

**2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016  
CHANDLER MUSIC HALL**

The 2016 Annual Town Meeting was called to order immediately following the Randolph School District Annual School Meeting at 11:20 a.m. by Moderator Kelly Green. She told the audience that the Town Meeting Warning could be found on page 7 of the Town Report.

**Article 1. Elections of Officers.** Moderator Green reminded the audience that voting by Australian ballot for Articles 1-28 was being held concurrently at the Randolph Town Hall and that discussion of Article 1 is not allowed.

Before proceeding with discussion of the other Town Meeting Warning articles, Moderator Green turned the meeting over to Janet Watt, Chair of the Chandler Center for the Arts. Ms. Watton told the audience that they were going to play a brief game of Chandler Bingo. Anyone sitting in or near one of the numbered seats selected would win a voucher to a show at Chandler.

After the Chandler Bingo game, Moderator Green told the audience that discussion of the Town Meeting Warning articles would be done in groupings. The first group to be discussed was the General Fund Operation Budget and Taxation, Articles 2-4.

**GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS BUDGET AND TAXATION**

**Article 2.** Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$2,674,641 for Town General Fund expenses of which \$1,511,251 shall be raised by taxes; \$1,163,390 shall be from non-tax revenues?

**Article 3.** Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$1,831,008 for Town Highway Fund expenses of which \$1,457,208 shall be raised by taxes; \$373,000 shall be from non-tax revenues?

**Article 4.** Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$270,980 for Kimball Library expenses of which \$212,725 shall be raised by taxes; \$58,255 shall be from non-tax revenues?

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion. She noted that Mel Adams and Michael DeCubellis are not registered voters in the Town of Randolph and would allow them to speak if no one objected. There was no objection. The following individuals were recognized and spoke during the discussion of Articles 2-4: Joe Voci, Larry Richburg, Brendan Barden, Cynthia Quilici, Rick Hauser, Michael DeCubellis, Carolyn Lumbra, Michael Penrod, Don Maynard, Joyce Mazzucco, Tamara Morgan, and Sarah Crosby. The discussion covered issues about the full budget not being printed in the Town Report, availability of the full budget, transparency in how the municipal government works, the Budget Committee and its duties and function, the budget process and when it begins, and where meeting notices are posted and problems with meetings being held during working hours. During the discussion Moderator Green recognized

Larry Richburg for his many years of service to the Town, serving on the Selectboard two different stints.

### **CAPITAL BUDGET, GENERAL BONDING AND TAXATION**

**Article 5. Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$110,000 for Capital Fund Expenses, which shall be raised by taxes?**

**Article 6. Shall the town voters authorize the sum of \$25,000 from repayment of sewer debt to the General Fund to be transferred to the Capital Budget for the purpose of offsetting capital expenditure?**

**Article 7. Shall the town voters authorize the issuance of GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS in an amount not to exceed three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the purpose of paving, storm water installation, and sewer line replacement on Elm Street; for sewer line repair/replacement on Prospect, Maple and Summer Streets; and for paving Chelsea Mountain Road; subject to the reduction by any federal and state grants? The \$1,800,000 paving bond shall be repaid through Randolph General Fund taxation. The \$1,200,000 wastewater bond shall be repaid through the rates of the Randolph Sewer District.**

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Joe Voci, Michael DeCubellis, Pat French, Peggy Whiteneck, Don Maynard, John Joy, Marilyn Williams, Mel Adams, John Moniz, Jay Collette, Larry Richburg, and Cynthia Quilici. The discussion covered questions about: the water usage under the Recreation budget; the Listers's budget and the change in hours worked by the assessor and the Listers; comments in support and opposed to Article 7; concerns about capital planning for replacement of aging and outdated fire equipment; updates on the recovery from the fire station fire last September, information about the negotiated settlement with the insurance company, the status of the trucks damage by the fire and what vehicles are scheduled to be replaced; updates on the site selection for replacing the fire station and the police department; acknowledgement of Stagecoach Transportation's generosity in allowing the Fire Department to use one of their garage bays; and comments regarding unrealistic capital planning—too many large dollar projects at once.

### **POLICE DISTRICT**

**Article 8. Shall the town voters residing in the Police District authorize the total expenditure of \$623,653 for Police District Operations and Capital Expenses of which \$555,503 shall be raised by taxes; \$68,150 shall be from non-tax revenue?**

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion. She said residents of the Police District would be given the opportunity to speak first. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Joe Voci, Maria Puglisi, Eric Holbrook, Jay Collette, John Joy, Mel Adams, Carolyn Lumbr, Michael Penrod, Harvie Porter, Carol Hodgdon, Larry Richburg, and C. J. Stumpf. The discussion covered a number of topics: budget expansion; increased policing; need to curb personal use of police vehicles; no contracts for special policing; no need to expand

the police district—Randolph Center is not a haven for crime and have no interest in having police service; need to be more community minded; and need to find equitable ways to support policing.

### **WATER DISTRICT**

**Article 9. Shall the town voters residing in the Water District authorize the sum of \$516,881 to be expended for Water District expenses in FY 2017?**

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Brian Townsend, and Mel Adams. The discussion covered concern about the manganese problem and what is being done to resolve the issue.

### **SEWER DISTRICT**

**Article 10. Shall the town voters residing in the Sewer District authorize the sum of \$809,511 to be expended for Sewer District expenses in FY 2017?**

**Article 11. Shall the town voters residing in the Sewer District authorize the issuance of GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS in an amount not to exceed one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000), for the purpose of sewer line repair/replacement on Elm, Propsect, Maple and Summer Streets, subject to the reduction by federal and state grants? The bond shall be repaid through the rates of the Randolph Sewer District.**

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion. Participating in the discussion were the following individuals: Mel Adams, Pat French and Carolyn Lumbra. The discussion covered a brief explanation about the capital plan for Sewer District improvements and the funding, about a third sewer rate increase, and if people in the district voted for all these improvements then they should not be looking for assistance to pay for it.

### **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION**

**Article 12. Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$4,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the Art Bus?**

**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 the Capstone Community Action?**

**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 \$15,000 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 \$600 to be raised by taxes in support of Orange County Court Diversion Program?

**Article 20.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of Orange County Parent Child Center?

**Article 21.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of the Randolph Area Food Shelf?

**Article 22.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of Safeline?

**Article 23.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$7,500 to be raised by taxes in support of Stagecoach Transportation, Inc.?

**Article 24.** 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 25.** 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 26.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$16,220 to be raised by tax in support of the Visiting Nurse & Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire?

**Article 27.** 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 to help cover expenses of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade?

**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 the Special Appropriations. She asked for comments both in support of and opposed to the various appropriation requests. Erica Young spoke in support of the special appropriation for the Art Bus. John Joy asked if other towns pay the same amount as Randolph. Ms. Young did not know as she does not work for that organization but was speaking in support of the Art Bus due to her work with children. Sarah Crosby spoke in support of the Clara Martin Center. Rick Hauser provided an explanation about the special appropriation for Stagecoach Transportation in the amount of \$7,500. He referred to page 21 of the budget handout (Special Appropriations) and page 4 (General Fund Operating Expenses) and told the audience that part of the funding request is included in the General Fund budget. Karen Eddy spoke in support of the Central Vermont Council on Aging. Brian Townsend spoke in support of the Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire.

**Article 29.** To hear and act upon any reports of Town Officers and Committees. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion.

**Article 30. To elect one Budget Committee member for a term of three (3) years.**

Moderator Green opened the floor for nominations. Julie Iffland nominated Rick Hauser serve as a Budget Committee member. Jessamyn West seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. A voice vote was taken and Mr. Hauser was elected to serve as a Budget Committee member for a term of three (3) years.

**Article 31. To elect one Budget Committee member to fulfill remaining year of a three (3) year term.**

Moderator Green opened the floor for nominations. There was a brief discussion about this article, what the actual term of office is and whether there needed to be amendment to the article, and individuals who voiced interest in the position. Participating in the discussion were: Michael Penrod, Julie Iffland and Joyce Mazzucco. Pat French nominated Ken Hafner to fill the position for one year remaining of a three (3) year term. The nomination was seconded. Michael Penrod nominated C. J. Stumpf to fill the position. The nomination was seconded. Mr. Penrod and Ms. Iffland voiced support for C. J. Stumpf. Moderator Green took a standing vote asking those in favor of electing Ken Hafner to stand, and then asking those in favor of electing C. J. Stumpf to stand. The results of the voting were 3 for Ken Hafner and 26 for C. J. Stumpf. Ms. Stumpf was elected to fill the term of one year remaining of a three (3) year term.

**Article 32. To fill any vacancy.** Moderator Green asked if there were any vacancies to be filled. Mel Adams told the audience that there are a number of vacancies on several different committees and anyone interested should contact the Town Manager's Office for more information.

**Article 33. Shall the town voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow money up to but not exceeding the anticipated tax and bond/grant revenue for the ensuing year?** Moderator Green asked for a motion on this article. Holly Sanders made a motion to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money up to but not exceeding the anticipated tax and bond/grant revenue for the ensuing year. Harvie Porter seconded the motion. There was not discussion of the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

**Article 34. Shall the town voters authorize the collection of taxes in two (2) installments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, one half (½) of the total twelve month tax to be due on October 31, 2016, and the remaining one half (½) to be due on March 31, 2017; 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 on this article. Harvie Porter made a motion to set the tax due date as outlined in Article 34. Pat French seconded the motion. C. J. Stumpf asked why postmarks are not accepted as payment on time. Town Clerk and Treasurer Joyce Mazzucco responded and said she has no authority to waive penalty and interest charges—that authority lies with the Board of Abatement, and it is simpler to have a clear cut off date. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

Before proceeding to Article 35, Moderator Green told the audience she had forgotten to go over a few announcements that Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco had asked be announced. First announcement was a reminder that the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of the current year taxes is due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The second announcement was a reminder to taxpayers to file the Homestead Declaration form with the Vermont Department of Taxes in order to qualify for a potential reduction in taxes. The third announcement was about two rabies clinics being held in March. The first rabies clinic is sponsored by the Randolph Regional Veterinary Hospital and will be held on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The second rabies clinic will be held at the Randolph Town Hall on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. sponsored by the Randolph Animal Hospital.

**Article 35. Shall the town voters authorize the allocation of any General Fund Surplus not necessary to level taxes, or which is not applied towards any Emergency reserve Fund short fall, and any Highway Surplus not needed to level fund taxes to the Highway Paving Reserve Fund?** Moderator Green asked for a motion on this article. Harvie Porter made a motion to authorize the allocation of any General Fund Surplus not necessary to level taxes, or which is not applied towards any Emergency reserve Fund short fall, and any Highway Surplus not needed to level fund taxes to the Highway Paving Reserve Fund. Janet Watton seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the motion. Pat French asked about how much was going to be transferred. Mr. Adams responded and explained the purpose of this article. He said that \$52,197 was transferred into the paving fund. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote.

**To do any other business proper to come before this meeting.** Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of other business. John Joy asked if the Town of Braintree contributes to the costs for the Randolph Fire Department. Mel Adams and Jay Collette both responded. The Town of Braintree pays a contracted amount based on Grand List values to the Town of Randolph. Fire services are provided by all three fire departments—Randolph Village, Randolph Center and East Randolph.

C. J. Stumpf gave a brief update to the audience about EC Fiber plans for expansion and told the audience there were postcards out in the lobby with information. She also told the audience that they could contact one of the EC Fiber representatives—herself, Jerry Ward and Jeff Tolbert.

Pat French recognized Don Sweetser, who worked for the Town at one time as the E911 Coordinator and later as a Lister, Larry Richburg, who is stepping down from the Selectboard, Tom Schersten, who is stepping down from the Selectboard, and Tom Simpson, who retired from the Police Department, and thanked them for their years of service to the Town. There was a round of applause.

Larry Richburg asked for volunteer support to fill the various vacancies on a number of committees and boards. He told the audience that the Town needs to have the diversity, ideas and expertise of many people to help the Town run.

There was no further business to consider. Holly Sanders 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 1:45 p.m.

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

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_, **Moderator**  
Kelly Green

\_\_\_\_\_, **Selectboard Chair**  
Trini Brassard

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