

**2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014  
CHANDLER MUSIC HALL**

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order immediately following the Randolph School District Annual School District Meeting at 10:30 a.m. by Moderator Kelly Green. Moderator Green informed the audience that the Warning could be found on pages 7-9 of the Town Report. **Articles 1-29** are being voted on by Australian ballot at the Town Hall until 7:00 p.m. **Articles 30-43** are for consideration from the floor of the meeting. Moderator Green introduced the members of the current Selectboard present at the meeting to the audience: Dennis Brown, Larry Richburg, Marjorie Ryerson and Tom Schersten. She also introduced Town Manager Melvin Adams and Finance Director Michael DeCubellis. Mr. Adams and Mr. DeCubellis are not registered voters in the Town of Randolph and permission must be given to allow them to speak at the meeting. Permission was given to allow both Mr. Adams and Mr. DeCubellis to address this meeting. Moderator Green also asked the audience to pay special notice to the list of people who serve the Town of Randolph in various capacities on various boards and committees, found on pages 26-28 of the Town Report. The Town is always looking for volunteers to serve on various committees and boards.

**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.

Before opening the floor for discussion on the articles for the General Fund Operations Budget, Moderator Green recognized Janet Watton, President of the Board for Chandler Center for the Arts. Ms. Watton announced that there were numbered yellow stickers on certain seats in the auditorium. Anyone finding a yellow sticker will receive a pair of free tickets to a show at the Chandler.

**GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS BUDGET AND TAXATION**

**Article 2. Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$2,460,777 for Town General Fund expenses of which \$1,363,053 shall be raised by taxes; \$1,097,724 shall be from non-tax revenues?** Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of Article 2—the General Fund budget. She informed the audience that the General Fund budget information could be found on pages 41-50 of the Town Report. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Don Maynard, Mel Adams, John Moniz, Marty Strange, T.C. Webb, Tamara Morgan and Ken Preston. The discussion touched: on questions on how funds under Community Improvements, Economic Development and Downtown Designation Administration would be used; questions about an insurance reimbursement for a hazmat incident that occurred two years ago and why the private insurance company was not billed for the incident; information about returning the recreation programs back to the Town instead of a contract with the Boys and Girls Club; a question about the funds in Article 13 and whether the funds will stay in Randolph; a question about the 5 minute film about Randolph (part of Communities of Distinction) and where the film will be broadcast; and clarification of the Fire Department budget regarding the hazmat incident—insurance reimbursement received in FY 2012 but expenditure was booked in FY 2013. There was no further discussion of this article.

**Article 3. Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$1,892,446 for Town Highway Fund expenses of which \$1,346,296 shall be raised by taxes; \$546,150 shall be from non-tax revenues?** Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of Article 3—the Highway Fund budget. The following individuals participated in the discussion: John Joy, Mel Adams, Janet Watton, Tamara Morgan, John Moniz, Gary Dir, Russell Heyl, Ken Preston, and Don Maynard. Gary Dir is not a registered Randolph voter and permission was given to Mr. Dir so he could address the meeting. The discussion touched on: concerns about cracks in the Main Street bridge and where the money will come from to perform repairs; question on when repairs will be made on Route 66; question on whether the public has any input on paving methods and decision making; questions about when Ridge Road will be repaired and concerns about the volume of traffic and its affect on the condition of the road; question

about the use of Hebard Hill Road by the trucks from the quarry and possible violation of permit; question about methods used when repaving road; question about who monitors the number of trucks traveling to and departing from the quarry; question about bikeways; question about where to go to offer suggestions for better use of resources when designing repairs; information about the State Transportation Advisory Committee and how VTrans comes to the region 1-2 times a year to discuss project plans. There was no further discussion of this article.

**Article 4. Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$244,217 for Kimball Library expenses of which \$199,127 shall be raised by taxes; \$45,090 shall be from non-tax revenues?**

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of **Article 4**. She told the audience that the Kimball Library budget could be found on pages 51-52 of the Town Report. Moderator Green introduced Lynne Gately, one of the Kimball Library librarians, and Betty Phillips, one of the Kimball Library Trustees. Ms. Phillips talked about some of the services offered by the library, including books and a number of digital offerings. She mentioned the library currently has the services of a college student to assist with some of the computer/digital material. There was no further discussion of this article.

**CAPITAL BUDGET, GENERAL BONDING AND TAXATION**

**Article 5. Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$145,000 for Capital Fund Expenses which shall be raised by taxes?**

**Article 6. Shall the town voters authorize the sum of \$100,000 from repayment of sewer debt to the General Fund to be transferred to the Capital Budget for the purpose of offsetting capital expenditures?**

**Article 7. Shall the town voters authorize eliminating the General Capital Construction Fund and consolidating the \$23,729.54 balance into the Building Repair Reserve Fund as a single fund for the purpose of constructing and maintaining municipal properties?**

**Article 8. Shall the town voters authorize transfer of \$100,000 in FY13 Highway Surplus to the Highway Infrastructure Reserve fund (Article 34) in lieu of the Paving Reserve Fund, to be used for storm water system repairs?** Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of **Articles 5-8**. Mr. Adams told the audience that these articles are the source of revenue for capital projects. There was no further discussion of this article.

**POLICE DISTRICT**

**Article 9. Shall the town voters residing in the Police District authorize the total expenditure of \$565,458 for Police District Operations and Capital Expenses of which \$555,008 shall be raised by taxes; \$10,450 shall be from non-tax revenue?** Moderator Green informed the audience that the Police District budget could be found on pages 55-56 of the Town Report. She opened the floor for discussion of **Article 9**. The following individuals participated in the discussion: John Joy and Melvin Adams. The discussion centered on whether there is an attempt to expand the police district to include the entire town. There are no immediate plans to expand the district at this time. It may be a consideration at some future time. There was no further discussion of this article.

**WATER DISTRICT**

**Article 10. Shall the town voters residing in the Water District authorize the sum of \$593,078 to be expended for Water District expenses in FY2015?** Moderator Green informed the audience that the Water District budget could be found on pages 57-58 of the Town Report. She opened the floor for discussion of **Article 10**. There was no discussion of this article.

**SEWER DISTRICT**

**Article 11. Shall the town voters residing in the Sewer District authorize the sum of \$620,900 to be expended for Sewer District expenses in FY2015?** Moderator Green informed the audience that the Sewer District budget could be found on pages 58-60 of the Town Report. She also acknowledged two members of the Water and Sewer Committee present at the meeting: John Lutz and Don Maynard. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of **Article 11**. The following individuals participated in

the discussion: Melvin Adams, Heather Jarvis and Don Maynard. The discussion touched on the doubling of the sewer rates to cover the cost of the \$7 million bond issue for the wastewater treatment plant project. Notice will be sent out notifying all users of the system of the increase in rates. The discussion also touched on the discussions the Town has had with an out of state brewery, and about the wastewater treatment plant design and capacity. In the planning stages for this project, it was decided to keep the current capacity and not increase it. There was no further discussion of this article.

#### **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION**

**Article 12.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$4,000 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 13.** 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 14.** 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 15.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,300 to be raised by taxes in support of Central Vermont Community Action Council?

**Article 16.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,200 to be raised by taxes in support of Central Vermont Council on Aging?

**Article 17.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$8,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Clara Martin Center?

**Article 18.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$14,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Greater Randolph Senior Center?

**Article 19.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$800 to be raised by taxes in support of Home Share Now?

**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 be raised by taxes in support of Orange County Parent Child Center?

**Article 22.** 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 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 Stagecoach 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 \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of the White River Valley Chamber of Commerce (formerly known as Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce) to help cover expenses of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade?

**Article 29.** 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 told the audience the Special Appropriations Articles 12-29 would be discussed together. She said she would first recognize any representatives of organizations seeking an appropriation and allow them to address the audience. Then the floor would be open for general discussion of the Special Appropriation articles.

Russell Heyl asked about the appropriation for the Boys and Girls Club and what benefit the Town

receives from this organization in light of their recent reorganization. Mr. Adams said the Boys and Girls Club have their own programs, the same as when they had a contract with the Town.

Ramsey Papp spoke in support of Central Vermont Community Action and about some of the programs they offer.

Sarah Crosby spoke in support of the Clara Martin Center and the work they do for the community.

Heather Jarvis spoke in support of Home Share Now and how the program works to match home providers with those seeking housing.

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of **Articles 12-29**. A discussion followed about **Article 12**, the special appropriation request of the Art Bus. Participating in the discussion were the following individuals: John Joy, Gay Gaston, Martha Hafner, Wink Willett, Joyce Mazzucco, Sarah Crosby, Josie Carothers, and John Lutz. The discussion centered on the large increase in the appropriation request from \$800 last year to \$4,000 this year. Also discussed was the number of children served by this program in the various surrounding towns, the petition process to have the appropriation request included in the Town Meeting warning, and to include as part of the appropriation request process that organizations provide some financial information. Don Maynard asked to close the discussion. There was no further discussion of **Article 12**.

**Article 30.** **To hear and act upon any reports of Town Officers and Committees.** Moderator Green informed the audience that the reports of the various town officers and committees could be found on pages 26-38. She asked if there was any supplemental information and there was none. There was no discussion of this article.

**Article 31.** **To elect one Budget Committee member for a term of three (3) years.** Moderator Green opened the floor for nominations. Sam Lincoln nominated Perry Armstrong for the position. Dennis Brown seconded the nomination. Mr. Armstrong said he would accept the position if elected. A voice vote was taken and Mr. Armstrong was elected to the Budget Committee for a term of three (3) years.

**Article 32.** **To fill any vacancy.** Moderator Green recognized Paul Rea, Chair of the Planning Commission. Mr. Rea acknowledged and thanked Ken Preston for his many years of service on the Planning Commission. There was a round of applause. Melvin Adams told the audience that the members of Planning Commission and other boards and committees are appointed by the Selectboard, and encouraged anyone interested in serving on one of the many boards and committees to contact his office.

**Article 33.** **Shall the town voters authorize creating a Highway Gravel Road Reserve Fund for the purpose of accruing resources to support long-term gravel road maintenance and drainage?** Moderator Green asked for a motion on **Article 33**. Holly Sanders made a motion to authorize the creation of a Highway Gravel Road Reserve Fund. Heather Jarvis seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion. Participating in the discussion were Don Maynard and Holly Sanders. There was no further discussion of the motion. Moderator Green called for a voice vote and the motion was adopted by majority vote.

**Article 34.** **Shall the town voters authorize changing the existing Highway Projects Capital Fund to the Highway Infrastructure Reserve Fund for the purpose of accruing funds to construct and repair town bridges and culverts, storm water systems, and sidewalks?** Moderator Green asked for a motion on **Article 34**. Holly Sanders made a motion to authorize changing the existing Highway Projects Capital Fund to the Highway Infrastructure Reserve Fund. The motion was seconded by Larry Richburg. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this motion. Melvin Adams told the audience that this fund would consolidate three different programs into one and offers more flexibility. Mr. Adams told the audience to look at pages 65-66 of the Town Report for information about the Infrastructure Reserve Fund. There was no further discussion of this motion. Moderator Green called for a voice vote, and the

motion to change the existing Highway Projects Capital Fund to the Highway Infrastructure Reserve Fund was adopted by majority vote.

Moderator Green informed the audience that **Articles 35-39** are similar. These are reserve funds that were historically created but no record can be found that an official vote was taken to create them. **Article 39** is to be voted only by those voters who reside in the Police District. Moderator Green recognized Mr. Adams. Mr. Adams informed the audience that Police Equipment Fund, **Article 39**, is funded by surpluses that are rolled into the reserve fund. Voting on these articles will legitimize the historic reserve funds.

**Article 39. Shall the town voters residing in the Police District authorize creating a Police Equipment Fund for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining capital equipment used by the Police Department? (Fund established in 1987, but not voted.)** Moderator Green asked for the voters residing in the Police District to stand and asked for a motion on the article. Marty Strange made a motion to authorize the creation of a Police Equipment Fund. Wally Caswell seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the motion. There was no discussion. Moderator Green called for a voice vote from the voters standing and the motion was adopted by majority vote.

**Article 35. Shall the town voters authorize creating a Cemetery Reserve Fund for the purpose of cemetery maintenance equipment and repairs? (Fund established in 1997, but not voted.)**

**Article 36. Shall the town voters authorize creating a Reappraisal Reserve Fund for the purpose of accruing funds for the costs of town-wide reappraisal? (Fund established in 1991, but not voted.)**

**Article 37. Shall the town voters authorize creating Landfill Closure Fund to hold capital funds generated at the landfill closure, for the purpose of statutory maintenance and closure operations through 2028? (Fund established in 1992, but not voted.)**

**Article 38. Shall the town voters authorize creating a CSO Debt Service Fund for the purpose of building a fund balance to pay the CSO bond balloon payment in 2019? (Fund established in 1998, but not voted.)** Moderator Green asked for a motion for **Articles 35-38**. Mark Kelly made a motion to authorize the creation of the Cemetery Reserve Fund, the Reappraisal Reserve Fund, the Landfill Closure Fund and the CSO Debt Service Fund. Holly Sanders seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the motion. There was no discussion of the motion. Moderator Green called for a voice vote and the motion was adopted by majority vote.

**Article 40. Shall the town voters authorize the collection of taxes in two (2) installments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, one half (½) of the total twelve month tax to be due on October 31, 2014, and the remaining one half (½) to be due on March 31, 2015; 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 asked for a motion for **Article 40**. Dick Drysdale made a motion to adopt the **Article 40**. Holly Sanders seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the motion. There was no discussion of the motion. Moderator Green called for a voice vote and the motion was adopted by majority vote.

**Article 41. Shall the town voters authorize an exemption to the Randolph Center Area Fire Association, Inc. from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years? (T.32 Sec 3840)** Moderator Green asked for a motion for **Article 41**. Ken Preston made a motion to authorize an exemption to the Randolph Center Area Fire Association, Inc. from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years. Perry Armstrong seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the motion. There was no discussion of the motion. Moderator Green called for a voice vote and the motion was adopted by majority vote.

**Article 42. 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 asked for a motion for **Article 42**. Holly Sanders made a motion to adopt **Article 42**. Ron Schoolcraft seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the motion. A discussion followed with the following individuals participating: Mark Kelly and Melvin Adams. There was concern this authorization would take away discretion on how to use surplus funds. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green called for a voice vote and the motion was adopted by majority vote.

**Article 43. Shall the town voters approve an advisory article as follows:**

**“Whereas the establishment of a Public Bank in Vermont will help reduce the local tax, burden by offering low cost bonds for public works and a depository for their accounts with competitive interest,**

**Whereas a Public Bank that makes loans and investments in Vermont’s people and our economy will help create jobs, income, and economic security for all Vermonters,**

**We call on the Vermont State Legislature to consolidate the work of the Vermont Economic Development Agency, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and the Municipal Bond Bank and license them to become a Public Bank that accepts deposits from the state and municipal governments and makes loans to students, homeowners, municipalities and enterprises to make Vermont economically stable, self-reliant, and successful?”**

Moderator Green asked for a motion on **Article 43**. This is an advisory article. Betty Edson made a motion to adopt **Article 43**. Mark Kelly seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion. A discussion followed with the following individuals participating: Betty Edson, Annette Highby, John Lutz, Matt Considine, Josie Carothers, Mark Kelly, and Marty Strange. The advantages and disadvantages of a Public Bank were discussed. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green called for a voice vote and the motion was adopted by majority vote.

**To do any other business proper to come before this meeting.** Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of other business.

Patrick French thanked the Randolph Rotary Club, Ted Elzey, Larry Richburg, Sjobeck’s Clock Shop, and Larry Leonard and the Historical Society, for repairing and installing the clock, donated by West Randolph Grange to the Town of Randolph, at the Town Hall, and Vermont Castings for making the weights for the clock. Mr. French also thanked David Palmer for his many years of service to the community through the Stagecoach and his work with the Randolph Area Community Development Corporation (RACDC).

Joyce Mazzucco acknowledged and thanked Agnes and Nap Pietryka for their many years of service as ballot clerks for the Town of Randolph. The Pietrykas worked their last vote at the Union High School vote in February. Ms. Mazzucco also acknowledged and thanked Betsy Arnold and Virginia Cantlin for their many years of service as ballot clerks.

Melvin Adams acknowledged Arnie and Priscilla Spahn for their many years of service on the Reparative Justice Board.

Janet Watton thanked Mr. Adams for the job he is doing.

There was no further discussion. Moderator Green adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

**A True Record.**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk  
Joyce L. Mazzucco

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_, Moderator  
Kelly Green  
\_\_\_\_\_, Selectboard Chair  
Dennis Brown