

MINUTES
of the Annual Town Meeting
for the Town of Wolcott, Vermont
March 3, 2015

The legal voters of the Town of Wolcott, Vermont are hereby warned to meet at the Wolcott Elementary School in said Town on March 3, 2015 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to act upon any of the following articles of business:

Town Moderator, Cornelius Reed Jr., opened the meeting at nine o'clock in the forenoon with a pledge of allegiance. He made some announcements.

Annual Town Meeting

Article 1. To elect a moderator to govern Town Meeting and for the year ensuing.

Robert Harris nominated Joe Hester-Ingram. William Cotton seconded the nomination. Joseph Clark nominated Cornelius Reed. James Clark, Sr. seconded the nomination.

Paper Ballot = 54 ballots cast – 28 to win.

Cornelius Reed – 22

Joe Hester-Ingram – 32

Joe Hester-Ingram elected moderator for one year.

Joe took over Moderating the Town Meeting.

Article 2. To receive and act upon the various reports of the Town officials.

Belinda Clegg motioned to accept the article. Pam Peck seconded the motion.

Belinda thanked the Town Report Committee, Linda Reeve, Jan Roy, Bessie Martin and David Budbill for all their hard work. This was the first year a committee put the town report together.

Peter Burgess called the question. Voice vote - passed.

Article 2 passed on a voice vote.

Article 3. To elect the following Town officers as required by law:

Selectboard – three year term

Bessie Martin nominated Belinda Clegg. Pam Peck seconded the nomination

Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease.

Voice vote – passed.

The Clerk was instructed to cast one vote for Belinda Clegg.

Belinda Clegg elected to the Selectboard for a term of three years.

Selectboard – two year term

Harvey Reed nominated Jeff Wright. Pam Peck seconded the nomination.

Jeff Wright nominated Eric Furs. Amy Davidson seconded the nomination.

Peter Burgess called for nominations to cease. Jeff Wright withdrew his name for nomination. Voice Vote -passed.

The Clerk was instructed to cast one vote for Eric Furs.

Eric Furs elected to the Selectboard for a term of two years.

Lister – three year term

Belinda Clegg nominated Tom Martin. Pam Peck seconded the nomination

David Buddbill called for nominations to cease.

Voice Vote -passed.

The Clerk was instructed to cast one vote for Tom Martin.

Tom Martin elected to be a Lister for a term of two years.

Town Agent to Deed Real Estate – one year term

Belinda Clegg nominated Dan Noyes. Pam Peck seconded the nomination

Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease.

Voice Vote -passed.

Dan Noyes elected to be Town Agent to Deed Real estate for a term of one year.

Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits – one year term

Belinda Clegg nominated Dan Noyes. Harvey Reed seconded the nomination

Belinda Clegg called for nominations to cease.

Voice Vote -passed.

Dan Noyes elected to be Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits for a term of one year.

Library Trustee – five year term

Ryan Bjerke nominated Ruth Ann Demag. Koni Stoddard seconded the nomination

Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease.

Voice Vote -passed.

Ruth Ann Demag elected to be a Library Trustee for a term of five years.

Cemetery Commissioner – five year term

Lucien Gravel nominated Cornelius Reed. Pat Harvey seconded the nomination

Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease.

Voice Vote -passed.

Cornelius Reed elected to be a Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years.

Grand Juror – one year term

Belinda Clegg nominated John Randal Pratt. Pam Peck seconded the nomination

Peter Burgess called for nominations to cease.

Voice Vote -passed.

John Randall Pratt elected to be Grand Juror for a term of one year.

Article 4. Shall the Town publish a list of delinquent taxpayers as of December 31st and a list of any other delinquent accounts due the Town in the town report?

Jeff Wright made the motion to accept the article as read. Linda Reeve seconded the motion. Discussion. Harvey Reed made the motion to call the question. Article 4 passed on a voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the voters appropriate \$194,720.35 (2% increase from 2013-2014) to the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department to pay for road patrol?

Peter Burgess made the motion to accept the article as read. Jeff Wright seconded the motion. Bessie Martin discussed the Selectboard position and support of the Sheriff's Department. There was a show of 7 hands to allow Eben Merrill and Kevin LaPlant from the Sheriff's Department to speak and answer questions. Discussion. Joe & James Clark expressed concerns about Town Hill Road and speeding. So did Adam Berg. Don Lowell had concerns about accidents and the Fire Departments involvement. Maxfield English asked if monthly reports could be put on the Town Website. Ryan Bjerke asked about staffing. Robert Harris asked about ticketing cell phone drivers. Linda Reeve asked how many vehicles the department had. Lorraine Sweetser expressed concern about VT Rte 15. Bill Cotten thanked them for all they do, much more than just road patrol. Officers explained about their new program called directed patrols and said that all residents can call them with all sorts of requests. Peter Burgess made the motion to call the question. Article 5 passed on a voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the voters appropriate \$39,019.48 (2% increase from 2013-2014) to the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department to pay for dispatch?

Belinda Clegg made the motion to accept the article as read. Bernard Earle seconded the motion. Article 6 passed on a voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to convey, without consideration, the 'school street water system', consisting of a spring or springs, pipes, pipelines, and all supporting infrastructure and described in part in the Quitclaim Deed of the Wolcott Town School District dated March 27, 2007 and recorded in Book 88, Page 459, together with the amount of \$500 to establish an operating fund?

Belinda Clegg made the motion to accept the article as read. Bessie Martin seconded the motion. Belinda explained the article and how the Selectboard wanted to give it to the users on the system. Peter Burgess made the motion to call the question. Voice vote-failed. More discussion followed. Jeff Wright called the question. Article 7 passed on a voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the voters appropriate \$20,763.00 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 2691?

- \$1,200 - Central VT Adult Basic Education
- 400 - Central VT Community Action Council, Inc
- 1,500 - Central VT Council on Aging
- 500 - Hardwick Area Community Action, Inc
- 4,872 - Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad
- 400 - Home Share Now
- 500 - Justice for Dogs
- 500 - Lamoille Community Food Share
- 1,031 - Lamoille County Planning Commission
- 1,082 - Lamoille County Special Investigations Unit
- 750 - Lamoille Economic Development Corp
- 500 - Lamoille Family Center
- 5,028 - Lamoille Home Health & Hospice
- 1,000 - Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County
- 100 - Prevent Child Abuse of Vermont
- 200 - Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
- 1,000 - Rural Community Transportation, Inc

Peter Burgess made the motion to accept the article as read. Bessie Martin seconded the motion. Article 8 passed on a voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the voters authorize payment of real property taxes to the Town Treasurer in two equal installments; with delinquent taxes having charged against them three percent (3%) penalty 1-5 days late, five percent (5%) penalty 5-10 days late, eight percent (8%) penalty after 10 days late and collect interest on late and

delinquent payments of one (1%) percent per month for the first three months and one and half (1 ½%) thereafter (32 VSA 4873 & 5136 (a) ?
First installment to be paid on or before November 17, 2015
Second installment to be paid on or before May 17, 2016
(32 VSA 4871)

Cornelius Reed made the motion to accept the article as read. Pam Peck seconded the motion. Article 9 passed on a voice vote.

Article 10. Shall the voters authorize total general fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,246,837 of which \$963,132 shall be raised in taxes and \$283,705 by non-tax revenues?

Belinda Clegg made the motion to accept the article as read. Todd Harris seconded the motion. Jeff Wright gave a summary of the budget and an overview of the increases with the overall budget down 3%. Belinda Clegg called the question. Article 10 passed on a voice vote.

Article 11. To transact any other non-binding business.

Belinda Clegg, Selectboard Chair, thanked Jeff Wright for his years of service to the board. She pointed out that there was a survey at the back of the room the Selectboard had prepared to give the voters an opportunity to express their opinions on a number of issues. Bill Cotten would like the board to look into the need for an Administrative Assistant to help with the administration of a growing town. Amy Coolbeth talked about the Envisioning Wolcott project. Pam Hammel talked about the Lamoille County Food Share green bags that were available at the Town Offices and Library. Tricia Follert and Bessie Martin also support the Re-Envisioning project. Lee Ann Lee gave an update on Selectboard member Richard Lee's hip operation.

Article 12. Motion to Adjourn

Harvey Reed made the motion to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. Pam Peck seconded the motion.

ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

Meeting opened at 11:38 a.m. by School Board chair Christine Languerand.

Article 1. To elect a moderator to govern Town School District Meeting for the year ensuing.

Judy Ward nominated Joe Hester-Ingram. Jan Roy seconded the nomination. Belinda Clegg called for nominations to cease. Voice vote - passed.

Joe Hester-Ingram elected to be a Moderator for a term of one year.

Article 2. To elect a School Director for a term of two years.

Belinda Clegg nominated Catherine Wilson. Jan Roy seconded the nomination. Lucien Gravel nominated Jen Olson. Christine Languerand seconded the nomination. Division of the house called for rather than a paper ballot

.
Catherine Wilson 28
Jen Olson 8

.
Catherine Wilson elected to be a School Director for a term of two years.

Article 3. To elect a School Director for a term of three years.

Belinda Clegg nominated Pam Peck. Pam Hammel seconded the nomination.
Voice vote - passed.

Pam Peck elected to be a School Director for a term of three years.

Article 4. To elect a School Director for one year remaining on a three-year term.

Pam Hammel nominated Justin Bryne. Lucien Gravel seconded the nomination.

Harvey Reed motioned to cease nominations.
Voice vote - passed

Article 5. To receive and act upon the various reports of the Town School District Officials.

Belinda Clegg motioned to approve the article. Jan Roy seconded the motion. Article 5 passed on a voice vote.

Article 6. To see if the Town School District will authorize the School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and state revenues.

Bill Cotten motioned to approve the article. Pam Peck seconded the motion. Article 6 passed on a voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the Town School District approve the proposed budget of \$4,880,730.00 which contains the necessary amounts to defray Town School District expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015.

Voting on the aforementioned Article 7 will be by Australian ballot at the Wolcott Town School on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. at which time the polls will open and 7:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close.

Joe Ingram, Moderator explained that the voters could ask questions about the proposed budget and tax rate but no motion could be made from the floor to change the budget. Discussion followed about the February budget public meeting that was held. Voters felt that it should have been noticed in the town report and put on the radio. Voters did not receive enough notice and it was scheduled too late in the evening.

Australian ballot results: 172 votes cast - 86 + 1 = 87 to passed.

Yes - 93 votes

No - 79 votes

Article 8. To see if the Town School District will authorize the School Directors to transfer half of any unobligated year end fund balance as of June 30, 2015 to the reserve fund established pursuant to Title 24, Section 2804 to be used for unbudgeted secondary tuition expenditures.

Linda Reeve motioned to approve the article. Pam Peck seconded the motion.

Article 8. passed on a voice vote.

Article 9. To see if the Town School District will authorize the School Directors to transfer half of any unobligated year end fund balance as of June 30, 2015 to the reserve fund established pursuant to Title 24, Section 2804 to be used for building maintenance and repairs.

Belinda Clegg motioned to approve the article. Linda Reeve seconded the motion. Article 9

passed on a voice vote.

Article 10. To transact any other proper business.

Belinda Clegg motioned to adjourn. Pam Hammel seconded the motion. The School District Meeting adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Martin, Town Clerk

Minutes Attested By: