

Special Town Meeting

Saturday, August 28, 2010

The Bristol Board of Selectmen will conduct a Special Town Meeting on Saturday, August 28, 2010 at 1PM in the auditorium of the Newfound Regional High School. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a warrant article to raise and appropriate the funds necessary for the proposed Sewer to Lake Project.

Members of the Sewer to Lake Committee and representatives from the engineering firm of Wright-Pierce will join the Board at the meeting to explain the project. Discussion of the warrant article will follow under traditional Town Meeting rules. Polls will remain open for one hour to allow registered voters to cast a paper ballot on the warrant. A 2/3 majority vote will be required for the warrant article to pass.

The Board has been actively pursuing grant funding for this 28 million dollar project. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is one of the funding agencies the Board has been working with. The USDA has, as one of its potential funding sources, money from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA). One of the requirements to obtain funding from USDA is to receive a favorable Town Meeting vote on the project. Under normal circumstance we would have to wait until next March for our regular Town Meeting or petition the Superior Court to conduct a Special Town Meeting in order to get a vote on this project.

In late July, Governor Lynch signed Senate Bill 128 (SB128), which contains a provision to allow Towns to hold a Special Town Meeting, "without court approval to consider an appropriate response to the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 or any similar act adopted by Congress in 2010 or 2011". With the current ARRA funding program open until the end of September, there is only a short period of time in which we can conduct the meeting if we are to try to secure ARRA funding through USDA for this project. If we are not successful in receiving any ARRA funding, another Town Meeting vote would be necessary, most likely in March of 2011, which would further delay the project.

The Board of Selectmen has called this meeting in an effort to leverage the opportunity afforded by SB128 with the potential availability of ARRA funds. Please take the time to attend the special meeting to discuss and vote on this important project.

Thank you

The Bristol Board of Selectmen