

Minutes
Deliberative Session Meeting for the Mont Vernon School District
May 5th, 2021
Mont Vernon Village School Multi-Purpose Room
Mont Vernon, NH

*Approved
Autumn Grdina
Autumn Grdina
Clerk*

Attendees:

Administration: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant Superintendent, Michele Croteau- SAU #39 Business Administrator, Meg Beauchamp- Director of Student Services, Dr. Kim Sarfde- Principal of the Mont Vernon Village School (attended via Zoom), Amy Facey- SAU #39 Business Administrator, Elect, Roger Preston- SAU#39 Facilities Director

Mont Vernon Village School Board Members: Chair- Sarah Lawrence (not in attendance), Vice Chair- Peter Eckhoff, Stephen O’Keefe and Jessica Hinckley.

Mont Vernon School District Moderator: Peter King, 36 Kendall Hill Road, Mont Vernon NH

Mont Vernon School District Clerk: Autumn Grdina, 4 Pinkham Ave, Mont Vernon, NH.

Attorneys for the District: Stephen Bennett Esq. and Abby Tucker Esq. Wadleigh Starr & Peters, Manchester, NH

Minute Taker: Danae A. Marotta

Public: (speakers or commenters) Stephen Bennett, 76 Old Mont Vernon Road Eileen Naber, 14 Beech Hill Road and Kim Roberge, 35 Salisbury Road.

The number of voting attendees: 18

I. Call to Order

Moderator of the Mont Vernon School District, Mr. Peter King, called the 2021 Mont Vernon School District Deliberative Session to order at 7:00PM.

He introduced himself noting that he was elected as their School District Moderator and will be facilitating this meeting. He thanked the public for being engaged in their local governance. It is great to see the public come out to support their school, community, and children and take part in the democracy that makes our community and country a very special place.

He requested people to keep their masks on as required in this room. If you do not wish to wear a mask, there is a separate room provided for you.

I would like to thank all of you for your patience in what has been a very trying year. This meeting is typically held in early March but was delayed until now in accordance with Emergency Order 83 pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-04. This meeting is being held in the Mont Vernon Village School follows:

The deliberative session will occur in the multipurpose room (MPR) and all attendees in the MPR will be required to wear masks. Chairs will be placed 6 feet apart to maintain social

distancing. A separate room will be used to accommodate voters who choose not to wear masks and the meeting will be telecast to this room. Attendees in this room will have the ability to address the moderator and participate in votes. This meeting will also be broadcast via Zoom to allow remote viewing, however those watching on Zoom will NOT have the ability to participate in or vote on any amendments. All voters will of course be able to vote on the articles via paper ballot on June 8, 2021.

I call to order the 2020 Mont Vernon School District Deliberative Session which is governed by the “official ballot referendum system,” better known as “SB2” for the NH Senate bill that enacted this procedure.

As we begin, please rise for an invocation, and remain standing afterward.

We gather to make decisions for our community and schools. May we use only our best skills and judgment keeping ourselves impartial and neutral as we consider the merits and pitfalls of each matter that is placed before us and always act in accordance with what is best for our community and our fellow citizens. Thank you.

The Moderator introduced Mr. John Casey. Mr. Casey attended Mont Vernon schools from Kindergarten through 6th grade and will be graduating from Souhegan High School in June. After graduation, Mr. Casey will be entering the Army for the service of our country. Please rise if you are able and join in the Pledge of Allegiance led by John Casey.

This evening we are participating in the 2021 School District Deliberative Session. On Tuesday, June 8th, between 7:00AM and 7:00 p.m. again here at the Village School, all registered voters will be able to vote by paper ballot on the warrant, as we agree to its wording tonight. We will not be voting on any of the warrants tonight.

The Moderator asked for the attendees to please either mute or turn off or mute your mobile phones (except emergency services personnel). Relevant and important School Board and Budget Committee reports and other documents are published and available in your handouts.

The Moderator recognized Mont Vernon School Board Chair, Ms. Sarah Lawrence, noting that she was not attendance. MVSB Vice Chair, Mr. Peter Eckhoff is present as well as Mr. Stephen O’Keefe and Ms. Jessica Hinckley.

He noted that the School District Clerk, Ms. Autumn Grdina, is not in attendance, however, Ms. Sue Leger is acting in her place. Mont Vernon School District Treasurer, Ms. Lyn Jennings is also not in attendance.

He recognized SAU #39 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, SAU# 39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau, Business Administrator- Elect, Ms. Amy Facey, SAU #39 Director of Student Services, Ms. Meg Beauchamp, SAU #Facilities Director, Mr. Roger Preston, and Legal Counsel to the District, Mr. Steve Bennett and Ms. Abby Tucker.

The Mont Vernon Budget Committee included Chair, Ms. Karen Drum, Ms. Jess Goonan, Mr. Matt Dougherty, and Mr. Zach Gray. Mr. Peter Eckhoff was the School Board Representative and Ms. Kim Roberge is the Selectboard Rep. He thanked them for all of their work.

Our work tonight is to decide the wording, including dollar amounts where appropriate, of the article on which ALL registered voters will have an opportunity to vote during the June 8th election here at the Village School, where you will also be voting to elect candidates for important town and school positions.

As voters at today's Deliberative Session, under SB2 rules, you are able to do two things. First, explain, discuss and debate each warrant article. Second, take one of two courses of action on each warrant article. The first course of action is to maintain the original wording of the warrant article, in which case that wording is placed on the June 8 official ballot. No vote is required to maintain the original wording of the warrant article. The second course of action is to vote to amend the original wording of warrant article. If the amendment is approved, the amended warrant is placed on the June 8 Official Ballot. To amend, a motion made and seconded, with a favorable vote by a simple majority is required.

Finally, I am going to request a motion to restrict reconsideration after actions are complete for each article. If this is moved, seconded, and approved, the voters will not be able to revisit this Article during this meeting tonight.

I have provided you with a number of Moderator's Rules of Procedure to facilitate the orderly management of our meeting. These Rules are on a sheet of paper you received when coming into the meeting.

I would like to briefly review the 2021 Moderator's Rules of Order.

Special Rules of Order Pursuant to Emergency Order #83

1. These Special Rules of Order have been adopted by the Moderator to ensure public health and safety during the declared pandemic and apply only to the Mont Vernon School District 2021 Deliberative Session.
2. The Deliberative Session will be held with all participants social distancing and wearing proper face coverings throughout the meeting.
3. Any individual who wishes to participate but does not agree to wear a mask in the meeting room, will be directed to a separate room in the building reserved for non-mask wearing participants. The room will have a video feed of the meeting and an assistant moderator to manage voting by the registered voters in attendance.
4. The Deliberative Session is being broadcast via Zoom and the public is invited to observe the proceedings in real-time or via streaming/rebroadcast.
5. There are no provisions in the RSA's or the Governor's Executive Orders to allow remote voting, thus, only registered voters in attendance will be eligible to vote on the warrant articles.
6. Each speaker will state their name and address each time they visit the microphone and will be limited to three minutes. No individual will be allowed to speak a second time until all who wish to speak for the first time have spoken.
7. Each motion to amend will be voted on before another motion to amend will be entertained. The Moderator will not accept amendments to amendments.

The Moderator asked the public if there were any questions.

There were no questions or comments.

The Moderator asked Mr. Eckhoff if he had a list of the voters called on to speak.

He noted that there are School District employees and a member of legal counsel that are Mont Vernon residents. He asked Mr. Bennett if he would like to motion to allow District Employees to speak at this meeting.

Mr. Stephen Bennett, 76 Old Mont Vernon Road, motioned approve SAU #39 Employees that are Mont Vernon residents speak at the meeting. Mr. Stephen O’Keefe, 3 Chestnut Circle, seconded the motion.

A vote was taken by voters holding up their blue cards. The motion passed.

The Moderator introduced Warrant Article #1 Election of Officers

Article 1. Election of Officers (voting by official ballot June 8, 2021) To the following school district offices:

- a. To choose one (2) School Board member for the ensuing three (3) years;***
- b. To choose one (1) school district moderator for the ensuing one (1) year;***
- c. To choose one (1) school district clerk for the ensuing one (1) year; and,***
- d. To choose one (1) school district treasurer for the ensuing one (1) year.***

He noted that this warrant article cannot be changed by this meeting.

The Moderator introduced Warrant Article #2 Operating Budget

Article 2. Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling five million eight hundred twenty-seven thousand four hundred twenty-three {\$5,827,423} dollars? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be five million eight hundred twenty-two thousand five hundred one {\$5,822,501} dollars which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Mont Vernon School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40: 13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only? Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee (4-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$1.76 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: \$1.74 per thousand.

****NOTE: Warrant Article 2 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.***

The Moderator recognized Mont Vernon School Board Member, Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, to speak to this warrant article.

Mr. O'Keefe noted that the school board and the budget committee requested a lean budget with minimal increases due to the pandemic. I think that we successfully accomplished that, it is clearly represented in the unanimous support by the school board and the Budget Committee.

He reviewed the Executive Summary. The FY' 22 Default represents a 5.6% increase, which is \$310,359 more than FY' 21. The FY21 Proposed is a 5.7% increase, or \$315,281 over FY' 21. The difference between the default and the proposed is \$4,922 This does exclude Special Warrant Articles that they will review at the end.

He noted the appropriation comparison with the difference as the amount of \$315,281.

He displayed the budget as a graph clarifying that the default budget is \$5,822,501 with the FY' 22 proposed, \$5,827,423.

Mr. O'Keefe reviewed the default calculation categories of Tuition \$251,797, 4.5%, Special Education (other than out of district) \$58,021, 1.0%, NHRS Rate Increase \$55,504, 1.0%, SAU Apportionment \$15,580, 0.3%, Salaries Contractual Wages \$13,875, 0.3%, Transportation; Regular & Special Ed. \$6,937, 0.1%, and Food Service \$7,314, 0.1%. This would be removing, One-time Items -\$2,420, 0.0%, Other Employee Benefits -\$9,472, -0.2%, Health Insurance -\$13,338, -0.2%, Special Warrant Article -\$50,000, -0.9%, and Special Education Out of District Tuition -\$73,439 -1.3%. Subtotal Changes to Default \$260,359 or 4.7%.

Mr. O'Keefe explained that the Default Budget calculation is a legally defined calculation as identified in RSA 40:13 9 (b). The calculation takes last year's approved budget as a starting point. From there it removes any one-time expenditures, takes all contractual obligations into consideration, such as the staff and teachers' contracts, and any increases/decreases to debt services. The FY'22 Default Budget is \$5,822,501, with the proposed budget of \$5,827,423.

The next slide displays the budget composition. The largest percentage is salaries 33.9%, tuition to ASD 21.5%, benefits 17.4%, contracted services 9.6%, transportation 4.2%, other tuition 4.6%, other 5.7%, food service 1.6% and grants 1.5%.

There are no changes in the staffing levels and will be keeping 2 teachers in each one of their grade levels.

He reviewed the certified staffing and noted that there is a slight change in the food service.

Non- Certified Staffing Kitchen support staff is 5 hours a day. Kitchen Manager adjusted to 6.5 hrs./day; Kitchen support is 5 hrs./day

What is not in the proposed budget is grounds repair & maintenance. There are things that as a school board and a community we should think about going forward. The retaining wall by Basketball Court is estimated to cost \$20,000. They are exploring possible support from Town

trust funds, Skenderian #4 \$6,288 available - Improvement of Public Lands, Whipple-Shedd Trust \$1,850 available - Improvement of Village and Bancroft-Long \$6,288 available – Beautification. In building repairs and maintenance, they are looking to rebuild bathrooms across from the Library \$25,000 and remove and add glycol to closed loop system; add closed loop inhibitor \$13,500. In technology, server replacement, infrastructure server estimated to cost \$10,000.

Mr. O’Keefe noted that the Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee was appointed by the Mont Vernon School District Moderator, Mr. Peter King. It is the responsibility of the committee to review the proposed budget and provide a recommendation to the Mont Vernon School District. The committee is comprised of four members, Ms. Karen Drum, Chair, Ms. Jess Goonan, Mr. Matt Dougherty, and Mr. Zach Gray. Ms. Kim Roberge is the Selectboard Representative. The committee worked with Mr. Peter Eckhoff, Representative of the Mont Vernon School Board. The Budget Committee reviewed the initial proposed budget and made inquiries and recommendations.

The Moderator thanked the Budget Committee.

Mr. Stephen O’Keefe, 3 Chestnut Circle, moved that the proposed ballot question for warrant article #2 as printed in the Deliberative Session Information Packet along with the recommendations of the School Board and the Budget Committee if any, be placed on the ballot. Motion seconded by Mr. Peter Eckhoff, 30 Dow Road.

The Moderator asked for questions from the public.

Ms. Kim Roberge, 35 Salisbury Road, inquired about the 4.5% increase in tuition to the middle school. She asked if it was an increase in the number of students.

Mr. O’Keefe replied that it was due to enrollment but also possibly students that are in a remote modality in the middle school who previously were home schooled.

Ms. Roberge asked how many more students do they have going next year because the increase is \$251,797.

SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau, replied that there was a fairly significant increase in the number of students that would be tuitioned.

Ms. Roberge asked about the specific number of students that would be tuitioned or is it based on our previous agreement that Amherst School District did some improvements and Mont Vernon is responsible for that portion.

Mr. O’Keefe responded that it does not include capital projects. The current tuition agreement requires that the agreement be reset on a monthly basis in terms of the Cost Per Pupil calculation, and average daily attendance every single month that goes through. That is the number that we’re using with regards to the budget. The Tuition Agreement that we’re going to talk to in a couple of minutes is going to change some of that, hopefully for the better beginning in the following fiscal year.

Ms. Roberge noted that the calculation was not on a monthly basis before.

Ms. Roberge inquired about the Math Coach and Reading Interventionist positions long term.

Mr. O’Keefe replied that he can share his personal thoughts. There is work that they need to do in those two areas. First, their math numbers need a lot of help from last year to this year especially at our lower grade levels. Our reading numbers have also needed a bit of assistance. The Math Coach and Reading Interventionist positions are going to be vital to our recovery to those results on those two scores.

As we transition beyond those two years, that of course is something that the board is going to have to discuss at that time to figure out if it’s something that is still warranted and needed. Those two specialists are really good at getting into classrooms. This year we decided as a board not to hire additional staff as we moved into a remote and in-person modality, those two positions had to be forced into a teaching capacity in our remote world.

Ms. Roberge added that they are looking at class sizes of the highest of 16.5 and from that example, a 1 to 16 ratio even a 1 to 14 is beneficial for students.

The Board thanked Ms. Roberge for her feedback.

The Moderator asked for further comments or questions from the voters.

There was no further questions or comments.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article #2 on the Ballot as currently worded and thus, declared.

The Moderator took a motion to restrict reconsideration.

Mr. Stephen O’Keefe, 3 Chestnut Circle, Mont Vernon moved to restrict reconsideration. Motion was seconded by Ms. Jess Goonan, 58 Purgatory Rd 21, Mont Vernon. A vote was taken by voters holding up their cards. The motion passed; the article is restricted.

The Moderator introduced Warrant Article #3. MVEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Article 3. “Shall the Mont Vernon School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and MVEA (Mont Vernon Education Association) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Fiscal Year Estimated Increase

2022 \$67,328.00

2023 \$67,498.00

2024 \$74,167.00

2025 \$76,247.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 67,328.00 for the 2021-2022 year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels?” Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee (4-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.21 per thousand.

The Moderator recognized Mont Vernon School Board Vice Chair, Mr. Peter Eckhoff, to present this warrant article.

Mr. Eckhoff mentioned that this was his first time on the negotiation committee from the school board. It was a good experience for him, and he would say the same for Chair, Ms. Sarah Lawrence. They had good dialogue in the three or four zoom sessions. They came to us with concerns that they had regarding salary structures. They came up with a plan to address those needs. They feel very comfortable with the staff that they have. They addressed the salary situation to get them closer to surrounding communities and feel good about the end result. They are happy with the 4-year contract and the estimated increases for the various steps and salaries that the teachers are going to receive.

The Moderator asked for questions or comments from the public.

Ms. Eileen Naber, 14 Beech Hill Rd., Mont Vernon, NH, questioned the difference between the step and a rate increase.

Superintendent Steel explained that steps are based on experience and raises are what everyone receives as a part of their salary. They have a table that lists by step and steps go by experience. A raise is what is added to the entire salary table for that particular year. It could be that a teacher gets a step and in addition to a step that salary is also increased for that particular school year. More than half of their teachers in Mont Vernon are at that spot where they are no longer receiving step increases only what every raise is appropriated to the salary table.

Ms. Roberge asked about the Cost of Living Increase.

Mr. Steel replied that for each of the 4 years it is exactly the same increase to the salary table. It is a half a percentage point increase to the entire salary table each year for 4 years however, there is something else that is going on in this contract that's somewhat unique. When we studied the surrounding school districts compared to Mont Vernon salaries, we saw that our starting teacher's salary was very competitive as well as the middle of the salary table. It was really the top of the salary table for their most experienced teachers that was not competitive.

There are several ways to address that, what they did not want to do was to make the last step a significantly higher raise than everybody else in the salary table because that's a huge increase when someone gets to that top step. Starting with step 6 of the 15-step salary table there is an

additional amount in addition to the half percentage point salary increase that's added starting with an extra 0.2% and going to the top step an additional 2%. The top step of the salary table gets 2.5% increase every year for 4 years. The second to last step gets a 2.3% increase for each of the 4 years all the way down to step 6 that receives a 0.7% increase. Below step 6 those teachers get a 0.5% COLA increase each of the 4 years. All 4 years are the same there is no change to the benefits, primarily the health insurance and dental insurance that is in the existing contract. It is the most taxpayer friendly split.

Ms. Naber noted the differences in the step schedules between Amherst, Milford and Mont Vernon. It is obvious that the contract favored the teachers with 6 or more years of teaching experience. This contract is unfair to those with the least experience; therefore, they should vote no on June 8th and ask for renegotiation.

The Moderator asked for further questions or comments.

There were no additional comments or questions.

Mr. Peter Eckhoff, 30 Dow Road, moved that the proposed ballot question for warrant article #3 as printed in the Deliberative Session Information Packet along with the recommendations of the School Board and the Budget Committee if any, be placed on the ballot. Motion seconded by Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, 3 Chestnut Circle.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article #3 on the Ballot as currently worded and thus, declared.

Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, 3 Chestnut Circle, moved to restrict reconsideration. Motion was seconded by Mr. Peter Eckhoff, 30 Dow Road. A vote was taken by voters holding up their cards. The motion passed; the article is restricted.

The Moderator introduced Warrant Article #4 Tuition Agreement- Amherst School District.

Article 4. Shall the School District approve a new five (5) year tuition agreement with the Amherst School District to allow for continued education of Mont Vernon students at the Amherst Middle School beginning July 1, 2021 in accordance with the proposed Tuition Agreement on file with the School District Clerk?

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee (4-0)

Note: This is a non-monetary warrant article.

The Moderator recognized Mr. Stephen O'Keefe to present this warrant article.

Mr. O'Keefe noted that he and Chairwoman Lawrence met with their counterparts in the Amherst School District to renegotiate what they believe is a very fair contract to the taxpayers of the Town of Mont Vernon. First, the current tuition agreement was a 10-year agreement that basically created a calculation that was a modified cost per pupil calculation that was calculated five times a year based on average daily attendance. That created a lot of budgeting woes and an

inability to properly budget in between now and the end of the year what the actual tuition costs will be. This could set them up for a situation where we may have a deficit spending situation. There is no better year to adjust this than the 2020-2021 calendar year where we saw an influx of students that were tuitioned into Amherst and almost caused them to have a deficit this calendar year. One of the things in the front of their minds is how do we create more consistency and structure to that number so that throughout the budget of the year we can make modifications between now and the end of the year based on one calculation.

He reviewed the current contract. A 10-year contract, current calculation is a modified cost per pupil, ADM is calculated 5 times per year and does not allow for accurate budgeting for either party. Under the new agreement, it allows for a 5 year contract with the option for a 5-year extension, tuition calculation is an average of the last 2 years CPP as reported to the DOE, has a 5.6% increase cap in any given year, uses the Oct 1 enrollment and provides phase out plan if MV does not extend contract.

Mr. O'Keefe noted the 4 qualitative issues that are important First, The Amherst Middle School will establish a program to provide for a meaningful one to one social emotional based conversation that will occur with each incoming grade seven (7) Mont Vernon student. These documented conversations will occur during the month of September. The Amherst Middle School Administration shall provide the Mont Vernon School Board with a detailed written report, describing feedback pertaining to the transition process. This report shall be delivered to the Mont Vernon School Board no later than its annual November School Board Meeting.

Second, creating synergy between their 6th grade educational experience and Amherst's 6th grade educational experience by mandating 2 curriculum assignments and have them cohesively coordinated between the two districts either by Zoom or in person. Third, they want to make sure that their 6th grade teachers receive the same Professional Development as Amherst's so that their curriculum is on the same exact pace. Lastly, testing being reported back to the MVSb so that they are making sure that there are no gaps that are identified.

We do believe that it is in the best interest of the community from a financial standpoint and educational standpoint.

The Moderator asked for questions or comments.

Ms. Naber inquired about the tuition for students that were previously tuitioned in from the Amherst School District.

Mr. O'Keefe replied that they have 3 students that are continuing with them and they are receiving a tuition reimbursement from the Amherst School District.

Ms. Roberge noted her concern with the 5-year contract and inquired if it will be coming back to the voters. She believes that allowing the board to opt in after the time period is risky to taxpayers.

Mr. O'Keefe responded that this is a new way of calculating their tuition. He reassured Ms. Roberge that the Board will be extremely transparent.

Ms. Roberge mentioned that the board should discuss this in the future at a Public Hearing, not a regular board meeting.

Ms. Naber inquired how do Amherst's capital costs figure into their tuition agreement.

Mr. O'Keefe replied that it is structured inside the plan. They did not change the language in those line items in the new agreements.

The Moderator asked for clarification on Ms. Roberge's question. He asked if they would renegotiate without voter approval or do you have an agreement in place that you can extend based on the agreement, they enter this year

Mr. O'Keefe clarified that the contract that will expire at the end of the fifth year. If nothing gets done by either board, we need to enter into negotiations. If each board decides that negotiations are not necessary, then they will hold a public hearing for feedback if that is the most appropriate approach. There will be a mutual option to extend the agreement for an additional five (5) years whereby the extension term expires June 30, 2031.

The Moderator asked for additional questions or comments.

There were no further questions or comments.

Mr. Peter Eckhoff, 30 Dow Road, moved that the proposed ballot question for warrant article #4 as printed in the Deliberative Session Information Packet along with the recommendations of the School Board and the Budget Committee if any, be placed on the ballot. Motion seconded by Ms. Jess Hinckley,

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article #4 on the Ballot as currently worded and thus, declared.

Mr. O'Keefe noted that legal counsel stated that this warrant article has to come back to the voters for a 5-year extension.

Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, 3 Chestnut Circle, Mont Vernon moved to restrict reconsideration. Motion was seconded by Ms. Jess Hinckley, . A vote was taken by voters holding up their cards. The motion passed; the article is restricted.

The Moderator introduced warrant article #5 Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund Contribution

Article 5. Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established in March 2007 with said sum to come from the year-end unassigned fund balance (surplus) if available on June 30, 2021? Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee (4-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.16 per thousand.

The Moderator recognized Mr. O'Keefe to speak to this article.

Mr. O'Keefe noted that this is something that the board has brought to the community each year since I've been a member of the board. It's an opportunity for us to put money on the side to take care of those capital costs and take care of this great building. I can share with you from an infrastructure and maintenance standpoint that this is the best building in the entire district. This is a part of the ongoing commitment to make sure that as an issue arises that they address it immediately. This particular capital reserve position allows us to go ahead and do that.

This particular year our outstanding buildings and grounds staff have negotiated a conversation with a roofer to replace the roof here this coming summer. In addition to that trying to replace the HVAC equipment in that it is aging and almost end of life. Replacing those two big issues are going to completely wipe out their capital reserve fund that is on file. This \$50k contribution is going to not only allow us to finish up those two projects but start saving for the next steps. We have a playground that is becoming quite old and the Retaining Wall that they are seeking funds from the Trustees of the Trust Funds. If that is denied, they can still find funding. In addition to that they are going to start talking about replacing chairs in large quantities, replacing ceiling tiles and lighting. We have done a great job keeping up with the infrastructure here and want to continue that outstanding approach.

Mr. Peter Eckhoff, 30 Dow Road, moved that the proposed ballot question for warrant article #5 as printed in the Deliberative Session Information Packet along with the recommendations of the School Board and the Budget Committee if any, be placed on the ballot. Motion seconded by Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, 3 Chestnut Circle.

The Moderator instructed the Clerk to place Warrant Article #5 on the Ballot as currently worded and thus, declared.

Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, 3 Chestnut Circle, Mont Vernon moved to restrict reconsideration. Motion was seconded by Ms. Jess Hinckley, . A vote was taken by voters holding up their cards. The motion passed; the article is restricted.

The Moderator asked for any other business.

Mr. O'Keefe noted that they did receive a resignation from School Board Member, Mr. Scott St. Denis. It is a great way to give back to the community. Thank you to Mr. St. Denis for his time and work. He encouraged interested community members to apply

Additionally, long time employee, Ms. Charlotte Jameson, is retiring as of June 30th. They thank her for her service.

The Moderator noted that the board is asking for interest in the position in the school board.

Ms. Naber the asked about the time remaining on Mr. St Denis's term on the school board.

The Moderator replied that it starts immediately until March 2022.

The Moderator commented for me to hear that this is the best maintained building in the district is awesome. Years ago, when I was really involved, 2003 was not a good year. They closed the school for two weeks because the roof was leaking in every single classroom, with leaking walls and broken pipes. They covered the entire roof with blue tarp. The board at that time made a commitment to this building. Shortly after, they started an expendable trust fund. Thank you to the Board and the Administration

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 8:15PM.

Student

M. Hochberg	ok	Absent 0 days
G. Hudson	ok	Absent .5 days (PM)on 6/7/2021
R. Loi	ok	Absent 5/6/2021 and 6/7
J. Tower	ok	Absent 0 days