here. During both meetings, Police Chief Normand A. Crepeau and

Fire Chief Michael Gauthier assured adequate resources for safety and order. Daniel Concaugh served as my Deputy Moderator for both meetings. Mr. Concaugh and I met and spoke on several occasions and I thank him for his commitment. He familiarized himself with every warrant article and was prepared to preside over each meeting if necessary. That did not occur but he did preside over Article 17 at the Fall Town Meeting regarding the use of Community Preservation funds to improve access at the Center Library. I stepped down because I am a member of the Commission on Disability which endorsed the proposal which Town Meeting subsequently approved.

Prior to the Spring Town Meeting, I reviewed each of the Warrant Articles on GCTV. Interestingly enough, that streaming video may still be found on its web site www.graftontv.org. A huge thanks to Rick Schultze and Bill Robidoux for their help, which is best described as gargantuan.

At our Spring Town Meeting, the anticipated overflow crowd for the "Pay as You Throw" warrant article (Article 5) did not materialize. Various media pointed out in advance that any vote would be non-binding, so it appears that many of the "one article" people chose to sit that one out. In this respect, refuse collection and disposal is an executive function of the Board of Selectmen under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 28C.

Have you noticed that Town Meeting hasn't voted on an inter-municipal agreement in the past couple of years? Well, don't look for it anytime soon! The Massachusetts Legislature voted to amend certain provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 4A effective July 18, 2008. As a result, Town Meetings may no longer authorize inter-municipal agreements. That authority now rests with Boards of Selectmen. This represents one more shift in the balance of powers between the Legislative branch (Town Meeting) and the Executive branch (Board of Selectmen).

Fall Town Meeting disposed of 28 Articles in 50 minutes, the meeting having dissolved at approximately 8:20 p.m. That was a welcome relief. There were a few noteworthy things about this meeting. First, we were in the midst of H1N1 "swine flu" precautions. Hand sanitizer was available at the voter check-in tables, in addition to the portable microphones being wiped off after each speaker. The voters also scooped up the remaining copies of "A Citizen's Guide to Town Meetings" at that meeting. I had provided copies to Town Meeting since May, 2008. This guide may still be accessed on Grafton's web site.

I continue to forego my \$150.00 annual stipend (Moderator Account -114). The other line item in that account was \$300.00 for Professional and Technical; it has been used to pay the microphone runners at Town Meeting.

I continue my work as a member of the Massachusetts Moderator's Association. My current appointments are to its Legislative Committee (2008) and

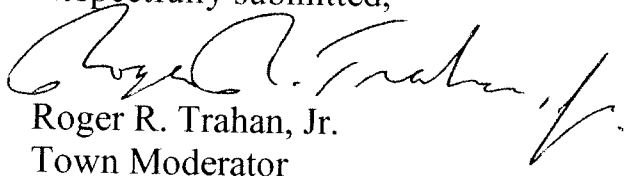
its Board of Directors (2009). I attended a Regional meeting on March 28, 2009 at Northborough Town Hall, hosted by Upton's Town Moderator, Mr. David Loeper and Northborough's Town Moderator, Mr. Fred George, who is the Association's current President. I then attended the Association's annual meeting on October 30, 2009 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

The State Ethics Commission now mandates that "municipal employees" (this includes elected officials) complete an on-line educational program every two years. I completed this training on November 16, 2009, the receipt of which is on file with the Town Clerk.

I know I may inadvertently overlook some people but the following individuals were available throughout the year to answer questions, discuss issues and provide assistance: Timothy P. McInerney, Maureen Clark, Donna Girouard, Judy Demers, all of the election workers, David Libbey, Marcia Pereira, Ann Morgan, Cindy Ide, Nancy Hazen, Michelle Drumm, Lois Luniewicz, Donald Clark, Jenn Paluzzi, Bill Robidoux, Rick Schultze, Danielle DeLucia, Steve Libuda, Tony LeMay, Attorney Anthony E. Penski, and Attorney Ginny Kremer.

Lastly, I have begun the legwork to start archiving all of the Town Meeting videos since we began taping them at our Special Town Meeting of September 23, 1987. All would be in a DVD format and I would create additional hard copies for our Town Clerk and the Grafton Public Library. Ideally, this project would result in their availability on-line for viewing and reference, band width permitting. I look forward to a busy 2010.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger R. Trahan, Jr.
Town Moderator