

Huntington Town Meeting

The 2018 Huntington Town Meeting began at 9:08 am.
Dana Cummings, Moderator

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: Sheila Susen

SECOND: Dave Clark

DISCUSSION:

One correction; one identification of missing information; one addition of information.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 2: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 3. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a town treasurer as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2651f?

MOTION: Barb Winters

SECOND: Kathy Kretzer

DISCUSSION: Yes.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 3: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 4. Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791 to collect current Town and School District taxes?

MOTION: Bonnie Gordon

SECOND: Megs Keir

DISCUSSION:

This is required by statute.

QUESTION CALLED: Landel Cochran; Taylor Christiana, second.

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 4: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 5. Shall the voters authorize payment of real property taxes in 4 installments, with the due dates being August 15, 2018, November 15, 2018, February 15, 2019, and May 15, 2019 by 11:59 pm (before midnight) by either direct debit, or physical delivery to the tax collector, or delivery to the Town Office postmarked on or before those dates?

MOTION: Barb Winters

SECOND: Andrea Ogilvie

DISCUSSION:

New state legislation. This is required each year; otherwise, all taxes due 30 days after mailing of tax bills.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 5: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 6. Shall the town authorize the Selectboard to establish a reserve fund to be called the Buildings & Grounds Reserve Fund to be used for buildings and grounds capital plan projects, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

MOTION: Kathy Kretzer

SECOND: Dave Clark

DISCUSSION: Yes.

RESOLUTION OF ARTICLE 6: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 7. Shall the Selectboard expend up to \$43,750 from the Highway Paving Reserve Fund, in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Capital Plan, in the event the Town is able to secure a grant of up to \$175,000 to fund East Street and/or Main Road paving?

MOTION: Heather Pembrook

SECOND: Terry Ryan

DISCUSSION:

Details about paving the lower part of East Street; leftover money to be used on Main Road, but not in Lower Village.

QUESTION CALLED: Heather Pembrook; Jordan Davies, second.

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 7: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 8. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to expend up to \$30,000 from the General Fund Fund Balance, in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Capital Plan, for a local match contribution in the event the Town is able to secure a grant for developing the engineering construction plans for the Lower Village pavement project?

MOTION: Dave Clark

SECOND: Knox Cummin

DISCUSSION:

Extensive.

AMENDMENT: Joe Segale; Barb Winters, second.

... is able to secure a grant for developing the engineering construction plans for the Lower Village roadway infrastructure and enhancement project?

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 8: Passed on Voice Vote., as amended.

Article 9. Shall the Selectboard expend up to \$2,500 from the Highway Bridge Reserve Fund, in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Capital Plan, for funding the Town's local share of the Camel's Hump Road Bridge #32 project?

MOTION: Sheila Susen

SECOND: Trina Smith

DISCUSSION:

Some clarification on retrofitting of this bridge when Bridge 30 was done - costs were part of that project.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 9: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 10. Shall the voters of the authorize the Selectboard to purchase a replacement Highway Department loader, as outlined in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Capital Plan, for a purchase price not to exceed \$133,000; and that the purchase be funded with \$48,000 from the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund, a loan not to exceed \$50,000 over a period not to exceed 5 years, and a trade-in reimbursement of \$35,000 from the sale of the 2001 loader?

MOTION: Liz Smith

SECOND: Dave Clark

DISCUSSION: Very little.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 10: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 11. Shall the voters authorize a total Fiscal Year 2018-2019 General Fund expenditure of \$1,878,949 of which \$1,577,924 shall be raised by taxes and \$301,025 by non-tax revenue?

MOTION: David Worthley

SECOND: Mark Smith

DISCUSSION:

A tad.

AMENDMENT: Dawn Taylor; Jeanine Carr, second.

Shall the voters authorize a total Fiscal Year 2018-2019 General Fund expenditure of \$1,862,949 of which \$1,561.924 shall be raised by taxes and \$301,025 by non-tax revenue by reducing Line 52 by \$16,000?

QUESTION CALLED: Margaret Taft; John Hadden, second.

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION OF AMENDMENT: Defeated Voice Vote.

QUESTION CALLED: Heather Pembroke; Terry Ryan, second.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 11: Passed on Voice Vote.

OLGA HALLOCK AWARD

The Olga Hallock Award for Community Service was presented by Town Clerk Heidi Racht to Road Foreman Clinton “Yogi” Alger, who received a standing ovation.

LEGISLATORS

Representatives Tom and Stevens and Theresa Wood address the assemblage.

LUNCH RECESS

MOTION: Everett Marshall

SECOND: Nayo Ogilvie

DISCUSSION: None.

APPROVED ON VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was recessed to 1:25 pm.

SENATOR

Senator Chris Bray briefly address the audience and then stayed to answer questions.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

The meeting resumed at 1:35 pm.

Article 12. Shall the town vote to exempt the payment of any penalty, fee, or interest relative to the failure to make timely payment of taxes upon the principal residences of individuals who have been called to full-time active duty by the President of the United States as a result of a military conflict in an area designated a combat zone by the President of the United States, for the time such members are on active duty and for 180 days thereafter, provided said individuals provide a copy of their military orders or other appropriate documentation to the municipal clerk, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4609?

MOTION: Megs Keir

SECOND: David Worthley

DISCUSSION:

No cost to the town as it is interest and fees.

QUESTION CALLED: Knox Cummin; Sheila Susen, second.

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 12: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 13. WHEREAS extreme and erratic temperatures, increasingly severe storms, a rise in tick-borne diseases, and threats to farmers and maple sugar makers clearly demonstrate that climate change is one of the most urgent problems facing our state, nation, and the world, and

WHEREAS the State of Vermont has a goal in the Comprehensive Energy Plan to achieve 90% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050, yet is making insufficient progress toward achieving that goal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Town urges the State of Vermont to:**
 - a. Halt any new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure, including by not limited to energy pipelines;**
 - b. Firmly commit to at least 90% renewable energy for all people in Vermont, with firm interim deadlines; and,**
 - c. Ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents, with no harm to marginalized groups or rural communities.**
- 2. That the Town will do our part to meet these demands by committing to efforts such as:**
 - a. Protecting Town lands from fossil fuel infrastructure, denying easements or agreements for any pipelines crossing town lands;**
 - b. Weatherizing Town buildings and schools;**
 - c. Enlisting State support to install rooftop solar on Town and school buildings;****Other initiatives to improve residents' quality of life while helping us reduce overall energy use.**

MOTION: Trina Smith

SECOND: Mark Smith

AMENDMENT: Lisa Barrett; Megs Keir, second.

- 1.a. Halt any new or expanded fossil fuel transmission pipelines;**
- 2.a. Protecting Town lands from fossil fuel transmission pipelines, denying easements or agreements for any such pipelines crossing town lands;**

QUESTION CALLED: Mark Smith; Terry Ryan, second.

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION OF AMENDMENT: Passed on Voice Vote.

AMENDMENT: Yves Gonnet; Dave Clark, second.

Change order of list 1.a. goes to bottom of list and becomes 1.c.; 1.b. becomes 1.a and 1.c. becomes 1.b.

Change order of list 2.a. goes to bottom of list and becomes d.c.; 2.b. becomes 2.a ; 2.c. becomes 2.b; 2.d. becomes 2.c.

QUESTION CALLED: Heather Pembroke; Bonnie Gordon, second.

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION OF AMENDMENT: Passed on Voice Vote.

AMENDMENT: Rebecca Ryan; Sheri Lynn, second.

WHEREAS extreme and erratic temperatures, increasingly severe storms, a rise in tick-borne diseases, threats to farmers and maple sugar makers, and overall public health ...

QUESTION CALLED: Sheri Lynn; Helen Keith, second.

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION OF AMENDMENT: Passed on Voice Vote.

AMENDMENT: Duncan Keir; Randy Keir, second.

Modify 1.b. (fka 1.c) to read, Ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents, with no harm to marginalized groups or rural communities, with minimal environmental impact.

QUESTION CALLED: Everett Marshall moved to end discussion on the amendment and the main articles; Jordan Davies, second.

DIVISION OF THE HOUSE: 61 to 24 (two-thirds) on hand vote to cease discussion on amendment and on Article 13.

RESOLUTION OF AMENDMENT: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 13: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 14. Should the Selectboard explore and consider mechanisms to effectively cap the amount of funds held in the Conservation Reserve Fund at \$100,000.?

MOTION: Sheila Susen

SECOND: Heather Pembroke

DISCUSSION:

Extensive.

QUESTION CALLED: Yves Gonnet; Jim Couture, second.

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 14: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 14. To discuss or transact any other nonbinding Town business thought proper.

MOTION: Helen Keith

SECOND: Gaily Conley

DISCUSSION:

Eight people made nine comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dave Clark moved to adjourn; Jordan Davies second.

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm.

Huntington School Meeting

The 2018 Huntington School Meeting began at 3:40 pm.

Dana Cummings, Moderator

Article 1 To hear and act upon the reports of the Officers.

MOTION: Breck Knauft

SECOND: Dave Clark

DISCUSSION: Yes

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 14: 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: Heather Pembroke

DISCUSSION: None

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 14: Passed on Voice Vote.

**Article 3 Shall the voters of the Huntington Town School District approve the School Board \$2,341,528 which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the 2018-19 fiscal year?
It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved will result in education spend of \$16,066.67 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.60% higher than spending for the current year.**

MOTION: Sheila Susen

SECOND: Everett Marshall

DISCUSSION: Much discussion on bond debt, assessment increase, state tax shortfall, HVAC system, etc.

QUESTION CALLED: Dave Clark; Breck Knauft, second.

RESOLUTION: Passed on Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION of ARTICLE 3: Passed on Voice Vote.

Article 4 To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

MOTION: Dave Clark

SECOND: Kathleen Clark

DISCUSSION:

Four people made five comments.

Andrea Ogilvie was praised for her hard work and dedication for two separate series of terms on the Huntington School Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dave Clark moved to adjourn; Heidi Racht second.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Minutes written by

Heidi Racht

Town Clerk, CVC, CMC

Statutory Draft March 9, 2018