

**2010 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2010
CHANDLER MUSIC HALL**

Before calling the meeting to order, Moderator Peter Nowlan made a number of announcements. He announced that copies of the Randolph Area Community Development Corporation Report, which was omitted from the Town Report, were available at the front and back of the auditorium. He also made note of a correction on Page 16 of the Town Report, under the Budget Committee members. The term for Judith Soules expires in 2011, not 2010, and the term for Michael Penrod expires in 2010, not 2011.

Mr. Nowlan asked that anyone wishing to speak at the meeting to please state their name and to speak into the microphone so that all those attending the meeting can hear what is said. This will also assist the Town Clerk to accurately record the names of everyone who participates in the meeting. Moderator Nowlan also asked that anyone speaking during the meeting to address the issues being discussed, and not focus on individual persons, and to keep the meeting respectful.

Mr. Nowlan also told the audience that the building is still undergoing some much needed major renovations. Tours of the building will be available after Town Meeting.

Michael Penrod said that at the last Budget Committee meeting, Judy Soules indicated she did not want to continue to serve on the committee. Mr. Nowlan commented that Ms. Soules would need to submit a letter of resignation to the Selectboard, since she was elected to a 3 year term that expires in 2011. The Selectboard would then need to appoint someone to fill her position.

Moderator Nowlan told the audience that the Town has a new finance director who is not a resident of Randolph and would need permission from those present at the meeting to address any questions requiring his expertise. Mr. Nowlan asked Town Manager Gary Champy to introduce him to the audience. Mr. Champy introduced Michael DeCubellis to the audience, and said that Mr. DeCubellis is doing a wonderful job.

The Randolph School District Annual School District Meeting preceded the Annual Town Meeting, being called to order at 10:06 a.m. and concluding at 10:34 a.m.

Moderator Nowlan called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. John Westbrook made a motion to allow the town's Finance Director, Michael DeCubellis, who is not a resident of Randolph, to speak during the meeting to answer questions about the financial reports. The motion was seconded by Michael Penrod. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

Mr. Nowlan told the audience that the Warning for the 2010 Annual Town Meeting could be found on pages 1-3 of the Town Report.

Article 1. To elect the following officers:
MODERATOR for a term of one (1) year
SELECTMAN for a term of two (2) years
SELECTMAN for a term of three (3) years
LISTER for a term of three (3) years
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS for a term of three (3) years

LIBRARY TRUSTEE for a term of five (5) years

LIBRARY TRUSTEE for a term of three (3) years remaining of a five (5) year term

AGENT TO PROSECUTE AND DEFEND SUITS for a term of one (1) year

TOWN GRAND JUROR for a term of one (1) year

Moderator Nowlan reminded the audience that the election of officers is by Australian ballot, and that voting was being held concurrently with this meeting next door in the Chandler Gallery.

Article 2. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$987,363 to be raised by taxes for the Highway fund? Moderator Nowlan told the audience that the Highway budget reports could be found on page 77 of the Town Report. He opened the floor for discussion of this article. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Don Maynard, Gary Champy, George Wilson, Ruth Allen, Gay Gaston, Thad Oparowski, Marty Strange, Peter Nowlan, Carol Flint, Michael Penrod, Larry Townsend, Chris Recchia, John Westbrook, Nancy DuBois, Arnie Spahn, Nicole Cyr, Clint Loomis, and Al Woodard. Discussion ceased on this article.

Article 3. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$394,379 to be raised by taxes for the Town General Fund? Moderator Nowlan told the audience that the General Fund budget reports could be found beginning on page 69 of the Town Report. He opened the floor for discussion of this article. The following individuals participated in the discussion: John Moniz, Gary Champy, Kermit LaBounty, Barbara Baumann, Nan Gwin, and Larry Townsend. Discussion ceased on this article.

Article 4. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$75,370 to be raised by taxes for Cemetery expenses? Moderator Nowlan opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion of this article.

Article 5. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$152,018 to be raised by taxes for Library expenditures?

Article 6. Will the town vote to authorize the additional sum of \$12,261 to be raised by taxes to the Library expenditures? Moderator Nowlan told the audience that the Library report could be found on page 103 of the Town Report. He opened the floor for discussion of Article 5 and Article 6. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Larry Townsend, Daniel Sax, Patsy French and Ian Sears. Discussion ceased on Articles 5 and 6.

Article 7. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$281,050 to be raised by taxes for the White River Valley Ambulance, Inc.? Moderator Nowlan told the audience that the White River Valley Ambulance, Inc. report could be found on page 117 of the Town Report. He opened the floor for discussion of this article. There was no discussion of this article.

Article 8. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$183,329 for capital expenditures to finance paving projects, equipment replacement and building improvements?

Article 9. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$100,000 from the FY 2009 Landfill Depreciation to be transferred to the Capital Budget for the purpose of off-setting Capital Expenses?

Article 10. Will the town vote to approve the sum of \$20,000 from surpluses from the Municipal Building Bond to be transferred to the Fire Truck Replacement fund?

Article 11. Shall the town of Randolph vote to move all of the funds that remain in the Municipal Building Bond after the final accounting of the project is completed (estimated to be \$95,000) to be used for Municipal Capital Projects and Equipment replacement?

Article 12. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$586,917 to be raised by taxes for previously voted General Obligation Bonds? Because these five articles pertained to Capital Expenditures, Moderator Nowlan opened the floor for discussion on Articles 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The following individuals participated in the discussion: George Wilson, Chris Recchia, Gary Champy, Julie Iffland, Sheila Jacobs, Don Maynard, Joyce Mazzucco, Nicole Cyr, and Kermit LaBounty. Discussion ceased on Articles 8-12.

Mardee Sanchez made a motion to move ahead to Articles 34 through 42 and then return to Articles 13 through 33. The motion was seconded. Daniel Sax asked what Articles 34-42 were. Articles 34-42 are public questions requiring action from the floor of the meeting. Moderator Nowlan read Articles 34 through 42 to the audience. The vote was called. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by what appeared to be a two-thirds majority.

Article 34. To hear and act upon the reports of Town Officers and Committees. Moderator Nowlan opened the floor for discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Larry Townsend, Heather Jarvis, John Westbrook, Gary Champy, Peter Nowlan, Mary Kaye Maxwell, Nancy Rice, Sheila Jacobs, Nicole Cyr, Joan Sax, Joyce Mazzucco, Warren Preston, Hillary Lyford, Ian Sears, Erica Sears, Andrea Easton and Karen Delaney. Discussion ceased on this article. A motion was made and seconded to adopt and approve the reports of the Town Officers and Committees. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The reports of the Town Officers and Committees were adopted and approved.

Article 35. To elect one Budget Committee member for a term of three (3) years. Moderator Nowlan opened the floor for nominations. Barbara Angell nominated Horace Puglisi. The nomination was seconded. Lynne Gately nominated Michael Penrod. The nomination was seconded. There were no further nominations. Amy Schoolcraft asked if the candidates could introduce themselves to the audience. Mr. Puglisi and Mr. Penrod both stood and introduced themselves. Larry Townsend said there might be a second position open after Town Meeting. The vote was called and would be a floor vote with a standing count. Moderator Nowlan asked that members of the Selectboard assist with counting the vote. He asked for everyone in the audience to be seated. Moderator Nowlan then asked that anyone in the audience who wanted to vote for Horace Puglisi stand and be counted. Then Moderator Nowlan asked that anyone who wanted to vote for Michael Penrod stand and be counted. The counts were tallied and the result was 43 for Horace Puglisi and 117 for Michael Penrod. Mr. Penrod was elected to the Budget Committee and his term will expire in 2013. Andrea Easton recommended Horace Puglisi be considered for the potential opening on the Budget Committee.

Article 36. To fill any vacancy. There are no vacancies at this time.

Article 37. Will the town vote to authorize the collection of taxes in two (2) installments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, one half (1/2) of the total twelve month tax to be due on October 29, 2010, and the remaining one half (1 1/2) to be due on March 31, 2011; interest shall be due after each installment date but penalty shall not be assessed until after the final payment due date; payments must be received in the Town Treasurer’s Office by 6:00 p.m. on the due date to avoid late charges; post marked mail shall not be accepted as payment on time; and post-dated checks shall be not accepted? Warren Preston made a motion to set the tax due as stipulated in the warned article. Don Maynard seconded the motion. Moderator Nowlan opened the floor for discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: George Wilson, Michael Penrod, and Peter

Nowlan. Discussion ceased on this article. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The first installment of property taxes will be due on October 29, 2010 and the second installment of property taxes will be due on March 31, 2011.

Article 38. Will the town vote to exempt the East Randolph Fire Station property from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years? (T. 32 Sec. 3840) Stephen Webster made a motion to exempt the East Randolph Fire Station from real estate taxes for five (5) years. Larry Townsend seconded the motion. Moderator Nowlan opened the floor for discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Scott Lewins and Patrick French. Discussion ceased on this article. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The East Randolph Fire Station property will be exempt from real estate taxes for five (5) years.

Article 39. Will the town vote to exempt the Greater Randolph Senior Center property from real estate taxes for a period of one (1) year? (T.32 Sec. 3840) Stephen Webster made a motion to exempt the Greater Randolph Senior Center property from real estate taxes for one (1) year. The motion was seconded. Moderator Nowlan opened the floor for discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Erica Sears, Stephen Webster, Pam Matthews and Peter Nowlan. Discussion ceased on this article. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The Greater Randolph Senior Center property will be exempt from real estate taxes for one (1) year.

Article 40. Shall the voters of the Town of Randolph establish a Municipal Records Reserve Fund in accordance with VSA Title 24, Section 2804 for restoration, preservation, conservation and computerization of municipal records, to be funded by revenues of not less than \$3.00 per page nor more than \$4.00 per page received from recording fees established under VSA Title 32, Section 1671 (a)(1) and (6) of this section and this reserve fund shall be retroactive to July 1, 2009? The exact amount shall be determined by the local legislative body. A motion was made and seconded to establish a Municipal Records Reserve Fund to be funded by revenues received from recording fees. Moderator Nowlan opened the floor for discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Warren Preston, Joyce Mazzucco, Sally Penrod, Clay Westbrook, Michael Penrod, Julie Iffland, Grace Pazdan, Becky Seymour and William Rice. There was a motion to call the question. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by what appeared to be a 2/3 majority. Moderator Nowlan read the question to the audience and a voice vote was taken. The motion carried by majority vote. A Municipal Records Reserve Fund will be established, retroactive to July 1, 2009.

Article 41. Shall the town vote to rename the Municipal Building to be called Town Hall? A motion was made and seconded to rename the Municipal Building to Town Hall. There was no discussion of this article. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The Municipal Building will now be called Town Hall.

Article 42. To do any other business to come before the meeting. Moderator Nowlan opened the floor for discussion. Janet Watton spoke on behalf of Chandler Center for the Arts thanking the Town for holding Town Meeting and the Australian Ballot voting at Chandler. Ms. Watton read a note thanking the Town for the funding and support in the renovation project.

Don Maynard spoke about the sewer treatment plant. Mr. Maynard, who has served on the Water & Sewer Committee for the last fourteen years, told the audience that the sewer

treatment plant is over 40 years old and is in need of replacement. He said the Selectboard is in the process of selecting an engineering firm for the project. Gary Champy, Town Manager, commented that the project is in the process of review and is likely to cost in the \$10 million range. Mr. Champy said he was researching possible grant funding to assist with the funding of the project. He said a bond vote for the project might take place in May or June.

Heather Jarvis proposed a resolution to ask the Selectboard to reconsider the Town Manager's contract extension. Ms. Jarvis made the following motion: "Be it resolved that the Randolph Selectboard should reconsider their action extending and modifying the manager's contract." Mr. Nowlan told the audience that this would be a non-binding motion. The motion was seconded by Steve Graci. The floor was opened for discussion of the motion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Heather Jarvis, Steve Graci, Kelly Green, Susan McNeill, Sally Penrod, Horace Puglisi, Larry Townsend, William Arnold, Michael Penrod, Barbara Angell, Clint Loomis, Joan Sax, Mimi Breed, Karen Delaney, Gary Champy, Laurie Goldman, Bob Orleck, Erica Sears, Peter Flaherty, Ian Sears, Al Leonard, Marty Strange, Ben Crosby, and Dennis Brown. Don Maynard made a motion to call the question. The motion was seconded. John Westbrook called for a standing vote on the motion to call the question. Moderator Nowlan asked members of the Selectboard to assist with the count. Mr. Nowlan asked the audience to be seated before calling for the vote. He then asked for all those in favor of ceasing debate to stand and be counted. Once the votes for those in favor of ceasing debate were tallied, Mr. Nowlan asked those standing to be seated. He then asked for all those wishing to continue debate to stand and be counted. Once the votes for those in favor of continuing debate were tallied, Mr. Nowlan asked all those standing to be seated. The result of the voting was 135 to cease debate and 32 to continue debate. The motion to cease debate carried. Debate ceased. Mr. Nowlan then read the motion to the audience. A voice vote was taken and Mr. Nowlan determined the motion carried by majority vote. The resolution passed.

Larry Townsend thanked Tom Harty and Mimi Burstein for their help with the sound system and for distributing the microphone during the meeting.

Don Sweetser recommended having three (3) more portable mikes available for distribution to make it easier for everyone to be heard at Town Meeting. Mr. Sweetser, chair of the Board of Listers, commented on the recently advertised Request for Proposal (RFP) for the assessor position. He told the audience that the Listers were opposed to this action. Mr. Sweetser read V.S.A. 32 § 4041: "On April 1 the listers shall proceed to take up such inventories and make such personal examination of the property which they are required to appraise as will enable them to appraise it at its fair market value. When a board of listers are of the opinion that expert advice is needed in making any appraisal required by law, they may, with the approval of the selectboard or by vote of the town, employ such assistance." He said the Listers have the sole responsibility to select the expert they want to assist them in appraising property. The Selectboard has control of the money to pay an expert.

Michael Penrod thanked the audience for electing him to serve on the Budget Committee. He told the audience to feel free to contact members of the Budget Committee with suggestions or questions. Mr. Penrod also talked about the discussion last year regarding fees to recycle, and described his experience this past year with recycling.

John Westbrook said he was excited to see a number of the Generation X's and Y's attending the meeting in addition to the Bifocal Generation.

Patsy French, Orange-Addison District 1 State Representative, invited the audience to come to Montpelier to see how the Legislature works. She also talked about the base rate for education taxes and hoped the legislature could lower the base rate.

Andrea Easton voiced her opinion that Gary Champy was doing his job well. She asked if Joe Voci would provide additional information about the sewer treatment plant.

Mr. Voci told the audience that the sewer treatment plant was built in 1963 and has undergone two upgrades over the years. The average life of a sewer treatment plant is 20 years. Mr. Voci also said it takes 3-5 years to complete a new plant. He talked about the upgrades that will be done to the Route 66 pump station to accommodate the growth in the area and at Vermont Technical College. Mr. Voci said there will be a town wide vote in the near future to vote on bonding for the sewer project. He said the Sewer District by itself cannot go out to bond, but bonds under the umbrella of the Town. The Sewer District is responsible for repaying the bond. He also said that other funding sources are being explored to support this project. Mr. Voci said the Water and Sewer Committee will be meeting on March 16th to make a recommendation which engineering firm to select to manage this project.

Horace Puglisi asked about the Budget Committee report found on page 21 of the Town Report. He wanted to know what the Budget Committee's intent was. Michael Penrod responded. He said the Town needs to look at how it does various jobs and determine if some jobs can be done better and cheaper by outsourcing the work. He said many jobs are being done with little or no information on what is involved and needed. More information is needed so that decisions are made based on good information.

Ian Sears asked for an update on EC Fiber. John Lutz responded and he described what has been done so far on securing funding for the project. Unfortunately, two weeks before EC Fiber was going to secure funding through Lehmann Brothers in September, 2008, the financial meltdown occurred. Mr. Lutz said that Valley Net's support in this process has been valuable. He also said that Atlantic Engineering did a survey of poles in the 22 towns in this region—this was done on their own. Mr. Lutz mentioned the Burlington Telecom situation and said it was the only system floundering out of 37 systems. Systems that are rural in complexion seem to do better. Mr. Lutz said that the best place to have the internet hub would be North Royalton. If the hub were located in White River Junction, then it would need a booster to properly service the EC Fiber service area.

Article 13. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$3,500 to be raised by taxes in support of the Boys and Girls Club of the White River Valley? Dick Drysdale made a motion to open the floor for questions on the remaining articles. Michael Penrod seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

Sarah Crosby spoke on behalf of Clara Martin Center and asked for the public's support of this organization.

Susan Mann spoke on behalf of the White River Craft Center and asked for the public's support of this organization.

Karen Eddy spoke on behalf of the Council on Aging and described the work done by this organization. She also asked for the public's support of this organization.

Nicole Cyr asked for the public's support of the Stagecoach..

John Westbrook thanked Peter Nowlan for his long years of service to the Town of Randolph. He said this was a difficult meeting and that Mr. Nowlan set the proper tone. There was a standing ovation for Mr. Nowlan.

Dick Drysdale made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

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

Approved by: Peter M. Nowlan
Peter M. Nowlan, Moderator

Dennis Brown
Selectboard