

MINUTES
of the Annual Town Meeting
for the Town of Wolcott, Vermont
March 5, 2019

The legal voters of the Town of Wolcott, Vermont are hereby warned to meet at the Wolcott Elementary School in said Town on March 5, 2019 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.

Representative Matthew Hill and Dan Noyes introduced themselves and made brief comments.

The Moderator asked for comments or questions regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Town Report. Belinda Clegg noted a typographical error on page 42 in the Animal Control Officer Report. Thanks were expressed for dedicating the Town Report to Bruce Ward. Thanks were also expressed to the Town Highway Department for their good work in keeping the roads cleared and in good condition.

The Moderator stated the elective position of Grand Juror has been eliminated from the list of officers.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m.

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. Voice vote - passed.

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

Bill Cotten nominated Joe Hester-Ingram. Belinda Clegg seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called to cease nominations. Voice vote - passed

Joe Hester-Ingram elected moderator.

Article 2. To elect a Town Clerk for the Town for a three year term.

Ryan Bjerke nominated Linda Martin. Jan Roy seconded the nomination. John Harris nominated Belinda Clegg. Kim Gravel seconded the nomination. Peter Burgess called for nominations to cease. Seconded by Lucien Gravel. Nominations were closed. The Moderator called for a paper ballot vote.

125 ballots cast. 63 needed to win. Linda Martin - 81 and Belinda Clegg - 42. There were two spoiled ballot.

Linda Martin elected as Clerk for a term of three years.

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

Cornelius Reed moved to accept the article. Jan Roy seconded the motion.

Town Treasurer - three year term

Tricia Follert nominated Linda Martin. Jan Roy seconded the nomination. Peter Burgess called for nominations to cease. Seconded by Gordon Young. Voice vote - passed.

The Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for Linda Martin.

Linda Martin elected as Treasurer for a term of three years.

Selectboard - three year term

Kim Gravel nominated Michael Davidson. Belinda Clegg seconded the nomination. Bill Cotten called for nominations to cease. Seconded by Peter Burgess. Voice vote - passed.

The Clerk instructed to cast one ballot for Michael Davidson.

Michael Davidson elected to the Selectboard for a term of three years.

Selectboard - two year term

Cornelius Reed nominated Richard Lee. Harvey Reed seconded the nomination. Bill Cotten called for nominations to cease. Seconded by Peter Burgess. Voice vote - passed.

The Clerk instructed to cast one ballot for Richard Lee.

Richard Lee elected to the Selectboard for a term of two years.

Lister - three year term

Joe Hester-Ingram noted the Lister position for a two year term does not exist for this year. Harvey Reed moved to pass over the position in this year's Warning. Seconded by Cornelius Reed. Gordon Young moved to call the question. Voice vote - passed.

Town Agent to Deed Real Estate - one year term

Cornelius Reed nominated Dan Noyes. Harvey Reed seconded the nomination. Bill Cotten called for nominations to cease. Seconded by Gordon Young. 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 - one year term

Harvey Reed nominated Cornelius Reed. Kim Gravel seconded the nomination. Peter Burgess called for nominations to cease. Seconded by Bill Cotten. Voice vote - passed.

Cornelius Reed elected as Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits.

Library Trustee - five year term

Dawn Cochran nominated Jackie Burgess. Ruth Anna Demag seconded the nomination. Harvey Reed called for nominations to cease. Seconded by Cornelius Reed. Voice vote - passed.

Jackie Burgess elected as Library Trustee for a term of five years.

Cemetery Commissioner - five year term

Harvey Reed nominated Walter Reeve. Cornelius Reed seconded the nomination. Peter Burgess called for nominations to cease. Bill Cotten seconded the motion. Voice vote - passed.

Walter Reeve elected Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years.

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?

Bill Cotten motioned to accept the article. Cornelius seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Peter Burgess called the question. Article 4 passed by a hand vote.

Article 5. Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of paying for capital expenditures to be funded by a one-time deposit of \$20,000 from the fund balance and future annual deposits from the Selectboard budget in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 2804?

Bill Cotten motioned to accept the article. Peter Burgess seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Bill Cotten called the question. Seconded by Eric Furs. Article 5 passed on a voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the voters appropriate \$225,216.00 to the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department to pay for police services?

Bessie Martin motioned to accept the article. Bill Cotten seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Kim Gravel moved to call the question. Article 6 passed on a voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate \$42,753.00 to the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department to pay for dispatch?

Bessie Martin motioned to accept the article. Bill Cotten seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Peter Burgess called the question. Article 7 passed on a voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the voters appropriate \$22,944.00 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 2691?

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| \$ 500 | <i>American Red Cross</i> |
| 1,200 | <i>Central Vermont Adult Basic Education</i> |
| 1,500 | <i>Central Vermont Council on Aging</i> |
| 500 | <i>Central Howard Nichols Center</i> |

6,653	<i>Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad</i>
400	<i>Home Share Now, Inc.</i>
500	<i>Justice for Dogs</i>
600	<i>Lamoille Community Food Share, Inc.</i>
1,031	<i>Lamoille County Planning Commission</i>
1,082	<i>Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit</i>
750	<i>Lamoille Economic Development Corp.</i>
500	<i>Lamoille Family Center</i>
5,028	<i>Lamoille Home Health & Hospice</i>
1,400	<i>Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County</i>
200	<i>Retired & Senior Volunteer Program</i>
1,000	<i>Rural Community Transportation, Inc.</i>
100	<i>"Vt Rural Fire Protection Task Force</i>

Bessie Martin moved to accept the article. Seconded by Stuart Senghas. No discussion followed. Bill Cotten called the question. 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 one half (1 1/2%) thereafter (32 V.S.A. Sections 4873 & 5136(a)?

First installment to be paid on or before November 15, 2019

Second installment to be paid on or before May 15, 2020

(32 V.S.A. Section 4871)

Bill Cotten moved to accept the article. Seconded by Jan Roy. It was pointed out that the article is now more generous, as it used to be an eight percent penalty imposed immediately. Joe Hester-Ingram called the question. Voice vote - passed.

Article 10. Shall the voters authorize total general fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,437,153 of which \$1,154,343 to be raised in taxes and \$282,810 by non-tax revenues?

Bill Cotten moved to accept the article. Jan Roy seconded the motion. No discussion followed. Peter Burgess called the question. Voice vote - passed.

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

*Discussion regarding the School Street bridge included cost, estimated time the temporary bridge will be in place, signage, and the fact that people drive the wrong way on the one-way bridge.

*Discussion regarding the capital fund clarified that the Selectboard can decide on its own how the funds are expended as long as it is for a capital improvement. It was pointed out there are a lot of issues facing the Town including the School Street bridge, the Old Schoolhouse, the bus barn, and water and sewer in the Village.

*Appreciation was expressed for the Historical Society putting on the fundraiser this summer, and for Jim Holton sharing his collection of local historic photos.

*An update was provided on the historic restoration project at the United Methodist Church. Thanks went out to those who have supported their fundraising efforts. The Church hopes to have a space finished downstairs that people can use for events.

*People were encouraged to stop by the informational tables set up around the room.

*Belinda Clegg was thanked for her years of service to the Town of Wolcott.

Bill Cotten moved to adjourn. No objection. Town Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Martin, Town Clerk

Minutes Attested by:

Assistant Election Official