

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Huntington, Vermont

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, 2016**, at 9 am, to transact the following business:

Voting by Australian Ballot will be conducted on **March 1, 2016**, between the hours of six-thirty (6:30) in the forenoon, at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon, at which time the polls will close.

Call to Order:

Town Moderator Dana Cummings called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. He read the charge. Cummings reviewed the meeting protocol.

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 and Committees.

Motion: Dave Clark moved; Kathy Kretzer second.

Discussion: Selectboard member Roman Livak discussed the format; omission of Ad Hoc Traffic Committee from report noting that Helen Keith and Dean Grover have headed up this work. Heather Pembroke asked about the format of the minutes for the Town Meeting, observing that it was different from the School Meeting. Town Clerk Heidi Racht replied that there was an issue of space in the report and something different had been tried to address the issue. She explained that this is a synopsis and that the approved minutes are located in the Town Meeting minutes book and are available on the town website. Pembroke stated that she liked the old format.

Resolution: passed on voice vote.

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

Motion: David Worthley moved; Sheila Susen second.

Moderator Cummings explained that this is a procedural item.

Discussion: none.

Resolution: 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: Jim Couture moved; Kathy Kretzer second.

Moderator Cummings explained that this is a procedural item to take care of town business.

Discussion: none.

Resolution: passed on voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize the Selectboard to purchase a replacement Highway Department grader as reflected in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Capital Plan for

a total amount not to exceed \$394,854, to be funded with an anticipated \$174,754 trade-in amount, and using \$57,000 from the General Fund - Fund Balance as of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 and up to \$163,100 from the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund?

Motion: Dave Clark moved; Heather Pembrook second.

Discussion: Selectboard member Andrew Hendrickson explained the article, referring to page 18: Huntington Capital Plan – Highway Equipment. The current grader is a 1999 model and the equipment is on a 15-year replacement schedule. He talked about changes to the Capital Plan from last year, stating, "It's a moving document."

Britt Cummings asked why this year? Hendrickson replied that this is a 15-year scheduled and the town is continually faced with demands for equipment replacement. The older a machine, the lower the trade-in value. This replacement schedule would keep the town from needing to purchase equipment on an emergency basis

Don Sheldon asked for details; he said he wanted "minutiae."

Road Foreman Yogi Alger responded, saying that he will get three quotes. He has had this machine for 18 years; he went with John Deere and has had good luck with this. He will get \$174,000 for a trade-in; he paid \$198,000 in 1999.

Terry Ryan asked why the 1975 tractor wasn't being replaced. Alger replied that the tractor is used a couple of month; it was bought in 2001 and rebuilt. The grader is more of a priority because it is used regularly..

Heather Pembrook said she had "done the math" and asked if the taxpayers would be funding and additional \$10,000. Barbara Elliott explained that "the money is in existence" in the General Fund Fund balance and highway reserve. Selectboard member Dori Barton said after trade-in, the grader would be financed from \$57,000 accumulated in surplus; \$163,100 in equipment reserve. The amount in the equipment reserve comes from what was voted last year and what is anticipated to be voted this year.

Megs Keir asked, "If we approve Article 5, are these expenses already built into the budget?" If the article does not pass, would the General Fund be reduced? Barton confirmed that the expenses are already built into the proposed budget and that if the article does not pass it would be a clear indication that the town did not want the grader purchased or the money collected that was intended for the purchase.

Liz Greenberg and Paul Susen asked about the math trying to line up how much the grader is costing the taxpayers

Duncan Keir asked again, if this article plus the bond items all are already built in and the only change is the town budget will go down if the article does not pass. He asked, "What happens if we vote down the budget?" He then went on to say that it's "impossible to this under Article 6. What happens if we pass this [and reduce the budget]?" Barton responded that if the article did not pass and the budget does, there would be a surplus in the budgeted amount.

Joe Segale noted that the \$163,100 from the highway reserve is proposed, but the account only has \$40,000. It was explained that the 2015-2016 contribution of \$20,000, plus the 2016-2017 contribution would add \$40,000 for a total of \$80,000.

Ryan asked, "Procedurally, what is this an article separate from the budget?" Barton replied, "Precedent. This is how we usually do it. We are taking \$57,000 out of the surplus. Any purchases using the surplus need to be [voted by the taxpayers as] a separate article."

Question: Knox Cummin called the question; Dave Clark second.

Resolution: passed on voice vote.

Resolution: Article 5 passed on voice vote.

Article 6: Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington authorize a total Fiscal Year 2016-2017 General Fund expenditure of \$1,657,202 of which \$1,369,352 shall be raised by taxes and \$287,850 by non-tax revenue?

Motion: Dave Clark moved; Knox Cummin second.

Discussion: Dori Barton gave an overview of the budgeting process. The Selectboard budget season begins in October when the Board meets with departments. This year, the Board looked at employee compensation via the Human Resources (HR) Subcommittee. The HRS made recommendations for pay ranges to "standardize" and "bring in fairness." She then talked about needs versus wants and how the Board goes through the entire budget line-by-line and considers each and every item. Then, there is the value of essential services and maintaining assets. The Board "seeks clarification" at Town Meeting for each non-essential item. She added, "The tax rate is high and this plays into our decision-making process."

Barton went on, there is a 5.5% proposed increase. "It is difficult to 'start tweaking' as things are interconnected." With budgets that are level-funded or capped, the town cannot maintain the level of services - and preserve assets with level-funding.

The operating fund has a proposed 3.5% increase. "We are not doing everything." The first round of the budgeting process resulted in a 10% increase, which was not acceptable. Increases that are proposed include \$40,000 in pavement reserve, \$23,000 bridge repair \$13,655 moving Moody Road in anticipation of the detour in 2017 and ditching.

Don Sheldon asked about projects in other parts of the budget. "It this year's budget making up for a shortfall. Were you guys spot on?" Barton said, "yes."

Megs Keir talked about health insurance and new legislation. She asked about predicted health care costs. Barton responded that the town gets insurance through VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) and the town changed its employee contribution this year from a fixed amount to a percentage. The Town of Huntington has a "really great benefit" and those qualifying for insurance now contribute 7% of premium cost. The percentage contribution will be evaluated annually.

Keir asked about a Cadillac plan, noting that new legislation has deadlines for elimination of same and penalties for noncompliance.

Moderator Cummings asked her points and how this impacts the budget.

Selectboard member Nancy Stoddard responded that the data comes from VLCT and is consistent with other towns; the town provides the Platinum Plan.

Duncan Keir asked about the bond items. What happens to the money allocated assuming the bonds would pass? Barton responded that it would be an "indication to the Selectboard" on spending. No collection of the taxes would be done for the amount that was not in the budget. Keir pressed on, "Would you feel required to raise taxes?" Barton affirmed that the taxes would be reduced [by the amount that did not pass].

Dave Clark, pointed out that Line 205 had nothing in 2015-2016. Why not, because previous years had budgeted money. Barton commented, "Because level funding was exercised in previous years. Bridges need maintenance." She then talked about the Brace, East Street and Audubon bridges being "pushed out" on the maintenance schedule.

Clark asked who the town purchase bridge repair services from, causing Alger to respond, GW Tatro. The company repairs cracks, doing sealing due to and to prevent "salt damage."

Joe Segale asked about line 92 on page 11 (Capital Debt Payment) . What is this? Existing or proposed? Barton replied Line 128 is proposed. Segale spoke about consistency. Barton talked about the voter at the polls. "The last couple of years, we have included it [expenses of approved articles], so the voters can see the entire dollar amount [if everything is approved that is proposed]."

There then followed a discussion about whether there was enough money in the budget to cover the expense, with Segale clarifying that \$500 would be reduced if the fire truck doesn't pass and Paul Susen referring to line 244 on page 13, when he stated "There is not enough money in reserve funds to pay for the grader. It is \$35,000 short." Barton said that the Board has asked for the budget article before the highway reserve funds are put into the budget next year [2016-2017] meaning that the amount in the equipment reserve comes from what was voted last year and what is anticipated to be voted this year. .

Amendment: Megs Keir proposed an amendment to approve as written if all the bonds pass. She then asked for help from the Moderator who proposed, "The budget would be subject to Articles 1 and 2 on the bond ballot passing with the amounts reduced in the event that either Australian ballot bond item does not pass. The total amount be reduced by any bonds that do not pass." Keir asked a question about how much to take out.

Aaron Worthley interrupted with a Point of Order, stating that it was not appropriate for the Moderator to propose language for an amendment. Cummings disagreed stating that this is "one of my roles." Britt Cumming disagreed, stating, "Aaron Worthley is technically correct." Dana Cummings said to Keir, "If you have an amendment, word it yourself." Keir offered to sit down. And the amendment died for a lack of language and lack of second.

David Worthley asserted "This shows a bit of mistrust in the Selectboard. They have assured us that they will reduce the tax rate." Aaron Worthley stated, "The budget is a suggestion. We could end with a deficit or surplus. We aren't locked in." The discussion continued briefly.

Kathy Couture commented that the anticipated funding should be in; Barton responded, "We are still in the fiscal year. We do not report on the year we are in." (Referring to the \$40,000 voted into the highway reserve fund last year.)

It was then clarified that the phone system was being consolidated, which is why it had been taken out of individual budgets. Andrew Hendrickson explained the salient points about the phone consolidation and the website technical support increase.

In response to a question from Heather Pembroke about the variances from year to year in the Capital Plan (line 24), Nancy Stoddard explained the Board "looks at the big picture, not just paving."

Margaret Taft pointed out that there was "no law that says you have to reduce taxes. We are dependent on your work." She then said she supported having no amendment.

Barton then said that, as relates to the bonds, the Board is "locked into the bridge replacement work, be it through a bond or alternative means." As relates to the purchase of the fire truck, the town is not locked into that purchase but may likely see "increases in maintenance expenses for the existing truck. "

Larry Brace talked about miracles and praying. He commented the there are budget problems due to lack of job. We are talking to the legislators too much; he talked about getting Bibles.

Liz Greenberg asked about page 14 line 384. Barton explained that there were pay ranges established through the HRS work and this is a salary adjustment.

Caitlin Jenness asked about typical process throughout the year to check actual [spending versus

budgeted pending]. Barton deferred to Elliott who explained that FEMA funds don't always coincide with fiscal year expenditures. In response to Jenness's question about process again and Barton said that the Board looks at the budget quarterly and has a formal review. Every meeting the Board signs the warrants [requests for payment that accompany checks to be signed by the treasurer].

Question: Jim Couture called the question; Knox Cummin second.

Resolution: passed on voice vote.

Resolution: Article 6 passed on voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington designate Huntington as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District to enable participating property owners to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, which would be a municipal assessment on that property owner's property as provided for by 24 V.S.A Chapter 87, Section 3261 et seq. and authorize the Selectboard to enter into an agreement with Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (doing business as Efficiency Vermont) to operate the PACE program, including the processing of all applications and regular billing?

Motion: Heather Pembroke moved; Terry Ryan second.

Discussion: Mark Kelley, a non-resident employed by VEIC, was given permission to speak, hearing no objection.

Helen Keith introduced the article. The Selectboard voted to support Energy Committee's article. Should this pass today, the Selectboard would pass a resolution to become a district. Data would be collected before the actual program moved forward.

Terry Ryan asked what would be the benefit to the town and individuals and is there a cost? Keith replied that the program provided low cost loans. Kelley explained that the loans are attached to the property so a new owner can take over, rather than requiring a discharge of the loan at closing. The program allows for upgrades; some of the loans are at 0% interest Efficiency Vermont will take on all the burden and do the work; loans are through Opportunities Credit Union. There will be no impact on budget or taxes.

Amy Seidl spoke in favor of the programs, stating that this is used by many towns across the country. She connected weatherization with less fossil fuels, She then referred to disastrous weather, noting that abating issues will be a long term project.

Kathy Couture asked why the town was being pulled into this. Kelley responded that a Legislative act in 2009 allowed a community to provide funding through a bond. Since, then [in 2011], a revision to the program has allowed for Efficiency Vermont to handle the program.

Couture queried, "The town has no investment?" Kelley replied that, if there was a default, it would go through the same process as delinquent taxes and fees/costs would be transferred to the new owner. "It hasn't happened yet." [A fund has been set up to reimburse towns for any expenses that they may incur to collect on loan defaults.

Couture pressed on and Margaret Taft asked for clarification of what was said and what was printed in the article. Keith responded that the town has to vote to become a district and then the Selectboard will look into participation in the program. Barbara Elliott then said the article is worded this way because the town needs to be a PACE district first; then the Selectboard will do a formal resolution.

Jim Couture asked about town-owned property. Kelly responded that this is for residential

property owners.

Kerry Cullinan proposed an amendment and then withdrew it.

Barton clarified that the voters need to establish the district.

Michele Cummings asked about recordings when there is a change in property owners. Keith added that Brattleboro took two years to work through details to get into the program.

Janet Labelle asked, "If this is passed, what happens if the Selectboard doesn't do this? It has no meaning."

Duncan Keir said he supported the article. He sees this as a two-part article. Do the voters support it? Yes. Then the voters are authorizing the Selectboard to look at an agreement. He supports it as written.

Larry Brace talked about freedom. He said to make sure that when we pass a bill, it makes common sense.

Brett Lindemuth supports the intent. He asked for provision to advise people about indoor air quality from tightening up houses. He talked about problems in town. There are intended consequences. Kelley acknowledged this. Home performance with Energy Star has testing for CO₂; this is checked by the contractors.

Sarah Jane Williamson supported PACE, stating, "People don't always have capital. This is important." She said she trusted the Selectboard to make the right decision.

Ross Ogilvie referred to the pamphlets on the table.

Amendment: Donna Lewis moved; Larry Brace second.

Shall the voters of the Town of Huntington designate Huntington as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District and when this has been investigated by the Selectboard, bring this back to the voters for a further vote?

Kathy Couture said she didn't want to delay making the program available. She asked how it would be rolled out and made available.

Knox Cummin responded that the federal program rates of 0%, 1% and 2% expire at the end of June. These rates won't be available after this.

Question: Terry Ryan called the question; Amy Seidl second.

Resolution: passed on voice vote.

Vote on amendment: defeated on voice vote.

Question: Heather Pembroke called the question; second by Terry Ryan.

Resolution: passed on voice vote.

Resolution: Article 7 passed on voice vote.

Article 8: To transact any other Town business thought proper.

Motion: Janet Labelle moved; Knox Cummin second.

1. Sherry Lynn talked about Town Forest, inviting people to participate in the discussion about its future.
2. Brett Lindemuth asked about refinancing town debt when interest rates go down. Barton responded that the town treasurer is on top of the rates. She discussed the Capital Plan.
3. Motion: Duncan Keir moved; Kendra Christian second.

In the event that a candidate running for the office of President of the United States receives a Vermont primary vote tally of more than a two thirds majority of votes cast in

that candidate's declared political party, then we, the voters of the Town of Huntington, Vermont, respectfully request that the so-called "Super Delegates" who hold elected office in Vermont, such as the Governor, Senators, and others, forego political cronyism and cast their delegate vote in line with the expressed declaration of a "super" majority of their constituents, the Vermont voters.

If the above article passes, we request that the Town Clerk communicate this statement to all elected Vermont "Super Delegates."

Discussion: Margaret Taft asked, "What can we really do with this?"

Dana Cummings said, "It doesn't authorize. It is symbolic."

Barrett Grimm said he "wholeheartedly supports" the motion, but the Super Delegates are chosen by political parties. This is outside of the political process. Jane Keir said she supported the "use of democracy." Dawn Taylor said, "All these people are elected by us and we are entitled to tell them what we think." Ethan Maurer claimed, "The Democrats only has Super Delegates." Paul Susen responded, "The Republican Party has delegates elected in their states. This is not skewed."

Question: Britt Cummings called the question; second by Terry Ryan.

Resolution: Passed on division of the house: 76-15.

Resolution: motion passed on voice vote.

4. Helen Keith – Village Scoping Report is available.

Elected Representatives Tom Stevens and Theresa Wood addressed the assemblage.

Stevens: For the eighth year, there is a large budget gap. This is getting to be a long-term issue. He talked about how "we are funding." He also discussed Vermont Health Connect, liquor sales (sold by the State of Vermont) and paid sick leave.

Wood: Flood damage and repairs, specifically Waterbury. She also discussed courthouse safety and school issues, i.e. no penalties.

Olga Hallock Award: Town Clerk Heidi Racht presented the award to Sandy Heyman, who received an extended standing ovation. Heyman has been Brewster-Pierce School Custodian since 1993 and spent 20-plus years managing and caring for the town's local school building. She has been a good community member and volunteer, including her deep involvement with the Huntington Holiday Boxes.

Vermont State Senator Chris Bray commented "We could all use a dose of good news." He spoke about farming and forestry.; good food is the foundation of good health. He also talked about the Vermont Clean Water Act; siting of energy projects, which will have more consideration with new statutory relationships for sharing information on all levels of government.

5. Dori Barton spoke in response to the question about how to find out about Board decisions, indicating that meeting meetings are published on the website, that meetings are reported independently in the Times Ink and that meetings are open for anyone to observe.
6. Joe Segale wanted the record to show that he objected to the word "cronyism" in Keir's previously passed motion.
7. Chris Bray talked about cell phone service in Huntington.

8. Duncan Keir read the Webster's definition of "cronyism" and said he stood by his word choice.

Adjournment: Britt Cummings moved; Jordan Davies second.
The meeting adjourned at 12:14 pm.

ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING Huntington, Vermont

The legal voters of the Town School District of Huntington, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School in Huntington Center, Vermont, on **Tuesday, March 1, 2016**, at the conclusion of the town portion of the meeting, to transact the following business:

Voting for Australian Ballot questions on **Tuesday, March 1, 2016**, between the hours of 6:30 am at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 pm at which time the polls will close.

School Moderator Dana Cummings called the meeting to order at 1:26 pm. He asked that the assemblage allow John Alberghini (CESU Superintendent), Bob Fahey (CESU finance director) and Sally Hayes (BPMS principal) to speak. No objections were raised.

Cummings reviewed the meeting protocol.

- Article 1** **To hear and act upon the reports of the Officers.**
Motion: Charles Godfrey; second Everett Marshall.
Resolution: Article 1 passed on 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: Dave Clark; second Janet Labelle.
Question: Jim Couture called the question; second Alan Homans
 Passed on voice Vote
Resolution: Article 2 passed on voice vote.
- Article 3** **Shall the voters of the Huntington Town School District approve the School Board to expend \$2,180,880, which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the 2016-17 fiscal year?**
It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$14,818 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.62% higher than spending for the current year.
Motion: Sheila Susen; second Kathleen Clark
Discussion: Presentation was made by the Board. The budget has been level-funded. In fact, the budget has decreased by \$30,000. The cost drivers on the budget are salaries

and health care.

Board chair Andrea Ogilvie said that, among the Board's accomplishments, was the replacement of 29 windows. There are approximately \$16,000 worth of windows to be finished, but the Board took this out of the budget when it appeared that the state's per pupil spending cap would be exceeded.

Amendment: Dave Clark moved to increase the budget by \$15,500; seconded by Heidi Racht. The purpose of the motion was to allow the School Board to replace the remaining windows.

Discussion: Much discussion followed about a variety of topics that led to discussion about funding costs per pupil; AOE's elusive numbers and calculations. The budget will need to be increased to \$2,196,380 in order to finish the replacement of the windows. Alan Campbell asked about the per pupil cost; it is in the warning. Meg Keir responded that it is required by law to publish the budget plus the percent increase or decrease per equalized pupil.

Bob Fahey interjected that the spending per equalized pupil would be \$14,948.34, which is a 7.55% increase if the budget is increased by \$15,500.

Dave Clark offered to withdraw the original motion with Heidi Racht's concurrence. The new motion includes the recalculated per pupil cost of \$14,948.34.

Amended article:

Shall the voters of the Huntington Town School District approve the School Board to expend \$2,196,380, which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the 2016-17 fiscal year?

It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$14,948.34 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 7.55% higher than spending for the current year.

Jim Christiansen asked if the Board is going to pursue a bond in November.

Keir responded that two years ago, the Board had decided to replace all the windows in the school. It does not bond for "smallish" projects. She talked about the heating and air circulation system in the building and the plans to bond for that project with the work to be completed in the summer of 2017. "We can get windows in this summer."

In answer to a question about the spending caps, Keir explained that Act 46 defined excess spending as a percentage of what was done the previous year. She then talked about the Agency of Education and the effect that six extra equalized pupils has on the excess spending calculations.

Kendra Christiana said she had "concerns with voting here without the majority of people here."

Barton asked how the equalized per pupil amount increases when the budget decreases. Ogilvie explain that the State has a weighting system for estimating the cost for educating students. A child in grades K-6 equals 1 equalized pupil; 7-12 equals 1.3 equalized pupil and a preschool student equal .46 equalized pupil. Also weighing in is are adjustments for whether a child is registered for free and reduced lunch, and English as a Second Language. For fiscal year 2017 there is also a statewide equalization rate of .93.

Specifically for Brewster Pierce in fiscal year 2016, the Board estimated the preschool vouchers at 12; the school gave out 8; the State Agency of Education recorded the pre-school partnerships at 24 which resulted in approximately six more equalized pupils than

if the Agency of Education had updated its numbers. The current budget being considered is correcting for that error. "If there hadn't been a mistake, we would have gone up slightly. It shouldn't, in theory, cost the same to educate fewer students."

Duncan Keir asked, what is the number of students in the school? How many equalized pupils are here? The amended budget still comes in under last year's budget.

Dave Clark said it wasn't germane.

The Moderator asked Keir if he could wait until the main budget.

Brett Lindemuth asked if the reduction is still \$17,000 less than last year's budgeted figure. The response from the Board was "yes." Lindemuth stated that "we would still be .7% below the prior year's budget." He said he supported the amendment.

Alan Campbell asked about energy savings. The Board deferred to Ross Ogilvie, who is on the BPMS Building Committee. Ogilvie said the double panes show "no significant leakage." Sally Hayes said that some windows are 50 years old.

Margaret Taft asked why the windows need to be replaced. Principal Sally Hayes responded that the seal is not good. Some windows can't open. The goal is to have the entire envelope of the building done. Taft pressed on. Ross Ogilvie responded that the first batch of windows replaced were the worst.

Lois Riden spoke as an inhabitant of one of the rooms with old windows. She said she has to jack up the heat to 80F, the comfort level is uneven and she was having a hard time closing and locking the windows.

Jim Christiansen asked about whether the equalized pupil cost in the report from the AOE is accurate. Andrea Ogilvie responded, "We think the count should be 125, not AOE's 119."

Moderator Cummings said the discussion is not on the amendment. Equalized pupil cost is an ancillary discussion."

Helen Keith talked about the AOE. "Where does that leave us to assume the amount is correct?" Keir said the Board is trying to keep the state from penalizing the town for incorrect spending per equalized pupil calculations.

Question: Heather Pembroke moved the question; second by Jordan Davies.

Resolution: Passed on voice vote.

Discussion on article: Dori Barton asked what should go back in of the \$65,000 that was initially removed by the Board. Ogilvie responded that the Board had replaced everything that had initially been cut except that a full-time para-educator with benefits position was changed to a part-time position with no benefits and the buildings line had been reduced to exclude any larger repair projects, like finishing the windows.

Beth Sands asked about line 30 on page 57 – the decrease in physical education. Bob Fahey said that foreign language and physical education "got swapped" – there is a decrease in health care.

Sally Hayes noted on page 56 that there is a generous anonymous donation from a resident for a math coach. Hayes said, "We are hopefully going to do it next year." Keir added that it is a three-year gift.

Kathy Couture asked about fluctuation in the Buildings line. Sally Hayes replied that the money is normally used for repairs like replacing tiles and duct cleaning. Ogilvie replied that in FY16 money for replacing windows was put in that line.

Duncan Keir asked how many [real] student bodies were in the school in this current year:

138, plus seven preschool partners. And how many equalized pupils: 136.01 according to the AOE. The Board estimates that actual equalized pupils should be 130.

In 2016-2017, the number of actual pupils is estimated to be 139 plus 8 budgeted preschool partners. AOE says 119.27 equalized pupils and the BPMS Board is contesting this.

Helen Keith asked how this affected the tax rate. Ogilvie said this year's tax rate has gone from 1.4683 to 1.4571.

David Worthley asked how Huntington's equalized pupil rate compares to other schools in the district. He commented, "It seems like a meaningless dictate."

Keir stated that two Board members (Keir and Tara Fowler) did not sign the School Meeting warning because of this inaccuracy. The increase was really closer to 3.61%.

Paul Susen added, "We would have loved to put something on the warning that showed we intentionally decreased the budget."

In response to Duncan Keir's comments about the consolidations and mergers making it harder to compare the cost per elementary student, Ogilvie agreed that the cost per equalized pupil at the elementary level is hard to break out in a K-12 district.

Megs Keir said the 5-12 spending per equalized pupil in the MMM Unified School District is only shown for Huntington students.

Question: Heather Pembrook moved the question; second by Jim Couture.

Resolution: Passed on voice vote.

Resolution: Article 3, as amended, passed on a voice vote.

Article 4

To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

Motion: Heather Pembrook moved; Heidi Racht second.

Discussion:

1. John Alberghini made a presentation of a framed ink print of BPMS to Board member Megs Keir, citing her hours of committed service. The Board presented her with a gift certificate to local greenhouse, Pleasant Mount Farm. She received a standing ovation.
2. David Worthley commended Keir and called for a "revolution."
3. Jim Christiansen spoke about gender disparity in this school (lack of male teachers). He talked about the six new hires being female. Half the school is boys, who could use positive role models. He asked the Board to consider going "beyond" the usual venues for hiring staff. Sally Hayes responded that the guidance counselor interacts with all the students on many levels. "We try to have a diverse applicant pool." Christiansen responded that this it is a "Poor excuse to say 'we only have a certain applicant pool.'" He said that if a business like IBM did not look at a more diverse applicant pool, there would be litigation.
4. Sheila Susen thanked the School Board and Selectboard members for their hard work.
5. Deanna Bailey spoke to the low male teacher applicants nationwide for primary grades.
6. Megs Keir thanked people for staying for the school meeting. She spoke to the community's need to embrace every child as well as the school's role to create happy, healthy citizens. "There are many excellent parents. Every child in this community is one of us." By embracing them, "we give them value and this makes them more able

to share.”

7. Brett Lindemuth – bussing concerns have been worked out but some young students had excessive rides that included going into Richmond and past their homes twice in the ride. Promised to be “on it from Day One next year...”
8. Jordan Davies asked about four kids leaving school. Were any homeschooled now? (Answer from Hayes was no. She believes all the families concerned moved out of Huntington.)

Australian Ballot Questions

Article 5 To elect a School Director for a period of three years.

Article 6 To elect a School Director for a period of two years.

Article 7 Shall the Huntington Town School District expand its membership in the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District from grades 5-12 to grades PreK-12 pursuant to VSA 16§721(a), thereby forming a Unified Union School District pursuant to Vermont law?

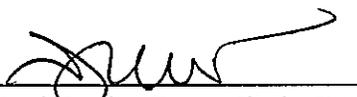
Adjournment: Dave Clark moved to adjourn; second Sheila Susan.
The meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.

Draft submitted this 5 day of March 2016



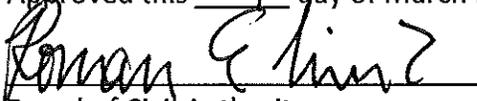
Heidi Raecht, Town Clerk, CVC
Huntington, Vermont

Submitted this 28 day of March 2016

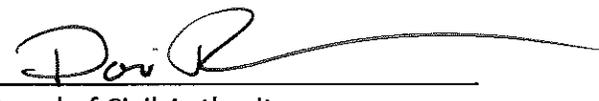


Heidi Raecht, Town Clerk, CVC
Huntington, Vermont

Approved this 29 day of March 2016



Board of Civil Authority



Board of Civil Authority

March 1, 2016 Town & School Election Results

Huntington has 1502 voters; Buels Gore has 24 voters
 833 people in Huntington and Buels Gore voted in the Presidential Primary.
 814 Huntington residents voted in the local elections on four ballots.

Office	term	Lucky Winner	
Auditor	3 years		no one elected
BPMS School Board	3 years	Jordan Davies	w/l 32
BPMS School Board	2 years	Andrea Ogilvie	625
Cemetery Trustee	5 years	Owen Rachampbell	709
Library Trustee	3 years	Alan Homans	610
Library Trustee	3 years	Heidi Racht	692
Lister, 2 years, remainder of 3 year term		Ryan Elliott	667
Lister	3 years	Carol P Wildman	661
Planning Commissioner	3 years	Shayne Jaquith	564
Planning Commissioner	3 years	Everett Marshall	630
School Moderator	1 year	Dana Cummings	646
Selectboard member	2 years, remainder of 3-year term	Nancy Stoddard	w/l 86
Selectboard member	2 years	Nancy Stoddard	w/l 58
Selectboard member	3 years	Roman Livak	629
Town Agent	1 year	Mary Taft	721
Town Moderator	1 year	Dana Cummings	716
Town Grand Juror	1 year	Owen Rachampbell	w/l 15

Australian Ballot Results

Democratic Primary Clinton, 57 O'Malley, 1 Sanders, 632

Republican Primary Bush, 2 Carson, 8 Cruz, 19 Fiorina, 1 Kasich, 43
 Paul, 2 Rubio, 17 Santorum, 2 Trump, 48

Article 1, Bridge Bond
 687 yes
 98 no
 28 blank

Article 2, fire engine
 617 yes
 162 no
 blank 32

Article 7, School merger
 370 yes
 413 no
 blank 22
 spoiled 2