

## SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

June 2, 2014

Pursuant to the Warning for the Special Town Meeting recorded in the Town Records, Volume 20, page 335, the legal voters qualified to vote in Representative Town Meeting met at Brattleboro Middle School Multi-Purpose Room on June 2, 2014 at 6:00 P. M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 P. M. by Moderator Lawrin Crispe.

Checklist Attendant and Assistant Town Clerk Jane Fletcher, announced that 94 Town Meeting Members were present. Moderator Crispe stated that 78 members constitute a quorum. Later in the meeting 128 were in attendance.

Selectboard Chair David Gartenstein announced that Police Chief Eugene Wrinn had submitted his resignation effective June 27. He praised Chief Wrinn's 28 years of service and expressed the Town's gratitude for his many years of dedication. Chief Wrinn received a lengthy, resounding, standing ovation from the body.

The Moderator announced the procedural rules of the meeting.

### PRELIMINARY MOTIONS

Kate O'Connor moved: That the following persons be authorized to sit in the reserved section with the Selectboard: Interim Town Manager Patrick Moreland and Town Attorney Robert Fisher. The motion was seconded and following a brief discussion, on a standing voice vote, overwhelmingly carried.

David Schoales 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.

**TOWN BUDGET REVOTE - FISCAL YEAR 2015** Under Article 1, Selectboard Chair David Gartenstein moved: that the Selectboard be authorized to raise, appropriate and expend the sum not to exceed \$15,666,866.00 (fifteen million, six hundred sixty-six thousand, eight hundred sixty-six dollars) in order to defray to that extent all general fund expenses for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, 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 meeting, the annual meeting, 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, 2014, 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, 2014, and November 17, 2014, and February 17, 2015, and May 15, 2015.

The motion was seconded and Mr. Gartenstein spoke to the motion. He explained that the original budget of \$16,069,625 that had been approved in March and overturned by referendum in April, had now been reduced by \$602,759. He outlined reductions as follows:

No additional Police/Fire Facility Funding	\$261,473
Capital – Sidewalks	50,000
Capital – Police Cruiser	40,927
Town Clerk – Land Records	1,805
General Services – Town Report	1,500
Planning – Legal Notices, Postage	1,250
Library – Various	6,185
Fire – Vacation Buy Back, Holiday, Incentive Pay	18,311
Police – Staff Salaries	19,308
Recreation & Parks – Propane, Cemetery Maint	<u>2,000</u>
	\$402,759

In addition to reductions in expenditures, \$200,000 had been appropriated from the unassigned fund balance making the total amount to be raised, appropriated and expended to defray expenses and liabilities, \$15,666,866.

Following a lengthy discussion that included numerous questions and comments from members, Kurt Daims moved to amend the motion as follows: to authorize the Selectboard to redirect funds from the Police-Fire Facilities bond to pay account number 01-6-2271 (bonds and notes totaling \$1,331,977) and to direct \$500,000 of the unassigned fund balance to further reduce the budget to \$14,549,889. The motion was seconded. The moderator ruled the amendment out of order as it sought approval of subject matter that was not part of the budget and had not been properly warned; therefore not germane to the article. Mr. Daims requested an appeal of the moderator's ruling.

Several members spoke in favor of sustaining the moderator, stating that to overrule the moderator and approve the amendment would simply be a means to attempt to derail a much needed project without the article being properly warned for this meeting. Members also pointed out that it was the Selectboard's intent to begin re-discussion of the project as soon as the budget was finalized. It was felt that this amendment was an attempt to short-circuiting the process. The moderator clarified that if the ruling was sustained, the entire amendment would be ruled out of order; however, the portion pertaining to the unassigned fund balance appropriation would be considered germane.

Stanley Borofsky moved to cease debate. On a division of the meeting, with 104 members in favor and 18 opposed, debate ceased.

On a standing-voice vote, the chair's ruling was overwhelmingly sustained.

Kurt Daims then moved to appropriate \$700,000 (in addition to the \$200,000 in the main motion) from the unassigned fund balance. A lengthy discussion followed.

James Verzino moved to cease debate. On a standing voice vote that was nearly unanimous, debate ceased.

On a standing voice vote, Mr. Daims' motion to amend was overwhelmingly defeated.

Following a brief discussion, members were ready to vote on the main motion as presented. Kurt Daims requested a roll call on the vote. There were an additional six members who concurred and a roll call vote proceeded as follows:

Member		Member		Member	
Abell, Marion F	N	Falion, Peter	Y	Pearson, William C	Y
Abell, Peter J	N	Farnum, Anthony P	Y	Penniman, William T III	Y
Agave, Spoon	Y	Finnell, Thomas F	N	Phillips, Stephen R	Y
Allen, John A	Y	Franks, Thomas G	Y	Pineau, Joseph W	Y
Anderson, Kate J	Y	Frantz, Douglas W Jr	Y	Price, Kimberly S	
Bady, Robert A	Y	Gartenstein, David W	Y	Reed-Savory, George G	Y
Bailey, Linda A		Gentile, Elizabeth S	Y	Robb, Charles B Sr	Y
Balint, Rebecca A	Y	Goodman, Virginia C	Y	Roberge, George G Jr	
Bannon, Brian T	Y	Gould, Eli S	Y	Rounds, Paul M	
Barber, Carol H	Y	Grover, Julia M	Y	Rowell, Steven R	Y
Barber, Orion M	Y	Hamilton, Elwin R		Rueter, Robert G	Y
Bixby, John N		Hammond, Shawn S		Russell, Lynn A	N
Bixby, Mary Ellen		Harvey, George H		Salomon, Rafael C	Y
Blouin, Carolee G		Henry, Helene J	Y	Schiff, Leo	Y
Bolivar, Evan R	Y	Herzog, Georges J	Y	Schoales, David G	Y
Borofsky, Donna	Y	Hiner, Beth W	Y	Senni, Anne C	Y
Borofsky, Stanley	Y	Howe, Gregory T	Y	Siegel, Hyam	Y
Bosworth, Michael L	Y	Johnson, Lisa A	Y	Slowinski, Walter D	Y
Bronson, Hugh J		Johnson, Veronica E	Y	Southworth, Jane A	Y
Brunton, Sally R	Y	Kiewel, Jean A	Y	Sprague, Dana B	
Burke, Mollie S	Y	Kinley, Judith M	Y	Stafursky, Susan W	Y
Burrows, George H	Y	Kirby, James P	Y	Stahl-Tyler, Jill D	Y
Bushy, William J		Knutson, Clarice M		Stark, Billie S	Y
Cadran, David R		Lake, Doris E	N	Stark, Douglas E	N
Cain, Mary C	N	Landsman, Alice S	N	Steele, Joshua W	
Cappy, Annette L	Y	Lane, Juanita P	Y	Stookey, Lee	Y
Carrier, Gary L	Y	Langlois, Richard J	Y	Storm Carrie	
Chapman, Philip B	Y	Lyon, Sylvia P	Y	Strickland, Eric R	Y
Charkes, Alice K	Y	MacKinney, Prudence A	Y	Stromberg, Jacqueline	N
Cooke, Diane L	Y	Macomber, Donna L	Y	Stuart, Valerie A	
Cooke, Richard H	Y	Madden Lee	Y	Sullivan, David L	N

Cooper, Peter A	Y	Manning, Sharry J	Y	Sullivan, Tara E	Y
Copans, Mary P		Manson, Frederick K		Taft, David W	
Copans, Stuart A		McCarthy, Mary H	Y	Toleno, Tristan D	Y
Cox, Douglas C	Y	McLoughlin, Elizabeth S	Y	Tortolani, Robert E	Y
Crispe, Lawrin P		McLoughlin, Mary G	Y	Truhan, Stephen M	Y
Cummings, Charles R	Y	Meima, Ralph C III	Y	Turnas, Kathryn II	Y
Cuthbertson, Lucinda	N	Melton, Paula J	Y	Underhill, Benedict Q	Y
Daims, Kurt D	N	Miller, Nancy L	Y	Urffer, Kathy A	Y
Davidson, Judith A	Y	Miller, Roger	Y	Vallario, Francine	Y
Davis, Andrew M	Y	Montgomery, Tad	Y	Verzino, James	Y
Distler, Arlene F	Y	Moore Odell, Anne	Y	Webster, Donald V	Y
Dowd, Katherine N	Y	Muller, Alexander E		Weinmann, Lissa R	Y
Elder, Merry B		Nelson, Steven E	Y	Wergin, Emily J	Y
Ellis, Timothy M		Newman, Dennis S	Y	Wheelock, Marshall M	Y
Elwell, Corwin S	Y	Noyes, Frederic, W	Y	Wheelock, Veronica A	Y
Elwell, Elizabeth N		OConnor, John P	Y	Wilmerding, John V Sr	Y
Everingham, Bob D	Y	OConnor, Kathleen M	Y	Wright, Edward D	Y
Fagelson, Arden F		OConnor, Timothy J Jr	Y	Yost, Christine M	Y
Fagelson, Robert S		Page, Sandra J	Y	Yost, Peter A	Y
Fairchild, R Michael	Y	Page, Sarah E	Y	Zak, Deborah L	Y

With 112 in favor of the motion and 12 opposed, the main motion as presented was adopted.

**OTHER BUSINESS** Under Article 2, Spoon Agave moved: To establish an ad hoc committee of Representative Town Meeting for the purpose of bringing forth a proposal for the establishment of a “futures commission.” The ad hoc committee shall create a statement of goals for the Commission consistent with this resolution and shall propose bylaws in furtherance of its purpose. The committee shall report back to Representative Twon meeting with its recommendations at Town Meeting 2015. Members shall apply to and be appointed by the Town Moderator.

Mr. Agave explained that the goal of the commission would be to study major issues, past, present and future, and to recommend a blueprint for moving Brattleboro towards becoming a sustainable community. Reports and recommendations would focus on achieving economic and environmental stability while maintaining equitable human rights and the best possible standard of living.

Following a brief discussion, Tom Finnell moved to cease debate. On a standing voice vote that was nearly unanimous, debate ceased.

On a standing voice vote, Mr. Agave’s motion was overwhelmingly adopted.

**ADJOURNMENT** There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Attest:

Annette L. Cappy  
Town Clerk

Approved:

David Gartenstein  
Selectboard Chairperson

Lawrin Crispe  
Moderator