

Town Meeting Minutes **256th 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 5, 2018 at 6:30 PM** to act on Articles 1 through 5; and on **Tuesday, March 6th, 2018 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 6:31 pm. Selectboard members Kathy Barrett, Taborri Bruhl, Jim Walsh and John Roleau were introduced. Steve Dupoise was not present. Barb Torian was introduced as the minute taker in the absence the Town Clerk, Pam Kingman, who is out sick.

The moderator indicated that Robert's Rules of Order would be used and asked everyone to direct their questions to her and to be respectful of each other.

Pam Marsh read the warning and invited Senator Bray and Representative Smith to speak. Harvey Smith presented a resolution to honor Alan Curler passed by the House of Representatives.

Kathy Barrett recognized Mike Sweeney for his years of work on the planning commission and development review board. (Mr. Sweeney recently passed away.) The Fire Department is selling raffle tickets and Beeman is having a bake sale.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to pay real estate taxes to the Town Treasurer on October 1, 2018; delinquent taxes will be subject to interest charges of one percent per month, and an eight percent penalty charged against them from October 1, 2018? Moved by Al Karnatz, seconded by Kim Callahan. No discussion.

Passed

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven accept the Auditors' Report for the year 2017? Moved by Richard Sawyer, seconded by Rick Shappy. No discussion.

Passed

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven authorize the New Haven Selectboard to convey an approximate 0.15 acre parcel between the athletic fields and the parking lot currently owned by the Town to the New Haven Town School District in exchange for an approximate 0.26-acre parcel of land located under the Town Hall at 70 North Street from the New Haven Town School District? Moved by Brad Bull, seconded by Ed Mcguire. Barb Torian – wanted everyone to know that they would also have to vote on the school side of the transaction by Australian ballot tomorrow. Kathy Barrett explained the reason for the swap was that the town owned the Town Hall and the School owned the land underneath it. And the town owned an area by the ball field which would make sense for the school to own. Brad Bull – The idea was discussed at last year's town meeting. The Beeman Board is in support of the swap. It makes sense to do the swap prior to the district change. Brad Bull thanked Donald Johnston for doing some survey work and for the Town Lands Committee for their work. Taborri Bruhl

summarized the lease agreement, which spells out the particulars of heat, maintenance, etc.

Passed.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town establish a Conservation Reserve Fund to identify and help preserve the natural resources within the town?
 Moved by Larry Maier seconded by Kim Callahan. Larry Maier wanted to know what was involved. Kathy Barrett - This is not the Conservation Commission. This would be a separate fund for helping to preserve scenic vistas, natural resources and related items as spelled out by the Town Plan. The idea would be to create a committee to come up with a policy for the use of the money and "policy" for the operation of the Committee.

Lots of discussion about how and what the fund would be used for. Many people were concerned about how use of the money would be decided and how the board received the money. The answer was things are and would be decided on a case by case basis. Tim Bouton made an amendment not to put money in the fund until the guidelines were established. Seconded by Dan Monger. More discussion about how the fund would be used, several speaking for establishment of the fund and several against. The money has already been received as a result of an agreement with a developer of a solar project. If money did not go in a fund it would remain in the General Fund. It was suggested that they may want to vote on how the money was to be expended rather than how to create the fund. AL Karnatz called the question, seconded by Larry Maier, Question was called by a 2/3 majority. Amendment was voted down. Tim Bouton called the original motion, seconded Jim Gallott. Question was called by 2/3 majority. Original article put to the vote and passed.

Passed.

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

Barb Torian asked if people still wanted the town report to be mailed out. People said yes. Mark Krawczyk spoke about the Conservation Commission heritage tree contest; flyers and a mailing will be done. Deadline for applications is summer solstice. Jon Christiano wanted to make sure there were no "secrets" kept from the townspeople. Several Selectboard members spoke about executive session being used for negotiations and that all decisions were public record. Some negotiated settlements have a requirement that the terms not be actively publicized, but the agreements are public record, and the Selectboard can answer specific questions posed by townspeople.

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

Auditor	3 years
Beeman School Director	3 years (expires July 2018)
Delinquent Tax Collector	1 year
Grand Jurors (2)	1 year
Lister	2 years

Lister	3 years
Moderator	1 year
Mt. Abe School Director	3 year (expires July 2018)
Mt. Abe Unified School Director	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Selectboard	3 years
Town Agent	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	1 year

No Discussion

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed Road Fund Budget of \$1,160,886.00, less anticipated revenues of \$275,650.00 less 2017 surplus of \$264,235.68 leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$621,000.32, to be raised by taxes, for the purpose of maintaining town roads for the year 2018? By Australian Ballot.

No Discussion

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget in the amount of \$729,174.00, less anticipated revenues of \$209,156.00, less 2017 surplus of \$329,799.30, plus 2018 taxes paid in 2017 of \$17,496.03 leaving a portion thereof in the amount of \$207,714.73, to be raised by taxes? This amount to be increased by any additional monies voted affirmatively by Australian Ballot on March 6, 2018. The tax rate to be determined by the Selectboard. By Australian Ballot.

No Discussion

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to expend up to \$50,000.00 from the Reserve Facilities Fund for the purpose of replacing the furnace in the Town Hall with a gas furnace, including asbestos abatement and any other expense necessary to the furnace room. By Australian Ballot.

Rick Shappy wondered if any other alternatives to natural gas had been looked into?
Jim Walsh – No – Part of deal with VT. Gas.

Jon Christiano was thanked for his help working on the project. Tim Bouton wondered if there was any more information on the actual dollars. Kathy Barrett replied not at this time. Jim Walsh put an article on Front Porch Forum.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to expend up to \$50,000.00 from the Reserve Facilities Fund for the purpose of repairing drainage issues around the Town Hall. By Australian Ballot.

John Roleau spoke about the issue of the water running into the cafeteria which is below ground level. This has gotten even worse since the back parking was paved. The intent is to hire an engineer to design a solution, rather than to continue to try to address the problem with patches.

All Outside Agency articles were handled as one.

Deborah Young – spoke in favor of the Charter House Coalition (Article 20). Barb Torian spoke in support of Home Health and Hospice (Article 1).

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.

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.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$750.00 for Addison County Readers, Inc. for the purpose of improving literacy skills for children under 5 years of age? By Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for Addison County Restorative Justice Services to help provide restorative justice projects for offenders who have potential to learn from their mistakes and avoid incarceration and a criminal record? By Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for the Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative? These funds will help support the Collaborative's continued water quality work. By Australian Ballot.

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.

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.

ARTICLE 18. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for the Bristol Family Center? By Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 19. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$2,500.00 to Bristol Recreation Department? By Australian Ballot.

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.

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.

ARTICLE 22. Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$700.00 for Elderly Services, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

- ARTICLE 23.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$1,700.00 for HOPE? By Australian Ballot.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- ARTICLE 27.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$500.00 for the Open Door Clinic? By Australian Ballot.
- 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. located in Middlebury, Vermont? By Australian Ballot.
- 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.
- ARTICLE 30.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$525.00 for Vermont Adult Learning? By Australian Ballot.
- 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.
- ARTICLE 32.** Shall the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$1,250.00 to WomanSafe, Inc. to support their mission to: work toward the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence through direct service, education and social change? By Australian Ballot.

Motion to adjourn by Al Karnatz seconded by Robin Davison.

Adjourn 7:55

Respectfully submitted: Barb Torian

Approved

Samuel A. Maud

Kathleen I. Barcott