

## **ANNUAL TOWN & SCHOOL MEETING**

**MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 6:30 P.M.**

Town Moderator, Adrian Otterman called the Annual Meeting for the Town & School to order at 6:34 p.m. Adrian opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. We had a moment of silence for the opportunity of self-governance.

Adrian explained the Roberts Rules of Order that he would be following for the meeting and that he would moderate this meeting until another Moderator was elected under Article 1 of the Town and School meetings. He then read both the Town and School warnings.

Adrian asked to have one vote for Article 1 to elect a Moderator for the coming term as the law directs. Sam Frank nominated Adrian Otterman for Moderator for both Town and School. There was a second and Adrian was elected for the ensuing year. Adrian recessed the School Meeting to complete the Town Meeting.

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Adrian explained that there was an error in the Town Warning that the method of collecting taxes was left off. He advised that we will remain the same as last year with due dates of August 15<sup>th</sup>, and November 15<sup>th</sup> with a 5 day grace period. George Malek asked that we be sure that it gets printed and warned for next year.

Article 2 – There was a motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the reports of the Town Officers as printed. Jessica Foster stated that there was an error in the Forum Minutes from last year Act 46 should be Act 153. Adrian advised no changes can be made at this point.

Article 3 – To elect Town Officers for the coming term.

1 Year Term Town Clerk – Fred Kidder nominated Kathie Felch - elected.

1 Year Term Town Treasurer – Fred Kidder nominated Kathie Felch - elected.

1 Year Term Delinquent Tax Collector – Fred Kidder nominated Mary Claflin - elected.

3 Year Term Selectboard – Janis Blais nominated Lee Youngman. Town Clerk instructed to cast one Ballot.

3 Year Term Lister – Kevin Wilson nominated John McNeil. Town Clerk instructed to cast one Ballot.

3 Year Term Auditor – Fred Kidder nominated Amy White. Town Clerk instructed to cast one Ballot.

3 Year Term Cemetery Commissioner – George Malek nominated Tom Seerveld – Clark Agnew explained that Tom may be moving. If he does the Board would appoint someone to the position. Town Clerk instructed to cast one Ballot.

3 Year Term Cemetery Commissioner – nominated Laura dePrato. Town Clerk instructed to cast one Ballot.

NO ARTICLE 4 -

Article 5 – To set the compensation of the Town Officers. Town Clerk \$1,000 raise to \$42,000, Asst Town Clerk \$500 raise to \$19,500. Selectboard Members \$1,000 each, Other Officers \$20.00 hour. So moved and seconded. Fred Kidder moved to amend the motion to strike the raises for the Town Clerk and assistant Town Clerk. Rose Kidder seconded the motion to amend. Leo Martineau explained that with the computer skills the office is advanced. He appreciates the time spent on the newsletters to keep residents informed. All the state requirements. \$20.00 week raise is not outrageous. Elaine Boyce asked what the impact to the tax rate. Kathie explained budget is level funded no impact. The body refused to amend the main motion and the voters approved the main motion.

Article 6 – George Malek moved that the town raise the sum of \$257,947.00 for the General Fund, of which \$216,833.00 is to be raised in taxes. Jessica Foster seconded the motion. The body approved the motion.

Adrian asked if no objection to welcome Chris LaMonda from the Barre Town Emergency Services and Rodney Graham Representative.

Chris explained that they upgraded equipment – 2 new ambulances safety features added are back up cameras, loading system so no lifting for rescue workers. Upgraded license to a critical care ambulance. He is working on being able to offer First Aid/CPR training on a monthly basis free to a minimal cost.

Rodney thanked the Town Clerks/BCA Members for handling the general election with dignity and honesty and asked for a round of applause. He explained the recount requested by former Hatch-Davis and that it was stopped because the house required the ballot bags have the same tag and one town with the permission of the Secretary of State's office had opened the bag. Therefore, Frenier was deemed the winner. Therefore, it has been a slow start to the legislative session so far. Over 500 new bills in the last 3 weeks. Long hours ahead and only 1 week to decide. Have not raised any new taxes.

Article 7 – To determine to raise the sum of \$430,650.00 or some other sum for the Highway Fund of which \$338,942.00 is to be raised in taxes. Jessica Foster made a motion to approve as submitted and George Malek 2<sup>nd</sup>. Laura dePrato discussed her concerns about having a 4-5 year road plan. Reservoir Road and Cutler Corner Road have caused numerous car repairs. George Wild stated that they are looking at possibly paving from the Barre Town Line down the

hill to Ken Cochran's and this can hopefully be done with the little increase in the paving and resurfacing budget. He stated that we do what we can with what we have. Voted to approve.

Article 8 – To determine to raise the sum of \$7,000 to support the Town Cemeteries. Motion as submitted 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted to approve.

Article 9 – 20 - To determine what amount of money the town will vote for Non-Profits. Adrian Asked to vote with a single vote for a total of \$7,375.00. George Malek made a motion to approve as submitted and Fred Cheyette 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted to approve.

Article 21 – To determine if the electorate will transfer the Bicentennial Fund to the Richardson Gazebo Fund current balance of \$1,551.29. Janis Blais made a motion to approve and Corrine Relation 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted to approve. Kathie explained that the landscaping needs to be completed and possibly a bench.

Article 21 (Should be 22) – Will the Town vote to set the time to start Town Meeting 2018. Fred Kidder made a motion to keep as the first Tuesday of March @ 6:30 p.m. (March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.) 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted to approve.

Article 22 – To discuss any other business that may come before this meeting. Non-binding approval Fred Kidder made a motion that the collection of taxes stay the same as last year due on August 15<sup>th</sup> & November 15<sup>th</sup> with a 5 day grace period to assess penalty.

With no other business to come before the board, Adrian asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. He stated there would be a brief break and the Middle school had coffee and snacks on sale in the kitchen.

## **ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING**

Adrian called the School Meeting back to order at 7:50 p.m.

Jessica Foster presented a plaque of appreciation to Darin Magwire for serving 18 years on the School Board.

Article 2 – To elect a school director for three year term. Fred Kidder nominated Thomas Dwyer and Janis Blais 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Article 3 – To elect a school director for two year term. No nominations so Adrian asked to pass over.

Article 4 - To see if the electorate will authorize the School Treasurer, with approval of the School Board, to borrow money on the notes of the Town School District or otherwise, in anticipation of taxes. Darin Magwire made a motion and Lee Youngman 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted to approve.

Article 5 – To see what sum of money, if any, the Town School District will vote to pay the School Directors and School Treasurer. George Malek made a motion to pay the proposed amounts of \$1,000.00 per School Director and \$3,717.00 for School Treasurer. 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

Article 6 – To determine to raise the sum of \$2,578,793.00 or some other sum for the Orange School District. Darin Magwire made a motion and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jim Wild made a motion to amend to reduce by \$3,528 the salary increase for the principal based on performance he feels it is not warranted. George Wild 2<sup>nd</sup>. Leo Martineau stated that the increase for principals is negotiated in contract; therefore the reduction in the budget would not necessarily reduce his pay. Jessica Foster stated as every school could always do better on test scores and they are always striving to do better. However, not all information is accurately recorded because of the small class sizes. Suzette Bollard stated that she is Tim Franke’s boss and if anyone has any complaints she would like to hear directly from the residents. She also confirmed that the reduction in the budget would not reduce the salary increase. A clear vote was not cast and seven members requested a paper ballot for the amendment. Results Yes 25 and No 30. Amendment failed. George Malek stated that the state mandated wording is skewed and budget really up about 70,000 or 2.5% is within inflation overall. Leo Martineau wants to support the school and asked to see what the governor can do for us next year. Motion as presented was approved.

Article 7 – To see if the electorate will vote to allow the School District to borrow up to \$68,400 for the purchase of a new boiler for the Orange Center School. The first payment of \$14,250 will be made by the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approved as submitted. Darin Magwire stated the new boiler will be propane and more energy efficient and includes all components that need to be replaced.

Article 8 – To see if the electorate will vote to place \$41,000.00 of the FY16 (2015-2016) audited fund balance, in a separate reserve fund. George Malek made a motion to approve as submitted and Darin Magwire 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted to approve.

Article 9 - No other business to come before the board.

Adrian asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Attest: Lynn Craig

Assistant Town Clerk