Castleton Town Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2017

The duly warned meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by moderator John Burke at the Jeffords Center forScience & Mathematics Auditorium at Castleton University. The assembly stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The evening began with a report of the happenings in Montpelier by our Representative Bill Canfield. The President of the Student Body at Castleton University, Tyler Anderson, also gave an overview of how the town and University are working together with the Bridge Initiative. The board introduced themselves and the meeting preceded.

Article 1. Shall the Town review the Town Report as printed? Motion to review was made by Ken Flowers, seconded by Melanie Combs. No discussion, all in favor. Motion Passed.

Article 2. Shall the Town authorize payment of real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four (4)

installments, with the dates for payment being August 31, November 30, February 28 (29 in leap Year) and May 31?

Motion made by Ken Flowers, Toni Lobdell seconded. No discussion, all in favor. Motion Passed.

Article 3. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to borrow money in anticipation of taxes? Motion made by Scott Lobdell, Raymond Ladd seconded. No discussion, all in favor. Motion Passed.

Article 4. Shall the Town at this meeting discuss the proposed Select Board’s budget for the expenses for the

ensuing year? Motion made by Bonnie Condit, seconded by Kenneth Flowers. No discussion, all in favor. Motion Passed.

Article 6. (To elect Officers) to be voted on March 7, 2017 by Australian Ballot.

Article 7 & 8 (To elect two School Directors for the Castleton-Hubbardton Union School Board and Fair Haven Union High School Board) to be voted on March 7, 2017 by Australian Ballot.

Article 9. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of **$**27,357 for Legislating? No discussion

Article 10. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of **$**4,065 for Ordinances & Proceedings? Bonnie Condit asked why the increase is so large, Jim Leamy explained that the cost of printing of the town report went up. Ray Ladd asked what happens to the money that doesn’t get spent, Jim L. explained the surplus would go to buying down the tax rate unless it was voted on differently.

Article 11. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of **$**166,703 for Managing Municipalities? Carole Hinners asked what are the personal services, Jim explained it is the salary of the Town Manager and secretary.

Article 12. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of **$**9,459 for Conducting Elections? No Discussion

Article 13. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $41,834 for Collection, Custody & Disbursement of Funds? No discussion

Article 14. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $84,214 for Accounting? Sharon Ryan questioned the amount for benefits, Jim L explained it is health insurance and includes a 1% increase. Joe Manez asked how many people does this cover, Mark S. stated it is for one employee, two person plan, and includes health, dental, vision, and retirement for one person.

Article 15. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $12,000 for Auditing? Ted Molnar asked why this went down, Jim L. explained that it didn’t go down this only shows what was spent the first half of the year. Dick C. also explained we have a contract with the company and it was higher two years ago and it will need to be renegotiated next year.

Article 16. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $25,138 for Tax Listing? No Discussion

Article 17. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $35,201 for Tax Collecting? Sharon Ryan commented that the salary vs benefits are more than half. Joe B. explained the rest of the benefits are under another line item.

Article 18. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $73,452 for Document Recording/Issue? Ray Ladd asked if this is a state mandate, John B explained you do have to have a Town Clerk and a repository for deeds and the state does tell you what you can charge for records. There are also revenues associated with some of the articles, this article being one of them.

Article 19. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $20,000 for Legal Services? No Discussion

Article 20. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $42,891 for Municipal Planning & Zoning? No Discussion

Article 21. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $388,107 for General Government Buildings? Bonnie Condit asked when we are getting rid of the buildings/rented town offices. Dick C. explained the new town office should be completed by May 1, our goal is to remove and be out of the temporary offices by the end of May of this year.

Article 22. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $18,300 for General Government Equipment (? No discussion

Article 23. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $442,682 for Police Department? No discussion

Article 24. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $36,218 for Emergency Medical Services? (Includes

Regional Ambulance Service, Inc. & RAS/Castleton First Responders) No discussion

Article 25. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $121,746for Fire Department? Ken Flowers asked about the 9% increase in dispatching and comment that it could be more. Heath G and Chief Mantello explained it is in regards to the changing of the Dispatch services and they are not sure how it is going to go cost wise. Joe Mark asked to give a round of applause for our volunteers. (Applause) Katy Thornblade asked about the $35,000 for capital improvement, Dick C. explained that is the reserve account for fire trucks being reinstated. Charles Brown asked where the Federal 911 money is going if the State is doing away with it. John B stated Vermont does use the money to fund 911.

Article 26. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $11,350 for Emergency Management? No discussion

Article 27. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $1,096,164 for Highway Department? No discussion

Article 28. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $3,500 for Town Lands? Sid Waite asked if we sold some of these properties. Joe B explained that this money is for maintenance, lawn mowing on the Hydeville Park, Dewey Field and the old cemetery. We did sell some land however those pieces didn’t require mowing.

Article 29. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $2,000for Historical Cemeteries? No discussion

Article 30. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $25,000 for Hillside Cemetery? Carole Hinners asked what the $25,000 buy. John B, explained there are two full time employees in the summer that cost almost twice this much. We cover the rest with income/budget.

Article 31. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $1,591for Health Regulating & Inspecting? No discussion

Article 32. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $1,060 for Animal Control? No discussion

Article 33. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $36,408 for Constables? No discussion

Article 34. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $302,518 for Transfer Station? No discussion

Article 35. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $92,561 for Recreation? No discussion

Article 36. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $2,000 for Memorial Day Decorations/July 4th Parade? No discussion

Article 37. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $111,500 for Library Administration? No discussion

Article 38. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $1,000 for Prevention/Control of Forest Fires? No discussion

Article 39. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $3,598 for Tree Warden? No discussion

Article 40. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $40,000 for Rutland County Tax? No discussion

Article 41. Shall the **$**193,420 surplus unassigned General Fund balance as of June 30, 2016 be applied to reduce the money borrowed for the construction of the Town Office? Bill P, explained if this is voted yes, you will eliminate the third year paying on the new town office and save $6,000 in interest. The tax burden will be done as of June 2018. Carole Hinners asked what the interest rate is on the loan, Mark S stated he thought it was 1.3%. Mary Droege asked how much we owe. Bill P. stated we have not made a payment yet, we owe $576,000 with approximately $11,000 in interest. Martha Clifford asked where the town comes up with the surplus. Joe B. stated they try to keep an eye on the budget, we don’t buy things unless we need them, and are fiscally responsible. We wanted to build a town office and not put a tax burden on the town. Jim L explained there was an increase in revenues and a decrease in spending. Ted Day thanked the board for having a surplus and Linda Remington stated she was pleased with the boards thinking and appreciative.

Article 4***2***. Shall the Town deem necessary and appropriate $3,500 for the support of ARC - Rutland Area determining that the program serves the residents of the Town with advocacy, resources and community for citizens with developmental disabilities and their families? (Not included in the budget) No discussion

Article 43. Shall the Town deem necessary and appropriate **$**3,600 for administrative support of Castleton Cares, Inc., determining that the program serves the residents of the Town with emergency assistance to local people in need. (Not included in the budget) No discussion

Article 44. Shall the Town deem necessary and appropriate **$**25,000 for the support of Castleton Community Seniors, Inc., determining that the program serves residents of the Town with the operation of the Castleton Community Center (The Old Homestead)? (Not included in the budget) Joann Riley gave an overview of the activities and services at the center. John B also mentioned we vote every five years on tax exemption for the center.

Article 45. Shall the Town of Castleton vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **$**3,500 for the support of the partial funding of Marble Valley Regional Transit Districts (The Bus) public transit service to the residents of the Town? (Not included in the budget) No discussion

Article 46. Shall the Town deem necessary and appropriate $6,720 to support the Rutland Area Visiting Nurses & Hospice ($550 to support Rutland Area Hospice & $6,170 to support RAVNAH Home and Community Health Services)? (Not included in the budget) No discussion

Article 47. Shall the Town deem necessary and appropriate $4,088 for the support of Rutland Mental Health Services, determining that the program serves residents of the Town with counseling, substance abuse and emergency services? (Not included in the budget) No discussion

Article 48. Shall the Town deem necessary and appropriate $900 for the support of RSVP and the Volunteer Center, determining that the program serves residents of the Town with volunteering opportunities and community services? (Not included in the budget) No discussion

Article 49. Shall the Town deem necessary and appropriate $2,000 for the support of Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, determining that the program serves residents of the Town with elder services? (Not included in the budget) No Discussion

Article 50. Shall the Town deem necessary and appropriate $1,000 for the support of Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired, determining that the program serves residents of the Town with services to enable the blind and visually impaired to achieve and maintain independence? (Not included in the budget) No Discussion

Article 5. (Other Business) Joe Bruno asked John Burke if this was his last year as moderator. John replied yes and thanked everyone for the attention and the opportunity to serve, I have enjoyed it my time as moderator. Joe Bruno presented John with a framed print of the Beers 1869 Atlas of the Town of Castleton as a Thank You for his 23 years of service as Moderator.

Moderator John Burke called for a Motion to Adjourn to the Australian Ballot to be held Tuesday March 7, 2017 at 10:00am. Motion made by Ken Flowers and Seconded by Ray Ladd. All in favor, Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:10pm. (An informal meeting will follow with some of the school board members.)

Audio tapes of this meeting are available at the Town Clerks Office.

Respectfully submitted, Approved:

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Nedra Boutwell

Castleton Town Clerk

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