

**2020 RANDOLPH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
SATURDAY, FEBRAURY 29, 2020  
CHANDLER MUSIC HALL**

The 2020 Randolph Annual Town Meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with Moderator Kelly Green welcoming all those in attendance, and by introducing herself and Joyce Mazzucco, Town Clerk, to the audience.

This was the first Saturday Town Meeting for the Town of Randolph. Moderator Green offered a “Thank You” to the Sunrise Rotary Club for providing a hearty breakfast before Town Meeting. There was a round of applause for the Sunrise Rotary. Moderator Green announced that Gifford Medical Center is conducting a community health survey and that the surveys were available in the lobby to anyone who was interested in completing it. She also announced that the new Gear House bike shop, located on Pleasant Street, would be opening for business on Sunday. Also located in the same building is R.A.S.T.A (Rochester/Randolph Area Sports Trail Alliance). The Grand Opening will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Moderator Green also announced that Janet Watton, on behalf of Chandler Center for the Arts, would be offering free tickets to a number of programs at Chandler later in the meeting.

Moderator Green instructed the audience on the protocol for being recognized to speak during the meeting. She asked that anyone wishing to speak to raise his/her hand to be recognized and to use one of the portable microphones when speaking so that everyone can hear what is said. All comments should be directed to the Moderator. Only registered voters may speak during the meeting. If there is anyone who is not a registered voter, permission must be given before he/she may speak. Each person will be allowed up to 10 minutes to speak per article. Each person will be allowed to speak a second time, but only after others have been given an opportunity to speak.

Moderator Green recognized Joyce Mazzucco to present some announcements. Ms. Mazzucco informed the audience that there would be two (2) rabies vaccination clinics held in March. One rabies vaccination clinic will be held at the Randolph Regional Veterinary Hospital on Dylan Drive, on Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. She stated she would be present at the March 21<sup>st</sup> rabies vaccination clinic to license dogs. The second rabies vaccination clinic will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at the Randolph Town Hall, 7 Summer Street, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and is sponsored by the Randolph Animal Hospital. Ms. Mazzucco reminded the taxpayers to file their HS-122 Homestead Declaration form with the Vermont Department of Taxes. Residents of the Town of Randolph can benefit greatly by filing the Homestead Declaration form and the HI-144 Income form and qualifying for a potential reduction in their education tax portion of their property tax bill. She recommended filing by the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to avoid any penalties.

Moderator Green asked the audience to rise and to recite the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Moderator Green informed the audience that the Warning for Town Meeting could be found on page 1 of the Annual Town Report. Articles 1-26 are to be voted on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at Town Hall. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Article 1.**     **Elections of Officers.** Because the Town Meeting day was changed to Saturday, Moderator Green informed the audience that discussion of Article 1 was now allowed. In years past discussion of this article was not allowed because voting by Australian ballot was taking place concurrently with the meeting. She opened the floor for discussion of Article 1. There was no discussion.

**Article 2.**     **Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$3,253,748 for Town General Fund expenses of which \$1,634,467 shall be raised by taxes; \$1,619,281 shall be from non-tax revenues?** Moderator Green informed the audience that information on the General Fund budget could be found on pages 40-50 of the Annual Town Report. She opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion.

**Article 3.** Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$1,867,865 for Town Highway Fund expenses of which \$1,510,815 shall be raised by taxes; \$357,050 shall be from non-tax revenues? Moderator Green informed the audience that information on the Highway budget could be found on pages 52-54 of the Annual Town Report. She opened the floor for discussion. Marty Strange was recognized to speak. He wanted to go back to Article 2 and spoke about concerns regarding having the Economic Development Director also acting as Zoning Administration and a potential conflict of interest. A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating: Adolfo Bailon, Maria Puglisi, Michael Penrod, Marty Strange, Phyllis Forbes, Dick Paye, Joan Sax and Martha Hafner. Ms. Hafner made a motion to have a show of hands to see how many people feel there is a conflict of interest. Tamara Morgan seconded the motion. There was a discussion about the intent of the motion. The following people participated: Marty Strange and Lynne Gately. Moderator Green told the audience that this vote was non-binding. She asked for a show of hands for those who think there is a conflict of interest. She then asked for a show of hands for those who did not think there was a conflict of interest. The vote was evenly split. Sheila Clark commented about moving back to Randolph and planning on doing some renovations, and wanting to have confidence in the person handling the zoning permits. Patsy French told the audience that if they have any concerns with the town's operations, to reach out and speak to each of the selectboard members. She stressed not to speak to only one member, but to all members of the board.

Discussion continued on Article 2. There were questions about the Fire Department and Recreation budgets and why there were increases. Participating in the discussion were the following individuals: Cynthia Quillici, Tim Angell, and Kristin Chandler. Some of the increases were related to recategorizing expenses from capital to operational. The recreation budget increases were related to pool expenses and instituting new activities.

Moderator Green returned the discussion to Article 3. Marty Strange and Holly Sanders participated in the discussion. Some of the changes in the capital budget were related to recategorizing expenses from capital to operational. There was no further discussion of Article 3. There was no further discussion of Article 3.

**Article 4.** Shall the town voters authorize the total expenditure of \$338,775 for Kimball Public Library expenses of which \$267,675 shall be raised by taxes; \$71,100 shall be from non-tax revenues? Moderator Green informed the audience that information on the Kimball Library budget could be found on pages 50-51 of the Annual Town Report and in the Library Trustees report on page 78. The following people participated in a discussion about the activities and value of the library to the community, and about the MacNair funds given to the Library and how they will be used: Sally Penrod and Joan Sax

**Article 5.** Shall the town voters authorize the sum of \$25,000 from repayment of sewer debt to the General Fund to be transferred to the Paving Reserve of the Capital Plan for the purpose of offsetting capital expenditures? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. There was no discussion.

**Article 6.** Shall the town voters authorize the sum up to \$420,000 to be borrowed by the Town for the purchase of two (2) 10-Wheel tandem trucks to replace one (1) 6-wheel and one (1) 10-wheel truck in the Highway Department? Annual payments for each 10-wheel tandem truck will be included in subsequent annual budgets until the payment schedule has been fulfilled. Any revenue(s) generated by the sale or trade-in of the 6-wheel and 10-wheel trucks will used to offset the sum up to \$420,000. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of this article. The following people participated in the discussion about the purchase and borrowing for two (2) new 10-wheel tandem trucks Tamara Morgan, Adolfo Bailon, Michael Penrod, Tim Angell, Maria Puglisi and Clifford Rankin. There were questions about why two 10-wheel tandem trucks instead of 6-wheel tandem trucks, what the trucks are used for, the current conditions of the trucks the Town now has, and who gets to choose the

size of the truck. There was no further discussion.

**Article 7.** Shall the town voters residing in the Police District authorize the total expenditure of \$339,730 for Police District Operations and Capital Expenses of which \$297,749 shall be raised by taxes; \$41,981 shall be from non-tax revenue including \$34,781 of the FY 2019 surplus?

Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion for discussion of this article. A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Kevin McGinty, Adolfo Bailon, Phyllis Forbes, Sonny Holt, John Pimental, Kelly Green, Joyce Mazucco, Chris Recchia, Cliff Rankin, and Cynthia Quillici. There were questions about why there is no police department and why the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCS) is doing the work, the contract the Town has with OCS, how to change the district, where the OCS patrol, two (2) separate contracts with OCS—one covers the Police District, and one covers speed control outside the Police District, and where does the revenue that is collected go.

**Article 8.** Shall the town voters residing in the Water District authorize the sum of \$504,175 to be expended for Water District expenses in FY2021?

**Article 9.** Shall the town voters residing in the Sewer District authorize the sum of \$827,950 to be expended for Sewer District expenses in FY2021? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of Articles 8 and Article 9. The following individuals participated in the discussion of the Water and Sewer District budgets: Martha Hafner, Adolfo Bailon, Maria Puglisi, Kristin Chandler, Irene Schaefer, Milo Cutler, Cliff Rankin, Marie Kittel, Patsy French, Joan Sax, Chris Recchia, Cynthia Quillici, and Joyce Mazucco. There were questions about lead in the water in the schools, the manganese issue and the status with the State, PFOA in the water, the landfill—lined or not, continued testing of the closed landfill, and status of funds set aside to pay for the landfill monitoring. There was no further discussion.

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

**Article 10.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$4,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the Arts Bus?

**Article 11.** 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 12.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,300 to be raised by taxes in support of Capstone Community Action?

**Article 13.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$1,200 to be raised by taxes in support of Central Vermont Council on Aging?

**Article 14.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$8,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Clara Martin Center?

**Article 15.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$15,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Greater Randolph Senior Center?

**Article 16.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$600 to be raised by taxes in support of the Orange County Restorative Justice Center?

**Article 17.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of Orange County Parent Child Center?

**Article 18.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the not-for-profit operation of the Friends of the Historic Playhouse Theatre?

**Article 19.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$2,500 to be raised by taxes in support of the Randolph Area Food Shelf?

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

**Article 21.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$15,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Stagecoach Transportation, Inc.?

**Article 22.** 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 23.** 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 24.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$16,220 to be raised by taxes in support of the Visiting Nurse & Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire?

**Article 25.** Shall the town voters authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 to be raised by taxes in support of the White River Craft Center?

**Article 26.** 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? Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of articles 10-26, Special Appropriations. Bennett Law, not a Randolph resident, was given permission to speak on behalf of the Playhouse Theatre and their appropriation request. The following individuals participated in the discussion of the Special Appropriation articles: Jennifer Guarino, Kevin McGinty, Martha Hafner, Tamara Morgan, Ed Delhagen, Kristin Chandler, and Mary Lewis Webb. They spoke about the Restorative Justice Center, Stagecoach, and the Clara Martin Center.

Moderator Green turned the meeting over to Janet Watton to distribute some free tickets to programs at the Chandler Music Hall. Moderator Green also gave recognition of the Town Report dedication to Paul Rea and the work he has done for the community.

### **FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION FROM THE FLOOR**

**Article 27.** To hear and act upon any reports of Town Officers and Committees. Moderator Green accepted the Town Officers reports and opened the floor for discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Stephen Webster, Cliff Rankin, Phyllis Forbes, Marty Strange and Adolf Bailon. Discussed were the Trustees of Public Funds, a thank you to the town officers for the work they do, and the status of the capital improvement work for Maple Street.

**Article 28.** Shall the Town voters authorize the following changes to the Budget Committee?

#### **Henceforth:**

- **The Budget Committee shall consist of 5 legal voters of the Town of Randolph, none of whom are serving on the Selectboard or are employees of the Town.**
- **Two members of the Budget Committee will be elected annually at Town Meeting for a term of 2 years and a term of 3 years.**
- **The Committee shall, at its first meeting following Town elections, elect from its membership a Committee chairman, a secretary, and whatever other officers a majority of the Committee members feel are necessary. Committee officers shall serve until the next Town Meeting and shall be eligible for reelection to subsequent terms.**
- **The Committee shall also, at its first meeting following Town Meeting, establish its rules of procedure for the coming year.**
- **Should a Committee vacancy occur, the Selectboard shall appoint to membership on the Committee any legal voter of the Town who is willing and qualified to serve and who is neither a member of the Selectboard nor an employee of the Town. The newly appointed member shall serve on the Committee until the next Town Meeting.**
- **One member of the Selectboard shall be appointed annually to be the liaison between the Selectboard and the Budget Committee. The appointed liaison is not a member of the Budget Committee, but is**

**charged with keeping the Committee and the Selectboard informed of the deliberations and activities of both groups.**

- **The Budget Committee will receive monthly reports on current budgets and spending from the Town Director of Finance, and will request and receive from the Director of Finance and/or the Town Manager, any other reports or financial records that the Committee deems necessary.**
- **Annually, the Committee will receive the proposed Town budget from the Town Director of Finance, will review it, and will report its findings and/or recommendations to the Selectboard.**
- **The Budget Committee will meet with the Town Director of Finance throughout the year to review current and proposed budgets, such meetings to occur no less than quarterly.**
- **The Budget Committee will report to the Selectboard as it deems necessary or as requested by the Selectboard.**

Moderator Green read the question to the audience. Sally Penrod made a motion to accept the question as written. Joan Sax seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor to discussion of the motion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Holly Sanders, Kelly Green, Kristin Chandler, Michael Penrod and Patsy French. Discussed were: the reasons for increasing the membership of the Budget Committee, how the vacancies will be filled, and duties of the Budget Committee. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion was adopted by majority vote.

**Article 29. To elect to fill any vacancies on the Budget Committee.** Moderator Green opened the floor for nominations to fill the Budget Committee vacancies. Michel Penrod explained that there are 3 openings—one three (3) year term, one two (2) year term, and one (1) for the final opening. Sally Penrod nominated Jerry Ward to serve the 3-year term. Moderator Green told the audience a second on the nominator was not necessary. Dr. Ward was not present at the meeting, but has expressed an interest to serve. Kristin Chandler seconded the nomination. Moderator Green took a voice vote and Dr. Ward was elected to serve on the Budget Committee for a term of 3 years. His term will expire in 2023.

Moderator Green opened the floor for nominations to fill the 2-year term. Sally Penrod nominated Tamara Morgan to serve the 2-year opening. There was a discussion about possible conflict of interest. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Joyce Mazzucco, Sally Penrod, Cliff Rankin, Peggy Whiteneck, Kristin Chandler, and Michael Penrod. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and Tamara Morgan was elected to serve on the Budget Committee for a term of 2 years. Her term will expire in 2022.

Moderator Green opened the floor for nominations for the last Budget Committee opening. Rachel Putney spoke and expressed her interest in serving on the Budget Committee. Tom Ayres nominated Rachel Putney to fill the 1-year opening. There were no other nominations. Moderator Green took a voice vote and Rachel Putney was elected to serve on the Budget Committee for a term of one year. Her term will expire in 2021.

**Article 30. To fill any other vacancy.** Moderator Green asked if there were any other vacancies to be fill. Holly Sanders told the audience that there is a vacancy on the Capital Budget Committee and spoke about the duties of the committee. Kristen Gage encouraged the audience to become involved and to serve the town. There was no further discussion.

**Article 31. 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 opened the floor for a motion on this article. Stephen Webster 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. Marth Hafner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion was adopted by majority vote.

**Article 32. WHEREAS extreme and erratic temperatures, increasingly severe storms, a rise in tick-borne diseases, and threats to farmers and maple sugar makers clearly demonstrate that climate change is one of the most urgent problems facing our state, nation, and the world**

**and**

**WHEREAS the State of Vermont has a goal in the Comprehensive Energy Plan to achieve 90% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050, yet is making insufficient progress towards achieving that goal;**

**Now, therefore, be it resolved:**

- 1. The undersigned voters of the Town of Randolph urge the State of Vermont to: halt any new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure.**
  - a. Commit to 100% renewable energy for all new infrastructure and energy uses by 2030 within Vermont with firm interim milestones.**
  - b. Ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents, with no harm to marginalized groups or rural communities.**
- 2. The undersigned voters of the Town of Randolph urge the town and its officials to do its part to meet these recommendations and those within the town plan by committing to efforts such as:**
  - a. Protecting town properties from fossil fuel infrastructure, denying easements or agreements for any pipelines crossing town properties.**
  - b. Weatherizing town buildings and schools and other initiatives to improve residents' quality of life while helping conserve current resources and reduce overall energy use.**
  - c. Enlisting state support to install solar power on town and school properties.**
  - d. Encourage landowners, municipalities, and farmers to implement practices that build healthy soil which increases carbon storage to cool the planet and mitigate flooding and drought.**
  - e. Support the recommendations from town commissions and committees relating to climate mitigation and prepare an energy efficiency action plan aimed at reducing town use of fossil fuels.**

**Should this article pass, a letter shall be sent from the Town of Randolph to our State Representatives and Senator/s, the Speaker of the Vermont House, the President Pro Tempore of the Vermont Senate, and the Governor.**

Moderator Green read the article to the audience. Joan Sax moved the question. Marjorie Ryerson seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Shannon Hance, John Pimental, Chris Recchia, Ilya Andreyev (high school student given permission to speak), and Adolfo Bailon. Jeffrey Tevis made a motion to postpone action on this question. Kenneth Hafner seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion of the motion to postpone. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Patsy French, Aiden Warren (high school student given permission to speak), David White, Robin Russell, Adolfo Bailon, Kenneth Hafner, Lynn Lewis, Tamara Morgan, Camden Walters, Loretta Thomas, Miles Hooper, Tom Ayres, and Pat French. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote on the motion to postpone action on Article 32, and the motion failed. Discussion of Article 32 continued. The

following individuals participated in the discussion: Kristin Chandler, Cliff Rankin, Marty Strange, Irene Schaefer, Victor Ialeggo, Peggy Whiteneck, John Pimental, Adolfo Bailon, Miles Hooper, Tamara Morgan, Josie Carothers, and Ilya Andreyev. The many of the participants spoke in favor of the question. Several expressed concerns about the wording of the question. The question is meant to be advisory. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the resolution was adopted.

**Article 33. Shall the town voters authorize an exemption to the Randolph Center Area Fire Association from real estate taxes for a period of one (1) years? (VSA Title 32, Sec 3840)** Moderator Green opened the floor for a motion on the question. Chris Recchia moved the question. Jessamyn West seconded the motion. Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of the motion. Adolfo Bailon explained by the question was on the warning. At last year's Town Meeting, the voters instructed the Town to work with the Randolph Center Area Fire Association and negotiate a possible sale of the fire station building. Because the Town does not own the Randolph Center Fire Station building, the Town cannot make improvements to it and must vote to exempt the building from taxes. Tim Angell told the audience that a lease agreement has been negotiated between the Randolph Center Area Fire Association and the Town. Mr. Angell made an amendment to the question to extend the exemption period from one year to five years. David Silloway seconded the motion. The floor was opened to discussion of the amendment to the question. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Martha Hafner, Adolfo Bailon, Randy Clark, Nancy Rice, Michael Marshall, Cliff Rankin, Tim Angell, Joyce Mazzucco, Peggy Whiteneck, Michael Penrod, and Rachel Putney. Participants discussed the pros and cons of the amendment, and the fire services study. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote on the amendment to change the exemption from one year to five years, and the amendment failed. Discussion continued on the main question to exempt the Randolph Center Area Fire Association from taxes for a period of one year. Tim Angell and Janet Angell spoke. The lease with the Town was written to expire on June 30 to correspond with the fiscal year. The fire fighters are on call 24/7/365, 366 this year and deserve the town's support. There was no further discussion. Moderator Green took a voice vote and the motion to exempt taxes for one year was adopted.

**To do any other business proper to come before this meeting.** Moderator Green opened the floor for discussion of other business. The following individuals participated in the discussion: Kristin Chandler, Jessica Taffett Walter, Marie Puglisi, Ann LaPerle, Chris Recchia, Marty Strange, Michael Penrod, Adolfo Bailon, Patrick French, Phyllis Forbes, Martha Hafner, Tom Ayres, Jessamyn West, Michael Penrod, Patsy French, Joyce Mazzucco and Nancy Rice. The audience was asked to please put their seats up as they leave the hall. There was a question about the attendance at this Town Meeting and how it compared to previous Town Meeting. The attendance was about the same. There were comments about the Police District. Recognition was given to Joyce Mazzucco, who will be retiring in 2021. Also recognized for their many years of service to the Town of Randolph were three employees who retired/left service with the Town in 2019: Wendy Tucker (retired after nearly 35 years of service), Mardee Sanchez (26 years) and Roy Fifield (29 years). An update was given on the progress of EC Fiber in building new fiber optic lines in the Randolph area. Concern was expressed about the presence of only one Selectperson at Town Meeting. Recognition was given for the successful Winterfest and but why can't we have that kind of attendance at Town Meeting. Adolfo Bailon told the audience that his door is open to hear what people have to say or with problems/questions they may have. Patrick French recognized Matt Fordham, whose term expires this year, and thanked him for his service to the Town of Randolph. Appreciation was given for the beautiful Town Report. Comments were made regarding retail outlets for sale of marijuana products. Suggestion that there be a forum to discuss this. Mention was made of vacancies on the Conservation Commission. Comment was made about the Whales Tails and who is responsible to up keep and that the Town maybe should contribute to the up keep. Comment was made about the U.S. Defense budget and that some of it might be better to use some toward the climate change issue.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_, **Town Clerk**

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

\_\_\_\_\_, **Selectboard**

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