

Town Meeting Minutes of the 249th Annual Town Meeting of New Haven, Vermont

Moderator, Lanny Smith introduced himself, Selectboard members: Pam Marsh, Kathy Barrett, Kathleen Ready, Roger Boise, Pat Paquette and Town Clerk, Pam Kingman

The legal voters of the Town of New Haven are hereby warned and notified to meet at the town hall in New haven, Vermont on **Monday, February 28, 2011 at 4:00 PM** to act on Articles 1 through 5; and on **Tuesday, March 1, 2011 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** to vote by Australian Ballot on Articles 6 through 31.

The School meeting went first this year, followed by the Town meeting. There will be a dinner break between 5:30 – 6:30 pm, to reconvene following the dinner break.

The meeting was called to order and the Warning read at 5:15 pm. Moderator Lanny Smith suggested that because there is only 15 minutes before the dinner break, that we move to Article 11. Tim Bouton objected; Mr. Edson from the Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Assoc. is here to speak to Article 4. Kathy Barrett made a motion to discuss Article 4; then go to Article 11, seconded by Jim Ford. All in favor.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts for emergency services with Bristol Rescue Squad, Vergennes Rescue Squad and Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Association to be included in the General fund budget beginning in 2012?

Pam Marsh made the motion, seconded by Iva Menard.

Pam Marsh – Selectboard decided to put on the Warning because some Rescue Squads did not get their petitions in on time. Selectboard has continued a policy to petition at level funding for 5 consecutive years. Rescue squads provide a great service, and they would like to consider contracting with them.

Iva Menard – Does this mean we won't be getting a subscription form?

Pam Marsh – Still get them, it is part of their fundraising.

Barb Torian – Enter into contracts, what will they provide, and has a dollar amount been offered?

Pam Marsh – Service areas for all three Rescue squads would be defined; then contract would formalize and discuss dollar amount. Don't have all the specifics.

Tim Bouton – Motion to allow MVAA member, Bill Edson to speak, seconded by Jim Ford. All in favor.

Bill Edson, Chief Officer for Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Assoc. - Serve 10 towns and have entered into contracts with 7 of those towns in Addison County. Contracting allows the agency to know what to expect when budgeting, and it guarantees service. It also allows for cancellation after a 6 month warning period. He cannot speak for Bristol or Vergennes. For MVAA, they know they need a per capita for rate of \$2.00 per capita for support. The service areas are mandated by the Vermont Dept. of Health, and the per capita charge is based on 33.3% of New Haven.

Kathy Barrett – At \$2.00 per capita, it makes it the exact same amount as they are asking for as an Outside Agency.

Douglas Tolles – Why is it split and why is Bristol so high?

Bill Edson – He is not sure.

Dean Gilmore – Most calls on the Bristol side of town, not many calls from Vergennes.

Pam Marsh – No petition from Vergennes, they sent a letter requesting \$600. The Selectboard level funded them at last year's amount of \$300.

Raymonde Bessette – All towns not using the same per capita?

Pam Marsh – Each Rescue Squad charges differently, unsure how they divide up the territories. Don't know how Bristol or Vergennes determine what to charge.

Lowell Nottingham – Suggest just have them deal directly with the Selectboard, feels that having to petition for 5 years is a bit much.
All in favor; none opposed. **Passed**

****Articles 11 – 17 were discussed prior to the dinner break****

Pam Marsh made a motion to adjourn for one hour for dinner, and to reconvene at 6:30 pm, seconded by Dean Percival. All in favor

Town Meeting reconvened at 6:35 pm.

State Representative, Harvey Smith spoke.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to pay real estate taxes to the Town Treasurer on October 3, 2011; delinquent taxes will be subject to interest charges of one percent per month, and an eight percent penalty charged against them from October 3, 2011?

Larry Maier made the motion, seconded by Harry Chaucer.

All in favor; none opposed.

Passed

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven accept the Auditors' Report for the year 2010?

Jim Ford made the motion, seconded by Barb Torian.

All in favor; none opposed

Passed

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters of the town of New Haven approve changing the name of the Computer Fund to the Computer / Office Equipment Fund?

Dean Percival made the motion, seconded by Jim Ford.

Dean Percival – Is there any reason to change it?

Pam Marsh – Hope to change name, looking at the purchase of copiers and folding machine; not simply computers.

Tim Bouton – Proposed getting rid of the Computer Fund, it was established when computers were quite costly. Just put money into General Fund budget.

Pam Marsh – Afraid if money were put directly into the General Fund it would disappear, currently the Board is not planning on making any contributions to the Fund. The Board is proposing taking \$4,900 to replace the server in the Town Office, and there is a schedule for replacing computers to keep them updated. We were also able to get word processing software at a very favorable rate.

Larry Maier – How is Fund refreshed?

Pam Marsh – It will be in the budget when the Selectboard refreshes it.

Eldon Sherwin – Isn't a computer office equipment? He moved that Article 3 be amended to call the fund the Office Equipment Fund, seconded by Tim Bouton.

No discussion.

All in favor of amending Article 3 to Office Equipment Fund? All in favor. Article 3 amended to Office Equipment Fund. No discussion on amended motion. Article 3 as amended.

Passed

ARTICLE 5. To transact, vote and act upon any further non-binding business, which may legally come before this meeting.

Jerry Smiley – has placed a straw poll about elderly housing on the 3 acre parcel recently purchased by the Town on the table in the back of the hall. The Town Office / Library has 2,000 sq. ft. of potential expansion. For his money doesn't see the need for more than that.

Jerry is willing to answer any questions.

Moderator asked if there was any other business.

Al Karnatz – Jerry Smiley has a good idea, encouraged others to look at straw pole.

Francie Caccavo – Towns 250th Birthday event coming up, holding a party on the Village Green on July 23, 2011. This will be a very festive time, they are looking for volunteers.

ARTICLE 6. To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot:

Auditor	3 years
Beeman School Director	3 years
Delinquent Tax Collector	1 year
Grand Jurors (2)	1 year
Library Trustee (2)	3 years
Lister	3 years
Moderator	1 year
Mt. Abraham School Director	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Selectboard	3 years
Town Agent	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	1 year

Lanny Smith announces there is a write in candidate for Beeman Schoolboard – Craig Bemis and for Mt. Abe, Lanny Smith is on the ballot; Lowell Nottingham is running against him as a write in.

Rob Litch – What are the differences between the two candidates for Mt. Abe?

Lanny Smith – I live on North St., Lowell lives on South St. Laughter.

Lowell Nottingham – Had a lot of people ask him to run, asking for a different approach. He has served on the Beeman Schoolboard, when they hired a lawyer for the negotiation process, he was sorry afterward that he had greed to it.

Wasn't able to speak directly to the teachers, don't need lawyers. He would like to get back to face to face negotiations. Pam Marsh takes over as moderator so Lanny Smith can speak.

Lanny Smith – Hired an attorney this time because there was so much money at stake in negotiations for the entire District. All the Boards felt they should have an attorney because all the Boards negotiate together. The legal bill of about \$19,000.00 was split among the 5 towns. Lanny feels it would have been irresponsible not to have an attorney. The Union's push was to have automatic step increases, the Boards were fighting against this.

End of discussion. Lanny Smith resumed the Moderator position.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the Town Plan as adopted by the Planning Commission and Selectboard? By Australian Ballot.

Planning Commission Chair, Jim Walsh introduced himself and the rest of the PC members: Francie Caccavo, Rod Case, Angie Dunbar, Bill Brooks and Pat Palmer. Every 5 years the town is required to update its Town Plan. After 2 years and a lot of hard work, it is complete. Former PC Chair, Al Karnatz started the process and was a big help. Can view the Plan on the Town's website, he is willing to mail copies to those who are interested. He gave an overview of what some of the major changes are, such as home based business, changing the character along Route 7, and switching to density based zoning. Density based zoning allows for more flexibility, while keeping the scenic views open.

Jerry Smiley – Has read the proposed zoning. He asked how many people know what density based zoning is? The only other town in Addison County which has density based zoning is Orwell. He feels it is hard to understand, and thinks it is "iffy". This is the last vote the citizens will have on the Town Plan; although they could do a petition to vote on zoning.

Jim Walsh – Zoning Regulations currently are not voted on, only the Town Plan is. Zoning revision will take a year or two; it is a long process. At some point the PC will have revised zoning to present to the Selectboard for them to approve or disapprove.

Francie Caccavo – They tried hard to develop a new Town Plan with a lot of objectives. They need the Town Plan to move forward. Density based is a tool to help them, the zoning cannot move forward without the Town Plan.

Al Karnatz – Thinks it is a good Plan, all the people who had input wanted flexibility.

Al Karnatz was recognized for as the person to whom the Town Report was dedicated Applause.

Michael Dennison – Received mailing, asking to vote no on Town Plan; it indicated by adopting this we will need more infrastructure. And saying we will need more police because there will be more crime. Is this true?

Francie Caccavo – It is totally hypothetical. John Madden sent the mailing. The Town Plan doesn't mean we need more services.

Tom Colley – All we have are drawings, need clearer vision of expanded highway commercial strip.

Francie Caccavo – Strip is not a good word. PC looked at where there is currently commercial property; instead of defined lines they are bubbles; stretching commercial down Route 7. PC very concerned about wanting to protect people's landscapes.

Jim Gallott – Commercial zone by Hunt / Campground Roads, then there is a gap until you get to Middlebury Fence. Not sure it is true when saying not linking bubbles.

Francie Caccavo – They are not linking north and south zones.

Jim Walsh – Hypothetical, future map and the zoning map comes next.

Jerry Smiley – Orwell's Plan currently calls for density based zoning, their Town Plan map and zoning map are almost identical.

Kathleen Ready – Her understanding is that once Town Plan is passed, the next step is input into zoning regulations. It is more difficult not to allow zoning bylaws to pass.

Bill Brooks – Town zoning is separate from the Town Plan. PC has spent 2 years working on this Plan, and an unbelievable the amount of work that has been done on it. Feels Orwell is not a good comparison. Encourage to vote for it.

Pam Marsh – Town Plan is a concept to guide overall growth. The zoning is the details. State law says the Town must have operational Plan. If the Plan is defeated, then any changes to existing zoning must wait until a new Town Plan is approved. PC came to Selectboard for several proposed changes to zoning; two were rejected and one accepted. Think of the Plan as the frame work of a house and the zoning is the electrical plumbing inside.

Iva Menard – Any penalty for not having a Town Plan updated?

Jim Walsh – PC not eligible for any state grants.

Rob Litch – PC did a presentation at the last Fire Dept. pancake breakfast.

Would like to support at least goal #2, this is critical to a farmer like him. He has seen farmers hurt as communities grow.

End of discussion.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven authorize the Selectboard to spend up to \$50,000 from the Reserve Facilities Fund for energy efficiency improvements to the Town Hall, Town Garage and Fire Station; using matching grants where possible? By Australian Ballot.

Jim Gallott – Asked for specifics.

Rick Shappy - He was recently appointed as the Town's Energy Coordinator, as Harvey Smith now has Legislative duties. Last summer and fall, energy audits were performed on the Town Hall, Town Garage and Fire Station. The Town Hall ceiling is one of the concerns. The current suspended ceiling allows a lot of heat to escape, despite the fiberglass insulation. Proposed new ceiling would be sheetrock with an air barrier, cost estimated at \$36,000. We should be able to get \$7,500 back from Efficiency Vermont, and other grants may be available. New lights will also have to be purchased, the current T12's will no longer be available, replace with something like a T8, again Efficiency Vermont will pay for about 1/2 – 2/3 of the cost. Last Friday he had an hour meter installed on the town hall boiler, to see how much fuel oil the town hall uses. Unfortunately, a loose wire on the meter prevented him from getting a solid week of readings. He

feels the \$50,000 in the Article should cover much of the work. Will need a structural analysis of the Town Hall, because with no heat loss through the roof; there will be snow load. The Town Hall has the only south facing roof, he would like feedback on placing solar panels on the south facing roof if it can structurally support the panels.

He also wanted to get the word out that he is looking for people interested in joining the Energy Committee.

Pam Marsh – Anticipate replacing all the lights at the town garage and fire station. There are safety issues with the town garage; it needs a ventilation system, as there is too much exhaust for the road crew and fire dept. The Selectboard planned for the health and safety issue by putting money directly into the budget. Also the elevator in Town Hall is not working. In the end we are looking to save the Town and School money.
End of discussion.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven adopt the proposed Road Fund Budget in the amount of \$893,806.46, a portion thereof in the amount of \$610,584.51 to be raised by taxes, for the purpose of maintaining town roads for the year 2011? By Australian Ballot.

Tim Bouton – State Representative said there is a \$170k deficit, how accurate do you think our budget is?

Pat Paquette – Good chance we won't see much from the state. As far as grant money, New Haven was told we are at the bottom of the list because we fared well in the past. Katie Reilley in the Town Office is real good about paperwork.

Pam Marsh – We will receive the basic roads grant. Also, we did receive grant money in 2011 for ditch work on River Road in 2010. Sidewalk money that has been owed to us has now come in too.

Roger Boise – upcoming projects include on North St. from Quarry Road to the Plank Road intersection. Campground Road and Pearson Road starting where they left off last year, also to finish River Road.

Claire Dykstra – Questioning the snowplowing in town, the school bus goes by at 7:30 am and the town doesn't plow until 8:30 am. She asked if the school buses should have snow plows?

Roger Boise – He has spoken with the bus driver whose route is Pearson Road, and he did not have any complaints. None of the other bus drivers have complained about the road conditions either.

Claire Dykstra – Has done a comparison with other towns to see what time the start plowing, and it is a lot earlier than New Haven. Why can't our guys be sent out earlier so buses have a clear path?

Iva Menard – As the owner of a small home business, she gets comments that River Road is worse than ever. She acknowledges that it has been a rough winter and it is generally bad everywhere. But her customers are telling her the roads are worse when they get into New Haven, wonders if we should hire an extra person so the work gets done.

Pat Paquette – Plow trucks with sand and salt need to do their whole route sometimes it is hard to keep up.

Roger Boise – Sherman Jewett has Munger St. as part of his route, sometimes he runs out of product, as they all do. Then they have to come all the way back to the shop. Roger said he calls Road Foreman, Phil Busier when there is a storm and asks him what time they think they should start in the morning. They are trying their best, he doesn't think the roads are any worse.

Jim Ford – Disagrees, he thinks New Haven's roads are worse compared to other towns.

Matt Ford – Drives to Hinesburg daily, he too said our roads are not as clear as other towns.

Roger Boise – This is his last year on the Board, he is trying his best and said the road crew works hard.

Craig Zondag – Asked if the budget includes bridge repair?

Pam Marsh – No, there is a separate bridge fund which has \$10,000 in it, the Board is hoping to put in \$20,000. The state has indicated a problem with the Nash Bridge on River Road, and they [state] will be doing a study of the bridge. Discuss other road problems, such as frost heaves and pot holes.

Earl Bessette – Said he would like to see the Boards sit up on the stage during Town Meeting so people in the audience can see and hear them better.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget in the amount of \$662,814.71, a portion thereof in the amount of \$387,839.76 to be raised by taxes? This amount to be increased by any additional monies voted affirmatively by other articles of this Annual Meeting or voted affirmatively by Australian Ballot on March 1, 2011. Tax rate to be determined by the Selectboard. By Australian Ballot.

Rick Shappy – Concerned about the Town Garage, he suggested the Town take a look at the building, and there are a lot of issues with it. At some point he thinks the building may need to be done over. He would like to repurpose things that they are going to install with the energy audit.

Roger Boise – if it comes to redoing the building, he would like to see the Fire Dept. move. This is a good location for the Road Crew. Salt and sand shed is already there.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,700.00 for the Addison County Community Action Group (ACCAG), d.b.a. HOPE? By Australian Ballot.

Beth Bemis – These are worthwhile causes, but she feels she should be able to donate money to whom she chooses.

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$500 for ADDISON COUNTY COURT DIVERSION AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECTS, INC. to help provide restorative justice projects for offenders who have potential to learn from their mistakes and avoid incarceration and a criminal record, said sum to come from Town Funds? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,753.25 for the Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,800.00 for the Addison County Parent/Child Center? By Australian Ballot.

Mary McGuire – Knows folks who use these services, and vote yes. She likes to work with her community.

Douglas Tolles – Forced to vote on these, he doesn't feel like they are needed. He will vote no and urges others to do the same.

End of discussion.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate &750.00 for Addison County Readers, Inc. to be taken fro Town funds for the purpose of improving literacy skills for children under 5 years of age? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$500.00 for the Bristol Family Center? By Australian Ballot.

Dean Percival – Asked what the Bristol Family Center is.

Pam Marsh – It is a child care center that several kids from New Haven attend.

No further discussion.

ARTICLE 17. Will the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$2,200 to Bristol Parks, Arts and Recreation Department for support of its programs, including the Pottery Studio, Skate Park, Ice Rink, and the Hub/Youth Center, which have been found to serve the Five Town area? Said sum to come from the General Fund. By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 18. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 to the Bristol Rescue Squad, to assist them in providing emergency coverage to said residents of New Haven? By Australian Ballot.

Dean Percival – What is New Haven's population?

Kathy Barrett – about 1,800.

Dean Gilmore – Bristol covers more territory than the other two squads.

Fabian Bourgeois – Will they double their pay because of Articles 4 & 18?

Pam Marsh – Articles 11 – 31 are petitioned articles, with the exception of some of the rescue squads. Article 4 would be incorporated into next year's budget.

Townpeople will not pay double because Article 4 passed.

Bill Brooks – They ask for money, do they include how many residents they serve?

Barb Torian – There is an Outside Agency booklet on the back table.

(Adjourn for dinner at 5:30 pm)

ARTICLE 19. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$700.00 for the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 20. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,750.00 for the Counseling Service of Addison County? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 21. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$700.00 for the Elderly Services, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 22. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$400.00 for the Hospice Volunteer Services? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 23. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate the sum of \$750.00 to the Addison County Humane Society, Inc. to support their mission to promote the ethical treatment of and prevention of cruelty to all domestic animals and forms of wildlife? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 24. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,075.00 for the John W. Graham Emergency Shelter Services, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 25. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$1,210.00 to the Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Association? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 26. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$500.00 for the Open Door Clinic? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 27. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$390.00 for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 28. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$300.00 for the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 29. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$525.00 for Vermont Adult Learning? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 30. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$215.00 for the Vermont Center for Independent Living? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 31. Will the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to WomanSafe, Inc. to support their mission: to work toward the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence against woman and their children through direct service, education and social change? Said sum to come from General Funds. By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

** Kathy Barrett made a plea for any volunteers to serve on various committees, she said to contact the Town Clerk for a volunteer application, and thanked everyone for coming.**

Al Karnatz made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm, seconded by Karen Gallott.
All in favor.
Adjourn: 8:10 pm

Approved:

Jimmy Smith *Roger Boiso*

Attest: *Pamela Kingman*
New Haven Town Clerk