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# Towns

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## Address system is OK'd

### Worthington to number homes

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WORTHINGTON — This town will no longer have two Old Main Roads, and residents will be assigned numbers to mark their homes — but won't be penalized if they don't use them.

Voters at last night's special Town Meeting passed a numbering system for the town's addresses and approved name changes for certain roads, which supporters said will improve emergency services and eliminate confusion without the threat of a fine.

Also, residents approved a bylaw that makes a permit required to construct new driveways and agreed to a donation of educational materials to the elementary school.

Discussion during the two-hour meeting, attended by over 40 residents, was dominated by the proposed numbering system. The discussion was focused on details — such as how residents would be able to post their numbers 6 to 8 feet above the ground, as the bylaw requires, and whether the numbers should be reflective.

Voters opted to amend the original article to delete a penalty of \$5 a day for non-compliance. Some present said they felt a bylaw without a penalty would be difficult to enforce, but the majority felt that residents would be willing to display numbers without the threat of punishment.



Gazette File Photo

**All homes and businesses in Worthington now will carry clearly posted numbers — a move to improve emergency response technique that residents approved at a Town Meeting last night.**

"I don't like the idea of being threatened by a fine," said Cullen S. Packard of Buffington Hill Road, who introduced the amendment.

Residents will now have until May 1 to post numbers no farther than 50 feet from a road, 6 to 8 feet above the ground and visible in all seasons. The numbering committee will be notifying residents by postcard of what their numbers will be.

To accommodate the address system, names for certain streets were changed, a move the numbering committee said would eliminate confusion.

For instance, a small street called Old Main Road was changed to Higgins Road so it wouldn't be confused with Old Main Road in the Ringville section of town.

And Brook Road, a 500-foot section of road, was changed to Fairgrounds Road, matching

the name it is called in Cummington.

Moderator Grant Bowman broke a 12-12 tie vote to pass an amendment to drop the designation "private way" next to Fritz Road. Residents of Fritz Road, which is not a town-approved road, have this fall brought their concerns about the road's status to town officials' attention.

The Town Meeting action will not affect the legal status of the road or clarify who must maintain it.

In addition, voters approved a bylaw that requires a permit to construct a new driveway. Janet Dimock, the town's administrative assistant, said the bylaw's intent was to work out a plan for safe access onto the town road, not to restrict building on a property.

"We didn't want to make it too strict for people to construct a driveway," Dimock said.

Voters also approved spending \$5,617 — which is the town's share of a reduction in the school assessment by the Gateway Regional School District. Instead of returning the money to general funds, residents approved purchasing two computers, math and reading materials, maps, globes, and window shades for the Russell H. Conwell School.

Voters also approved these transfers:

- Law account, \$12,000, to cover legal costs during arbitration proceedings between the town and the architect and contractor of the uncompleted fire station.

- Winter highway account, \$11,624 to cover a deficit from last winter.

- Highway department loan, rescinded \$1,800 from the amount the treasurer was authorized to purchase a new dumptruck.