

February 25, 2021

Informational Meeting

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy, Dan McKinley, Julie Smith, Kristen and Troy LaPell, Martha Slater, Orca Media, Nancy Woolley, Sandra Haas, Jeannette Bair, Tony Goupee, Jeff Gephart, Joan Hubbard, Nancy Vadnais, Alvina Risinger-Harvey, Cari Burkard

Doon called the Public Hearing for the Rochester Informational Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Doon read the State statute guidelines for holding a proper meeting electronically and confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Doon turned the meeting over to Dan McKinley as our town moderator.

Dan introduced himself. He read the warning:

The legal voters of the Town of Rochester are hereby notified and warned that the Selectboard for the Town of Rochester will hold two public informational hearings on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:00 pm and Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

The purpose of these public informational hearings is to review and discuss Articles 11-31 as presented on the 2021 Town of Rochester Annual Meeting Warning.

These public informational hearings will be conducted remotely via ZOOM.

Voting on all Articles presented on the Warning, including the election of officers, will take place by Australian ballot on Monday, March 1, 2021. For information on the Annual Meeting and Australian ballot voting, please see the Warning and Notice to Voters posted herewith.

Dan noted for clarification, the articles to be discussed are Articles 11-31 if anyone has any questions or comments. The electing of officials will be on the ballot March 1. He reminded folks that we will follow Roberts Rules of Order, you have to wait to be recognized. Dan noted you can wave your hand or make comments in the comments section of Zoom. Dan noted just like Town Meeting, will need to maximize the time to speak to 5 minutes to give everyone an opportunity to speak. He noted, he will go through the articles in an orderly fashion.

Dan read:

Article 11. Shall the term of the Town Clerk be changed to 3 years, effective Town Meeting March 7, 2022, pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2646(2)?

No questions or comments made.

Article 12. Shall the term of the Town Treasurer be changed to 3 years, effective Town Meeting March 7, 2022, pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2646(3)?

No questions or comments made.

Article 13. Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in four (4) installments, with due dates being Monday, August 16, 2021, Monday, November 15, 2021, Monday, February 14, 2022 and Monday, May 16, 2022, by delivery to the tax collector before 4:00 PM on those dates?

No questions or comments made.

Article 14. Shall the voters authorize total highway and general fund expenditures of \$1,095,646.00 of which \$766,833.00 shall be raised by taxes?

No questions or comments made.

Article 15. Shall the voters appropriate \$45,625.00 towards operating expenses of the Rochester Public Library?

No questions or comments made.

Article 16. Shall the voters appropriate \$69,479.00 to provide ambulance service from White River Valley Ambulance (WRVA)?

Alvina Harvey asked why the Granville First Response is not included in the articles. Nancy noted they are in the budget found on page 31 line under General Town Expenses 100-7-10-30-960 .000. Alvina noted she wanted to make sure they were included

Article 17. Shall the voters vote to appropriate \$20,400.00 to continue funding the "Fast Trash" and Recycling program (receipt of recyclables and trash with residents paying for trash per bag) from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022?

No questions or comments made.

Article 18. Shall the voters vote to appropriate \$8,000.00 to continue funding the Town Buildings Reserve Fund?

No questions or comments made.

Article 19. Shall the voters vote to appropriate \$1,000.00 to continue funding the Tennis Court Reserve Fund?

No questions or comments made.

Article 20. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$3,000.00 to the Central Vermont Council on Aging?

No questions or comments made.

Article 21. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$2,066.00 to the

Clara Martin Center?

No questions or comments made.

Article 22. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$100.00 to Green Up Vermont?

No questions or comments made.

Article 23. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$9,849.00 to the Quintown Senior Center?

No comments or questions were asked.

Article 24. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$250.00 to the Orange County Parent Child Center?

No questions or comments made.

Article 25. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$250.00 to SafeLine, Inc.?

No questions or comments made.

Article 26. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$1,300.00 to Tri-Valley Transit (formerly Stagecoach)?

No questions or comments made.

Article 27. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$100.00 to Vermont Rural Fire Hydrant?

No questions or comments made.

Article 28. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$4,800.00 to VNH —Visiting Nurse Association?

No questions or comments made.

Article 29. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$875.00 to White River Partnership?

No questions or comments made.

Article 30. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the requested sum of \$250.00 to

WomenSafe?

No questions or comments made.

Article 31. Shall the Town of Rochester be required to inform its residents when sources of radiation, such as that from cell towers and 5G antennas, are being proposed for installation within its town limits?

Deb Moore read her explanatory statement. Mark Alexander explained the confusion over the term 5G that came up during the Monday night meeting. He noted the home wireless routers now advertise having the 5G feature. He noted this has nothing to do with the 5G cellular technology. He noted in home routers it stands for a Wi-Fi standard based on the 5gh frequency. He noted another question was asked about the fact that the Public Utilities Commission has to approve new wireless installations. He noted some installations are known as deminimist installations which are modifications to existing wireless towers. He noted if AT&T were to decide to upgrade the tower in the Federated Church with 5G its possible the PUC could get approval without the input of the public. Mark noted its important for us to have some say in that process too. Alvina asked who filed the petition for Article 31. Deb Moore noted there were 50 signatures on record.

Dan asked if there were any more question or comments.

Doon concluded that was the end of the hearing.

Informational meeting ended at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith