

Override request

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aid," Marshall said.

She said the selectmen's action represented thinking of "your assessment is crazy, so we are taking crazy action."

Marshall said now is the time to lobby the legislature for additional funds. She said the governor's proposed budget didn't fund the new school aid formula, but she expects the legislature to do a better job.

"This is preliminary. This is a number we don't expect the towns to shoulder," she said. "If you put a \$1.3 million override on (the ballot) we look like fools. ... It's an override that you won't support and I can't support."

Marshall outlined to selectmen the district's concerns about declining MCAS scores, increasing numbers of students choosing to use school choice, and decreasing number of students going on to four-year colleges or technical schools.

Selectman Maureen Denig said she understood the need for the money and thought the proposed override would show residents the dire situation in both the town and school budgets.

"You know we aren't going to get it. We know we aren't going to get it,"

Denig said. "But people have to know how badly off everything is."

Selectman Robert Plamondian said he doesn't believe the concerns of the town officials had been heeded after a joint meeting with the school committee in February.

"I heard you," Marshall said. "I have an obligation to say let's at least keep doing what we were doing."

Selectmen voted to put the override on the ballot on Saturday because a ballot must be set 35 days before the election — by Monday, March 19. They could not change the number or the wording on the question by the time of their Tuesday meeting but

they were allowed to withdraw it. The board withdrew it after the conversation with school officials so that a more realistic number could be used.

"We can certify a budget lower but we can't certify a budget higher," said Joe Sciacca, a member of the school committee representing Townsend.

The committee members said they expect to cut programs but they are hoping a higher state aid number will come in before town meeting.

If Ashy and Pepperell pass the budget, then Townsend would have no choice but to fund their share as part of the regional agreement.

"We can certify a budget lower but we can't certify a budget higher."

JOE SCIACCA
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

It's tulip time

The Friends of the Ashby Public Library present spring tulips. The group is selling high-quality mixed bouquets available for \$10. Stop by the library to order, or call (978) 386-5377 by April 3. Pick up times will be Friday, April 6, from 1- 4 p.m. and Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All proceeds benefit the programs and offerings of the Friends of the Ashby Public Library.

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Community Notes

Family treasures appraised at historical society

The Ashby Historical Society is presenting Antique Appraisal Day from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 14, at the First Parish Unitarian Church, on the common, Ashby.

Martha Perkins of Perkins and Menson Antiques and Dick and Janice Fiorentino of Hobart Village Antiques will be available for verbal appraisal. The fee is one item for \$4; or three items for \$10.

Bring your old frames, clocks, furniture, toys, vintage clothing, old china, glassware, oriental rugs, and old paintings. Coffee and fresh baked goodies will be available.

Time to think about Summer Camp

Registration for summer camp is in full swing at 4-H Camp Middlesex in Ashby. Camp Middlesex, located on Willard Brook, 1031 Erickson Road, Ashby, offers Day Camp (ages 6-12) and Overnight Camp (ages 8-15) for boys and girls, running seven weeks in July and August. Open to all, 4-H membership is not required.

An Open House will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 22 and Sunday, June 3, or stop by their booth at the Earth Day Celebration on the Townsend Common, on Saturday, April 28.

Day Camp offers various extended day options for early morning drop-offs (includes breakfast) and/or late afternoon pickups (includes dinner), for flexible hours to accommodate working parents.

The camp offers Dance, Theater, Archery, Fishing, Boating, Swimming, Low Ropes, Sports & Games, Arts & Crafts, Barnyard, Horse Management, Nature, Pioneering and Rocketry, to name a few.

To learn more about the camp, visit www.campmiddlesex.com, where you can download registration forms or register online.

For more information, call (978) 386-7704 or email office@campmiddlesex.com.

Ashby Police Log

Week of March 11 through March 17

Sunday, March 11

12:30 a.m....South Road – Assisted Ashburnham PD with citizen transport.

3:12 p.m....Crocker Road – Assisted Ashburnham PD with wanted suspected.

4:46 p.m....Ashby State Road – Road rage incident.

Referred to Fitchburg PD.

Monday, March 12

No calls for service.

Tuesday, March 13

9:50 a.m....Medical aid.

12:47 p.m....Old Northfield Road – General service call.

1:26 p.m....West Road – Trespassing complaint.

5:54 p.m....Turnpike Road – Open door found.

Residence checked and secured.

5:56 p.m....Medical aid.

10:43 p.m....Medical aid.

Wednesday, March 14

10:30 a.m....West State Road – General service call.

12:15 p.m....Hosmer Road – Erratic operator. Officer responded

and spoke with operator.

3:12 p.m....Main Street - Radar assignment.

5:23 p.m....Townsend Road – Caller reported vehicle shot

with BB gun. Officer responded.

7:18 p.m....Fitchburg State Road – Disabled motor vehicle.

7:45 p.m....Turnpike Road – Property secured.

Thursday, March 15

6:21 a.m.... Main Street - Radar assignment.

8:17 a.m....Main Street - Radar assignment in school zone.

9:49 a.m....Medical aid.

3:00 p.m....Main Street - Radar assignment in school zone.

Friday, March 16

7:37 a.m....Spring Hill Road – 911 hang-up. Officer responded.

11:00 a.m....Mason Road – Residential alarm. Officer responded.

2:06 p.m.... Turnpike Road – Motor vehicle accident no injuries.

Officer responded.

11:01 p.m....Fitchburg State Road – Motor vehicle off roadway.

Officer responded.

Saturday, March 17

8:09 a.m....Wheeler Road – Unwanted person. Officer

responded, person placed into protective custody.

5:56 p.m....West State Road – Erratic operator. Ashburnham

PD and Rindge PD notified.

Motor Vehicle Enforcement

Motor Vehicle Stops - 7

Citations Issued - 2

Arrests

None

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