

2014 Town of Piermont Town Meeting Minutes

To the inhabitants of the Town of Piermont, in the County of Grafton, State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Old Church Building in Piermont on Tuesday March 11, 2014 at ten o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following matters. Article one will be decided by official ballot. The polling booths will be open from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM. At 6:30 PM the meeting will adjourn to reconvene at 7:30 PM at the Piermont Village School in said Town of Piermont for consideration of the remaining articles on this WARRANT:

ARTICLE ONE: To choose by non-partisan ballot a Selectman for a term of three (3) years; a Treasurer for a term of one (1) year; a Tax Collector for a term of one (1) year; a Road Agent for a term of three (3) years; a Trustee of Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years; a Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of six (6) years; a Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of two (2) years ; two Library Trustees for a term of three (3) years each; a moderator for a term of two (2) years.

Results were read as follows: Selectman: Ernie Hartley 115, Terri Mertz 70, Write in Jean Underhill (1), Peter Foster (1), Doug Coughlin (1), Treasurer, Erik Wagstaff 162, Write In, Neil Robie (1), Cameron Prest (1), Tax Collector, Ceil Stubbings 158, , Write In, Gerry Wood (1), Library Trustees, Stephanie Gordon 145, Helga Mueller 154, Write Ins, Lydia Hill(1), Gerry Wood (2), Heidi Metcalf (1), Trustee of Trust Funds, Nancy Cole 163, Write In, Helga Mueller(1), Road Agent, Frank Rodimon 163, Write In, Eric Underhill (1), Supervisor of the Checklist, 2 Year Term, George Mertz 147, Write Ins, Rob Elder, (1) John Metcalf (2), Sam Rounds (1), Checklist 6 Year Term, Sam Rounds 156, Moderator, Joyce Tompkins 159. Executive Council Special Election, Michael Cryans 82, Joseph Kenney 82.

Results from School Election as follows: School Board, Vernon Jones 128, Write Ins, Terry Mertz (2), Erik Wagstaff (1), Moderator, Joyce Tomkins 156, Treasurer, Fred Shipman 151, Write In , Erik Wagstaff (2), Jean Underhill (2), Alex Medlicott (1), School Clerk, Jean Underhill 164.

All elected candidates present were sworn in with the exception of the Selectman's Office.

Please note Votes for Selectman's Office were read incorrectly at meeting by Moderator Ernie Hartley had 100 and Terry Mertz 70.*

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Nine Hundred Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven dollars** (\$914,437.00) for general municipal operations. **Five Thousand Six Hundred dollar** (\$5,600.00) to come from the 250th Anniversary ETF, **One Thousand Five Hundred dollars** (\$1,500.00) to come from the Town Common ETF and the balance of **Nine Hundred Seven Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Seven dollars** (\$907,337.00) to be raised by general taxation. This does not include special or individual articles. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) The tax impact of this warrant article is \$5.71*

Motioned: Helga Mueller

Second: Jean Daley

Article passes by voice vote.

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Three Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Six dollars** (\$33,556.00) for the Sewer District. **Three Thousand dollars** (\$3,000.00) to come from Wastewater Grant and the balance of **Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Six dollar** (\$30,556.00) will come from sewer user fees and no amount to be raised by general taxation. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) This article will have no impact on the tax rate; no money will be raised from taxes.*

Motioned: Sam Rounds

Second: Gary Danielson

Article passes by voice vote

ARTICLE FOUR: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Four Thousand dollars** (\$54,000.00) to pave the section of Indian Pond Road from the Bridge Project to the top of the hill by Neil Robie's driveway. This section of road was rebuilt in 2012 but was left as sta-pak until a later date. This project is contingent upon substantial completion of the Indian Pond Bridge Project. No monies will be expended on this project if the bridge project is not near completion in 2014. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article). If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.55.*

Motioned: Frank Rodimon

Second: Helga Mueller

Article passes by voice vote.

ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Town will vote to reclassify 174 feet of Winn Road from Class VI to Class V. (NOTE: This section of road has been upgraded to meet Town specifications at no cost to the Town. This work has been approved by the Piermont Road Agent. If reclassified, Winn Road would be 1,335 feet from Route 10 as a class V road.) *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article)*

Motioned: Jean Daley

Second: Gerri Wood

Article passes by voice vote

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the town will vote to change the office of Town Tax Collector from an elected position to an appointed position in accordance with RSA 41:33. Such appointment shall be made in accordance with RSA 41:33 by the Board of Selectmen. Such appointment shall be made in writing and shall include the compensation to be paid. If approved the person holding the elected office shall continue to hold such office until the next annual town election following the vote. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article)*

Motioned: Helga Mueller

Second: Sam Rounds

Discussion: Rob Elder inquired if this article would be an improvement. George Mertz spoke opposing this article, Selectmen Bob Lang and Colin Stubbings both spoke regarding Article and gave the following information, 2011 liens were not done properly, there is \$105,000 in unpaid taxes, small claims pending and 5 – 8 thousand in legal fees, appointed vs elected, regulating hours, monitoring accounts receivable, Town's decision vs RSA.

Article passes 42 -23 by card count

ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the town will vote to reorganize the Fire Department so that the fire fighters are hired by the Board of Selectmen with the Fire Chief elected by the fire fighters. If the article passes, it shall be effective April 1, 2015. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article)*

Motioned: Sam Rounds

Second: Matt Prince

Discussion: Many people questioned the article including Chief Henry and other department members.

Bob Lang, Selectman gave the following information: The by-laws were sent to the attorney for approval. Their question being: How was the Fire Department organized initially? It never was. This is a housekeeping effort to simply organize the department and how it is to be run. The Select Board will simply work with the Fire Department Chief and the members on the hiring and initiate background checks. Mr. Lang also stated that the integrity and honesty of the Fire Department is most important. These people will be going into our homes, etc. We have had instances in the past of former members having court cases and the board simply wants to avoid future problems.

John Metcalf called the question.

Article fails by voice vote.

Jean Daley motioned to revisit article.

Second: George Mertz

Vote to amend article passes by voice vote: George Mertz amends article seven to read:

Simply to organize The Fire Department in accordance with the statues and laws of the State of New Hampshire. The Fire Department will then be organized by the Chief and the members to write the bylaws.

Motion on amendment:

Second: John Metcalf

Article passes by voice vote.

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Piermont Fast Squad – PMFIC Fund, for the purpose of funding special projects and to raise and appropriate the sum of **One dollars** (\$1.00) to be placed in this fund. Funding to come from Fund Balance. Nothing to be raised by taxation. The Board of Selectmen shall be named agents to expend for this fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) This article will have no impact on the tax rate; no money will be raised from taxes.*

Motioned: Helga Mueller

Second: Sam Rounds

Article passes by voice vote

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Piermont Fire Department – PMFIC Fund, for the purpose of funding special projects and to raise and appropriate the sum of **One dollars** (\$1.00) to be placed in this fund. Funding to come from Fund Balance. Nothing to be raised by taxation. The Board of , Selectmen shall be named agents to expend for this fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) This article will have no impact on the tax rate; no money will be raised from taxes.*

Motioned: Sam Rounds

Second: Jean Daley

Article passes by voice vote

ARTICLE TEN: To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Piermont Cemetery – PMFIC Fund, for the purpose of funding special projects and to raise and appropriate the sum of **One dollars** (\$1.00) to be placed in this fund. Funding to come from Fund Balance. Nothing to be raised by taxation. The Board of Selectmen shall be named agents to expend for this fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) This article will have no impact on the tax rate; no money will be raised from taxes.*

Motioned: Gary Danielson

Second: Helga Mueller

Article passes by voice vote

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand dollars** (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Town Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.05.*

*Motioned: Sam Rounds
Second: Gary Danielson
Article passes by voice vote*

ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand dollars** (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Town Recycling Center/Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.05.*

*Motioned Sam Rounds
Second: Nancy Sandell
Article passes by voice vote*

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand dollars** (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Town Fire and Emergency Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.05.*

*Motioned: Bruce Henry
Second: Jean Daley
Article passes by voice vote*

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand dollars** (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.05.*

*Motioned: Jayne Jones
Second: Sam Rounds
Article passes by voice vote*

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand dollars** (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Town Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.05.*

*Motioned: Barbara Fowler
Second: Doug Coughlin
Article passes by voice vote*

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand dollars** (\$1,000.00) to be added to the Town Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.01.*

*Motioned: Sam Rounds
Second: Doug Coughlin
Article passes by voice vote*

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand dollars** (\$5,000.00) to be added to the Recreation Facilities Expendable Trust Fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.05.*

*Motioned: Matt Prince
Second: Wayne Godfey
Discussion: Clarification was made on money toward a facility.
Article passes by card vote 35 yes, 27 no*

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand dollars** (\$5,000.00) to be added to the New Building Capital Reserve Fund. *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article) If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.05.*

*Motioned: George Mertz
Second: Donny Mitchell
Discussion: Ernie Hartley, Selectman explained new construction vs improvement and repair. There is 10, 000 in fund now.
Article passes by voice vote*

ARTICLE NINETEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Nineteen dollars** (\$12,419.00) for the following charitable organizations: *(The Selectmen **RECOMMEND** this article)*

Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH	\$3,250.00
Tri-County Community Action	\$1,200.00
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc.	\$2,000.00
Support Center at Burch House	\$345.00

Northern Human Services, White Mountain Health	\$896.00
Woodsville Area 4 th of July Committee	\$500.00
Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc.	\$335.00
Bridge House	\$2,000.00
North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency	\$550.00
American Red Cross	\$250.00
Mascoma Valley Health Initiative	\$593.00
CASA	\$500.00
Total Charitable Organizations	<u>\$12,419.00</u>

If passed this article will increase the tax rate by \$0.13

Motion: Steve Daley

Second: Rob Elder

Bob Lang requested that the moderator advise the public to refer to pages 38 and 39 of the Town Report regarding this article.

Rob Elder motioned to amend article as follows remove Woodsville Area Fourth of July Committee, (\$500.00) , and change Bridge House to, (\$400.00) Changing above total to \$10,319.00

Second: Doug Coughlin

Article passes by voice vote

Motion to re-visit article 2 adding \$500.00 to the operation budget for the use by Piermont 250th Celebration changing that amount to, \$914,937.00

Second: John Metcalf

Amended article passes by voice vote

ARTICLE TWENTY (Petitioned Warrant Article): The Citizens of Piermont urge: That the New Hampshire State Legislature join nearly 500 municipalities and 16 other states, including all the other New England States, in calling upon Congress to move forward a constitutional amendment that: 1. Guarantees the right of our elected representatives and of the American people to safe guard fair elections through authority to regulate political spending, and 2. Clarifies that constitutional rights were established for people, not corporations. That the New Hampshire Congressional delegation support such a Constitutional amendment. That the New Hampshire State Legislature support such an amendment once it is approved by Congress and send to the State for ratification. And, furthermore, that this Town Meeting vote be record that We the People want Congress and our state legislature to: -- Institute full, effective and immediate electronic disclosure of all election-related spending by any individual, group, corporation, party or institution. -- Provide for fair, nonpartisan and vigorous enforcement of existing campaign laws and regulations by federal and state agencies. -- Enact an absolute ban on campaign contributions by foreign governments, foreign agencies, foreign corporations or their subsidiaries and employees in the U.S. – Enact legislation that would cut down the influence of big bankroll donors by multiplying the power of small donations through the use voter voucher, tax credits, and matching public funds. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Piermont’s congressional delegation, and to Piermont’s state legislators and the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents by the Board of Selectmen within 30 days of the vote.

Motioned: Steve Rounds

Second: George Mertz

Article passes by voice vote

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: To transact any other business that may legally come before the Meeting.

A moment of silence was observed for those we have lost by the request of Ellen Putnam.

Abby Metcalf gave an update on the Piermont 250 Anniversary Celebrations to be held throughout the year with the main parade to be held August 9th, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm

Submitted, April 14th, 2014

PIERMONT SELECTBOARD

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Lang, Chairman

Ernest W. Hartley

Bernadette Ratel

Colin Stubbings

Town Clerk

Expenditure Budget 2015 Summary					
(Excluding County and School)					
Account	Description	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	
4130	Executive	143,079	144,886	120,625	
4140	Town Clerk & Elections	33,621	25,011	32,764	
4150	Tax Collector & Financial	47,972	35,068	52,283	
4152	Assessing	19,600	20,010	17,436	
4191	Planning & Zoning	4,255	3,878	4,274	
4194	Buildings & Grounds	87,125	72,647	64,664	
4195	Cemeteries	21,332	34,690	22,723	
4210	Police Department	109,526	97,548	130,771	
4212	Animal Control	2,892	1,462	2,332	
4215	Ambulance	24,490	24,490	27,650	
4220	Fire Department	44,302	34,085	50,802	
4225	Fast Squad	3,520	2,361	3,450	
4290	Emergency Management	4,730	3,757	7,608	
4312	Highways, Bridges, Street Lights	200,792	201,773	214,272	
4324	Transfer Station & Recycling	52,680	52,311	50,645	
4326	Sewer District	22,193	20,214	22,611	
4441	Welfare	4,302	1,899	4,282	
4520	Parks & Recreation	11,839	11,723	17,539	
4550	Library	32,000	32,000	32,000	
4583	Patriotic	725	443	725	
4589	Community	23,651	24,184	251	
4611	Conservation	1,325	1,282	1,655	
4711	Debt Service - Town	32,690	31,928	32,690	
4711	Debt Service - Sewer	11,363	11,363	11,363	
4901	Capital Outlay	8,489	23,118	8,488	
9999	Discounts	0	-118	0	
	Total	\$948,493	\$912,013	\$933,903	
Warrant Articles					
	Town Building Improvement CRF	5,000	5,000	5,000	
	Town Equipment CRF	5,000	5,000	5,000	
	Fire and Emergency Vehicle CRF	5,000	5,000	5,000	
	Town Revaluation CRF	5,000	5,000	5,000	
	Town Bridge CRF	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	Town New Building CRF	5,000	5,000	5,000	
	Recycling/Transfer Station ETF	5,000	5,000	5,000	
	Recreation Facility ETF	5,000	5,000	5,000	
	Friends of the 250th ETF	0	0	13,498	
	Indian Pond Road Paving	54,000	54,000	0	
	Church Street Paving	0	0	48,200	
	Lily Pond Paving	0	0	29,500	
		\$90,000	\$90,000	\$127,198	
	Non-Profit Groups Requests				
	Visiting Nurse Assoc. & Hosp.	3,250	3,250	3,250	
	Tri-County Community Action	1,200	1,200	1,200	
	Grafton County Senior Citizens	2,000	2,000	3,000	
	Burch House	345	345	345	
	Northern Human Services	896	896	896	
	Woodsville Area 4th of July	0	0	500	
	CASA	500	1,000	1,000	
	Ammonuoosuc Community Health	335	335	335	
	North Country Home Health & Hospice	550	550	0	
	American Red Cross	250	250	250	
	MVHI	593	593	591	
	Bridge House	400	400	2,000	
		\$10,319	\$10,819	\$13,367	
	Grand Total	\$1,048,812	\$1,012,832	\$1,074,468	