

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 2, 2020

The legal voters of the Town of Brighton met at the Brighton Town Hall in Island Pond, Vermont on Monday, March 2nd at 7:30 PM to transact the following business:

Present: Joel Cope, Heather McElroy, and Ray Fontaine

Heather McElroy called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Ray Fontaine made a motion to adjourn and continue the 2020 Brighton Annual Town Meeting at the American Legion, located at 60 Main Street, Island Pond, Vermont, March 2nd, 2020, at 7: 40 PM. Joel Cope seconds the motion, all in favor. So carried.

Tom Donnellan called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM and the legal voters of the Town of Brighton continued the Town of Brighton's Annual Town Meeting at the American Legion.

Moderator, Tom Donnellan, read Articles 1-3 and stated that these Articles would be voted on by Australian Ballot at the polls on March 3rd, 2020, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Island Pond, Vermont.

4. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag had already been conducted at the beginning of the Brighton Town School District Meeting.

Tom Donnellan introduced, Paul Lefebvre, state representative, who spoke about the most recent changes in ACT 250.

5. To hear the reports of the town officers for the past year and to take action thereon. No one asked to hear the reports. Passed.
6. To hear the report of the Water Commissioners for the past year and to take action thereon. Marty Frizzell said that the state is now requiring us to test for PFOA's in our water. At first the state said that if our results came back clean, which ours did, we would not have to test again for 3 years. They have since changed their mind and are now requiring us to test yearly.
7. To see if the voters shall fix the number of installments and the payment due dates for the collection of taxes as authorized in Title 32, V.S.A Section 4872. Recommended payments to be due on August 19, September 19 and November 19. Craig Goulet made a motion to move this Article to the floor, seconded by Carmen Murray. Carried by voice vote. The Ayes have it.
8. To see if the voters shall authorize collection of 2020 taxes through the treasurer as provided for in Title32, V.S.A. Sections 4792 and 4793. Carmen Murray made a motion to move this Article to the floor, seconded by Jim Webb. Carried by voice vote. The Ayes have it.
9. To see if the voters shall authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow money for the operating expenses of the Town of Brighton in anticipation of taxes--such borrowing not to exceed 90 percent of all anticipated revenues. Craig Goulet made motion to move this Article to the floor, seconded by Jim Webb. Carried by voice vote. The Ayes have it.
10. To see if the voters will increase the appropriation to the Essex County Resource and Conservation District to a total of \$500. Marty Frizzell made a motion to move this Article to the floor, seconded by Jim Webb. Michael Strait, chairperson of the Selectboard, pointed out that the Selectboard supports increasing this appropriation, because the benefits we receive from the

Essex County Resource and Conservation District far exceed this cost. They have done a lot of work for us and they help us to get grants. Carried by voice vote. The Ayes have it.

11. Shall the Town of Brighton enter into a communications union district (CUD) to be known as NEK Community Broadband, under the provisions of 30 V.S. A. Ch 82.? Carmen Murray made a motion to move this Article to the floor, seconded by June Goodband. Michael Strait explained that it does not cost the Town anything by becoming part of the CUD. By joining the CUD, high speed internet access will be available to everyone in Town. At this time, this option covers a limited area. This Article was carried by voice vote. The Ayes have it.
12. To see if the voters will appropriate \$1,000 to Rural Edge for the SASH program (Support and Services for at Home), which coordinates resources to support Vermonters who choose to live independently at home. Marty Frizzell made a motion to bring this Article to the floor, seconded by Jim Webb. Gary Chester and Melinda Lamoureux explained the benefits of this program to the Town's people. Currently SASH provides services to 37 people in Brighton. This Article was carried by voice vote. The Ayes have it.
13. To see if the voters will exempt from the local and statewide property taxes for the Island Pond Lodge F&AM for five years. Craig Goulet made a motion to move this article to the floor. Ralph Wilkins seconds the motion. Craig Goulet said that the Island Pond Lodge is a great benefit to youth services, Shriners Hospital, and gives to many other good non-profit organizations. This Article was carried by a voice vote. The Ayes have it.
14. Shall the voters approve an appropriation of \$200 to the Lake Memphremagog Watershed Association? Carmen Murray made a motion to bring this Article to the floor, seconded by Marty Frizzell. Michael Strait said that the selectboard is not in support of this. Brighton currently spends more money on our lake than Newport does for theirs. By voice vote, this Article did not pass.
15. To see if the voters will raise money by property taxes to pay the general expenses of the town and if so, how much. Carmen Murray moved this Article to the floor, seconded by Jim Webb. Tom Donnellan asked the Town's people to vote on Line Item #1167 being the proposed budget in the amount of \$1,555,873.52. Carried by voice vote. The Ayes have it.

Line item 1154 shall be reworded next year to say Recreation/Swim Lessons.

16. To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting. There was no other business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Moore
Ass't. Town Clerk

Michael Strait
Selectboard Chairperson

Tom Donnellan
Town Moderator

