

TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM  
ANNUAL TOWN & TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING  
FEBRUARY 29 2016

---

Present: Michael Harty, Moderator; Kathleen Neathawk, Clerk; Thomas MacPhee, Chair; Ann DiBernardo, Peter Golec, Josh Hearne and Susan Hammond

Others: Willis (Chip) Stearns, Town Manager; Dept. Heads/Town of Rockingham, Finance Director, Carolyn Partridge, State Rep; Matt Trieber, State Rep and Public

Press: FACT8

Mr. Moderator resumed the meeting at 8:00pm

The legal voters of the Town of Rockingham and Town of Rockingham School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall Auditorium (Bellows Falls Opera House) in said town on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon all matters which may be voted upon by acclamation and not otherwise to be voted upon by Australian ballot, and then to adjourn to the Masonic Temple (61 Westminster Street) in said town at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, to vote by Australian ballot on Article 1 and 2.

Chairman MacPhee presented plaques to Doreen Aldrich and Ellen Howard for their years of service, and then Carolyn Partridge and Matt Trieber presented Aldrich, Howard and MacPhee with Resolutions from the State House. Stearns presented MacPhee with his own plaque for his 11+ years of service on the Select Board.

ARTICLE 1: To elect Town Officers and Town School District Officers as required by law. (By Australian Ballot)

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the Town of Rockingham allow placement of a detention center within the legal boundaries of Bellows Falls? (By Australian Ballot) (Non-Binding)

Continued...

ARTICLE 3: Susan Hammond moved that the reports of the Town Officers be accepted as printed, seconded by Peter Golec. There being no discussion, the motion carried.

ARTICLE 4: Ann DiBernardo moved that the voters of the Town of Rockingham authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of tax collection, or payment of money due the Town from the State of Vermont for highway or other purposes or payment to the Town from Federal Funds, seconded by Tom MacPhee. There being no discussion, the motion passed.

ARTICLE 5: Josh Hearne made the motion that the voters of the Town of Rockingham authorize the Selectboard to seek out and/or accept funds available from non-property tax revenue sources and to spend those funds in appropriate ways after required public input, seconded by Ann DiBernardo. There being no discussion, the motion passed.

ARTICLE 6: Tom MacPhee moved that the voters of the Town of Rockingham raise and appropriate the sum of Five Million One Hundred Forty Two Thousand Four Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$5,142,414.00) to pay the indebtedness of the Town, repair and maintain highways, and pay all other general and regular expenses of the Town beginning July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, with Four Million Three Hundred Fifty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$4,359,519.00) to be raised by taxes, seconded by Peter Golec. Tom MacPhee spoke to the Article. Passage of this article will raise tax rate 3.78 cents, which is currently 87.83 cents, due to Local agreement tax and the money articles. He also stated, because of the winter we are having, we have a surplus of \$178,000.00 in revenue. Discussion followed. Paul Reis commented we need to grow the Grand List in Town. David Groenewold commented about Griswold Drive's pavement condition. James McAuliffe asked for status update on Library Litigation. Tom MacPhee spoke to the question. McAuliffe then asked the surplus in revenue be put to taxes. He made a motion to amend the amount to be raised by taxes to be

Continued...

\$4,181,519.00 the difference being the \$178,000.00, seconded by Deb Wright. The amendment was voted on and was defeated.

**RESULTS: YES- 63**

**NO- 83**

The article remained intact and passed.

ARTICLE 7: Peter Golec moved that the voters of the Town of Rockingham raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$392,900.00) in operating expenses for the support of the Rockingham Free Public Library, with Three Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Seventy Dollars (\$347,070.00) to be raised by taxes, seconded by Tom MacPhee. There being no discussion, the motion passed.

ARTICLE 8: Susan Hammond moved the voters of the Town of Rockingham authorize the Selectboard to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for the demolition of the TLR buildings, excess funds to be returned to the general fund if not spent, seconded by Peter Golec. Discussion followed. Chip Stearns spoke to the motion stating there were bids sent out over a year ago and the only two interested parties were SVE and Bellows Falls Historical Society. FACT8 will be putting up a video of a walkthrough done last week. The condition is very poor. Gary Fox spoke on behalf of SVE asking the voters to vote no, encouraging the Town to wait another year. Ellen Howard asked if there was a written estimate to tear it down. Chip Stearns responded No there is not. David Groenewold asked to leave the building alone. Chip Stearns then noted the building is owned by the Town and it is a liability if someone gets hurt. After the discussion, the motion was defeated.

Continued...

ARTICLE 9: Ann DiBernardo moved that the voters of the Town of Rockingham authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) for a period of Ten (10) years with yearly payments of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) plus interest to make necessary repairs to the Rockingham Town Hall to include elevator upgrade, repair and painting of windows, electric service upgrade and removal of the underground fuel storage tank in the alley between the Town Hall and People's United Bank to include reconstruction of the alley as required by the Human Rights Commission, and repairs to the Rockingham Recreation Building, seconded by Peter Golec.

An amendment to the motion was made by Ann DiBernardo to change the borrowing period to 5 years from 10 years, seconded by Tom MacPhee. Discussion followed. Citizens expressed concern over how the motion was worded. The reason for the motion was because the amount has to be a bond vote. The intention is to get the approval of the voters for 5 years and then turn around and refinance for the 10 years. Tom Hernon made an amendment, seconded by Paul Obuchowski to borrow \$500,000.00 with payments of \$100,000.00 plus interest for 5 years. This amendment failed.

**RESULTS: YES—48**

**NO- 81**

Back to the original amendment made by Ann DiBernardo. Peter Stolley made a motion to amend the original amendment to \$250,000.00 for 5 years with payback of \$50,000.00 plus interest per year, seconded by Steve Crofter. This amendment passed.

ARTICLE 10: Josh Hearne moved that the voters of the Town of Rockingham authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for replacement of fire apparatus housed at the Rockingham

Continued...

Volunteer Fire Department and Saxtons River Volunteer Fire Department for a term of ten (10) years, seconded by Tom MacPhee.

An amendment to the motion was made by Josh Hearne to change the amount to be borrowed to up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) and change the term to five (5) years from ten (10), seconded by Tom MacPhee. After some discussion the amendment passed.

Moving back to the motion, which is now the amendment, the voters voted to pass the amendment.

ARTICLE 11: Tom MacPhee moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Four Dollars (\$21,384.00) for the support of the Bellows Falls Senior Center to provide services to the residents of the Town, seconded by Sue Hammond. There being no discussion the motion passed.

ARTICLE 12: Peter Golec moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the support of Meeting Waters YMCA to provide services to residents of Town, seconded by Tom MacPhee. There being no discussion, the motion carried.

ARTICLE 13: Susan Hammond moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,350.00) for the support of Vermont Adult Learning to provide services to residents of the Town, seconded by Tom MacPhee. There being no discussion, the motion carried.

ARTICLE 14: Ann DiBernardo moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Twenty Six Thousand Twenty Four Dollars (\$26,024.00) for the support of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire to provide services to residents of the Town, seconded by Tom MacPhee. There being no discussion, the motion carried.

**Page 6**

Continued...

ARTICLE 15: Josh Hearne moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$2,300.00) for the support of Youth Services to provide services to the residents of the Town, seconded by Peter Golec. There being no discussion, the motion carried.

ARTICLE 16: Tom MacPhee moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Springfield Supported Housing to provide services to the residents of the Town, seconded by Susan Hammond. There being no discussion, the motion carried.

ARTICLE 17: Peter Golec moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the support of Parks Place Community Resource Center to provide services to the residents of the Town, seconded by Tom MacPhee. There being no discussion the motion carried.

ARTICLE 18: Susan Hammond moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$4,770.00) for the support of Southeastern Vermont Community Action to provide services to residents of the Town, seconded by Peter Golec. There being no discussion, the motion carried.

ARTICLE 19: Ann DiBernardo moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Three Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$3,825.00) for the support of The Current, operated by Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc. (formerly Connecticut River Transit) to provide services to the residents of the Town, seconded by Tom MacPhee. There being no discussion, the motion carried

Continued...

ARTICLE 20: Josh Hearne moved that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,450.00) for the support of Green Mountain RSVP, to provide services to residents of the Town, seconded by Ann DiBernardo. There being no discussion, the motion carried.

Sarah Campbell made a motion that the Town of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the support of Our Place to provide services to the residents if the Town, seconded by Tom MacPhee. Mr. Moderator Harty ruled it was out of order. Tom MacPhee made a motion to override the Moderator seconded by Barb Ternes, and that motion carried. Back to original motion, the motion was carried.

Nancy Bidwell made a motion that the Town Of Rockingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of One Thousand One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$1,125.00) for the support of The Woman's Freedom Center to provide services to the residents of the Town, seconded by Laurel Green. The same procedure as the above mentioned motion occurred and that motion was once again carried. Back to the original motion, the motion was carried.

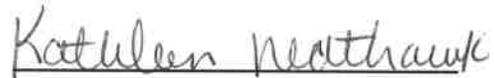
ARTICLE 21: Tom MacPhee moved that the voters designate the Town of Rockingham as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District to enable participating property owners to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, which would be a municipal assessment on that property 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, d/b/a Efficiency Vermont, to operate the PACE program, including the processing of all applications and regular billing, seconded by Susan Hammond. Guy Paine spoke to the motion with an explanation. Without further discussion, the motion carried.

Continued...

ARTICLE 22: To transact any other business deemed proper when not involving the expenditures of Town funds or any other business acted upon in the preceding articles. There being nothing, Tom MacPhee made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Peter Golec. No discussion, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 10:52pm.

I attest these to be the true minutes of the Town of Rockingham's Annual Town Meeting.



Kathleen Neathawk, Clerk

Approved

  
MODERATOR

3429 Registered Voters on Checklist

181 Voters checked off the Entrance Checklist

**SUMMARY OF TALLY SHEETS  
ROCKINGHAM TOWN & TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MARCH 1, 2016**

<b><i>MODERATOR – 1 YR. TERM</i></b>	<b><u>VOTES</u></b>
MICHAEL P. HARTY	1278
<b><i>TOWN CLERK – 3 YR TERM</i></b> KATHLEEN KELLY NEATHAWK	1266
<b><i>SELECT BOARD – 3 YR. TERM</i></b> SUSAN HAMMOND LAMONT BARNETT CHARLES THURSTON	576 633 131
<b><i>SELECT BOARD – 1 YR. TERM</i></b> STEVEN ADAMS ANN C. DIBERNARDO STEFAN A. GOLEC CASS WRIGHT	470 802 540 439
<b><i>TOWN TREASURER – 3 YR TERM</i></b> KATHLEEN KELLY NEATHAWK	1238
<b><i>LISTER-3 YR. TERM</i></b> CAMILLA ROBERTS	1190
<b><i>TOWN GRAND JUROR-1 YR. TERM</i></b> GEORGE M. KUUSELA	1158
<b><i>TOWN AGENT-1 YR. TERM</i></b> L. RAYMOND MASSUCCO	1215
<b><i>TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS-3 YR. TERM</i></b> WRITE-INS	129
<b><i>TRUSTEE CAMPBELL FUND-3 YR. TERM</i></b> WRITE-INS	139
<b><i>TRUSTEE PUBLIC LIBRARY – 3 YR TERM</i></b> GARY FOX HEIDI LAURICELLA WRITE-INS	891 931
<b><i>SCHOOL MODERATOR-1 YR. TERM</i></b> MICHAEL P. HARTY	1252
<b><i>ROCKINGHAM SCHOOL DIR.-3 YR. TERM</i></b> RICK HOLLOWAY	1124
<b><i>ROCKINGHAM SCHOOL DIR.-2 YR. TERM</i></b> SAMANTHA SIMONDS	1115
<b><i>BFUHS #27 SCHOOL DIR.-3 YR. TERM</i></b> CINDY SANTORELLI	1139
<b><i>ARTICLE4- ROCKINGHAM SCHOOL DIST. BUDGET</i></b> \$10,988,830.00	YES-820 NO-520
<b><i>ARTICLE6- BFUHS #27 BUDGET</i></b> \$7,444,027.00	YES-830 NO-506
<b><i>ARTICLE 1-RIVER VALLEY TECH. CENTER</i></b> \$2,777,827.00	YES-909 NO-406
<b><i>ARTICLE 2 DETENTION CENTER</i></b>	YES-287 NO-1053