

Town Meeting Warning **257th 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 4, 2019 at 6:30 PM** to act on Articles 1 through 5; and on **Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** to vote by Australian Ballot on Articles 6 through 32.

Moderator, Pam Marsh called the meeting to order at 6:31pm and welcomed all in attendance. There were approximately 75 in attendance. Selectboard members, Kathy Barrett, Taborri Bruhl, John Roleau and Jim Walsh were introduced. Steve Dupoise was not present. Town Clerk, Pam Kingman was introduced as the minute taker. The Moderator indicated the use of Roberts Rules of Order would be used, and she asked everyone to direct their questions to her and to be respectful of each other. Pam Marsh read the Warning and invited Representative Harvey Smith to address the audience. Chris Bray had not yet arrived. Harvey Smith presented a Resolution to honor Betty Bell, passed by the House of Representatives. Harvey also passed around the current Town Report for all in attendance to sign and Pam Kingman will pass the Resolution and signed Town Report on to Betty Bell.

At 6:43 – 6:53 pm Chris Bray addressed the audience about issues the legislature is looking at.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to pay real estate taxes to the Town Treasurer on October 1, 2019; delinquent taxes will be subject to interest charges of one percent per month, and an eight percent penalty charged against them from October 1, 2019?

John Roleau made the motion, seconded by Al Karnatz. No discussion.

All in favor

Passed

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven accept the Auditors' Report for the year 2018?

Kathy Barrett made the motion, seconded by Kathi Apgar. No discussion.

All in favor

Passed

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven approve the creation of a Conservation Commission, per V.S.A. 24 § 118?

Al Karnatz made the motion, seconded by Ed McGuire.

Bernie Noble asked what the Conservation Commission (CC) is and what does it do.

Dean Percival, current Chair of the Conservation Committee explained this has been in existence for approximately 4-5 years. There was a snafu the last time it was approved, and now it is time to make it right. The CC has been working hard for the town. They're the overseers of the landscape, waterways and advise other boards. The CC has been working with the local schools, teaching them about the land they live on and about conservation; which seems to be taking a backseat these days. Part of their mission is

to educate children as well as adults. They implemented a PLACE program with the help of a graduate student from UVM; who did a geological map of the town, and showed areas of possible development. Dean added the CC has sponsored 4 years of guest speakers that offered a wide range of topics.

Moderator, Pam Marsh asked the current members of the Conservation Committee to stand to be recognized, and thanked them for their service.

Kathy Barrett let those in attendance know the photos of the tree contest run by the CC were on the back wall.

Discussion about what the CC can do to take on energy projects. The CC wished they had the funding to tackle things such as that. They'd love to conserve land and take on energy projects, but there just isn't enough funding. Also discussed if the CC could become a nonprofit, but that would take a long time to establish.

All in favor.

Passed

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven ratify any actions taken by the Conservation Committee while acting as a Conservation Commission prior to its creation?

Taborri Bruhl made the motion, seconded by Kathy Barrett.

All in favor.

Passed

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

Former Beeman School Board member, Ed McGuire read a statement regarding the end of an era. On December 21, 2018 was the very last day of business for the Beeman School Board because of the merger under Act 64 voted on 18 months before.

Pam Marsh asked for a non-binding resolution for Beeman School Board members

Al Karnatz made a motion for a non-binding resolution to award and to thank all prior Beeman School Board members, seconded by Andrew Morton.

All in favor.

Passed

MAUSD Board members Sarah LaPerle and Andrew Morton read a statement in regards to Article 10 (Capital Fund) and Article 11 (Proposed budget) for the MAUSD. On March 16, 2019 there will be an open discussion at Bristol Elementary School.

Barb Torian asked the audience if they would like to continue receiving the Town Report in the mail; most said yes.

Barb Torian asked what the audience felt about moving trash and recycling on Saturday mornings to the Town Offices.

Kathy Barrett gave a little background, on an icy Saturday morning the road crew was called out as were the Fire Dept. causing a very difficult and dangerous situation for the road crew, fire dept. people trying to recycle and folks trying to get sand from the sand pile.

John Roleau added there are reasons to move it and reasons not to move it; the main concern is everyone's safety.

Different ideas such as setting up a patterned traffic flow were suggested.

Moderator, Pam Marsh asked for a straw poll;
Keep where it is(Town Shed) / don't care / Town Office & Library:
Most of the audience favored leaving trash and recycling right where it is, and a fair amount didn't care, there was no support for moving it to the Town Office / Library location.

Kathi Apgar had concerns about the discharge of weapons on Sunday mornings, especially when attending a Church service on the Town Green.
Kathy Barrett said she has seen an Ordinance in the Selectboard handbook, this was when her father was a Selectboard member, but it is not his signature on said Ordinance.

Jim Walsh said this is a legal shooting range for the Vermont State Police
Several people asked where it is located.

John Roleau said it is down North St. about a mile on Bev Landons' property. The VSP does a course on a range there.

Discussed being respectful of others who live in the area, especially on Sunday mornings. It was suggested contacting the VSP or Bev Landon to ask them to close it on Sunday mornings. It was also suggested it could be brought to the Selectboard to pass an Ordinance.

Polly Darnell is done as of tonight as Auditor, they now need someone new. Ted Foster is on the Ballot and the other Auditor is Debra Ash. She thanked Iva (Menard) Ford for putting the Town Report together, even though she is no longer an Auditor. She may be willing to do it again next year. Polly encouraged folks to look into it, as it is a great way to learn how the town runs and you don't have to be a CPA to do the job.

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

Auditor	2 years (to fulfill previous term)
Auditor	3 years
Delinquent Tax Collector	1 year
Grand Jurors (2)	1 year
Library Trustee (3)	3 years
Lister	3 years
Moderator	1 year
Mt. Abe Unified School Director	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Selectboard	3 years
Town Clerk	3 years
Town Treasurer	3 years
Town Agent	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	1 year

Gail Regan (3 year term Library Trustee) Gail is interested in running again; she neglected to file petition in time, but would like to be considered as a write in candidate.

Steve Dupoise (2 year term Selectboard) was not present

Doug Tolles (2 & 3 year term Selectboard) – Doug served on the Selectboard from 2014 – 2017. He is running because he thought it should be a contest. Hopes to accomplish better practices, he would not have supported the large increase in the road budget.

Kathy Barrett (3 year term Selectboard) Kathy is seeking re-election and has been on the Selectboard since 2009. She has core values to stand on and brings integrity to the position.

Barb Torian (3 year term Treasurer) Barb has been Treasurer for 23 years, and hopes to continue serving. She asked for folks to approach her with any questions, she will treat you with respect and transparency.

Doug Tolles (3 year term Treasurer) Doug has an MBA in finance, he has spent entire career in finance, and feels he know the job all the way around.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed Road Fund Budget of \$1,770,098.00, less anticipated revenues of \$488,200.00 less 2018 surplus of \$298,074.80 leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$983,823.20, to be raised by taxes, for the purpose of maintaining town roads for the year 2019? By Australian Ballot.

Discussion only:

Road Commissioner, John Roleau talked about the increase in the road budget, and talked about needing a new truck. The new truck will be covered in the budget, and will not affect taxes. He talked about the right time to trade in the used trucks so they the town gets a better trade in value. This year is the MAC Tandem that will be traded in. You will see in Article 9 is for the purchase of the new truck, the amount includes extended warranties. Kathy Barrett clarified that the money for a new truck is coming from the Equipment Fund and will not affect the tax rate this year. John went on to explain the increase in the road budget is due in part to the increase in salt prices, siting a strike in Canada forced the price up.

We had applied for grants for River Rd and Dog Team Rd., but did not receive either grant. Because of this, by the time the paving bids went out for these two roads, the increase in asphalt not justifiable. We are re-applying for grants for both roads, and are hoping to secure them.

The sand / salt shed received wind damage in October. The original company it was purchased from in 2004 has gone out of business; therefore it took some time to locate a company that could replace it. The Board put \$70k in the budget for replacement, and VLCT (town insurance co.) has offered \$35k to help with replacement costs.

The culverts on Quaker Village Road are in dire need of replacing. They are old steel tubes that have completely rotted out. We have received an engineering grant, and structures grant up to \$175k towards building a new structure this summer.

We need to be forward thinking about other large projects such as the Dog Team Bridge, a new town garage and a new fire station. He added if you look back over that past 2 years the road budget has gone down.

Iva Ford asked who is putting the bids in for paving, and are there designated grant writers?

John Roleau – there is currently no position for that; in the past Katie Reilley did all that. The Town Office assistant, Danielle Cummings is learning about all of it. He added he wants more paving companies to bid on our projects, because It usually comes down to the two companies in New Haven.

Jim Walsh talked about the possibility of widening River Road on both ends to accommodate bicycles. Jim has been working with Susan Smiley, Larry Buck and Doug McKain who are working on a Bike Grant for up to \$30k for upgrades to River Rd.

Gail Regan lives on River Road and is concerned about the amount of large trucks on the road. She wondered if the weight limit could be enforced, and to not grant

acceptations. She has seen logging trucks, busses, tractor trailers etc., they should be using Route 7 and 17.

Susie Leonard said the town used to have someone who wrote grants, why not have someone now?

John Roleau said he is not comfortable doing it, but Danielle in the Town Office is doing them now. We apply every year for grants, because you never know.

Speeding on River Rd was discussed, the Sheriff's Dept. is applying for a grant for more of those speed signs.

Discussed the condition of gravel roads, and plans for future maintenance; all the gravel roads are in dire need of more gravel.

Victor LaBerge commended John Roleau for his work as Road Commissioner.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget in the amount of \$722,367.00, less anticipated revenues of \$168,141.00, less 2018 surplus of \$306,577.76, leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$247,648.24, to be raised by taxes? This amount to be increased by any additional monies voted affirmatively by Australian Ballot on March 5, 2019. The tax rate to be determined by the Selectboard. By Australian Ballot.

Discussion only:

Tim Bouton congratulated the Board for the \$100k drop in the General fund budget.

Jim Walsh talked about the Board securing engineering and structural grants for Quaker Village Road culvert replacement. He is currently working with VELCO to secure fiber optics for every house in New Haven.

Kathi Apgar asked for clarification on the Anbaric monitoring and solar monitoring.

Kathy Barrett said Anbaric is still a viable project, monitoring is to ensure they do what they are supposed to do. Anbaric bid on a new project at the beginning of 2019, they didn't know if they would secure the contract or not. (They did not)

Solar monitoring: there is one large project in the works since 2018; they are continuing to monitor to be sure the panels are placed where they said they would in their CPG.

Jim Walsh said 2 years ago he and Steve Dupoise successfully negotiated with Anbaric to pay attorney fees, which went back into the budget; and whatever wasn't spent has carried over.

Doug Tolles recognized Jim Walsh for his negotiating skills with some of the larger projects, calling him a "rainmaker".

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to expend up to \$145,000.00 from the Road Equipment Fund for the purchase of a new tandem truck and body? By Australian Ballot.

No Discussion

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to expend up to \$30,000.00 from the Reserve Facilities Fund in order to continue to work on drainage related issues around the Town Hall? By Australian Ballot.

Discussion only:

Jim Walsh said he contacted Superintendent, Patrick Reen and explained to him that ever since Beeman School paved up to the Town Hall, we have had water issues. Last year the Board asked the voters to approve up to \$50k, not all of it was spent. The board felt the best practice was to bring it to the voters once again. Patrick Reen agreed to pay for half of the repairs to the Town Hall, because they caused the issue.

Taborri Bruhl said the money for the project has been saved in advance, and it won't affect the tax rate.

ARTICLE 11. 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 12. 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 13. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$750.00 for Addison County Readers, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for Addison County Restorative Justice Services? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for the Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$4,850.00 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 17. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$700.00 for Age Well (Champlain Valley Agency on Aging)? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 18. 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 19. 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 20. Shall the Town of New Haven appropriate \$950.00 to Charter House Coalition, Middlebury, Vermont, for the purpose of supporting their emergency housing and daily food programs that each year provide shelter to over 90 adults and children (7700 bed nights) and 33,000 free meals to those who are food insecure? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 21. 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 22. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$700.00 for Elderly Services, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 23. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,700.00 for HOPE? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 24. Will the voters vote \$600.00 to Hospice Volunteer Services to be used to help pay part of the cost of providing home Hospice care for terminally ill patients in this town, said sum to come from town funds? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 25. Shall the votes of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$750.00 to the Addison County Humane Society, Inc.? (Homeward Bound) By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 26. 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 27. Shall the Town appropriate \$750.00 to the Open Door Clinic, Community Health Services of Addison County, which provides access to high quality dental and healthcare, free of charge, to those who are uninsured or under-insured in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 28. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate the sum of \$950.00 to the Otter Creek Child Center, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 29. 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 30. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$525.00 for Vermont Adult Learning? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

ARTICLE 31. 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 32. Shall the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$1,250.00 to WomanSafe, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.
No discussion

Kathy Barrett recognized Don Johnston. Don has done several surveys for the Town at a very generous rate, hHe has offered to measure the gravel left in the Town owned pit, which could save significant moneyis a real asset to New Haven.

Tim Bouton made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 pm, seconded by John Roleau.
All in favor

Kathleen Barrett Kathy J. Barrett

Attest: Patricia Kingman
New Haven Town Clerk