

MINUTES
of the Annual Town Meeting
for the Town of Wolcott, Vermont
March 6, 2018

The legal voters of the Town of Wolcott, Vermont are hereby warned to meet at the Wolcott Elementary School in said Town on March 6, 2018 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to act upon any of the following articles of business:

Town Moderator, Joe Hester-Ingram, made a number of announcements.

Boy Scout Troop #827 presented the colors and pledge of allegiance.

Senator John Rogers spoke for a few minutes. Representative Matthew Hill and Dan Noyes were also in attendance.

Joe then called the meeting to order at 9:11 am.

Harvey Reed motioned to waive the reading of the Town Warning. Cornelius Reed seconded the motion. Motion passed. Harvey Reed called the question and Cornelius Reed seconded the motion. Oral vote - passed.

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

Cornelius Reed nominated Joe Hester-Ingram. Pam Peck seconded the nomination. Belinda called to cease nominations. Pam Peck seconded the motion. Voice vote – passed.

Joe Hester-Ingram elected moderator.

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

William Cotten moved the question. Peter Burgess seconded the motion.

Barbara Von Schlegell thanked Belinda for all the work on the town report which was dedicated to her Auntie MJ Dexter. Harvey Reed called the question. Cornelius Reed seconded the motion. Article 2 passed on a voice vote.

Article 2 passed on a voice vote.

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

Selectboard – three year term

Michael Davidson nominated Kim Gravel. Harvey Reed seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Cornelius Reed seconded the nomination. Voice vote – passed.

The Clerk was instructed to cast one vote for Kim Gravel.
Kim Gravel elected to the Selectboard for a term of three years.

Selectboard – two year term

Kim Gravel nominated Jennifer Clapp-Holton. Bessie Martin seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Cornelius Reed seconded the nomination. Voice vote – passed.

The Clerk instructed to cast one vote for Jennifer Clapp-Holton.
Jennifer Clapp-Holton elected to the Selectboard for a term of two years.

Lister- three year term

Cornelius Reed nominated Tom Martin for a term of three years. Deb Klein seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Cornelius Reed seconded the nomination. Voice vote – passed.

The Clerk instructed to cast one vote for Tom Martin.
Tom Martin elected as a Lister for a term of three years.

Lister – two year term

Dolly Holton nominated Deb Klein. Bessie Martin seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Cornelius Reed seconded the motion. Voice vote - passed.

The Clerk instructed to cast one vote for Deb Klein,
Deb Klein elected as a Lister for a term of two years.

Town Agent to Deed Real Estate

Belinda Clegg nominated Dan Noyes. Cornelius Reed seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Cornelius Reed seconded the motion. Voice vote – passed.
Dan Noyes elected as Town Agent to Deed Real Estate for a term of one year.

Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits

Belinda Clegg nominated Cornelius Reed. Tom Martin seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Bernard Earle seconded the motion. Voice vote – passed.
Cornelius Reed elected as Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits for a term of one year.

Library Trustee – five year term

Jackie Burgess nominated Amy Coolbeth. Ruth Anna Demag seconded the nomination. Peter Burgess called for nominations to cease. Harvey Reed seconded the motion. Voice vote – passed.
Amy Coolbeth elected Library Trustee for a term of five years.

Cemetery Commissioner – five year term

Cornelius Reed nominated David Modica. Harvey Reed seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Cornelius Reed seconded the motion. Voice vote - passed.
David Modica elected a Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years.

Cemetery Commissioner – one year term

Harvey Reed nominated Walter Reeve. Cornelius Reed seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Cornelius Reed seconded the motion. Voice vote – passed.
Walter Reeve elected Cemetery Commissioner for a term of one year.

Grand Juror – one year term

Belinda Clegg nominated John Randall Pratt. Harvey Reed seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Cornelius Reed seconded the motion. Voice vote – passed.
John Randall Pratt elected 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?

William Cotten motioned to accept the article. Jan Roy seconded the motion. Belinda Clegg moved to call the question. Harvey Reed seconded the motion. Article 4 passed on a voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the voters appropriate \$211,035.00 to the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department to pay for police services?

William Cotten motioned to accept the article. Dave Coolbeth seconded the motion. Corporal Nathan Wolfe of the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department was allowed to speak on this article. A few concerns were brought up.

- Speeding on the North Wolcott Road
- Speeding on Town Hill Road
- Speeding on School Street
- Safety of children at school – it was suggested officers stop by local schools to visit frequently

William Cotten applauded the town for how we have turned around and now support the Sheriff's Department . It is a very important asset for the town. He would like to see it appear in the Selectboard budget rather than "hanging out to dry" in the Warning.

Belinda called the question. Pam Peck seconded the motion. Article 5 passed on a voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the voters appropriate \$41,824.00 to the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department to pay for dispatch?

Harvey Reed motioned to accept the article. David Coolbeth seconded the motion.

There was one question asking if E911 was the same as dispatching. Local emergency services are dispatched out of the Sheriff's Department.

William Cotten called the question. David Coolbeth seconded the motion. Article 6 passed on a voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate \$23,565 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 2691?

- \$ 500. . . . American Red Cross**
- 400. . . . Capstone Community Action, Inc.**
- 1,200. . . . Central Vermont Adult Basic Education**
- 1,500. . . . Central Vermont Council on Aging**
- 500. . . . Clarina Howard Nichols Center**
- 500. . . . Hardwick Area Community Coalition**
- 6,374. . . . Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad**
- 400. . . . Home Share Now, Inc.**
- 500. . . . Justice for Dogs**
- 600. . . . Lamoille Community Food Share, Inc.**
- 1,031. . . . Lamoille County Planning Commission**
- 1,082. . . . Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit**
- 750. . . . Lamoille Economic Development Corp.**
- 500. . . . Lamoille Family Center**
- 5,028. . . . Lamoille Home Health & Hospice**
- 1,400. . . . Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County**
- 200. . . . Retired & Senior Volunteer Program**
- 1,000. . . . Rural Community Transportation, Inc.**
- 100. . . . VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force**

Bessie Martin moved to accept the article. Jan Roy seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Peter Burgess called the question. Harvey Reed seconded the motion. Voice Vote – passed.

Article 8. 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 15, 2018
Second installment to be paid on or before May 15, 2019
(32 VSA 4871)

Cornelius Reed moved to accept the article. Harvey Reed seconded the motion.

One person asked if the town would consider having four installments. It was explained that property taxes could be paid in installments anytime as long as they are paid by the installment due date so as not to incur interest or penalty.

Belinda called the question. Bessie seconded the motion. Article 8 passed on a voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the voters authorize a total general fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,333,094.00 which \$1,024,385.00 be raised in taxes and \$308,709.00 by non-tax revenue?

Eric Furs motioned to accept the article. Kim Gravel seconded the motion.

William Cotten applauded the Selectboard for keeping the town budget down with only a \$23,868 increase.

Peter Burgess called the question. William Cotten seconded the motion. Article 9 passed on a voice vote.

Article 10. To transact any other non-binding business.

- Lee Ann Lee thanked the Fire Department for their service and help in pumping out their basement during the flooding.
- William Cotten would like the Selectboard to enforce their Junk and Dog Ordinances.
- Francine Rosenzweig needs help keeping a neighbor from driving on her lawn

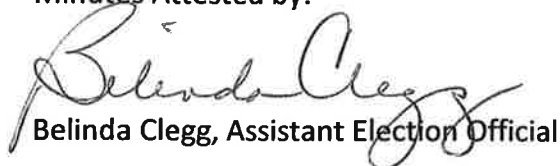
Peter Burgess motioned to adjourn. Belinda Clegg seconded the motion. Town Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda J. Martin, Town Clerk

Minutes Attested by:



Belinda Clegg, Assistant Election Official

MINUTES
of the Annual Town School District Meeting
for the Town of Wolcott, Vermont
March 6, 2018

School Moderator, Joe Hester-Ingram, the Wolcott School District meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Reading of the School Warning was waived by the voters.

Article 1. To elect the following school district officers for the ensuing year:

School District Meeting Moderator – one year term

Belinda Clegg nominated Joe Hester-Ingram. Kimberly Gravel seconded the nomination. Peter Burgess called for nominations to cease. Belinda Clegg seconded the motion
Voice vote - passed.

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

District Clerk – one year term

Kimberly Gravel nominated Linda Martin. Amy Coolbeth seconded the nomination. Belinda Clegg called for nominations to cease. Peter Burgess seconded the motion.
Voice vote - passed.

Linda Martin elected as District Clerk for a term of one year.

District Treasurer- one year term

Linda Martin nominated Belinda Clegg. Pam Peck seconded the nomination. Peter Burgess called for nominations to cease. Deb Klein seconded the motion.
Voice vote - passed.

Belinda Clegg elected as District Treasurer for a term of one year.

Alternate District Treasurer – one year term

Belinda Clegg nominated Linda Martin. Peter Burgess seconded the nomination. Kimberly Gravel called for nominations to cease. Belinda Clegg seconded the motion.
Voice vote - passed.

Linda Martin elected as Alternate District Treasurer for a term of one year.

Article 2. To elect all necessary School Directors as required by law:

School Director - three years term

Amy Davidson nominated Rebecca Ventrice. Peter Burgess seconded the nomination. Belinda Clegg called for nominations to cease. Peter Burgess seconded the motion.
Voice vote - passed.

Rebecca Ventrice elected as School Director for a term of three years.

School Director - two years term

Pam Peck nominated Nell-Marie Rowland. Peter Burgess seconded the nomination. Kimberly Gravel called for nominations to cease. Peter Burgess seconded the motion.
Voice vote - passed.

Nell-Marie Rowland elected as School Director for a two year term.

Article 3. To see if the voters of the school district will authorize the following salaries to be paid for the officers and directors of the school district:

School Board Chair and members \$000.00/yr

District Treasurer \$850.00/yr

District Clerk \$000.00/yr

Alternate District Treasurer \$ 25.00/pay period as needed

Kimberly Gravel motioned to accept the article. Deb Edwards seconded the motion. Peter Burgess motioned to call the question. Deb Edwards seconded the motion. Voice vote - passed.

Article 4. To receive and act upon the various reports of the Town School District Officers and directors.

Peter Burgess motioned to approve the article. Deb Edwards seconded the motion. There was discussion around the numbers on page 110 in the Town Report. They are calculated wrong. Bill Cotten made the motion to amend the number to 272 to reflect the correct information. Bessie Martin seconded the motion. More discussion. Peter Burgess motioned to call the question. Joshua Ventrice seconded the motion.

Voice vote to amend the article - passed.

Voice vote to approve the amended article - passed.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the School District approve the school board to expend \$4,551,468.00 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved will result in education spending of \$16,051.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is .32% higher than spending for the current year.

Voting on the aforementioned Article 5 will be by Australian ballot at the Wolcott Town School on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 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. The legal voters of the Wolcott Town School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapter 43 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes annotated.

The floor was opened for discussion on the proposed budget. Bill Cotten asked about the deficit and if it was being paid in full at the end of Fiscal year 2018. If so, why was it in the budget for FY19? The response was that this information was not available at the time the warning needed to be posted. Questions were asked about the increase in tax rate, new legislation in Montpelier and what can be done about rising costs. Belinda Clegg made the motion to close the discussion. Deb Edwards seconded the motion. Voice vote to close discussion passed.

Australian ballot results –177 ballots cast

Yes – 117

No – 60

Article 5 approved by Australian ballot.

Article 6. To see if the voters of the town will authorize the School Board to borrow money in anticipation of state revenues.

Bill Cotten motioned to approve the article. Pam Peck seconded the motion.
Peter Burgess called the question. Pam Peck seconded the motion.
Voice vote - passed.

Article 7. To transact any other proper business.

Belinda Clegg made the motion to adjourn. Kimberly Gravel seconded the motion.

Voice vote – passed.
Wolcott School District Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda J. Martin, Town Clerk

Minutes Attested by:



Belinda H. Clegg, Assistant Election Official