

**2012 RANDOLPH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012
CHANDLER MUSIC HALL**

Moderator Kelly Green called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m., immediately following the Randolph School District Annual School District Meeting. Ms. Green told the audience that the Town Meeting Warning could be found on pages 6-8 of the 2012 Town Report. She said discussion would follow the order of the warning. Moderator Green introduced the current members of the Selectboard to the audience: Frank Reed, current chair; Stephen Webster; Dennis Brown; Larry Richburg; and Jon Kaplan. She also introduced Michael DeCubellis, Finance Director, and members of the Budget Committee—Michael Penrod, Sheila Jacobs and Horace Puglisi (not present at meeting). Moderator Green told the audience that Articles 1-30 are being voted on by Australian ballot, Articles 31-39 will be addressed from the floor of the meeting.

Article 1. Election of Officers. Moderator Green told the audience there would be no discussion about the candidates running for the various town offices.

Moderator Green told the audience that Articles 2-6 were related general operation budget items.

Article 2. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$1,237,237 to be raised by taxes for the Highway Fund? Moderator Green told the audience that the Highway Budget could be found on pages 42-45 of the Town Report. Ms. Green opened the floor to discussion on this article. Participating in the discussion were Joe Voci and Michael DeCubellis. Permission was given for Mr. DeCubellis to speak at the meeting. There was no further discussion.

Article 3. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$554,307 to be raised by taxes for the Town General Fund? Moderator Green told the audience that the General Fund budget could be found on pages 31-40 of the Town Report. Ms. Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Bill Kevan, Stephen Webster, Joe Voci, Dennis Brown, Al Floyd, Michael DeCubellis, Don Maynard, Nan Gwin, Martha Hafner, John Lutz, John Westbrook, Sheila Jacobs, Michael Penrod, Bob Orleck, Josie Carothers, Frank Reed, George Sweet, David Amidon, Larry Richburg, and Andrea Easton. There was no further discussion.

Article 4. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$87,327 to be raised by taxes for Cemetery expenditures? Moderator Green told the audience that the Cemetery Budget could be found on pages 40-41 of the Town Report. Ms. Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. There was no discussion.

Article 5. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$191,707 to be raised by taxes for Library expenditures? Moderator Green told the audience that the Library Budget could be found on pages 41-42 of the Town Report. Ms. Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Al Floyd and Betty Phillips, chair of the Kimball Public Library Trustees. There was no further discussion.

Article 6. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$264,325 to be raised by taxes for the White River Valley Ambulance, Inc.? Moderator Green told the audience that information about the White River Valley Ambulance could be found on pages 39 and page 70 of the Town

Report. Ms. Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. The following individuals participated in the discussion: John Williams (?), Michael DeCubellis, Don Maynard, and Perry Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to request that more detail about the White River Valley Ambulance budget be included in next year's Town Report. Don Maynard seconded the motion. Discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Larry Richburg, Perry Armstrong, Nan Gwin, William Rice, and Don Maynard. Mark Kelley made a motion to call the question. Sally Penrod seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by what appeared to be a 2/3 majority vote. Moderator Green restated the motion to include more detail in the White River Valley Ambulance budget in next year's Town Report. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

Moderator Green told the audience that Articles 7, 8 and 9 were related to Capital Budget and General Bonding and would be discussed together. She said Capital Budget information could be found on page 45 of the Town Report, and a capital reserves summary could be found on pages 53-54 of the Town Report.

Article 7. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$177,000 to be raised by taxes for capital expenditures to finance paving projects, equipment replacement and building improvements?

Article 8. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$100,000 from the Landfill Depreciation to be transferred to the Capital Budget for the purpose of offsetting capital expenditures?

Article 9. Will the town vote to authorize the sum of \$480,300 to be raised by taxes for previously voted General Obligation Bonds?

Ms. Green opened the floor for discussion of Articles 7, 8 and 9. The following individuals participated in the discussion: John Westbrook, Joe Voci, Marty Strange, Michael Penrod, Nancy DuBois, Larry Richburg, and Mitch Harness. There was no further discussion.

Moderator Green told the audience discussion on the articles on special appropriations would be done together. She asked that anyone representing any of the organizations seeking a special appropriation who wished to speak from the floor to first be recognized by the moderator.

Article 10. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$1,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the American Red Cross, Central Vermont and New Hampshire Valley Chapter? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 11. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$800 to be raised by taxes for the operation of The Arts Bus, a free service which delivers art activities to Randolph youth on the wheels of a renovated school bus (bus is a mobile art studio, library, music space and pocket theater)? The following individuals participated in the discussion of this article: Patty Akley-Warlick and Mardee Sanchez. There was no further discussion.

Article 12. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$4,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the Boys and Girls Club of the White River Valley? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 13. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$6,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the Central Vermont Adult Basic Education? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 14. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$1,300 to be raised by taxes

in support of Central Vermont Community Action Council? The following individuals participated in the discussion of this article: Josie Carothers, Kelly Green, and Julie Iffland. There was no further discussion of this article.

Article 15. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$1,200 to be raised by taxes in support of Central Vermont Council on Aging? Karen Eddy described some of the work performed by the Council on Aging. There was no further discussion of this article.

Article 16. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$8,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Clara Martin Center? The following individuals participated in the discussion of this article: Sarah Crosby, Joe Voci and John Lutz. There was no further discussion of this article.

Article 17. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of the Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce to help cover expenses of the 4th of July parade? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 18. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of Orange County Parent Child Center? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 19. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes for Randolph Area Food Shelf for the purpose of supporting this non-profit organization's efforts to provide food supplies to those in need in Randolph? Peter Leonard, a volunteer at the Randolph Area Food Shelf, spoke on behalf of the organization.

Article 20. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$600 to be raised by taxes in support of Orange County Court Diversion Program? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 21. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$12,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Greater Randolph Senior Center? The following individuals participated in the discussion of this article: Nan Gwin, Al Floyd and Bob Orleck. There was no further discussion of this article.

Article 22. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of Safeline? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 23. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Stage Coach Transportation, Inc.? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 24. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$1,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 25. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$800 to be raised by taxes in support of the Vermont Center for Independent Living? There was no discussion of this article.

Article 26. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$16,220 to be raised by taxes in support of the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire? Sheila Jacobs spoke in support of the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire. There was no further discussion of this article.

Article 27. Will the town vote to authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 to be raised by taxes

in support of the White River Craft Center located at the historic Kimball House, 50 Randolph Avenue, in Randolph VT? This appropriation will help us bring to our community programs in the culinary arts, crafts such as weaving, photography and woodworking and job skills? Susan Mann spoke in support of the White River Craft Center. There was no further discussion of this article.

The next articles on the warning pertain to the Police District budget, the Water District budget and the Sewer District Budget. Moderator Green told the audience that Articles 29 and 30 would be discussed together.

Article 28. Will the voters residing in the Police District authorize the sum of \$524,969 to be raised by taxes on the Grand List of the Police District to provide police services in FY2013? Moderator Green told the audience that the Police Budget could be found on pages 46-47 of the Town Report. Ms. Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. There was no discussion on this article.

Article 29. Will the voters residing in the Water District authorize the sum of \$463,476 to be expended for Water District total water expenses in FY2013?

Article 30. Will the voters residing in the Sewer District authorize the sum of \$395,792 to be expended for Sewer District total sewer expenses in FY2013? Moderator Green told the audience that the Water and Sewer District budget information could be found on pages 47-50 of the Town Report, and the report of the Water-Sewer Advisory Committee could be found on page 62 of the Town Report. Ms. Green opened the floor for discussion of these two articles. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Al Floyd, Don Maynard, Michael DeCubellis, and Joe Voci. There was no further discussion.

Moderator Green told the audience that Articles 31-39 be acted on from the floor of the meeting.

Article 31. To hear and act upon any reports of Town Officers and Committees. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Frank Reed, Chair of the Selectboard, talked about the process for reimbursements from FEMA and how long it may take to receive reimbursements. Don Sweetser made a motion to accept the reports of the town officers and committees. Perry Armstrong seconded the motion. A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Al Floyd, Frank Reed and Gregg McCurdy. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

Article 32. To elect one Budget Committee member for a term of three (3) years.

Moderator Green opened the floor for nominations for the Budget Committee position. David Silloway nominated Sam Lincoln for the position. Mr. Silloway said Mr. Lincoln was not able to attend this meeting, but would accept the position if elected. Stephen Webster seconded the nomination. Al Floyd nominated Perry Armstrong for the position. Bob Orleck seconded the nomination. Mr. Armstrong said he would serve if elected to the position. There was a discussion about the candidates nominated for the Budget Committee position. Participating in the discussion were the following individuals: Bill Kevan, Lynne Gately, Michael Penrod, Tamara Morgan, and Perry Armstrong. Discussion ceased. Moderator Green told the audience that the election of the Budget Committee member would be by standing vote and asked for everyone to be seated so an accurate count could be done. Ms. Green asked for members of the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) to assist with the counting of the votes. Once everyone was seated, Moderator Green asked for those voters in favor of Sam Lincoln to stand and be counted.

Once the BCA members were done counting, Moderator Green asked everyone to be seated again. Moderator Green then asked for those voters in favor of Perry Armstrong to stand and be counted. Once the BCA members were done counting, the information was given to Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco to tally. Ms. Mazzucco gave the results of the tally to Moderator Green. Moderator Green then announced the results of the standing vote: Sam Lincoln received 125 votes and Perry Armstrong received 43 votes. Mr. Lincoln was elected to serve as a member of the Budget Committee for a term of three (3) years.

Article 33. To fill any vacancy. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. A discussion ensued, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Betty Edson, Barbara Angell, Larry Richburg, Mardee Sanchez, Andrea Easton, Harriet Chase, Sarah Crosby, and Martha Hafner. There are positions open on a number of committees. Anyone interested in serving on a committee should contact Mardee Sanchez at the Town Offices.

Article 34. Will the town vote to authorize the collection of taxes in two (2) installments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, one half (½) of the total twelve month tax to be due on October 31, 2012, and the remaining one half (½) to be due on March 29, 2013; 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 not be accepted? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Frank Reed made a motion to accept the article as written. Sally Penrod seconded the motion. There was no discussion of this article. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

Article 35. 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) Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Nan Gwin made a motion to exempt the Greater Randolph Senior Center property from real estate taxes for a period of one (1) year. Bill Kevan seconded the motion. A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Nan Gwin, Al Floyd, Patrick French, and John Lutz. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The Greater Randolph Senior Center property real estate taxes will be exempt for one year.

Article 36. Will the town vote to require that the Selectboard sell all municipally owned properties located on Pearl Street, commonly known as "Branchwood", to the highest bidder? The sale is to be completed prior to September 1, 2012 with all proceeds to be used to help offset the FY2014 Capital Budget? Moderator Green read the article to the audience and then opened the floor for discussion of this article. Al Floyd made a motion to accept the article as read. Michael Penrod seconded the motion. Discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Joe Voci, Don Maynard, Bob Orleck, Dennis Brown, Chris Recchia, Michael Penrod, Frank Reed, Barbara Angell, Michael Binder, Robin Goodall, Harriet Chase, Bill Kevan, and Kelly Green. Mr. Kevan made a motion to lay Article 36 on the table. Nan Gwin seconded the motion. There were several points of order as to the effect of this motion on the main motion. Participating in the discussion were the following individuals: Robin Goodall, Gregg McCurdy, Al Floyd, Darcy Daniels, Joe Voci, and Janet Watton. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote. Article 26 was tabled.

Article 37. Will the town vote to increase the property tax exemption available to all qualified people, to include all veterans 50% or greater disabled, from \$20,000 of appraisal value to \$40,000 of appraisal value in accordance with 32 V.S.A.# 3802(11) to be effective on April 1, 2012? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Melvin McLaughlin spoke in favor of the article. Gregg McCurdy made a motion to increase the property tax exemption on the appraised value from \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00 for qualified veterans effective April 1, 2012. Mark Conard seconded the motion. Discussion followed, with the following individuals participating: Paul Putney, John Westbrook, Patrick French, Mark Conard, and Bill Kevan. Mr. Kevan made a motion to call the question. Russell Heyl seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to call the question carried by what appeared to be a 2/3 majority vote. Moderator Green took a voice vote on the question to increase the property tax exemption on the appraised value from \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00 for qualified veterans effective April 1, 2012, and the motion carried by majority vote.

Article 38. Will the voters of the Town of Randolph approve the distribution of the Annual Town Report by providing notice of availability of the report thirty (30) days prior to Town Meeting on the Town's website and in the Town approved local papers (*The Herald of Randolph, The Times Argus, and the Valley News*) in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the report per 24 V.S.A. §1682? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Scott Lewins made a motion to accept the question as read. Jessamyn West seconded the motion. Discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Al Floyd, Don Maynard, Nancy Rice, Michael Penrod, Ramsey Papp, and Russell Heyl. Mark Kelley made a motion to amend the motion by deleting the words "or otherwise distributing". Mark Conard seconded the motion. Discussion continued, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Bill Kevan and Nan Gwin. Mr. Kevan moved to call the question. The motion was seconded. A voice vote was taken on the motion to call the question and the motion carried by what appeared to be a 2/3 majority vote. Moderator Green told the audience that this was a vote to amend the main motion to "Will the voters of the Town of Randolph approve the distribution of the Annual Town Report by providing notice of availability of the report thirty (30) days prior to Town Meeting on the Town's website and in the Town approved local papers (*The Herald of Randolph, The Times Argus, and the Valley News*) in lieu of mailing the report per 24 V.S.A. §1682?". A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend the main motion carried.

Discussion followed on the amended main motion. Participating in the discussion were the following individuals: Julie Iffland, Bill Kevan, Nancy Rice, and Josie Carothers. A voice vote was taken and there was no clear majority. Moderator Green called for a standing vote. She asked that everyone in the audience be seated so an accurate count could be taken. Members of the BCA were enlisted to help count the votes. Moderator Green asked for all those supporting the change in how the Town Report is distributed to stand and be counted. After the BCA members had completed counting the standing voters, Moderator Green asked for everyone to be seated again. She then asked for all those opposing the change in how the Town Report is distributed to stand and be counted. After the BCA members completed counting the standing voters the numbers were given to Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco to tally. Ms. Mazzucco tallied the votes and presented the results to Moderator Green. Moderator Green announced the result of the vote: Voters in favor of changing how the Town Report is distributed – 81, Voters opposed to changing how the Town Report is distributed – 51. The motion carried.

Article 39. To do any other business proper to come before this meeting. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of other business. Scott Lewins made a non-binding motion that any resident wishing to receive the Town Report by mail shall have the report mailed to them at no cost. The motion was seconded by Jessamyn West. A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Joe Voci, Hannah Barden, Joyce Mazzucco, and Ramsey Papp. Janet Watton made a motion to set aside the question. The motion was seconded. Dick Drysdale asked for a standing count. Moderator Green asked for all those in favor of the motion to stand and be counted. Once the BCA members were done counting the standing voters, Moderator Green asked for everyone to be seated again. Moderator Green then asked for all those opposing the motion to stand and be counted. The BCA members counted the standing voters and gave the numbers to Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco to tally. Ms. Mazzucco tallied the votes and gave the results to Moderator Green. Moderator Green announced the result of the vote: Yes 32, No 36. The motion failed. Hannah Barden moved to call the question on the main motion to request that the town clerk mail a Town Report to any resident at no cost to the resident. The motion was seconded. A voice vote was taken on the motion to call the question and the motion carried by what appeared to be a 2/3 majority vote. Moderator Green then took a voice vote on the main motion and the motion carried by majority vote. This is a non-binding vote.

Mr. Kevan recognized Al and Jan Floyd and the dedication in the Town Report. There was a round of applause. Mr. Floyd thanked the audience.

Patsy French, one of our State Representatives, spoke to the audience about the reapportionment of the state representative districts which is done every ten years. The current proposal calls for Randolph being part of a five town representative district with two representatives, consisting of the towns of Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Randolph and Roxbury. The BCA of the towns can request that the district be split into 1 representative districts, but must follow the process laid out in the state statutes.

Jeffrey Tolbert made the following motion: "I move that the town pass the following: In light of the United State Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, that the town of Randolph urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U.S. Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure." This is a non-binding motion. Mark Kelley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Scott Lewins moved to call the question. There was a second. A voice vote was taken and the motion to call the question carried by what appeared to be a 2/3 majority vote. Moderator Green took a voice vote on the main motion and the motion carried by majority vote.

Patrick French made the following motion: "We the voters at Town Meeting request that the Randolph Selectboard engage in a planning process to come up with a development plan for the remaining Town owned Branchwood property. This process should include substantial public input into the planning process. The resulting development plan should benefit the Town in general and should reflect the public's input." Josie Carothers seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A motion was made and seconded to call the question. A voice vote was taken and the motion to call the question carried by what appeared to be a 2/3 majority vote.

Moderator Green took a voice vote on the main motion and the motion carried by majority vote.

Stephen Webster 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 2:28 p.m.

A True Record.

Attest: _____, Town Clerk
Joyce L. Mazzucco

Approved by: _____, Moderator
Kelly Green

_____, Selectboard Chair
Frank C. Reed