

ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVE
TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

March 23, 2013

Pursuant to the Warning for the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting recorded in the Town Records Volume 20, page 258, the legal voters qualified to vote, met at the Brattleboro Senior High School Gymnasium on March 23, 2013 at 8:30 A.M.

At 8:37 A.M. Moderator Lawrin Crispe called the meeting to order.

Checklist attendant and Assistant Town Clerk Jane Fletcher reported that 108 Town Meeting Members were present. Moderator Crispe announced that 78 members constitute a quorum. A total of 142 members were present at various times of the day.

Newly elected moderator Lawrin Crispe took an opportunity to thank and honor Timothy J. O'Connor for his 22 years of service as Brattleboro's Town and Town School District moderator. He stated that during his tenure as moderator, Mr. O'Connor set a tone of respect, impartiality and of common sense in the true spirit of democracy. He also praised Mr. O'Connor for being an ardent champion of the common good of all citizens. A lengthy standing ovation followed Mr. Crispe's remarks.

The moderator then called upon Mr. O'Connor to lead the meeting with an opening invocation.

Boy Scout Troop 405 led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Scouts present were: Stephen Borst, Gareth Roy and Bret Worden.

Town Clerk Annette Cappy read the opening and closing paragraphs of the Warning for the record.

Moderator Crispe read the preamble of the Brattleboro Town Charter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Moderator announced procedural rules of the meeting. He stated that the meeting was being broadcast by Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) – Channel10, with audio coverage by First Choice Communication; and interpretation for the deaf and hard of hearing was being provided by Kristal Haynes and Elizabeth Bjerke.

The Moderator reminded members that refreshments were available and were being provided by students of the B.U.H.S. Costa Rican Exchange Group.

FINANCE COMMITTEE The moderator spelled out the responsibilities of the committee and urged those interested in becoming members to contact him.

PRELIMINARY MOTIONS: Selectboard Chair Richard DeGray moved: That the following persons be authorized to sit in the reserved section with the Selectboard and School Directors: Town Manager Barbara Sondag, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Town Attorney Robert Fisher, School Superintendent Ron Stahley and Business Administrator James Kane.

The motion was seconded and, following a brief discussion, overwhelmingly carried.

Dora Bouboulis moved: That the electronic media be permitted to remain in the reserved section.

The motion was seconded and, on a standing-voice vote, unanimously carried.

ARTICLES: Prior to any action, the Moderator read each article and asked the pleasure of the meeting.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' SALARIES: Under **Article 1**, Town School Director Peter Yost moved: That the legal voters of the Town of Brattleboro School District authorize its Board of School Directors to pay the following amounts for the ensuing fiscal year: to its school directors the sum of \$2,000 each, except that the chairperson shall be paid the sum of \$3,000.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a standing-voice vote, the article was overwhelmingly adopted.

AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW: Under **Article 2**, Town School Director Mark Truhan moved: That the legal voters of the Town of Brattleboro School District authorize its Board of School Directors to borrow money pending the receipt of taxes, and not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year, by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof.

The motion was seconded. There was a brief discussion and, on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS: Under **Article 3**, David Schoales moved: That the legal voters of the Town of Brattleboro School District authorize its Board of School Directors to accept and expend categorical grants and aid received from the State of Vermont and the United States Government.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and, on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

VALIDATE 2012 TOWN MEETING ARTICLE: Under **Article 4**, Jill Stahl Tyler moved: that the action taken at the annual meeting of the Brattleboro Town School District, held on March 24, 2012, in spite of the fact that Article 22 for the deposit into the Education Reserve Fund established in March 2011, the audited, unreserved, undesignated fund balance of \$383,617 required an amendment for a correction to the fiscal year ending date (2011 rather than 2012), and any action of the municipal officers or agents pursuant thereto be ratified.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and, on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

The motion was seconded. There was brief discussion and, on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

IMPROVEMENTS, OAK GROVE AND ACADEMY SCHOOLS: Under **Article 5**, Jill Stahl Tyler moved: that the Town of Brattleboro School District authorize capital expenses for improvements to the Oak Grove and Academy Schools in an amount not to exceed \$275,000.00, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years:

Academy Floors	\$146,000
Academy Kitchen (est.)	50,000
Academy Parking Lot	26,000
Oak Grove Heating Distribution System Upgrade	<u>53,000</u>
	\$275,000

The motion was seconded. Following a lengthy discussion, Peter Diamondstone moved to divide the question and vote on each expenditure individually.

Mr. Diamondstone's motion was seconded and on a standing-voice vote, overwhelmingly defeated.

Following additional discussion, Eric Annis moved to cease debate. With 101

voting in favor, and 24 opposed, debate ceased.

The meeting then, on standing vote-voice, overwhelmingly approved the article as presented.

EDUCATION RESERVE FUND: Under **Article 6**, Mark Truhan moved that the legal voters of the Town of Brattleboro School District, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2804, appropriate the sum of \$153,246 from the Education Reserve Fund to defray expenses for FY 2014.

The motion was seconded. There being no discussion, the article was overwhelmingly adopted on a standing-voice vote.

UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE: Under **Article 7**, Mark Truhan moved: That the Town of Brattleboro School District appropriate out of the audited, unreserved, undesignated fund balance of June 30, 2012, the sum of \$246,754 for the purpose of reducing the tax rate and defraying FY 2014 expenses.

The motion was seconded with discussion following.

Member Robert Fagelson moved to cease debate. With 102 in favor and 23 opposed, debate ceased.

The meeting, on standing voice-vote, overwhelmingly approved the article as presented.

TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROPRIATION: Under **Article 8**, Margaret Atkinson moved: that the legal voters of the Town of Brattleboro School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Twenty-Six Thousand, Ninety and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,026,090.00) as its share of salaries and expenses of the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union; the sum of Two Hundred Forty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred Forty-Four and 00/100 Dollars (\$246,444.00) as its share of bonded indebtedness; and Fourteen Million, Thirty-Three Thousand, Eight Hundred Eighty-Two and 00/100 Dollars (\$14,033,882.00) for current and other expenses for the support of the schools within the district, making in all the sum of Fifteen Million, Three Hundred Six Thousand, Four Hundred Sixteen and 00/100 Dollars (\$15,306,416.00). If adopted, the portion of this total sum to be raised by taxes to be only that portion not received from revenues from other sources; and that interest at the rate of one (1%) percentum per month be charged on overdue taxes from the due date of payment of town tax, school tax, installment portion thereof; and the town and town school district taxes assessed on the Grand List as of April 1, 2013 shall be due and payable in four (4) equal installments, payable to the Town Treasurer, until overdue, then the Collector of Taxes; and that such payment of installments shall be made on or before 5:00 o'clock on the afternoons of August 15 and November 15, 2013 and February 18 and May 15, 2014.

The motion was seconded and Ms. Atkinson explained that the proposed budget reflected an increase of 3.49%; higher than in previously years, yet much less than the average increase across the state. Major increases included salaries and benefits totaling \$395,134.00, which represented 48% of the increase; fixed expenses increased by \$109,601.00; an increase of \$52,264.00 as the town's assessment to the WSESU school district and an increase of \$83,783.00 for pre-school contracted services.

A lengthy debate ensued, with many expressing concern over the financial condition of not only the town, but of the state and country as well. Many members urged fiscal responsibility and objected to any increases, stating they would not be affordable to Brattleboro citizens.

Patricia DeAngelo moved to amend the motion by reducing the total amount to be raised and appropriated by \$1,000,000.00, making the amount \$14,306,416.00. The motion was seconded.

Following a brief recess, Spoon Agave offered a friendly amendment to Ms. DeAngelo's amendment that rather than reduce the total sum by \$1,000,000.00, that the amount to be reduced be \$306,128.32, which reflects a 2% reduction and was closer to the recommended amount of the Finance Committee. Mr. Agave's friendly amendment was accepted by Ms. DeAngelo.

The lengthy debate continued.

Fric Spruyt moved to cease debate. On a division of the meeting, with 65 in favor of ceasing debate and 63 opposed, a two-thirds majority was not achieved and debate continued.

Judy Davidson stated that she, along with many others, had been prepared for a discussion of reducing the main motion by 1.49%, as recommended in Finance Committee's report and offered as a friendly motion, that Ms. DeAngelo's motion as amended by Mr. Agave's friendly amendment, be further amended by reducing from the main motion, the sum of \$228,066.00 (1.49%), making the amount to be raised and appropriated \$15,078,350.00. The motion was seconded and a lengthy debate ensued.

Hyam Siegel moved to ceased debate. On a division of the meeting, with 103 in favor of ceasing debate and 22 opposed, a two-thirds majority was achieved and debate ceased.

On a division of the meeting, Ms. DeAngelo's, motion, as amended by Mr. Agave and again by Ms. Davidson, was defeated with 62 in favor of the motion and 67 members opposed.

Following a brief discussion, Richard DeGray moved to amend the main motion by inserting the following language after the final sentence of the article as follows: and to appropriate out of the Town School District Fund Balance, the sum of \$76,464.00 as revenue toward the \$15,306,416.00 budget amount.

The motion was seconded and Mr. DeGray explained that the amount in his motion would pay for the first year of capital improvement plans as discussed in Article 5. He also recommended that this fund be examined each year to determine if there would be sufficient unreserved funds to assist with capital improvement payments.

RECESS: At 12:48, the Moderator declared a recess.

At 1:50 P.M, after confirming the presence of a quorum, the Moderator reconvened the meeting.

With minimal additional discussion, Mr. DeGray's motion was, on a standing-voice vote, unanimously adopted.

Dora Bouboulis moved that the main motion, as amended by Richard DeGray be increased by \$1,200.00. The motion was seconded and Ms. Bouboulis explained that the Town School Directors' meetings were the only elected board meetings that were not televised by BCTV. She continued to state that she hoped the school board would use the increase for fees associated with televising school board meetings. Town School Director Margaret Atkinson recommended that the budget not be increased and was confident that the request could be honored without doing so. Ms. Atkinson assured Ms. Bouboulis that the Board would find a way to make televised meetings happen.

Following a brief discussion, Tad Montgomery moved to cease debate. On a division of the meeting, with 118 in favor and 9 opposed, debate ceased.

On a standing, voice-vote, Ms. Bouboulis motion to amend was defeated.

Eric Annis moved to cease debate. On a division of the meeting, with 89 in favor and 37 opposed, debate ceased.

On a standing voice-vote, the main motion, as amended by Mr. DeGray, was adopted.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND CONTROL MESSAGE TO LEGISLATURE:

Under **Article 9**, David Schoales moved: that the voters direct the Brattleboro Town School Board of Directors to send the following statement to the Vermont General Assembly for consideration and action:

“We, the voters of Brattleboro, Vermont, believe that local governance and control exist only when we have immediate, direct and effective access to those who make and implement policy. Furthermore it is our belief that local governance and control are vital to the education of our community’s children and young adults; they assure that parental and community values are a part of our children’s upbringing; and adherence to these principles is the only way to ensure the local community is adequately represented when educational policies, including the financial, are considered and put into action.”

“We therefore request the General Assembly enact legislation stating that it is state policy to preserve and encourage local governance and control as it pertains to our public education system including control over efforts to consolidate school districts or supervisory unions.”

Following a lengthy discussion, James Verzino moved to cease debate. On a division of the meeting, with 109 in favor and 16 opposed, debate ceased.

On a standing voice-vote, the article was overwhelmingly defeated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ron Stahley acknowledged James Kane’s 30 years of service as the Town School Business Administrator.

Charles Cummings acknowledged Ron Stahley’s appointment as the Vermont School Administrator of the Year.

AUDITORS’ REPORT: Under **Article 10** Selectboard member Christopher Chapman moved: That the auditors’ report be accepted as printed.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and, on a standing-voice vote, the article as presented, was unanimously adopted.

CAPITAL GRANT REVIEW BOARD: Under **Article 11**, David Gartenstein moved: That Bob Fagelson and Arden Fagelson be elected to serve on the Capital Grant Review Board for a term of one year from March 24, 2013.

Ms. Fagelson accepted the nomination and stated that Mr. Fagelson was not present to state his preference. It was brought to the attention of the meeting by Richard DeGray, that Mr. Fagelson had previously expressed his wishes to step down as a member of the Capital Grant Review Board.

Mr. Gartenstein moved to amend his motion by nominating Mrs. Fagelson along with such other person to be appointed by the moderator to serve on the Capital

Grant Review Board for a term of one year from March 24, 2013.

The motion was seconded and on a standing-voice vote, Ms. Fagelson was unanimously elected to the Capital Grant Review Board for a term of one year.

EMPLOY CPA: Under **Article 12**, Selectboard member Ken Schneck moved: That the Town and Town School District authorize its Selectboard and School Directors to employ a certified public accountant or public accountants.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and the article, on a standing-voice vote, was unanimously adopted.

TOWN CLERK: Under **Article 13**, Selectboard member Richard DeGray moved: That the appointment of Annette L. Cappy as Town and Town School District Clerk for a term of one year from March 25, 2013, be ratified, approved and confirmed.

The motion was seconded.

On a standing-voice vote, the appointment was unanimously adopted.

TOWN TREASURER: Under **Article 14**, Selectboard Member Dora Bouboulis moved: That the appointment of John O'Connor as Town and Town School District Treasurer for a term of one year from March 25, 2013 be ratified, approved and confirmed.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a standing-voice vote, the appointment was unanimously adopted.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Under **Article 15**, Christopher Chapman moved: That the appointment of the firm of Fisher and Fisher as Town Attorneys for a term of one year from March 25, 2013, be ratified, approved and confirmed.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a standing-voice vote, the appointment was unanimously adopted.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES: Under **Article 16**, Selectboard member David Gartenstein moved: That the following people be elected to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Brooks Memorial Library for a period of three years: Pam Becker, Stephen Frankel and Jane Southworth.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a standing-voice vote, the nominees were unanimously elected.

SELECTBOARD SALARIES: Under **Article 17**, Ken Schneck moved: That the salaries of the Selectboard be set at \$3,000.00 each; that the salary of the Chairperson be set at \$5,000.00, and that the Selectboard be authorized to fix the salaries of all other town officers for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: Under **Article 18**, Richard DeGray moved: That the Town appropriate \$765,000.00 from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of June 30, 2012 for the purpose of funding capital improvements outlined in the FY14 Capital Improvement Plan.

The motion was seconded and a brisk discussion followed. On a standing voice-vote, the article was overwhelmingly adopted.

UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE – NELSON WITHINGTON SKATING FACILITY: Under **Article 19**, Dora Bouboulis moved the Town appropriate up to \$172,000.00 from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of June 30, 2012 for the purpose of replacing two compressors at the Nelson Withington Skating Facility on condition that the general fund be reimbursed by payments from the Skating Rink Improvement Fund over a period not to exceed ten (10) years.

The motion was seconded.

Selectboard Chair Richard DeGray moved to amend the motion by increasing the amount appropriated from the Unassigned Fund Balance to a sum of \$362,000.00 and to increase the period of repayment from the skating rink improvement fund to a period not to exceed twenty years.

The motion was seconded and Mr. DeGray yielded the floor to Carol Lolatte, Brattleboro Recreation and Parks Director who explained the history of this article as follows: Only days prior to the deadline of publishing the warning for this meeting, the compressors at the skating rink failed and an estimate was quickly put together to a best guess estimate with such short notice.

Shortly before this meeting, a more detailed analysis was performed and it became apparent that the amount in the motion would not be sufficient to correct the problem. Therefore, after careful consideration, Ms. Lolatte had recommended the higher amount. However, there had not been sufficient time to have been able to report the new developments to the entire board.

David Gartenstein state that since the entire selectboard had not yet had an opportunity to review the revised specifications, the board could not speak for the amendment.

Rather than bring the issue back to the body in a special meeting later in the year, Don Webster moved to offer a friendly amendment by adding the following language to the end of the motion: Adoption of this article would be subsequent to selectboard approval at a later date.

John Allen moved to cease debate. On a division of the meeting, with 108 voting in favor to cease debate and 17 opposed, debate ceased.

On a standing voice-vote, the main motion as amended by Mr. DeGray, that also included Mr. Webster's friendly amendment, the article was overwhelmingly adopted.

TOWN APPROPRIATION: Under **Article 20**, Selectboard Chairperson Richard DeGray moved: that the Selectboard be authorized to raise, appropriate and expend the sum not to exceed \$14,686,697.00 (Fourteen million, six-hundred eighty-six thousand, six hundred ninety-seven) in order to defray to that extent all general fund expenses for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, including all highway and Windham County taxes, and the Selectboard be authorized to expend, in addition, any sum authorized for special purpose under any article contained in the warning for this or any other special meeting; and interest at a rate of one (1%) percent per month, be charged from the due date of payment on any overdue payment of the town tax, installment, or portion thereof ; and that the Town taxes assessed on the Grand List as April 1, 2013, shall be due and payable in four (4) equal installments payable to the Town Treasurer until overdue, then to the Collector of Taxes; and that such payment of the installments shall be made on or before 5pm August 15, 2013, and November 15, 2013, and February 18, 2014, and May 15, 2014.

The motion was seconded and Selectboard Chair DeGray briefly stated that the budget before the meeting was a responsible budget that provided services that

the town had come to expect.

Pat DeAngelo moved to recess until the following day, Sunday, March 24 at 1 P.M. A brief discussion followed.

Peter Diamonstone moved to become a committee of the whole for the purpose of discussing the best avenue for continuing the meeting considering the late hour of the day.

Ms. DeAngelo agreed to withdraw her motion to recess for the time being to allow the body to move into a committee of the whole.

On a standing voice-vote, with 84 voting in favor and 33 opposed, a two-thirds vote was achieved and the body became a committee of the whole.

As it was nearly 5:00 P.M., the body agreed that they would prefer to continue into the evening to complete the work of the meeting, with the option of breaking for dinner at a later hour. The moderator stated that in order for the meeting to continue after a break, a quorum would need to be maintained.

On a standing voice-vote, the meeting unanimously voted to dissolve the committee of the whole and the moderator called the meeting back to order.

Patricia DeAngelo moved to amend Article 20 by reducing the amount to be raised, appropriated and expended to \$14,350,735.

The motion was seconded and Ms. DeAngelo explained that the amount of the reduction, \$335,962, represented the first interest payment of the Fire/Police renovation bond as voted by the body in October 2012.

It was noted by Selectboard member DeGray, that while the body had the authority to reduce the amount proposed, it did not have the authority to demand where cuts could occur. The meeting may make suggestions, however, and the administration may consider them.

A lengthy debate followed. Many spoke of the proposed fire/police renovations and the expense to the taxpayers. Some expressed remorse for voting in the affirmative on the project in October. Many stated that the need was still present and now was the time to proceed.

Don Webster moved to amend Ms. DeAngelo's motion by reducing the sum to be raised, appropriated and expended by \$100,000.00 rather than by \$335,962.00.

The motion was seconded and debate followed with regard to the validity of secondary motions. The chair ruled that he would accept a secondary motion.

Peter Diamondstone moved to overrule the chair. Moderator Crispe conferred with town attorney, Robert Fisher, who concurred with the chair. A vote of the meeting substantiated the chair's ruling and Mr. Webster's motion to amend was discussed.

John Allen moved to cease debate. On a standing voice-vote, with 97 in favor and 15 opposed, debate ceased.

On a standing voice-vote, Mr. Webster's motion to amend was overwhelmingly defeated and debate continued regarding Ms. DeAngelo's motion.

Peter Abel moved to cease debate. On a standing voice-vote, with 69 in favor and 43 opposed, a two-thirds majority was not achieved and debate continued.

Following additional debate, Eric Annis moved to cease debate. On a standing voice-vote, with 88 in favor and 23 opposed, debate ceased.

Thomas Finnell moved to have the vote on the DeAngelo amendment by roll call.
The results are as follows:

ABELL, MARION	N		ABELL, PETER	Y	AGAVE, SPOON	Y
ALLEN, JOHN	N		ANNIS, J ERIC	Y	ATKINSON, MARGARET	
BADY, ROBERT			BALINT, REBECCA	N	BANNON, BRIAN	N
BARBER, CAROL	N		BARBER, ORION	Y	BARILE, LEO	
BEDARD, WILLIAM			BIXBY, JOHN	N	BIXBY, MARY ELLEN	N
BLOUIN, CAROLEE	N		BOBEE, ANITA	N	BOROFSKY, DONNA	
BOROFSKY, STANLEY			BOSWORTH, MICHAEL	N	BOUBOULIS, DORA	Y
BOYD, LEON	N		BRONSON, HUGH		BRUNTON, SALLY	N
BURKE, MOLLIE			BUSHEY, WILLIAM		CADRAN, DAVID	
CAIN, MARY	Y		CAPPY, ANNETTE	N	CHAPMAN, CHRISTOPHER	N
CHAPMAN, PHILIP	Y		CLARK, CALEB		COOKE, DIANE	N
COOKE, RICHARD	N		COOPER, PETER		CORMIER, STEVEN	N
COX, DOUGLAS	Y		CRISPE, LAWRIN	A	CUMMINGS, CHARLES	N
CUTHBERTSON, LUCINDA	Y		DAIMS, KURT	Y	DARLING, ANN	N
DAVIDSON, JUDITH			DAVIS, ANDREW	N	DEANGELIS, MARGARET	N
DEANGELO, PATRICIA	Y		DEGRAY, RICHARD	N	DIAMONDSTONE, PETER	Y
DISTLER, ARLENE	Y		DOWD, KATHERINE	N	EATON, MILTON	
ELLIS, TIMOTHY			ELWELL, CORWIN	N	ELWELL, ELIZABETH	N
FAGELSON, ARDEN			FAGELSON, ROBERT		FAIRCHILD, R MICHAEL	N
FALION, PETER	Y		FARNUM, ANTHONY		FERRANTE, CYNDI	N
FERRANTE, ROBERT	Y		FINNELL, THOMAS	Y	FRANKS, THOMAS	
FRANTZ, DOUGLAS			GARTENSTEIN, DAVID	N	GENTILE, ELIZABETH	N
HAMILTON, ELWIN	N		HAMMOND, SHAWN S	N	HARVEY, GEORGE	Y
HENRY, HELENE	N		HERZOG, GEORGES	N	HINER, BETH	
HINER, DANIEL			JOHNSON, LISA	N	JOHNSON, VERONICA	Y
KNUTSON, CLARICE			KORNHEISER, EMILIE		LAKE, DORIS	Y
LANDSMAN, ALICE	Y		LANE, JUANITA	Y	LENOIS, CHRISTOPHER	N
LEVY, GERALD	Y		LYON, SYLVIA	N	MACKINNEY, PRUDENCE A	N
MADDEN, LEE	Y		MANNING, SHARRY	N	MANSON, FREDERICK	
MCLOUGHLIN, ELIZABETH	N		MCPHERSON, JOHN	Y	MELTON, PAULA	N
MILLER, ROGER	N		MONTGOMERY, TAD	Y	MOORE ODELL, ANNE	N
NELSON, STEVEN	N		NEWMAN, DENNIS S		NOYES, FREDERIC	N
OCONNOR, JOHN	N		OCONNOR, KATHLEEN	N	OCONNOR, TIMOTHY	N
OESER, ROBERT	Y		PAGE, SANDRA	N	PAGE, SARAH	Y
PEARSON, WILLIAM	Y		PENNIMAN, WILLIAM	N	PHILLIPS, STEPHEN	Y
REED-SAVORY, GEORGE	Y		RILEY, VERONICA		ROBB, CHARLES B	N
ROBERGE, GEORGE	N		ROUNDS, PAUL	N	ROWELL, STEVEN	N
RUETER, ROBERT	Y		RUSSELL, LYNN	Y	SCHIFF, LEO	N
SCHNECK, KENNETH	N		SCHOALES, DAVID	N	SECRETST, JONATHAN	N
SIEGEL, HYAM	Y		SLOWINSKI, WALTER		SMITH, DENNIS	
SOUTHWORTH, JANE	Y		SPRAGUE, DANA		SPRUYT, FRIC	
STAFURSKY, SUSAN	Y		STAHL-TYLER, JILL	N	STARK, BILLIE	Y
STARK, DOUGLAS	Y		STEELE, JOSHUA		STOOKEY, LEE	Y
STRICKLAND, ERIC	N		STROMBERG, JACQUELINE	Y	STUART, VALERIE	N
SULLIVAN, DAVID	Y		TOLENO, TRISTAN D		TORREY, IAN	
TORTOLANI, ROBERT	N		TRUHAN, STEPHEN	N	TURNAS, KATHRYN	N
UNDERHILL, BENEDICT	N		URFFER, KATHY	N	VALLARIO, FRANCINE	Y
VERZINO, JAMES	N		WEBSTER, DONALD	N	WEINMANN, LISSA	Y
WESSEL, TIMOTHY	N		WHEELOCK, MARSHALL	Y	WHEELOCK, VERONICA	N
WHITAKER, MONROE	N		WILMERDING, JOHN	N	WOODS, BARBARA	N
WOODWARD, JOHN	Y		WRIGHT, EDWARD		YOST, PETER A	N
ZAK, DEBORAH	N					

With 44 voting in favor and 74 opposed, Ms. DeAngelo's motion was defeated.

John Wilmerding moved that: the municipal budget be amended to allow the transfer of \$20,000.00 from the unassigned, undesignated funds for the purpose of granting this sum to Building a Better Brattleboro, Inc., in order that they (BABB)

might have another year to plan for, and to devolve, the Robert H. Gibson River Garden into new organization stewardship or ownership, in order to keep this facility in the public sector, or in the private non-profit sector, that it might continue to serve our community as part of our commons, and as a public space.

The moderator explained to Mr. Wilmerding that while the budget could be amended up or down, the motion could not direct where the funds be utilized. The moderator ruled the motion out of order as it was not germane to the main motion. The moderator requested the opinion of the town attorney who concurred with the moderator.

John Allen moved to cease debate. On a standing voice-vote, with 81 in favor and 18 opposed, a two-thirds majority having been met, debate ceased.

On a standing voice-vote, the main article, as presented, was adopted.

RECESS At 7:30 P. M. the moderator called a 45 minute dinner break and urged members to return by 8:15 P. M.

At 8:17 P. M., after confirming the presence of a quorum, the Moderator reconvened the meeting.

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT: Under **Article 21**, Christopher Chapman moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$78,000.00 through special assessments on properties within the Downtown Improvement District (as approved by Town Meeting March 19, 2005 and as delineated in the town ordinance entitled "Municipal Act to Establish and Regulate the Downtown Improvement District") to be used for capital and operating costs of projects of the Town's duly designated downtown organization.

The motion was seconded and Kate O'Connor, Vice President of Building a Better Brattleboro addressed the meeting. She explained the history of the organization and its responsibilities.

Robert Oeser moved to amend the article by inserting the following language at the end of the article: To include the continued operation of the Robert H. Gibson River Garden through fiscal year 2014 and to authorize the town meeting moderator to appoint a committee to work with Building a Better Brattleboro to find an organization or manager to maintain the River Garden as a public space for the benefit of all residents and organizations of the town and the region. The committee shall report back to town meeting in March of 2014 on its progress and provide recommendations.

The motion was seconded.

Richard DeGray raised a point of order, stating that the River Garden building was a privately owned building and the body did not have the authority to appoint a committee to oversee a private property.

A lengthy debate followed. The moderator requested a vote from the body as to whether Mr. Oeser's motion was germane to the main motion.

Discussion continued until Sean Hammond moved to cease debate. On a standing voice vote, debate ceased.

On a division of the meeting, with 60 voting in the affirmative and 43 opposed,

Mr. Oeser's motion was ruled out of order.

On a standing voice-vote, the main article was adopted as presented.

MOUNTAIN HOME PARK SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT TAX DISTRICT:

Under **Article 22**, David Gartenstein moved: That the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$223,276.47 through special assessments on property within the "Mountain Home Park Special Benefit Assessment Tax District" (as approved by Town Meeting, March 24, 2007 and as delineated in the Town Ordinance entitled, "Municipal Act to Establish and Regulate the Mountain Home Park Special Benefit Assessment Tax District") for the purpose of paying debt service on the capital improvements to the water and sewer lines serving the Mountain Home and Deepwood Mobile Home Parks.

The motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion, on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS: Under **Article 23**, Ken Schneck moved: the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$131,660 to support human service programs and facilities for the residents of Brattleboro to be allocated among service providers in the following manner:

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont - \$1,800;
American Red Cross - Green Mountain Chapter - \$4,000;
Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro - \$8,000;
Brattleboro Area Drop In Center, Inc. - \$9,600;
Brattleboro Area Hospice - \$1,700;
Brattleboro Senior Meals - \$7,000;
Clark/Canal Street Community Association - \$2,800;
Connecticut River Transit, Inc. - \$3,000;
The Family Garden, Inc. - \$1,000;
The Gathering Place (Brattleboro Area Adult Day dba The Gathering Place) - \$2,700;
Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) - \$3,000;
KidsPLAYce - \$2,500;
Morningside House, Inc. - \$7,500;
Phoenix House RISE (Recovery in an Independent, Sober Environment) - \$2,500;
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont - \$1,000;
RSVP (Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center) - \$980;
Senior Solutions – Council on Aging for SE VT - \$1,200;
Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) - \$8,500;
Turning Point of Windham County - \$3,500;
Twin States Network - \$3,000; Vermont Adult Learning - \$1,500;
The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) - \$680;
Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. - \$2,000;
Vermont Center for Independent Living - \$1,200;
Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of Vermont & New Hampshire - \$30,000;
Windham Child Care Association - \$5,000;
(Windham County) Safe Place Child Advocacy Center/Southeastern Unit for Special Investigations - \$1,000;
Windham Regional Career Center (Summer Lunch Program) - \$4,500;
YMCA Meeting Waters - \$2,000;
(Youth Services) Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windham County - \$8,500

Following a very brief discussion, on a standing-voice vote, the motion was unanimously adopted.

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION: Under **Article 24**, Richard DeGray moved: That the Town raise and appropriate \$10,000 to assist in funding Brattleboro's Cities for Climate Protection campaign for Fiscal Year 2014. (July 1,

2013 – June 30, 2014)

The motion was seconded.

Spoon Agave moved to increase the amount requested by \$1,000, making the total request \$11,000.

The motion was seconded and Mr. Agave stated that it had been a number of years since this organization had seen an increase in funds.

Following a brief discussion, on a standing voice-vote, the motion was overwhelmingly defeated.

With no further discussion, on a standing voice-vote, the article as presented was unanimously adopted.

PACE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: Under **Article 25**, Dora Bouboulis moved: that the Town of Brattleboro be designated as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Special Assessment District to enable participating property owners to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and then pay back the cost as a regular municipal assessment on that property owner's property tax or other municipal bill as provided for by 24 V.S.A. Chapter 87 (Section 3261 et seq.)

The motion was seconded and following a brief explanation of the program, the article was unanimously adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: Under **Article 26**, the following items were brought before the assembly:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - David Gartenstein offered the following resolution in honor of the outgoing selectboard members.

Whereas Dick DeGray has served for seven years on the Brattleboro Selectboard, including serving as Board Chair, and also has served on the B.U.H.S. Board, as a Town Meeting member, and as a member of the Finance Committee, the Transportation Committee, the Bus Advisory Committee, the Downtown Parking Study Committee, the Small Business Assistance Program, and the Rental housing Improvement Program, along with ongoing town-wide beautification efforts,

And, Whereas Dora Bouboulis has served on the Selectboard for four years, and as a Town Meeting member, and has served on the Brattleboro Development Review Board, the Windham Regional Commission, the Solid Waste Committee, the Union Station Steering Committee, and the Capital Grants Review Board, and other public projects,

And, Whereas Chris Chapman has served on the Selectboard for two years, as a Town Meeting Member, and as a member of the Small Business Assistance Program and the Capital Grant Review Board,

And, Whereas Dick DeGray, Dora Bouboulis and Chris Chapman's current terms on the Selectboard end with this meeting,

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that we, Brattleboro's Town Meeting members, on our own behalf and on behalf of the Town, now extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. DeGray, Ms. Bouboulis and Mr. Chapman, and thank them for their hard work and public service to the Town and its citizens.

On a standing ovation, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS MEETINGS Dora Bouboulis moved that: The Town School Board provide television coverage of all School Board Meetings.

The motion was seconded and on a standing voice-vote, the resolution was adopted.

ROBERT H. GIBSON RIVER GARDEN John Wilmerding moved that: Representative Town Meeting strongly urge Building a Better Brattleboro, Inc., the owner and steward of the Robert H. Gibson River Garden, to conserve this facility as a public trust and an aspect of our community's commons, and consistent with their decision to divest themselves of this facility or devolve it into new ownership or stewardship, to see to it to the extent possible, that this facility's essential functioning in service to our extended community be preserved.

The motion was seconded and on a standing voice-vote, the resolution was adopted.

POLICE AND FIRE FACILITIES PROJECT PLAN Stephen Phillips moved that: Brattleboro Representative Town Meeting urge the Brattleboro Selectboard to carefully scrutinize the budget impacts of bonding and borrowing under the previously approved Police and Fire Facilities Project plan, prior to taking any final action on bonding or going out to bid on the projects, in order to find reductions in costs, if available, and to delay or modify all or part of the projects, as they deem appropriate, and having done so that they determine their position as to a recommended budget plan for the following years that will produce only modest total budget increases similar to the modest 1.9% budget increase achieved for this next year.

The motion was seconded and on a standing voice-vote, the resolution was adopted.

LEGISLATIVE TAX ACTION Don Webster moved the following resolution:

Whereas, the House Ways and Means committee is considering adopting changes in taxation,

Be it resolved, that we urge our local representatives and senators and the Vermont General Assembly to oppose any taxes and laws that have a particularly adverse economic impact on Brattleboro and other communities located on the Connecticut River.

The motion was seconded and on a standing voice-vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Mary Cain acknowledged all volunteers who had made the meeting possible and also BCTV staff for covering the event.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 P.M.

Attest:

Annette L. Cappy

Richard DeGray
Selectboard Chair

Lawrin Crispe
Moderator