

Town of Huntington: 2011 Town Meeting Abstract
Tuesday, March 1, 2011 – Brewster-Pierce Memorial School

The legal Voters of the Town of Huntington, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School in said town on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. to transact the following business:

Voting will be conducted on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, between the hours of six-thirty (6:30) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will be open and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close.

Before the meeting was called to order, Les Hunton led the room in the Star Spangled Banner and the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:07 am by Moderator Britt Cummings, who gave an introduction, made a couple of brief announcements, and reviewed the rules of the meeting, noting that Roberts Rules of Order would be followed.

Article 1. To elect all Town Officers as required by law. (Australian ballot).

Article 2. To hear and act upon the reports of Town Officers.

MOTION: Les Hunton moved to approve with corrections; seconded by Skeeter Sanders.

DISCUSSION: Corrections on Table of Contents, made by Town Clerk Heidi Racht: Town Officers/Employees/Officials, page 2; Under Civic Organizations, Our Community Cares Camp, Inc., page 44, and Capital Projects Plan, page 6, left off contents; last heading Warnings and Ballots (not Bank Statements). On page 25, heading should read Huntington Everybody (not Everyone).

RESOLUTION: Article 2 passed as corrected on voice vote.

Article 3. Shall the Town pay current taxes to the Treasurer of the Town and School District?

MOTION: Deb Hunton moved to approve; seconded by Ted Sargeant.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESOLUTION: Article 3 passed on voice vote.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize the Board of Trustees of the Huntington Public Library to spend donated funds for the purposes of library operations and capital expenditures?

MOTION: Heather Pembroke moved to approve; seconded by Abbott Rachampbell.

DISCUSSION: Library Trustee Liz Greenberg explained that this was an issue of “housekeeping.” The Vermont Secretary of State’s publication on Vermont Library Law was revised in 2010. The Huntington Library Board learned that it had to be authorized by the voters to spend the money it raised. This is a one-time approval.

Skeeter Sanders asked how much money and was referred to page 17 of the Town Report.

Liz Greenberg, in answer to a question about the portion of the budget that is covered by fundraised money, replied that 20% of the budget and half of the books were covered through these funds. When the Library’s budget was overspent, money was taken out of the Friends account to cover the overages, so no negative balance is carried forward.

Duncan Keir asked if some of these donated funds paid for snowplowing and utilities for the Park and Ride. When it was confirmed that is was, he remarked that this is a town-owned building and the town should be maintaining the Park and Ride and not the Library’s donors.

RESOLUTION: Article 4 passed on voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize the Selectboard to borrow money when needed to meet current expenses and indebtedness of the Town and in anticipation of taxes?

MOTION: Deb Hunton moved to approve; seconded by Heather Pembrook.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESOLUTION: Article 5 passed on voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the voters of Huntington authorize the Selectboard to close out the Elderly Housing Reserve fund (\$1,848.49, plus interest accrued) and use this funding to reduce the tax rate for 2011/2012?

MOTION: Les Hunton moved to approve; seconded by John Hadden.

DISCUSSION: Selectboard member Joe Segale explained that this article was to close out the reserve fund. No further discussion.

RESOLUTION: Article 6 passed on voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the voters of Huntington authorize the Selectboard to close out the Salt Shed Reserve fund (\$14,707.23, plus interest accrued) and use this funding to reduce the tax rate for 2011/2012?

MOTION: David Worthley moved to approve; seconded by Mark Smith.

DISCUSSION: Joe Segale explained that the town had received a bond and grant from the state and the sand shed had come in under budget by \$14,700. In answer to a question, he explained that the money would go back into the General Fund if the article was approved. This would include covering the cost of extra salt or sand or other expenses.

Megs Keir asked what the interest rate was on the loan and asked about the pros and cons of applying the monies against the debt to lower annual cost since the town had borrowed \$95,000 and was still paying back the loan.

Town Treasurer Dan Stoddard replied that the bond rate is 2% to 3%, and that “with inflation, we are better off carrying the debt.”

RESOLUTION: Article 7 passed on voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the voters of Huntington authorize the Selectboard to use the \$28,799, remaining in the budget as of July 1, 2010, to reduce the tax rate for 2011/2012?

MOTION: Doug Graver moved to approve; seconded by Knox Cummin.

DISCUSSION: In response to a question from the floor, Selectboard member Wayne Curley replied, “We don’t have the money until July 1. We can’t apply it to this year.”

Pembroke asked what would happen to the money if the article were not approved. Curley responded that it would “sit in this fund. We need your approval to use it.

It was ascertained that the explanation of this article was on page 7 of the Town Report.

Skeeter Sanders asked if the money could be set aside to be used as the town’s version of a “rainy day fund” to be used for unexpected expenses “above and beyond the budget.” Doug Graver explained that the money would need to be in a reserve fund, with a specific purpose. The Selectboard would not have the flexibility in spending this money if it’s in a Reserve Fund. The Selectboard would borrow money when needed and figure out how to pay it back. Also, it was not legal to create a reserve fund that is not on the warning.

RESOLUTION: Article 8 passed on voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize a total general fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,394,645, of which \$1,150,790 shall be raised by taxes, and \$243,855 by non-tax revenues?

MOTION: Mark Smith moved the article to the floor; seconded by Ted Sargeant.

DISCUSSION: Stefan Jacobs proposed an amendment to the budget for an increase of \$26,900 for a total General Fund operating expenses of \$1,421,545 to be used for Richmond Rescue, as per their budget request; seconded by Kevin Wiberg.

Moderator Britt Cummings raised the issue of germaneness to the article in light of the high cost of the increase because the line item would more than double. He ruled the amendment as not germane.

Gail Conley commented, “I believe we can amend up or down.”

Cummings asked the room, “Shall the Moderator’s decision be sustained?”

Duncan Keir agreed with Cummings and noted that line items can’t be specified at the meeting; the voters can advise. Cummings disagreed, stating that this was not the case with the municipal budget, only with the school budget.

Doug Graver also agreed with the Moderator. He added, “The time to bring the issue before the town was during budgeting time.”

Selectboard member Ed Booth said, "We approved what's in the budget right now."

Graver then said that he believed that property tax is the wrong way to pay for these services, which prompted Cummings to cut in and ask that the discussion be limited to the issue of germaneness.

Barb Winters noted that a letter from Richmond Rescue about the issue had been mailed to all postal patrons. It was dated February 14, 2011.

Cummings explained that he had spoken with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) and the Secretary of State's Office and concluded that "the warning is the official document." He also noted that he had gotten a different opinion from each office and therefore his ruling on germaneness is "subjective."

Pam Hart said that she felt that this was like "sneaking in the back door." She said she was all for medical help and would support it next year.

George Mincar observed that the amount of money was big on the line item, but small on the overall budget. "It is a small percentage on a very important item that affects our families and the health of our communities." The town of Bolton had passed it last night, and he estimated that the cost per resident would be \$15 on an appraisal of \$200,000 or \$5 to \$30 per property.

Again, Cummings cut into the discussion to bring it back to germaneness.

Jennifer Esser asked if Richmond Rescue had approached the Selectboard and stated "They need to have the opportunity to bring it to the town."

Cummings said, "The vehicle was to warn this as an article."

Charlotte Barrowman declared, "All the people who couldn't be here would be shocked to have a large item like this added to the budget."

Harry Frank disagreed, stating, "Town Meeting is exactly the place to bring this up." He argued that the amendment was germane and that this was the "annual opportunity to have a conversation." He would vote to overturn the Moderator's decision.

Megs Keir asked to hear from the Selectboard members about the process.

Cummings said it was not germane. Keir argued, "We are dependent on the Selectboard to warn what we are discussing."

Knox Cummin pointed out that there are checks and balances in representative government. The issue is "do we want to talk about this or not? The Selectboard may be overly eager to keep taxes down and we still want to talk about it."

In response to John Sollinger's question about the ramifications of approving the amendment, Cummings replied that, "in theory, someone could bring a lawsuit."

Aaron Worthley asked the Selectboard if it had notified Richmond Rescue in time so an article could be warned. Cummings said the question was not germane.

Ken Wyman asked if the Selectboard could be instructed to fund the Richmond Rescue amendment out of the budget without increasing it; the Moderator said it could not.

Kevin Wiberg challenged the germaneness noting that it was subjective since the town had, in the past, amended the budget and no one had objected. Joe Perella concurred that it was "subjective on where you draw the line on germaneness.

There is a potential for a line item to be increased or decreased at Town Meeting."

Within the context of the discussion, Barbara Felitti and Mark Smith supported the Moderator, while Dave Clark wanted to overrule.

Ross Ogilvie asked, "What percentage would be germane? In engineering, ten percent is insignificant." Nothing was concluded from his comments.

Lori Nyland called the question; seconded by Angela Gatesy.

The question was passed on a voice vote.

MORE DISCUSSION:

Duncan Keir asked the Selectboard why they chose not to put the request in the budget. He asked if there had been time to petition an article to be warned.

Ed Booth replied that they had "received our proposed budget in time to respond. They definitely had adequate time to discuss this."

Doug Graver said he opposed the amendment: "There are people in town who can't afford \$30 more per year in property taxes." He opined, "It would be easy to have this recalled. We could be back here in six weeks." He was opposed, on principle, to having expenses discussed that aren't on the warning. He then advocated for community support and promised to make a donation.

Joe Perella asked for a detailed explanation as to why the Selectboard rejected the request. Booth said that the Selectboard had tried for a level-funded budget. The Board had asked about outside funding to support it and had increased the line item by \$1000. Wayne Curley added, "They had good ideas about where they wanted to go. It wasn't apparent that they had concrete plans in place to do it. They were ambiguous." Jim Christiansen said that the increase was primarily for medics. "This is not a one-time increase. This is our new baseline." He also talked about the ongoing salaries and benefits.

In further discussion, Pam Hart advocated for following the process and Dana Cummings asked if there was a precedent for a two percent increase in the budget. He added that Richmond Rescue has "begged and pleaded" for volunteers for years and if they don't have staffing, they could get decertified. He asked, "If we say no today, when would we decide?"

Skeeter Sanders offered that the town may not be able to afford to increase the budget when the town is going to have to address the expense of fuel increases which are beyond its control."

Guthrie Smith asked for comments from Richmond Rescue and Stefan Jacobs replied, "We are volunteers. There is no us and them – it's just us. We did mailings, postings, outreach to the towns served."

Jane Keir asked about the process for another meeting. She also noted that the town had just voted to put \$28,000 surplus into tax relief. Why not use this to fund the Rescue request?

Knox Cummin noted that the cost of another meeting would be \$2000, and there would probably be lower attendance. He asked how many people die in the ambulance on the way to the hospital because there's no care.

Mark Smith supported the Selectboard. Graver talked about the long-term commitment to the employees and that this was not a one-time commitment.

Terry Ryan said the service is adequate and there needs to be another way to handle medical services.

Wayne Curley said that Huntington's rescue service is being reorganized under the Huntington Volunteer Fire Department. "We want to see how this plays out. We need to give Tate [Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey] an opportunity to work with Huntington Rescue folks."

MORE DISCUSSION: David Worthley and Jean Sturm supported the Selectboard's choice not to include the request, with Sturm stating that Richmond Rescue didn't adequately represent themselves. "They needed a Board member here."

Tate Jeffrey then spoke about the Richmond Rescue informational meeting held in Huntington where "no one showed up." He then explained that Huntington has a First Response, not a rescue and not a transport agency. "We would still need Richmond Rescue." He went on, "Paramedic care is very important."

Alison Forrest, who was a member of Richmond Rescue 25 years ago, said, "People have to be aware of how many hours, hundred and hundreds of hours, are put in by Rescue members." There is training, work shifts, fundraising. "I have always felt that other people should pay who don't volunteer." She then said she would be sending in her donation card with a check.

Larry Brace handed Britt Cummings \$10 to give to Richmond Rescue.

Rahul Kushwaha said, "Richmond Rescue has botched a major opportunity." He pointed out that their request was explained in great detail on page 24 of the Town Report.

Caitlyn Jenness said, "We are being overcritical of the administrative skills of a group that is underfunded and understaffed." She then proposed middle ground.

Dave Clark supported the request for funding, but Kevin Wiberg said that the case hadn't been proven.

George Mincar noted that Town Moderator Britt Cummings had to consult the Secretary of State's Office in anticipation of the discussion; he could see why a volunteer organization might have been confused [about the process].

Richard Flynn called the question; seconded by Ted Sargeant.

Passed on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION: Amendment defeated on a hand vote.

Referring to a note passed to him by the Selectboard at the beginning of the discussion, Cummings explained that the amount to be raised by taxes is now \$1,105,435 due to the approval of Articles 6-8, and he would entertain an amendment to the article.

AMENDMENT: Skeeter Sanders moved to change the article 9 to read "Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize a total general fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,394,645, of which \$1,105,435 shall be raised by taxes, and \$287,310 by non-tax revenues?"

DISCUSSION: None.

RESOLUTION: Amendment passed on a voice vote.

DISCUSSION ON MAIN BUDGET ITEM: Heather Pembroke asked about the Selectboard message where they had planned to avoid an increase in the tax rate for 2011-2012. \$18,000 remains in the budget – would this be taxed? Joe Segale said that there was a mistake in the message.

Megs Keir said that the plowing and other expenses of the park and ride should not be in the library's budget. Town buildings should have driveways and handicapped access maintained by town trucks. She commented that the snow off the roof of the library had blocked the handicapped ramp and that the town is liable for injury.

David Worthley asked about lines 353-354 and the cost-savings measures taken by the town, yet there was \$10,000 still in the budget for a bookkeeper. Ed Booth replied that this money had been left in case the Town Treasurer no longer wanted to do the payroll. Worthley asked if this amount had to do with the increase shown in the Town Treasurer's salary and was told it did not.

Ken Wyman asked about the increase in line 278 (legal fees) and was told the town is currently in litigation.

Heather Pembroke thanked the Selectboard for including the Capital Projects Plan (page 6) and asked about whether things in 2011 are in this year's budget. Jim Christiansen said the Board was discussing the Camel Hump bridge and paving the Main Road, observing that federal and state funding sources will be declining. After Terry Ryan's question about the increase in the maintenance of the Town Office, Wayne Curley explained that there were issues of air quality, exterior deterioration and the budget had been developed based on bids from previous years. An historic preservation grant had not been awarded.

Enid Wonnacott asked about the increases on page 7 to the Selectboard, Conservation Commission, Planning Commission and Town Office. Joe Segale explained that the Board added money for merit pay. Curley readdressed the additional money for Town Office repairs, increase in insurance, IT support (back up and security and maintenance), and a new copy machine. Dori Barton said that the Conservation Commission increase (line 50) restores the level of funding for the Conservation Fund, which had been a one-time reduction. The Planning Commission (line 328) is the matching funding for a grant received.

In answer to a question about the grant, Planning Commissioner Heather Pembroke said the grant allowed the town to look at how it did planning and zoning; looks at how buildings could be placed historically. An update of the Town Plan is also proposed for 2012.

Kathy Kretzer reinforced previous comments that the Park and Ride should not be funded out of the Library budget.

David Worthley asked about how the Capital Plan is going to be funded.

Members of the Board said that they would be looking at that option for next year. It was noted that the town used to set aside \$100,000 per year for paving and this is something that the Board is looking at reinstating. It will increase the tax rate. More discussion topics included the outstanding performance of the road crew, the superior quality of the members of the Selectboard, medical insurance, loss of federal funds like those acquired for the East Street bridge, and voting on the budget being an act of trust and faith.

Dave Clark called the question; seconded by Skeeter Sanders. Passed on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION: Article 9 passed on a voice vote.

Article 10. To transact any other Town business thought proper when met.

1. Heidi Racht presented the Olga Hallock Award to Donna Lewis, who was not at the meeting, the first time since Racht could remember (1976). Lewis has been a town volunteer since 1968. She stood out at the Secretary of State's Recognition Night in Richmond, held at the Monitor Barn in 2009, for her decades of service and she is the town's longest serving active volunteer. She started as a Town Auditor. She was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary and has organized the Harvest Supper for at least 40 years. Lewis is a member of Richmond Rescue and Huntington First Response. She also took over as the treasurer of the Huntington Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts and attends committee meetings (and seems to enjoy them and to actually be interested in the groups). Currently, she prepares and serves the Senior Lunch held at the church every month and she makes sure that seniors who are unable to make the meal due to illness receive a "special delivery." This award is long overdue and Donna Lewis is most deserving.
2. Representatives Tom Stevens and Rebecca Ellis addressed the meeting. Stevens talked about Sue Minter's resignation and introduced Ellis. He commented on the change in tone in Montpelier with the change in administration. He mentioned the \$176 million shortfall and federal cuts to Vermont, totaling \$37 million. Ellis gave her background and talked briefly about her committee assignment.
3. Heidi Racht mentioned that earlier in the day she had a discussion with Michele Cummings about an historical connection to Town Meeting for the Cummings family. Forty years ago, on Town Meeting Day (March 2), Britt Cummings came into the meeting to tell his father, Huntington Town Moderator Norman Cummings, of the birth of his first grandchild, Dana.

ADJOURNMENT: Skeeter Sanders moved to adjourn; seconded by Doug Graver.
Meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Town of Huntington
2011 Annual School District Meeting Abstract
Tuesday, March 1, 2011 – Brewster-Pierce Memorial School

The legal voters of the Town School District of the Town of Huntington, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School in Huntington Center, Vermont, on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at one o'clock (1:00) in the afternoon, to transact the following business:

Voting for Australian Ballot questions on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, between the hours of six-thirty o'clock (6:30) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close.

CALL TO ORDER: Huntington School Moderator Britt Cummings called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm.

Approval was given to non-residents to address the meeting: Gail Webb, John Alberghini and Joanne Russell.

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act upon the reports of the Officers.

MOTION: Dana Cummings moved to approve; seconded by Gail Conley.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESOLUTION: The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the Huntington Town School District authorize the school board under 16 V.S.A. 562 (9) to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year?

MOTION: Deb Hunton moved to approve; seconded by Les Hunton.

DISCUSSION: None

RESOLUTION: The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: To vote a budget of \$1,810,847 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town School District.

MOTION: Heidi Racht moved to approve; seconded by Deb Hunton.

DISCUSSION: School board chair Rebecca Golden presented that the budget had a reduction of \$9981 from 2010 or a 0.55% decrease.

Rahul Kushwaha asked about the reduction in teacher's salaries and the increase in teaching assistants. Is there a correlation? He also asked about the decrease in math testing scores.

The response was that three teachers were retiring and that all would be replaced with qualified teachers. The increase is for a .5 paraprofessional (aide, teaching assistant) position.

Principal Gail Webb stated that math scores have gone up with grades 3 and 4 each achieving 88% competency. She said that the school had looked at the lower Science scores and have isolated the area that needs work.

Harry Frank asked about the Challenges for Change and what areas have been reduced now and in the future. Rebecca Golden said that CESU had agreed to meet the targets. BPMS had to make reductions in the amount of \$24,000, but actually had reached \$32,000, due to the retirements.

Heather Pembrook asked about the Preschool Partnership Incentive. School Board member Jennifer Peterson explained that Act 62 allowed for the support of costs of other qualified preschools. Preschoolers are part of the school's average daily membership and are considered BPMS students. Students must attend accredited preschools and the Brewster-Pierce preschool must have full enrollment before incentives are used.

Heather Pembrook asked about line 734 on page 49. Gail Webb responded that there is no computer lab at the school and most of the computers, which are donated, are tired and worn and the school needs to start replacing them.

Harry Frank commented that it was clear that the Board would meet the Challenges, but could this be done without impacting budget programs. Board member Mike Dooling replied that they would avoid cutting and would prefer to avoid having it put to a vote.

Pam Hart asked about the part-time Speech and Language Pathologist. Would this salary be doubled if it was full-time? Webb explained that it is a Special Education position and is now restored to full-time. Superintendent John Alberghini added that the position was .8 FTE now. Next year, there will be a equalized pupil cost for each town.

Duncan Keir suggested, "Considering there is going to be a significant reduction in salaries due to retirements, perhaps you didn't scrutinize the budget as carefully." Dooling said, "We calculated the budget based on one retirement. The second one was in early January. Next year, we'll get the full effect of retirements." He went on to say that the Board had tried to cut where they could and maintain quality program. Golden added, "In previous year, we cut. We don't want to cut education programs." She added that one-on-one access helps test scores and this is done with technology.

RESOLUTION: The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Huntington School District allocate \$15,000 to the repair and replacement fund for fiscal year 2012 for upgrades to the heating system?

MOTION: Dave Clark moved to approve; seconded by Heather Pembrook.

DISCUSSION: Rebecca Golden explained that the money had come from the audited surplus of \$55,000. She said that the furnace is 40 years old. They had compared repairs with replacement. Currently, it is operating at 83% capacity and some parts aren't available.

Rahul Kushwaha asked if maintenance costs would go down. Right now, it has gone up by \$2000. Golden responded that the line item was averaging overages for repair/maintenance of \$1000-\$2000, so this is level funding.

Alan Campbell recalled that the school had two boilers. What other capital problems are on the horizon? John Alberghini responded that the second boiler was from the 1990s. Other work could include resurfacing of the second half of the parking lot, duct cleaning, tile replacement on the gym floor; also, the west wing windows are leaking. This should cost about \$35,000.

Liz Greenberg asked where the surplus goes. Sylvia Ewerts asked if the new boiler would be adaptable to fuel inputs. Alberghini responded that since there wasn't a natural gas line to Huntington, it would not be cost-effective.

In response to a question from Pam Hart, it was confirmed that the \$15,000 would be used only for heating.

Harry Frank commented that the improvements, especially the parking lot, were a "great idea." He asked about the size of the surplus, noting that it seemed large, and asked why it happened. Golden responded that \$30,000 was ERA money (Special Education) and \$14,000 for staffing and budget changes.

ARTICLE 5: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

1. School Board member Breck Knauft presented an update on the proposed School District Consolidation. This would combine all school boards into one 15-member board with two representatives from Huntington.

The committee has sent a report to the Secretary of Education. The State Board will approve this. He said, "If any town rejects it, it won't happen."

Harry Frank asked the Board members for their thoughts. He wondered if, with the consolidation of schools, if the outcomes for the kids are reduced. If there are fewer community-based school, it is "not good for kids."

Mike Dooling said that the plan was to get it in front of the community. "Let the people of Huntington discuss this. There is no Board opinion." Knauft added, "There is no collective opinion or consensus [from the Board]."

Knauft then said that there was a potential for administrative savings. He said it wasn't known if "savings will have impact - positively or negatively - on the educational experience." He added, "It may be mandated."

Rahul Kushwaha asked about the report. "Who is benefitting from any savings?" Will the savings translate into a quality educational experience?

John Alberghini said that the report is on the CESU website. He said there could be a reduction in staff and minor savings.

Dave Clark, who is on the committee, encouraged people to read the report on the website. He stated, "This will impact how School Boards interact with schools."

Gail Conley said that he would campaign against consolidation. He then volunteered to be on a debate panel.

Sylvia Ewerts asked about the assignments of teachers and how this related to the statewide teachers contract. Knauft replied the principals would continue to hire teachers and the statewide teachers contract is "not part of the discussion."

Frank asked how to get more people to get the information. He asked for creative ways to engage the community.

2. Joanne Russell passed out her annual fuels savings report from the roof bond.

3. Back to school consolidation... Dana Cummings asked if the Huntington representatives would be chosen by the entire district or by the town; the latter, it was confirmed.

Duncan Keir asked about the “mundane” decision. He gave an example of the duct work needing to be done in Huntington. What if the consolidated board decided not to spend the money on this building? Knauft replied that there would be a high importance on the quality of leadership of the principal. This would be “a paradigm shift with collective oversight of all the schools. It would be a leap of faith that people care about all the towns.” Golden added that all the assets would belong to the consolidated district, which includes the schools and the grounds.

Frank talked about Huntington’s “unique aspect” and its position as a “vanguard for initiatives” like foreign language and quality food service.

4. Jennifer Peterson announced the BPMS received Honor of Distinction, one of only 14 schools in the state and the only one in Chittenden County.

ADJOURNMENT: Dave Clark moved to adjourn, seconded by Heather Pembroke. The annual school meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Australian Ballot Questions

- Article 6** To elect a Moderator for a period of one year.
- Article 7** To elect a School Director for a period of three years.
- Article 8** To elect a School Director for a period of two years.
- Article 9** To elect a School Director for a period of three years for Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17, term to begin day of election.

Minutes prepared by Heidi Racht

Submitted this 10th day of March 2011


Heidi Racht, Town Clerk, CVC
Huntington, Vermont

Approved this 10 day of March 2011


Board of Civil Authority


Board of Civil Authority

March 1, 2011 Town Election Results

307 people voted

1438 people are on the Huntington checklist

Selectboard 1 yr

208 Dan Rissacher

Selectboard 2 yrs – all write-ins

57 Roman Livak write/in*

Selectboard 3 yrs

268 Dori Barton

Auditor 3 yrs

270 Doug Graver

Cemetery Trustee 5 yrs

289 Owen Rachampbell

Library Trustee 3 yrs

281 Paula Kelley

Lister 3 yrs

237 Roman Livak*

Town Moderator 1 yr

292 Britt Cummings

Town Grand Juror 1 yr

18 Bonnie Gordon write/in

Planning Commission 3 yrs

(3 positions)

219 Julia M. Austin

191 Tom Bailey

246 Dana Cummings

129 Roman Livak

Planning Commission 2 yrs

257 Ginger Lubkowitz

Town Agent 1 yr

385 Mary Taft

March 1, 2011 School Election Results

BPMS Board 3 yrs

Write-ins: needed 14

(no one received 14 votes)

BPMS Board 2 yrs

258 Michael Dooling

School Moderator 1 yr

280 Britt Cummings

MMU School Director 1 yr

260 David Clark

*Because the offices Selectboard member and Lister are incompatible positions (one person cannot hold both positions), per Vermont State Statute, the election for Lister has been set aside.