

**NEW HAVEN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 6, 2017**

The legal voters of the New Haven Town School District are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall in New Haven, Vermont on **Monday, March 6, 2017 at 6:30PM** to discuss and transact the following business. Articles 2 and 5 require a vote by Australian Ballot to take place on **Tuesday, March 7, 2017** at New Haven Town Hall between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Moderator, Pam Marsh opened the meeting at 6:30 pm, and read the Warning. Moderator introduced the School Board members: Chair, Brad Bull, Vice Chair, Ed McGuire and Clerk, Phyllis Smith. She also introduced Beeman Principal, Kristine Evarts –Bouvier. There were approximately 44 in attendance. Pam Marsh told those in attendance because school portion in the Town Report came out very light, there are “darker” copies in the back of the room.

**ARTICLE 1.** To elect a Moderator following nominations from the floor. Barb Torian made a motion to nominate Pam Marsh as Moderator, seconded by Raymonde Bessette. There were no other nominations. All in favor.  
**Passed.**

**ARTICLE 2.** To elect all Town School District Officers for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot. No further discussion.

**ARTICLE 3.** To act upon the reports of the Town School District Officers. Barb Torian made motion to adopt the reports as written, seconded by Larry Maier. Brad Bull thanked everyone for coming; this will be the last meeting for Beeman because of the School unification vote (ACT 46). New Haven had previously elected 2 Representatives to the Unified School board; they are Sarah LaPerle and Andrew Morton. That meeting and budget will be presented next year much like how Mt. Abe is done now. The present Board supports the unification; it secures small town schools can keep going and it helps insulate taxpayers. The School Board feels they have presented a responsible budget, and have held education spending to 1% increase over last year. They have completed the transfer of all Special Education spending to the Supervisory Union, who is now getting the revenue, so it becomes a wash. Beeman has the lowest individualized spending of all the 5 town elementary schools, as well as the lowest tax rate. No further discussion. All in favor.  
**Passed.**

**ARTICLE 4.** To establish salaries for the Town School District Officers for the ensuing year. Kathy Barrett made a motion to keep the salaries the same, Chair \$1,250, other members \$1,000; \$1,000 for the Treasurer; Moderator \$100 and \$50 for the Clerk. Motion seconded by Raymonde Bessette

Tim Bouton asked if the Board thought the current positions will last for a year with the unification.

Brad Bull said it remains to be seen, the current Board will continue to meet regularly.

All in favor.

**Passed.**

**ARTICLE 5. For discussion only: VOTE TO BE TAKEN BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017 BETWEEN 7:00 AM AND 7:00 PM.**

Shall the voters of the New Haven Town School District appropriate **\$1,763,830** necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2017? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$14,293 per equalized pupil.

Raymonde Bessette asked how many students currently attend Beeman.

Brad Bull said there are currently 98, which is down from 100 last year.

Caroline Donnan asked what each Board member and the Principal are most proud of; and if they were sitting on Santa's lap, what would they ask for.

Principal, Kristine Evarts-Bouvier said she has many things she is proud of, mostly the staff and students. If she sat on Santa's lap, she would ask for more students.

Brad Bull said he is proud of the main supporting factors, like little Beeman being ahead of some schools and behind in others. He would ask Santa for more Ipads for the kids; and have technology evened out.

Ed McGuire said you think of Beeman as small, but there are other schools in the county that are smaller. It is amazing what a small school can do with a small staff, it is heroic. He said as soon as you walk in the door at Beeman you can feel the care of the kids by the staff – it is just wonderful.

Julie Olson asked about technology in the school now that the Tech teacher has been let go. She asked if the rest of the staff has to pick up the slack. Technology is so important these days.

Kristine Evarts-Bouvier said I.T. is now centralized, but it would be nice to have someone full time. It is nice to walk into a classroom and see the kids using the ipads. This spring Beeman will be getting 20 new Chromebooks to replace older models.

**ARTICLE 6.** To see if the voters of said New Haven Town school district will authorize the New Haven Town School District Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year, as provided in 16 V.S.A. ' 562 (9).

**Rick Shappy made** a motion to approve the Article, seconded by Larry Maier.

Gardner Merriam asked if we will have to borrow money.

Pam Marsh said yes, because town taxes are not due until October.

Brad Bull added it is boiler plate, always in there.

All in favor.

**Passed.**

**ARTICLE 7.** To hear and report on any further business which may legally come before this meeting.

Barb Torian said she would like to start the conversation about the Town Hall sitting on School property. She suggested when the transition happens to the new union district, that the land be deeded to the town.

Brad Bull said Beeman Academy conveyed the property to the school. He suggested it be addressed by the new Board.

Barb Torian said it is a new thought process, why shouldn't the town own it when

everything else is going to the district. We are always trying to balance things out. Deeds will need to be redone, and it's a good time to do it. She feels the land should come back to the town.

Andrea Ward is concerned that the primary usage is by Beeman, is there any way to convey the Town Hall to the school instead of the other way around.

John Roleau said the building is maintained by the town, not by the school.

Brad Bull said there is an agreement in place between the School and the Town, the town pays for custodial and other major repairs. But overall there are shared expenses.

Tim Bouton added the Town and School are all the same people. Now that we are talking about switching to a 5 town district, he would like to see the land and Town Hall go together no matter which way it goes.

Discussion about shared utilities, and uses.

No further discussion.

Jim Gallott made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 pm, seconded by Larry Maier. All in favor.

Adjourn: 7:08 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved:

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DRAFT