

SPECIAL TOWN BOND VOTE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016
MURRAY AUDITORIUM
RANDOLPH UNION HIGH SCHOOL
7:30 P.M.

The Special Town Bond Vote Meeting was called to order by Moderator Kelly Green at 7:30 p.m. by introducing herself to the audience. She read the Special Town Bond Vote warning to the audience and explained that voting on Article 1 would be by Australian ballot and would take place on Tuesday, November 8th. Some people have already voted on Article 1 by absentee ballot. The necessity of this meeting and the Special Town Bond Vote taking place on November 8th are the result of a signed petition requesting a re-vote of the question that was voted on and approved on August 9, 2016.

Article 1. Shall the town voters authorize the issuance of **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS** in an amount not to exceed two million four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000) for the purpose constructing a new fire station building? The bond shall be repaid over a 30-year period.

Moderator Green explained about Robert's Rules and the order for allowing people to speak—first someone who is opposed to the question, followed by someone in favor of the question, continuing in the alternating pattern until everyone who wishes to speak has been given an opportunity to speak. She asked for anyone wishing to speak to use the microphone so everyone would be able to hear what was said.

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion and asked if there was anyone in the audience who opposed the question and wished to speak. The first speaker was Kermit LaBounty and he told the audience about his role as Fire Services Advisory Board Chair, and he gave comments about the new fire station design, and about the needs and desired features for the fire station.

Moderator Green took time after Mr. LaBounty spoke to introduce the members of the Selectboard present—Trini Brassard, Jerry Ward, Ross Evans, and Michael Hildenbrand, and Town Clerk Joyce Mazucco.

The floor was opened for more comments in support of and opposed to the question of authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for funding the replacement of the fire station. The following individuals asked questions and offered comments about the fire station project: Daniel Boone, John Joy, Trini Brassard, David Palmer, Carolyn Boone, Joyce Mazucco, John Lutz, Michael Hildenbrand and Tom Malanchuk. The fire station was built fifty

years ago and was adequate for the needs then. Over time the needs and requirements have changed and there is a need for more space for parking and for office space and space for training. The Selectboard is elected by the people to manage the needs of the community and to come up with solutions to any issues that arise as needed. The Fire Department is in the best position to determine what they need in a new fire station.

There were questions about the new updated design. The Fire Station Design Committee has looked at having the minimum space as required by OSHA and other required codes. The design has not been finalized. A copy of the proposed exterior for the fire station was handed out to the audience. There were questions about how the Town has paid for the site work that has been completed. Insurance reimbursements have paid for the work completed. The Selectboard is still working with the insurance company to negotiate the final settlement. The best case scenario would be if the Town receives an insurance settlement in the amount the Town has asked for. Then the amount needed to bond for the project would be about \$1.3 million.

When the original fire station was built there were no zoning requirements for parking. Since 1980 zoning regulations require there be adequate parking available and other requirements.

There was a question about the absentee ballots and why some people received the ballots for both the General Election and the Special Town Bond vote, while others only received the General Election ballots. Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco explained the process and told the audience that voters must specifically request which ballots they wish to receive. She cannot force anyone to take a ballot they do not want to vote. She told the audience that anyone who had already voted by absentee ballot and was unsure if they had voted the Special Town Bond Vote ballot to contact her office and she or her assistant could tell them if they had already voted the ballot.

There was a question about the need for an elevator if you have a second floor. The answer was no, an elevator is not required. The square footage for the proposed design does not require an elevator. The design has already gone through some significant code review. There was a question about the use of the second floor as a bunk room. The second floor is intended to be used for storage and for training. Mandatory training will require 280 volunteer hours to get through the course.

There was a question as to why the Branchwood property was not considered as a possible site. It would be difficult to respond to a fire from the Branchwood location. Railroad Street is a private road and not well maintained and can't be used to respond to a fire. The committee looked at a number of properties and different locations and felt the original fire station site is the best location for responding to a fire.

There was no further business to consider. Moderator Green recessed the meeting at 8:03 p.m. until the Australian ballot vote on November 8, 2016. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A True Record.

Attest: _____, **Town Clerk**
Joyce L. Mazzucco

Approved by: _____, **Moderator**
Kelly Green

_____, **Selectboard Chair**
Trini Brassard