

# TOWN OF CAMBRIDGE

## MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING

### MARCH 3, 2015

Met agreeably to Warning dated January 26, 2015.

Meeting brought to order by Moderator Jerry Cole at 10:00 a.m.

Roger Allen and local Boy Scout Troop led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jerry Cole spoke about Howard Cary

*Art. 1 Shall the voters of Cambridge Town School District adopt a budget of \$4,801,345 necessary for the support of the Cambridge Town Elementary School for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015?*

**217 Yes / 59 No**

*Art. 2 Shall the town vote to adopt the proposed Flood Hazard Area Regulations for the Town and Village of Cambridge, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4442, as approved by the Select Board on January 26, 2015?* **190 Yes / 72 No / 6 Blank**

*Art. 3 Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed amendments to the Subdivision Regulations for the Town and Village of Cambridge, pursuant to 24, V.S.A. § 4442 as approved by the Select Board on January 26, 2015?* **223 Yes / 46 No / 3 blank**

Moved to dispense with reading of the Warnings.

*Art. 4 To Elect a moderator of the Town Meeting and Moderator of the Town School District Meeting, respectively.* Jerry Cole was nominated and seconded – motion for clerk to cast one ballot for Jerry Cole – seconded, so voted.

*Art. 5. To act upon the reports of the Auditors and other Town Officers.* Motion to approve Article – seconded, so vote

Larry Wyckoff said Summary of the Rescue Squad Budget had been distributed. Said it was a good year – Paved Upper Valley Road; got contaminated soil money, thanks to Howard Cary.

Under Loans – only one loan remaining

Community visit program started this year.

Expanded role of Finance Committee – Capital Plan -- needs over next ten years.

Vote on Sub-Division Regs and Flood Plan up to date

Grant to replace railroad bridge

Delinquent taxes -- \$65,000 paid since January 1<sup>st</sup>

Spoke of State Police contract

Loans – Fire Station ten years instead of twenty years

Larry Wyckoff introduced Lt. Whitcomb from the Vt. State Police to speak.

Jerry Cole asked if there was any objection to his speaking -- none

Larry Wyckoff said Sgt. Cooper runs the contract for the town.

Thanked for accepting them.

State Police brings six full-time troopers to the area. Fifty hours per month last year and 72 this year.

Lt. Whitcomb opened up to questions.

Bill Sander (2) problems at 104 and 15 intersection and the triangle by Hanleys – running the stop sign.

Bill wants better control in these areas – it is a safety issue.

Lt Whitcomb said they would make a concerted effort in these areas – crime, patrol and drug investigation. April Tuck said she was glad to see them in North Cambridge – break ins in that area.

They haven't seen a spike in that area. Top solved rate in Vermont – in Lamoille and Chittenden County.

Sgt. Julie Cooper said in summer and fall – there was a rash of break ins (Cambridge, Underhill, Franklin County)

Art. 5 *To act upon the reports of the Auditors and other Town Officers.* Article was adopted

Art. 6. *To act in Town School District Meeting on the reports of the School Directors.* Motion was made to accept, seconded, so voted.

Mark Stebbins spoke for the School Board.

Ron Emery asked if they had information meetings

Mark said they held informational meetings on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Warned it at school, town office and on the web.

Pete Opstrup asked how many attended -- three citizens from Community.

Suggested warning on Front Porch Forum

Nancy Lepsic said that was probably above average

They're 1.5 hour meetings – they will expand warnings

Questions on teacher-student ratio

Just below state average – in good shape compared to state

Trying to keep that on the high side.

Article 6 was adopted

Art. 7 . *Will the Town authorize the auditors to have a printed Town Report?* Moved article, seconded, so voted.

Art. 8. *Will the Town vote to pay its officers for the year ensuing, and if so, how much?* Move to pay the same as in the past. Asked how much is paid – Larry Wyckoff said \$1,250. Article seconded, so voted.

Art. 9. *Will the Town vote to adopt the provision of Title 32, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 133, providing for the collection of taxes by the Town Treasurer.* Article moved, seconded, so voted.

Art. 10. *Will the Town district in Town School District Meeting, vote to pay its officers for the year ensuing, and if so, how much?* Moved the Article to pay the same as in the past. Asked how much they were paid – Regular - \$650.00; Chairman - \$700.00. Article seconded, so voted.

Art. 11. *To elect Town Officers required by law for the year ensuing.*

1. *Select Board member for three years:* Larry Wyckoff was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.

2. *Lister for three years* – Joan Nagy was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.

3. *Auditor for three years* – Bonnie Hitchcock was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.

4. *First constable* – David Jones was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.
5. *Collector of Delinquent Taxes* – Jane Porter was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.
6. *Grand Juror* – Mike Spaulding was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.
7. *Library Trustee for five years* – Gigi Beach was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.
8. *Trustee for Public Money* – Elise Raymond was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.
9. *Agent to Convey Real Estate* – Terry McCuin was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.
10. *Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits* – Alan Sheredy was nominated – move the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.
11. *Cemetery Commissioner* – Kevin Whitcavitch was nominated -- move the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.

Art. 12. *In Town School District Meeting to elect by ballot for the following Directors' terms: Cambridge School District School Director for two (2) years, Cambridge School District for three (3) years, and Lamoille Union School Director for Three (3) years.*

*Cambridge School Director for two years* – Bernard Barnes was nominated -- moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.

*Cambridge School Director for three years* – Laura Miller was nominated – moved the clerk cast one ballot, seconded, so voted.

*Lamoille Union High School Director of Three years* – Bill Sander was nominated; Krista Swahn was nominated.

Krista Swahn – lived seven years in Cambridge, fresh view to education, works with students at Johnson State College, LUHS has a great rate for graduation, has a child in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Bill Sander Spoke – been on Board for many years, played role in graduation number, helped organize task force for graduation rate 95%, many graduates go on to college, SAT's at school's expense, takes it seriously, would like to continue.

It was reported there were 198 voters who had checked into Town Meeting –  
Ballots were passed out. The vote for School Director was – Bill Sander – 85; Krista Swahn – 90.  
1 blank. Krista Swahn was elected Lamoille School Director for three years.

Peter Ingolstadt remains as School Director.

Art. 13. *Pursuant to VSA Title 24, Chapter shall the voters of the Cambridge Town School District appropriate funds in the amount of \$80,000 to add to the already established TRANSPORTATION RESERVE FUND for the purpose of paying incurred expenses related to bus purchasing/leasing.*

Motion to move article – seconded, so voted. April Tuck asked what \$80,000 is based on --- Mark Stebbins (Cambridge School Director) have raised \$5,000 in past but new buses cost more (over \$90,000)

Article passed.

Art. 14. *Shall the voters of Cambridge Town School District authorize the School Directors to borrow money to pay current expenses and debts of said District in anticipation of the collection of taxes?*

Motion to pass Art. 14, seconded, so voted.

Jerry Cole asked if we could suspend rules to allow Steve Trala (Rescue Squad Chief) to speak – so voted.

Steve Trala spoke concerning the Rescue Squad – celebrated 25 years this year; there are 25 licensed responders and 4 studying; gone from 50% to 95% responding. The number of calls is up. Would like to have 40-50 responders. Asked people to respond to the senior survey.

Art. 15. *Will the Town in Town meeting vote to authorize the Select Board to purchase a fire truck for a sum not to exceed \$240,000 to be paid for in the following manner: \$100,000 from the Capital Fund and \$140,000 to be financed for two years?*

Motion to adopt Art. 15, seconded, so voted. Ruth Ann Rust asked if it is a replacement or a new truck – what is its purpose?

Jerry Cole asked if there were any objection to Alan Cary (Fire Chief) speaking at this time. There was none.

To replace 20 year old tanker. They had put \$8,500 into it three years ago. We are on a rotating replacement plan. Tandem axle tanker 3,000 gallons rather than 1800. The department will buy more time with more water. Alan said that Assistant Chief Dan Wyckoff led the committee on buying the truck. When we sell the old truck it will go against the cost of the new one. Asked about how much we could realize from the sale of the truck – Alan thought maybe \$15,000. Dan Wyckoff answered technical questions from the floor. It will be a plastic body. It will meet all the guidelines we need. Alan said they are conserving water – not washing trucks as often.

Call for the question. seconded, so voted.

Art. 16. *Will the Town in Town meeting vote to expend the \$93,127.41 fund balance remaining December 31, 2014, in the following manner – to go into the capital fund.*

Jerry Cole asked to suspend the rules to hear from our Representative – Bernier Juskowicz and Senator Richard Westman; so voted.

Rich Westman said the budget has not come to the Senate yet – right now preliminary. He serves on Transportation and now on Finance – because of education costs.

Largest issue is what is going on in State budget – 3-3.5% growth in spending each year. Keeps the deficit growing – we can't sustain this growth in budgets.

Medicaid 37-38 million (expanded health care program) Economy in Vermont is better than the rest of the country, so our match is dropping from the feds.

32 million education

Cuts in Human Services programs; Pilot payments. Everything will be on the table to cut.

Bernie Juskewicz is on the Education Committee. This summer education committee changed to policy and money. Property tax is what they heard needed changing. We have highest per pupil cost and the lowest student/teacher ratio. We all want a quality education and equitable education for the children. Next year there will be a 2% cap on school budgets. Governance would be from Union Board to District Board – replaces school board but still have representatives. There are ways to save money. Teachers won't be able to strike. Bernie applauds the CES school directors for what they have done.

Rich can't tell what will pass. Payroll tax not a lot of success. Brian Albarelli asked about high cost in IT. Rich said there are numerous failures in the State IT. He said that the Legislature is behind getting a handle on it.

Motion to recess until 1 o'clock.

Meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm

Moved to adopt Article 16, seconded, so voted.

Ron Emery asked why we did not put it against the fire truck instead of putting it in the capital fund. Larry said we are anticipating new town equipment and new fire truck in the near future. This is an additional amount to help build the capital fund – so voted.

*Art. 17. Will the Town vote to expend from its funds a sum in addition to the amount required by law, to take advantage of benefits of the State Aid Laws and regulations of the Department of Highways relating to the maintenance fund and any and all other similar acts which may be available during the year by the State?*

Motion to adopt the Article 17, seconded, so voted.

*Art. 18. Will the Town vote to raise money on its Grand List for the year 2015 to pay debts and current expenses of the Town, and if so, determine the amount thereof in dollars, the time and manner in which the same shall be payable.*

Dana Sweet said the budget is \$2,280,745.25. This is a decrease of \$175,000 from the 2015 budget. This amount was in there to open up the other side of Bartlett Hill (.65 miles). This would cost \$500,000. Another idea is to raise Pumpkin Harbor Road. Dana asked the State to get engineering for nothing – no it would cost \$100,000. Asked if he could get a permit after the engineering, not sure – it isn't going to happen this year. Dana met with Chris Brunelle about cutting trees near the wrong-way bridge, the State said no. Dana said it would help with the flow of water.

Dana said there are two proposals for a solar project – 1 in the gravel pit off Stebbins Road (83 trackers on five acres) would sell solar energy to Smugglers Notch Corporation. Dana wants to help with C.E.S. electrical bills.

Larry said the other area is the old landfill off Route 104. This could produce electricity toward the school. The company does the entire permitting, etc. The \$25,000 will be to reclaim the gravel pit. Brian Alberalli asked for the downsides – Larry said there are none.

Question was called, seconded, so voted.

*Art. 19. To do any other business that may legally come before Town Meeting and said Town School District Meeting.*

Bob Eccles spoke concerning lack of assisted living in town. Thinks it is time to get something in town.

Dana Sweet asked how many would like to change the town meeting from Tuesday to Saturday – very little support for Saturday.

April Tuck spoke about the Community Visit Program. Members range in 10-85 years of age.

1. Seniors Task Force; 2. Cambridge Community Center – 360 to Community Center; 3. Community and Economic Development – bring a trail head here, may bring more people to Jeffersonville; 4. Evaluating municipal structures. This has been very good for the Town. A lot of good is coming out of this.

Motion to adjourn at 1:45, seconded, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jane N. Porter