

WARNING
FOR THE 2015 ANNUAL NEWFANE TOWN MEETING
WILLIAMSVILLE HALL
MARCH 3, 2015

At 8:59 a.m. Deborah Luskin, Town Moderator, asked Christine Druke to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

At 9 a.m. the Moderator introduced Doris Knechtel as Presiding Officer, and Doris opened the polls.

The Moderator read the warning as follows:

The legal voters of the Town of Newfane, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned that pursuant to Title 17 V.S.A. Section 2655, they are to meet at the Williamsville Hall in Williamsville, Vermont on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. to act upon the articles below.

Emily Long, Windham-5 state representative and Becca Balint, one of the two Windham state senators, shared their experiences as new legislators.

Emily is on the House Education Committee, with education in forefront in Montpelier. The budget cap makes it a challenging year. Everyone says this is not normal. Really facing challenges. Emily left the Doyle poll for people to fill out. She wants her constituency to contact her at www.emilylong.vt.com. She wants feedback by email, phone or on her website.

Becca Balint shared that she goes to Emily for advice. Becca is on the Economic Committee in morning and Institutions Committee in afternoon with the focus on government buildings. Lots of departments are asking for IT for upgrades, but those are not capital expenditures. Doing work in the shadow of Vermont Connect is difficult. How do we handle ongoing expenses for website when not working? It's difficult for people in other offices to get IT help.

ARTICLE 1:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane elect all Newfane Town Officers as required by law for the ensuing year? (Voting on this article to be by Australian Ballot from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.)

Constable	1-year term
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1-year term
Lister	3-year term
Lister	2-year term
Moderator – Town	1-year term
Selectboard Member	3-year term
Selectboard Member	1-year terms (Two Positions)

Town Agent	1-year term
Town Clerk	1-year term
Town Treasurer	1-year term

The Moderator asked that those not registered to vote in Newfane to identify themselves and they were as follows: Scotty Tabachnick, Principal of NewBrook Elementary School; Paul Bowen; Daniel Quip; Jen Frey; Pat Weisbich; Shannon Meckle, Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard; Mary Seely; David Emery, Deputy Sheriff, Windham County Sheriff's Department.

Neal Carter, Judy Harrigan, Brian Harrigan, Henry Carr, Carl Lindgren, and Nathaniel Scull were all registered voters and first-time attendees at Town Meeting.

The Moderator introduced Tristram Johnson, Planning Commission chair, and he reported on the direction that the Planning Commission intends to take in regards to rewriting the Town Plan. He noted that he would send Gloria Cristelli, Town Clerk, a copy of his letter to the Town.

ARTICLE 2:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane vote to collect its current taxes by its Town Treasurer pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791?

Todd Lawley moved Article 2, and Myra Fassler seconded it. There was no discussion.

Article 2 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 3:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane pay taxes for the ensuing year on a quarterly basis, due on the 15th of August, October, January and April; the late charge for interest being at the maximum legal rate of 1% per month for the current fiscal year and 1.5% per month for each month thereafter until paid?

Jodi French moved the article and Chris Druke seconded it. Dan DeWalt asked a question about late payment of the fourth quarter. 1.5% interest charge; 8% penalty. Dan DeWalt asked re April 15. Maureen Albert-Piascik explained that 1.5% interest is charged and the treasurer sends a warrant to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes who then assesses an 8% penalty.

Article 3 passed.

ARTICLE 4:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize the Selectboard to sell or otherwise convey property acquired through tax sale proceedings?

Gary Katz moved Article 4, and Margaret Wimberger seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Article 4 passed.

ARTICLE 5:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane vote to pay its officers for the ensuing year, the following salaries and expenses?

Town Clerk: \$35,725 annual salary

Town Treasurer: \$35,725 annual salary

Listers: \$14.40 per hour

Other elected or appointed officers: \$9.15 per hour

Mileage reimbursement at 57.5 cents per mile

Ken McFadden moved Article 5, and Robert Lyons seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Article 5 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 6:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane vote to authorize capital fund expenditures in the amount of \$205,543 as proposed in the Capital Needs Plan for Fiscal Year 2016?

Louise Sirois moved Article 6, and Ken McFadden seconded this motion.

Article 6 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 7:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize the Selectboard to raise the amount of \$96,530 for Fiscal Year 2016 capital needs?

Tom Bedell moved Article 7, and Christopher Williams seconded it.

There was a question about why there were three articles (Article 6, 7, and 8). Gloria Cristelli, Selectwoman, explained that Article 6 authorized the expenditure for Capital Needs, Article 7 authorized the Selectboard to raise the money for capital needs that is not already in the capital funds, and Article 8 will raise money to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund, not to be used during Fiscal Year 2016.

Lynn Bedell asked if the voters could have more details for capital needs. Todd Lawley, Selectboard member and Road Foreman, indicated that fixing Depot Road again will be very expensive. Newfane also has the second highest number of bridges of towns in Vermont. Todd also explained why trucks are over \$200,000. The new all-wheel drive are simply much more expensive. The smaller trucks used for plowing the steeper roads receive a lot more wear and tear than the other trucks and have to be replaced more often. Investigation of leasing trucks is underway.

Article 7 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 8:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane vote to raise the amount of \$100,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund to be solely dedicated for future capital needs?

Myra Fassler moved and Christopher Williams seconded the motion.

Article 8 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 9:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize Town and Highway operational expenditures in the amount of \$1,291,347? **\$1,293,247.**

Christine Gray moved, and Myra Fassler seconded the motion.

Sandy Stark moved to amend the article by adding \$1,900 to the Town and Highway operational budget for Early Education Services. Kim Friedman seconded the motion. Sandy spoke to the article indicating that new personnel simply did not get the request in early enough. Discussion ensued.

Ken McFadden called the question and Tom Bedell seconded the motion. The calling of the question was passed by a two-thirds majority.

The amendment passed.

The Moderator read the article as amended as follows:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize Town and Highway operational expenditures in the amount of **\$1,293,247.**

David Robert moved to add \$2,000 to the budget for the South Newfane Community Association. Tim Cawse seconded the amendment. Discussion ensued.

The amendment passed.

The Moderator read the article as amended the second time as follows:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize Town and Highway operational expenditures in the amount of **\$1,295,247.**

Article 9 passed as amended.

ARTICLE 10:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane request that the Town Clerk and Treasurer offices be open Monday through Friday? (Non-binding article)

Gunther Garbe moved the motion, and Tammy Mace seconded it. Discussion ensued. Neal Pelsue asked what the present hours are, and Gloria Cristelli, Town Clerk, and Maureen Albert-Piascik, Treasurer told their hours.

When the article came to a voice vote, the Moderator was unable to ascertain if the aye or nay won. She asked for those voting aye to stand, and the members of the Board of Civil Authority counted those standing. Then those voting nay stood.

Article 10 (nonbinding) failed.

ARTICLE 11:

To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

Mike Granger asked about the upcoming town-wide reappraisal. Doris Knechtel, Lister, shared that the reappraisal will be completed in July of 2017 though it will begin July 2015;

Gloria Cristelli asked the voters to approach the new Selectboard to get funding for necessary shelving for the vault to store the Land Record books.

Bill Guenther thanked the road crew for their work.

Lynn Forrest spoke about having additional volunteers join Newfane Anew. A write-up of Newfane Anew Community Volunteers activities is in the Town Report on pages 100-101.

Steve Levine thanked the voters for the funding that allowed Williamsville Hall to have the electrical work upgraded to meet state standards.

Dan Brooks thanked the voters for support of the Historical Society of Windham County, especially the new and exciting project of renovating West River Railroad Station recently purchased by HSWC. On Sunday March 29th there will be a soup dinner at NewBrook Fire Department.

Gloria Cristelli announced that there will be an Animal Clinic on Saturday, March 7th, at NewBrook Fire Department from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The clinic is for dogs and cats. The Town Clerk will be there to tag dogs also.

Johanna Gardner spoke for Ann Landenberger. Hats Off will be Friday, March 6th, and Saturday, March 7th. The Talent/variety show will happen on April 11th at Williamsville Hall with the proceeds going to support Leland & Gray players. Contact Johanna Gardner if you want to participate in the show. She also announced that Ann Landenberger will initiate a Rock River Player arts endeavor.

Todd Lawley moved to adjourn. Ken McFadden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Town Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Cristelli
Town Clerk

Approved by

DRAFT