

**HYBRID (REMOTE & IN-PERSON) TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY  
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING MINUTES  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022  
10 AM AT CRAFTSBURY TOWN HALL**

The Selectboard for the Town of Craftsbury held a public informational hearing on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 10am to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2022 Town Meeting Warning.

Hearing was available in-person and on zoom.

**Present In-Person:** Bruce Urie, Jim Jones, Susan Houston, Michelle Warren, Steve Moffatt and Geoffrey Bok

**Present Via Zoom:** Farley Brown, Allison Christie, Lori and Stanley Collins, Carey Crozier, Penelope Doherty, Margot Eastman, Elizabeth Faling, Joseph Gresser, Mabel Houghton, Ned Houston, Mary Lou Isaacson, Ruth Marquette, Adam Lebow, Karla Lillicrap Oevna, Elinor Osborn, Diane Morgan, Linda Ramsdell, Daniel and Jane Solomon, Abigail Stockman, Vicki Strong and Alan Turnball

**Tech Support:** Matt Allen & Chris Erickson

**AGENDA**

- CALL TO ORDER  
Bruce called meeting to order at 10:02 AM. He asked if people spoke, to state their name for the clerk.
- ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA  
The Select Board added the legislators to speak at their convenience.

Vicki Strong gave a brief overview on what she has been working on, serving on the agriculture and forestry committee as a legislator. She appreciated being able to serve us, to the best of her ability.

- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE I:  
TO ELECT OFFICERS OF THE TOWN AND FIRE DISTRICT:  
MODERATOR (1 YEAR TERM, JEANNINE YOUNG INCUMBENT)  
SELECTBOARD MEMBER (3 YEAR TERM, BRUCE URIE INCUMBENT)  
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER (3 YEAR TERM, MICHELLE WARREN)  
COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES (1 YEAR TERM, YVETTE R BROWN INCUMBENT)  
LISTER (1 YEAR TERM, ROBERTA J DROWN, ALLISON VAN AKKEREN)  
LISTER (2 YEAR TERM, HARRY MILLER)  
LISTER (3 YEAR TERM, JEREMIAH MCCANN)  
AUDITOR (3 YEAR TERM, CHERYL BAILEY INCUMBENT)  
CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (5 YEAR TERM, TOM BOYLE)  
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS (3 YEAR TERM, MICHELLE WARREN)  
WORLD WAR II MEM. FUND TRUSTEE (3 YEAR TERM, CLYDE SIMMONS INCUMBENT)
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment

- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 2: SHALL THE VOTERS AUTHORIZE TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FOR OPERATING EXPENSES OF \$865,135, OF WHICH \$528,936 SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 3: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE \$59,300 TO THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR PAYMENT OF NECESSARY EXPENSES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 4: SHALL THE TOWN AUTHORIZE A SUM OF UP TO \$200,000 TO PURCHASE A REPLACEMENT RESCUE TRUCK FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Penelope thanked the Fire Department for all they do.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 5: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$3,200 FOR CEMETERIES?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 6: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$100 TO CRAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Speaking on behalf of Don Houghton, president of the Craftsbury Historical Society, who was unable to attend, she said they would appreciate the \$100 for the Craftsbury Historical Society.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 7: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$7,000 TO CRAFTSBURY CONSERVATION FUND?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Steve Moffatt, Chair of the Conservation Commission, read the mission of Conservation Fund. He explained it could be used as an emergency fund, leveraging grants and matching money for the Town, for example. Other towns have used for mapping grants, restoration of dams and conservation easements, a good investment, resource for the future Steve stated.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 8: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$750 FOR MEMORIAL DAY?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Bruce commented that it covers the cost of the flags on graves of vets in cemeteries.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 9: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$1,500 TO CRAFTSBURY RECREATION COMMITTEE?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Jim commented that a large portion goes to Old Home Day and Trick or Truck.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 10: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$1,500 TO THE CRAFTSBURY VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY FOR MAINTENANCE ON THE COMMON?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Bruce mentioned it helped cover mowing, painting fences and costs of concerts held in the summer.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 11: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$500 TO THE NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION AMERICAN RED CROSS?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - No comment

- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 12: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$1,000 TO AWARE, FOR PREVENTING AND HEALING THE TRAUMA OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 13: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$12,000 TO CRAFTSBURY COMMUNITY CARE CENTER, A LEVEL 3 RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Geoffrey Bok, as a resident of Craftsbury and also Vice President of the Craftsbury Care Center’s Board, offered his profound thanks for prior support and continuing support. He added, page 48 has description of the past year, challenging year with the pandemic.
  
- KATHERINE SIMS
  - Katherine said a busy year for her first term. Working on energy technology, and forest economy. She said it has been an honor to serve us and thank you all.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 14: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$45,000 TO CRAFTSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Ned explained that things have gone up, trying to make progress for long term needs, full-time librarian. Covid has gotten in the way of much of the fundraising. Library is supporting the Town in many ways. They are fortunate to have gifts for the addition to the Library, add more meeting space. Ned gave thanks for library support, rated a 5-star library, testament to the interest and support in our community. Jane added, that she loved the library, asked how large the endowment was. Ned said it was a little over \$600,000 taking out approximately \$25,000/year to start putting money back in the library.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 15: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$6,000 TO CRAFTSBURY SAPLINGS, A COMMUNITY CHILDREN’S CENTER?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Carrie Crozier, serving on Board Chair on Craftsbury Saplings, wanted to share today deep gratitude to all their community partners support during these incredibly challenging 2 years. This year, they are asking as an appropriation compared to asking from the Good Neighbor Fund. Jim asked if they have received funds from other towns, if so where. She said they asked \$500 from Albany and Wolcott, proportionate to the number of kinds. They are trying to get on the ballot on other towns.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 16: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$1,200 TO GREEN MOUNTAIN FARM TO SCHOOL, FOR PROVIDING FRESH, LOCAL FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION TO STUDENTS IN NORTHERN VERMONT?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Geoffrey Bok, Board member of the Green Mountain Farm to School, said they have done a great job of bringing fresh local produce into schools and teaching kids about farming. He respectfully asked for continued support and thankful for money given in the past.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 17: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$2,500 TO GREENSBORO NURSING HOME?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT
    - Geoffrey Bok commented that the Care Center requests money from the nearby Town of Greensboro, who has supplied money in the past, especially during the pandemic, for the Care Center.

- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 18: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$2,500 TO HARDWICK FOOD PANTRY AND THE EXPANDED CRAFTSBURY FOOD SHARE?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
no comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 19: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$19,924 TO HARDWICK RESCUE SQUAD?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
Bruce said we all think this is a good deal. He said there is a first responder class at Hazen March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.  
  
Geoffrey Bok said when his mother-in-law resided in East Craftsbury, the speed and response from Hardwick Rescue was truly outstanding, genuine organization. Bruce agreed.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 20: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$1,500 TO LAMOILLE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
no comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 21: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$1,000 TO LAMOILLE FAMILY CENTER FOR PARENT AND CHILD PROGRAMMING SERVICES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE HEALTHY, SAFE AND RESILIENT FAMILIES?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
no comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 22: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$500 TO NORTH COUNTRY ANIMAL LEAGUE (NCAL)?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
no comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 23: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$650 TO ASSIST THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM COUNCIL ON AGING?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 24: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$1,266 TO NORTHEAST KINGDOM HUMAN SERVICES, FOR SUPPORTING COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
Ruth Marquette commented that NEKHS have been at Craftsbury to provide suicide prevention training at Sterling College. She also thanked the town for their past support.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 25: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$905 TO NORTHEASTERN VERMONT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (NVDA) FOR PLANNING, DEVELOPING, PROMOTING AND PUBLICIZING RESOURCES?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 26: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$250 TO NORTHEAST KINGDOM LEARNING SERVICES INC. FOR SUPPORTING ADULT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment

- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 27: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$700 TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING THE OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM AND ITS PROGRAMS?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 28: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$500 TO THE ORLEANS COUNTY FAIR, FOR SUPPORTING AND MAINTAINING THE ORLEANS COUNTY FAIR 150-YEAR TRADITION?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
no comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 29: ADVOCACY FOR CREATING AND SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
no comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 30: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$350 TO ORLEANS COUNTY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER.
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 31: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$4,200 TO ORLEANS ESSEX VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION (VNA) & HOSPICE, FOR PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND AND CHRONICALLY ILL?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
Kara said that VNA & Hospice covers Orleans and Essex County, employs some of our community members, provides 24/7 service for often 7 days/week. She thanked our community for support.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 32: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$500 TO THE POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 33: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$600 TO RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION (RCT), FOR PROVIDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN NORTHERN VERMONT?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 34: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$500 TO SALVATION FARMS, DISTRIBUTING PRODUCE FROM LOCAL FARMS TO THE REGION'S RESIDENTS?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 35: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$500 TO THE VERMONT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED FOR SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE AND CULTIVATE ADAPTIVE SKILLS TO THOSE VISUALLY IMPAIRED?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment

- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 36: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$140 TO VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (VCIL), FOR ASSISTING VERMONTERS WITH DISABILITIES ACHIEVE DIGNIFIED AND SELF-DETERMINED LIVES?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 37: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$100 TO VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION TASK FORCE?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
Steve asked if this was a new article. Bruce replied, not a new one. Bruce added, last year they paid for about 80% upgrading the hydrant with new nozzles last year, cost about \$1500 each, good investment.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 38: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$250 TO VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK, FOR SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING VERMONT FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 39: SHALL THE TOWN APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$1,500 TO WONDERARTS FOR SUPPORTING PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS FOR CRAFTSBURY FAMILIES?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
No comment
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 40: SHALL THE TOWN AUTHORIZE THE SELECT BOARD TO SPEND THE “2022 GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND” CONTINGENT UPON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, FOR EXTENSIVE TOWN HALL REPAIRS AND UPKEEP.
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
Bruce commented that they have let some of the Town Hall maintenance slip, cost of paint, etc. have gone up. Hope to work with the energy committee to get some foam in, some windows need addressing. Susan said it’s a little less this year for the Good Neighbor Fund, last year to receive these funds. Bruce said close to \$300,000 used from the Good Neighbor fund, 2 solar installations, tightened up the little school, good investment for the town.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 41: SHALL THE TOWN VOTE TO HAVE THE TAXES COLLECTED BY THE TOWN TREASURER?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
Michelle requested to vote yes.
  
- REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 42: SHALL THE TOWN VOTE TO COLLECT TAXES ON REAL PROPERTY IN THREE INSTALLMENTS, WITH THE DUE DATES BEING JULY 15TH, SEPTEMBER 15TH, AND NOVEMBER 15TH (32 VSA 4871) AND TO COLLECT INTEREST ON LATE AND DELINQUENT PAYMENTS OF ONE PERCENT (1%) PER MONTH FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS STARTING AFTER DECEMBER 1ST AND ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT (1 ½%) THEREAFTER (32 VSA 4873) WITH NO DISCOUNTS?
  - PUBLIC COMMENT  
Michelle reminded that if this is voted no, the tax bill defaults to 30 days. Bruce commented that total taxes are due by November 15, don’t need to pay in 3 installments.
  
- DISCUSSION OF OTHER NON-BINDING BUSINESS  
The Select Board thanked Chris and Matt for their technical services.

Bruce read dedication to Yvette Brown, who has retired as Town Clerk after 34-½ years. They hope to have an afternoon to honor Effie for the Town, was delayed due to high Covid numbers. Thank you again Effie.

Susie also thanked Cheryl Bailey, the Auditors and Michelle for working on the Town Report.

Bruce thanked everyone for joining the zoom meeting.

When asked about having Old Home Day the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in August, Bruce said they will keep in mind (Covid dependent).

- ENTERTAIN MOTION TO ADJOURN HEARING  
Meeting adjourned at 11 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Warren