

1896

Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, March 2, 1896 – File 12 Warrant No. 7

Essex SS: -

To Amos G. Jones, one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen in said County,

Greeting: -

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Monday the second day of March next at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles, viz: -

- Article 1 To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting
- Article 2 To choose a Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, one School Committee to serve three years in place of William M. Rogers and Geo. B. Bradley, one Water Commissioner to serve three years in place of Daniel W. Tenney, one Trustee of Nevins Memorial to serve two years in place of Joseph S. Howe, Constables Auditor of Accounts, Fence Viewers, "Yes" or "No" in answer to the question "Shall License be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this Town?", also to choose all other necessary Town officers in such manner as the Town may determine. The polls may be closed at one o'clock p.m.
- Article 3 To hear the Annual Report of the Selectmen and act thereon.
- Article 4 To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations for the same.
- Article 5 To determine the manner of collecting taxes the ensuing year and act thereon as the Town may think proper.
- Article 6 To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen to hire money in anticipation of taxes of the current municipal year and to issue notes of the Town therefor.
- Article 7 To see if the Town will vote to approve and accept the list of Jurors prepared by the Selectmen for the ensuing year.
- Article 8 To hear the report of committees and act thereon.

Article 9 To determine what compensation the Town will grant the members of the Fire Department for their services the ensuing year.

Article 10 To determine the manner of appropriating the amount received from dog taxes, in accordance with Chapter 102 Section 107 of the public statutes.

Article 11 By request of Wm. B. Greene Post 100 G.A.R. to see if the Town will vote to appropriate one hundred and fifty dollars for the purpose of decorating the graves of our soldiers and sailors on Memorial Day, May 30th 1896, said money to be expended under the direction of the above post.

Article 12 By request of Lorin O. Norris and others, to see if the Town will vote to employ four night watchmen for protection of the village business district and Arlington section and appropriate twenty five hundred dollars for the same.

Article 13 By request of George W. Towne and others to see if the Town will vote to Macadamize Chase Street from Broadway to the Arlington Mills and appropriate fifteen hundred dollars for the same.

Article 14 By request of Lorin O. Norris and others, to see if the Town will vote to purchase about 370 feet of edgestone to be used on Park and Lawrence Streets near the Baptist Church and appropriate one hundred and ninety dollars for the same.

Article 15 By request of John McGuire and others, to see if the Town will vote to build a sidewalk on the left hand side of Mystic Street from the residence of Mrs. Connor to the driveway of Mr. Webb and appropriate one hundred and fifty dollars for the same.

Article 16 By request of William Waterworth and others, to see if the Town will vote to Macadamize Centre Street from Broadway to the Lawrence line, and appropriate two thousand dollars for the same.

Article 17 By request of Michael Dwyer and others to see if the Town will vote to widen and grade Cross Street from Pelham Street to the pumping station and appropriate one thousand dollars for the same.

Article 18 By request of John T. Mannifield and others to see if the Town will vote to instruct the Water Commissioners, to take the register of water semi-annually instead of quarterly as heretofore the same to be taken in July and December.

Article 19 By request of Elias Grimes, to see if the Town will vote to Macadamize a portion of Prospect Street beginning near the house of Mary Mitchell and appropriate five hundred dollars for the same.

Article 20 By request of John T. Mannifield and others to see if the Town will instruct the Street Commissioner to remove ashes from private dwellings in the Town and appropriate two hundred and fifty dollars for the same.

Article 21 By request of Maurice Flahive to see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to prevent all persons from dumping rubbish on the highway at the public dump and have the road commissioner keep it in a clean and healthy condition.

Article 22 By request of Joseph E. Buswell to see if the Town will furnish one thousand feet of hose, five hundred feet to be located in the vicinity of "Marston Corner", and five hundred feet in the vicinity of the residence of Joseph E. Buswell and appropriate five hundred dollars for the same if necessary.

Article 23 By request of Joseph E. Buswell to see if the Town will vote to appropriate one hundred dollars for continuation of sidewalks on Prospect Street.

Article 24 By request of John Austin, to see if the Town will vote to maintain an arc light on Pleasant Street near Highland Street and appropriate seventy dollars for the same.

Article 25 By request of Fred E. Lorenz and others, to see if the Town will vote to maintain three electric lights in the Currier School District, and appropriate one hundred and twenty five dollars for the same.

Article 26 By request of Milon Anderson and others, to see if the Town will vote to erect and maintain street lights on Vine and Kirk Streets.

Article 27 By request of Walter W. Coe and others to see if the Town will vote to lay a sewer in Carleton Street from Brown to Centre Street and make an appropriation for the same.

Article 28 By request of George M. Phippen and others, to see what action the Town will take with reference to adjusting the salaries of Town officials to correspond with the shrinkage of values and reduction of wages of the last thirty years.

Article 29 By request of George M. Phippen to see if the Town will vote to number the houses and make an appropriation for the same.

Article 30 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell the pest house lot.

Article 31 By request of John H. George to see if the Town will vote to lay over the culvert, near the house of John H. George, as recommended by the Street Commissioners of 1894, and appropriate seventy five dollars for the same.

Article 32 By request of John H. George, to see if the Town will vote to accept a street as laid out by the Selectmen beginning at the termination of Summer Street as accepted by the Town and running westerly by land of Arthur Young about three hundred and seventy five feet and appropriate fifty dollars for repairing the same.

Article 33 By request of Joseph Mack and others, to see if the Town will vote to lay a sewer in French Street from Chase to Spiggot Street about two hundred feet and appropriate three hundred dollars for the same.

Article 34 By request of the School Committee to see if the Town will vote to purchase a piece of land erect a high school building thereon, furnish and complete said building and make alterations and repairs in the old school building as required for school purposes at an expense not to exceed all told thirty thousand dollars and appropriate and borrow money therefor.

Article 35 To see what disposition the Town will vote to make of the amount received as premium and accrued interest on the sale of bonds.

Article 36 By request of Lewis E. Barnes and others, to see if the Town will vote to lay a sewer in Railroad Street from a point near the residence of Alonzo Howe, about five hundred feet to a point near Cemetery Street, and from thence under the Rail Road to the Spicket River about five hundred feet and appropriate one thousand dollars for the same.

Article 37 By request of James M. Moreland and 41 others to see if the Town will vote to pay the Superintendent of Streets a salary not to exceed one thousand dollars per annum including team, the Town to have the entire services of said Superintendent.

Article 38 By request of Silas L. Holman to see if the Town will vote to accept a street as laid out by the Selectmen, commencing at a point on Arnold Street about two hundred feet from Lowell Street and running southerly three hundred feet.

Article 39 By request of Fred E. Lorenz and others, to see if the Town will vote to accept Boston Street from Prospect to Kendall Street, Vermont Street,

from Swan to Lawrence line, and Boylston Street from Vermont Street to Kendall Street as laid out by the Selectmen, as shown on Plan of J. M. Currier and appropriate three hundred dollars for the same.

Article 40 By request of James O. Parker and others, to see if the Town will vote to accept Riverdale Street and Ayer Street as laid out by the Selectmen, as shown on plan recorded with North District Essex Registry of Deeds, called Fairview.

Article 41 By request of Guy W. Currier and others, to others, to see if the Town will vote to accept Bates Street from East Street to Eustis Street, and Eustis Street from the westerly line of Bates Street, to Oak Street as laid out by the Selectmen, and as shown on plan of land called the Oaklands, owned by Guy w. Currier.

Article 42 By request of Leverett Swan to see if the Town will vote to change the name of Plum Street to that of Tyler Street.

Article 43 To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following By-Law. No person shall behave himself in an idle and disorderly manner nor use vulgar and indecent language, nor play at ball, nor throw or propel in any other manner, stones or other missiles in any of the public streets. Any person offending against any provisions of this law shall forfeit and pay for each offence a fine not less than one dollar nor more than two.

Article 44 to see if the Town will vote to accept and adopt a system sewerage for a part of said Town in accordance with Section 7 Chapter 50 of the Public Statutes; a sewer through private and public lands, running parallel with Centre Street, from a point on Merrill Street to connect with the Hampshire Street sewer in the City of Lawrence, known as Merrill Street sewer together with its proposed branches as shown on a plan on file with the Town Clerk and provide that assessments under Section 4 of Chapter 50 of the Public Statutes may be made upon owners of estates within such territory.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town House and at each of the public meeting houses in said Town, eight days at least before said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands and the seal of the Town of Methuen, this first day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety six.

Selectmen	John W. Frederick	}
Methuen	Geo. O. Marsh	} of
	Chas. H. Hall	}

**Essex SS:
February 22nd 1896**

Methuen,

To Joseph S. Howe, Town Clerk

Greeting: - In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts I have notified the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet as within directed, by posting up attested printed copies of this warrant at each of the public meeting houses and at the Town House eight days before said meeting.

Amos G. Jones, Constable of
Methuen

The foregoing is a true copy of warrant and return

Attest
Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Record of Annual Town Meeting, March 2, 1896

**Pursuant to Warrant No. 7 File 12, the Annual Meeting of the
Inhabitants of the
Town of Methuen was held at the Town Hall in said Town on Monday,
March second A.D. 1896.**

The meeting was called to order at eight o'clock a.m. by Joseph S. Howe Town Clerk, who read the warrant for the meeting.

The polls were then opened for the choice of Moderator, the checklist being used.

Article 1 **Moderator**

Granville E. Foss received every vote cast for Moderator, and was declared elected and was sworn.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Henry S. Fiske (Universalist)

Article 2 **Town Officers**

The Moderator announced the appointment of the following named persons as tellers.

John F. Ridley, Republican	Charles E. Russell, Democrat
Arthur L. Bailey, Republican	Joseph J. Sharkey, Democrat
Alphonso Puffer, Republican	Thomas R. Skinner, Democrat
Christopher H. Rogers, Republican	Charles D. Lewis, Democrat
Walter H. Spurr, Republican	John C. Ellis, Democrat
Charles Press, Republican	Andrew Lawton, Democrat

Cummings Messer to have charge of the ballot box.

John F. Ridley and Joseph J. Sharkey were appointed to act as ballot clerks, and Christopher H. Rogers and Charles E. Russell checked the list at the ballot box.

The ballots were delivered to the ballot clerks, the ballot box was opened and shown

to be empty, and the key delivered to Amos G. Jones, Constable in attendance. The number on the ballot at eight o'clock and thirty five minutes and continued without interruption until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes at which time the ballot box was opened and the ballots taken therefrom by the Moderator and Town Clerk. The ballot box register marked 513 and the number of ballots taken from the box was five hundred and thirteen. The ballots were counted audibly by the Moderator, separated into blocks of fifty each, and placed in envelopes. The polls were closed at seven minutes past one. The ballot box register marked 775. The number of names checked on each voting list was seven hundred and seventy five and the whole number of ballots cast was seven hundred and seventy five. The tellers were divided into three groups, and proceeded to canvass and count the ballots while the business articles in the warrant were being acted on. All the ballots were counted into blocks of fifty each, verified and placed in envelopes, and the votes were counted recorded, and declaration thereof made and were as follows: -

Art. 2 **Town Officers**

The whole number of ballots cast for the several persons voted for was
seven hundred and seventy five
775

For Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor

Joseph E. Buswell four hundred and eighteen	415
Clinton A. Clark four hundred and twenty two	422
John H. George three hundred and thirteen	313
George O. Marsh four hundred and eighty five	485
Alfred Sagar four hundred and sixty three	463
Blanks – two hundred and twenty four	224

For Town Clerk, Treasurer and Collector of Taxes

Joseph S. Howe six hundred and eighty one	681
E. B. Homer one	1
And Joseph S. Howe was declared elected Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Collector of Taxes and was sworn into each of those offices.	

For School Committee – 3 years

George B. Bradley four hundred	400
William M. Rogers three hundred and thirty six	336
Blanks – thirty nine	39
And George B. Bradley was declared elected School Committee for three years.	

For Water Commissioner – 3 years

Daniel W. Tenney six hundred thirty five	635
J. H. Curran two	2
J. H. George one	1
W. Brackett one	1
C. W. Mann one	1
Kirk Brown one	1
Blanks – one hundred and thirty four	134
And Daniel W. Tenney was declared elected Water Commissioner for three years.	

For Trustee Nevins Memorial – 2 years

Joseph S. Howe three hundred ninety two	392
Lorin O. Norris three hundred and forty	340

Blanks – forty three	43
And Joseph S. Howe was declared elected Trustee of Nevins Memorial for two years.	

For Auditor of Accounts

Lewis E. Barnes two hundred and thirty three	233
Thompson E. Gammons four hundred and eighty	480
Blanks – sixty two	62
And Thompson E. Gammons was declared elected Auditor of Accounts	

For Constables

George E. Blanchard five hundred and twenty four	524
George A. Closson four hundred and forty two	442
Patrick Curran one hundred and seventy nine	179
Charles H. Emerson four hundred and ninety seven	497
Maurice Flahive one hundred and eighty	180
Albert B. Gordon five hundred and sixty one	561
Amos G. Jones five hundred and fifty one	551
Frank McDermott two hundred and twenty two	222
J. Calvin Taylor four hundred and fifty eight	458
Walter Sargent one	1
J. E. Buswell one	1
James Smith one	1
J. L. Moxom one	1
J. H. Spottswood one	1
Blanks – ten hundred and thirty one	1031
And George E. Blanchard, sworn; George A. Closson, sworn; Charles H. Emerson, sworn; Albert B. Gordon, sworn; Amos G. Jones, sworn; and J. Calvin Taylor, sworn; were declared elected Constables.	

For Fence Viewers

Daniel T. Morrison six hundred and one	601
Frederick A. Russell five hundred and forty seven	547
Leverett Swan five hundred and sixty two	562
J. J. Bunker one	1
J. C. Taylor one	1
Blanks – six hundred and thirteen	613
And Daniel T. Morrison, Frederick A. Russell and Leverett Swan were declared elected Fence Viewers	

License Vote

On the question, “Shall Licenses be granted for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors in this Town?” the number of ballots marked “Yes” was

Two hundred and twenty	220
The number of ballots marked “No” was	
Four hundred eighty three	483
Blanks – seventy two	72

Field Drivers

Daniel T. Morrison	Harry D. Kelley
Harry A. Moore	John Donahue
Charles E. Allen	Wilbur Ayer
William Shirley	Charles Hutchins
J. G. Clark	Morris Hill

Surveyors of Plastering

Lyman B. Gage	Frank Buckminster, sworn
Nahum P. Winn	Silas K. Nowell
Aaron Huse	Charles E. Russell

Surveyors of Lumber

John H. George – sworn	George M. Phippen
Samuel J. Pedler – sworn	John W. Frederick
James O. Parker – sworn	Charles Hutchins – sworn
Samuel Emerson – sworn	Edward Barnes
George O. Marsh – sworn	Harry D. Kelley – sworn
Isaac C. Brown – sworn	Frank Buckminster – sworn
Millard F. Emerson	James H. Lyons – sworn

Surveyors of Wood & Bark

George O. Marsh – sworn	Geo. E. Crosby
Charles E. Richardson – sworn	Charles A. Stevens – sworn
Eben W. Powell – sworn	John H. George – sworn
John S. Tyrie	Isaac C. Brown – sworn
Millard F. Emerson	Rufus A. Griffin
Walter S. Sargent	John Welch – sworn

Pound Keepers

Stephen W. Williams	Joseph E. Buswell
Sealer of Weights and Measures	

John C. Sanborn

Art. 3 **Selectmen's Report**

Voted – to accept the Report of the Selectmen

Art. 4 **Appropriations**

The estimates of the Selectmen were taken up each item by itself. When the estimate for repairs on highways and bridges was reached, Mr. Mann moved that one half be expended in stone roads and the motion was lost.

When the estimate for Macadamizing was reached, it was voted to lay Article 4 on the table. It was then voted to consider Articles 13, 16 & 19 of the warrants. After considerable discussion, Articles 13, 16 & 19 were laid on the table. It was then voted that the sum of eight thousand dollars be appropriated for Macadamizing and that Centre Street, Chase Street, and a portion of laid out on Lawrence Street.

After amendments the sums voted and appropriated were as follows: -

For:

Support of schools, teaching, music, janitorship, and fuel	
Fifteen thousand dollars	
\$15,000.00	
Supplies for schools	fourteen hundred dollars
1,400.00	
Repairs on school houses,	fourteen hundred dollars
1,400.00	
Superintendent of schools,	eight hundred dollars
800.00	
Repairs on highways and bridges	forty five hundred dollars
4,500.00	
Opening roads, when encumbered with snow,	fifteen hundred
1,500.00	
Macadamizing	eight thousand dollars
8,000.00	
Sidewalks	one thousand dollars
1,000.00	
Edgestones and flagging	one thousand dollars
1,000.00	

Sewer department one thousand dollars	
1,000.00	
Fire department, including fire alarm & twenty five hundred	
dollars 2,500.00	
Town teams five hundred dollars	
500.00	
Street lights twenty three hundred dollars	
2,300.00	
Contingencies two thousand dollars	
2,000.00	
Pauper department four thousand dollars	
4,000.00	
Soldier's relief three hundred dollars	
300.00	
Town Officers eighteen hundred dollars	
1,800.00	
Military Aid three hundred dollars	
300.00	
Special police including sup. sale of liquor – one thousand	
1,000.00	
Interest on Town debt thirty seven hundred dollars	
3,700.00	
Collection of taxes six hundred and fifty dollars	
650.00	
Interest on water bonds sixty six hundred dollars	
6,600.00	
Maintenance of the waterworks thirty five hundred dollars	
<u>3,500.00</u>	
	Total
	\$64,750.00

Art. 5

Collection of Taxes

Voted – that the taxes be collected the same as last year, and that on all taxes remaining unpaid after October first, interest shall be paid from that date to the time of payment, at the rate of six per cent per annum.

Art. 6

Temporary Loans

Voted – by a unanimous vote, that for the purpose of procuring a temporary loan to and

For the use of the Town of Methuen in anticipation of the taxes of the present municipal year, the Town Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to borrow from time to time, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen a sum or sums in the aggregate amounting to fifty thousand dollars and to execute and deliver the note or notes of the Town therefore

payable within one year from the time the loan is made, with interest thereon at a rate not exceeding five per cent per annum. Any debt or debts incurred by a loan or loans to the Town under this vote shall be paid from the taxes of the present municipal year.

Art. 7

Jury List

Voted to excuse Edwin J. Castle from serving as juror and then the name of James E. Messer be substituted. With this amendment the Jury List as recommended by Selectmen was accepted and approved. The Jury List for the current year is as follows:

Austin Charles – Lumber dealer	Howe Isaiah M. – Farmer
Bradley George B. – Farmer	Jones Amos G. – Stone
mason	
Beedle Charles T. – Carpenter	Kimball Sylvanus G. –
Farmer	
Butters George A. – Farmer	Lowell Levi N. –
Bookkeeper	
Messer James E. – Stone mason	Marsh George O. – Farmer
Chase Elihu F. – Real Estate dealer	Merrill Charles E. – Farmer
Cross George L. – Farmer	Messer Cummings – Laborer
Carleton George N. – Traveling salesman	Morse James W. - Machinist
Coburn Tristram W. – Watchman	Morse William P. – Farmer
Douglas Clarence W. – Undertaker	Nichols Lysander M.
Shoemaker	
Dow Homer – Farmer	Nichols Woodburn J. –
Carpenter	
Edwards Joseph H. – Butcher	Nowell Silas K. – Mason
Emerson Millard F. – Farmer	Phippen German S. – Farmer
Emerson James O. – Janitor	Pierce Darius – Butcher
Foss Granville E. – Manufacturer	Powell Andrew J. – Farmer
Foster Joel 1 st – Farmer	Richardson Charles E. –
Farmer	
Frederick John W. – Carpenter	Rollins Amos E. – Poultry
food	
Gammons Thompson E. – Bookkeeper	Russell Frederick A. –
Farmer	
George Edward B. – Grocer	Salls James E. – Farmer
Gordon J. Haskell – Farmer	Sargent Walter S. – Laborer
Hall Henry N. – Provision dealer	Sargent Samuel G. – Real
Estate Agent	
Harvey Samuel A. – Carpenter	Sawyer Charles M. – Farmer
Holman Silas L. – Day Good dealer	Smith Moses G. – Contractor
Homer Elisha B. – Stove & tin dealer	Stickney William H. Farmer
Howe Joseph S. – Civil Engineer	Tapley John S. – Hatter

Tenney Daniel W. – Manufacturer	Williams Stephen W. –
Farmer	
Webster Geo. K. – Farmer	Young Clarence E. –
Confectionery	
Webster Fred M. - Gardener	& Poultry dealer
Young S. Wesley – Milkman	

Art. 8

Reports of Committees

The Annual Report of the Selectmen was accepted.
 Mr. Buckminster, Chairman of the Committee appointed at the last
 Annual Town Meeting
 to investigate and report on the cost of Electric Light Plant in the Town of
 Methuen, read
 the report of the Committee as follows: -

Report of Committee on Electric Light Plant

Methuen,

March 2nd 1896

Your Committee appointed at our last Annual Meeting have attended to their duties and beg leave to submit the following report. In making this report we have obtained estimates from reliable parties, and we believe that should the Town see fit to put in a plant such as our report covers, that our estimates will be found ample for the purpose. We have found it inexpedient to locate such a plant at the Pumping Station. We find that the buildings and boilers are not suitable or of sufficient capacity for the plant; also the cost of drawing coal would soon pay for a building of moderate cost. We have looked at the Pest House lot and if no better location presents itself it might be utilized. The lot measures about 80x130 feet, and is quite near the railroad. Your Committee would recommend that whether the Town should decide to put in a plant or not, that it would be good policy to retain possession of it, as property in that location is advancing. We now submit the following estimate.

One 150 horse power A. & S. Engine and Boiler with foundations	
Set up complete ready to run	\$4,500.00
Arc Light Dynamo (125 Lights)	2,500.00
15 miles Pole line complete	5,250.00
100 Double Lamps	2,450.00
Hoods and hanger boards	600.00
Switch boards (4 circuits)	100.00
4 Lightning arresters	50.00
Freight, Carting, etc.	50.00
Building, 40x50, of brick 12 inch walls, foundations	
Concrete floor & brick chimney 65 feet in height	3,000.00

Coal sheds	300.00
Electrical Engineer etc.	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total	20,000.00
Cost of operating including interest charges	\$5,000.00
Cost of present system 17 Arc lights, 4 Incandescent – 72 gasoline	<u>2,300.00</u>
Extra Expense	2,700.00

The engine and boiler capacity is sufficient to run 125 Arc Lights of 2000 Candlepower, and a 1000 light incandescent machine, and at an additional expense of \$3000.00 the incandescent plant could be put in. This plant would probably be more than self-supporting.

Frank Buckminster
 Jos. S. Howe } Committee
 Kirk F. Brown

Voted to accept the report of the Committee.

Report of Committee on Repairs of Lowell Road

Methuen,

March 2, 1896

The Committee appointed at a Town meeting holden in 1895, to inquire into the best method to repair the Lowell road "so called" respectfully report as follows: -

Your committee has carefully examined the road and the available material for repairing the same and are of the unanimous opinion that it should be Macadamized from the Lawrence line to the point where the electric road enters the "Private land".

Beyond said point to Dracut line it may be repaired with gravel. This would make about 2 ¾ miles to Macadam and about one mile to repair otherwise.

And your Committee would recommend that the Board of Selectmen for the year ensuing be instructed to obtain by purchase or otherwise sufficient material to repair said road.

Charles M. Sawyer
 D. W. Tenney } Committee
 J. Q. Hill

Voted – to accept the report, and that the Selectmen be instructed to carry out its provisions.

John Q. Hill from the Committee appointed to inquire concerning a reservoir at Marsh's Corner, reported verbally that they had examined the location and found a ledge about six feet below the surface of the ground. No recommendation was made.

Voted – to accept the report of the Committee

Art. 9 **Fire Department**

Voted – That the compensation of the members of the Fire Department for their services the ensuing year be the same as last year.

Voted – That the compensation of the members of the Fire Department for their services the ensuing year be the same as last year.

Art. 10 **Dog Licenses**

Voted – That the money received from Dog Licenses be appropriated for the use of the schools.

Art. 11 **Memorial Day**

Voted – To appropriate the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars for the purpose of decorating the graves of our soldiers and sailors on Memorial Day, May 30th A.D. 1896, said money to be expended under the direction of Col. William B. Greene Post 100 G.A.R.

Art. 12 **Night Watchmen**

Voted – To employ one efficient night watchman who shall make his headquarters at the Police Station, and perform such patrol duties as in the judgment of the Selectmen may be expedient, and that the sum of six hundred dollars be appropriated for that purpose.

Art. 13 **Chase Street**

Voted – To pass over Article 13 of the Warrant.

Art. 14 **Edge stone**

Voted – To purchase about 370 feet of edge stone to be used on Park and Lawrence Streets near the Baptist Church and appropriate one hundred and ninety dollars, for the same; also that this sum be taken from the regular appropriation, and expended as soon as practicable.

Art. 15 **Sidewalk Mystic Street**

Voted – to build a sidewalk on the left hand side of Mystic Street, from the residence of Mrs. Connor to the driveway of Mr. Webb and appropriate one hundred and fifty dollars for the same.

Art. 16 **Centre Street**

Voted – To pass over Article 16 of the Warrant.

Art. 17 **Cross Street**

A motion was made to pass over Article 17 and it was decided in the negative. It was then voted to expend three hundred and fifty dollars in repairs on Cross Street, from Pelham Street to the Pumping Station, and that this amount be taken from the regular appropriation.

Art. 18 **Water**

Voted – To pass over Article 18 of the Warrant.

Art. 19 **Prospect Street**

Voted – To Macadamize a portion of Prospect Street, beginning near the house of Mary Mitchell, and appropriate five hundred dollars for the same, and to use the stone already crushed at the ledge near Howe Street.

Art. 20 **Ashes & Garbage**

Voted – to instruct the Street Commissioner to remove ashes and garbage from private dwellings in the Town, and appropriate two hundred and fifty dollars for the same.

Art. 34 **High School House**

Voted to consider Article 34 of the Warrant.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Hartshorne was unanimously adopted.

Resolved: 1st That it is the judgment of this meeting that the erection and equipment of a new High School building with contingent alterations in the old building is the best solution for the problem presented in the report of the School Committee.

2nd That it is the judgment of this meeting that the total cost to the Town for the site, new building and alterations in old building should not exceed thirty thousand \$30,000.00 dollars, for all present requirements.

3rd That in view of the importance of the undertaking, and the necessity for exact information, and careful consideration of the details involved, that three competent citizens be appointed to act with the members of the School Committee as a committee to consider a choice of sites, to develop plans and to procure careful estimates of all costs.

4th That this Committee be required to report its findings and recommendations as soon as practicable to a future Town meeting.

Voted – that the Committee provided in this resolution be appointed by the Moderator and the Chair appointed Lewis E. Barnes, Joseph S. Howe and J. Milton Tenney.

Art. 43

By-Law

Voted – To consider Article 43 of the Warrant.

Voted – To adopt the following By-Law.

“No person shall behave himself in an idle and disorderly manner, nor use vulgar and indecent language, nor play at ball nor throw or propel in any other manner, stones or other missiles in any of the public streets. Any person offending against any provisions of this by-law shall forfeit and pay for each offense a fine of not less than one dollar nor more than ten dollars.

Mr. Mann offered the following Resolution.

Resolved: - That the Selectmen be and are hereby instructed to take such action as shall be necessary to petition the State Highway Commission to lay out and build as State highways, Lowell Street from the Lawrence line to Dracut line, and Merrimack Street from Lawrence line to Haverhill line. And the resolution was adopted.

At about half past five, the further consideration of the business articles in the warrant was suspended, and it was voted that when the Town Meeting adjourns, it adjourn to meet at the Town Hall on Saturday next, March seventh at one o’clock p.m.

The counting of votes past for Town officers was completed and tabulation thereof made, and the vote declared about half past six o’clock.

The ballots cast for Town officers were sealed up and also the checklists used, and were taken in charge by the Town Clerk. The seal was taken by the Moderator and the meeting was then adjourned.

Attest,

Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Recount of Ballots

Pursuant to a petition from ten legal voters of the Town of Methuen, alleging that they had reason to believe that the returns of the election officers of said Town, of the votes cast at the Annual Town Meeting, held on the second day of March A.D. 1896, are erroneous with reference to the votes cast for Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, in that more votes were cast for Joseph E. Buswell, than were returned for said Buswell, and that less votes were cast for Clinton A. Clark than were returned for said Clark, and asking for a recount of votes cast for said officers, the subscribers, Moderator of said Town Meeting, did on this fifth day of March A.D. 1896, at eight o'clock p.m. at the Selectmen's Room in the Town House, open the box containing the ballots cast at said Town Meeting, and recounted the votes cast for Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, and I was assisted in making said recount, by Joseph S. Howe, Town Clerk.

The result of the recount of said ballots was as follows: -

The whole number of ballots cast was seven hundred and seventy five 775

For Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor

Joseph E. Buswell four hundred and nineteen

419

Clinton A. Clark four hundred and twenty two

422

John H. George three hundred and thirteen

313

George O. Marsh four hundred and eighty six

486

Alfred Sagar four hundred and sixty two

462

Blanks two hundred and twenty three

223

Granville E. Foss – Moderator
A true copy Attest,
Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Record of Adjourned Annual Town Meeting March 7, 1896

The Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen entitled to vote in Town affairs, met according to adjournment at the Town Hall in said Town on Saturday March seventh at one o'clock p.m., the Moderator, Granville E. Foss, in the chair.

Rev. Charles H. Oliphant offered the following Resolutions.

Whereas: - In the Providence of Almighty God the people of this Commonwealth are called to mourn the death of their Governor, Frederic T. Greenhalge, be it –

Resolved: - by the Citizens of Methuen, in Town Meeting assembled, that we acknowledge with thankful hearts the personal worth and public service which have won for our late Governor the admiration and love of all parties and sects of the people. Recognizing in his distinguished career an example of what is best in private life and official service, we now share with the whole Commonwealth the unaffected sorrow of a great bereavement.

Resolved: - That our heart felt sympathies be expressed by the transmission of these resolutions to the smitten household with the prayer that the loving kindness and tender mercies of God may comfort and sustain them through life.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

Mr. Isaac H. Laney moved the adoption of the following.

Resolution.

Resolved: - That the Selectmen be a Committee to see the Lawrence authorities and see if they can arrange for the repair of Lawrence Street at the same time we repair Lawrence Street.

This resolution was unanimously adopted.

The meeting then proceeded to the consideration of the remaining Articles of the Warrant.

Art. 21 **Public Dump**

Voted – To instruct the Selectmen to prevent all persons from dumping rubbish on the highway, at the public dump, and have the Road Commissioner keep it in a clean and healthy condition.

Art. 22 **Hose**

Voted: - That four hundred dollars be appropriated for the purchase of hose to be located in the vicinity of Marton's Corner, and in the vicinity of the residence of Joseph E. Buswell.

Art. 23 **Sidewalk**

Voted – to appropriate one hundred dollars for continuation of sidewalk on Prospect Street and that this amount be paid from the regular appropriation.

Art. 24 **Electric Light**

By a vote of 62 to 31 it was voted to pass over Article 24 of the Warrant.

At the end

of the meeting a motion was made to reconsider and it was carried by more than a two thirds vote. It was then

Voted: - to maintain an arc light on Pleasant Street near Highland Street and appropriate seventy dollars for the same.

Art. 25 **Electric Lights**

Voted: - to maintain four electric lights in Currier School District and appropriate seventy five dollars for the same.

Art. 26 **Street Lights**

Voted: - to pass over Article 26 of the Warrant.

Art. 27 **Sewer**

Voted: - To lay a sewer in Carleton Street, from Brown to Centre Street, and appropriate one thousand dollars for that purpose.

Art. 28 **Shrinkage**

Voted: - To pass over Article 28 of the Warrant.

Art. 29 House Numbers

Voted: - To number the houses in the thickly settled parts of the Town and appropriate One hundred dollars for that purpose; also that the work be done under the direction of The Assessors. Also voted that the Assessors be instructed to number the houses on Orchard Street, from Lawrence line to Lowell Street, in continuation of the numbers in the City of Lawrence.

Art. 30 Pest House Lot

Voted: To pass over Article 30 of the Warrant.

Art. 31 Culvert

Voted: - To lay over the culvert near the house of John H. George as recommended by the Street Commissioners of 1894 and to appropriate seventy five dollars for that purpose, to be taken from the regular appropriation.

Art. 32 Summer Street

Voted: - to accept a street laid out by the Selectmen, beginning at the termination of Summer Street, and running westerly to the land of Joseph D. Emerson, and appropriate fifty dollars therefor.

Art. 33 Sewer French Street

Voted: - to lay a sewer in French Street from Chase Street to Spiggot Street and appropriate three hundred dollars for the same.

Art. 35 Premium Bonds

Voted: - That the amount received as premium on the sale of bonds be appropriated and paid over to the Trustees of the Sinking Fund.

Art. 36 **Sewer**
Voted: - To lay a sewer in Railroad Street, from a point near the residence of Alonzo How about five hundred feet to a point near Cemetery Street, and from thence under the Railroad to Spicket River about five hundred feet and appropriate one thousand dollars for the same.

Art. 37 **Salary Superintendent of Streets**
Voted: - To pass over Article 37 of the Warrant: Yes 90 No 83.

Art. 38 **Hawthorne Avenue [Street]**
Voted: - To accept a street commencing at a point on Arnold Street, about 200 feet from Lowell Street and running southerly three hundred feet.

Art. 39 **Streets**
Voted: - To accept Boston Street from Prospect Street to Kendall Street; Vermont Street, from Swan Street to the Lawrence line, and Boylston Street from Vermont Street to Kendall Street as shown on Plan of J. M. Currier, and appropriate three hundred dollars for the same.

Art. 40 **Fairview**
Voted: - To accept Riverdale Street and Ayer Street as shown on plan recorded with Northern Essex Registry of Deeds called Fairview.

Art. 41 **Bates Street, etc.**
Voted: - To pass over Article 41 of the Warrant.

Art. 42 **Plum Street**
Voted: - To change the name of Plum Street to Tyler Street.

Art. 44 **Sewer Assessments**
Voted: - To accept and adopt a system of sewerage, for a part of said Town in accordance With Section 7 Chapter 50 of the Public Statutes, a sewer through private and public lands running parallel with Centre Street, from a point on Merrill Street to connect with the Hampshire Street sewer in the City of Lawrence known as the Merrill Street sewer, together with its proposed branches as shown on a plan on file with the Town Clerk and provide that

assessments under Section 4 of Chapter 50 of the Public Statutes may be made upon owners of estates within such territory.

At four o'clock and forty minutes p.m. the meeting was adjournment sine die.

Attest,

Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

[LEDGER PAGES 83-84-85-86 ARE MISSING]

**Approval of By-Law
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Essex SS: -

**At the Superior Court begun at Lawrence within and for the County
of Essex, on the
first Monday of March, being the second day of said month, in the
year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and ninety six.**

To the Honorable the Justices of the Superior Court.
At the Annual Town Meeting, held in the Town of Methuen in the County of
Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the second day of March
A.D.
1896 in pursuance of Warrant No. 7 File 12, the following vote being in
substance Article 43 of said Warrant, was unanimously adopted. Art. 43
voted to adopt the following By-Law.

“No person shall behave himself in an idle and disorderly manner, nor use
vulgar
and indecent language, nor play at ball, nor throw or propel in any other
manner,
stones or other missiles in any of the public streets.

Any person offending against any provision of this By-Law shall forfeit
and pay
for each offense a fine of not less than one dollar, nor more than ten
dollars.”

The foregoing is a true copy from the record and the above By-Law is presented for approval.

Attest
S.S. Jos. S. Howe, Town Clerk

Approved by the Court
Ezra L. Woodbury – Assistant Clerk
March 27, 1896

A true copy attest
Ezra L. Woodbury – Assistant Clerk
A true copy
Attest
Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

**Methu
en, Aug. 8,
1896**

I, Joseph S. Howe of Methuen in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
as I am the Town Clerk of said Methuen, hereby appoint Miss H. Maud Merrill to be Assistant Town Clerk, as provided by statute.

Attest,
Jos. S. Howe – Town
Clerk

And Miss H. Maud Merrill was sworn to the faithful performance of her duties.

Jos. S. Howe – Town
Clerk

**Warrant for Meeting for National and State Election, Nov. 3, 1896 –
File 12 No. 8**

Essex SS: To Amos G. Jones, one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen in said County:

Greeting: -

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are required forthwith to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified to vote as the law directs, to assemble at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday the third day of November next, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and

there to give in their ballots for fifteen electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Governor of the Commonwealth, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, Treasurer and Receiver General, Auditor, Attorney General, Representative in the Fifty-fifth Congress for the Fifth District, Councilor for the Sixth District, Senators for the Fifth Essex District, two Representatives in the next General Court for the Sixth Essex District, one County Commissioner, Clerk of the Courts, and "Yes" or "No" in answer to the following articles of amendment to the Constitution, viz.: - First Article of Amendment: Shall the proposed amendment to the Constitution establishing biennial elections of State Officers be approved and ratified?

Second Article of Amendment: Shall the proposed amendment to the Constitution establishing biennial elections of members of the General Court be approved and ratified? All to be voted for on one ballot. The polls may be closed at four o'clock p.m. And you are hereby directed to serve

this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof, at each of the public meeting houses and at the Town House in said Town, eight days at least before said meeting. Given under our hands, and the seal of the Town of Methuen, this twenty fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ninety six.

George O. Marsh } Selectmen
Alfred Sagar } of
Clinton A. Clark } Methuen

Essex SS: - 24th 1896 October

To the Board of the Selectmen of the Town of Methuen, - **Greeting:** -
In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I have notified the
inhabitants of the Town
of Methuen, qualified to vote in elections, as within directed, by posting up
attested printed copies
of this warrant at each of the public meeting houses and at the Town House, eight
days before said meeting.

Amos G. Jones – Constable of Methuen

The foregoing is a true copy of warrant and return

Attest, Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

**Record of National and State Election held November third, 1896
– No. 8 File 12**

A legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified to vote in elections, was held at the Town Hall in said Town, on Tuesday the third day of November A.D. 1896 at eight o'clock in the forenoon pursuant to Warrant No. 8 File 12.

The meeting was called to order at eight o'clock a.m. by George O. Marsh, Chairman of the Selectmen, who read the warrant for the meeting. George H. Butters, Republican, and John J. Sullivan, Democrat were appointed tellers and designated as ballot clerks, and were sworn. George Hey, Charles M. Barnard, Harry E. Brown, Otto Seiferth and Albert J. Richardson on the part of the Republicans and Charles D. Lewis, Edward J. Feeney, Joseph Martin, James A. Dwyer and Edward J. Lahan on the part of the Democrats, were appointed tellers, and were all sworn.

John J. Bunker was appointed to take charge of the ballot box. The Town Clerk delivered one package of ballots to the presiding officer, George O. Marsh, taking his receipt therefor, and the package was publicly broken.

The sample ballots, instructions to voters, and copies of amendments to the Constitution, had been posted about the hall according to law, before the opening of the meeting. The ballot box was opened and shown to be empty, and was then locked and the key given to Amos G. Jones, Constable in attendance. The figures on the ballot box register indicated four ciphers. The polls were then opened and the ballot proceeded. At fifteen minutes past nine, by the unanimous consent of the Selectmen and Town Clerk, the ballot box was opened and the ballots removed therefrom.

The figures on the ballot box register indicated	170
The ballots were counted audibly by the Chairman and numbered	166
The tellers were divided into groups of four each as follows: Otto Seiferth, George Hey, Rep. Joseph Martin, Edward J. Feeney Dem, Harry E. Brown, Albert J. Richardson, Rep. James a Dwyer, Edward Lahan, Dem and they at once proceeded with the counting of the ballots. At ten o'clock and fifty five minutes the ballot box was again opened by unanimous consent.	
The figures on the ballot box register indicated	444
The ballots were counted audibly by Chairman George O. marsh and added to those already counted numbered	428
At two o'clock and twenty minutes the ballot box was again Opened by unanimous consent and the ballots taken therefrom.	
The ballots box register indicated	986
The ballots were counted as before and the whole number was	934
At four o'clock and five minutes the polls were closed.	

The ballot box register indicated the number	1135
The checks marked on the checklist at entrance numbered	
Ten hundred and seventy four	1074
The check marks on the checklist at the ballot box	
Numbered ten hundred and seventy three	1073
The total number of ballots cast was	1073
All the ballots cast were counted into blocks of fifty each, verified and placed in envelopes, and the votes were counted, recorded and declaration thereof made, and were as follows: -	

The whole number of ballots cast for the several persons voted for was –	
Ten hundred and seventy three	1073

For Electors at Large

Ernest C. Marshall of Boston one hundred and thirty	130
Daniel W. Kenney of Holyoke one hundred and thirty	130
Henry Winn of Malden thirty	30
Edward Kendall of Cambridge eight	8
Alfred W. Richardson of Springfield eight	8
George L. Lovell of Holyoke twelve	12
Patrick F. Griffin of North Adams twelve	12
John Q. A. Brackett of Arlington eight hundred and fourteen	814
William H. Haile of Springfield eight hundred and fourteen	814
Thomas J. Gargan of Boston eighteen	18
James S. Grinnell of Greenfield eighteen	18
Blanks, one hundred and fifty two	152

Electors by Districts

District Number One

William B. Mahoney of Westfield one hundred and thirty	130
Frank S. Gross of Lee eighteen	18
Edward S. Rogers of Lee eight	8
Rudolph Fuchs of Adams twelve	12
Franklin Carter of Williamstown	
eight hundred and fourteen	814
James W. Hull of Pittsfield eighteen	18
Blanks – Seventy three	73

District Number Two

Joseph F. Callanan of Springfield one hundred and thirty	130
William M. E. Mellen of Chicopee thirty	30
Hubbard Lawrence of Palmer eight	8

Frederick A. Nagler of Springfield twelve	12
Augustus Coolidge of Athol eight hundred and fourteen	814
Leander B. Morse of Athol eighteen	18
Blanks sixty one	61

District Number Three

Levi Barker of Worcester one hundred and thirty	130
Enoch Earle of Worcester thirty	30
John Holt of Sutton eight	8
Addison W. Barr of Worcester twelve	12
Arthur F. Whitin of Northbridge	
eight hundred and fourteen	814
Eben S. Stevens of Dudley eighteen	18
Blanks – sixty one	61

District Number Four

Henry J. Jaquith of Wellesley one hundred and fifty one	151
Harry J. Jaquith of Wellesley thirty	30
Edward G. Watkins of Gardener eight	8
William H. Keiser of Fitchburg twelve	12
Charles H. Moulton of Waltham	
Eight hundred and fourteen	814
Charles J. Williams of Acton eighteen	18
Blanks – forty	40

District Number Five

Michael O'Mahoney of Lawrence one hundred and thirty	130
James E. Donoghue of Lawrence thirty	30
James K. Fellows of Lowell eight	8
Louis Gens of Lawrence twelve	12
Joseph Miller of Lowell eight hundred and fourteen	814
Sam D. Stevens of North Andover eighteen	18
Blanks - sixty one	61

District Number Six

James P. Dearborn of Haverhill one hundred and thirty	130
Thomas Sanders of Haverhill thirty	30
Albert B. Coats of Beverly eight	8
John F. Crabtree of Haverhill twelve	12
Sylvanus Smith of Gloucester eight hundred and fourteen	814
Robert S. Rantoul of Salem eighteen	18
Blanks – sixty one	61

District Number Seven

Edward B. Newhall of Lynn one hundred and thirty	130
William J. Brickley of Everett thirty	30
Seth Weston of Chelsea eight	8
Louis Wolfson of Lynn twelve	12
Edward W. Lacroix of Lynn eight hundred and fourteen	814
Samuel K. Hamilton of Wakefield eighteen	18
Blanks – sixty one	61

District Number Eight

John P. McCormick of Cambridge one hundred and thirty	130
Abigale Hall of Boston eight	8
Squire E. Putney of Somerville twelve	12
Robert O. Fuller of Cambridge eight hundred and fourteen	814
Godfrey Morse of Boston eighteen	18
Blanks – ninety one	91

District Number Nine

James J. Lanigan of Boston one hundred and thirty	130
William J. Burke of Boston thirty	30
Charles A. Abbott of Boston eight	8
David Goldstein of Boston twelve	12
Peter Morrison of Boston eight hundred and fourteen	814
Sigourney Butler of Boston eighteen	18
Blanks – sixty one	61

District Number Ten

Quincy A. Lathrop of Boston one hundred and eighty one	181
William J. Hurd of Boston eight	8
Conrad Kersten of Boston twelve	12
John C. Cobb of Milton eight hundred and fourteen	814
Daniel L. Prendergast of Boston eighteen	18
Blanks – forty	40

District Number Eleven

William D. Leahy of Milford one hundred and thirty	130
James Jeffrey Roche of Brookline thirty	30
William H. Partridge of Newton eight	8
Theodore Winesteman of Norwood twelve	12
Wilbur H. Powers of Hyde Parks	
Eight hundred and fourteen	814

James E. Cotter of Hyde Park eighteen	18
Blanks – sixty one	61

District Number Twelve

Francis A. Hobart of Braintree one hundred and eighty one	181
Edwin Sawtelle of Brockton eight	8
Henry A. Thomas of Weymouth	
eight hundred and fourteen	814
Charles G. Davis of Plymouth eighteen	18
Blanks – fifty two	52

District Number Thirteen

Thomas J. Meaney of New Bedford one hundred and thirty	130
Charles H. Lane of Tisbury eighteen	18
Charles A. Chase of Swansea had eight	8
Frank Blauensteiner of New Bedford twelve	12
Edmund Anthony, Jr. of Fairhaven	
eight hundred and fourteen	814
Louis B. Thatcher of Yarmouth eighteen	18
Blanks – seventy three	73

For Governor

Thomas C. Brophy of Somerville twelve	12
Allen Coffin of Nantucket ten	10
Frederick O. Prince of Boston twenty	20
George Fred Williams of Dedham, Democratic	
One hundred twenty seven	127
George Fred Williams of Dedham, Peoples Party	
Twenty two	22
George Fred Williams of Dedham, Dem. Nom.	
Bryan Paper thirty one	31
George Fred Williams of Dedham two	2
Roger Wolcott of Boston seven hundred and sixty four	764
Blanks – eighty five	85

For Lieutenant Governor

Christopher T. Callahan of Holyoke one hundred forty nine	149
W. Murray Crane of Dalton seven hundred forty five	745
Archibald Dakin of Brockton fifteen	15
James E. McConnell of Fitchburg twenty	20
William W. Nash of Williamsburg fourteen	14
Moritz E. Ruther of Holyoke eleven	11

Blanks – one hundred and nineteen	119
-----------------------------------	-----

For Secretary of State

Asa F. Hall of Hudson eighteen	18
Waldo Lincoln of Worcester forty	40
William M. Olin of Boston seven hundred thirty nine	739
Joseph H. Potts of Lynn one hundred and fifteen	145
Leroy D. Usher of Worcester thirteen	13
Willard O. Wylie of Beverly ten	10
Blanks – one hundred and thirty eight	138

For Treasurer and Receiver General

Charles G. F. Claus of Malden nineteen	19
Robert C. Habberley of Hyde Park nineteen	19
Edward P. Shaw of Newburyport	
seven hundred and thirty four	734
Horace P. Tobey of Wareham forty five	45
Thomas A. Watson of Braintree	
One hundred and twenty seven	127
Blanks – One hundred and twenty nine	129

For Auditor of Accounts

Maurice P. Cavanaugh of Springfield sixty five	65
Maurice J. Fitzgerald of Boston sixty eight	68
Thomas A. Frissell of Hinsdale eighteen	18
John W. Kimball of Fitchburg	
seven hundred and thirty two	732
Rufus H. Phinney of Lynn thirteen	13
William P. Proctor of Marblehead seventeen	17
Charles C. Spellman of Springfield twenty five	25
Blanks – one hundred and thirty five	135

For Attorney General

John C. Chase of Haverhill nineteen	19
Wolcott Hamlin of Amherst fourteen	14
Henry F. Hurlburt of Lynn fifty two	52
Hosea M. Knowlton of New Bedford	
seven hundred thirty five	735
William H. Morse of Chelsea sixteen	16
John B. O'Donnell of Northampton	
one hundred and thirteen	113
Blanks – one hundred and twenty four	124

For Councilor of District Number Six

William E. Rand of Concord one hundred eighty nine	189
Elisha H. Shaw of Chelmsford seven hundred and forty one	741
Blanks – one hundred and forty three	143

For Senator for the Fifth Essex District

John S. Curner of Lawrence twenty two	22
James H. Derbyshire of Lawrence six hundred ninety six	696
Joseph J. Flynn of Lawrence two hundred and sixty	260
Blanks – ninety five	95

For Clerk of Courts

Edward B. George of Haverhill	
seven hundred and sixty eight	768
Dean Peabody two	2
Thomas P. Kane one	1
John Brackett one	1
Blanks – three hundred and one	301

For Representatives to the General Court Sixth Essex District

John W. Bridge of Methuen thirty seven	37
George G. Frederick of Methuen	
Seven hundred twenty four	724
John C. Sanborn, Jr. of Lawrence two hundred and seven	207
Thomas R. Skinner of Methuen two hundred and three	203
George B. Smart of Lawrence	
five hundred and ninety seven	597
William Wood of Lawrence sixteen	16
Blanks – three hundred and sixty two	362

For County Commissioner

Horace F. Longfellow of Newbury two hundred and seven	207
Samuel D. Smith of Marblehead seven hundred thirty two	732
Edward Press one	1
Blanks – one hundred and thirty three	133

For Representative in Congress, Fifth District

John H. Harrington of Lowell two hundred and twelve	212
William S. Knox of Lawrence	
seven hundred and sixty nine	769
Blanks – ninety two	92

Upon the First Article of Amendment: Shall the proposed amendment to the Constitution establishing biennial elections of State Officer be approved and ratified?

“Yes” had two hundred and sixty four	264
“No” had three hundred and eighty seven	387
Blank four hundred and twenty two	422

Upon the Second Article of Amendment: Shall the proposed amendment to the Constitution, establishing biennial elections of members of the General Court be approved and ratified?

“Yes” had two hundred and thirty eight	238
“No” had three hundred and seventy three	373
Blanks four hundred and sixty two	462

The vote was declared at eight o’clock and thirty minutes p.m.

The returns of the votes cast for the several officers balloted for were made up, properly certified, sealed and delivered to the Town Clerk, and the ballots cast were also sealed up in two envelopes and delivered to the Town Clerk.

The checklists used were also sealed up and delivered to the Town Clerk. The seal was retained by the presiding officer, George O. marsh, and the meeting was adjourned sine die at ten minutes past ten p.m.

Attest,

Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Recount of Ballots cast for Senator

Pursuant to a petition from ten legal voters of the Town of Methuen, alleging that they had reason

to believe that the returns of the election officers of said Town of the votes cast at the State Election

held November third A.D. 1896 are erroneous, and that they deemed them in error in the following particulars, namely: - that the election officers of said Town failed to count and return correctly, and

to make a correct record of the votes cast in the said Town for the candidates to fill the position of

Senator to the next General Court from the Fifth Essex District for the year next ensuing, and asking

for a recount of the same, the Selectmen met at the Selectmen’s Room in the Town House, on Tuesday, November tenth, at seven o’clock and thirty minutes p.m., and opened the boxes containing the ballots

cast at said election, recounted the votes cast for Senator to the next General Court, and reported the

result of the recount as follows: -

Methuen, Nov. 10,

1896

We the undersigned, Selectmen of the Town of Methuen, hereby certify that the recount of the votes this day for Senator in General Court from the Fifth Essex District was as follows: -

John S. Curner, Lawrence had twenty two	22
James H. Derbyshire, Lawrence had	
six hundred and ninety six	696
Joseph J. Flynn, Lawrence two hundred fifty nine	259
Blanks – ninety seven	97

The ballots were then placed in the boxes and resealed.

Mr. Derbyshire and Mr. Flynn were both present at the recount.

Attest

Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

**City of Lawrence,
Massachusetts
City Clerk's Office,**

November 13, 1896

At a meeting of the City Clerk of Lawrence and the Town Clerk of Methuen, said Town and

Wards 1 and 2 of the said City of Lawrence forming the Sixth Essex Representative District,

held at noon this day in accordance with the provisions of Section 195 Chapter 417 Acts of

1893, upon comparing the transcripts of the returns the following appears as the result of the

balloting for Representatives to the General Court for said District, at meeting held on Tuesday, November 3, 1896.

To wit: -

	Lawrence Wards				
Methuen 1-1	1-2	2-3	2-4	Total	

John W. Bridge of Methuen	37	8	7	8	6	66
George G. Frederick of Methuen	724	467	250	267	176	1884
John C. Sanborn, Jr. of Lawrence	207	204	318	186	369	1284
Thomas R. Skinner of Methuen	203	157	271	127	320	1078
George B. Smart of Lawrence	597	485	272	275	181	1810

William Wood of Lawrence	16	8	5	7	11	47
Blanks	362	293	323	186	289	1453

Lawrence

November 13, 1896

In accordance with the foregoing returns, Certificates of Election were this day issued to the two

Persons having the highest number of votes for Representative to the General Court for the Sixth Essex District.

To wit: -

George G. Frederick of Methuen
And
George B. Smart of Lawrence

Attest

Wm. T. Kimball, City Clerk of Lawrence
Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk of Methuen

A true copy
Attest,

Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Warrant for Special Town Meeting, Nov. 16, 1896 – File 12
Warrant No. 9

Essex SS: -

To Amos G. Jones, one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen, in said County:-

Greeting: -

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required forthwith to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall in said Town, on Monday the sixteenth day of November instant, at seven and one half o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles, viz.: -

Article 1 To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2 To see if the Town will vote to accept the contract for building a section of State Highway commencing at the Lawrence line on Jackson Street, and running through Jackson, Swan, and East Streets to Merrimack Street,

as submitted by the State Highway Commissioners and authorize the Selectmen or some committee to sign said contract.

Article 3 By request of Robert J. Hancock and others, to see if the Town will vote to construct a sewer in Phillips Street, from Centre Street to Lawrence Street, and make an appropriation for the same.

Article 4 By request of Alfred Newsholme, to see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to see what arrangement can be made with the Boston and Maine Railroad Co. for the construction of a bridge over the railroad to connect Railroad Street with a new street laid out and built as a Town way, running from Union Street.

Article 5 By request of Patrick Flynn and others, to see if the Town will vote to construct a sewer in Spicket Street, from Broadway to French Street, and make an appropriation for the same.

Article 6 By request of Frederick Miller and others, to see if the Town will vote to accept Miller Street from Milk Street to Arthur Street, and Lippold Street from Milk Street to Arthur Street, and Arthur Street from Miller Street to East Street, as laid out by the Selectmen, and as shown on Plan of land called "Pleasant View".

Article 7 By request of Geo. W. Towne and others to see if the Town will vote to accept Sec. 101 of Chapter 417 of the Public Statutes relating to dividing the Town into voting precincts.

Article 8 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to relocate street lights that have been discontinued, on account of the location of arc lights, on such streets as they deem they are most needed.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at each of the public meeting houses, at the Town house, and at each of the schoolhouses outside of the village district, eight days at least before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands, and the seal of the Town of Methuen this seventh day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety six.

(Seal)
Selectmen

Geo. O. Marsh }
Alfred Sagar } of

Clinton A. Clark }
Methuen

Record of Special Town Meeting, Nov. 16, 1896

A meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, was held in the Town Hall in said Town on Monday the sixteenth day of November A.D. 1896 at seven o'clock and thirty minutes p.m. pursuant to Warrant No. 9 File 12.

The meeting was called to order at seven o'clock and thirty minutes by Joseph S. Howe, Town Clerk, who read the warrant for the meeting.

Art. 1 **Moderator**

A ballot was taken and Granville E. Foss was chosen Moderator by a unanimous vote, and was sworn.

Art. 2 **Contract State Road**

The proposed contract was read to the meeting by the Town Clerk, and explained by the Chairman of Selectmen, and it was unanimously voted, - That the Town execute the proposed contract with the State Highway Commissioners, and that the Selectmen be authorized to sign it in behalf of the Town.

Also voted that the Selectmen be instructed to employ citizens of Methuen as far as possible in the execution of the work.

Art. 3 **Sewer Phillips Street**

It was reported that the estimated cost of a sewer in Phillips Street would be two thousand dollars – it was then Voted: - To construct a sewer in Phillips Street from Centre Street to Lawrence Street, and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars for its construction.

Voted – by a unanimous vote that the Treasurer be authorized with the approval of the Selectmen to borrow the sum of two thousand dollars, for the term of one year, to pay the cost of constructing the sewer in Phillips Street.

Art. 4

Railroad Bridge

Voted – to instruct the Selectmen to see what arrangement can be made with the Boston and Maine Railroad Company for the construction of a bridge over the railroad, to connect Railroad Street with a new street laid out and built as a Town way, running from Union Street and report at next Annual Meeting.

Voted – That the Town Clerk be added to that Committee.

Art. 5

Spicket Street Sewer

Voted – To construct a sewer in Spicket Street, from Broadway to French Street. “Estimated cost four hundred dollars.

Also voted by a unanimous vote, that for the purpose of paying the cost of said sewer, the Treasurer be authorized with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow the sum of four hundred dollars for the term of one year. Also voted to appropriate four hundred dollars to build said sewer.

Art. 6

Miller Street, Lippold Street, Arthur Street

Voted to accept Miller Street and Lippold Street as laid out by the Selectmen.

Voted to accept Arthur Street and appropriate one hundred dollars for land damages.

Art. 7

Voting Precincts

Voted – by a unanimous vote, to accept the provisions of Section 101 of Chapter 417 of the Statutes of the year 1893 relating to dividing towns into voting precincts.

Art. 8

Street Lights

Voted – To authorize the Selectmen to relocate street lights that have been discontinued on account of the location of arc lights on such streets as they deem they are most needed.

E. W. Mann offered the following resolution.

That in the work of building the State Road, the Selectmen are hereby instructed, in the matter of employing teams, to give the preference to such owners of teams as are nearest to the work, to the amount of the taxes which they have to pay, and that all who wish for team work, having suitable teams to such an amount shall be employed before any person

shall be given such work to a larger amount, than the tax which he has to pay.

After some discussion the resolution was laid upon the table.

The meeting was adjourned sine die at nine o'clock and twenty five minutes p.m.

Attest,

Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

1897

Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, March 1 – File No. 12 Warrant No. 10

Essex SS: -

To Amos G. Jones one of the Constables of Methuen, in said County.

Greeting: -

In the name of the

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at the Town Hall, in said Town, on Monday the first day of March, next, at seven o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles, viz.: -

Article 1 To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2 To choose a Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, one School Committeeman to serve three years in place of William D. Hartshorne, one Water Commissioner to serve three years in place of Edwin J. Castle, one Trustee of Nevins Memorial to serve two years in place of Lewis E. Barnes, Constables, Auditor of Accounts, Fence Viewers, and "Yes" or "No" in answer to the question. "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this Town?" Also to choose all other necessary Town officers in such manner as the Town may determine. The polls may be closed at one o'clock.

Article 3 To hear the Annual Report of the Selectmen and act thereon.

Article 4 To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations for the same.

Article 5 To determine the manner of collecting taxes the ensuing year and act thereon as the Town may think proper.

Article 6 To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen to hire money in anticipation of taxes of the current municipal year and to issue notes of the Town therefor.

Article 7 To see if the Town will vote to approve and accept the list of jurors prepared by the Selectmen for the ensuing year.

Article 8 To hear the report of committees and act thereon.

Article 9 To determine what compensation the Town will grant the members of the Fire Department for their services the ensuing year.

Article 10 To determine the manner of appropriating the amount received from dog taxes in accordance with Chapter 102 Section 107 of the Public Statutes.

Article 11 By request of Col. William B. Greene Post 100 G.A.R. to see if the Town will vote to appropriate one hundred and fifty dollars for the purpose of decorating the graves of our soldiers and sailors on Memorial Day, May 30, 1897, said money to be expended under the direction of the above Post.

Article 12 To see if the Town will vote to elect its Board of Health in accordance with Chapter 218 of the Acts of 1894.

Article 13 To see if the Town will vote to accept the report of the Selectmen relating to dividing the Town into voting precincts.

Article 14 By request of Geo. W. Towne and others to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 132 of the Acts of 1894 relating to voting for Town Officers in precincts.

Article 15 By request of Nathan Bailey and others to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 455 of the Acts of 1894 relating to the licensing of plumbers and the supervision of the business of plumbing.

Article 16 By request of Kirk F. Brown and others to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 186 of the Acts of 1895 relating to the watering of streets in towns, and make an appropriation for watering its

public streets, and provide that the Board of Assessors may assess upon the estates abutting on streets so watered the whole or any portion of the cost of such watering.

Article 17 By request of Selwin A. Dodge and others, to see if the Town will appoint a committee of twelve legal voters to act in conjunction with Selectmen, whose duties shall be as follows: - after the Town warrant shall have been made up the Committee appointed with the Selectmen shall investigate each article in the Town warrant calling for an appropriation of money, and before any article is acted upon in the Annual or Special Town Meeting, shall report favorably or otherwise, with such amendment or alterations as in their judgment is for the best interest of the Town.

Article 18 By request of Charles M. Sawyer, to see if the Town will vote to Macadamize the river road, so called, from the Lawrence line to a point near the house of Mrs. Mary Dowding, and repair the remaining portion of Lowell Street to the Dracut line, the said work to be done this year, and appropriate eight thousand dollars for the same.

Article 19 By request of Daniel W. Tenney and others, to see if the Town will vote to Macadamize Charles Street, and appropriate one thousand dollars for that purpose.

Article 20 By request of J. C. Taylor and others, to see if the Town will vote to Macadamize Railroad Street from Lowell Street to Cemetery Street, and appropriate one thousand dollars for the same.

Article 21 By request of Elias Grimes and others, to see if the Town will vote to extend the Macadamizing of Prospect Street to the Lawrence line and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars for the same.

Article 22 By request of Stephen Currier and others, to see if the Town will vote to extend the Macadamizing of Prospect Street to the Lawrence line, and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars for the same.

Article 23 By request of Daniel W. Tenney and others to see if the Town will vote to rebuild the wall on the east side of Highland Avenue and appropriate the sum of three hundred and seventy five dollars for that purpose.

Article 24 By request of Edwin J. Castle, to see if the Town will vote to supply Edward F. Searles free of expense, crushed stone to build a sidewalk on the north side of Lawrence Street, from the corner of Park Street to his residence on East Street, he to do all the work without any expense to the Town.

Article 25 By request of P. J. Dooley, to see if the Town will vote to widen, grade, and gravel Lowell Street, from the residence of James Allen to the Dracut line, and appropriate fifteen hundred dollars for the same, the same to be let by contract.

Article 26 By request of H. A. Whittier and others, to see if the Town will vote to buy about four hundred feet of land at the southeast corner of Milk Street and Bare Meadow Road, for the purpose of taking off the sharp corner, and make an appropriation for the same.

Article 27 By request of Alfred Newsholme and others, to see if the Town will vote to grade the street and build a sidewalk on Lowell Street, from Arnold Street to the house of Mrs. Parker Morse, and appropriate three hundred dollars for the same.

Article 28 By request of John G. Scherig and others to see if the Town will vote to accept Bates Street from East Street to Eustis Street and Eustis Street from the westerly line of Bates Street to Clark Street as laid out by the Selectmen as shown on plan of land called "The Oaklands" and appropriate one hundred and fifty dollars to repair said street.

Article 29 By request of Mary A. Mitchell and others to see if the Town will vote to accept a street as laid out by the Selectmen commencing at a point on Prospect Street by land of Alba A. Farr, and running westerly to Jackson Street, and appropriate two hundred dollars for land damage, and one hundred and fifty dollars for building the same.

Article 30 By request of John C. Sanborn, to see if the Town will vote to hire a Superintendent of Streets and pay him a salary not to exceed twelve hundred dollars per annum, including team, the Town to have his entire services.

Article 31 To see if the Town will vote to purchase the tract or tracts of land recommended in report of Committee upon a new High School and appropriate a sufficient sum therefor.

Article 32 To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen to borrow a sum of money not exceeding sixteen thousand dollars, to pay for land to enlarge the school house lot between Lawrence Street and Leafy Lane.

Article 33 By request of Harry E. Moore and others to see if the Town will vote to maintain an electric arc light on or near the corner of Stevens and High Streets and appropriate seventy dollars for the same.

Article 34 By request of George W. Copp and others, to see if the Town will vote to maintain an electric arc light at the corner of Broadway and Hampshire Street and appropriate seventy dollars for the same.

Article 35 By request of John E. Dustin and others, to see if the Town will vote to maintain electric lights, at the following places, namely: one at Cook's Corner, one at the corner of Bates and East Streets, one on Milk Street between Lippold and Miller Streets, one at the corner of East and Swan Streets, and one at the corner of Prospect and Swan Streets, the latter to be of 40 candle power, and appropriate one hundred dollars for the same.

Article 36 By request of William P. Morse and others, to see if the Town will vote to maintain an electric arc light on the westerly side of Lowell Street, near Oakland Avenue, and appropriate seventy dollars for the same.

Article 37 By request of J. W. Bridge and others, to see if the Town will vote to maintain an electric arc light at the corner of Broadway and Brown Street and appropriate seventy dollars for the same.

Article 38 By request of Charles G. Kimball and others to see if the Town will vote to maintain an electric arc light on Kirk Street and appropriate seventy dollars for the same.

Article 39 By request of Joseph M. Emsley and others to see if the Town will vote to erect and maintain six street lights on Gill Avenue, Ashland Avenue and Oakland Avenue and appropriate one hundred dollars for the same.

Article 40 By request of William R. Rowell and others to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, to have the electric arc lights burn every night instead of twenty two nights a months as at present, at an additional cost not exceeding ten dollars per lamp per year, and appropriate one hundred and eight dollars for the same.

Article 41 By request of Thomas Mack and others to see if the Town will vote to employ a night watchman for the Arlington District and make an appropriation for the same.

Article 42 By request of Joseph Morin and Guilford A. Lewis, to see if the Town will vote to pay the drivers of the Town teams two dollars per day.

Article 43 By request of Thomas Mack and others, to see if the Town will vote to furnish 500 feet of hose, hose truck and building for the storage of the same, to be located in the Arlington District and appropriate five hundred dollars for the same.

Article 44 By request of Fred E. Lorenz and others to see if the Town will vote to furnish 400 feet of hose to be located at or near the Currier School house, and make an appropriation for the same.

Article 45 By request of M. G. Smith, to see if the Town will vote to build a sewer across Lowell Street near the house of M. G. Smith to take the drainage from three houses to be built on Lowell Street and appropriate fifty dollars for the same.

Article 46 By request of Col. William B. Greene Post 100 G.A.R. to see if the Town will vote to instruct the School Committee to introduce military instruction into the schools of the is Town.

Article 47 By request of Alfred Newsholme and others to see what action the Town will take in regard to building a bridge over the railroad opposite Oakland Avenue and make an appropriation for the same.

Article 48 To see if the Town will instruct the Water Commissioners to apply to the Legislature for authority to issue twenty five thousand dollars in bonds for the extension of its waterworks.

Article 49 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate twenty dollars each for maintenance of hydrants and one hundred dollars each for drinking fountains and if any balance remains beyond cost of maintenance to apply the same to the sinking fund for payment of the water load.

Article 50 To see what disposition the Town will vote to make of the money received as premium on the sale of water bonds.

Article 51 By request of Selwin A. Dodge and others to see if the Town will appoint a Committee of five to investigate and report upon the feasibility of a main sewer in the southeast section of the Town connecting with the Merrimack River, with ultimate intent of connecting the same to form a complete system of sewerage for the Town; with power to employ such expert help as they may need, and appropriate three hundred dollars for the same.

Article 52 To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public or Town way a street laid out by the Road Commissioners running northerly from Union Street to the "old road", so called.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the
Town House and at each of the public meeting houses in said Town, eight
days at least before
said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands and the seal of the Town of Methuen this twentieth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven.

George O. Marsh } Selectmen
Alfred Sagar } of
Clinton A. Clark } Methuen

Essex SS: -
February 20, 1897

Methuen,

To Joseph S. Howe, Town Clerk.

Greeting: -

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I have notified the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen, qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet as within directed by posting up attested printed copies of this warrant, at each of the public meeting houses, and at the Town hose, eight days before said meeting.

Amos G. Jones, Constable of
Methuen

The foregoing is a true copy of warrant and return.

Attest,
Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Record of Annual Town Meeting, March 1st 1897

**Pursuant to Warrant No. 10 File 12 the Annual Meeting of the
Inhabitants of the Town
of Methuen, was held at the Town Hall in said Town, on Monday,
March 1st A.D. 1897.**

The meeting was called to order at seven o'clock a.m. by Joseph S. Howe, Town Clerk,
who read the warrant for the meeting. The polls were then opened for the choice of Moderator,
the checklist being used.

Article 1 **Moderator**

Granville E. Foss received every vote cast for Moderator and was declared elected and was sworn.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Alfred Humphries (Primitive Church - Methuen)

Article 2

Town Officers

The Moderator announced the appointment of the following named persons as tellers and ballot clerks.

Ballot Clerks: John S. Tapley, Republican; James W. Gall, Republican; John J. Donahue, Democrat; Kirk W. Marsh, Democrat.

Teller – Republicans: Robert Moffat, Thomas Mack, Orrin E. Lowell, John T. Mannifield;

Democrats: John C. Ellis, John J. Sullivan, James E. Donahue, John P. Haran.

John J. Bunker had charge of the ballot box.

The above named persons were all sworn.

Board of Health

Mr. Parker moved the Town do not elect a Board of Health but that the duties of such be devolved upon the Board of Selectmen, with authority to appoint an agent to carry out the requirements of law. After considerable discussion the motion was carried by a unanimous vote. The ballots were delivered to the ballot clerks, the ballot box was opened and shown to be empty, and the key delivered to Amos G. Jones, Constable in attendance. The number on the ballot box register indicated four ciphers. The meeting proceeded to ballot at seven o'clock and fifty five minutes and continued without interruption until nine o'clock and fifty minutes, at which time the ballot box was opened and the ballots taken there from by the Moderator and Town Clerk. The ballot box register indicated 264, and the number of ballots taken from the box was two hundred and sixty four. The ballots were counted audibly by the Moderator, separated into blocks of fifty and placed in envelopes. At eleven o'clock and forty minutes the ballot box was again opened and the ballots taken there from by the Moderator and Town Clerk.

The number on the ballot box register was 594 and the total number of ballots taken out was five hundred and ninety four.

It was voted to extend the time for closing the polls, fifteen minutes and the polls were closed at fifteen minutes past one o'clock. The ballot box register marked 887. The number of names checked on each voting list was eight hundred and eighty seven and the whole number of ballots cast was eight hundred and eighty seven. The tellers were divided into three groups and proceeded to canvas and count the votes while the business articles in the warrant were being acted on. All the ballots were counted into blocks of fifty each, verified and placed in envelopes, and the votes were counted, recorded, and declaration thereof made and were as follows.

The whole number of ballots cast for the several persons voted for was

Eight hundred and eighty seven	887
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Town Officers

For Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor

Frank Buckminster six hundred and twenty three	623
Joseph E. Buswell six hundred and ninety three	693
George O. Marsh three hundred and thirty five	335
Charles E. Richardson one hundred and thirty five	135
Alfred Sagar six hundred and forty nine	649
Clinton A. Clark two	2
Blank – two hundred and twenty four	224

And Frank Buckminster, Joseph E. Buswell and Alfred Sagar were declared elected Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor and were all sworn into each of those offices.

For Town Clerk, Treasurer and Collector of Taxes

Joseph S. Howe seven hundred and fifty nine	759
J. S. Tapley one	1
S. L. Holman one	1
Blanks – one hundred and twenty six	126

And Joseph S. Howe was declared elected Town Clerk, Treasurer and Collector of Taxes and was sworn.

For Trustee Nevins Memorial – two years

Lewis E. Barnes seven hundred and three	703
Blank – one hundred and eight four	184

And Lewis E. Barnes was declared elected Trustee Nevins Memorial

School Committee for three years

William D. Hartshorne six hundred ninety six	696
William M. Rogers two	2
Geo. B. Bradley one	1
A. A. Clark one	1
J. S. Tapley one	1
Blanks – one hundred and eighty six	186

And William D. Hartshorne was declared elected School Committee for three years.

For Auditor

Charles H. T. Mann four hundred eight seven	487
Arthur Leon Russell two hundred ninety one	291
Blanks – one hundred and nine	109
And Charles H. T. Mann was declared elected Auditor.	

For Water Commissioner for three years

Edwin J. Castle five hundred and twenty nine	529
John G. Low two hundred ninety one	291
Blanks – sixty seven	67
And Edwin J. Castle was declared elected Water Commissioner for three years.	

For Constables

Horace S. Blake had two hundred and sixty three	263
George E. Blanchard six hundred and four	604
Charles H. Emerson five hundred and ninety five	595
Maurice Flahive one hundred and ninety nine	199
Albert B. Gordon six hundred seventy three	673
Amos G. Jones six hundred and one	601
William H. Silver two hundred and eight	208
James Spicer five hundred and twelve	512
James C. Taylor five hundred and seven	507
Crompton one	1
J. Lyon one	1
Frank McDermott one	1
Jack Skerritt one	1
Blanks – eleven hundred and sixty six	1166
And George E. Blanchard, Charles H. Emerson, Albert B. Gordon, Amos G. Jones, James Spicer and James C. Taylor were declared elected Constables and were all sworn.	

For Fence Viewers

John S. Crosby four hundred ninety three	493
Daniel T. Morrison three hundred seventy one	371
Addison P. Russell five hundred and fifty two	352
Leverett Swan two hundred and thirty nine	239
Simon W. Young four hundred and fifty	450
Blank – five hundred and fifty six	556
And John S. Crosby, Addison P. Russell and Simon W. Young were declared elected Fence Viewers	

License Vote

On the question “Shall Licenses be granted for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors in this Town?” The number of ballots marked “Yes” was

Two hundred and sixty	260
The number of ballots marked “No” was	
Five hundred and twenty five	525
Blanks – one hundred and two	102

Field Drivers

Will. Shirley	J. Frank Emerson
Daniel T. Morrison	George Archibald
Chas. E. Allen	George A. Taylor
John D. Emerson	Charles M. Barnard
George N. Blodgett	Edward Townsend
Harry Dowding	

Surveyors of Plastering

Silas K. Nowell	Aaron Huse
Nahum P. Winn	Frank Buckminster (sworn)
Chas. E. Russell	

Surveyors of Lumber

John H. George (sworn)	Samuel Emerson (sworn)
Samuel J. Pedler	George O. Marsh (sworn)
James O. Parker (sworn)	Isaac O. Brown (sworn)
Charles Hutchins (sworn)	Harry D. Kelley (sworn)
Frank Buckminster (sworn)	James H. Lyons (sworn)
Walter Sargent	Charles A. Stevens (sworn)
Albert B. Gordon (sworn)	

Surveyors of Wood & Bark

George O. Marsh (sworn)	Charles A. Stevens (sworn)
Charles E. Richardson (sworn)	Isaac C. Brown (sworn)
Fred. A. Russell (sworn)	John Welch
Eben W. Powell (sworn)	Walter Sargent
John H. George (sworn)	James Moxsom (sworn)

Pound Keepers

Stephen W. Williams	Joseph E. Buswell
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Sealer of Weights and Measures

John C. Sanborn

Article 3 Selectmen's Report

Voted – To accept the Report of the Selectmen

Article 4 Appropriations

It was voted to consider the estimates recommended by the Selectmen, item by item. When the estimate for Superintendent of Schools was reached, it was voted that the appropriation be increased to twelve hundred dollars and the expenditure of the money be left to the discretion of the School Committee.

It was voted to pass over the item for Macadam until the special appropriations for Macadamizing should be reached.

Voted – that edge stones be set only where owners of property will obligate themselves to build concrete sidewalks. The estimate for street lights was passed over until the special appropriations for street lights shall be considered. The estimate for police was passed over until Article 41 shall be reached. The estimate for maintenance of waterworks was passed over until after disposition of Article 49 of the Warrant. Mr. Oliphant offered a resolution “that the Board of Selectmen be instructed to expend one half the regular yearly appropriation for sidewalks, in making concrete or brick walks, as in their judgment shall seem best, beginning at the Town House and working north, south, east and west along the main highways as far as the appropriation will allow; and that such dire sidewalks as now exist elsewhere shall be kept in a safe and passable condition at as little expense as possible”. After considerable discussion a vote was taken and the resolution was lost.

After amendments, the sums, voted and appropriated to defray ordinary Town charges were as follows: -

For support of schools, teaching, music, janitorship and fuel	
Sixteen thousand dollars	
\$16,000.00	
Supplies for schools – sixteen hundred dollars	
1,600.00	
Repairs on schoolhouses – sixteen hundred dollars	
1,600.00	
Superintendent of schools – twelve hundred dollars	
1,200.00	
Repairs on highways & bridges – forty five hundred dollars	
4,500.00	
Opening roads – fifteen hundred dollars	
1,500.00	
Macadamizing	
3,000.00	
Sidewalks – one thousand dollars	
1,000.00	
Edge stones and flagging – one thousand dollars	
1,000.00	
Sewer Department – twelve hundred dollars	
1,200.00	
Fire Department – twenty five hundred dollars	
2,500.00	
Town Teams – five hundred dollars	
500.00	
Street Lights – twenty six hundred dollars	
2,600.00	
Contingencies amended – thirty two hundred and fifty dollars	
3,250.00	
Pauper Department – four thousand dollars	
4,000.00	
Soldier's Relief – three hundred dollars	
300.00	
Town Officers – eighteen hundred dollars	
1,800.00	
Military Aid – five hundred dollars	
500.00	
Police Department – two thousand dollars	
2,000.00	
Health Department – eight hundred dollars	
800.00	

Interest on Town Debt – three thousand dollars	
	3,000.00
Collection of Taxes – seven hundred dollars	
	700.00
Interest on Water bonds – seven thousand dollars	
	<u>7,000.00</u>
Maintenance of Waterworks	
	\$61,550.00

Article 5 **Collecting Taxes**

Voted – That taxes be collected the same as last year and that on all taxes remaining unpaid after October first, interest shall be paid from that date to the time of payment, at the rate of six per cent per annum.

Article 6 **Temporary Loans**

Voted – by a unanimous vote, that for the purpose of procuring a temporary loan to and for the use of the Town of Methuen, in anticipation of the taxes of the present municipal year, the Town Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to borrow from time to time, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, a sum or sums in the aggregate amounting to fifty thousand dollars and to execute and deliver the note or notes of the Town therefor; payable within one year from the time the loan is made; with interest thereon at a rate not exceeding five per cent per annum. Any debt or debts incurred by a loan or loans to the Town under this vote shall be paid from the taxes of the present municipal year.

Article 7 **List of Jurors**

Voted that the name of Clarence Young be stricken from the Jury List at his own request and the name of David Crowell substituted; also that the name of Frank Buckminster be stricken from the list, at his own request, and the name of Alphonso C. Puffer substituted. With these amendments the Jury List as recommended by the Selectmen was accepted and approved and stands as follows: -

Jury List 1897

Austin Charles, Lumber Dealer
Farmer
Beedle Charles T., Carpenter
Watchman

Marsh George O.,
Martin Joseph,

Brown Kirk F., Provision dealer	Merrill Charles E.,
Farmer	
Butters George A., Farmer	Messer James E.,
Stone mason	
Carleton George N., Laborer	Miller Frederick,
Farmer	
Clark Fred S., Baker	Morse James W.,
Machinist	
Coburn Tristram W., Watchman	Morse William P.,
Farmer	
Copp George W., Manufacturer	Nichols Woodburn J.,
Carpenter	
Cross George L., Farmer	Nowell Silas K.,
Mason	
Crowell David, Farmer	Phippen German S.,
Farmer	
Douglas Clarence W., Undertaker	Pierce Darius,
Butcher	
Drew William S., Farmer	Powell Andrew J.,
Farmer	
Edwards Joseph H., Butcher	Puffer Alphonso C.,
Plumber	
Emerson Millard F., Farmer	Richardson Charles
E., Farmer	
Emerson James O., Janitor	Ridley John F., Clerk
Emerson Samuel, Farmer	Russ Augustus N.,
Shoemaker	
Frederick George G., Druggist	Russell Frederick A.,
Farmer	
Gammons Thompson E., Bookkeeper	Salls James E.,
Farmer	
George Edward B., Grocer	Sargent Walter S.,
Laborer	
Giles John H., Farmer	Sargent Samuel G.,
Real Est. Agent	
Hall Henry N., Provision dealer	Sawyer John E.,
Grocer	
Harvey Samuel A., Carpenter	Smith Hugh C.,
Farmer	
Hey George, Overseers of Poor	Snell Cyrus C., Agent
Holman Silas L., Dry good dealer	Snell George C.,
Market Gardener	
Homer Elisha B., Stove dealer	Stickney Frederick
W., Farmer	

Howe Joseph S., Civil Engineer	Tapley John S.,
Hatter	
Jones Amos G., Janitor	Webster George K.,
Farmer	
Kimball Sylvanus G., Farmer	Webster Fred M.,
Gardener	
Lowell Levi M., Bookkeeper	Young S. Wesley,
Milkman	
Mannifield John T., Machinist	

Article 8

Report of Committees

The Committee on New High School Building presented the following report: -

Report of Committee on New High School Building

The Special Committee of three citizens, appointed to act with the members of the School Committee as a committee to consider a choice of sites, to develop plans and procure careful estimates of all costs, as in accordance with resolution adopted at the last Annual Town Meeting, beg leave to report: -

First: - That they have considered the question of a choice of sites with a good deal of care; not so much to determine sites with a good deal of care; not so much to determine precisely where they could procure the cheapest piece of land nor where they could make the finest show of a school building but more particularly with reference to the present requirements of a High School structure, to future development and opportunity for building for the grammar and lower grades and that the situation shall be such as will be most convenient to the largest majority of our citizens.

If they were seeking a low priced piece of land, they would naturally go outside the present thickly settled part of the Town, either to the north, east or west. If they were to choose the handsomest site for such a building, without regard to cost, they might well find such in some estate bordering Broadway. The unanimous conclusion of this committee however, is that the most eligible purchase, all things considered and the one which will furnish the Town with sufficient land for a long period in the future, for school building purposes of Grammar and High School grades, as well as Primary grades for the central portion of the Town, will be that portion of land lying between our present High School lot and Leafy Lane on the south and extending as far as Mr. Edward Johnson's

land, and now owned by the heirs of Frank F. Johnson, Margaret E. Johnson and Lucy A. Crosby, together with all the land on Lawrence Street between our present school lot on the east and the estate of K. C. Gleason's heirs on the west, and the Johnson estates on the south. The lay of these lands is shown on plan submitted herewith. Upon these estates this committee has obtained options. The total area covered, including Leafy Lane, for which title will also be given, but which cannot be entirely closed up, is fifty thousand, three hundred square feet. The total area, including present High School lot, is sixty eight thousand square feet.

There are four houses and two barns now on this land. Three of which houses, with rental value of forty-four to forty-six dollars per month, might not have to be disturbed for some time, and would in this way help to pay the interest on the investment, until that portion of the land is wanted. We recommend an appropriation for this purpose under the thirty first Article of the Warrant, of fifteen thousand, eight hundred and seventy five dollars.

Second: - The committee do not deem it advisable to enter upon any further specifications of proposed plans at this time but rest their case at this point, trusting to your approval of their recommendation and with a request that the committee, as now constituted, be continued but with power to add to their number and with instructions to report again to a meeting of the Town as promptly as circumstances will admit.

By Wm. D. Hartshorne, Sec. Of School Committee
Voted – that the Report of the Committee be accepted.

Article 31 **Purchase of Land**

Article 31 of the warrant was taken up for consideration.

Voted – to purchase the tracts of land recommended in report of
committee upon
New High School Building and

Voted – to appropriate sixteen thousand dollars for that purpose.

Article 32

Loan

Voted – by a unanimous vote – that for the purpose of paying for land which the Town has voted to purchase, to enlarge the school house lot at the corner of Lawrence and Park Streets, the Town Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to borrow with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the sum of sixteen thousand dollars and to execute and deliver the note or notes of the Town therefor, payable in ten years from the date of issue, with interest thereon at the rate of four per cent per annum payable semi-annually.

Article 8

Report of Committees

The Committee appointed to confer with the Managers of the Boston and Maine Railroad, near Oakland Avenue presented the following report.

**Methuen,
Feb. 27, 1897**

Report of Committee on Proposed New Bridge

The Committee appointed at the special Town Meeting held Nov. 16, 1896, to see what arrangements could be made with the Boston & Maine Railroad Co. for the construction of a bridge over the railroad to connect Railroad Street with a new street laid out and built as a Town way running from Union Street, report as follows: -

We communicated with the General Manager of the Railroad and he made an appointment to meet your committee with their engineer at the location of the bridge asked for, measurements were taken sufficient for their engineer to make place of bridge etc., and when completed would meet your committee in Boston. We met them in Boston, were shown plan of bridge and streets connecting with it. They claimed the privilege of saying what the abutments should be, and if the Town wished, they would build the bridge at as low a contract price as they could obtain and as their part of the expense of the construction of the bridge they would give the land for the street leading to the bridge.

This was the best terms your committee could obtain from them and was considered very unsatisfactory. The above terms were on condition that the railroad should be released from maintaining the old bridge as at present. Their engineers report that it would cost for excavation masonry and an iron overhead bridge \$8600.00 wooden bridge \$300.00 less.

Geo. O. Marsh

Alfred Sagar }
Committee }

Clinton A. Clark
Jos. S. Howe

Voted to accept the report of Committee.

Voted to adopt the following resolution

Resolved – That the Citizens of Methuen assembled in Town Meeting petition the Honorable Board of Commissioners for the County of Essex and also the Railroad Commissioners if necessary, to lay out a street across the tracks of the Boston & Maine Railway Co. from Railroad Street opposite Oakland Avenue, to the Town way leading to Broadway called Union Street and assess the proportionate amount of the expense of the bridge across the railroad to be paid by the Town and the Railroad Company respectively. And that the Selectmen with three other citizens appointed by the chair be a committee to carry out the resolution and report as soon as possible.

The resolution was accepted and adopted and the moderator appointed as the additional members of the Committee.

Alfred Newsholme
James O. Parker
William M. Rogers

A motion made by John H. George to consider Articles 18, 19, 202, 21, 22 and 25 together but after some discussion the motion was withdrawn.

Article 18 Macadam Lowell Street

Article 18 of the warrant was next taken up and after considerable discussion it was voted not to Macadamize the River Road, so called and as asked for in the Article. A motion to carry out the provisions of the Article was decided in the negative.

Article 19 Charles Street

Voted to Macadamize Charles Street and appropriate one thousand dollars for that purpose.

Article 10 Dog Licenses

Voted – That the money received from Dog Licenses be appropriated for the use of the schools.

Article 23 **Highland Avenue Wall**

By request, Article 23 of the warrant was next considered.

Voted – to rebuild the wall on the east side of Highland Avenue and to appropriate the sum of three hundred and seventy five dollars for that purpose.

Article 11 **Memorial Day**

Voted – to appropriate one hundred and fifty dollars for the purpose of decorating the graves of our soldiers and sailors on Memorial Day, May 30, 1897, said money to be expended under the direction of Col. William B. Greene Post 100 G.A.R.

Article 12 **Board of Health**

The substance of Article 12 was disposed of before balloting was commenced in the morning.

Article 13 **Voting Precincts**

The Report of the Selectmen relating to dividing the Town into voting precincts was accepted and adopted.

Article 9 **Fire Department**

Voted – that members of Fire Department receive same compensation as last year.

Article 13 **Voting Precincts**

Report of Selectmen relating to division of the Town into voting Precincts

**Methuen, Mass. Jan
4, 1897**

Joseph S. Howe, Esq. Town Clerk

In accordance with a vote of the Town taken at a special meeting held Nov. 16, 1896, in regard to dividing the Town into voting precincts we report as below.

Precinct 1 – Comprises all territory in the Town of Methuen not hereinafter described
in Precinct 2 and has 912 registered voters.

Precinct 2 – Beginning at the boundary line between the city of Lawrence and the
Town of Methuen at the Spicket River, thence running up said river to a
ditch by land
of Daniel T. Morrison; thence northeasterly to a street bound on the north
side of Lawrence Street on the land of George A. and William H. Butters,
thence easterly to the Town bound
on land of Daniel Saunders et al. thence southwesterly by Lawrence line
to point of beginning; and has 274 registered male voters.

Geo. O. Marsh

} Selectmen

Alfred Sagar

} of

Clinton A. Clark

} Methuen

Article 14 Precinct Voting Town Officers

Voted – To accept the provisions of Chapter 132 of the Acts of 1894 relating to voting for Town Officers in precincts.

Article 17 Committee on Warrant

By request, Article 17 of the Warrant was considered. A motion was made to adopt the article. An Amendment was offered, “that five at least of the Committee shall reside outside the Village”. A vote was taken on the amendment and it was declared lost. A vote on the motion to adopt the article was then taken, and was decided in the negative.

Article 15 Plumbing

Voted – that Article 15 of the Warrant be laid on the table until the adjourned meeting.

Numbering Houses

On motion of Mr. Phippen, it was
Voted – That the Selectmen be instructed to extend the numbering of
houses as far as the unexpended balance will go.

Article 46 Military Instruction

By request, Article 46 was next considered.

Voted – that Article 46 be referred to the School Committee to consider
and report at the adjourned meeting; and that interested parties be allowed
the opportunity to confer with the School Committee on the subject.

Voted – that when the meeting adjourns, it adjourn to meet on Saturday
next, March 6, at two o'clock p.m.

Article 48 Water Loan

By request, Article 48 was next considered. Mr. Tenney offered the
following motion, which was carried by unanimous vote.

Voted – That the Water Commissioners of Methuen be and hereby are
instructed to apply to
the Legislature for authority to issue its bonds to the amount of Twenty
Five Thousand Dollars for the purpose of extending its system of
waterworks. Such bonds to be payable in thirty years from date from a
sinking fund to be established for that purpose.

Article 42 Drivers of Town Teams

By request, Article 42 of the Warrant was taken up.

Voted – that the drivers of the Town teams be paid two dollars per day.

Article 16 Watering Streets

Voted – To lay Article 16 of the warrant on the table.
At six o'clock p.m. it was voted to suspend the further consideration of
the business articles
of the Warrant.

The counting of votes cast for Town officers was completed and
tabulation thereof made and the vote was declared at half past eight
o'clock. The ballots cast for Town officers and the checklists used were
sealed up and taken in charge by the Town Clerk and the meeting was
adjourned at eight o'clock and forty five minutes p.m.

Attest Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Record of Adjourned Annual Town Meeting, March 6, 1897

The meeting was called to order at two o'clock p.m. by the Moderator, Granville E. Foss, Esq.

Voted – that boys be admitted to the gallery.

Article 15 Health Department

Voted – To take up Article 15 of the Warrant; a motion to accept being made, Mr. R Rogers offered the following substitute which was accepted and adopted.

Voted – that the Board of Health shall prepare and enforce such rules as are necessary for the safety and health of the people, with reference to house drainage, plumbing, and their connection with sewers and cesspools. And that two hundred and fifty dollars be appropriated, in addition to the amount already appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the health department.

Article 16 Watering Streets

Voted – to accept the provisions of Chapter 186 of the Acts of 1895 relating to the watering of streets in towns.

Voted – to appropriate three hundred and fifty dollars for watering the streets.

Voted – to assess the whole cost of watering upon the abutters the cost of the water to be paid by the Town.

Voted – that the question of what streets shall be watered, be referred to the Selectmen and they be instructed to water such streets as in their judgment is deemed best.

Article 20 Rail Road Street

Voted – To pass over Article 20 of the Warrant.

Article 21 Prospect Street

Voted – to indefinitely postpone Article 21 of the Warrant.

Article 30 Superintendent of Streets

By request, Article 30 was considered.

Voted – To hire a Superintendent of Streets and pay him a salary not to exceed twelve hundred dollars per annum, including team, the Town to have his entire services.

A motion was made that the Selectmen be requested to appoint John Q. Hill Superintendent of Streets and the motion was lost.

Article 22 Macadamizing

Voted – to pass over Article 22 of the Warrant.

Voted – to appropriate twelve hundred dollars to Macadamize Lawrence Street to Lawrence line, from the regular appropriation.

Voted – that the Selectmen petition the State Highway Commission to build a State Road from Lawrence line to Dracut line and that they cause a survey of the Lowell road to be made, if in their judgment it is necessary to be done.

On motion of German S. Phippen it was

Voted – that a committee of three be appointed to re-organize the lighting system of the Town and report at a future meeting and to consider the advisability of providing an electric light plant for the Town. It was afterwards voted to add three members to this committee and the Moderator appointed the following named persons as that committee. German S. Phippen, Hon. Jacob Emerson, Geo. W. Tenney, Wm. M. Rogers, Arthur Crosby and George W. Towne.

Voted – that Articles 33 to 39 inclusive be referred to that Committee with instructions to report at an adjourned meeting.

Voted – that when this meeting adjourns it adjourn to meet in four weeks from today, April 3rd at two o'clock p.m.

Voted – that the Committee advertise and give hearings to persons interested in lighting the streets.

Voted – that it is the sense of this meeting that our Legislature should give cities and towns the right to own and operate streetcars.

Article 24 **Macadam for Sidewalks**

Voted – to supply Edward F. Searles, free of expense, crushed stone to build a sidewalk on the north side of Lawrence Street from the corner of Park Street to his residence on East Street he to do all the work without any expense to the Town. Also,

Voted – that the same privilege be granted to any citizen of the Town who will build a public sidewalk satisfactory to the Superintendent of Street.

Article 25 **Lowell Street**

Voted to pass over Article 25 of the Warrant.

Article 26 **Milk Street**

Voted – to buy about four hundred feet of land at the southeast corner of Milk Street and Baremeadow road for the purpose of taking off the sharp corner, and appropriate fifty dollars for that purpose.

Article 27 **Sidewalk**

Voted – to grade the street and build a sidewalk on Lowell Street from Arnold Street to the house of Mrs. Parker Morse, and appropriate three hundred dollars for that purpose.

Article 28 **Bates Street & Eustis Street**

Voted – to accept Bates Street from East Street to Eustis Street and Eustis from the westerly line of Bates Street to Oak Street as laid out by the Selectmen as shown on plan of land called the Oaklands and to appropriate one hundred and fifty dollars for repairing the same.

Article 29 **New Street**

Voted – not to accept street between Prospect Street and Jackson Street.

Article 40 **Street Lighting**

Voted – to refer Article 40 to Committee on Electric Street lights.

Voted – that the estimate of the Selectmen for Police Department be considered with Article 41 of the Warrant and that the request of Tomas Mack and others be granted, and that the sum of two thousand and dollars as recommended by the Selectmen for Police Department be appropriated and that the night officers be paid two dollars each per night.

Voted – that the unexpended balance of last year for Special Police and Night Watchman be added to the appropriation for Police Departments and that hereafter the unexpended balance of Police Department be carried to the next year.

Article 32
and 44

Hose

Voted – That Articles 43 and 44 be referred to Fire Engineers to report at the adjourned meeting.

Article 45

M. G. Smith

Voted – to build a sewer across Lowell Street near the house of M. G. Smith, to take the drainage from three houses to be built on Lowell Street and appropriate fifty dollars for that purpose.

Article 46

Military Instruction

The Chairman of School Committee made a verbal report and it was
Voted – that the Article be referred to the School Committee to take such action as they deem proper.

Article 47

Already disposed of by the Resolution of Newholme.

Article 49

Sinking Fund

Voted – to appropriate twenty dollars each for maintenance of hydrants and one hundred dollars each for drinking fountains and if any balance remains beyond cost of maintenance, to apply the same to the sinking fund for the payment of the Water Loan.

Article 50

Premium

Voted – that the premium received from sale of water bonds amounting to five hundred forty seven & 11/100 dollars, be paid in to the Sinking Fund.

Article 51

Sewer Committee

Voted – to appoint a Committee of five to investigate and report upon the feasibility of a main sewer in the southeast section of the Town, connecting with the Merrimack River with ultimate intent of connecting the same to form a complete system of sewerage for the Town, with power to employ such expert help as they may need and appropriate three hundred dollars for the same.

Article 52

New Street – River Street

Voted – to accept as a public or Town way, a street laid out by the Road Commissioners, running northerly from Union Street to the “old road” so called.

Voted – to appropriate four hundred and twenty dollars for that purpose.

Voted – that the appropriation for Macadamizing be three thousand dollars and that the cost of Macadamizing Charles Street and Lawrence Street be taken from the regular appropriation.

Voted to adjourn to meet in four weeks from this day at two p.m.

Attest Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Record of Adjourned Annual Meeting, April 3, 1897

The meeting was called to order at two o'clock p.m. by the Moderator
Granville E. Foss, Esq.

The Report of the Board of Engineers on Articles 43 and 44 of the
Warrant was called for and

The following report was read by C. W. Douglas.

Report

In regard to Article 43 that was referred to the Board of Engineers, calling
for 500 feet of
Hose and reel and a building to store the same, at an expense of \$500.00.

We had a meeting at which some of the voters of the Arlington District
were present.

It seems now they don't desire a hand reel but would like a modern engine
house fully
equipped with wagon and necessary apparatus.

To build such a house and furnish the same would call for quite an outlay
of money which
the Board of Engineers do not feel willing to recommend on so short a
time without looking
up the matter as to cost of land, location and so forth. To bring the matter
before the voters,
we would recommend that a committee of five be appointed by the chair
to investigate and report to a future meeting if there is one held before the
March meeting, if not, to report then.

Respectfully submitted

C. W. Douglas
C. H. Foss
J. Q. Hill

Voted to accept the report the Committee. Also

Voted – that the recommendation of the Committee be adopted.

The Chair appointed as a committee of five to investigate and report at a future meeting the following persons.

The present Board of Engineers: Geo. W. Towne and Alfred Newsholme so that the Committee consists of the following named persons – Clarence W. Douglas, Charles H. Foss, John Q. Hill, George W. Town, Alfred Newsholme – Committee

The same Committee (Board of Engineers) reported on Article 44 as follows: -

Report.

In regard to Article 44 calling for 400 feet of hose to be kept near the Currier School House,
we would not recommend the hose but instead would recommend that the fire alarm be extended to the corner of Prospect and Swan Streets with a box at that corner and to put a tapper into Mr. Buswell's house so that in case of fire in that district, he could respond with the reel kept at his house. And that an appropriation of one hundred dollars be made to cover the same.

Respectfully submitted,

C. W. Douglas
C. H. Foss
J. Q. Hill

Voted – to accept the report of the Committee.

Voted – That the fire alarm be extended as recommended and that four hundred dollars be appropriated for that purpose.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to investigate and report on the subject of lighting streets, reported the result of their investigations thus far, and stated that they were not prepared to make definite recommendations.

Voted to accept the report of the Committee and to recommit to them the whole subject for further investigation.

The Moderator appointed the following persons as the Committee on sewerage, voted to be appointed under Article 51 of the Warrant.

Selwin A. Dodge
William D. Hartshorne
James O. Parker } Committee
Joseph S. Howe
Elisha B. Homer

Voted – by a unanimous vote to reconsider the vote whereby two thousand dollars was
Appropriated for contingencies.

Voted – that the appropriation for contingencies be thirty two hundred and fifty dollars.

Voted – to appropriate twenty six hundred dollars for Lighting Streets.

At three o'clock it was voted to adjourn sine die.

Attest, Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Methuen,

Aug. 7, 1897

I, Joseph S. Howe of Methuen, in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as I
Am the Town Clerk of said Methuen, hereby appoint Miss H. Maud Merrill of
said Methuen to be
Assistant Town Clerk, as provided by statute.

Attest, Jos. J. Howe – Town Clerk of
Methuen

And Miss H. Maud Merrill was sworn to the faithful performance of her duty as
Assistant Town Clerk.

Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Warrant for Special Town Meeting – August 7, 1897 – File 12 No.
11

Essex SS: - To Amos G. Jones, one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen in said County,

Greeting: -

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required forthwith to notify the

inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at the Town

Hall, in said Town on Saturday, the seventh day of August next, at three o'clock in the afternoon, then

and there to act on the following articles to wit:

Article 1 To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2 To hear the reports of committees and act thereon.

Article 3 By request of Committee on Street Lighting to see if the Town will vote to raise the sum of five hundred dollars for street lighting in addition to the amount appropriated at the Annual Meeting, for the purpose of substituting a better system of lighting, and extending the same beyond the present limits and appropriate the same.

Article 4 By request of Alfred Newsholme and others, to see if the Town will accept the following named streets as laid out by the Selectmen, to wit: Oakland Avenue from Lowell Street to Almont Street, Ashland Avenue from Almont Street to Craven Street, Gill Avenue from Almont Street to Railroad Street and Almont Street from Oakland Avenue to Gill Avenue.

Article 5 By request of German S. Phippen and others, to see if the Town will vote to purchase five hundred feet of hose for the benefit of the inhabitants on Merrimack Street and vicinity and appropriate two hundred dollars for same.

Article 6 By request of Ira Ryder and others, to see if the Town will vote to accept Cypress Avenue as far as laid out by the Selectmen and establish a grade on same.

Article 7 By request of Horace Carleton and others to see if the Town will instruct the Water Commissioners to establish five drinking fountains in the several parts of the Town where most needed.

Article 8 By request of George W. Tenney and others to see if the Town will vote to change the name of Spicket Street to Centre Street.

Article 9 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate forty five hundred dollars to build a bridge across the Boston and Maine Railroad connecting Railroad Street opposite Oakland Avenue with Union Street extension.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town House at each of the public meeting houses in said Town, and also at each of the school houses outside of the village eight days at least before said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands and the seal of Town of Methuen, this twenty
eighth day of July, in
The year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven.

Alfred Sagar }
Selectmen Joseph E. Buswell } of
 Frank Buckminster }

Essex SS: -

Methuen, July 29th 1897

To Joseph S. Howe, Town Clerk **Greeting,**
In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I have notified the
inhabitants of the Town of
Methuen, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet as within
directed by posting up
attested printed copies of this warrant at each of the public meeting houses, also
at each of the school
houses outside of the village and at the Town house, eight days before said
meeting.

Constable of Methuen

Amos G. Jones

A true copy - Attest, Joseph. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Record of Special Town Meeting, August 7, 1897

A meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs was held in the Town Hall in said Town on Saturday, August seventh A.D. 1897 at three o'clock p.m. pursuant to Warrant No. 11 File 12.

The meeting was called to order at three o'clock by Joseph S. Howe, Town Clerk, who read the Warrant for the meeting.

Art. 1 **Moderator**

A ballot was taken and Granville E. Foss was chosen Moderator, by a unanimous vote.

Art. 2 **Reports of Committees**

A Report from the Committee on a bridge over the Boston and Maine Railroad, appointed at the last Annual Town Meeting, was read by Mr. Sagar as follows: -

Report of Committee
Aug. 7, 1897

Methuen, Mass.

The Committee appointed at the last Annual Town Meeting, on the question of a New Bridge Across the Boston & Maine Railroad, to connect Oakland Ave. with Union Street extension would report that they have been able to make much better terms with the Boston and Maine than was possible last year.

We have obtained from them an agreement duly signed by their President which we consider Very satisfactory and which we submit to this meeting for its consideration.

The contract offered by the Boston and Maine Railroad was read to the meeting.

Voted – to accept the report of the Committee.

Article 9 **Bridge over Boston & Maine Railroad**

Voted to consider Article 9 of the Warrant in connection with the Report of the Committee.

Voted – to appropriate forty five hundred dollars to build a bridge across the Boston and Maine Railroad connecting Railroad Street opposite Oakland Avenue with Union Street extension.

Voted that the Selectmen be authorized to sign the proposed contract with the Boston and Maine Railroad, in behalf of the Town to build a bridge over the Railroad as reported by the Committee, and that they be authorized to act in behalf of the Town on all other matters relating thereto.

Voted, unanimously, that for the purpose of paying for the building a bridge across the Boston and Maine Railroad connecting Railroad Street opposite Oakland Avenue with Union Street extension, the Town Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to borrow with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the sum of forty five hundred dollars, and to execute and deliver the note or notes of the Town therefore; payable in ten years from the date of issue, with interest thereon at the rate of four per cent per annum payable semi-annually.

The Committee on Street Lighting made a verbal report recommending the Welsbach system of lighting streets.

Voted – to accept the report of the Committee.

Art. 3

Street Lights

A motion was made to raise the sum of five hundred dollars for street lighting in addition to the amount appropriated at the Annual Meeting, for the purpose of substituting a better system of lighting and extending the same beyond the present limits and the motion was lost – yes 23 no 26.

Voted to appropriate one hundred dollars for five lights in easterly part of the Town.

Art. 4

Streets Accepted

Voted to accept the following streets as laid out by the Selectmen:
Oakland Avenue – from Lowell Street to Almont Street
Ashland Avenue – from Almont Street to Craven Street
Gill Avenue – from Almont Street to Railroad Street
Almont Street – from Oakland Avenue to Gill Avenue

Art. 5

Hose

Voted – to purchase five hundred feet of hose for the benefit of the inhabitants on Merrimack Street and vicinity and to appropriate two hundred dollars for the same.

Voted – that the money be expended under the direction of the Selectmen.

Art. 6 **Cypress Avenue**
Voted to accept Cypress Avenue as far as laid out by the Selectmen, and establish a grade on same.

Art. 7 **Drinking Fountains**
Voted – To instruct the Water Commissioners to establish five drinking fountains in the several parts of the Town where most needed.

Art. 8 **Spicket Street**
Voted to change the name of Spiggot or Spicket Street to Centre Street.
Voted – That the Town accept land from any party wishing to donate land, without restrictions.

No other business appearing, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest, Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Special Town Meeting, Sept. 25, 1897 – Warrant File 12 No. 12

Essex SS: - To Amos G. Jones, one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen in said County: -

Greeting: -

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required
forthwith to notify the
inhabitants of the Town of Methuen, qualified to vote in elections and Town
affairs to meet at the
Town Hall in said Town on Saturday the twenty fifth day of September at two
o'clock in the afternoon,
then and there to act on the following articles, viz.: -

Article 1 To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2 By request of Edwin J. Castle and others to see if the Town will vote that it is expedient for the Town to exercise the authority conferred in Section 1 of Chapter being an Act to enable cities and towns to manufacture and distribute Gas and Electricity.

Article 3	By request of Daniel W. Tenney, to see if the Town will vote to establish a grade on Union Street extension and make an appropriation for the same.
Article 4	To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to sell a lot of standing timber on the Town Farm.
Article 5	By request of John Welch and others, to see if the Town will vote to raise the sum of five hundred dollars for street lighting in addition to the amount appropriated at the Annual Meeting for the purpose of substituting a better system of lighting and extending the same beyond the present limits.

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town House and at each of the public meeting houses in said Town and also at each of the school houses outside of the village eight days at least before said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands and the seal of the Town of Methuen this sixteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven.

Alfred Sagar } Selectmen
Joseph E. Buswell } of
Frank Buckminster } Methuen

Constable's Return

Essex SS: -

September 17th, 1897

To Joseph S. Howe, Town Clerk,

Greeting: -

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts I have notified the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet as within directed, b posting up attested printed copies of this warrant at the Town House and at each of the public meeting houses in Town, also at each of the school houses outside of the village eight days before said meeting.

Amos G. Jones – Constable of Methuen

Record of Special Town Meeting Sept. 25, 1897

A meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs was held in the Town Hall in said Town, on Saturday the twenty fifth day of September A.D. 1897 at two o'clock p.m. pursuant to Warrant No. 12 File 12.

The meeting was called to order at two o'clock p.m. by Joseph S. Howe, Town Clerk, who read the Warrant for the meeting.

Art. 1

Moderator

A ballot was taken and Granville E. Foss was chosen Moderator by a unanimous vote and was sworn.

Art. 2 & 5

Electric Plant & Electric Lighting

In motion of Mr. Buckminster, it was voted to consider and discuss Articles 2 and 5 informally and together.

Mr. Sawyer moved that Articles 2 and 5 be postponed to the next Annual Town Meeting.

Voted – to lay the motion to postpone on the table until after the discussion.

The discussion was carried on informally for considerable time until it was voted to take motion to postpone from the table.

Voted – not to refer Articles 2 and 5 to the next Annual Meeting.

Voted – to refer Article two of the warrant to the next Annual Town Meeting, and that a Committee of five be appointed to consider the subject contained in that article, and report at that time also to report on the subject of an electric plant.

The Moderator appointed as that Committee Frank Remick and James O. Parker.

Art. 5

Lighting Streets

On Motion of Mr. Rogers, it was voted, that the Welsbach Burner be used in connection with arc lights in lighting the streets and that five hundred dollars be appropriated towards supporting the same; also that the contract for

furnishing the same be for one year, and that the street lighting company furnish satisfactory bonds.

Voted: - that a committee of five be appointed to carry out this vote and that the Selectmen constitute three of the Committee. The Chair appointed George W. Tenney and Jacob Emerson the additional members of that Committee.

Voted: - that new lamps be substituted for the old ones in cases where individuals paid for the old lamps; and that the committee be authorized to relocate them if in their judgment it is for the public benefit.

Voted: - that the Selectmen be authorized to make a settlement with the lamplighter, for any property he may lose by the re arrangement of street lights.

Voted – that a vote of thanks be extended to the Committee on Street Lights appointed at the last Annual Meeting.

Art. 3

Union Street Extension

Voted – that the Selectmen be authorized to establish a grade on Union Street Extension and that one thousand dollars be appropriated for cutting and building said street.

Art. 4

Voted – that the Selectmen be authorized to sell a lot of standing timber on the Town Farm.

No other business appearing the meeting was adjourned sine die at six o'clock p.m.

Clerk

Attest -

Jos. S. Howe – Town

Warrant for State Election, Nov. 2, 1897 – File 12, No. 13

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Essex SS: -

To Amos G. Jones, one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen in said County: -

Greeting: -

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen

qualified by law to vote in elections of National, State, District and County officers, to meet and assemble at the designated polling places of Precincts One and Two named the Town Hall in voting Precinct One, and the basement of the Arlington School House in voting Precinct Two on Tuesday the second day of November next at six o'clock on Tuesday the second day of November next at six o'clock in the forenoon to bring in to the election officers their votes for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Treasurer and Receiver General, Auditor, Attorney General, Councilor for the Sixth Councilor District, Senator for the Fifth Essex Senatorial District, two Representatives to the next General Court for the Sixth Essex District, one County Commissioner for Essex County, one Register of Deeds for the Northern Essex District, County Treasurer for Essex County, all to be voted for on one ballot. The polls may be closed at four o'clock p.m.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Selectmen.

Given under our hands and the seal of the Town of Methuen, this twenty second day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven.

Selectmen	Alfred Sagar	}
Methuen	Joseph E. Buswell	} of
	Frank Buckminster	}

Essex SS: - October 23rd 1897

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen of Methuen,

Greeting: -

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified by law to vote in elections of National, State, District and County Officers, to meet as within directed by posting up attested printed copies of this warrant at the Town House, and at each of the public meeting houses, eight days before said meeting.

Amos G. Jones – Constable
of Methuen
A true copy of Warrant and return - Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

Record of State Election, Nov. 2, 1897

At meetings of the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen in the County of Essex, held in the respective Precincts in said Town pursuant to Warrant No. 13 File 12, on Tuesday November second A.D. 1897, the qualified voters of said Town brought in their written votes for the several officers to be balloted for, and the same were received, sorted, counted, declared and registered in open Precinct meetings, according to law, as appears by the certified returns from said Precincts, transmitted to the Town Clerk, and examined by the Selectmen and Town Clerk, and according to said returns the following is the result of the election as aforesaid.

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total
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Whole number of ballots		557
229	786	

Governor

John Bascom of Williamstown	14
4	18
Thomas C. Brophy of Boston	15
3	18
William Everett of Quincy	20
5	25
George Fred Williams of Dedham	99
38	137
Roger Wolcott of Boston	394
171	565
Blanks	15
8	23

Lieutenant Governor

Edward A. Buckland of South Hadley	16
11	27
Christopher T. Callahan of Holyoke	88
31	119
James E. Cotter of Hyde Park	27
3	30
W. Murray Crane of Dalton	381
162	543
Willard O. Wylie of Beverly	19
9	28
Blank	26
13	39

Secretary

Addison W. Barr of Worcester		20
10	30	
Charles D. Nash of Whitman		90
32	122	
William M. Olin of Boston		376
164	540	
Edwin Sawtell of Brockton		17
6	23	
Bernard M. Wolf of Boston		16
4	20	
Blanks		38
13	51	

Treasurer

George A. Brown of Lynn		18
10	24	
Robert C. Habberley of Hyde Park		12
7	19	
Edward P. Shaw of Newburyport		384
166	550	
Horace P. Tobey of Wareham		19
3	22	
Thomas A. Watson of Braintree		85
32	117	
Blanks		39
11	50	

Auditor

Joseph Ballam of Boston		21
9	30	
Harry Douglas of Great Barrington		17
4	21	
John W. Kimball of Fitchburg		362
164	526	
Joseph Henry Sheldon of Haverhill		96
30	126	
Herbert M. Small of Templeton		14
6	20	
Blanks		47
16	63	

Attorney General

Wolcott Hamlin of Amherst		15
5	20	
William Harrison of Lawrence		24
13	37	
Hosea M. Knowlton of New Bedford		381
161	542	
William W. McClench of Chicopee		18
2	20	
John A. O'Keefe of Lynn		83
32	115	
Blanks		36
16	52	

Councilor Sixth District

Elisha H. Shaw of Chelmsford		410
175	585	
John P. Ryan		1
	1	

Senator Fifth Essex District

Harry R. Dow of North Andover		549
150	699	
Joseph J. Flynn of Lawrence		180
69	249	
Ephraim Searle of Lawrence		13
6	19	
Blanks		15
4	19	

Representatives in General Court; Sixth Essex District

Lorenzo S. Crosby of Lawrence		24
7	37	
Charles F. Drescher of Lawrence		112
40	152	
George G. Frederick of Methuen		390
174	564	
John C. Sanborn Jr. of Lawrence		119
25	144	
George B. Smart of Lawrence		295
145	440	
Warren F. Taylor of Lawrence		16
8	24	

Blanks		158
59	217	

County Commissioner

Edward B. Bishop of Haverhill		380
171	551	
Daniel Saunders of Lawrence		60
15	75	
Edward P. Wildes of Georgetown		72
27	99	
Blanks		45
16	61	

Register of Deeds, Essex Northern District

Aretas R. Sanborn of Lawrence		436
179	615	
Blanks		121
50	171	

County Treasurer

Nathan Clark of Lynn		123
36	159	
E. Kendall of Andover		386
179	565	
Blanks		48
14	62	

Attest,

Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk

**Methuen,
Nov. 12, 1897**

At a meeting of the City Clerk of Lawrence and the Town Clerk of Methuen said Town, and
 Wards 1 and 2 of the said City of Lawrence forming the Sixth Essex Representative District,
 held at noon this day in accordance with the provisions of Section 195 Chapter 417 Acts of
 1893, upon comparing the transcript of the returns the following appears as the result of the
 ballottings for Representatives to the General Court for said District, at meetings held on

Tuesday, November 3, 1896.

To wit: -

	Lawrence	Methuen
Total		
Lonzo S. Crosby of Lawrence	42	31
73		
Charles F. Drescher of Lawrence	1112	152
1264		
George G. Frederick of Methuen	837	564
1401		
John C. Sanborn Jr. of Lawrence	1027	144
1171		
George B. Smart of Lawrence	901	440
1341		
Warren F. Taylor of Lawrence	39	24
63		

In accordance with the foregoing returns certificates of election were this day issued to the two persons having the highest number of votes for Representative to the General Court for the Sixth Essex District. To wit:

George G. Frederick of Methuen and George B. Smart of Lawrence

Wm. T. Kimball, City Clerk of Lawrence
Jos. S. Howe, Town Clerk of Methuen

A true copy, Attest,

Jos. S. Howe – Town Clerk