

## **Town Meeting Warning** **259<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting of New Haven, Vermont**

The legal voters of the Town of New Haven are hereby warned and notified to meet remotely due to COVID-19 (log in instructions below) on **Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:30 PM** to discuss Articles 1 through 30; and on **Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** to vote by Australian Ballot on Articles 1 through 30.

### **Meeting Log-In Instructions:**

2021 New Haven Town Meeting Informational Meeting  
Monday, March 1, 2021 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM (EST)

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/293610813>

You can also dial in using you phone.

United States: +1 (646) 749 - 3122

**Access Code: 293-610-813**

Moderator, Pam Marsh called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and welcomed approximately 60 plus people remotely attending this year's very unusual Town Meeting. Selectboard members Steve Dupoise, Kathy Barrett, Taborri Bruhl, John Roleau and Jim Walsh were all introduced, along with Town Administrator, Aaron Brown, Treasurer, Danielle Cummings and Town Clerk, Pam Kingman. The Moderator indicated the use of Roberts Rules of Order and asked everyone to direct their questions to her, be respectful of one another and be patient as we maneuver our way through this remote meeting. Pam Marsh read the Warning, and said we're here to discuss Articles 1 – 30. Town Administrator, Aaron Brown will help with fielding questions, Aaron pointed out the "Chat" function that is available to ask questions. Senator Chris Bray addressed the audience. Chris now lives in Bristol; there were no objections to him speaking.

Pam Marsh noted the only contested race is the one for the 3 year Selectboard position, she will allow both candidates time to speak.

**ARTICLE 1.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven accept the Auditors' Report for the year 2020? By Australian Ballot.

**Steve Dupoise** made a motion to accept as reported, seconded by John Roleau.

Discussion:

**Betsy Taylor** asked if there was anything that raised concern or the public should be made aware of.

**Steve Dupoise** Nothing he is aware of. Both the inside and outside Audits have been reviewed.

**Auditor, Ted Foster** directed attention to page 37 in the Town Report, about the Evergreen Cemetery. He said their numbers don't add up, and he is working on getting

answers. He is waiting to speak with Vanguard. He noted there is more income than what shows in the report.

**Kathy Barrett** said she is one of the Trustees of the Evergreen Cemetery. This is a separate / non-profit; this is not a town owned cemetery. What is showing up is an unrealized gain through Vanguard and that nothing has gone awry with that account.

**Dean Gilmore** pointed out that every Article is by Australian Ballot, and there is no need for motions.

**Moderator, Pam Marsh** thanked Dean for reminding her that all of these Articles are for discussion only.

**ARTICLE 2.** To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot:

Auditor	1 year (to fulfill previous term)
Auditor	3 years
Delinquent Tax Collector	1 year
Lister	1 year (to fulfill previous term)
Lister	3 years
Moderator	1 year
Mt. Abe Unified School District Director	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Selectboard	3 years
Trustee of Public Funds	1 year

**Jim Walsh** (3 year term Selectboard) Jim spoke about his last 6 years on the Selectboard and his accomplishments.

**Bruce Many** (3 year term for Selectboard) Bruce spoke about his years of living in New Haven and what he will bring to the board. He has owned his own excavating business for 20 years and feels he can bring that knowledge to the Board.

**ARTICLE 3.** Shall the Town of New Haven vote to pay real estate taxes to the Town Treasurer on October 4, 2021; delinquent taxes will be subject to interest charges of one percent per month, and an eight percent penalty charged against them from October 4, 2021? By Australian Ballot.

**No Discussion**

**ARTICLE 4.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed Road Fund Budget of \$1,242,999.91, less anticipated revenues of \$328,200.00 less 2020 surplus of \$209,550.82 leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$705,249.09 to be raised by taxes, for the purpose of maintaining town roads for the year 2021? By Australian Ballot.

**Steve Dupoise** spoke about the largest part of this budget is the projects, which include reclaiming and repaving Twitchell Hill Road most of which is contingent upon receiving grant money. We are also looking at reclaiming and repaving a portion of Pearson Road from the intersection of Campground Road to just past Twitchell Hill Road.

**Pam Marsh** asked why the paving on Pearson road doesn't continue all the way to the bridge.

**Aaron Brown** replied that section of road needs an engineering study.

**Anne Watson** asked if paving roads saves the town money in the long run, and is more money spent on a road that is repaved.

**Steve Dupoise** said the roads he mentioned are already paved. Going back to dirt would be going backwards.

**Anne Watson** didn't realize it was for re-paving.

**Patty Lewis** asked about the intersection of East Street and Route 17. The patching just hasn't held up.

**Taborri Bruhl** said that intersection is slated to be completely redone by the State this summer. There will no longer be a "Y" intersection; East St. will go straight out to Route 17. The Road Crew has purposely been re-patching as cheaply as possible until the project happens.

**Aaron Brown** added that the State plans on making substantial storm water improvements to the intersection as well as removing the knoll on Route 17 by Sawyer Road.

**Ted Foster** asked if there will be improvements to the intersection to Route 17 and Hallock Road.

**Taborri Bruhl** said Route 17 is a State road, and any projects would be done by the State.

**Steve Dupoise** said you could talk to our State Representatives, Senators and possibly VTRANS.

**Kathy Barrett** reported that a meeting with VTRANS at the Kayharts' concerning the replacement of the bridge on Route 17 where the intersection was mentioned and VTRANS was not interested in it at that time.

**ARTICLE 5.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,192,226.37 (General Fund expenses, \$717,226.37 plus school payment due \$475,000.00) less anticipated revenues of \$204,150.00, less 2020 surplus of \$588,614.92, leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$399,461.45, to be raised by taxes? This amount to be increased by any additional monies voted affirmatively by Australian Ballot on March 2, 2021. The tax rate to be determined by the Selectboard. By Australian Ballot.

**Bernie Noble** inquired about the substantial amount of surplus in both the road and general fund budgets.

**Steve Dupoise** We will owe \$475k to the school in June, so it makes it look like a larger surplus.

**Danielle Cummings** explained the school district runs on a fiscal year and the town runs on a calendar year. This surplus is earmarked for the school.

**ARTICLE 6.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to expend up to \$10,000.00 from the Reserve Facilities Fund to paint the interior of the Town Offices? By Australian Ballot.

**Bernie Noble** wondered if there had been a bid process for repairs / improvements.

**Aaron Brown** said we got three quotes for painting the town offices, they ranged from \$8k - \$12k; so we chose middle ground for the warning number. For the Town Hall façade, he met with a company out of Middlebury that works with folks on ADA accessibility. We are hoping to get a matching grant of 75%. He has also received an architectural drawing for the Town Hall back in January. He added we received a quote for the front porch of the Town Hall last year for \$30k, he feels we will be able to do all of it for \$40k.

**Steve Dupoise** added we will need to get bids from 3-4 companies to get a general sense of the overall cost. There is a considerable amount of rot on the front porch roof.

**ARTICLE 7.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to expend up to \$40,000.00 from the Reserve Facilities Fund to do major repairs to the façade of the Town Hall? Said repairs to include the front porch and improve ADA accessibility. By Australian Ballot

\*\* Part of the discussion on this Article appears in Article 6\*\*

Aaron Brown added the Town Hall front porch needs a peaked roof for better run-off and gutters added. The old Town Clerks entrance will have a concrete walkway and a paddle switch for easy entry. The Town Hall is on the Historic Preservation list, he (Aaron) has been working with them. They are ok with both projects.

At this time, Moderator, Pam Marsh looked at the Chat function. There were several discussions going on that include the following:

- The Intersection of Hallock Road and Route 17
- Addison County Sheriff's Dept. and what they are contracted to do. Residents on River Road are concerned about the Four Hills trucks driving too fast and the drivers are on their cell phones. Many feel like they get paid for what we are getting.

**Taborri Bruhl** asked if we should continue to list all the outside agencies on the ballot every year or should they be included in the budget or line items.

**Pam Kingman** has raised this question to the Selectboard before. She feels the Town would save money in ballot printing and programming the tabulator by not having these all listed as separate articles. New Haven Selectboard requires these agencies to petition for 5 consecutive years at the same amount of money, so once they are established, and don't raise the amount they can all be rolled into the budget or one line item.

**Anna Peritsky** said it would be nice to have the information on these agencies on the town's website, or a link to them.

**Pam Kingman** a condensed version of what they offer is always in the Town Report.

**Taborri Bruhl** said many of them come to the Selectboard, and what they have to offer is awesome.

**Ted Foster** asked what would happen if the one line item for these for one article for them got voted down.

**Steve Dupoise** said then they all don't pass.

**ARTICLE 8.** 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 9.** 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 10.** Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$750.00 for Addison County Readers, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

**No discussion**

**ARTICLE 11.** Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for Addison County Restorative Justice Services? 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? By Australian Ballot.

**No discussion**

**ARTICLE 13.** 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 14.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$700.00 for Age Well f/k/a CVAA? By Australian Ballot.

**No discussion**

**ARTICLE 15.** 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 16.** 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 17.** 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 18.** 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 19.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$700.00 for Elderly Services, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

**No discussion**

**ARTICLE 20.** Will the voters approve \$600.00 to End of Life Services, Inc. f/k/a 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 21.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,700.00 for HOPE? By Australian Ballot.

Anna Peritsky works at HOPE. This past year they served 31 households and 61 individuals from New Haven. They have made many adjustments during the pandemic. They have been working with local farms to get food where it is needed.

**ARTICLE 22.** Shall the voters 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 23.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,075.00 for the John Graham Housing and Services, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.  
**No discussion**

**ARTICLE 24.** Shall the Town appropriate \$500.00 to the Open Door Clinic?  
By Australian Ballot.  
**No discussion**

**ARTICLE 25.** 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 26.** 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 27.** Shall the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,000.00 to the Turning Point Center of Addison County for the purpose of supporting its mission to assist persons, their families, and their friends in recovery from substance use disorder and addictive behaviors? By Australian Ballot.  
**No discussion**

**ARTICLE 28.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$525.00 for Vermont Adult Learning? By Australian Ballot.  
**No discussion**

**ARTICLE 29.** 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 30.** Shall the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$1,250.00 to WomanSafe, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.  
Susan Bruhl was asked to speak in support for this Article. WomanSafe supports those who are affected by domestic and sexual violence. They served 12 New Haven residents this past year. The funds support phone lines, outreach, etc.

**Moderator, Pam Marsh** asked if there were any more general comments before adjourning.

**Cheryl Mitchell** said kudos to the Town Office and Library and the community in general. Everybody was willing to help their neighbors during the pandemic.

**Bernie Noble** gave a shout out to Town leaders. He is pleased with the important decision to make in regards to the train depot.

**Aaron Brown** said the second committee meeting to discuss the future of the train depot is happening on Thursday.

**Steve Dupoise** who is on the committee, added they are on top of it. No one wants the building to be destroyed. The committee consists of 8 members, one of which is State

Rep., Harvey Smith. The last meeting was hampered by the rep. from VTRANS not being there. The committee wants to keep the depot in town; they are looking at viable spots to move it to. It was VTRANS and AMTRAK that created the problem. Steve added the committee is going to make sure there is zero dollars of the towns money spent on this.

**Maggie Eaton**, who is on the Energy Committee of the Planning Commission; gave an update on the new Energy plan. She said the new plan is up on the Towns website under planning and zoning. Several towns are also in the middle of the same process. She explained these need to pass in order to give towns more control over Green House Gas Emissions. The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the Energy Plan on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm. This will be a remote meeting via GoToMeeting, the agenda and link is on the Towns website. The Planning Commission will vote on the Plan and if that passes, then they will pass it on to the Selectboard for their consideration.

**Gary Sundstrom** asked for an update on the new VELCO building.

**Steve Dupoise** gave an overview of the new building. It will look a lot like a new barn. VELCO had a recent minor change to the size of the laydown yard; it will be slightly larger than the original plan. The laydown yard will be located behind the berm and will be used to store wet land mats and concrete barriers. VELCO plans to plant pollinator trees on the berm. The building itself will not be fully manned; it will be a redundant station. Said building will offer a favorable tax base for the town, as the building itself will be taxed on its full value.

Taborri Bruhl made a motion to adjourn at 8:11pm, seconded by John Roleau.  
All in favor

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Haven Town Clerk