

Continuation of Town Meeting  
April 12, 2008

Moderator Ned Gordon opened the meeting with the pledge alliance of the flag. He stated that this is a continuation of the annual meeting that was held on March 12, 2008. This meeting is to discuss Article 13 only. All questions should be directed to the Moderator. There was a question that if someone voted in the affirmative could they make a motion to reconvene the meeting to speak on Article 13, it was stated that if the Moderator had, had a problem with it he would have said so that night. It was not said so this meeting is a legal meeting. A question was asked if the meeting is run with Roberts Rules of order and the Town Attorney Bernie Waugh said that Roberts's rules of order do not apply to Town Meetings.

Some people felt that re could not reconsider articles the next night, (March 13<sup>th</sup>), it was stated that we could not discuss them, but they could come for a special Town Meeting, which this is. This meeting will be conducted as always.

The moderator read the original article and stated that is was brought up for re-consideration by Jon Thouin and seconded by Walter Waring.

The Moderator asked Mr. Thouin if he would like to explain why he felt this article should be reconsidered. Last year there had been an article for the new Police Department only and that amount was 2.6 million for just one building. On March 12<sup>th</sup> the majority vote was for the building, but it did not pass with the 2/3 vote that it needed. That this is a good time for building, as the sewer department had a project that the final figure was lower than the bid had been. The maximum on both buildings is 2.9 million it is a guaranteed maximum price with the opportunity to be lower. One thing that is always higher on the taxes is the school, 20 million goes to the school, seven times the money that is for the Town.

Elizabeth Corrow, Town Manager wanted everyone to know that this should not be a we win/they win situation. Five years ago or so there was a building committee, to ask to come up with a suitable place for the police department. Then last year the Town was asked to come up with a place for the Police Department, what they came up with would have cost 2.6 million. At Town Meeting last year they were asked to come up with something

better, this year they came up with two buildings for 2.9 million. The police department is currently in violation of state standards. The town office building with renovations would work for the police department for thirty to forty years. The Town Hall needs most of the work, roof, windows and accessibility access. The building would move 37 feet to the east; the bottom floor would be used for offices for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Town Manager, Accountant, Assessing, Water/Sewer, etc. We would also have access to Winter Street. This would be the right time to do this, as next year at the minimum the cost would increase by \$230,000 more to do the same thing. The economy is slow right now, so construction companies get competitive and this would be putting people to work. The interest rate is 4.2 it is the lowest rate. This building is within walking distance to Town it is a historical building built in 1848, the building needs works to be done to it. It would cost 1.1 million more to build two new buildings. There were feelings that a new building should be built behind the Town Office Building and that the Town hall should not be renovated.

At this time an amendment to Article 13 was made by Lloyd Belbin after the last sentence in Article 13 add: The total cost of this project including furnishings is not to exceed the amount appropriated in this article. A bonded contract for the completed project must be obtained prior to any commencing or monies disbursed. Seconded by Bruce VanDerven. The amendment passed by voice vote.

A question was asked about the insurance on the building because of liability. Scott Weden of Local Government Center, stated that the Police Department gets 12,000 calls a year. There are numerous hazards in the Police Department, the department does not meet handicap accessibility, they are not in compliance with the statue for junevilles and adults, they do not meet the life safety codes, the cells are not in compliance, there are no surveillance cameras, the concrete steps are very dangerous, an officer needs to key in and also watch his charge. Bristol has not been in compliance for a few years, and has done nothing about this problem.

It was mentioned that back in 2003 the number one priority for Bristol was a new police station and that it is still the number one priority. The Town Office building is not a good place for a police station; a piece of land and a new building that would last into the future is the best answer.

It was felt that with the interest on the 2.9 million by the time it is paid off it would cost 5 million or over. Other options should be looked into.

Ian Schaffer made a motion to end discussion and vote; Ed Lord seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

The polls opened at 11:10 AM and closed at 12:15 PM. There were 418 votes cast, Yes 129, No 289, needed 2/3 to pass. Article was defeated as amended.

Mike Bannan made a motion to close the meeting; Susan Duncan seconded the motion.

Meeting closed at 12:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Raymah W. Simpson  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector