

**2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013
CHANDLER MUSIC HALL**

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order immediately following the Randolph School District Annual School District Meeting at 10:40 a.m. by Moderator Kelly Green. Ms. Green told the audience that there were 47 warned articles on this year's Town Meeting Warning. Moderator Green introduced the members of the current Selectboard to the audience: Jon Kaplan, current board chair, Dennis Brown, Larry Richburg, Marjorie Ryerson and Trini Brassard. She also introduced Town Manager Mel Adams and advised the audience that they would need to give their permission to allow Mr. Adams to address this meeting since he is not a registered voter in the Town of Randolph. Moderator Green also introduced Finance Director Michael DeCubellis and advised the audience that they would need to give their permission to allow Mr. DeCubellis to address this meeting since he is not a registered voter in the Town of Randolph. Permission was given to allow both Mr. Adams and Mr. DeCubellis to address this meeting.

Moderator Green told the audience that the Warning for Town Meeting could be found in the Town Report beginning on page 5. Articles 1-34 are being voted on by Australian ballot at Town Hall. Articles 35-46 are to be voted on from the floor of the meeting. Ms. Green told the audience that Article 47 is for other business to come before the meeting and any action taken under "Other Business" will be non-binding. She told the audience that discussion of the warned articles will be divided into groupings of articles.

Article 1. Election of Officers. Moderator Green told the audience there would be no discussion of this article. The election of officers is voted by Australian ballot.

GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS BUDGET AND TAXATION

Article 2. Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$2,461,615 for Town General Fund expenses of which \$1,327,998 shall be raised by taxes; \$1,133,617 shall be from non-tax revenues?

Article 3. Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$1,821,521 for Town Highway Fund expenses of which \$1,363,236 shall be raised by taxes; \$458,285 shall be from non-tax revenues?

Article 4. Shall the town voters authorize a transfer in the amount of \$95,426 of General Fund FY2012 surplus to be consolidated with other funds as the cumulative source of an Emergency Reserve Fund to be considered in Article 43?

Article 5. Shall the town voters authorize the sum of \$81,267 of General Fund Surplus (repayment from Sewer Fund) to be consolidated with other funds as the cumulative source of an Emergency Reserve Fund to be considered in Article 43?

Article 6. Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$242,727 for Kimball Library expenses of which \$198,177 shall be raised by taxes; \$44,550 shall be from non-tax revenues?

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the General Fund Operations Budget and Taxation—Articles 2-6. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Mel Adams, Don Maynard, Joe Voci, Al Floyd, Michael Penrod, Nancy Rice, Chris Recchia, and Peter Thoenen. The discussion included information about the budget, information about the emergency reserve fund, comments suggesting the movement of funds is a "shell game", questions about the solar lease and how many kilowatts it would generate.

CAPITAL BUDGET, GENERAL BONDING AND TAXATION

Article 7. Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditures of \$130,000 for Capital Fund Expenses which shall be raised by taxes?

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

Article 9. Shall the town voters authorize consolidating the \$2,562 balance of the Municipal Building Reserve Fund into the Building Repair Reserve as a single fund for the purposes of constructing and maintaining municipal properties?

Article 10. Shall the town voters authorize a transfer of \$23,307 from the FY2012 balance of the General Capital Construction Fund to be consolidated with other funds as the cumulative source of an Emergency Reserve Fund to be considered in Article 43?

Moderator Green opened the floor for the discussion of Articles 7-10. Mel Adams described the work done by the Budget and Capital Budget Committees and thanked the members of the Budget Committee and the Capital Budget Committee for their work. There was no further discussion.

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION

Article 11. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$800 for the operation of the Arts Bus, a free service which delivers arts activities to Randolph youth on the wheels of a renovated school bus (bus is a mobile art studio, library, music space and pocket theater)?

Article 12. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$4,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the Boys and Girls Club of the White River Valley?

Article 13. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$6,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the Central Vermont Adult Basic Education?

Article 14. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,300 to be raised by taxes in support of Central Vermont Community Action Council?

Article 15. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,200 to be raised by taxes in support of Central Vermont Council on Aging?

Article 16. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$8,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Clara Martin Center?

Article 17. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$14,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Greater Randolph Senior Center?

Article 18. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$800 to be raised by taxes in support of Home Share Now?

Article 19. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of Orange County Parent Child Center?

Article 20. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$600 to be raised by taxes in support of Orange County Court Diversion Program?

Article 21. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to the 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?

Article 22. Shall the town voters 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?

Article 23. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of Safeline?

Article 24. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$5,700 to be raised by taxes in support of Stage Coach Transportation, Inc.?

Article 25. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired?

Article 26. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the Vermont Center for Independent Living?

Article 27. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$16,220 to be raised by taxes in support of the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire?

Article 28. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the White River Craft Center?

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of Articles 11-28 and asked for any

representatives for any of the organizations seeking a special appropriation to speak. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Heather Jarvis spoke in support of Home Share Now and also for the Orange County Parent Child Center; Sarah Crosby spoke in support of the Clara Martin Center; Susan Mann spoke in support of the White River Craft Center; John Moniz; Al Floyd; Mel Adams; and Joe Voci. The discussion also included questions about economic development and the downtown designation.

POLICE DISTRICT

Article 29. Shall the town voters residing in the Police District authorize the total expenditure of \$633,743 for Police District Operations and Capital Expenses of which \$543,744 shall be raised by taxes; \$89,999 shall be from non-tax revenue?

Article 30. Shall the town voters residing in the Police District authorize the transfer of \$78,449 of FY2012 Operations Surplus into the Police Capital Fund?

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the Police District Articles 29 and 30. There was no discussion.

WATER DISTRICT

Article 31. Shall the town voters residing in the Water District authorize the sum of \$516,709 to be expended for Water District total water expenses in FY2014?

Article 32. Shall the town voters residing in the Water District authorize consolidating the \$93,028 balance of the Water Improvement Fund into the Water Improvement Reserve Fund as a single fund for the purposes of capital construction and repairs in the water district?

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the Water District Articles 31 and 32. There was no discussion.

SEWER DISTRICT

Article 33. Shall the town voters residing in the Sewer District authorize the sum of \$515,766 to be expended for Sewer District total sewer expenses in FY2014?

Article 34. Shall the town voters residing in the Sewer District authorize consolidating the \$37,649 balance of the Sewer Improvement Fund into the Sewer Improvement Reserve Fund as a single fund for the purposes of capital construction and repairs in the sewer district?

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the Sewer District Articles 33 and 34. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Maria Puglisi and Mel Adams. The discussion was about what will happen with the methane that will be generated from the new sewer system.

Moderator Green informed the audience that Articles 35-46 require action from the floor of the meeting.

Article 35. To hear and act upon any reports of Town Officers and Committees. Moderator Green told the audience that the reports of the Town Officers and Committees could be found in the Town Report beginning on Page 32. She asked if there were any supplements to the reports. Holly Sanders made a motion to accept the reports as presented. Dr. Daniel Sax seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion of this article. There was no discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion carried to accept the reports as presented by majority vote.

Article 36. To elect one Budget Committee member for a term of three (3) years. Moderator Green opened the floor for nominations for the Budget Committee member for a term of three (3) years. Michael Penrod nominated Rick Hauser for the position. Mr. Hauser told the audience he had been appointed in the fall and would be happy to continue to serve on the committee. There were no further nominations. Moderator Green took a voice vote and Mr. Hauser was elected as a Budget Committee member for a term of three (3) years.

Article 37. To elect one Budget Committee member to fill a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term. Moderator Green opened the floor for nominations for the Budget Committee member for one year remaining of a three (3) year term. Sam Lincoln nominated Michael Penrod. Mr.

Penrod declined the nomination. Al Floyd nominated Joe Voci. Mr. Voci said he would accept the position if elected. There were no further nominations. Moderator Green called for a voice vote and Mr. Voci was elected to the position of Budget Committee member for one year remaining of a three (3) year term.

Article 38. To fill any vacancy. Moderator Green recognized Mr. Adams to advise the audience if there were any vacancies. Mr. Adams told the audience that there are lots of committees and if anyone is interested in serving on any of the committees to contact the Town Manager's Office.

Moderator Green advised the audience that Article 39 and Article 40 are open for discussion by all registered voters, but only those voters residing in the Water District and those voters residing in the Sewer District will be allowed to vote on the articles under consideration. She asked for all voters who reside in the Water District to stand and be identified, and then to be seated.

Article 39. Shall the town voters residing in the Water District authorize the collection of penalty and interest on overdue water payments consistent with state statute? An 8% penalty will be assessed on any unpaid charges. Interest will be assessed at a rate of 1% per month or part of a month for the first three months, and then at a rate of 1 ½% per month or part of month that they are due thereafter. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Jonathan Heins, Mel Adams, John Lutz and Michael Casey. Dennis Brown made a motion to authorize the collection of penalty and interest on overdue water payments consistent with state statute. An 8% penalty will be assessed on any unpaid charges. Interest will be assessed at a rate of 1% per month or part of a month for the first three months, and then at a rate of 1 ½% per month or part of month that they are due thereafter. Marty Strange seconded the motion. A discussion continued. Michael Casey made a motion to amend the motion to read "An 8% penalty will be assessed on any unpaid charges seven (7) business days after the payment due date. Heather Jarvis seconded the motion. Discussion continued about the merits of the grace period, whether the penalty interest rate can be changed, about setting bad precedence, about possible additional work loads to accommodate the change, about discounts for paying early. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Janice Russell, Maria Puglisi, Mel Adams, Al Floyd, Michael Casey, Michael Penrod, Jonathan Heins, Larry Townsend and Cynthia Quilici. There was no further discussion. The amendment to the motion reads as follows: "Shall the town voters residing in the Water District authorize the collection of penalty and interest on overdue water payments consistent with state statute? An 8% penalty will be assessed on any unpaid charges seven (7) days after the payment due date. Interest will be assessed at a rate of 1% per month or part of a month for the first three months, and then at a rate of 1 ½% per month or part of month that they are due thereafter." Moderator Green called for a voice vote on the amendment to the motion. She asked for all those in favor to say "Aye", and then asked for all those opposed to say "Nay". The vote was too close to call. Moderator Green then asked that the voters residing in the Water District stand and to raise their hand to vote. Those voters residing in the Water District voting in favor of the amendment to the motion were asked to raise their hands. Once those voting in favor of the amendment were counted, Moderator Green asked all voters to put their hands down and then asked for those voting against the amendment to raise their hands to be counted. Moderator Green tallied the votes. The results were 25 in favor of the amendment to the motion and 17 opposed. The amendment to the motion carried. The amended main motion "Shall the town voters residing in the Water District authorize the collection of penalty and interest on overdue water payments consistent with state statute? An 8% penalty will be assessed on any unpaid charges seven (7) days after the payment due date. Interest will be assessed at a rate of 1% per month or part of a month for the first three months, and then at a rate of 1 ½% per month or part of month that they are due thereafter" was now on the floor for discussion. Marty Strange asked that the question be called. The audience was in agreement to call the question. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the amended main motion carried by majority vote. Penalty and interest will be charged on any unpaid charges seven (7) business days after the payment due date.

Article 40. Shall the town voters residing in the Sewer District authorize the collection of penalty and interest on overdue sewer payments consistent with state? An 8% penalty will be assessed on any unpaid charges. Interest will be assessed at a rate of 1% per month or part of a month for the first three months, and then at a rate of 1 ½% per month or part of month that they are due thereafter. Moderator Green asked the voters present at the meeting if there was any objection to having Article 40 mirror the action taken in Article 39. Jonathan Heins made a motion to amend the question to “Shall the town voters residing in the Sewer District authorize the collection of penalty and interest on overdue sewer payments consistent with state statute? An 8% penalty will be assessed on any unpaid charges seven (7) days after the payment due date. Interest will be assessed at a rate of 1% per month or part of a month for the first three months, and then at a rate of 1 ½% per month or part of month that they are due thereafter”. Jessamyn West seconded the motion. Cynthia Jackson made a motion to change the penalty rate from 8% to 4%. Heather Jarvis seconded the motion. Larry Townsend voiced his opposition to the amendment. Forrest MacGregor made a motion to call the question. Sarah Crosby seconded the motion. Moderator Green took a voice vote on the motion to call the question and the motion carried by 2/3 majority vote. Moderator Green then took a voice vote on the amendment to change the penalty rate from 8% to 4% and the “Nays” appeared to have a majority vote and the motion to amend the penalty rate failed. Ron Schoolcraft raised a point of order that the amendment to the article to allow a grace period needed to be voted on. Moderator Green took a voice vote on the amendment to add a seven (7) day grace period, and the motion carried by majority vote. Moderator Green then took a voice vote on the amended main motion “Shall the town voters residing in the Sewer District authorize the collection of penalty and interest on overdue sewer payments consistent with state statute? An 8% penalty will be assessed on any unpaid charges seven (7) days after the payment due date. Interest will be assessed at a rate of 1% per month or part of a month for the first three months, and then at a rate of 1 ½% per month or part of month that they are due thereafter”, and the motion carried by majority vote.

Article 41. Shall the town voters authorize the collection of taxes in two (2) installments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, one half (½) of the total twelve month tax to be due on October 31, 2013, and the remaining one half (½) to be due on March 31, 2014; 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; postmarked 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. Don Maynard made a motion to accept the article as presented. Ronald Schoolcraft seconded the motion. There was no discussion of this article. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote.

Article 42. Shall the town voters authorize an exemption to the Greater Randolph Senior Center from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years? (T.32 Sec 3840) Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Al Floyd made a motion to authorize an exemption to the Greater Randolph Senior Center from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years. Dr. Daniel Sax seconded the motion. A discussion followed with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Maria Puglisi, Dr. Sax, Patrick French and Michael Penrod. The discussion centered on how much does the Senior Center owe for taxes and how is it paid. The annual taxes are approximately \$4,000.00. The Senior Center also has received a special appropriation from the Town in the amount of \$14,000.00. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote.

Article 43. Shall the town voters establish an emergency reserve fund not to exceed 5% of the general and highway fund budget to a maximum of \$200,000 to cover unanticipated revenue shortfalls and to pay nonrecurring and unanticipated general and highway fund expenses, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804(a)? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Holly Sanders made a motion to establish an emergency reserve fund as stipulated in the article. Dr. Sax

seconded the motion. A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Michael Penrod, Elizabeth Hendrix, and Mel Adams. The discussion included comments in support of the motion, a question about the \$200,000 maximum balance and an explanation about why the fund has the 5% maximum (based on recommendation from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns) and flexibility to change it in the future. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote.

Article 44. Shall the town voters authorize allocation of any annual surplus arising from the operations of the General Fund to restore the portion of the Emergency Reserve Fund which may be used during any fiscal year? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Holly Sanders made a motion to approve this article. Dr. Sax seconded the motion. A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Holly Sanders, Patrick French, Dr. Sax, Heather Jarvis, Don Sweetser, Mel Adams, Michael Penrod, Chis Recchia, Cynthia Quilici, Peter Thoenen, and Marty Strange. Jon Kaplan moved to call the question. Al Floyd 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 motion to authorize the allocation of any annual surplus arising from the operations of the General Fund to restore the portion of the Emergency Reserve Fund which may be used during any fiscal year. The motion carried by majority vote.

Article 45. Shall the town voters authorize allocation of any annual General Fund surplus, which is not applied towards an Emergency Reserve Fund short fall, and any Highway Fund surplus to the Highway Paving Reserve Fund? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Betty Phillips made a motion to authorize allocation of any General Fund surplus, which is not applied towards an Emergency Reserve Fund shortfall, and any Highway Fund surplus to the Highway Paving Reserve Fund. Chris Sargent seconded the motion. A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Julie Iffland, Mel Adams, and Al Floyd. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote.

Article 46. Shall the town voters create a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District to enable property owners, who wish to, to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and then pay back the cost as a regular municipal assessment on that property owner's property tax or other municipal bill as provided for by 24 VSA Chapter 87 (Section 3261 et seq.)? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. Chris Sargent made a motion to approve the creation of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District to enable property owners, who wish to, to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and then pay back the cost as a regular municipal assessment on that property owner's property tax or other municipal bill as provided for by 24 VSA Chapter 87 (Section 3261 et seq.). Heather Jarvis seconded the motion. A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Al Floyd, Larry Richburg, Michael Penrod, and Rick Hauser. The discussion included information about PACE, and about how it works. Heather Jarvis made a motion to amend the motion to remove "as provided by 24 VSA Chapter 87 (Section 3261 et seq.)" and to add "to be administered by Efficiency Vermont". Gay Gaston seconded the amendment. There was no further discussion about the amendment to the motion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote. Discussion continued on the amended main motion. Participating in the discussion were the following individuals: Peter Leonard, Larry Richburg, and Martha Hafner. Each town must vote to create a PACE district to be involved in the program. There is no cost to the Town. Creation of the district allows property owners in the district access to loan funds for energy efficiency projects. These are interest bearing loans repaid over a 5-10 year period and will be administered by Efficiency Vermont. Sally Penrod made a motion to call the question. Heather Jarvis seconded the motion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion to call the question carried by what appeared to be a 2/3 majority vote. Moderator Green then took a voice vote on the amended main motion "Shall the town voters create a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District to enable property owners, who wish to, to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and

renewable energy projects and then pay back the cost as a regular municipal assessment on that property owner's property tax or other municipal bill as administered by Efficiency Vermont?". The motion carried by majority vote.

Article 47. To do any other business proper to come before this meeting. Moderator Green opened the floor for other business.

Larry Townsend thanked the Town for the dedication in the Town Report.

Julie Iffland made an announcement about two surveys, one for East Central Vermont and the second about the Randolph downtown and would like the public's feedback.

Cynthia Jackson spoke about the issue regarding tar sands oil in Vermont. She made a motion for the Town to pass the following resolution stating opposition to tar sands oil in Vermont: "Shall we, the voters of Randolph, express our opposition to the transport of tar sands oil across Vermont?" Gay Gaston seconded the motion. Dr. Sax expressed support of the resolution. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion to approve the resolution carried by majority vote.

Al Floyd pointed out an error in the Town Report. On page 70 a 1985 International tanker/pumper truck is listed as one of the vehicles used by the fire department. This is incorrect. The vehicle was replaced approximately 5 years ago. Mr. Floyd also wondered what the name of the horse that appears on the front cover of the Town Report. Mr. Floyd thought the horse's name was Trophy, but Mr. Adams indicated that the picture was purchased and the name of the horse was unknown. Peter Leonard recommended putting in credits for photos included in the Town Report.

Dennis Brown recognized Larry Townsend and Stephen Webster for their many years of dedicated service to the Town of Randolph. Mr. Brown also thanked Kelly Green for her job moderating the meeting.

Patrick French recognized Jon Kaplan for his two (2) years of service on the Selectboard.

There was no further discussion. Holly Sanders made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Janice Russell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

A True Record.

Attest: _____, Town Clerk
Joyce L. Mazzucco

Approved by: _____, Moderator
Kelly Green

_____, Selectboard Chair
Dennis Brown