

#### 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 Wednesday February 29, 2012 at 5 PM. Legal voters of the Town of Warren may request absentee ballots for Australian ballot at the Town Clerk's office on Monday March 5, 2012 until 5 PM. An authorized person may apply for an absentee ballot on behalf of an absentee voter.

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 AM by Town Moderator, Robert Messner, who recessed the meeting until after the completion of the Warren School District meeting. Town Meeting was reconvened at 8:55AM. The Warning for the 2012 Town Meeting was read. Representative Adam Greshin addressed the meeting and gave the voters a legislative update.

### **WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING 2012**

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, 2012 at 8:00 o'clock in the forenoon** to act upon the following matters: Note: Town Meeting will be called to order at **8 o'clock in the forenoon** and immediately adjourn until after the completion of the Warren School District Meeting, at which time Town Meeting will reconvene.

**Article 1. To review and act upon the reports of the Town Officers for the year 2011?**

In reviewing reports questions were addressed on delinquent taxes, interest earned and constable's budget which was addressed under the 2012 budget discussion. Motion to approve the reports of the Town Officers was made and seconded. Article 1 was approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

**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 the same?**

Robert Ackland moved to approve a budget in the amount of \$2,656,109.\* The Select board presented the budget with a visual presentation. They fielded questions on the impact of "Irene" and the costs expended and expected revenue. Constables budget was discussed as was the cemetery budget. Roads repair was discussed, the bridge on Plunkton Road needs replacing, Town will try to add the road plan to the website to allow residents to view future plans. Capital Budget needs to show the yearly expenditures. Motion was seconded and the budget and capital expenditures were approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

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

Motion was made and seconded. Article 3 was approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

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

Motion was made and seconded. Article 4 was approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

**Article 5. Shall the Town vote to eliminate the office of Town Auditor pursuant to 17 VSA 2651b?**

Reta Goss explained that this statute allows town of vote not to elect auditors. Town must employ a yearly audit done by an accountant. She suggested that because the office of auditor has been vacant that volunteer might work to compile the Town Report, working with the accountants. Therefore creating a report which might be more voter friendly. After discussion ended motion was made to approve Article 5, motion seconded and Article 5 approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

**Article 6. Shall the Town have its taxes of real and personal property paid in installments, and set the dates, and to see whether payments shall be with or without discounts, and set the amount thereof?**

After discussion Reta Goss moved that taxes be handled “ the same as last year” no installments, billed on July 10<sup>th</sup>, due on August 10<sup>th</sup> and delinquent after November 10<sup>th</sup>. Motion seconded and approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

**Article 7. Shall the town change the method of selection of the First and Second Town Constables from their currently elected status to positions that are appointed by the Select board for a two-year term? This provision would take effect once the current elected terms are completed in March of 2013.**

Select board addressed their concerns about having constables who were elected and therefore not accountable to the select board. If constables were appointed the select board would be accountable for their actions and could if needed be removed them from office. Constable Bifano addressed questions including firearms and training.

Article 7 was voted by show of hands vote of 68 yes and 25 no.

**Article 8. Shall the Town vote the expenditure of \$300.00 for the Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, a not-for-profit service agency?**

Judy Reed explained the Prevent Child Abuse Vermont program and the available services. Motion to approve was made and seconded. Motion approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

**Article 9. Shall the Town vote the expenditure of \$500.00 for the People's Health & Wellness Clinic, a not-for-profit service agency?**

Robert Meany explained the People's Health & Wellness Clinic and the services available. Motion to approve Article 9 was made and seconded. Article 9 approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

**Article 10. Shall the Town Vote its Green Mountain National Forest money go to the Warren Elementary School?**

Michael Ketchel moved that the Green Mountain National Forest money be voted into the Warren School Budget. Discussion as to where else the money should and could to. Motion seconded and approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

**Article 11. Shall the Town empower the Select Board to accept any land if given to the Town or to purchase any land within the Town?**

Motion was made to approve Article 11, Butch Hartshorn voiced his objection to this article, he believes that the voters should be allowed to vote on land purchases made by the town. Motion was made to amend the article into two pieces, one vote to accept land and another vote to purchase land. Motion to amend was seconded. Motion to amend Article 11 was defeated by a voice vote in the negative.

Motion to approve Article 11 as printed was seconded and the article was approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

At this point in the meeting moderator moved to recess the meeting for lunch. Motion was defeated by a show of hands vote 36 yes and 48 no.

**Article 12. In light of the United States Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the Town of Warren vote on March 6, 2012 to urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U.S. Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not speech, and the corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure?**

After brief discussion motion was made and seconded to approve Article 12 as printed. Article 12 was approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

**Article 13. Shall the town vote to start next year's Town Meeting at 8:00 o'clock in the forenoon at the Warren Elementary School?**

Motion was made to hold next year's meeting at 7PM. Motion was seconded. Motion was defeated by a voice vote.

Motion was made to start next year's meeting at 8 AM, immediately recess into the Warren School Meeting then reconvene to act on the Articles of the Town. Motion was seconded and approved by a voice vote in the affirmative.

**Article 14. The following items will be voted on by Australian ballot between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 5, 2012.**

**Election of all Town and School Officers required by law.**

**Moderator-** Robert Messner 275 votes

**Select Board-** Robert Ackland 257 votes (Two Year Term)

**Select Board-** Matthew Groom 226 votes (Three Year Term)

**Lister-** Ken Blair 282 votes (Three Year Term)

**Town Clerk-** Reta Goss 293 votes (One Year Term)

**Trustee of Public Money-** Elaine Fuller 281 votes (One Year Term)

**Delinquent Tax Collector-** Reta Goss 294 votes (One Year Term)

**Harwood School Director-** Dan Raddock 128 votes (Three Year Term)

Rosemarie White 121 votes

**Town Treasurer-** Elaine Fuller 278 votes (One Year Term)

**Cemetery Commission-** Michele Eid 275 votes (Five Year Term)

**School Treasurer-** Elaine Fuller 284 votes (One Year Term)

**Warren School Director-** Michael Ketchel 261 votes (Two Year Term)

**Warren School Director-** Robert Rosen 259 votes (Three Year Term)

**Warren School Moderator-** Mac Rood 277 votes (One Year Term)

**Library Commission-** Carl Lobel 264 votes (Three Year Term)

**Library Commission-** Liz First Raddock 266 votes (Two Year Term)

**A complete listing of write-in's is attached to original minutes.**

**Presidential Primary Election**

Barack Obama 126 votes

Newt Gingrich 9 votes      John Huntsman 5 votes

Ron Paul 36 votes      Rick Perry 1 vote

Mitt Romney 56 votes      Rick Santorum 26 votes

**Article 15. To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.**

Motion to adjourn the 2012 Town Meeting, motion seconded and approved by a voice vote in the affirmative. 12:20PM.

**Minutes respectfully submitted.**

**Reta Goss Warren Town Clerk**