

Town Meeting Minutes 254th 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, February 29, 2016 at 6:30 PM** to act on Articles 1 and 2; and on **Tuesday, March 1st, 2016 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** to vote by Australian Ballot on Articles 3 through 27.

Moderator, Pam Marsh opened the meeting at 6:35 pm and welcomed all in attendance. There were approximately 100 people in attendance. Kathy Barrett, Carole Hall, Jim Walsh and Doug Tolles all introduced themselves. Pam Marsh told the audience Steve Dupoise was in Florida for the winter.

The Moderator asked everyone to be respectful of each other, we follow Roberts Rules of Order, and all questions should be directed to her. She also asked all to stand and state your name when speaking. The Moderator read the warning, and invited State Representative Harvey Smith and Senator Chris Bray up to address the audience. Rep. Smith and Senator Bray each read a Resolution for Earl Bessette and Warren Whitcomb to whom the Town Report was dedicated.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to pay real estate taxes to the Town Treasurer on October 3, 2016; delinquent taxes will be subject to interest charges of one percent per month, and an eight percent penalty charged against them from October 3, 2016?

Al Karnatz made the motion, seconded by Chris Bray.

Mike Lee – Talked about making the Town's taxes match the school districts and making 4 installments instead of one large payment in October.

All in favor.

Passed.

ARTICLE 2. To transact, vote and act upon any further non-binding business, which may legally come before this meeting.

Moderator, Pam Marsh recognized the candidates running for Selectboard:

Kathy Barrett (3 yr. term) – It has been an honor to serve the town for the past 3 years. She feels solar has a place in town, provided it is well screened and meets setbacks. No one has the right to impede on neighbor's property. With the Anbaric project, she is still undecided. She is dependent upon Carole Hall and Steve Dupoise (Selectboard contacts with Anbaric) to gather information and report back to the Board. She wants what is best for the town, and would like to see the project go to a town wide vote.

Dan Monger (3 yr. term) – He and his wife Cathleen moved here from California, love being in a small town. He is not opposed to solar as long as it is sited well, and they follow the Town Plan. He wants to be assured the neighbors are satisfied with the array too. As a member of the Planning Commission, he has been instrumental in limiting the size of the acreage arrays can be built on. He is running for Selectboard after attending Anbaric's first presentation, and is dismayed about the way the people who are directly affected are being treated. He encouraged the audience to look at the Vermont Green Line (Anbaric) website. He has expertise in negotiations on projects like this.

Carole Hall (2 yr. term) – Appreciates being on the Selectboard for the past 2 years; she has never done anything like this. She is a regular person, works 2 jobs, pays taxes; feels it is her civic duty to serve the town. She's enjoyed getting to know many of the townspeople better, and hopes to continue to serve. As one of the point persons for Anbaric, she has learned a lot, and appreciates being given the role. She would like to continue for continuity sake.

Bridget Kipp (2 yr. term) – She is married with 2 grown children, and a grandson. She and her husband, John own Rack 'n Reel, a new sporting goods store in the Junction. She has roots in Addison County, born in Middlebury and currently works as a loan officer in a local credit union. She has attended recent Selectboard meetings to become informed. She knows how to make solid decisions, and she thanked the audience in advance for their vote.

John Roleau (2 yr. term) – Born in Middlebury in 1976, he was raised in New Haven. He took over his father's car business on Town Hill Road, which just celebrated its 50th year. His father, Amos Roleau III served on the Selectboard for 27 years; John feels it is a family tradition to serve the town. He has experience running a business, knows things can get tough when it comes to big businesses. He feels he can help deal with Anbaric. He is married with 2 children and one on the way, they will soon be moving into the house he grew up in on Town Hill Road. He asked for support in tomorrow's election.

Iva Menard – Wanted to know at what point during the meeting is it appropriate to bring up an email she received from a Selectboard member attacking another member. She has spent hours going over Selectboard minutes, and she can dispel these accusations. She encouraged the audience to take some time and review the Selectboard minutes, be informed prior to voting.

Moderator, Pam Marsh – It was a personal vendetta. It is very unfortunate. Town Meeting is for discussing the issues of the Town.

Iva Menard – The things in the email lay out as facts are not true. She is extremely disappointed that this is how our town is being represented, it's embarrassing.

Moderator, Pam Marsh opened up the discussion to discuss solar and Anbaric, Many peoples spoke about both:

- Solar – Green Mtn. Power is maxed out on the West side of Addison Co. what's the plan to keep them out.
- PSB process – they are beginning to take town plans into consideration where towns are unhappy.
- Be diligent in monitoring the process for both solar and Anbaric
- Doug Tolles gave an update on the solar intervention status: In 2015 the town spent \$43,000 on solar, the Selectboard has added an additional \$40,000 into this year's budget, and it may require more. To date we have intervened on the 20 acre array on Field Days Rd, final briefs have been filed, and final arguments. They are awaiting the final decision. The South St. array we are opposing because of the siting and screening. There are currently 14 different proposals for solar in town. These are frozen until net metering lifts the cap, then they will likely come alive. There is one in town that is well-sited that does not bother anyone.
- Last year the monies for solar was a separate line item, why bury in the budget this year. The Board as a whole put Anbaric and solar in the budget, one member objected after the fact and did not vote in favor of the entire budget. Another member said it they couldn't just stop moving forward, the voters approved spending \$25k last year.
- Carole Hall handed out copies of the latest information on Anbaric from Attorney Richard Saudek. Anbaric has given the town \$75,000 to hire experts for sound / screening / aesthetics and engineering. She has heard concerns from neighbors and others directly affected. She is hoping Anbaric will provide compensation to the neighbors. She too has been frustrated that getting information has taken longer than expected. Most of the people she has had contact with are not in favor of the project, she would like to hear from those who are in favor.
- Anbaric has stated they will abandon the project if the town votes no.
- Questions about the noise level coming from the converter station and added noise from the VELCO substation. Once we hear from our experts can we hold Anbaric to the levels they are saying would be acceptable to the town? Carole Hall said that will be part of the agreement, to make sure that is in place. We will have ways to monitor the sound if they are not in compliance.
- Chris Bray suggested when the town has a contract add in conditions to the Certificate of Public Good, and then if the CPG is violated, it can be withdrawn.

- There are still legitimate concerns about property values and the difficulty for those in selling their homes if they live close to the site.
- Another idea is to look to the future and have all power lines buried.
- This is the first time a company is actually offering to give the town something, other utilities have offered nothing. It would seem they are negotiating in good faith.
- Moderator, Pam Marsh called for a second straw poll, by a show of hands on whether people are ready to vote on the project now:

Yes
Approx. 10

No
approx. 20

Not ready to give opinion
majority

- Anbaric's time frame is in the paperwork Carole Hall handed out. The 45 day Notice will now be pushed back a few months.

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

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

Barb Torian - Announced Angie Dunbar agreed to be a write in candidate for 1 year term of Auditor.
No further discussion.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed Road Fund Budget of \$1,160,249.00, less anticipated revenues of \$455,310.00 less 2015 surplus of \$177,637.99, leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$527,301.01, to be raised by taxes, for the purpose of maintaining town roads for the year 2016? By Australian Ballot.

Craig Zondag - Inquired when the Nash Bridge construction would take place.
Kathy Barrett - This summer, the bridge will be closed for approximately 6 weeks.
Mark Livingston – In the Town Report, page 32. There are 3 pay loaders listed, it looks like we budgeted for a CAT loader we no longer own; it should show up under John Deere loader. He suggested the next time the town is ready to put a piece of equipment out to bid, since the taxpayers own it; it should be offered to townspeople first.
Kathi Apgar – On page 31 of the Town Report, she asked what the mileage reimbursement is for.
Kathy Barrett – This was previously paid to Roger Boise when he was our Road Commissioner, because he did not want to get paid an hourly wage. Now when it is for when the Road Crew uses their personal vehicles.
Kathi Apgar – Is the town liable if something happens?
Kathy Barrett – It is covered under Worker's Comp, and there are terms in the liability insurance.
No further discussion.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget in the amount of \$737,737.00, less anticipated revenues of \$207,161.00, less 2015 surplus of \$45,750.66 leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$484,825.34, to be raised by taxes? This amount to be increased by any additional

monies voted affirmatively by Australian Ballot on March 1, 2016. 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 \$165,000.00 from the Road Equipment Fund for the purchase of a new truck and body?
By Australian Ballot.
No 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 Restorative Justice Services f/k/a 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 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.
No 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 for the Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative? These funds will help support the Collaborative's continued water quality work: sampling sites on the Otter Creek and the New Haven River within the Town of New Haven, analyzing the data, and reporting water quality information to the public. By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$4,694.00 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.
No 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 voters of 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.

ARTICLE 20. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$750.00 to the Addison County Humane Society, Inc., d.b.a. Homeward Bound Animal Welfare Center?
By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 21. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,075.00 for the John W. Graham Emergency Shelter Services, Inc.?
By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 22. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for the Open Door Clinic? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 23. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate the sum of \$950.00 to the Otter Creek Child Center, Inc. located in Middlebury, Vermont, to support the center's need-based Tuition Assistance Program and its mission to provide quality, affordable early care and education to the Addison County community?
By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 24. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$390.00 for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 25. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$525.00 for Vermont Adult Learning? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 26. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$215.00 for the Vermont Center for Independent Living? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

ARTICLE 27. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,250.00 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? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion.

Tim Bouton made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm, seconded by Rick Shappy.
All in favor.



Attest: _____


New Haven Town Clerk