

**Town of Huntington: 2012 Town Meeting Abstract**  
**Tuesday, March 6, 2012 – 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 6, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. to transact the following business:*

*Voting will be conducted on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, 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. Moderator Britt Cummings read the names of the Huntington service men and women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and asked for a moment of silence in honor of them and in memory of Huntington Town Administrator Ed Wildman.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 9:06 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 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 Heather Pembroke.

**DISCUSSION:** At first appeared that no corrections would be made to the Town Report, however Aaron Worthley pointed out an error in the minutes where language in Articles 4 and 5 appeared twice. [Later, Dana Cummings pointed out that Mary Taft had received 385 votes for Town Agent when only 307 people had voted; the total should have been 285.]

**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:** David Worthley moved to approve; seconded by Knox Cummin.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**RESOLUTION:** Article 3 passed on voice vote.

**Article 4. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize the Selectboard to borrow money when needed to meet the current expenses and indebtedness of the Town in anticipation of taxes?**

**MOTION:** Kevin Wiberg moved to approve; seconded by David Worthley.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**RESOLUTION:** Article 4 passed on voice vote.

**Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington approve the creation of a Paving Reserve Fund to be used by the Selectboard for paving and maintenance of Class 2 roads?**

**MOTION:** Joe Segale moved to approve; seconded by John Hadden.

**DISCUSSION:** Selectboard member Dori Barton explained that this article had been discussed as part of the capital projects plan presented in 2011. The Selectboard has a budget of \$2 million-plus to repair and maintain the town's paved roads. She explained that the Main Road would be "the focus of attention in the future." In 2011, CCMPO (Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization) hired an engineer to do an evaluation of the Main Road. Dubois and King advised the town to address the 10 miles of Main Road in an eight-year cycle, tackling 1-1.2 miles per year. Strategies were identified, based on the condition of the road. The engineers deemed the road to be in "fair shape," with changes to become apparent in the next couple of years.

Barton went on, the engineers recommended that the town has "hit the limit" of overlaying and that the town grind the top eight inches and put it back down. The Reserve Fund would be used with grants, most of which have a match. Barton concluded, "We have a short window to start saving."

Heather Pembrook asked if the Capital Projects Plan Table, shown on page 7 with dates of 2015-2022 for Main Road repaving, is what this article was addressing. Barton responded, "We need to save something. \$50,000 [Article 6 still to be discussed] is not enough to do one mile. We may be looking at a different number as we go ahead."

Pembrook's second question was on the term "paving," which Barton explained is a generic term that includes grinding of old pavement, base prep and shoulder work.

Knox Cummin asked about restructuring the base of the road, noting that he had been told that the cracks, which are parallel to the center, occur because the road was expanded from two rods to three rods and the base wasn't redone.

Barton responded that the borings concluded that the sub-base of the Main Road is "really great."

Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger said that the 12" asphalt cracks at the bottom and then travels to the top. The town has already done Hinesburg Hollow Road, East Street and part of Hanksville. Paving grants of \$175,000 are available; the cost is now \$219,000 per mile.

Terry Ryan asked if the paving would comply with the Whole Streets Initiative, that has bike lanes and shoulders. He also asked about whether the Selectboard had looked into having the State or the Federal Government take over the Main Road to which Barton replied, "The State doesn't want it."

Barton added that the Board was also looking into improving drainage.

Jim Christiansen said, "The State doesn't give you a bonus if you have a bike lane." He also noted that the lateral cracks are created from areas with standing water in the ditches that permeate the base of the road.

Further discussion on whether the town should do the reserve fund route or use regular funding with a bond vote, Christiansen summarized the options, noting that the Board hoped to work on the road over eight years; grants occur over one to three years. He pointed out that Huntington had already received grants; in fact more money per capita than any other town in the county. The money put into the reserve would be used as a leverage opportunity for grants.

Larry Brace took the opportunity to move the discussion away from paving by speaking to the power of positive thinking.

Ken Pillsbury said to Christiansen, "Jim, you are on some kind of crusade to get this Main Road paved. If we filled the cracks, we would not have to concern ourselves with repaving for the next three years."

Barton responded that 2015 was identified as the starting date and "we have to start setting money aside."

Christiansen added that if a grant was forthcoming from the State, the project could be started sooner.

Pillsbury then said he was "sick and embarrassed of Huntington always holding our hand out." He compared taking grant money to taking "welfare" and reiterated, "This is sick." Moving along, he then said, "Why would you want to repave if that professional said the road was sound for three years?"

Christiansen replied that the overlay of asphalt for two to three miles is \$200,000, not that much cheaper than what is being proposed. This new paving project will last eight to 15 years, significantly longer than the option of just overlayment. He also stated that the town was going to do "serious crack sealing for two years."

Pillsbury said, "The base is already found to be sound." He then went on to point out that the Selectboard showed a "lack of fiscal responsibility on the part of the Board and others concerned if they pursue something like this if they know it isn't absolutely necessary." And, "some day, we are going to have to survive without grants and I hope this time is soon." He advocated for the road serving the town for three years.

Dan Stoddard pointed out, "If we wait three years, the last section will need to be done in 11 years. To even out the cost, it should start now."

Ed Booth identified himself as the town's RPC (Regional Planning Commission) representative, stating, "We were applying [for grants] when other towns weren't. Now they are, but we should still be applying."

Doug Graver seconded Stoddard's position and then asked the Selectboard whether the money stays in the Reserve Fund until a project "or we vote to spend." Dubois and King "said it [the Reserve Fund] should start now. By putting money in , we are saying we support this project."

**RESOLUTION:** Article 5 passed on voice vote.

**Article 6. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington approve \$50,000 be placed in a Paving Reserve Fund?**

**MOTION:** Heather Pembroke moved to approve; seconded by Mark Smith.

**DISCUSSION:** Megs Keir asked about the logistics of how the money is set aside. Does the money get any interest?

Jim Christiansen explained that the town treasurer manages the fund and it is part of an interest-bearing account.

Heather Pembroke asked how much this \$50,000 represented on \$100,000 assessment and Barton said it was \$46 on \$200,000. Christiansen added that this estimate is based on the Grand List filed May 2011.

In answer to a question about the cost to do the entire paving project, Christiansen said there were no grant guarantees. Grant cycles are three years. It would cost \$150,000 per year and that doesn't include the ditching and replacement of culverts.

David Worthley commented, "I think it's great you are looking at capital expenditures and planning for the future." He asked about funding other things in the Capital Projects Plan.

Christiansen pointed out that some "things have to slide" back because of emergencies like the flooding. It's not the costs, but the crew was doing projects that forced others on the schedule to be pushed back. He added that the grader could go eight years or 15 years.

Duncan Keir asked about the math, noting it wasn't clear since he heard that the cost was \$2 million, which is \$250,000 per year; yet, the figure that Christiansen had just stated \$150,000 per year. He asked about where the grants fit in.

Christiansen said the Board is looking at three grants of \$175,000. He said, "We may have to do some bonding." Then talked about a modified approach where we may modify – do three years and then take a couple years off." He talked about flexibility. He also explained that in a good economy when the oil prices are higher, paving prices are higher. There is economy of scale and the town would pay more for smaller jobs.

Joe Segale described the funding of paving grants: gas taxes, car tax and registrations, drivers' license fees. He said, "It's our money. I don't see it as welfare. We should get that money back."

**AMENDMENT:** Joe Segale moved to change the amount of Article 6 to \$100,000; seconded by Gail Conley.

**DISCUSSION:** Doug Graver thanked Segale for initiating the Dubois and King study. He said, "It's important to put money in the Reserve Fund. We need to put money away and this is the year to do it." He went on, "It's necessary to send the message that we support this project." He then said that, however, he can't support any more on the tax rate and would not be voting for the amendment. Kevin Wiberg said he was "challenged by seeing something that is warned doubled." He proposed increasing the amount next year and warning the voters for next year.

Terry Ryan said he had done the math and asked whether it was the same effect. Dori Barton responded, "We have more than the Main Road to deal with this year. We spent a lot of time in discussion on this before landing on \$50,000." With the additional projects about to be proposed, she said, "more money would result in an increase that is out of line with the times."

Gail Conley spoke of the "vital nature" of the Main Road, noting, "\$50,000 is hardly a start."

Megs Keir called the question; seconded by Dave Clark. Passed on a voice vote.

**RESOLUTION:** The amendment was defeated on a voice vote.

George Mincar called the question; seconded by Ted Sargeant. Passed on a voice vote.

**RESOLUTION:** Article 6 passed on a voice vote.

**Article 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize the Selectboard to purchase a replacement plow-truck, using \$20,000 from the Equipment Reserve Fund, and to borrow additional funds for a total purchase price not to exceed \$170,000? (Borrowed money to be paid over a period not to exceed 5 years at the best competitive rate.)**

**MOTION:** Dave Clark moved to approve; seconded by Terry Ryan.

**DISCUSSION:** Roman Livak introduced the article by explaining that this truck would replace the truck that was purchased in 2003 and on which the town has spent \$20,000-plus over the past three years.

In answer to a question about the term of the payback and the cost against \$100,000 property assessment, Jim Christiansen replied it would be \$30,000 to \$37,000 per year and the assessment would be \$33 per \$200,000 assessment.

Dana Cummings asked about the Equipment Reserve Fund on page 17. Does that double with this? Why not just take the entire amount of the Reserve Fund?

Christiansen said that what is being put into the account is not adequate and “we wanted to leave something in the fund.”

In response to an inquiry from Sarah Jane Williamson about the type of truck that the Selectboard was proposing to purchase, Christiansen replied that a tandem would replace a single-axle. She then asked why the town needed two tandems, to which he replied that the cost differential of an equipped tandem was \$16,000 greater than a single axle; also, there would be \$20,000 additional on the trade-in at the end of the tandem’s life. He went on, “a tandem allows for two loads instead of three single-axle loads.”

Yogi Alger said that with a tandem, “it’s easier to get our work done. It’s worth it for a tandem.”

In answer to JB Bryan’s question as to whether all the town’s bridges could hold the weight, Alger said that the town is changing the plank bridges to pressure-treated lumber and that tandem weight is distributed.

Ken Pillsbury accused the Selectboard of deceiving the voters two years ago when the town voted for a single-axle truck and the Board purchased a tandem truck.

He spoke about needs versus wants, that this was “touchy-feely” and a “status symbol. He then said, among other things, to “temper judgment,” to “show restraint” and to base the decision on history: “our road crew does a great job with a single axle truck.”

Dave Clark supported the Board, stating that it had identified three cogent areas where it makes sense to go with a larger vehicle. He urged taking a “long term” look at the issue.

Megs Keir spoke to employment noting that “fewer loads meant fewer hours” and talked about locally-employed people versus money to a big corporation, the larger, heavier vehicles result in more wear and tear on the back roads,

compacting the crown and affecting drainage. To this, Alger responded that the extra axle with a four-foot longer body gave better traction. Besides, "the tandem is already doing the back roads."

Knox Cummin noted that the Capital Plan has a single axle in it for next year. What is the plan? Christiansen responded, "At this point, it's a single axle." He pointed out that this truck had also been pushed back a year.

The discussion continued with questions and comments about the life span of the truck, the trade-in application on the purchase and using draft horses in an attempt at humor.

Ed Booth explained that the tandem would be used for the anticipated FEMA work this summer and "would help with future work."

Christiansen said that, in three estimates from dealers, the trade-in value is applied to the purchase. He also said that truck replacement is an "inexact science" with a range from 7-10 years, based on three sources. There is also expected costs of repairs and the "down time: repair and labor in the garage and the frustration of having a vehicle that always breaks on you. It is never on a clear, sunny day."

Mark Smith called the question; seconded by Dave Clark. Passed on a voice vote.

**RESOLUTION:** Article 7 passed on voice vote.

**Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize the Selectboard to appropriate an additional \$11,000 in support of Richmond Rescue?**

**MOTION:** Bonnie Gordon moved to approve; seconded by Dave Clark.

**DISCUSSION:** Ed Booth introduced the article, explaining that Rescue President Ron Mack had approached the three participating towns (Richmond, Huntington, Bolton) to develop an advisory committee to look at preparing for this article for discussion at Town Meeting.

Gail Conley began the discussion by advocating for the extra money, stating "this is a need."

Heather Pembroke asked about the call breakdown in the Rescue Report on page 24. She questioned whether it is "equitable" to towns in dollars versus number of calls since Bolton had many more calls than Huntington, but was assessed much less. Mack explained that many interstate calls went through Bolton and the Bolton Flats section of the highway was an especially busy spot. Also, Jericho is now going to Essex, so that assessment would now be added to the three participating towns remaining.

Alison Forrest, a former squad member, supported the article, noting that it was many volunteer hours, and stating, "If you are not volunteering, the least you should do is support their work."

In answer to Liz Greenberg's question about the results of the Richmond and Bolton initiatives, Mack replied that Bolton had passed it on Monday night and Richmond was discussing it after he left Huntington.

Doug Graver then stated, "I don't agree with the expansion of the property tax to pay for this service with no regard for the ability of people to pay." He advocated for a breadth of tax support including rooms and meals, income, and other means. By passing this article, he said, "We completely remove any pressure as to

whether to have other discussion.” He also pointed out that the “taxes here do not fall under the prebate.”

After a couple of comments about billing and services to taxpayers, Mack explained, “We started patient billing in the 1990s.” Money was put into the operation and capital fund. After a transport to the hospital, Rescue bills the insurance company directly or the patient if there is no insurance: 67% of the patients are transported, although there has been a “huge decrease” in the number of calls these past years. There are more ambulances in the district. He also referred to Act 142, effective July 2011, which requires more training to transition to a new level of care. Because of the time requirement, this translates to a loss of volunteers. Mack then pointed out that the cost per person in Huntington for rescue services is \$12, which would be increased to \$18, while the cost per person for the fire department is \$35; Rescue was looking to go up to \$21 per person. In answer to a number of questions from Yves Gonnet about alternatives, reduction in service, response time and who else to call and the replacement cost of equipment, Mack explained that EMS is governed by the State of Vermont. “If we have to close, due to lack of staff (out of service), like in 2001, we lose our license. As result of this, Rescue hired staff coverage, which was “radical then.” This is now “common” – now there is only one squad in the county with all volunteers. He described the organization as being “at the end of our rope,” if the additional funding is not approved.

Mack then talked about the options of having to cut back on staff (go out of service) or cut back to one vehicle with the same effect should there be mechanical problems. The replacement time on a vehicle is six to 10 months since they are custom vehicles. If the vehicle is out of service, response would need to come from elsewhere. He said, “Richmond Rescue should be the responder since this is the service you are paying for.”

Terry Ryan’s question about whether it would be “more cost effective” to use Charlotte or Essex, prompted Booth to say, “It is difficult for us to rely on Charlotte, Williston or even Bristol, they are just too far away.”

Duncan Keir spoke about the billing “being an important part of the funding stream.” He noted the Huntington Fire Department doesn’t bill, but, “if you are falling behind, it means you are not billing enough.” He then went on to ask about the increase, saying, “In the budget, the Selectboard has an increase of 5%. This will increase by 50%. Will this show up as an increase in the line item?”

Booth responded affirmatively, stating that the increase will be over four years, then there will be a re-evaluation. “It is not significant after the fourth year.” He also said that the rate was a concern and the “advisory will continue and look at the billing.”

David Worthley called the question; seconded by Dave Clark. Passed on a voice vote.

**RESOLUTION:** Article 8 passed on voice vote.

**Article 9.** Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington approve the transfer of \$35,316.95 plus any accrued interest currently in the *2010 Bridge Reserve*

***Fund to a Bridge Reserve Fund to be used at the discretion of the Selectboard for the construction, repair or maintenance of any bridge in the Town?***

**MOTION:** Terry Ryan moved the article to the floor; seconded by Doug Graver.

**DISCUSSION:** Dan Rissacher introduced the article, by explaining that the funds were currently restricted to specific projects. Passing this article would allow the Selectboard to use the money on any bridge. There would be no effect on the budget.

In answer to Ryan's question about where this appeared in the Town Report, Rissacher pointed it was on page 16.

**RESOLUTION:** Article 9 passed on a voice vote.

**Article 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?**

**MOTION:** Kevin Wiberg moved the article to the floor; seconded by Carl Ashley.

**DISCUSSION:** Jim Christiansen explained that there was \$46,197 from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 and this would be applied to the 2012-2013 budget, not the current budget year because this budget was voted last March.

**AMENDMENT:** Jim Christiansen offered an amendment to read: "Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington apply the surplus of \$46,197 from the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2011 to Fiscal year 2012-2013?"; seconded by Doug Graver.

**DISCUSSION:** Jim Christiansen responded to a question from David Worthley on the wording by stating that the Selectboard did not have the figure from the professional auditors when the warning was written.

Christiansen responded to Joe Segale's question about the state of this year's budget, that he thought things were "ok."

Gail Conley said that he wanted clarification on the two different figures: on page 13 a \$80,310 deficit and on page 8 an operating surplus of \$67,047. To this, Christiansen explained the difference was with storm-related expenses not reimbursed yet.

Dan Stoddard explained that the Sand Shed Reserve and the Elder Housing Reserve have already been applied and "we can't do it twice." The deficit is expenses offset by FEMA – a windfall. He also explained that, because of the FEMA projects, the town did not do some of its scheduled projects.

Conley asked about the FEMA money not shown on page 7 and Stoddard replied that "the income side is not represented well in the Town Report." He referred to the explanation on page 8 for clarification.

Heather Pembroke called the question on the amendment; seconded by Dave Clark. Passed on a voice vote.

**RESOLUTION:** Amendment passed on a voice vote.

**RESOLUTION:** Article passed on a voice vote.

**Article 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize a total general fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,384,931 of which \$1,146,811 shall be raised by taxes and \$238,120 by non-tax revenue?**

**DISCUSSION:** Before the article was moved to the floor, the Selectboard proposed changing the article to include the items previously approved in Articles 6, 7, 8 and 10, thereby changing the amounts in the article.

After a lengthy discussion, Town Treasurer Dan Stoddard stated that the reduction of taxes voted in Article 10 should not be in the revision since it doesn't change the budget and is not part of the expenses.

Gail Conley advocated to vote on the motion as printed; he was encouraged by the Moderator to move the article to the floor.

**MOTION:** Gail Conley moved the article to the floor; seconded by Bonnie Gordon.

**DISCUSSION:** Jim Christiansen opened the discussion by stating that the Selectboard's goal was to maintain the infrastructure. He noted that \$35,000 had been added to work on the town's gravel roads with fabric; this is to work on existing fabric jobs rather than for new jobs. Other planned work includes increased ditching work to address damage from spring flooding and improve road surfaces, work on Terrien Road was mentioned; also money has been added to paint the exterior of the Town Hall in order to "preserve the building's integrity as an asset."

Christiansen pointed out that the insurance line in the budget had been reduced because the town's new coverage does not include out-of-network coverage.

Megs Keir asked about line 126 and how this relates to particular class roads and where the work was done. Dan Stoddard explained that the expenses first went into the highway fund; then, the professional auditors had the town pull out the expenses that didn't have to do with the town's normal operation.

Keir questioned that on page 6, the FEMA expense number goes to December 31, 2011. Stoddard answered that 75% of the money was allocated by June 30. This shows only money received "in house" by December 31. He took the most current date to still make it into the Town Report.

Heather Pembroke asked about the Capital Project Plan on page 7 and what in 2012-2015 has been postponed. Christiansen answered that the Capital Plan presented options for community discussion. For example, the bridge costs are the best estimates at the time, provided by contractors. He then went on to explain that the current method of bridge work is "no more temporary bridges" which has change the overall cost of projects.

In reference to the work proposed on the Town Hall, Ken Pillsbury talked about treasuring "things beyond material things." He said that the town already had enough meeting places to meet and listed them: Library, town offices, room under the firehouse, school, and church annex. He said that people like to take old buildings like this and "do grand things and revitalize it." It should be weather-tight, and we should take care of the roof," but nothing else should be done beyond that. He talked about the problems: septic, parking. He gave two examples of old buildings in town being renovated and opined, "one is a bottomless pit." Urging fiscal restraint, he said, "We can't support every request for money. We don't need more meeting space."

Due to the lateness of the morning encroaching on lunch, it was proposed to break for lunch and resume the meeting after the school meeting.

**MOTION TO TABLE:** Doug Graver moved to table the discussion until after the Annual School Meeting; seconded by Megs Keir.

**RESOLUTION:** defeated on a voice vote.

**RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION:** Barbara Felitti responded to Pillsbury's comments by noting that a survey of general circulation in the town received 155 responses; 80% supported rehabilitating/restoring the Town Hall. She said there would be a "larger discussion" on more than basic repairs and concluded that the \$6750 in the budget was "preventative maintenance work only."

Mark Smith stated three comments: applauded work done to protect and preserve the Town Hall by Town Hall Committee; commended "the Selectboard and Yogi for sound fiscal management and said he had "a lot of confidence to vote on the budget;" urged the Board to "take more leadership and get more jobs in the community" to help Huntington "stand alone."

Kevin Wiberg called the question; seconded by Heather Pembroke. Passed on a voice vote.

**RESOLUTION:** Article 11 passed on a voice vote.

**MOTION TO RECESS:** Heather Pembroke moved to recess until after the School Meeting; seconded by Ted Sargeant.

**RESOLUTION:** Defeated on a voice vote.

**Article 12. In light of the United States Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the town of Huntington vote to urge the Vermont congressional delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U.S. Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not free speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure?**

**MOTION:** Robin Worn moved Article 12 to the floor; seconded by Mark Smith.

**DISCUSSION:** Rich Lachapelle spoke in support of the article, noting that the debate is that "big money is driving our electoral system. This should go to the Constitution." This article is "advisorial" and will send a message.

Caitlin Jenness commented, "Vermont is leading the charge at the National level" and urged passage of the article.

Barrett Grimm said that now corporations can be "sued as people" and this article is premature.

Larry Brace urged care with the Constitution.

After some discussion about the significance of the article, whether it would have any impact and if it was a "local issue," Alison Forrest pointed out "food does touch us in Huntington." She talked about agribusiness, stating, "the regulations are made for factory farms." At Town Meeting, "we the people start" the discussion.

Joe Perella said he “admires and respects” the Citizens United initiative but questioned whether this was the appropriate forum. “It is far too complicated to decide at Town Meeting.”

Doug Graver disagreed, declaring, “What better place than Town Meeting? One person, one vote.” He wanted to “be on the record” and noted that these minutes “are our history.” He went on, “How do you undo a Supreme Court decision? This is where it can start.”

Mark Smith called the question; seconded by George Mincar. Passed on a voice vote.

**RESOLUTION:** Article 12 passed on a voice vote.

**Article 13. To transact any other Town business thought proper.**

1. Heidi Racht presented the Olga Hallock Award to Alison Forrest, of whom she said the term “Lunch Lady” had never been said. Racht talked about Forrest’s advocacy for good food, serving as the BPMS school cook for 25 years; only the second cook in the school’s 47-year history. Forrest’s volunteer efforts and advocacy since 1985 include Richmond Rescue, Huntington Valley Arts, Camp Exclamation Point, the Town Hall Committee, and volunteering at and supporting many community events, especially those using the kitchen at Brewster-Pierce.
2. Terry Ryan acknowledged his neighbor, the late Rip Quinby, who would have been skiing since it is a beautiful day. He mentioned many of Quinby’s better qualities and also that he had served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division in World War II.
3. Debbie Worthley briefly talked about the elder housing initiative in Huntington; a nonprofit, Huntington Green, Inc., has been formed. She encouraged everyone to fill out the elder housing survey.
4. Megs Keir objected to having the discussion cut off by people calling the question. She suggested starting the school meeting at 2 pm, so the Town Meeting can finish in time for lunch and not have to recess for the school meeting; many people leave after lunch.
5. Betty Wheeler talked about the PACE program that was on the warning for other towns. It is a program that encourages energy efficiency and loans are available for taxpayers through a town-sponsored program. She asked that it be put on the warning for Town Meeting 2013.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Miles Jenness moved to adjourn; seconded by Kevin Wiberg.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:36 pm.

Minutes prepared by Heidi Racht

**Town of Huntington**  
**2012 Annual School District Meeting Abstract**  
**Tuesday, March 6, 2012 – 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 6, 2012, at one o'clock (1:00) in the afternoon, to transact the following business:*

*Voting for Australian Ballot questions on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, 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.*

Before the meeting, town Moderator Britt Cummings recognized Representatives Tom Stevens and Rebecca Ellis, who addressed the assemblage. Among other topics, Stevens talked about the flooding and permitting process; Ellis discussed the energy credit and mandatory recycling. Due to the lateness of the hour and need to begin the warned 1 pm School Meeting, both representatives made their comments brief and then remained at the meeting to answer questions from residents.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Huntington School Moderator Britt Cummings called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm.

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

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

**MOTION:** Dana Cummings moved to approve; seconded by Joan Sargeant.

**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:** Heather Pembroke moved to approve; seconded by Les Hunton.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**RESOLUTION:** The article passed on a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 3: To vote a budget of \$1,904,301 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town School District.**

**MOTION:** Jennifer Esser moved to approve; seconded by Jim Christiansen.

**DISCUSSION:** School board chair Rebecca Golden explained that the budget had an increase of 5.15 %, due to Special Education and insurance increases. She also said that the enrollment at the school is increasing and the CLA has increased. Thus, taxpayers will see a decrease of \$22 per assessed property value of \$200,000.

Heather Pembrook asked why the Food Services budget increased from \$20,000 to \$36,000. Golden replied that \$3500 had been budgeted for a new dishwasher; the rest is health insurance.

Jim Christiansen asked about Line 95, a Professional Developer under 2213 Professional Development in the amount of \$3456. Joanne Russell from the CESU Office explained that the position has been in place for 10 years, funded by grants; now, the position is funded by taxes since the grants are no longer available.

Pam Hart asked about line 35 (Summer School Tuition): was this for students or for teachers? Golden responded that it was an assessment for the kids, who go to the summer program in Richmond, based on participation.

Pembrook, referring to Line 174, commented that she was “happy to see oil going down. She then asked about Line 168. Golden explained that the items in the budget included new cabinets in the art room and cleaning of the air ducts.

Heidi Racht asked about the District maintenance position. Russell replied that it was a half-time position and the assessment was based on the teaching FTE (full time equivalent). She explained that it was part of the 12.48% increase in the CESD salaries line (Line 120).

In answer to a question about the recent break-ins at the school, Golden replied that the Board was looking into security systems. Gail Webb added that the Board was looking at hooking into a security system at Richmond Elementary School, at a cost of \$1700-\$7000. She said that something would be chosen that is “Appropriate for this size building.”

Mike Dolling added that he encouraged “people to look at foot activity [in the snow]” and “be aware and take corrective action.”

Jennifer Esser asked about the Comparative Data for Cost Effectiveness on page 54; the student teacher ratio is now 17:1. She was concerned about the retirement of a long-term teacher as well as the increase in enrollment at the school. Webb responded that the school was “looking at another half-time teaching assistant.

**RESOLUTION:** The article passed on a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 4: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.**

1. Lisa Bisbee asked to have the names of the Board members typed on the warning as most signatures were unreadable.
2. Ken Wyman asked about the NECAP scores in writing. Gail Webb replied that it was “lagging” and it is now the number one priority at the school.
3. Duncan Keir asked about school consolidation. He noted that, in a recent article in either The Times Ink or the Burlington Free Press the legislation was “confusing.” He wanted to know if Huntington would “lose its assets.” Breck Knauft replied that “many people are still interested in moving the process.” Becca Golden added that Huntington could be a “subsection of the District” Within the context of MMU “stake, Huntington would continue to be part of the MMU District.”  
Ken Wyman, one of Huntington’s MMU Board members, said, “After the RED vote [June 9, 2011], the committee was disbanded.” He then spoke at length about the process. Others expressed concern about how the Board and residents

did not seem to have been informed about actions taken by RED committee members.

4. Joanne Russell passed out her annual fuel savings report from the roof bond.
5. Back to school consolidation... Pam Hart told the School Board to “pay attention” to what was going on.

Heidi Racht said that Huntington Representatives Tom Stevens and Rebecca Ellis were extremely helpful in providing information on what was going on in Montpelier concerning RED committee members testifying to House Education Committee in support of a change to the legislation on school merger.

Dana Cummings said that the RED was a “concept that makes sense, however, it wasn’t put together in a way that I could support.” He also objected to Huntington voters being talked about in meetings “as bumpkins who didn’t know better.” He went on, “It wasn’t a way to save money and keep everything you have.” He also referred to the suggestion of Huntington “being voted out of the district” as “unconscionable.”

Dave Clark talked about H 753, which allows for a “modified RED with a majority of the towns,” as “diminishing some of the reasons to have it,” including group purchasing power. He went on, “The MMU Board was not interested in the modified RED.” He also objected to one school being viewed as a “pariah.”

Eric Krull said that “the conversations in this room, the thoughtful dialogues didn’t take place in other towns.”

Breck Knauft responded, “We share these concerns and voice these concerns.”

6. Duncan Keir asked that the school warning be worded so that the meeting takes place immediately following the conclusion of Town Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Dave Clark moved to adjourn, seconded by Heather Pembroke. The annual school meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

### Australian Ballot Questions

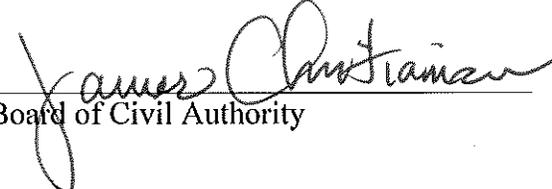
- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Article 5</b> | To elect a Moderator for a period of one year.   |
| <b>Article 6</b> | To elect a School Director for a period of three years.  |
| <b>Article 7</b> | To elect a School Director for a period of two years.  |
| <b>Article 8</b> | To elect a School Director for a period of two years to complete an unexpired three-year term. |

Minutes prepared by Heidi Racht

Submitted this 5 day of April 2012

  
Heidi Racht, Town Clerk, CVC  
Huntington, Vermont

Approved this 9 day of April 2012

  
Board of Civil Authority

  
Board of Civil Authority

### March 6, 2012 Town Election Results

384 people voted  
1426 people are registered to vote in Huntington  
4 17-year-olds made history as they voted in the first election where young people who will be  
18 on the General Election Day can vote in the primary

**Delinquent Tax Collector, 3 years:** Brent Lamoureux, 336  
**Town Clerk, 3 years:** Heidi Racht, 361  
**Town Treasurer, 3 years:** Dan Stoddard, 354  
**Town Auditor, 3 years:** Lucinda Hill, 334  
**Cemetery Trustee, 5 years:** Heidi Racht, 355  
**Library Trustee, 3 years:** Lorrie Richland, Library Trustee, 318 \*two positions elected  
**Library Trustee, 3 years:** Harvey Schugar, Library Trustee, 287 \*two positions elected  
**Lister, 3 years:** Joan Sargeant, Lister, 347  
**Lister, 2 years (remainder of 3-year term):** Nancy Grover, Lister, 343  
**Moderator, 1 year:** Britt Cummings, 351  
**Planning Commissioner, 3 years:** Knox Cummin, write in, 84 (14 votes needed)  
**Planning Commissioner, 2 years (remainder of 3-year term):** no one elected  
**Selectboard, 3 years:** Doug Graver, 311  
**Selectboard, 2 years:** Everett Lewis, Jr. 299  
**Town Agent, 1 year:** Mary Taft, 354  
**Town Grand Juror, 1 year:** no one elected

### March 6, 2012 School Election Results

**BPMS Board, 3 years:** Edmund Booth, 318  
**BPMS Board, 2 years:** Breck Knauft, , 158 / David Ricklefs, 88  
**BPMS Board, 2 years (remainder of 3-year term):** Diana Lesko, 307  
**Moderator, 1 year:** Britt Cummings, 345