

## **Town Meeting Warning**

### **260<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 at the Town Hall in New Haven, Vermont or remotely (see log in instructions below) on **Monday, February 28, 2022, at 6:30 PM** to act on Articles 1 through 4; and on **Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** to vote by Australian Ballot on Articles 5 through 33.

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

2022 New Haven Town Meeting Informational Meeting  
Monday, February 28, 2022; 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM (EST)

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

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/781228325>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (312) 757 - 3121

**Access Code: 781-228-325**

#### **A DISCUSSION PERIOD FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLES WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TOWN MEETING.**

Moderator, Pam Marsh called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and welcomed approximately 25 people in person and approximately 15 remotely attending this year's Town Meeting. Selectboard members Steve Dupoise (remote), Kathy Barrett (remote), Taborri Bruhl, John Roleau and Bruce Many were all introduced, along with Treasurer, Danielle Hubbell 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. Pam Marsh read the Warning and said we're here to discuss Articles 1 – 4. Danielle Hubbell will help with fielding questions from folks who are using remote access.

**ARTICLE 1.** Shall the Town of New Haven vote to pay real estate taxes to the Town Treasurer on October 3, 2022; delinquent taxes will be subject to interest charges of one percent per month, and an eight percent penalty charged against them from October 3, 2022?

Larry Maier made the motion to approve, seconded by Becky Hutchins. No discussion. All in favor.

**Passed.**

**ARTICLE 2.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven accept the Auditors' Report for the year 2021?

Maggie Eaton made the motion to approve, seconded by Rick Shappy.

Jon Christiano asked when the last full audit was done.

Treasurer Danielle Hubbell said it was just completed in January, and an outside audit is done annually.

No further discussion.

All in favor.

**Passed.**

**ARTICLE 3.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven authorize the Selectboard to put funding of non-profit agencies into the General Fund budget rather than in separate articles? This would only apply to those non-profits who have petitioned and have been approved for 5 consecutive years at the same amount.

Patty Lewis made the motion to approve, seconded by Susan Bruhl.

Pam Kingman explained she had approached the Selectboard about this, and it was decided to have the discussion at Town Meeting for broader input. She cited the cost savings from the memory cards would be \$30.00 per article (21 articles this year), and approximately 60% savings on printing the ballots. Every year people say it takes too long to vote because our ballots are 3 pages long. She said people like to pick and choose the nonprofits they are willing to support, and she gets that. You would still see them listed in the general fund budget. Pam said several towns in Addison County put the non-profits in the general fund budget, and they are voted on that way. New Haven is one of the few towns who requires petitioning for 5 consecutive years at the same amount.

Susan Smiley asked if they are in the general fund budget and then decide to raise the requested amount, do they have to start petitioning all over again.

The answer is yes.

Taborri Bruhl said the nonprofits pass every year.

There was discussion if this was a binding vote tonight, Moderator, Pam Marsh said it is just for discussion, the Selectboard does not have to do this.

\*\* At this point in the meeting we lost the internet connection but regained a few minutes.

Taborri Bruhl said this year because of COVID, the Selectboard felt many people would not feel comfortable meeting in person, so they offered a hybrid meeting – offering in person as well as remote.

Pam Marsh said a person via remote access asked to adjourn the meeting until better internet access was available. Pam said we cannot do that because we are voting tomorrow by Australian ballot.

John Roleau said the Selectboard did not want to make this decision, they thought it best to discuss tonight.

Kathy Cahill said let's save costs and lump them all together.

Dean Gilmore made a motion to table article 4, seconded by Steve Dupoise.

The motion to table is passed by one vote.

No further discussion.

**ARTICLE 4.** To transact, vote and act upon any further non-binding business, including discussion about how to spend ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act) which may legally come before this meeting.

Pam Marsh asked how many people want better internet in the town hall and in the town – nearly everyone put up their hands.

Taborri Bruhl said ARPA is COVID money from the Feds that has been divided up by state, and then by towns. The restrictions on how the money can be spent have eased over time. There are lots of opinions on how to spend New Haven's ARPA money. We have 3 years to decide how to spend it. Taborri read a list of those who have requested New Haven's ARPA funds: Head Start / Maple Broadband / Bristol Rescue Squad / Turning Point Center / New Haven Fire Department – purchase land for them to put up a new building / automated speed signs for the village of New Haven / digitize land records / community solar array. Taborri said he is the Selectboard's point person for the ARPA funds, and Maggie Eaton is the Planning Commission's point person. Taborri added they are cognizant of not spending this if we can get monies elsewhere. The Federal Infrastructure bill just passed, so it is possible we could use that money for the Fire Dept. Taborri said meetings about this will be posted to discuss the best possible way to spend the money wisely.

Patty Lewis asked if we already have the money and is it earning interest.

Taborri Bruhl said we have received part of the money, and yes, it is earning interest.

Danielle Hubbell said if we don't spend the money, the town can keep the interest, but the rest goes back to the feds

Tim Bouton asked if it could be used for the Train Depot.

Danielle Hubbell said no, we can only use it as a last resort because there is already grant money for the Train Depot and more can be raised for that. This money is federally funded and must be used according to the guidelines.

Pam Marsh reminded there will be follow up meetings on the ARPA funds.

No further discussion.

**ARTICLE 5.** To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot:

Auditor	3 years
Auditor	3 years
Delinquent Tax Collector	1 year
Library Trustee	2 years
Library Trustee	3 years
Library Trustee	3 years
Lister	3 years
Moderator	1 year
Mt. Abe Unified School District Director	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Selectboard	3 years
Town Clerk	3 years
Town Treasurer	3 years
Trustee of Public Funds	1 year

**ARTICLE 6.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed Road Fund Budget of \$1,227,693.75, less anticipated revenues of \$267,579.20 less 2021 surplus of \$130,087.02 leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$830,027.53 to be raised by taxes, for the purpose of maintaining town roads for the year 2022?

By Australian Ballot.

Chris Granstrom asked why there is a \$130k surplus from last year.

Taborri Bruhl said we received a grant to pave Town Hill Road, it got too late in the season last fall to pave. The paving is schedule for this spring.

No further discussion.

**ARTICLE 7.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,325,689.55 (General Fund expenses, \$735,689.55 plus school payment due \$590,000.00) less anticipated revenues of \$211,699.40, less 2021 surplus of \$710,859.87, leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$403,130.28, to be raised by taxes? This amount to be increased by any additional monies voted affirmatively by Australian Ballot on March 1, 2022. The tax rate to be determined by the Selectboard. By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 8.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to expend up to \$100,000.00 from the Road Equipment Fund for a new town truck? By Australian Ballot.

Road Commissioner John Roleau said this would replace our Ford F550, it is a smaller truck that is used daily. It will be fitted with a plow and dump body and have a diesel engine. The town trucks are on a 4–5-year rotation for replacement, every year the Selectboard puts money into the truck fund, and now we are asking the voters for permission to spend it.

Maggie Eaton asked if the truck only comes in diesel or is there a hybrid model. John Roleau said there is a gas version, but there is not much in savings. Several years ago, we removed the gas tanks at the shed and replaced them with diesel tanks, we purchase diesel in bulk to get a better rate, all our trucks are diesel. We do have some smaller equipment that uses gas. The new diesel engines are more compliant to meet EPA standards, they are not like the old diesel engines.

Taborri Bruhl said maybe in the future we can look at other options.

**ARTICLE 9.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven ratify the Town of Lincoln's vote of August 24, 2021, to withdraw the Town of Lincoln from the Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD)? By Australian Ballot.

Paul Florenza, a Lincoln resident said he would like to speak to this article.

Larry Maier made a motion to allow Paul Florenza to speak, seconded by Rick Shappy. Most were in favor, the motion passed.

Paul Florenza is a Lincoln resident, Selectboard member and a member of the Save our Community Schools which is the group behind removing Lincoln from MAUSD. Back in August of 2021, Lincoln voted to move away from the district by a 3 -1 margin. Lincoln is focused on local control of its school. There are 4 towns voting on Lincoln leaving MAUSD.

Tim Bouton and Barb Torian asked what the article means to Lincoln.

Paul Florenza said for Lincoln to withdraw from MAUSD, the other 4 towns in the district must all agree to it. If all 4 towns vote to allow Lincoln to leave the district they will be on their own.

Tim Bouton and Barb Torian asked what happens to Lincoln's debt that MAUSD took on and what happens to the building.

Susan Bruhl said the Town of Lincoln will have to purchase the building from MAUSD. She added look what has happened to Ripton. She suggested if you have questions to reach out to MAUSD's business manager, and to consult the school board minutes.

Julie Bessette reiterated Barb and Tim's question about what happens to Lincoln's debt. Paul Florenza said Lincoln would have to buy the building from the district and they would take on the \$700k debt. The \$700k was used for renovations to the building.

Theresa Sawyer asked what grades go to the Lincoln school and where would kids go to middle school and high school.

Paul Florenza said Lincoln school is K – 6, he believes at least 85% of the Lincoln kids will go to Mt. Abe. They may introduce school choice.

Theresa Sawyer asked if the kids go to the middle and high school who will pay for it.

Pam Marsh thinks it would be the Lincoln District that would pay for it.

Tim Bouton and Barb Torian wondered what happens if other towns withdraw, and the district structure goes away.

Paul Florenza said it is not an easy decision to withdraw from your district, however it is open to any town.

Pam Marsh added it is unknown at this time what happens to the district structure.

No further discussion.

**ARTICLE 10.** 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

Taborri Bruhl said this was voted on and passed last year, but due to COVID the repair didn't happen. The Selectboard thought it best to put it back on the ballot for voter approval. No money has been spent yet.

No further discussion.

**ARTICLE 11.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven permit the operation of cannabis retailers and integrated licensees within the Town of New Haven, pursuant to 7 V.S.A. §863(a)(1)? By Australian Ballot.

Patty Lewis asked if there had been any applications.

John Roleau said no, there haven't been. This is the first time we are able to vote on this.

Larry Maier asked what integrated licensee is.

Taborri Bruhl explained that you get the licenses in tiers. There are potentially 3 kinds of licenses, growing, manufacturing and retailing, that is part of the process.

John Roleau said this gives the town the right to issue permits. This is similar to people growing hemp.

Pam Kingman said the State has given the ok to this, this is the voters a chance to say they are either ok with it or not.

Maggie Eaton said if it passes, she believes the Planning Commission could put zoning restrictions on it.

Planning Commission, Co-Chair Benj Putnam agreed, saying they could limit their hours of operation and the location of such enterprises..

Kelly Krayowski asked if there were any tax implications.

Pam Kingman said less than 1%.

No further discussion.

**ARTICLE 12.** 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 13.** 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 14.** Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$750.00 for Addison County Readers, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 15.** Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for Addison County Restorative Justice Services? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 16.** 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 17.** 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 18.** 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 19.** 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 20.** 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 21.** 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 22.** 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 23.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$700.00 for Elderly Services, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 24.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,700.00 for HOPE? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 25.** 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 26.** 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 27.** Shall the Town appropriate \$500.00 to the Open Door Clinic?  
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 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 31.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$525.00 for Vermont Adult Learning? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 32.** 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 33.** Shall the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$1,250.00 to WomenSafe, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

Susan Bruhl spoke on behalf of WomenSafe, she has volunteered there for many years. Susan reviewed the services WomenSafe has offered throughout Addison County. In New Haven they assisted 10 residents including 13 children. They have also offered prevention programs at Mt. Abe Middle and High School.  
No further discussion.

John Roleau made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 pm, seconded by Larry Maier.  
All in favor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

DRAFT