

MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING - MARCH 4, 1997

The meeting was called to order in Murray Auditorium of the Randolph Union High School by Moderator Peter Nowlan at 10:05 A.M. He announced that the polls were open in the Media Center at the High School for voting by Australian ballot.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said and all were invited to spend a moment of silence in his or her own way for a world united in peace. Stephen Webster made a motion to dispense with reading the Warning. This was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Article 1 through 24 are being voted by Australian ballot and the results of the voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

ARTICLE 25: Maryann Lincoln questioned the Landfill reports because the engineer report and the auditor report did not agree. Town Manager Gwen Hallsmith explained that they used different criteria for their reports but using the same criteria they do agree. William Rice is concerned about the trash that is being accepted in the landfill, especially hazardous waste. Nancy Rice had concerns about the landfill and asked whether or not the selectmen plan on paying off the bond loan when it becomes due. She wanted assurance that it would be paid. Selectman John Hannah and Gwen responded to their concerns and assured them that careful monitoring was being done and plans as of now do allow for payment of the bond when it becomes due.

ARTICLE 26: Nowlan read the article as follows; "Shall the Town voters empower and define the Budget Committee for Town of Randolph as follows: Henceforth, the Budget Committee shall consist of three legal voters of the Town of Randolph, none of which are serving on the Selectboard. Each member shall be elected for a three year term, one member being elected annually at Town Meeting. Nominations for this committee will be accepted from the floor, The Selectboard shall appoint any legal voter of the Town to fill any vacancies, provided that the appointed person is not a member of the Selectboard at the time of appointment. The Budget Committee is to receive proposed budgets from the Town Manager for review. The Budget Committee is to review proposed budgets and bring recommendations to the selectboard in joint discussion for their actions. The Budget Committee will review expense and revenue reports on a monthly basis and report to the Selectboard with comments and/or concerns. At least quarterly, the Budget committee shall make a formal report or presentation updating the Selectboard on the current budget and any related financial matters. All information pertinent to the Town Budgets, may be made available to the members of the Budget Committee as requested. One member of the Selectboard shall be appointed by the Selectboard at the Board's organizational meeting, to serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Budget Committee. This member shall act as a liaison between the Budget Committee and Selectboard, but shall not chair

the Committee. A Chairperson shall be chosen from the elected members of the Committee by the elected members of the Committee."

Al Floyd made a motion to adopt the article, this was seconded. Mardee Sanchez made a motion to amend the motion by changing the sentence which reads as "All information pertinent to the Town Budgets may be made available to the members of the Budget Committee as requested." to read, "All information pertinent to the Town Budgets shall be made available to the members of the Budget Committee as requested."

A motion was made and seconded to amend the original motion. This was passed by voice vote.

Ralph Baker asked how this committee was to be established. Dennis Brown, a member of the present Budget Committee, explained that the committee in place now would remain in place and in the future one member would be elected each year at Town Meeting for a term of three years. Selectman Scott Cooper is a member of the present four member Budget Committee and he announced that he is resigning as a member of the Budget Committee taking effect immediately. Charles Cooley's term expires today.

A motion was made to accept the Article amended. This was seconded. A voice vote passed the article as amended.

ARTICLE 27: There were no known vacancies and the article was passed over.

ARTICLE 28: The article was read as follows; "Shall the Town voters authorize the Selectboard to exempt, for a period not exceeding five years, the property tax on the value of improvements made to principal dwelling unit with funds provided in whole or in part by a non-profit, neighborhood or municipal housing improvement program which limits eligibility to residents with incomes below the median income in the state. Such programs include unity loan funds, community land trusts, neighborhood planning associations, and municipal housing improvements."

Ralph Baker defended the program by pointing out that home improvements tend to create an atmosphere in a neighborhood that encourages other improvements. If these improvements also raise the assessments of the properties resulting in higher taxes for the owners it tends to discourage doing any improvements. This article addresses this problem.

There were questions about eligibility of the program but assurance was made by Selectperson Carolyn Tonelli that eligibility was quite clear in the article and it would be limited to primary residences and limited income.

Patrick French asked if this article would be considered a mon-