

Notice to Voters

The legal voters of the Town of Warren are hereby notified that the deadline for registration to vote for the below warned meeting shall be Monday, February 26, 2007 at 12 noon. Legal voters of the Town of Warren may request absentee ballots for Australian ballot issues until the closing of the Town Clerk's office on March 5, 2007. An authorized person may apply for an absentee ballot on behalf of an absentee voter.

WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING 2007

The residents of the Town of Warren who are legal voters in the town are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Warren Elementary School in the Town of Warren on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to act upon the following matters.

Meeting called to order by Moderator, Robert "Bob" Messner, who read the warning.

Article 1. To review and act upon the reports of the Town Officers for the year 2006.

Michael Barker moved the question and the floor was open for discussion. Selectmen reviewed the several reports of the Town Officers. Ruth Ann Ryan questioned if anyone was collecting the delinquent taxes. Delinquent Tax Collector Reta Goss responded that the increase in taxes is consistent with the increase in taxes, the usually repeat offenders remain delinquent at this time. Kinny Connell moved to accept the reports of the Town Officers. Motion seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Article 2. Shall the Town vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town including the capital expenditures and to authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide for the same.

Steve Butcher moved to amend article 2 to add the total budget amount of \$2,138,756. Motion seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Michael Barker moved the question and the floor was opened for discussion. Rudy moved to reduce the Town Administrators salary to the same amount as last year. Motion seconded. Barry Simpson explained the required duties. Motion defeated.

Zoning and Planning Assistant was discussed, Dottie Kyle asked that a chain of command be published on the web site so people could tell who to go with questions.

Butch Hartshorn prompted discussion about the Alderborough/Roe parcel that was purchased by the town. Mac explained the challenges of this parcel and possible solutions.

Rachael McCuin asked about conservation fee's. Tara Hamilton explained the state wide ancient road project.

Steve Butcher discussed computer software and the mapping plotter as well as Fire Department. Gene Bifano proposed an amendment to double the uniforms for the fire

department from \$5,600 to \$11,200. Motion seconded. Amendment defeated by a voice vote.

Discussion of law enforcement and the increase. Warren contracts for 24 hours a week and Waitsfield 16 hours a week. Fayston voting on 8 hours per week today. Virginia Roth moved to reduce from 24/wk to 16/wk. 2nd. Motion seconded. Motion to reduce hours was defeated by a voice vote. Requested that the Sherriff have a break down in town report and a public hearing for input. Contract due in March \$24.50 per hour for certified traffic officer.

Rudy stated that he had called other towns and we have a serious problem with sand and gravel but yet our sand budget was down and gravel had not been increased. He felt that we should be stock piling. He proposed increasing gravel from 35,000 to 50,000 and sand from 50,000 to 60,000 plus the conservation money. Motion seconded. It was stated that the budget from last year had not been spent and that if Richard needed more gravel or sand the select board would find the money somewhere. Comment was made that the gravel pit in Granville was closing and that pavement was going to be the only way to go. Jeff Fuller owner and operator of the Granville gravel pit made it very very clear that they were not closing!! Rudy's amendment was voted down by a voice vote.

Rebecca Peatman moved to increase the Central Vermont Home Health request by \$1,000. Motion seconded. And approved by a voice vote.

Gene Bifano moved to reduce the Music and Arts budget by the \$1,000 which was voted to the Central Vermont Home Health. Rudy seconded. Motion defeated. Virginia Roth explained what the Music and Arts did. Michael Levengood moved to increase the Music and Arts by \$1,000 then withdrew his motion.

Burt Bauchner spoke on the Insurance and Taxes.

Michael Barker asked how much money was in the capital budget for the Library Reno.

Priscilla spoke to the CLA and COD Appraisal.

Rudy asked about the plans for a new town garage. John Donaldson stated that the Planning Commission had received preliminary designs. Discussion ceased and Michael Barker moved that a budget of \$2,139,756 as amended be approved. Motion seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Article 3. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to borrow money to pay current expenses and debts for the Town in anticipation of the collection of taxes for that purpose?

Dorothy Van Houten moved to approve article 3. Motion seconded. Article 3 approved by a voice vote.

Article 4. Shall the Town vote its current taxes into the hands of the Town Treasurer?

Michael Barker motioned to accept article 4. Motion seconded. Article 4 approved by a voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the Town vote to allocate \$25,000 to the Conservation Fund.

Bob Messner excused himself as moderator; Mac Rood took over as Moderator.

Bob moved to the audience to discuss the conservation fund. He stated that with the budget increased and the fact that the conservation fund currently had \$195,000 he felt that additional allocations were not necessary. Bob Messner moved not to approve the \$25,000 motion seconded. Erin Russell Story spoke for the conservation committee saying that the \$25,000 came from last year's town meeting survey. 70 % of the people completing the survey stated that they would approve the \$25,000. The goal is to have money on hand for the purchase of recreation, agricultural or fragile property. After two undeceive votes taken by a show of hands the article moved to a paper ballot. 86 no votes 77 yes votes. The article was defeated.

Meeting broke for lunch. At 1PM the School Meeting was called to order and recessed until after the conclusion of the Town Meeting.

Article 6. Shall the Town vote to create a municipal Conservation Commission pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4501 to 5606. If created the Conservation Commission would replace the existing Conservation Committee.

Damon Reed from the Conservation Committee spoke to the advantages of the Conservation Commission. He stated that by becoming a commission they would be recognized by the State of Vermont. They could obtain party statues in act 250 applications and receive grants, which as a committee they were not able to apply for. After a period of question and answers Damon Reed moved to approve Article 6. Motion seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Carol Crossman moved to act on Article 15 at this time. Motion seconded. Motion denied by a voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the Town have its real and personal property paid in installments, and set the dates and see whether payments shall be with or without discounts, and set the amount thereof? (In 2006 taxes billed July 10th, due August 10th, delinquent November 10th at midnight, without discounts.)

Charles Taplin moved that the Town have its real and personal property taxes paid "the same as last year". Motion seconded. Article 7 approved by a voice vote.

Article 8. How shall the Town vote to spend its Green Mountain National Forest Money?

Lori Klein moved to have the Green Mountain National Forest Money go to the school to offset spending.

Tim Seniff moved to have the money placed in a savings account, other than the school. Gene Bifano Seconded. Motion defeated by a voice vote.

Lori Klein discussed how to avoid voting this money each year and felt that the money would be better spend in the school budget as it doubled in value.

Discussion ended and the Green Mountain National Forest Money was voted to the school by a voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the Town empower the Select Board to accept any land if given to the Town or to purchase any land within the Town.

Butch Hartshorn moved to “empower the Select Board of accept any land if given to the Town but not to buy land without Town approval”. Motion to amend seconded. Select board stated that if property came available it was usually very important to move on the offer quickly before a third party came forward to outbid the Town; it would be very difficult to convince a seller to wait for a Town vote. Charles Taplin called the question. Amendment failed by a voice vote.

Article 9 was approved as written by a voice.

Article 10. Shall the Town of Warren vote to allow use of a voting Tabulation machine. Reta Goss moved to approve Article 9 motion was seconded and defeated by a voice vote.

Article 11. Shall the town approve moving the Warren Public Library from its present location in the municipal building to the main floor of the town hall provided that no library specific irreversible changes are made to the existing structure?

Deborah Whetmore presented the library plans followed up the Ellen Strauss who is the architect for the library project. Discussion followed with questions pro and con asked and discussed. Burt Bauchner moved to approve article 11, motion seconded and after a lengthy discussion the Article 11 was approved by a voice vote.

Article 12. Shall the Town of Warren approve the renovation of The Town Hall as per architectural plans that have been developed to bring the building up to code at a cost not to exceed \$200,000. Carl Lobel moved to approve Article 12, motion seconded. Article 12 was approved by a voice vote.

Article 13. The following items will be voted on by Australian ballot between the hours of 7:00 and 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 6, 2007.

1. Election of all Town Officers required by law.

See Attachment

Article 14. Shall the Town vote to start next year’s Town Meeting at 9:00 o’clock in the forenoon at the Warren Elementary School?

Rachael McCuin moved to approve article 14. Motion seconded. Article approved by a voice vote.

Article 15. “Shall the Town of Warren vote to approve the following resolution:

Whereas George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney have:

1. Deliberately misled the nation about the threat from Iraq in order to justify a war.

2. Condoned the torture of prisoners in violation of the Geneva Convention and US law.
3. Approved illegal electronic surveillance of American citizens without a warrant, and

Whereas these actions have undermined our Constitutional system of government, damage the reputation of America, and threatened our national security.

Therefore, the voters of the Town of Warren call upon the US House of Representatives to investigate these charges and to initiate the process of impeachment of George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney.

This resolution shall be signed by the Town Clerk and forwarded to both the Speaker and the Clerk of the US House of Representatives, and the Representative John Conyers of the House Judiciary Committee.

Richard King moved the skip over Article 15. Motion defeated. Charles Taplin stated that discussion would not change anyone's mind and he called the question. Motion seconded. Article 15 passed by a voice vote.

Article 16. To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

John Donaldson spoke on the Planning Commission activities.

Robert Messner reported that Carol Hosford was ill and not able to attend.

Linda Lloyd moved to add \$17,500 to the Conservation Fund. Moderator ruled motion to be out of order.

Motion was made and 2nd to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved by a voice vote. 2007 Town Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

