

The REPORTER

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Voters pass \$22.7 million OVUU budget in a revote, 420-359

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — In a reversal from a Town Meeting vote that saw the OVUU budget go down to defeat, 522-462, district voters on Tuesday turned out in support of the \$22.7 million budget, 420-359.

Voter turnout, said Brandon Town Clerk Sue Gage who tallied the district vote, was lower than the Town Meeting vote by about 200 votes, which, Gage said, was low but not surprising for a second vote

in the spring.

The budget calls for a spending increase of 7.8%, even as district school taxes dropped five cents to levels of five years ago and school tax rates in most district towns were projected to go down, except for an increase in Whiting and level taxes in Leicester.

Driving cost increases for the budget was a three-year teacher contract in which teacher salaries are to increase 7 percent in the first

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—Jeanne Collins RNESU Supt.



year of the contract and by 3% the following two years.

Passage of the budget is a huge relief for district administrators and faculty, who can now forge ahead with planning for next year's curriculum and school activities.

"We're very grateful and appreciative to the voters who went out on a rainy, gray day in late April to support the school and teachers," Superintendent Jeanné Collins said in a phone interview after the vote.

"It means that we can go into planning for next year with confidence and not cut more programs. We are in the hiring season, and this investment in the school allows us to get quality educators and staff."

"The budget," Collins added, "is a reflection of the values of the board, the community and student needs. After two years of learning under COVID, there are more needs than ever. This budget goes a long way to meet those needs."

Q & A with Pittsford's Town Manager John Haverstock

BY ANGELO LYNN

PITTSFORD — Almost 20 years ago, in 2003, Pittsford Town Manager John Haverstock bought land in town and would soon have a log cabin built on that property. An attorney in Connecticut at the time, he used the property as a weekend and vacation getaway, and enjoyed it so much that he would move here full-time in 2008

when he took the job as town manager.

Haverstock had grown up in Arlington, Va., just outside Washington, D.C., attended Wakefield High School in Alexandria and went on to get his bachelors from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville in 1984, and his law degree from there in 1987. He practiced

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Proctor select board get's tough on delinquent water accounts

BY ANGELO LYNN

PROCTOR — Delinquent water bills was a big topic of discussion at the Proctor select-board meeting Monday night, as the selectboard and Town Manager Michael Ramsey reviewed the page and a half list of accounts due and what process should be followed to collect before shutting off the wa-

ter to past-due accounts.

The selectboard said they started the process several years ago — "two town managers and also our second town attorney ago," said Selectman Bruce Baccei — and, while they had whittled the list down from four pages to less than two full pages, it was still a

(See Proctor water, Page 3)



Technicolor Spring

ORANGE TURKEY TAILS bloom on forest floors.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

In Brandon

Energy dominates select board agenda; EV or gas-powered cruisers?

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — A lengthy discussion on how Brandon should be

became fraught with overtones of not funding the police department at a satisfactory level. While some

by a board request two weeks ago asking the town's Energy Committee to draw an apples-to-apples

Ford 150 pickup, two Ford Explorers, two Ford Tauruses, and two Dodge Chargers (one of which is in

ficers and the chief are able to provide 20 hour coverage seven days a week, with four hours of on-call