

Minutes for the School District Meeting
March 6, 2012

The legal voters of the Town of Peacham met at the Peacham Congregational Church in Peacham on Tuesday March 6, 2012 at 10:00 AM.

The Pledge of Allegiance, led by Ron Craig, was recited at the beginning of the meeting.

There was a moment of silence to honor those residents who have passed on or who are just unable to attend due to illness. In particular, Maurice Chandler, who passed away in October, was remembered for his service to the town as Moderator for twenty one years, a Selectboard member, Board of Civil Authority member, and most recently a fence viewer.

Reverend Potter left welcome letters from the church to all attendees at the Town Meeting.

The lunch format was the same as last year beginning at 12:00 PM. The lunch was sponsored by the Church Fellowship, with special thanks to lunch providers, Cher Monteith, Charlotte Snow, Lori Craig, Lynn Lawson, and others.

Rob Ide reminded everyone of the following meeting guidelines:

1. Respect is the order of the day.
2. Town Meeting for the school and town are for the registered voters of the town. Visitors are welcome to attend but if they wish to speak it must be by the permission of the assembled voters. Participation in any voice vote by a non-registered voter is not permitted.
3. When recognized to speak, please state your name. On a particular article a person may speak once but must wait until all others who wish to, have had an opportunity to participate.
4. If a paper ballot is called for an orderly traffic pattern to ease the balloting procedure is appreciated.
5. Julia Fickes and Emily Collins will provide wireless microphone coverage for people who chose to speak. Speakers are asked to wait for a microphone before proceeding.
6. Polls are now open for the Presidential Primary and the voting for the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District. The polls are located in the upstairs of the Town Hall and are open until 7:00 PM.
7. The Town Clerk has requested that successful candidates today need to remain for a few minutes to take their oaths of office.

Article 1 To elect a Moderator to conduct and govern the meeting.

John Coffin nominated Rob Ide. There being no other nominations a voice vote was taken. Ide elected.

Article 2 To elect a School Director for a term of three years.

George Kempton nominated Jenny Mackenzie. There being no further nominations Charles Browne moved to close nominations and asked the Clerk to cast one ballot for Jenny Mackenzie. Barry Lawson seconded. An affirmative voice vote closed nominations and the Town Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot. Mackenzie elected.

Article 3 To select a School District Clerk/Treasurer.

Becky Lafferty nominated Bruce Lafferty. There being no other nominations, a voice vote was taken. Lafferty elected.

Article 4 To hear a report of the Board.

Jo Anne Post summarized the turbulence in the school this year and the attempts by the School Board to deal with this ongoing situation. Ray Proulx, a well-respected and longtime educator conducted a study of Peacham Elementary School. Commissioned by the School Board the title of the study was "A Call for Community Action". As a result of his study, a committee was formed and their mission statement stressed community input, understanding, trust, support, and the desire to move the school forward, and to provide quality education.

Jo Anne stated that Proulx's report showed that 39 out of 42 people interviewed wanted the school to continue. The report emphasized the importance of turning the corner on adult negativity because it was beginning to affect the children.

Jenny Mackenzie continued the report by speaking about the newly formed committee and its guidelines and objectives. She concentrated on the school remaining a vital part of the community with a vision of excellence. She welcomed any questions or comments.

Expenditure budget line items were reviewed from page seven of the Peacham School District FY13 Budget Town Report. The budget showed a decrease of \$137,471 for this year. This year's budget is \$1,460,919. Discussion followed. The Moderator closed discussion of Article 4.

Article 5 Shall the voters of the Peacham School District vote to adopt an expenditure budget as presented for the school year ending June 30, 2013 including an appropriation of a sum of money for the support of schools with provisions for current expenses, capital improvement, a deficit if any, and for other lawful purposes?

Mark Clough moved the question. Charles Browne seconded. Dave Stauffer moved to postpone the decision on Article 5 until Saturday, June 2, 2012 at 10:00. Ann Mills seconded. Discussion followed. Dave Stauffer moved to change the postponement action on Article 5 to Saturday, June 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM. Ann Mills seconded. Further discussion followed. Ide called for a voice vote on the motion. The chair was in doubt and a paper ballot was requested and sustained by six people of the meeting. Paper ballot approved. 119 ballots were cast, 60 needed for passage. There were 47 yes votes and 72 no votes. The motion was defeated.

Ide declared a recess for lunch.

Meeting reconvened at 1:20 PM.

Bruce MacLean moved to make an amendment to raise \$30,000 less than is being requested by the School Board and to encourage the Board to reduce administrative costs specifically the Principal's time to no more than 50% or to have a teaching principal .3 FTE of the principal's time. Charles Byron seconded. Moderator indicated that the voters can amend the total budget amount but may not specify by line item. Discussion followed. Moderator called an end to the discussion. The Moderator called for a voice vote. Amendment defeated.

Jo Anne Post moved that the School District budget be amended by a \$6,000 increase from Article 6 changing the total school budget from \$1,460,919 to \$1,466,919. Charles Browne seconded. Discussion followed. A voice vote was called. The amendment passed.

After further discussion, Suzanne Rhodes called for a paper ballot on Article 5. At least 6 people sustained the paper ballot. 108 votes cast, 55 needed to pass. Yes votes 71, no votes 37. Article 5 passed.

Article 6 Shall the voters of the Peacham School District approve the transfer of \$6,000 to the Capital Fund?

Wynne Browne explained the \$6,000 Capital Fund transfer request.

Mark Clough moved the question. Charles Browne seconded. No further discussion. The article passed on a voice vote.

Article 7 Shall the voters of the Peacham School District authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2013 in an amount not exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?

Richard Browne moved the question. Barry Lawson seconded. The article passed on a voice vote.

Article 8 To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the meeting.

No discussion.

Martha Ide moved to adjourn the meeting. Richard Browne seconded. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

The foregoing is approved and attested by:

Peacham School Directors

Jo Anne Post



Wynne Browne

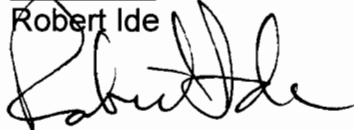


Jenny Mackenzie



Moderator

Robert Ide



Clerk to the School District

Bruce Lafferty