

Pre-Town Meeting

March 21, 2022

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey(zoom)

Guests:

Present: Nancy Woolley, Terry Severy, Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Orca Media

Zoom: Orca Media, Martha Slater, Troy LaPell, Joan Allen, Nancy Vadnais, Lolly Lindsey, Ann VanDusen, Roseanne Johnson, Mary Fratini, Jeannette Bair, Ethan Bowen, Vic Ribauda, John Allen

Doon called the Pre-Town meeting at 6:00 pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity

Doon read through the Town Meeting Warning.

Article 1. To elect a moderator for the ensuing year. Doon noted Dan McKinley will not be able to make the Town Meeting as the moderator so Ethan Bowen will run as this year's moderator.

Article 2. To elect all Town Officers required by law: Doon read through all the open elected positions and who the incumbents are. For selectboard, he said if anyone is vying for the position as a selectboard member, otherwise he will run again. He said we will be elect a Town Clerk and Town Treasurer for a three-year term and hoped that Julie would run again. He said we will be electing a lister for a three-year term and Caroline Meagher would be the incumbent. We are looking to elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a one-year term and that is held currently by Becky Klein and felt she was still interested in holding that position. We are going to be electing a Library Trustee for five-year term and Barb Shenton is the current trustee, looking to run again. We are also going to elect a Library Trustee to run for the remaining one-year term of a balance on a five-year term. Doreen Jones was appointed to fill and will be running for the balance of that position. We are going to be electing a Trustee of Public funds for a three-year term and Sandy Pierce is going to be running again. We are also going to be electing a Cemetery Commissioner for a five-year term and Michele Schnabel will be running for that position. Doon stated that anyone who would like to run for one of these posts are welcome to. Doon thanked those who are willing to step up and have these positions.

Article 3. Shall the voter authorize the Treasurer to collect current taxes, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 4791? No comment.

Article 4. Shall the voters authorize payment of real taxes in four (4) installments with due dates being Monday, August 15, 2022, Monday, November 15, 2022, Wednesday, February 15, 2023, and Monday, May 15, 2023, by physical delivery to the tax collector before 4:00 PM on those dates with postmarks not accepted as proof of delivery? No comment.

Article 5. Shall the voters authorize total highway and general fund expenditures of \$1,397,011 of which \$966,359 shall be raised by taxes? This article caused a little bit of confusion. We reformatted the way we voted for articles in the previous year because of the Australian Ballot,

causing us to mistakenly put the wrong values in. The amounts shown in Article. 5 will be amended at the Town Meeting. Passing this as is means we would have voted and paid for the articles twice. The number printed is including all the articles and appropriations. We will need to vote for the budget first and then the articles thereafter. Doon read what the amended amounts would look like. The general fund expenditures will be amended to \$1,295,460 and the amount to be raised by taxes will be amended to \$864,807.

Article 6. Shall the voters exempt real property in Rochester, Vermont owned by Rochester Community Care Home, Inc., d.b.a. Park House, a non-profit tax-exempt organization providing services and housing for low income and other elderly persons from property taxes for five (5) years (FY23-FY27), pursuant to 32 V.S.A 3840. No comment.

Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate \$48,314 towards operating expenses of the Rochester Public Library? No comment.

Article 8. Shall the voters appropriate \$20,400 to continue funding the “Fast Trash” and recycling program from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023? No comment.

Article 9. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$105,080 for the purchase of a Western Star Tandem Truck for the Highway Department? Frank noted the figure is included in the \$864,807 from article 5. Doon shared this amount is showed as borrowed money and the figures can be found under the Capital Assets for the financed principal and interest amounts. Frank stated they are financed for 5 years. The figures can be found on page 28.

Article 10. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$65,165 for the purchase of a Ford F550 4x4 Crew Cab truck for the Fire Department? Doon said this is the same explanation as Article 9. Ethan asked if we are getting any discounts from the sale of existing vehicles? Doon explained the trade-in amounts of \$45,000 on the tandem and \$10,000 on the Fire Truck.

Article 11. Shall the voters appropriate \$9,000 to continue funding the Town Buildings and Property Reserves Fund? No comment.

Article 12. Shall the voters appropriate \$1,000.00 to continue funding the Tennis Reserve Fund for on-going and future court maintenance? No comment.

Article 13. Shall the voters appropriate the following sums as requested by these community agencies: Central VT Council on Aging for \$3,000. Clara Martin Center for \$ 2,066. Green up Vermont for \$100. Orange County Parent Child Center for \$250. Quinntown Senior Center for \$9,849. SafeLine Inc. for \$250. Tri-Valley Transport (formerly Stagecoach) for \$1,300. Vermont Rural Fire Hydrant for \$100. VNH-Visiting Nurse Association for \$4,800. White River Partnership for \$875 and WomenSafe for \$250. The total amount of appropriations is \$22,840. Ethan noticed the White River Valley Ambulance is not under the appropriations and if we no longer use their services. Doon noted we moved the WRVA into the general fund and out of the articles figuring it is essential. Doon noted this is what other towns do. This can be found on page 30.

Article 14. To transact any other legal and proper business to be brought before said meeting.

Martha asked a question to the selectboard about the Fourth of July Parade and if they would be able to give permission. She said she will need to file a permit in early April with the state to close Route 100 for 45 minutes for the parade. The board asked if she could put in on the selectboard agenda for April 11. Frank said the state will be in the village in the month of June and may create an issue.

Doon asked if Martha could make a correction on the March 17th article that stated the budget is up 27.5 % from last years budget. Doon wanted to clear up that the budget was in fact only up 2.3%. He noted that is included if all article and appropriations pass.

Ethan asked if sound and lights all set up with microphones to pass around. Julie shared that Robert Meagher is taking care of the sound and lights. She indicated we would need someone to run the mics.

John Allen spoke on the correction from the paper. He said the difference is 27.5 % when the numbers shown on Article 5 included articles and appropriations. Doon thanked John for alerting us earlier on in findings. John thanked the board and all that is done looking out for the town. John thanked Julie on figuring the two truck loans and broke it down for what it would cost each taxpayer.

Doon thanked the members on budget and finance committee for the hours they budgeted to work on this. He said it was not a small task and everyone worked really hard to make it all fit in a reasonable matter.

Doon moved to adjourn the Pre-Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith