

MINUTES

WOLCOTT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

AUGUST 14, 2019

WOLCOTT TOWN OFFICE

Joe Hester-Ingram opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. He then read the Warning.

Article 1. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to expend a sum of money not to exceed \$20,000 from the duly established "Capital Reserve Fund", for the purpose of hiring a Town Administrator?

Bill Cotton moves the article and Amy Davidson seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Phil Teale called for a paper ballot. Seven voters agreed.

Community Comments: We have too many expenses now. Why do we need the Town Administrator position? How will we pay for this position in the future? Would like to wait until Town Meeting. This is not the right time with people on vacation. T.A. could bring in money. No one is actively looking for grants in town. We need a T.A. because there is no continuity or follow up after meetings. How will the communication between the T.A. and Selectboard work through email and the open meeting laws? Would prefer and 20 hour a week position now until the town gets their road crew back up to three people. Salaries need to be raised to be competitive. What additional costs will this position incur?

Selectboard Comments: Current structure of town government is antiquated. Towns are being asked to do more and more. Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) suggested a manager/town administrator position. Town Clerk is doing many of the Selectboard duties.

Cindy Lowell called the question. Bessie Martin seconded the motion. After a hand count 43 people were in favor of ending the discussion.

Paper Ballot

78 ballots cast

Yes 38

No 40

Article failed.

Alyssa Martin motioned to adjourn. Bessie Martin seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Martin, Town Clerk

Election Official