

**Town Meeting Forum
Orange Center School
March 2, 2017 6:00 p.m.**

In attendance: Kathie Felch, Sue Perreault, Dustin Comstock, Eric Holmgren, George Wild, Jr., Darin Magwire, Corinne Relation, Lynn Craig, Jessica Foster, Tim Franke, Bob Frenier, Chris Locarno, Matt Smith, Susette Bollard, Alan Small and George Malek.

Jessica Foster called the School portion of the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Jessica addressed the special articles. Article VII – to use \$14,250 from the capital improvement fund and borrow \$68,000 to install a new boiler which will run on propane. The Town and School are working together to have a propane generator installed this summer which will also run on propane.

Article VIII – to use \$41,000 of the audited fund balance to put in reserve for any unexpected changes to the property dollar yield, education tax rate or any other unexpected changes in the law for FY 2017/2018. If the money is not used this year it would be used to offset the budget for 2018/2019.

Chris Locarno spoke about Article VI – he explained that although the warning reads there will be a decrease of 8.02% in expenses but the school district will also be getting the same amount of a decrease in revenue which essentially level funds the budget this year.

Jessica said that things were really improving at school and many good things are happening. Sue Perreault thanked the School Board for putting the glossary in the flyer that they mailed out.

The School portion of the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Dustin Comstock called the Town portion of the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Dustin explained the problems we had with the grader this year so we spent some unanticipated money and went over budget on repairs. He said that the General Fund is level funded from last year but the Highway Fund is up by .04 cents.

Dustin read the articles on the Town Meeting Warning. He explained the increase in Cemetery is to help with mowing expenses and will allow the Town to fix some stones in the older cemeteries. Jessica mentioned contacting someone from the Vermont Cemetery Association. Sue thought we could possibly organize a workday for Town residents to help with some maintenance.

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Kathie explained that now that the Town requires the Non-Profit organizations to file a petition every year it has cut the requests in half from years ago.

Sue Perreault spoke about Article 21. She stated that her family put a lot of time and work into the Bicentennial. The Bicentennial money was used for many things other than that event. It funded the welcome signs in town, the cookbooks, chicken barbeques and many other community events in the past. She explained that her mother left the town \$8,000 to the town to construct a gazebo. Kathie explained that the money would be spent on landscaping so the project would be complete and any other money leftover would be for future maintenance.

Dustin wanted to let everyone know although he is not running for Selectboard he will continue working with Chris Locarno on the generator project until it's complete. Kathie said that the once the generator is installed the School would be eligible to be a set up as a red cross shelter for our residents in case of an emergency.

George Wild explained the problems we had with the grader. It was the first major repair we have had to make in the last 10 years and anticipates that there should be no further problems.

The Town portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathie Felch
Town Clerk/Treasurer