

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY
130 RIVER STREET – 3RD Floor
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

MINUTES

MODERATOR: Jason Morrissey

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Jacobs – Chair; John McFadden – Vice Chair; Sharyn Brush; Jim Carroll; Justin Corcoran; Michael Keane; Donald Campbell; Stuart Hurd, Town Manager; Cassandra Barbeau, Town Clerk; Dan Monks, Zoning Administrator & Assistant Town Manager; Joan Pinsonneault, Treasurer; Mike Harrington, Economic & Community Development Director; Keith Whitcomb, Bennington Banner; BNN News; CAT-TV; (80) Citizens; Linda E. Bermudez – Recording Secretary

Absent: *None*

At 7:00 P.M., **Jason Morrissey** called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sharyn Brush; recited by all.

Mr. Morrissey announced there were Solid Waste surveys at the back of the room regarding the new multi-town alliance. They are not mandatory. He continued by noting that the Vermont Department of Conservation was on the first floor in the truck bay addressing the water well concerns in North Bennington. This is not part of Bennington's Annual Meeting. They will be available for questions until 8:00pm.

Jason Morrissey then read the Town warning:

**-WARNING-
TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The residents of the Town of Bennington qualified by law to vote in Town Meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance) in said Town on Monday, February 29, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., or immediately following the Bennington School District's Annual meeting should that run over, to transact the business specified to be done from the floor.

If you are a resident of the Town of Bennington, intend to be present at the meeting and are hearing impaired, arrangements will be made for a sign interpreter to be present at this meeting. For necessary arrangements, please contact Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager at the Bennington Town Offices, 205 South Street, P.O. Box 469, Bennington, VT - (802) 442-1037 no later than Friday, February 19, 2016.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at The Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance). The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the election of officers and voting on all ballot articles specified. However, those on the checklist to vote in the Village of North Bennington shall vote for the election of officers and on all ballot articles at the North Bennington Village Office on Main Street in North Bennington. The Bennington Fire Facility above mentioned, is hereby established as the central polling place for those on the checklist to vote in said Bennington. The deadline for registering to vote is February 24, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. at the Bennington Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Morrissey then reminded those present that the only binding decisions from the floor this evening are for Article #1 and Article #2.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR

Monday, February 29, 2016

7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 1. TOWN REPORT: *To hear the report of Town Officers and to take appropriate action thereon.*

Motion: Motion from the floor to accept the Town Report as submitted. Motion was seconded by the floor (verbally). Motion passed unanimously (verbally).

ARTICLE 2. SELECT BOARD MEMBERS COMPENSATION: *To determine what compensation shall be paid to the Town Select Board Members.*

It was discussed that the compensation for the FY'17 budget was set at \$1,400 per year (per member).

Motion: Motion from the floor to approve Select Board compensation as submitted. Motion was seconded by the floor (verbally). Motion passed unanimously (verbally).

ARTICLE 3. OTHER BUSINESS: *To transact such other proper business when met.*

Brian Champion stepped forward with Mary Morrissey, Timothy Corcoran, Jr, Ann Lammy & Rachel Fields. They asked Sharyn Brush to join them. Each read a portion of a resolution recognizing Mrs. Brush's (19) years of public service on the Select Board as well as other public serving boards within the Town of Bennington.

Mary Morrissey then continued by reading a resolution regarding Multiple Myeloma. She asked

Jan Bopp to join her in the resolution. He is a cancer survivor and advocate. Mr. Bopp encouraged the public to have their blood tested for early detection.

Bruce Lee Clark stepped forward. He asked the public to vote Yes on Article #7 Bennington Free Clinic. Volunteer Doctors, Nurses and staff continue to see new patients and help with many things including the State Health Connect insurance program.

Maryann St. John stepped forward and asked the public to vote Yes on Article #8. She thanked the public for past support and continues to help many in the community. BROCC assists the community with many things including housing, heating, food, weatherization of homes, taxes, Health Connect insurance and utilities etc.

Jennifer Pluvey stepped forward. She is a Case Manager for the Council in Aging. She asked the public to vote Yes on Article #9. Their organization provides Meals on Wheels program, assist in tax preparation, legal assistance, mental health outreach and transportation among many other services for the elderly.

Genevieve Plunkett, Peter Lawrence and two other representatives of Sunrise Family Resource Center stepped forward to ask for support on Article #10. Their organization has helped the community for (46) years. They assist families with job connections, education, childcare needs and assist those who have grown up in Foster Care transition out. Please vote Yes!

Cathy Aliberti stepped forward and asked the public to vote Yes on Article #6. Green Mountain Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has (71) volunteers that assist many local organizations. They include blood drives, tax preparations, transportation, food pantries and even companionship.

There was no other business this evening.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY BALLOT

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016
THE POLLS TO BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
AT THE POLLING PLACES SPECIFIED ABOVE**

TOWN TREASURER ELECTION. A Town Treasurer residing in the Town shall be elected for term of three (3) years.

TOWN MODERATOR ELECTION. A Town Moderator residing in the Town shall be elected for terms of three (3) years.

SELECT BOARD ELECTION. Three Select Board Members residing in the Town shall be elected for terms of three (3) years.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, the total sum of \$12,020,560.00 consisting of the following: \$3,902,050.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$8,118,510.00 for the payment of the following: Any indebtedness not otherwise specifically provided for, interest on indebtedness, legally authorized State and County taxes, the prosecution and defense of the common rights and interests of the inhabitants of the Town, and for other necessary incidental expenses?

The proposed budget includes \$50,000.00 for fire equipment, \$20,000.00 for parking improvements, \$15,000.00 for regional economic development, \$50,000.00 for bridge repair/replacement and \$344,160.00 for healthcare reserve and workers compensation insurance, any unexpended portion of which will be reserved to subsequent years for that purpose.

YES
NO

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$2,500.00 for Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$2,500.00 for Turning Point Center of Bennington?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$7,000.00 for Vermont Center For Independent Living?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$7,200.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for BROCC - Community Action In Southwestern Vermont?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for Sunrise Family Resource Center?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for The Tutorial Center?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

YES
NO

Jason Morrissey, Moderator asked to close the meeting.

Motion: Motion from the floor to close the meeting. Motion was seconded from the floor (verbally). Motion passed unanimously (verbally).

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

Linda E. Bermudez
Secretary

Jason Morrissey
Moderator