WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BRISTOL, VERMONT

The legal voters of the Town of Bristol are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED to meet at Holley Hall in said Bristol, on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., said meeting to be recessed at the close of all business to be transacted from the floor to the following day, Tuesday, March 3, 2015 for voting by Australian ballot between the hours of 9:00 a.m., at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 p.m., at which time the polls will close, for the election of officers and voting on those articles so noted.

At 7:00 pm Fred Baser introduced Selectboard Member's Michelle Perlee, Brian Fox, John "Peeker" Heffernan, Sharon Compagna and Chair Joel Bouvier and Town Administrator Therese Kirby and Town Clerk Jen Myers. He thanked Zoe Cassels, Izzy Moody and Bailey Sherwin for volunteering to pass the microphones to individuals who wish to speak. Fred acknowledged the 2014 Town Report dedicatee, the American Legion. Fred gave a brief overview of Robert's Rules. He asked if residents had any objections to Senator Chris Gray speaking, they had none. Senator Chris Gray of New Haven encouraged everyone to get in touch with their Senators. He works with the natural resources and energy committee where he has been a part of the clean water initiative for Lake Champlain. He also noted the Legislation of Vermont has a new website that is easier to navigate and follow bills or work that is being done by your representatives. Representative Dave Sharpe spoke is chair of the education committee and is working diligently to find ways to reducing the cost of education. He recognized the difficulty Towns are having with the inability to directly reduce the Supervisory Union budgets. Representative Fred Baser works in the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. They have worked on trying increase the number of jobs in Vermont as well as keeping businesses in Vermont to increase the tax base. Fred noted he will recess after Article 7 for the School District Meeting.

ARTICLE 1: To act upon the reports of the Town officers.

Lance Perlee moved the article, Joel Bouvier seconded. Joel Bouvier said there is a correction on page 37 of the Town Report. In 2018/2019 They would like to replace the 2009 low-profile dump truck with a new GMC truck. The other error was in 2019/2020 where the Town will replace the 2009 International Tandem with a new dump truck. Ted Lylis said the budgets can be difficult to understand and requested in the future the budgeted and actual both be stated in the report. If the difference between the budgeted and actual should is noted it will allow readers to go through the report quickly. Chris McGrory-Klyza said there were three volunteer projects that had occurred throughout the year and thanked the volunteers who organized and facilitated those projects. Article one passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 2: To elect Town Officers by Australian ballot.

Fred encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow.

ARTICLE 3: Will the voters of the Town of Bristol vote that all real property taxes payable in installments shall bear interest at a rate of one percent per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of each installment with the payment to the Town Treasurer of the real property taxes for the Town's fiscal year period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, being due in two equal installments on November 5, 2015 and April 5, 2016?

Joel Bouvier moved the article, Therese Kirby seconded. Ken Weston moved to amend the article to vote that all real property taxes payable in installments shall bear interest at a rate of three quarters percent or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-quarter percent per month or faction thereof from the due date of each installment with the payment to the Town Treasurer of the real property taxes for Town's fiscal year period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 being due in two equal installments on November 5, 2015 and April 5, 2016? Anne Wallace seconded the amendment. Ken explained interest rates charged on property taxes are punitive; people who are late on their property taxes might need a little help on the interest accrued. Therese explained this comes from state statute. Lynn Dike asked if someone is late can they pay in installments. Therese said yes, but there will still be a penalty/interest assessed on the unpaid balance. Anne asked if this is a state statute can we change this. Therese said yes because other towns apply interest and penalty differently. Amendment passed by voice vote. Ted Lylis asked if this was retroactive. Therese said this will begin July 1, 2015. Article passed by voice vote as amended.

ARTICLE 4: To set salaries that shall be paid to the members of the Selectboard.

Sharon Compagna moved the article, Kevin LaRose seconded. Sharon explained they get paid $15 per meeting and $500 stipend. Beth Ekroos moved to keep salaries the same. Lance Perlee seconded. Article four passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2015-2016 fiscal year Highway Fund Operating Budget in the amount of $714,041, a portion thereof in the amount of $607,735 to be raised by taxes; the tax rate on the 2015 Grand List of the Town sufficient to raise said sum as taxes to be determined by the Selectboard?

Joel Bouvier moved the article, Val Hanson seconded. Steve Leopold asked who is responsible for plowing by his house. Peeker Heffernan explained the State stops plowing at the top of Stoney Hill and resumes plowing at the Lord's Prayer Rock. Anne Wallace thanked the Highway Department for the use of sidewalk plow and asked if they had always plowed Main Street. Peeker explained they have always done Main Street, but also are required to do the sidewalk in Prince Lane. He also stated this is a new sidewalk plow that voters agreed to buy. Article five passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Will the voters authorize the Selectboard to expend money from the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund to purchase equipment recommended by the Equipment Committee as outlined in the Highway Capital Equipment Long Range Plan?

Therese Kirby moved the article, Lance Perlee seconded. Peeker Heffernan explained there is a Capital Equipment plan that is published in the Town Report. This would give the Town the ability to purchase the scheduled equipment to be ordered in the off season. This could result in getting better pricing as vendors would not know the approved amount of money to spend as they have in the past. Ken asked if it legal to authorize future fiscal years spending. Therese explained the Board wanted to discuss this with voters, and they would adhere to the plan. Article six passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2015-2016 fiscal year General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of $771,424, a portion thereof in the amount of $553,817 to be raised by taxes; and to designate that $10,000 be taken from the June 30, 2014 undesignated fund balance to offset taxes for the 2015-2016 fiscal year; the tax rate on the 2015 Grand List of the Town sufficient to raise said sum as taxes to be determined by the Selectboard?

Lane Perlee moved the article, Anne Wallace seconded. Tom Wallace asked about increases in insurances. Therese Kirby explained the increases in the Worker's Compensation. The Town changed their Short Term/Long Term disability carrier to decrease the costs by 20%. Brendan Gallivan asked about the increase in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office. Therese explained with the retirement of Bill Bryant the number of employees taking the Health Insurance increased with the new Administrative Assistant having a family plan and Jen also getting married. Therese said beginning in July 2015 employees will begin contributing 2% of their Health Insurance Premium. Article seven passed by voice vote.

RECESSED TO SCHOOL MEETING AT 7:50 PM.

Resumed Town meeting at 9:50 pm

ARTICLE 8: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2015-2016 fiscal year Arts, Parks and Recreation Department budget in the amount of $255,489 a portion thereof in the amount of $173,239 to be raised by taxes; the tax rate of the 2015 Grand List of the Town sufficient to raise said sum as taxes to be determined by the Selectboard?

Lance Perlee moved the article, Jen Perlee seconded. Article 8 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Will the voters appropriate the following sums to be placed in various Town Reserve Fund accounts as noted:

Reserve Fund:	Amount:
Capital Fire Equipment Reserve	$20,000
Capital Highway Equipment Reserve	$85,000
Capital Building Reserve	$20,000
Capital Road Fund - Construction	$35,000
Capital Road Fund – Paving	$100,000
Conservation Reserve Fund	$10,000
Reappraisal Reserve	$ 5,000
Total:	$275,000

Anne Wallace moved the article, Peeker Heffernan seconded. Claire Wallace asked if paving money would be used from the Capital Paving Fund since it is not budgeted in the Highway Fund. Joel Bouvier said yes, the goal is to be able to use the paving budget money at any point throughout the year versus

having to spend the money by June 30th of each year.

ARTICLE 10: Will the voters authorize the transfer from the June 30, 2014 undesignated fund balance of the General Fund of $20,000 to the Landfill Closure Fund?

Kris Perlee moved the article, Sally Burell seconded. Steve Leopold ask the definite date of the Landfill Closure. Peeker Heffernan said the current schedule to close is December 31, 2016. Brendan Gallivan asked about the deficit in the Landfill closure fund and the schedule to get the fund current before we close. Peeker said the state requires us to put $61,000 in the fund each year to close. They are currently about $350,000 short of having that money. Ken Weston asked if there is a reason why the closure fund is not included in the list of reserve funds. Therese said the Landfill Closure fund is listed in the Landfill budget. There is an amount in the general fund to pay the closure fund because there is an obligation that must be paid. Article 10 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Will the voters authorize the transfer from the June 30, 2014 undesignated fund balance of the General Fund of $20,000 to the Capital Building Fund to be used for costs related to designing a fire station?

Jen Perlee moved the article, Dan Cogswell seconded. Diana Bigelow asked if this design is for a particular location. Peeker Heffernan said yes the location is the old Nelson property on West Street. In working with Stoney Hill Properties who purchased that property they are working together to give West Street frontage to the Fire Station. Article eleven passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters establish a Capital Technology Fund pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2804 for the purpose of purchasing a server, new computers and other technology?

Lance Perlee moved the article, Dan Cogswell seconded. Anne Wallace asked to explain this. Brian Fox said there currently is no schedule to replace current technology. This would allow us to maintain and keep up with computers. Anne asked how much that would require. Brian said the next article discusses the money needed for the fund. Claire Wallace asked if this protected and kept information secure. Brian said yes. Article twelve passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters appropriate thereto the sum of $5,000 from the June 30, 2014 undesignated fund balance to fund the Capital Technology Fund?

Kris Perlee moved the article, Therese Kirby seconded. Shari Bedard asked how many computers are in the office. Therese said there are 6 computers, but currently the Town is not networked. Shari asked if this would be the same amount of money each year. Therese said it would change each year. Brendan Gallivan asked if they had considered using another option for a server. Therese said there are been different suggestions made, but they will research further before making decisions. Kevin LaRose asked if the Fire Department would be included to use this fund. Therese said yes. Article thirteen passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the voters establish a Fire Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2804 for the purpose of purchasing fire apparatus?

Eric Forand moved the article, Claire Wallace seconded. Brendan Gallivan asked the difference between the Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund versus the Equipment Fund. Joel Bouvier said the vehicle fund is strictly for Fire Department Vehicles, the Equipment is gear etc. that needs replacement. Article fourteen passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the voters appropriate thereto the sum of a two cent levy on the tax rate fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 to fund the Fire Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund?

Will Elwell moved the article, Dan Cogswell seconded. Steve Leopold asked if this would be the same every year. Joel Bouvier said it would be a continuous two cents on the tax rate each year. This would hopefully give the ability to prevent a bond vote in the future for fire vehicles. Lynn Dike asked what that means in actual dollars? Joel said on $100,000 that would be $20. Ken Weston is concerned about funding when historically we have been contributing set amounts and is concerned with committing future fiscal years. Peeker said this is an article that would be voted on every fiscal year. He said as the grand list increases the amount contributed will increase, this will give you the knowledge that you are contributing the same amount of money towards fire apparatus each year. Ken asked why we aren't doing this with each fund. Brendan Gallivan asked if they are investing the money. Therese Kirby said it is in a Money Market Account at People's United Bank. Article fifteen passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: Will the voters approve an appropriation of $129,543 for the Lawrence Memorial Library for its

annual operating budget, said sum to be raised by taxes?

Jill Mackler moved the article, Elin Melchior seconded. Article sixteen passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 17: Will the voters approve an appropriation of $15,000 to the Bristol Recreation Club, Inc. to cover maintenance and improvements to the grounds and facilities located at the Bristol Recreation Field and to add to the Club's Capital Expenditure Fund for future improvements?

Dan Cogswell moved, Elin Melchior seconded. Article seventeen passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 18: Will the voters appropriate the sum of $10,706.25 to Addison County Transit Resources?

Naomi Drummond moved, Allison Sturtevant seconded. Naomi Drummond discussed some current information on ACTR. Article eighteen passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 19: Will the voters appropriate the following sums in support of the organizations listed below, with said amounts being level funded or lowered from the prior year?

Organization:	Amount:
Addison County Court Diversion	$1,150
Addison County Home Health	$4,700
Addison County Humane Society	$1,000
Addison County Parent Child Center	$4,800
Addison County Readers Program	$2,000
Bristol After School Program	$1,275
Bristol Band	$1,200
Bristol Cemetery Association	$7,000
Bristol Downtown Community Partnership	$10,000
Bristol Family Center	$4,000
Bristol Fourth of July Committee	$6,000
Bristol Historical Society	$2,500
Bristol Little League	$2,000
Bristol Rescue Squad	$12,000
Champlain Valley Agency on Aging	$2,700
Counseling Service of Addison County	$3,875
Elderly Services	$2,200
Hope (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects)	$3,250
Hospice Volunteer Services	$1,200
John Graham Emergency Shelter	$1,400
New Haven River Watch	$ 300
North East Addison Television (NEAT)	$3,500
Open Door Clinic	$1,000
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	$ 750
Vermont Adult Learning	$1,650
WomenSafe	$3,500
Total:	$84,950

Kelly Laliberte moved the article, Anne Wallace seconded. Shari Bedard asked about Bristol Downtown Community Partnership. Therese Kirby explained they currently are re-organizing, and trying to start over again. They have asked the Town to take on some of their work. They are currently in the process of figuring out where to go from here as the Downtown Designation important. Shari asked where the money is going to go. Therese said if the town took some of the responsibility they wouldn't take all of the money, but this is currently preliminary and they are trying to work out the where to go from here. Claire Wallace asked if there is any grant money left from the Downtown Organization. Therese explained this grant was used to help complete Prince Lane, and they are currently in the process of applying for another grant that will complete the lighting on the park. John Pandiani asked what changes they are making. Therese said that hasn't been determined yet, originally there was an executive director and a board, but that currently isn't working. Ted Lylis asked if the $10,000 isn't going to be used for the director how will it be used. Therese said it may not be and it will stay in the budget and be added to the undesignated fund balance for next year. Article nineteen passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 20: To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting. Peeker Heffernan thanked the community.

Kelly Laliberte thanked the library for their hard work. Therese Kirby thanked the Fire Department for their patience throughout this difficult time, but they have been gracious. Anne Wallace spoke on behalf of Meals on Wheels they are looking for volunteers. Brett LaRose thanked the Firefighters for thei volunteer hours for meetings, trainings and calls.

Joel Bouvier moved to adjourn. Peeker Heffernan seconded, meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm via voice vote.

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Bristol duly called, noticed and held on January 26, 2015. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Bristol on January 27, 2015.

Bristol Selectboard:

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Joel Bouvier, Chair

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John "Peeker" Heffernan

_____
Sharon Compagna

_____
Michelle Perlee

_____
Brian Fox

ATTEST:

_____
Jen Myers, Town Clerk

Frederick L. Davis Moderator 3/17/15