

TOWN OF READING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING March 2, 2019

The Town of Reading, Annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at The Reading Elementary School at 9:30 am.

The Moderator, Jonathan Springer, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator reviewed the rules for speaking and voting for non-residents and addressing the moderator for questions.

Approximately 81 people were in attendance.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town ensuing year. Adam Kozlowski nominated Peter K. Vollers. John Fike seconded the nomination. Jim Peplau moves to close nominations, Jon Springer seconded and nominations were ceased. Mr. Peter K. Vollers was elected.

At this time, Robert Allen asked the moderator for permission to speak to the assembly. Robert thanked Jon Springer for his 30 years as town and school moderator and presented him with a gift of an engraved gavel.

Article 2: To see if the voters shall set the date and time, by which the Town property taxes must be paid and received by the Town Treasurer, to be Monday, November 4, 2019 by 5:00 P.M. (NO POST MARKS). Gail Emmerson moves to have Article 2 be accepted and Robert Allen seconded. The Article was adopted.

Article 3: To see if the Town will elect the Town Treasurer as Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the ensuing year. Jon Springer moves to have Article 3 be accepted and Jim Peplau seconded. The Article was adopted.

Article 4: To elect all other Town Officers, as required by law:

- **SELECTPERSON for a three (3) year term.**

Jon Fike nominated Robert K. Allen. No other nomination. Jim Peplau moves to close nominations Tim Bishop seconded. The motion passed. Jim Peplau moves to have the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Robert K. Allen for Selectperson for a three-year term. Jon Springer seconded the motion. The motion passed, the clerk cast one ballot, and Robert K. Allen was elected.

- **LISTER for a three (3) year term.**

John Fike nominated Richard Sullivan. No other nomination. Jim Peplau moves to close nominations, Jon Springer seconded. The motion passed. Jon Springer moves to have the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Richard Sullivan for Lister for a three-year term. Tim Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed, the clerk cast one ballot, and Richard Sullivan was elected.

- **AUDITOR for a three (3) year term.**

Steve Moore nominated James Waterfall. No other nomination. Jon Springer moves to close nominations, Jim Peplau seconded. The motion passed. Jim Peplau moves to have the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for James Waterfall for Auditor for a three-year term. Gail Emmerson seconded the motion. The motion passed, the clerk cast one ballot, and James Waterfall was elected.

- **AUDITOR for a two (2) year term.**

Esther Allen nominated Charline A. Hagar. No other nominations. Jon Springer moves to close nominations, Jim Peplau seconded. The motion passed. Jon Springer moves to have the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Charline A. Hagar for Auditor for a two-year term. Jim Peplau seconded the motion. The motion passed, the clerk cast one ballot, and Charline A. Hagar was elected.

- **TOWN GRAND JUROR for a one (1) year term.**

Esther Allen nominated Jon Springer. No other nominations. Jim Peplau moves to close nominations, Anne C. Pratt seconded. Jon Springer was elected.

- **TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS for a three (3) year term.**

Rayna Bishop nominated Liesbeth M. Kozlowski. No other nominations. Jon Springer moves to close nominations, Jim Peplau seconded. Liesbeth M. Kozlowski was elected.

- **Library Trustee for a five (5) year term.** William Bakker nominated Heather Evans. No other nominations. Jessica Seman moves to close nominations, Robert Allen seconded. Heather Evans was elected.

- **TOWN AGENT for a one (1) year term.**

Sarah Norcross nominated Ken Norcross. No other nominations. Jim Peplau moves to close the nominations. Tim Bishop seconded. Ken Norcross was elected.

- **CEMETERY COMMISSIONER for a three (3) year term.**

Adam Kozlowski nominated Susan Goodhouse. No other nominations. Jon Springer moves to close nominations, Jim Peplau seconded. Susan Goodhouse was elected.

ARTICLE 5: To act on the reports of the Town Officers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Jon Springer moves to accept the Article. Jim Peplau seconded. There was no discussion from the assembly, Article 5 was adopted.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town of Reading will vote to appropriate the amount of \$633,214 (Six Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Dollars) to be raised by taxes for the Selectmen's Budget beginning July 1, 2019. Jon Springer moves to accept the article. James Waterfall seconded. Discussion – Steve Strait asked about the line item of \$35,000 for the Town Hall Restoration. Robert Allen explained this was to go towards the east end or one side as determined by contractor. Garrett Mulder asked if the \$20,000 spent on hall was the work without the chimneys – answer was yes. Keven Kaija asked if any grants had been looked into for this work. Robert explained that due to the timing of the grants and the work schedule they did not match up. Article 6 was adopted.

ARTICLE 7 – To see if the Town Reading will vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow the amount of \$120,000.00 (One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars) necessary to complete the siding, insulation and window project on the remaining sides of Robinson Hall. Jon Springer moves to accept the article, John Fike seconded.

Discussion: Jean Goldsborough asked for clarification, if this was a grant or a loan. Robert stated it was a loan. Jean asked if the board knew what the repayment cost would be. Robert stated that won't be known

until the exact amount needed is determined. Town of Reading is currently doing banking with Mascoma Bank and will seek rates from them at the appropriate time. Article 7 was adopted.

ARTICLE 8 – To see if the Town of Reading will vote to appropriate the amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the purchase and installation of (4) Welcome to Reading Signs. John Fike moved to accept the article, Gail Emmerson seconded.

Discussion: William Bakker asked the moderator to address the assembly on this article. Permission granted. William then explained the steps the committee had taken to make their decision on presenting the article with the Granite signs versus wood. Costs were discussed.

Annie Rubright stated she felt it was a worthy project and signs are needed but it was a lot of money; perhaps purchase only 2 signs. Christina Strait asked about the difference in cost granite versus wood. William covered that. Steve Moore questioned replacement cost if a sign was damaged by a vehicle. Esther explained that the person running into a sign would be required to cover the cost through their auto insurance. Gary Vittum stated that locations were considered to avoid vehicle damage. Jean Goldsborough asked if the article could be amended. The Moderator responded yes it could be amended by a motion to amend the article. Kevin Kaija asked how many quotes for Granite had been requested. Answer was one – but more will be pursued if article passes. Adam Kozlowski feels that Granite is a good choice. Lisa Kaija stated that she has encouraged the committee to seek local funds through donations. Karl Hanson felt that asking for the funding prior to getting donations was backwards. Annie stated that a public hearing had been held regarding the signs and only 3 non committee people were in attendance. Jean asked again if the article could be amended to perhaps spend \$15,000 on two signs; again, the Moderator responded that the article could be amended as such by motion. Ray Johnson asked if the town public works department could help with the installation. Robert stated yes to the extent that our equipment could be used. The Moderator clarified that he had heard questions about motions to amend the article, but no actual motion. Sue Goodhouse moved the question. John Fike seconded. Moderator stated that hearing no amendment to the article the discussion would cease. The verbal vote to close discussion was too close to call. Moderator asked for a standing vote: Yes -43; no 27. Discussion was closed.

Jon Springer asked for 6 people to stand with him to request a paper ballot to vote on the article. More than 7 stood. Moved to paper ballot. Paper ballot vote was taken with a vote of 45 yes and 33 no. Article 8 was adopted.

Legislators, Charlie Kimball and Allison Clarkson addressed the assembly regarding what is going on in Montpelier, new possible gasoline taxes, other laws being reviewed. Adam Ameele asked them to keep in mind the impact of ACT 46 on small town schools and ultimately the impact to small towns. Reading is seeing the impact with our 4, 5, and 6th grades having to move to Woodstock starting in August 2019.

ARTICLES 9 – 15: Appropriations for special funds.

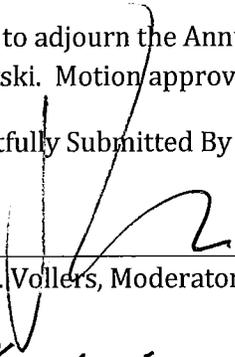
Jon Springer made a motion to suspend the rule and take up Articles 9 – 15 that add up to \$7,257, to be voted on as one article. These articles have not been voted down for many years. Grouping them would save time. Jim Bartlett seconded. Moderator asks if all are in favor to suspend the rules to say aye, because it requires a 2/3 majority. The ayes have the majority and the rules were suspended. Discussion: Sarah Norcross spoke

on behalf of the nonprofits and the good work they do. Jon Springer moves the question and Adam Kozlowski seconded. Articles 9 - 15 are adopted.

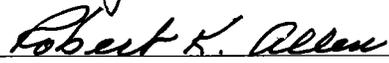
Article 16: To do any other business that may legally be done at this meeting. Jon Springer thanked the Town Office for the excellent work in putting together the Town Report. Ken Cox requested that there be a speaker system present at next year's meeting. It is impossible to hear some of the discussion in the back of the room. Sarah Norcross spoke to the new "Aging In Place" booklet that is available from her and the town clerk's office. This has a wealth of information on resources available for elder care. Anna Sessa presented a Climate Solutions Resolution to be reviewed and presented to the State from each Town. Marie Caduto made a motion that we vote to accept this resolution; Anna seconded. A non-binding "yes" vote was received on the resolution. Christina Straight thanked the sign committee for their excellent work on that Article and thanked the assembly for having a hearty and "civil" discussion on the Article. Michael Caduto spoke regarding climate change and the impacts to sugaring in our area. Stephen D'Agostino invited everyone to the upcoming 3rd winter concert on March 9th. He then asked the select board what they felt the future of Reading is. Robert responded that was a hard question to answer but it involves the people of the community and their willingness to take part in civil responsibilities. He thanked the Recreation Commission for holding events throughout the year that pull people together in fun activities. He thanked the Green Spaces committee for working to change the space by the library to make it more usable for activities. He spoke to the Village Center designation that Becky Basch had successfully made happen which can give the Town access to grants for improvement projects.

Motion to adjourn the Annual meeting of the Town of Reading made by Jon Springer, seconded by Adam Kozlowski. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By Esther Allen



Peter K. Vollers, Moderator



Robert K. Allen, Selectboard Chair