# 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 5, 2018 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 6, 2018 for voting by Australian ballot between the hours of 7:00 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. **Town Moderator read at 7:26 pm.**

**At 7:01 pm, Fred Baser, Town Moderator, called to order the Annual Meeting of the Town of Bristol and the Bristol Town School District.**

**Fred Baser noted that this year's Town Report is dedicated Bill James who is 106 years old last July. He also recognized a group of officials who have left Town employment. Fred thanked the Masons who volunteered to provide the refreshments this year. Donations: Mary's at Baldwin Creek, Cubbers, Snaps, Bob-Cat, Bristol Cliffs Café, American legion Post 19, American ladies Auxiliary, almost home, Shaws, Bristol Beverage, Vermont Coffee, Lebanis Lodge, and pies by Charlie Correll.**

**Boyscout William Mirran will bring the microphone to anyone who wishes to speak. Brand new sound system and trained everyone today.**

**This will be our last Town School meeting. The plan is to recess after Article 7 of the Town Warning so we can tend to school business. After that then we will continue with Town Warning Article 8.**

**Fred Baser then introduced himself and explained Roberts Rules of Order and State law. All articles must be moved and seconded by the body and he restates it. Articles have only one Amendment can be made at a time. Only one speaker at a time and until everyone else has spoken can a person speak a second time. In terms of voting we use voice votes most of the time. A request for a paper ballot can be done but must have seven people that supports the request. If can't tell Yeah from Nay then we will have stand up vote. All motions and remarks shall be addressed to moderator. Keep speeches confined to merits of Article being discussed. Moderator's role is to help accomplish the business at hand. If you have questions or think a rule has not been done property you may raise your hand and state so.**

**Moderator asked if anyone was not a registered voter; there were no show of hands.**

**Said Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Moderator read brief invocation (Danville does this). Some of it was by Classical composer Savailles (from Finland).**



**Moderator introduced the Selectboard members – Peter Coffey, Ted Lylis, Michelle Perlee, Joel Bouvier, and Chair John "Peeker" Heffernan. In addition we have new Town Administrator Valerie Capels. On my right is Sharon Lucia, Administrative Assistant who is filling in for Town Clerk Jen Myers who had a baby girl.**

**As tradition has been we introduce legislators - Senator and State Representatives for the District. Chris Bray, Senator; Dave Sharpe and Fred Baser, Representatives. Each spoke briefly.**

**Chris Bray - In the Senate you serve on a committee in the morning and one in afternoon. Senator Bray is on Senate Natural Resources and Energy (Chair) in the morning and Senate Education Committee in the afternoon. Summarized the major work on Senate Natural Resources has been the Clean Water Act. There is a clean-up requirement for Lake Champlain (136 towns in the State and 11 counties out of 14 counites). Very large project. Have been building the program for last three years. Working out long-term budget for fiscal 2019 and 2020 budget and the year beyond that as there is a large funding gap in 2020 budget; hopes economy will fill that gap; if not developing a Plan B (Bill S-260).**

**Fred Baser – Ways & Means Committee (one of two money committees) changes the way we deal with state income tax and a little bit of education funding. Federal government changed tax code and we have enough connection to federal tax code and that impacts you. Vermonters would be contributing another $30 million in income taxes. Legislature didn't want that so had to redesign to return $30 million back to you in tax year 2018. At same time there was an anticipated 7% to 8% increase in homestead property tax based on actions taken last to keep taxes down and anticipated budgets from Schools. Income taxes adjusted gross income – allow to claim a 5% credit for charitable (max $500 credit $10,000), a standard deduction $6k and $12k jointly, $9k for single parents and personal exemption ($4150) to reduce your income for taxation. If on Social Security and make less than $5,500 and single won't have to pay taxes; making $70,000 or less and file jointly there is minimal taxes; add to income taxes an education fund surcharge. Applied as follows .1% lowest income bracket; .5% mid-range bracket; and upper income bracket a 1% surcharge for education (raise $59mil). This will be used to lower your homestead property tax but non-resident property tax stays the same. In our district it will go down by 8.6%. State average is 10%. Goal is to keep property taxes under control.**

**Dave Sharpe – attended his first town meeting in 1968. This is his 16th year in legislature and he will not be seeking reelection in fall. Wanted to review a couple of things he's been involved with this year. Bringing transportation projects to Bristol (south street bridges and pavement projects); able to reduce unemployment taxes by $31 million and increase benefits for unemployed workers. $300 mil to the good to weather the next recession while cutting costs to employers. Make registering to vote easier, absentee voting, voting machines are more accurate counting. Worked hard on fair tax policy especially education taxes and that were moving to income taxes for education. 70% in Vermont rely on**

**property taxes - national average is 40%. Act 46 – education – commissioned study – do we spend too much or not enough? Yes we spend $30 mil too much for administrative costs. We spend about right amount on K-12. We spend $140 mil too much in special education – funding is based on reimbursement model. Pay 60% of what you spend your purchasing habits would change. We were concerned that spending would be too high so we put stringent rules to audit to constrain special Ed spending but went the other way (enforce rules are more expensive). Commissioned UVM to look at how we fund special education and district mgmt. group from Harvard to assist supervisory unions (13 of them) and discovered that best practices cost less money and deliver better services to our students. If used best practices then we could save between $70-80 mill dollars. This is difficult and long process and it will roll out in a 4-5 year period.**

**Moderator – It would great to give Dave a round of applause for his 16 years in legislature and he was also a selectboard member.**

**Moderator read initial paragraph of the Warning at 7:26 pm.**

**ARTICLE 1:** To hear the reports of the Town officers.

**Bob Bernstein moved the article. Lance Perlee seconded.**

**Article 1 in past if you have any questions on the reports in Town Report now is the time to raise it.**

**Selectboard Chair Peeker Heffernan - in writing the Selectboard Report to the Town I thanked all employees who had left and didn't thank all the existing employees so he would like to thank all of them now.**

**Bob Bernstein – speaking to General Report and prepared a set of notes for the Selectboard. Will summarize at this time. 1. Different view of town meeting. Would like Selectboard to take a more active role in strengthening town meeting in general. Not many young people here. 2. Distressed that we didn't retain the old town fire house as a public building. Selectboard decision to sell as a residence. 3. Wants Selectboard to work more actively to develop a plan for future funding of Bristol Police Dept. The Bristol Police Dept residents pay nearly $1,000 more in property taxes for being in police district. Out of balance – encourage the Town to look at different funding system. 4. Thanked Selectboard for their work.**

**Article approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect Town Officers by Australian ballot.

**Moderator - will happen Tuesday March 6 from 7 am to 7 pm.**
**Article approved by voice vote.**



**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 ¾ of one percent per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-quarter 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, 2018 through June 30, 2019, being due in two equal installments on November 5, 2018 and April 5, 2018 by physical delivery to the Town Office before midnight on that date?

**Lance Perlee moved the article. Dave Sharpe seconded. Michelle Perlee made motion to correct date on Article from April 5, 2018 to April 5, 2019. Joel Bouvier seconded.**

**Article 3 amendment approved by voice vote.**
**Article 3 as amended approved by voice vote.**

**Dave Sharpe – is there still a penalty? How much is it? Michelle Perlee - There is an 8% penalty currently. Not listed in last year's article. Moderator – law in town and don't know that we need to move it.**

**Dave Sharpe moves that there is a penalty and that penalty is 4%. Lance Perlee seconded.**

**Peter Ryan thinks we should leave as it. Steve Leopold – will I be penalized if the mortgage company is late will it affect him. Michelle Perlee – question for Town Treasurer – probably a case by case basis. Bob Bernstein – don't think we have statutory ability to change? The 8% penalty is used to help fund the town government in general. If we take half of that then we would need to find money elsewhere. Ken Weston – we made change a couple of years ago to the interest rate so we should change penalty rate tonight. Peter Ryan – taxes don't become delinquent until after the April 5 payment due and then penalty kicks in.**

**Dave Sharpe – On Ways and Means Committee legislature allowed the towns to decide the rate up to 8%.**

**Claire Wallace – clarify if penalty is only on amount due and not entire amount. Only on the balance still owing. Fred Schroder – how many people are delinquent annually. See page 25. What is amount collected from delinquent taxes? Page 13 of Town Report. If we decrease the revenue amount would be cut in half.**

**Krista Siringo - support the reduction as well. Was late with payment once and was shocked at penalty amount.**

**Bill Brown – 8% is junk bond rate – penalty should be set in parallel to what Bristol's borrowing rate is. Therefore, every year at this meeting would be set at what borrowing rate is. Borrowing rate currently is about 3.5 to 4%.**

**Craig Allen – federal reserve is starting to raise rates a ¼ point every 3-4 months. Some delinquencies are lengthy.**

**Betsy Blair – It seems like 8% is a lot for one day. Could it be something that kicks in monthly. Interest charge is monthly in addition to penalty.**

**Joel Bouvier – delinquent taxes used to be almost $500,000 in early 1990's. That 8% is used for attorney's fees; sheriff fees, etc.**

**Dave Sharpe – do we still pay a tax collector? Fees bill are collectable when tax sale goes through.**

**Joel Bouvier – brought into house a few years ago and Town Treasurer is tax collector. Mailing costs, making agreements, collection letters, tax sale attorney's fees.**

**Peter Coffey – Town Clerk gets additional stipend for being delinquent tax collector.**

**Peter Ryan - Page 25 of Town Report – approximately $39,000 delinquent at this time. On April 5 the delinquent taxes started out at $100,000.**

**Carl Hummel – difference between late tax and delinquent tax. Don't hire attorney when first late. There is a difference.**

**Michelle Perlee – Jen Myers suggested that those who are late be charged the 4% initially April payment and then apply another 4% after July 1 (new fiscal tax year).**

**Valerie Capels – charters by municipalities – general thread is that any installment starts at 3% and after 30 days then add 5%.**

**Call the question. Need 2/3 votes of body to that. Motion approved by voice vote.**

**Moderator - At end of line of Article 3 we would add the line that the "penalty on delinquent taxes be reduced to 4%."**

**Penalty Amendment approved by voice vote.**

**Article 3 approved as amended approved by voice vote.**

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

**Bob Bernstein moved the article. Sally Burrell seconded.**

**Moderator – what are the current salary and what is being proposed? Michelle Perlee - Current salary is $500 stipend a year and $15 per meeting. Bob Bernstein moved that it remain the same. Tim Heffernan seconded.**



**Debbie Ranselle – where she use to live the Chair got more money. Peeker Heffernan - Chair does not receive more money. Claire Wallace – it shows increase for 2018-2019? Was there the expectation that budget would increase. Joel Bouvier - More meetings are being held on the Budget thus the increase not anticipated raise.**

**Amendment that salaries remain the same was approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 5:** Will the voters adopt the proposed 2018-2019 fiscal year Highway Fund Operating Budget in the amount of $775,541 a portion thereof in the amount of $677,691 to be raised by taxes; the tax rate on the 2018 Grand List of the Town sufficient to raise said sum as taxes to be determined by the Selectboard?

**Elin Melchoir moved the article. Seconded by Diane Cushman.**

**Steve Leopold – very bad year for roads. Is the amount enough to repair roads next year. Joel Bouvier – overspent on salt budget but fuel is down from last year. Road Foreman will not overspend budget.**

**Bob Donis – what is the sidewalk plan this year. Joel Bouvier - not budgeted in highway budget – it's in a separate budget. Went from $17,000 to $35,000 for 2018/2019 year. Will be discussed in Article 11.**

**Peeker Heffernan – Road Foreman (Peter Bouvier) is retiring next month. Thanked him for his service for the Town of Bristol.**

**Peter Coffey – State paving project of 116 to Lord's prayer rock and will pick up next year Stoney Hill and to Middlebury. Section in between is scheduled for 2020 (East Street).**

**Article approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 6**: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2018-2019 fiscal year General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of $926,739, a portion thereof in the amount of $753,882 to be raised by taxes; the tax rate on the 2018 Grand List of the Town sufficient to raise said sum as taxes to be determined by the Selectboard?

**Lance Perlee moved. Mike Brown seconded.**

**Moderator Page 13 – general fund budget starts. Almost $1 million budget.**
**Sue Hawkins – wants overview/high points from Selectboard of budget.**

**Joel Bouvier – health insurance and workers comp went up. Are looking to sell property behind fire station to developers. Still finishing up water line to Lover's Lane to serve residents.**

**Valerie Capels - Page 23 of Town Report – summary of various funds. General Fund**

**budget reduced. Bob Bernstein – isn't it .18% slight increase on page 18. Valerie Capels total expenses decreased by just over .71% and that's attributable to decrease in projected revenue.**

**Ken Weston – wants overview on water project on Lovers Lane. Affects marketability on land behind fire station. Peeker Heffernan – have water line down to fire station. Working with estate to eliminate well shield. Agreement was with landowner who passed away. Dealing with new owner (previous owner's daughter).**

**Article 6 approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 7:** Will the voters adopt the proposed 2018-2019 fiscal year Arts, Parks and Recreation Department budget in the amount of $224,393, a portion thereof in the amount of $145,843 to be raised by taxes; the tax rate of the 2018 Grand List of the Town sufficient to raise said sum as taxes to be determined by the Selectboard?

**Tom Wells moved. Claire Wallace seconded.**

**Darla Senecal – budget for Teen Center part-time line has been cut by $5,000 – page 20-21. What are plans around that and why has it been cut. Peter Coffey – 3 of 4 people are currently working there and leaving. We would probably change assistant job in both places and make that more of a full-time job. Going from 4 employees to 3. The FTE will be about the same.**

**Darla Senecal – how would it work? Work both in recreational center and teen center? Peter Coffey – yes. Darla Senecal – doesn't understand. Peter Coffey – don't have it worked out how to make it work. Darla Senecal – Make motion to add $5,000 back in to the $224,393 budget in recreational department for the purpose of personnel. Claire Wallace seconded.**

**Sharon Compagna - Can increase budget but can't tell how to spend – can't be specific.**

**Moderator – can you be specific for Town or for School. Peeker Heffernan, Chair – you can add in budget but can't tell where to spend it. Moderator said that Town Administrator stated that you can't be specific but would take in advicement of suggestion.**

**Moderator - Amend article to add $5,000 in the budget with suggestion for them to contemplate.**

**Wendy Wilson – steady decline in Rec Dept over the years. Michelle Perlee (Darla can attest) with federal funded program of Century 21 program in school the Rec Dept has taken a dive since the Century 21 program is free. Rec Dept has had to think outside the box to balance that.**



**Claire Wallace – Century 21 is for elementary school students but not for middle and high schoolers. We should continue support Rec Dept. Been on boards before and able to pick line item page 21 part-time 2nd line under skate park – can that line item to have the $5,000 back in. Was it opinion or fact that we can't specify a specific line. Town Administrator – don't have statutory reference to point to but it's her understanding that municipal budgets are not line item budgets and that voters are voting on bottom line number. Could certainly make a motion to that effect and will take under advisement.**

**Peeker Heffernan – not bound to put it in the line item specified but will take into consideration.**

**Patty Heather-Lee – will there be 2 people in Rec Department to continue work that Darla and Valerie Hanson have started. Michelle Perlee – with Darla and Ryan leaving we are in a state of change and we haven't totally decided how we are going to handle the change and how it will pan out. There is a survey in the back and we would like them to take and fill out. It is also on web page.**

**Bob Bernstein – Can SB can run the rec dept at its current level with the budget proposed then we should approve. Peeker Heffernan - Selectboard wouldn't put it forth if they couldn't stay within it.**

**Chuck Richardson – biggest cuts in the whole book are in the Rec Dept. Gonna be in same spot as Police Dept where you don't have money to pay for what you need six months down road. Now is not the time to take money out during transition. Rec Dept makes a difference. Making mistake if taking big cut.**

**Valerie Hanson – assistant for the last 8 years and there hasn't been a time where I haven't worked consistently 120 comp hours a year and is scheduled for 22 hours a week. There is also a budget for Parks and Holly Hall Department. Rec Department operates Holly Hall and the Parks. We rent out Holly Hall and we clean this space. There is no fee to use Park but there is a lot of paperwork in order for folks to use park. Rec Director and assistant does a lot more than offer just classes. Diversified position.**

**Marne Daubner – we set Selectboard salaries but we can't specify a use for line item in budget – how is that different. Moderator – Secretary of State allows that you can change budget up or down but you can't bind Selectboard on where it's spent. Peeker Heffernan – don't get hung up on where it goes – 99% confident that it will probably go to that line item. Just making you aware that we don't have to.**

**Wendy Wilson – Rec Dept is decreasing – 10% about $25,000. Propose level funding. Moderator – Are permitted to amend an amendment. Wendy Wilson – Amend the amendment to increase funding from $224,393 to $250,195 to be raised by taxes from $145,843 to $166,945. Claire Wallace seconded.**

**Discussion on amendment to amendment – Sharon Compagna – add it to amount in the**

**Article not what's on page 23. Not figures she gave you.**
**Moderator – we will amend article to change**
**Bob Bernstein – point of order. Amendment to Article and not the original amendment.**
**Moderator - Correct that the original amendment was for $5,000 and to increase what we raised $5,000. Moderator believes it is appropriate that we are changing the number so is amendment to amendment.**

**Valerie Capels – can't know revenue. Focus on expenditure to to $250, 941 and the net supported by taxes would be $171,645 (increase of 2.8%). Moderator – who amended amendment. Can we except the change. Yes. Keeping Budget as is changing what is raised by taxes.**

**Moderator - Amend the amendment to increase funding from $224,393 to $250,195 to be raised by taxes from $145,843 to $171,645.**

**Bob Bernstein. Selectboard has indicated that it can run as budget as proposed. I think we should believe them and approve as is.**

**Darla Senecal – you may not have the staff that is willing to give up their free time for comp time as Valerie and I have. Think this amendment will give you latitude to pay someone.**

**Adam Ginsberg – believes Val and Darla how much time they put in time. Huge proponent of Rec Dept. His family has benefited greatly by the rec department. Wants to see it continue as is or get stronger.**

**Justin Buck – Selectboard could stay within budget but not that they could maintain the same level as now. Peter Coffey – yes we do. We see it as an opportunity to do things differently and believe we can maintain same level of service.**

**Betsy Blair – have no children here. Have used almost no rec dept services but is huge fan of the Rec dept. Feel that programs have had a huge impact on community and that residents have benefitted.**

**Move the question on the voting. Approved by voice vote.**

**Article 7 amendment to amendment approved by standing vote for new dollar amounts. $250,195 and $171,645.**

**Article 7 amendment approved by voice vote.**

**Article 7 with amendment. Article approved by voice vote.**

***RECESS TOWN MEETING TO SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING 8:50 pm. TOWN MEETING RESUMED at 9:29 pm.***



**ARTICLE 8**: 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 | | $25,000 |
| Capital Highway Equipment Reserve | | $100,000 |
| Capital Building Reserve | | $30,000 |
| Capital Road Fund - Construction | | $40,000 |
| Capital Road Fund – Paving | | $100,000 |
| Conservation Reserve Fund | | $10,000 |
| Technology Fund | | $ 5,000 |
| | Total: | $310,000 |

**Kris Perlee moved. John Moyer seconded.**

**Bob Bernstein – Explain Technology Fund. Peter Heffernan – computer, Xerox. More like operating funds. Joel Bouvier – if this isn't budgeted for then we use this fund. Peeker Heffernan – It's not a capital fund – it's an annual appropriation.**

**Article 8 approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 9**: Will the voters approve an appropriation of $70,000 in lieu of the sum of a two cent levy on the tax rate to fund the Fire Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund?

**Lance Perlee moved. Claire Wallace seconded. Peeker Heffernan – consensus to put in dollar amount instead of levy amount.**

**Ken Weston – Will this be put in capital list rather than separate item. Peeker Heffernan – yes. That amount previous ($25,000) is for fire equipment not fire vehicle funds.**

**John Moyer – how does $70,000 compare to what would have been raised by the two-cent levy. Peeker Heffernan – it's somewhere between $56,000 and $58,000. Valerie Capels – $58,303 was raised this year by the two-cent levy and the $70,000 represents an increase of 20%.**

**Betsy Blair – money as unspent is saved in the fund and each year the Town puts more in? Peeker Heffernan – in past we've bonded for our fire trucks but by putting this money aside we can purchase the trucks and not have to bond for them.**

**Bob Bernstein – why is raise so significant. Peeker Heffernan – thought Grand List would increase but it's not growing as fast as we expected so we are not hitting our goal. A new fire truck at about $500,000 we needed to increase to meet the cost so we wouldn't have to bond.**

**Chuck Richardson – what is schedule for replacement. Joel Bouvier - our goal is for the 1997 Spartan to be replaced by 2022. It will be 25 years old. We are modeling after town highway department where there is a long-range plan.**

**Peter Coffey – Chief has put together a long-range plan for budget. Last year paying on bond on the 2007 engine that we purchased.**

**Bob Bernstein – we think long range plan for fire department should be included in report. The 35' ladder didn't pass safety test so some things can't be scheduled but Chief will do his best.**

**Article 9 approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 10**: Will the voters approve an appropriation of $137,872 for the Lawrence Memorial Library for its annual operating budget, said sum to be raised by taxes?

**Kris Perlee moved. Steve Leopold seconded.**

**Article 10 approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 11:** Will the voters establish a Sidewalk Reserve Fund pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2804 for the purpose of developing new and maintaining existing sidewalks and appropriating a sum of $35,000 to it?

**Lance Perlee moved. Sally Burrell seconded.**

**Ken Weston – should have sidewalks on Pine Street. Lots of people take shortcut to Mt Abe and they walk in road.**

**Steve Leopold – is there a priority list of sidewalks and the amount of money for priority. Peter Coffey – Yes we do. Put together a proposed 10-year plan replacing approximately 600 ft per year and over 10 years will get to point to start over or Pine St. Hopefully with this money we can do more than 600 ft per year.**

**Bob Bernstein – new capital reserve fund. Peeker Heffernan - Took $15,000 out of highway budget (originally for sidewalks) to sidewalk fund so we don't have to spend by July 1.**

**Bob Donnis – what is sidewalk plan this year – Peeker Heffernan - Maple St West to Church; Maple St, Pleasant south and Mountain from Spring St to elementary school driveway. Valerie Capels – this spring the contractor that was working on West St project will be coming back to replace sidewalk from Maple St. to Airport Drive using this year's highway department funding and project funds.**

**Ian Albinson – is it possible to put sidewalk plan on website. Valerie Capels – Yes.**



**Steve Leopold – Do you have any plans to continue on East street where new concrete was put in. There are a lot of older people and the pavement is very uneven and water collects there. Peeker Heffernan - Current schedule 2021.**

**Bosha Miles - Any plans for South Street sidewalk? Sidewalk ends at curve and there is a lot of unevenness. Peeker Heffernan - Are you talking new sidewalk or replacement. Don't have anything in plan for new sidewalk. Plan is repair or replace existing sidewalk. Not seeing South Street anywhere on schedule. Peter Coffey did walk and measure it.**

**Dustin Corrigan – Pine St. in the Village where there is no bussing for elementary school kids walk that route to get to school. Not a very safe route the way it is now. Would like to see a safer route. Liberty Street doesn't have sidewalk. Would like to see Pine St. made a priority.**

**Sally Burrell – one idea that came to me before a sidewalk can be put in you could make sidewalk line or lower the speed limit.**

**Joel Bouvier lives on Pine Street. A few years ago we had study done by Dubois and King. An estimate of $450k to do the Pine Street sidewalk to meet all state standards. His hope for a goal for the Board to extend sidewalk on Liberty and Munsill and Maple is already to Pine St and maybe one on Taylor then only one block without a sidewalk. Lot of traffic on Pine St. during week with commuter traffic cutting through there.**

**Article 11 approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 12:** Will the voters appropriate $22,000 for the Bristol Cemetery Association, Inc. for the purpose of maintaining Greenwood Cemetery (mowing and trimming) in a well-kept manner in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

**Lance Perlee moved. Mike Brown second.**

**Ken Weston – just for clarification I thought town was responsible for all cemeteries in town. Peeker Hefferan- Town is responsible if an association doesn't exist. Town doesn't really want to take care of cemetery.**

**Article 12 approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town appropriate $2,100 to Charter House Coalition to provide emergency winter shelter to Families and individuals and to provide meals every day of the week to nutritionally challenged people in accordance with 24 V.S.A § 2691?

**Lance Perlee moved. Kris Perlee seconded.**

**Jo Ellegen - Explained mission – emergency shelter located in Middlebury. Houses five families and up to 24 individuals. Provide free meals for folks. Last your provide over 33,000 meals.**

**Article 13 approved by voice vote.**

**Article 14. None.**

**ARTICLE 15:** Will the voters appropriate the following sums in support of the organizations listed below, with said amounts level funded or lowered from the prior year, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

| Organization: | Amount: |
|---|---|
| Addison County Restorative Justice | $1,150 |
| Addison County Home Health & Hospice | $4,700 |
| Addison County Humane Society | $1,000 |
| Addison County Parent/Child Center | $4,800 |
| Addison County Readers | $2,000 |
| Addison County Transit Resources | $11,306 |
| Addison County River Watch | $ 300 |
| Age Well (formerly CVAA) | $2,700 |
| Bristol After School Kid's Program | $1,275 |
| Bristol Band | $1,200 |
| Bristol CORE | $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 Recreation Club | $15,000 |
| Bristol Rescue Squad | $13,500 |
| 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 Shelter | $1,400 |
| 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: | $105,756 |

**Ken West moved that we don't read list. Bob Bernstein seconded. Vote approved by voice vote.**



**Lance Perlee moved. John Moyer seconded.**

**Steve Leopold – page 4 – is there another allotment for the Bristol Recreation Club. Peter Coffey – Recreation Dept is town and Bristol Recreation Club is private organization. Rec Club has tennis courts, football fields, hockey rink going out of town.**

**Bob Bernstein – page 79 - $73,000 last year and it was level funded. Peeker Heffernan – last year were different articles. Joel Bouvier confirmed that they were separate but this year they are included in this Article 15.**

**Article 15 approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 16:** Will the voters support the following non-binding resolution?

In 2016 the Vermont Department of Public Service wrote the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan. It states Vermont will meet 25% of its energy needs using renewable sources by 2025, 40% by 2035, and 90% by 2050.

On January 1, 2018, the U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "I am not issuing an appeal. I am issuing an alert, a red alert, for our world ... Climate change is moving faster that we are. Inequalities are growing ... I urge leaders everywhere to make this New Year's resolution: Narrow the gaps. Bridge the divides. Rebuild trust by bringing people together around common goals. Unity is the path. Our future depends on it. Thank you."

"World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: Second Notice" (academic.oup.com/bioscience, 11 /13/17) states, "Especially troubling is the current trajectory of potentially catastrophic climate change due to rising greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels ... Lay citizens must insist that their governments take immediate action as a moral imperative to current and future generations of human and other life."

All fossil fuels used in Vermont are imported, resulting in a financial drain on the Vermont economy. Local renewable energy and efficiency measures increase Vermont job opportunities and boost our state's economy.

In light of the above statements, Bristol urges the **State of Vermont** to:

1. Firmly commit to developing renewable energy for all people in Vermont,

2. Continue to support comprehensive energy efficiency in our homes, businesses, and municipal buildings,

3. Delay any new expansion of natural gas pipelines unless or until it is determined that it will not cause the State to exceed the goals of no more than 10% of the State's energy coming from fossil fuels, by the year 2050,

4. Ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents.

**Sally Burrell moved. Wortham seconded.**

**Dave Sharpe – contentious issue in Bristol and Addison county I'd like to move to amend to eliminate #3. Tom Wallace seconded.**

**Patty Heather-Lee – On page 22 of Bristol Town Plan will read the energy introduction written by Planning commission and approved on November 5, 2012. She does not go along with amendment.**

**Sally Burrell – pipeline will be a 50-year commitment natural gas. We are urging the State not to permit any new pipelines. Vermont Gas already has a CPG for the pipeline going through Addison County. Selectboard hasn't signed with VT Gas yet. The CPG Permit has been issued. Not going to help get to goal.**

**Kris Perlee – One point of clarity. They are not fully permitted so this Article could impede the permitting process.**

**Steve Leopold – On some of these warnings for 2025, 2035, 2050 I may not be alive but my children may be. Uses both gas and oil. Don't know that we are we capable of doing this. Quote from VT Sun for Solar Panels – only one spot that they could put it and couldn't guarantee that it would be cost effective. How can people meet these cost of some of these non-oil or gas items – would like to know how Bristol or the State has plans to work for these to get something agreeable for all the residents of the state.**

**Remember we are discussing the amendment so try to focus conversation on that.**

**Wendy Wilson – Spent 3 years energy action network which was engaged in trying to help the state make good on the 90% renewable by 2050 goal. Over arching goal is to electrify everything from transportation to heat because electricity can be generated in a renewable way. So Options currently available right now is a Heat Pump which is cleaner. Not her only source of heat but it reduces use of non-renewable.**

**Johnathan Chapin – There are other options and we just stay with the status quo but there are other options. Neighborworks in Rutland has been expanding northward and there are loans to do renovations at zero percent interest for 10 years and 15 years for 2% interest. In 2012 Selectboard at that time signed a letter of support. In agreement with VGS that we support coming to town. Next is an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).**

**Richard Butz – Understanding is this is really directed to the State in support of their goals. Don't see how #3 is going to directly affect whether Bristol get the extension of the pipeline. In respecting each other whether or not we want to hook up to gas line. Should defeat Article as written.**



**John Moyer – echo that. Renovated Bristol Trading Post a 12,000 SF. Looked at using solar panels and he pays only $100 per month for heat. Good business decision. There are other options out there. Speak against this amendment as it stands.**

**Matt Sharpe. If #3 remained would it impact your willingness to sign an MOU. Peeker Heffernan – probably not. Once we get all facts and know which way we are heading I don't think that if this passed it would make a difference.**

**Ken Weston – natural gas has been advertised as clean energy; maybe reduce CO2 carbons but they cause additional methane. Methane is estimated to have a global warming potential 28 to 36 times net of CO2. Estimate 15% is in atmosphere but has much bigger effect per unit of trapping heat causing global warming.**

**Wilheim – Many years ago an issue arose in the country and the world. A movement was started in town meetings that spread around the world – the nuclear freeze movement. At a crossroads – no matter what we do with propane, oil isn't going to be around forever. Secondary issue – track record of this gas company is not so good. Ignore safety standards. Have received violations.**

**James Vyhnak- paragraph #3 should stay in – a softly worded non-binding.**
**Jennifer Vyhnak – Gas Land the movie – huge and horrifying movie – destroying lives and property of unregulated gas drilling (fracking). Natural gas industry has created nightmare through the country. Aquifers and water sources being polluted.**

**Moderator – voting on Article not gas industry. Please keep discussion to that issue.**
**Bruce Acciavatti – keep #3 in – crux of entire Article.**
**Kevin Hanson – support that #3 be eliminated.**
**Gary Smith – #3 look at language precisely. #3 doesn't say we cannot develop natural gas if it meets these criteria. Amendment is very short sighted.**

**Kris Perlee move the question.**

**Move the question and vote on amendment. Approved on voice vote.**

**Article amendment vote – agree with Article 6 with #3 being eliminated if vote yes. Amendment defeated by voice vote.**

**Article 16 as presented approved by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 17:** To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting.

**Linda Andrews – protecting students and all citizens is a public health issue. Bristol send message of support to our Governor, senators and house representatives regarding bills pending in the legislature on gun violence protection. Would like to take a vote to send a**

**non-binding message of support for these gun violent protection bills before legislature. Fred Baser and Linda talked before the meeting and he called Secretary of State and as long as body has no problem with it we can take straw vote and say yes or no.**

**Ken Weston seconded.**

**If no objection then anyone who would like to support the resolution to support legislation going on in Montpelier please raise hands. Almost unanimous yes.**

**Michelle Perlee stated that at the last Selectboard Meeting the board was asked about pricing for Vermont Gas service. They have received a sheet of possible costs and will put on line.**

**John Chapin – Vermont Gas to build throughout village. Expanded use of gas will increase effects of Climate change – how many believe it is going on. Fred Baser – that his role to ask. Without any objections please raise hands - many hands raised.**

**John Chapin - Do we need natural gas presentation? Town wide vote would give Selectboard more guidance.**

**John Moyer – don't think the town should post Vermont Gas rates. Shouldn't use public resources to publish these rates. Take a non-partisan approach and not publish private companies' prices. Michelle Perlee – The Board was asked for this information - not a specific request Selectboard was asked for these prices.**

**Fred Baser – requested folks to help pick up and set up for voting tomorrow.**

**Betsy Blair – don't publish rates. Talked about her experience with natural gas.**

**Linda Brown – agree with former comments. Release other items (heat pumps); present an array of alternative resources. Michelle Perlee – won't put on website but if someone wants it please call town office. Ted Lylis – many people still in this room requested the information are still in room. Did not voluntarily go out and get information. Efficiency VT can give information heat pumps than depend on town to provide information.**

**Sally Burrell – A survey or non-binding vote in November 2018. Before Selectboard signs anything from Vermont Gas.**

**Fred B – there is a process to get on warning for November 2018. Those who would like to approve of what Sally's talking about raise your hands. Unanimous.**

**John Monks – If post Vermont Gas prices then post items on fracking.**

**Motion to Adjourn (Michelle Perlee) Meeting adjourned at 11:04 pm. Everyone in favor.**



**Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Bristol duly called, noticed and held on January 22, 2018. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Bristol on January 23, 2018.**

Judy K. Bouvier
Moderator

**Bristol Selectboard:**

_____/s/_____
John "Peeker" Heffernan, Chair

_____/s/_____
Joel Bouvier

_____/s/_____
Peter Coffey

_____/s/_____
Theodore Lylis

_____/s/_____
Michelle Perlee

ATTEST:

_____
Jen Myers, Town Clerk