

Town Meeting Minutes 252nd Annual Town Meeting of New Haven, Vermont

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, March 3rd, 2014 at 6:30 PM** to act on Articles 1 and 2; and on **Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** to vote by Australian Ballot on Articles 3 through 27.

Moderator, Lanny Smith welcomed all who had come to the 252nd Town Meeting. He introduced himself and Selectboard members Kathy Barrett, Pam Marsh, Roger Boise, Kathleen Ready, Charlie Roy and Town Clerk, Pam Kingman. The Moderator asked everyone to be respectful of others during the meeting, and to stand and state your name when speaking. He also asked for all electronic devices to be turned off.

State Senator, Chris Bray and Representative, Harvey Smith spoke prior to Town Meeting.

This year the Town went first, the meeting began at 6:40 pm and ended at 7:27pm. There was a 5 minute intermission followed by the School meeting which began at 7:32 pm.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to pay real estate taxes to the Town Treasurer on October 1, 2014; delinquent taxes will be subject to interest charges of one percent per month, and an eight percent penalty charged against them from October 1, 2014?
All Karmatz made the motion, seconded by Kathi Apgar.
All in favor; none opposed.
Passed.

ARTICLE 2. To transact, vote and act upon any further non-binding business, which may legally come before this meeting.
Barb Torian – Thanked Moderator Lanny Smith for all his years of service. She also thanked Selectboard members, Pam Marsh and Kathleen Ready, who are not running for re-election for their time on the Selectboard.
Tim Bouton - Respectfully requested the Selectboard to consider putting some of the Outside Agencies into the General Fund budget, so that we don't have to discuss the outside agencies individually each year.
Dan Monger – Has there ever been any discussion around incentives for folks who pay their taxes early?
Kathy Barrett – Not in New Haven, you can pay on your taxes all through the year so you don't have one lump payment, but there are no discounts.
Barb Torian – Asked the folks in attendance if they would like to continue receiving their Town Report by mail, or would you rather pick it up; because so many are ending up in the recycle bins.
Jono Chapin – Other towns mail out post cards in advance asking if they'd like to receive a copy in the mail or not.
Moderator, Lanny Smith – Mt. Abraham Union High School also mails postcards in advance.
John Madden – Feels it is wise to continue mailing the Town Reports, not everybody can get to the Town Offices or have access to computers. He also commented on leaving all the outside agencies the way they appear on the warning, so that have the opportunity to get more information about them.
Pam Marsh – As Moderator of Mt. Abraham Union School, noted that the attendance at the annual school meeting has declined even more since the school board started mailing postcards instead of reports. Supports continuing to mail them.
Moderator, Lanny Smith - asked for a show of hands for mailing the Town Report.
There was an overwhelming majority by show of hands in favor of mailing the reports.

ARTICLE 3. To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot:

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. Abe School Director	3 years
Selectboard	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Town Agent	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	1 year

Heather Morse – Stood up and introduced herself, and told the audience she was on the ballot running for the Lister position.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed Road Fund Budget of \$1,178,672.54, less anticipated revenues of \$373,376.40, less 2013 surplus of \$210,059.30, leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$ 595,236.84 to be raised by taxes, for the purpose of maintaining town roads for the year 2014?
By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget in the amount of \$660,764.33, less anticipated revenues of \$190,018.37, less 2013 surplus of \$85,056.09, leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$385,689.87, to be raised by taxes. This amount to be increased by any additional monies voted affirmatively by Australian Ballot on March 4, 2014. The tax rate to be determined by the Selectboard. By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to expend up to \$30,000.00 from the Road Equipment Fund for the purchase of a new or used chipper?
By Australian Ballot.
Larry Maier – Asked what the chipper was for.
Roger Boise – It is used to chip limbs and branches and smaller trees. The one the Road Crew currently uses it 23 years old, it is outdated, and not safe for use anymore.
No further discussion.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,700.00 for the Addison County Community Action Group (ACCAG), d.b.a. HOPE?
By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 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.
Pam Marsh – Would like to speak on this not as a Selectboard member. She has clients who have gone through the program. She feels it is very beneficial for both juveniles and adults alike as successful completion leads to no criminal record. In her opinion, we are criminalizing too many juveniles for minor offenses, and their records can follow them and will likely have a negative impact later in life, including college applications, public housing and employment. There is also a program that helps people who have lost their licenses for not paying traffic tickets or other reasons. The program does not take drunk drivers; that goes through the court system. She urges all to support the program.

No further discussion.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,753.25 for the Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.
Barb Torian – They do a wonderful job, urges support.
No further discussion.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,800.00 for the Addison County Parent/Child Center? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of New Haven appropriate \$750.00 for Addison County Readers, Inc. to be taken from Town Funds for the purpose of improving literacy skills for children under 5 years of age? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 to the Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative to support water quality testing on the New Haven River? By Australian Ballot.
Chris Granstrom – The New Haven River is a gem in our town, used for all kinds of recreational uses, swimming and fishing. Riverwatch provides the Town with the health of the river, along with other valuable information.
Kathi Appgar – She thought the Agency of Natural Resources took over the funding of this, asked why we are paying for it.
Susan Smiley – The funding from the Agency of Natural Resources is a very small portion of the Riverwatch funding. A copy of the annual report is available on the table in the back of the room.
No further discussion.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$4,211.00 for Addison County Transit Resources to be taken from Town Funds for the purpose of maintaining and improving public transportation services for elders, persons with disabilities and the general public? By Australian Ballot.
Barb Torian – ACTR has not kept to the bus schedule they had originally promised to the Town. There have been some misunderstandings as to when and where to pick up and drop off riders. The Town wants ACTR to use the Park 'n Ride for this.
Ed McGuire – ACTR also provides dial-a-ride for folks. They will also take people to New Hampshire, Burlington and Rutland for doctor's appointments.
No further discussion.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for the Bristol Family Center? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$2,500.00 to Bristol Recreation Department? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$700.00 for the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 17. Shall the voters of Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,750.00 for the Counseling Service of Addison County? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 18. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$700.00 for the Elderly Services Inc.? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 19. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$400.00 for the Hospice Volunteer Services? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

