

**North Branch Fire District #1
78 Dorr Fitch Road
West Dover, VT. 05356**

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**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the North Branch Fire District #1, Annual Meeting, March 28, 2017.

This Meeting, having been duly warned, was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Moderator, Sarah Shippee.

Members Present: Thomas Ferrazza, Hobie Terhune, Cyndee Frere, Edward Barber and Daniel Facilla.

Also Present Representing the Fire District: Edward Floyd, Rebecca Snow, Bart Howes, Sarah Shippee and Linda Holland.

Public Present: Patricia Westlake, Mary Beth McGovern, Marcia Brodherson, Brendan Ryan, Bruce Wyman, Randall Johnson and Laurie Newton.

Article 1. Shall general obligation bonds of North Branch Fire District No. 1 in an amount not to exceed Four Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,700,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal Construction grant-in-aid and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of constructing wastewater treatment facility upgrades, additions and betterments, such improvements estimated to cost Four Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,700,000)?

Article 2. To elect three Members to the Prudential Committee and two Officers as follows:

1. One Prudential Committee Member for a one year term.
2. One Prudential Committee Member for a two year term.
3. One Prudential Committee Member for a three year term.
4. One Moderator for a one year term.
5. One Clerk for a one year term.

Voting for article 1 and 2, above, will be by Australian Ballot between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Article 3. Laurie Newton moved to see if the Fire District will accept the Annual Report. Seconded by Patricia Westlake. Motion carries in the affirmative.

Article 4. Randall Johnson moved to see if the Fire District will vote to collect taxes by the Treasurer pursuant to Title 32, V.S.A., Section 4791. Seconded by Thomas Ferrazza. Motion carries in the affirmative.

Article 5. Cyndee Frere moved to see if the Fire District will vote to collect \$150,000.00 from the “users” for Capital Funding. Seconded by Randall Johnson. Daniel Facilla moved to amend the motion to \$200,000.00. Seconded by Thomas Ferrazza. Laurie Newton asked why the article was warned at \$150,000.00. Facilla explained that the Committee did not have these numbers in front of them when the Articles were approved. Bruce Wyman asked what the extra \$50,000.00 was earmarked for. The additional \$50,000.00 is basically a need for Capital. Daniel Facilla gave a brief explanation “stating that in the past we have always taken the opportunity to increase this particular line item. In the past, for instance after a tax sale, if we brought in \$50,000.00 or \$60,000.00 from a tax sale rather than lowering the total raise and appropriate we increased the Capital Funding by that amount. Why am I making this suggestion now? This year, I believe, has been a particularly good year. If you look at our potential Capital needs, this sheet indicates the replacement items that we will need after the bond goes through. If the bond does not go through than this list becomes direr. This is the list of replacement items that we will need down the road.” Sarah Shippee read the article as amended “to see if the Fire District will vote to collect \$200,000.00 from the “users” for Capital Funding.” Motion carries in the affirmative. The main motion now becomes “to see if the Fire District will vote to collect \$200,000.00 from the “users” for Capital Funding. Motion carries in the affirmative.

Article 6. Bruce Wyman moved to see if the Fire District will vote to expend \$946,626.00 for Operations. Seconded by Randall Johnson. Daniel Facilla moved to amend the motion to expend \$996,626.00. Seconded by Randall Johnson. The vote to amend the article passed in the affirmative. The main motion now reads “to see if the Fire District will vote to expend \$996,626.00. The motion carried in the affirmative.

Article 7. Randall Johnson moved to see if the Fire District will vote to Raise and Appropriate \$824,114.37 for Operations. Seconded by Thomas Ferrazza. Facilla moved to amend the motion to \$874,114.37. Seconded by Cyndee Frere. Sarah Shippee asked for a vote on the amendment. The amendment now reads to see if the Fire District will vote to Raise and Appropriate \$874,114.37 for operations. Motion carries. Shippee asked for a vote on the main motion, to see if the Fire District will vote to Raise and Appropriate \$874,114.37 for Operations. Motion carries.

Article 8. Laurie Newton moved to see if the Fire District will vote to expend \$191,800.00 for Capital improvements. Seconded by Daniel Facilla. Motion carries in the affirmative.

Article 9. Bruce Wyman moved to amend Article 9 to and keep the Committee Members at \$65.00 per meeting and the Officers at the current minimum wage in the month the funds are earned. Seconded by Daniel Facilla. Randall Johnson asked who the other

Officers are. Linda Holland responded the Board of Abatement, the Moderator and the Clerk. Sarah Shippee called for the vote on Article 9. Motion carries in the affirmative.

Article 10. Randall Johnson moved to see if the Fire District will authorize the Prudential Committee to borrow in anticipation of taxes. Seconded by Thomas Ferrazza. Motion carries in the affirmative.

Article 11. Cyndee Frere moved to see if the Fire District will vote to reimburse projects on the Priority List the ten percent (10%) and forty percent (40%) hookup charges contrary to Article VIII, 5(b) page 19 of the Sewer Ordinance. Second by Thomas Ferrazza. Motion carries in the affirmative.

Article 12. Rebecca Snow moved to see if the Fire District will vote to exempt Twice Blessed, Inc. a 501(c)(3) from taxes for the coming year. Seconded by Thomas Ferrazza. Motion carries in the affirmative.

Article 13. Randall Johnson moved to see if the Fire District will vote to exempt the Dover Town Offices, The West Dover Fire Department, The Dover Police Department, The Dover Elementary School, Dover Historical Society and the West Dover Church from taxes for the coming year. Seconded by Ferrazza. Bruce Wyman asked what does this amount too approximately. Brendan Ryan asked if the fees for the above buildings are being absorbed by the other rate payers. Bart Howes stated that “yes” it would be paid by other rate payers. Bruce Wyman asked if all these building are metered. Holland stated that some were metered. Bruce Wyman feels that all municipal facilities should be shared through the Town as a whole. All taxpayers should be paying for the School and other municipal buildings, not just the individual rate payers. Bruce Wyman moved to amend Article 13 to read to see if the Fire District will vote to exempt the Dover Historical Society and the West Dover Church from taxes for the coming year and that the Dover Town Offices, The West Dover Fire Department, The Dover Police Department and the Dover Elementary School be included in the normal billing process. Seconded by Thomas Ferrazza. Bart Howes asked if this could be held off for one year to give the Town and School the opportunity to come up with the funds. There budgeting process has been completed and voted on. Bruce Wyman I believe that the Town officials have the ability to use discretionary funds to cover these costs and if we follow the usage at the theater, as stated by Daniel Facilla, it should not be a huge amount. The amendment passes in the affirmative. The main motion now is to see if the Fire District will vote to exempt the Dover Historical Society and the West Dover Church from taxes for the coming year and not to exempt the Dover Town Offices, The West Dover Fire Department, The Dover Police Department, and The Dover Elementary School. Motion carries in the affirmative.

Article 14. To transact any other business that may legally come before this Meeting. Thomas Ferrazza told the public that he has just found out that we are able to discuss anything listed on an Australian Ballot. This ruling just came into effect at this year’s town meeting, stated Sarah Shippee. Sarah Shippee asked if anyone had anything they wanted to know about Article 1. No one responded.

Bruce Wyman moved to adjourn at 10:52 a.m. Seconded by Thomas Ferrazza. Meeting closed.

Polls closed at 7:00 p.m. with the following results:
Of 749 voters, 71 ballots were cast.

Prudential Committee for one year.....	Karl Braunback	55 votes
Prudential Committee for two years.....	Edward Barber.....	46 votes
Prudential Committee for three years.....	Brendan Ryan.....	41 votes
Clerk for one year.....	Catherine Kaufmann.....	63 votes
Moderator for one year.....	Sarah Shippee.....	68 votes

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda L. Holland,
Administrative Manager
Asst. Clerk

cc: H. Terhune, D. Facilla, E. Barber, E. Floyd, T. Ferrazza, Cyndee Frere, Bart Howes, Ed Floyd, Joe Mahon, Amiee Pritcher, Arlene Palmiter, Donald Albano, Linda Anelli, Adam Levine, Jeannie Flanagan, Leslie Fraser, Ashleigh Perkins, Laurie Newton, Robert Rubin, Ray Reed, John Densmore, Cliff Turpin, Rolf Parker-Houghton, G. Golet, S. Mac Dougall, L. Harkawik, R. William, Deerfield Valley News and the Brattleboro Reformer.

Posted: North Branch Fire District #1, Wastewater Treatment Facility & Administrations Building. Dover Town Office.