

Town Meeting Warning

258th 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 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM** to act on Articles 1 through 3; and on **Tuesday, March 3, 2020 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** to vote by Australian Ballot on Articles 4 through 30.

Moderator, Pam Marsh called the meeting to order at 6:34pm and welcomed approximately 75 people in attendance. Selectboard members Kathy Barrett, Taborri Bruhl and John Roleau introduced themselves along with Town Clerk, Pam Kingman, Town Administrator, Aaron Brown and Treasurer, Danielle Cummings. The Moderator indicated the use of Roberts Rules of Order, and asked everyone to direct questions to her, be respectful of one another and stand and state your name when you speak. Pam Marsh read the Warning and invited State Representative, Harvey Smith up to address the audience. Harvey talked about the interconnectedness of legislative issues, such as clean water and agriculture, and agricultural marketing and the localvore movement. He also presented a Resolution to honor Barb Torian and Tim Bouton, passed by the House of Representatives. Now an annual tradition, Harvey passed around the current Town Report for everyone in the audience to sign it and give it to Barb Torian and Tim Bouton.

There was a round of applause for Barb and Tim.

MAUSD Board Representatives, Sarah LaPerle and Andrew Morton gave a presentation in regards to Article 10, asking voters to approve the district setting up an Education Reserve Fund. Article 11 asks voters to adopt an operating budget for the 2020 – 2021 school years.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to pay real estate taxes to the Town Treasurer on October 1, 2020; delinquent taxes will be subject to interest charges of one percent per month, and an eight percent penalty charged against them from October 1, 2020?

Al Karnatz made the motion to approve, seconded by Rick Shappy. No discussion
All in favor.

Passed

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven accept the Auditors' Report for the year 2019?

Polly Darnell made the motion to accept the Auditors Report, seconded by Larry Buck. Once again, Iva Ford is responsible for putting the Town Report together, and the audience showed their appreciation. Iva asked if there was any plan in place if there are no additional Auditors. There is currently no plan; The Selectboard is hoping to appoint people.

No further discussion.

Passed

ARTICLE 3. To transact, vote and act upon any further non-binding business, including discussion of the draft Energy Plan, which may legally come before this meeting.

Moderator, Pam Marsh recognized Maggie Eaton who gave a short energy report. Maggie Eaton is a Planning Commission member and is the Chair of the Planning Commission's Energy Committee. Other members on the Committee are Pam Marsh, Larry Maier and Gary Sundstrom. They are also working with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

Two of their main goals are to comply with Vermont's comprehensive energy plan and to have New Haven have a say in the approval of large-scale renewable energy projects planned in New Haven. The plan is still in its early stages of drafting. Maggie asked for the public to review it and make suggestions to her via her email. It is available for review on the Town's website under Planning and Development.

Taborri Bruhl added that Maggie has spent about 9k hours working on this which has been equivalent to a full time job. New Haven needs this to have our opinion be given substantial deference before the Public Utilities Commission.

Barb Torian wanted to publically thank Suzy Roorda for her 20 plus years of commitment to the town. There was a nice round of applause for Suzy.

Barb Torian asked if the voters still want the Town Reports to be mailed. This was answered with a resounding yes.

Ruth Penfield - With Suzy Roorda's job being eliminated, who is doing this work.

Aaron Brown – Pam Kingman is scheduling Town Hall, the Congregational Church will sponsor events, with financial support from the Town and the Park Committee is still viable and looking for members.

ARTICLE 4. To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot:

Auditor	2 year (To fulfil previous term)
Auditor	3 years
Delinquent Tax Collector	1 year
Grand Jurors (2)	1 year
Library Trustees (2)	3 years
Lister	2 years
Lister	3 years
Moderator	1 year
Selectboard	2 years
Selectboard	3 years
Town Treasurer	2 years (To fulfill open term)
Town Agent	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	1 year

Selectboard 2 year term: John Roleau and Bruce Many.

Both candidates were given an opportunity to speak about their experience and vision for the Town. John Roleau spoke. Bruce Many was out of town and no one stepped forward as a proxy to speak for him.

Selectboard 3 year term: Taborri Bruhl and John Hamel.

Both candidates were given an opportunity to speak about their experience and visions for the Town.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed Road Fund Budget of \$1,664,469.00, less anticipated revenues of \$863,100.00 less 2019 surplus of \$119,578.93 leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$681,790.07, to be raised by taxes, for the purpose of maintaining town roads for the year 2020? By Australian Ballot.

There was a lot of discussion about the cost for the culvert replacement on Quaker Village Road a/k/a Beaver Brook Culverts. The Town has secured a VTRANS grant to help with the cost. The Engineers have done borings, and have gone to depths of 80' only to find muck that will not support a concrete culvert. The Selectboard has chosen to go with an aluminum structure that will have some cost savings. FEMA funds have been looked into, but FEMA will only put the culverts back to its original state, which is two smoke stacks laid side by side. This is not a viable option.

Because this project went out to bid late last year, most contractors were too busy to bid on it. The RFP was pulled, and put out to bid once more, with bids to be opened on March 12, 2020.

Other road projects discussed were Pearson Road by the Rattlin' Bridge. The road is sinking and will need storm water plan. Dog Team and the Plank Road Bridges were also discussed. The town will not receive any grants for these projects until the Beaver Creek culverts have been replaced. That is how the State works; we must use the funds they have offered for Beaver Creek before applying for other projects.

There was also concern about leaving only \$2k in the bridge fund once the Beaver Creek culvert project is completed. Next year the Selectboard will put money back into the bridge fund.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,092,794.00,(General Fund expenses, \$702,749.00 plus School payment due \$390,000.00), less anticipated revenues of \$171,213.00, less 2019 surplus of \$113,555.21, leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$808,025.79, to be raised by taxes? This amount to be increased by any additional monies voted affirmatively by Australian Ballot on March 3, 2020. The tax rate to be determined by the Selectboard. By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 7. 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 mitigate the humidity related issues as well as needed major repairs to the building in the Town Hall? By Australian Ballot.

The 3 major areas that need work in the building include:

- Improvements for wheelchair accessibility. It has been recommended to regrade the entrance and add a concrete pad along with a paddle to open the door.
- Outer doors are a necessity as well. Each costing approximately \$2 - 4k each.
- Dehumidification on the first floor. Two 2 ton climate heat pumps have been recommended. We experience mold in the summer of 2013, and we have been renting dehumidifiers each summer, and they are expensive. There is also the need for minor air sealing in the building.

The Board has already taken steps to help with the water issues in the cafeteria. An interior curtain drain was installed 2 years ago, and last year outside the cafeteria doors was regraded.

** At 7:53pm, Pam Marsh apologized, she had forgotten to mention that Selectboard member Jim Walsh emailed her to say he would be out of state on business, and could not make the meeting; and Steve Dupoise is in Florida.

Outside Agencies:

Taborri Bruhl - This was bought before the Selectboard whether it makes sense to combine all the outside agencies into the General Fund budget, but the Selectboard felt people like to pick and choose which ones they want to support.

Francie Caccavo - most of these agencies are run by volunteers.

Kathy Barrett – They-do not need a petition if they are requesting the same amount of funding that has been approved for 5 years.

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.

Larry Buck urged those in the audience to support ACTR. They will bring you to work, doctors' appointments on the dial a ride, it is a wonderful service.

ARTICLE 14. 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 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. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,700.00 for HOPE? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion

ARTICLE 21. Will the voters approve \$600.00 to End of Life Services, Inc. formerly known as 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 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 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 said that funding this agency is critical to their work which focuses on eliminating physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Tim Bouton made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm, seconded by Al Karnatz. All in favor

Kathleen Bennett

[Signature]

Attest:

Parula Kingman
New Haven Town Clerk