TOWN OF READING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2016

The Town of Reading, Annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at The Reading Elementary School at 9:30 am.

The Moderator, Jonathan Springer, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator reviewed the rules for speaking and voting for non-residents and addressing the moderator for questions.

Approximately 85 people were in attendance.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town ensuing year. Jim Bartlett nominated Jon Springer. Robert Allen seconded the nomination. Rayna Bishop moves to close nominations, Gordy Eastman seconded and nominations were ceased. Mr. Jon Springer was elected.

Article 2: To see if the voters shall set the date and time, by which the Town property taxes must be paid and received by the Town Treasurer, to be Friday, November 4, 2016 by 5:00 P.M. (NO POST MARKS). Robert Allen moves to have Article 2 be accepted and Gordy Eastman seconded. The Article was adopted.

Article 3: To see if the Town will elect the Town Treasurer as Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the ensuing year. Robert Allen moves to have Article 2 be accepted and Gordy Eastman seconded. The Article was adopted.

Article 4: To elect all other Town Officers, as required by law:

- **SELECTPERSON for a three (3) year term.**
  Adam Kozlowski nominated Robert Allen. Gordy Eastman seconded nomination. Jim Bartlett moves to close nominations Steve Strait seconded. The motion passed. Gordy Eastman moves to have the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Robert Allen for Selectperson for a three-year term. Susan Goodhouse seconded the motion. The motion passed, the clerk cast one ballot, and Robert Allen was elected.

- **LISTER for a three (3) year term.**
  John Fike nominated Richard Sullivan. Penny Allyn seconded nomination. Robert Allen moves to close nomination, Gordy Eastman seconded. Gordy Eastman moves to have the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Richard Sullivan for Lister for a three-year term. Robert Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed, the clerk cast one ballot, and Richard Sullivan was elected.

- **AUDITOR for a three (3) year term.**
  Channing Smith nominated Jim Waterfall. Rayna Bishop seconded. Jim Bartlett moves to close nominations, Robert Allen seconded. Tim Bishop moves to have the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Jim Waterfall for a 3 year term for Auditor. Robert Allen seconded. The motion passed, the clerk cast one ballot, and Jim Waterfall was elected.

- **TOWN GRAND JUROR for a one (1) year term.**
  Curt Allen nominated Mark Biathrow. Jim Bartlett moves to close nominations, Robert Allen seconded. Mark Biathrow was elected.

- **TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS for a one (3) year term.**
  Jim Bartlett nominated Howard Sanderson, Jr. Robert Allen moves to close nominations, Gordy Eastman seconded. Howard Sanderson, Jr. was elected.

- **CEMETERY COMMISSIONER for a three (3) year term.**
  Adam Kozlowski nominated Susan Goodhouse. Kevin Kaija moves to close nominations, Robert Allen seconded. Susan Goodhouse was elected.

- **READING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIRECTOR for a three (3) year term.**
  Boolie Sluka nominated John Philpin. Shiri Macri moves to close nominations, Justin Sluka seconded. John Philpin was elected.

- **WHUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR for a three (3) year term.** Tim Bishop nominated Chris Titus. Rayna Bishop moved to close nominations, Robert Allen seconded. Chris Titus was elected.

- **LIBRARY TRUSTEE for a five (5) year term.**
  Vanessa Maxham nominated Libbet Downs. John Fike moves to close nominations. Robert Allen seconded. Libbet Downs was elected.

- **TOWN AGENT for a one (1) year term.**
  Jim Bartlett nominated Ken Norcross. Gordy Eastman moves to close the nominations. Robert Allen seconded. Kenneth Norcross was elected.

ARTICLE 5: To act on the reports of The Officers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Robert Allen moves to accept the Article. Gordy Eastman seconded. Becky Basch spoke about solarizing. She is working with Sustainable Woodstock and Catamount Solar. Steve Ellis spoke about ECFiber. They are roughly on schedule for this summer on Route 106. Robert Allen made the correction of the date on the Town Plan, was amended to July 2015. Robert also thanks the Cemetery Commission for all of their work. There were no questions. Article 5 was adopted.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town of Reading will vote to appropriate the amount of $607,142.50 (Six Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty Two Dollars and Fifty Cents) to be raised by taxes for the Selectmen's Budget beginning July 1, 2016. Robert Allen moves to accept the article. Tim Bishop seconded. Jim Bartlett asked about the increase in the Windsor County Sheriff's revenue and expense. Robert explained that the Sheriff was patrolling (2) four hours shifts and it has been increased to 3 four hour shifts in the budget. With the increase in patrolling costs there should be an increase in the Town's share of fines. There was some discussion on getting a quote from the State Police for part-time patrolling. Steve Strait asked if there wasn't $400,000 in the budget to replace bridges if the budget would be that much less. Robert explained that it would not as it was a matter of reallocating funds. Adam Kozlowski thanks the Selectboard for all of their work. Article 6 was adopted.

ARTICLE 7 – To see if the Town of Reading will vote to appropriate $75 (seventy-five) to Green Up Day (money goes to the State). Lisa Kaija moved to accept the article, Robert Allen seconded. The article passed.

ARTICLES 8 – 15: Appropriations for special funds.

Robert Allen made a motion to suspend the rule and take up Articles 8 – 15 that add up to $8,275, to be voted on as one article. These allocations have not been voted down for many years and for interest of time. Sarwar Kashmeri seconded. Moderator asks if all are in favor to suspend the rules to say aye, because it requires a 2/3 majority. The ayes have the majority and the rules were suspended. Sara Norcross spoke on behalf of Pentangle, Woodstock Job Bank, Windsor County Partners and Volunteers In Action. Rayna Bishop moves and Susan Goodhouse seconded. Articles 7 - 15 are adopted.

Article 16: To elect a Moderator for the School ensuing year. Esther Allen nominated Jon Springer. Steve Strait seconded the nomination. Robert Allen moves to close nominations, Gordy Eastman seconded and nominations were ceased. Mr. Jon Springer was elected.

Article 17: To act on the reports of the School Directors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Robert Allen moved to accept the article. Mildred Waterfall seconded. There was general discussion on no student test scores in the report and no 6 month budget figures in the report. These had been specifically requested by the Towns People under Article 23 at the 2-28-15 Town Meeting. The article passed.

Article 18: Shall the voters of the Reading Elementary School District approve the Reading Board of School Directors to expend $1,059,547 (One Million, Fifty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Forty Seven Dollars), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of $17,359 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is .87% higher than spending for the current year. Rayna Bishop moves and Steve Ellis seconded. A general discussion of the budget ensued. Concerns were raised over:

- The impact of Act46 on the Reading Elementary School
- With the deficit gone why isn't the budget lower
- Technology Consulting
- Special Education
- Staffing
- Increase every year of $50,000 to $80,000
- No plan in place to help keep cost down

A voice vote was taken and ruled by the moderator that the ayes had it. The moderator's decision was challenged by John Fike calling for a paper ballot vote of the article. There were at least seven people in favor of a paper ballot. There were 80 votes cast 47 yes and 33 no. Article 18 was adopted.

Article 19: To see if the Voters will authorize the School Directors to borrow money, if necessary, in anticipation of taxes. Rayna Bishop moves to accept. Tim Bishop seconded. The Article was adopted.

Article 20: To do any other business that may legally be done at this meeting. Alison Clarkson and Alice Nitka spoke about events happening in Montpelier. Questions were asked about the condition of Route 106. Jean Goldborough asked about delinquent taxes. Calista Brennan explained that the amount in the Town

Report was as of January 4, 2016. Delinquent taxes for 2011 and 2012 have since been paid. Almost all others on the list have a payment agreement; no tax sale will be scheduled as long as payments continue to be made. Tax sales can be held six months after the tax due date if the party is one year delinquent. Tax sales can be held 3 months after the tax due date if the party is more than one year delinquent. Robert Allen asked about Act 46.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:42 am

Respectfully Submitted By Calista Brennan

Jonathan L. Springer, Moderator

Robert K. Allen, Selectboard Chair