

**TOWN OF TOWNSHEND  
2006 ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING  
MINUTES – MARCH 7, 2006**

Moderator, Lawrence Kraft, called the meeting to order and read the following:

The legal voters of the Town and Town School District are hereby notified and WARNED to meet at the Town Hall in Townshend, Vermont on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 9:00 AM to act on the following articles, viz.:

He asked that the voters stand to sing the Star Spangled Banner accompanied by Alice Gausch on the piano and then recite the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed newcomers to Town Meeting, went over the rules for Town Meeting and gave a brief rundown of handouts and materials that were available on the stage.

Henry Martin, Chair of the Select Board read:

**ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year and asked for nominations.**

Henry Martin nominated Lawrence Kraft. Carole Melis moved that the nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Lawrence Kraft, Moderator; seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 1. Lawrence Kraft elected Moderator**

Lawrence Kraft recognized Dick Marek, D-Windham, Townshend representative in Montpelier.

Motion made to suspend the rules and allow Mr. Marek (a non-resident) to speak. Motion passed by voice vote.

Marek paid tribute to people who are now serving and who have served their towns. He spoke briefly about numerous bills introduced in the Senate and took a few questions. (Marek left at 9:40 AM).

**ARTICLE 2. To act on the Auditor's report.**

Carole Melis moved to accept the Auditor's Report; seconded by Henry Martin.

Henry Martin made a motion not to accept Auditor's Report because there were too many errors and missing pages and that a revised report should be submitted before being accepted. Carole Melis asked what that meant and when another Auditor's Report might be ready. Henry Martin said he didn't know but to accept it as it is, is not appropriate. He also said that the meeting could continue anyway. Moss Linder asked for clarification. Charlie Marchant asked if it was possible to table the Article until the end of the meeting. Moderator stated that procedurally it was permissible. Elizabeth Garfield moved to table Article 2 until the end of the meeting; seconded by Michalina Wasung. The Moderator declared use of paper ballots.

Results of ballots cast: Total - 116                    Yes 79                    No 37

Motion to Table Article 2 until the end of the meeting passes.

**ARTICLE 2. FAILS AS ORIGINALLY PRESENTED**

**ARTICLE 3. To see what salaries the Town will vote to pay its various Town and School District Officers for the periods:**

**A. January 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006**

Town Clerk and Treasurer:	\$12,646.00 salary
Select Board	(1) \$337.50 – chair (4) \$300.00
Listers, Auditors & assistants:	\$11.17 per hour

So moved by Henry Martin and seconded by David Dezendorf. There being no discussion, Article 3A passed by voice vote.

**B. July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007**

Town Clerk and Treasurer:	\$25,292.00 salary
Select Board	(1) 675.00 – chair (4) \$600.00
Listers, Auditors & assistants:	\$11.28 per hour
School Board:	(5) \$600.00 per year
School District Treasurer:	\$1,500.00 per year

So moved by Henry Martin and seconded. There being no discussion, Article 3B passed by voice vote.

## **ARTICLE 3. - A. & B. PASSES**

### **ARTICLE 4. To elect all Town and Town School District Officers for the ensuing year:**

#### **TOWN CLERK**

**1 – three year term:** Nominated: Anita Bean

There being no further nominations, Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Anita Bean for a three year term as Town Clerk; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Anita Bean, Town Clerk for 3 years

At this time, Joseph Daigneault, Justice of the Peace administered the Oath of Office to Anita Bean.

#### **TOWN TREASURER**

**1 - three year term:** Nominated: Andrea Royce and Michalina Wasung

The nominees respected the voter's and Select Board's request to give short speeches.

The Moderator declared use of paper ballots.

Result of ballots cast: Total – 125 Michalina Wasung - 80, Andrea Royce - 45

Michalina Wasung, Town Treasurer for 3 years

#### **SELECT BOARD**

**1 - three year term:** Nominated: Henry Martin and Ralph Beck (ineligible - not on voter checklist)

There being no further nominations, Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Henry Martin for a three year term as Selectperson; seconded by Jan Stowell and carried by voice vote.

Henry Martin, 3 year term as Selectperson

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Berenice Brooks

There being no further nominations, Forrest Jacobs moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Berenice Brooks for a one year term as Selectperson; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Berenice Brooks, 1 year term as Selectperson

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Alene Evans

There being no further nominations, Eugene Kuch moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Alene Evans for a one year term as Selectperson; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Alene Evans, 1 year term as Selectperson

#### **SCHOOL BOARD**

**1 - three year term:** Nominated: David Dezendorf

There being no further nominations, Michalina Wasung moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for David Dezendorf for a three year term on School Board; seconded and carried by voice vote.

David Dezendorf, 3 year term on School Board

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Glenn Beattie and Al Claussen

The nominees respected the voter's and Select Board's request to give short speeches.

Results of ballots cast: Total – 129

Claussen – 77

Beattie – 52

A1 Claussen, 1 year term on School Board

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Glenn Beattie and Carl McNeely

Carl McNeely spoke briefly.

Results of ballots cast: Total - 125

Beattie – 64

McNeely – 60

Spoiled – 1

Glenn Beattie, 1 year term on School Board

## SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER

**1 – one year term:** Nominated: Andrea Royce and Michalina Wasung

Results of ballots cast: Total - 124

Royce – 64

Wasung – 60

Andrea Royce, 1 year term as School District Treasurer

## LELAND & GRAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**1 – three year term:** Nominated: Michael Dolan

There being no further nominations, Kathleen Hege moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Michael Dolan for a three year term as Leland & Gray Director; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Michael Dolan, 3 year term on Leland & Gray Board of Directors

## LISTERS

**1 – three year term:** Nominated: Walter Meyer and Andrea Royce

Results of ballots cast: Total - 121

Meyer – 70

Royce – 51

Walter Meyer 3 year term as Lister

**1 – one year term:** Nominated: Richard Lucier

There being no further nominations, Jeffrey Russ moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Richard Lucier for a one year term as Lister; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Richard Lucier, 1 year term as Lister

**1 – one year term:** Nominated: Andrea Royce

There being no further nominations, Elizabeth Garfield moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Andrea Royce for a one year term as Lister; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Andrea Royce, 1 year term as Lister

## AUDITORS

**1 – two year remaining on a three year term:** Nominated: Jennifer Joyce and June Kipp (who declined)

There being no further nominations, Michalina Wasung moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Jennifer Joyce for a two year term as Auditor; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Jennifer Joyce, 2 year term as Auditor

**1 – three year term:** Nominated: Kimberly Liebow and Shelly Wilhite (who declined) and Carl McNeely (who declined)

Alene Evans read a description of Auditors duties and responsibilities.

There being no further nominations, Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Kimberly Liebow for a three year term as Auditor; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Kimberly Liebow, 3 year term as Auditor

## **DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR**

**1 – one year term:** Nominated: Megan Richardson

There being no further nominations, Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Megan Richardson for Delinquent Tax Collector, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Megan Richardson, 1 year term as Delinquent Tax Collector

## **FIRST CONSTABLE**

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Mitchell Putnam.

There being no further nominations, Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Mitchell Putnam, First Constable, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Mitchell Putnam, 1 year term as First Constable

## **SECOND CONSTABLE**

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Mark Morse and John Turechek (who declined)

There being no further nominations, Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Mark Morse, Second Constable, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Mark Morse, 1 year term as Second Constable

## **TOWN GRAND JUROR**

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Judy Tietz

There being no further nominations, Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Judy Tietz, Town Grand Juror, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Judy Tietz, 1 year tem as Town Grand Juror

## **TOWN AGENT**

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Carole Melis

There being no further nominations, motion made that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Carole Melis, Town Agent, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Carole Melis, 1 year term as Town Agent

## **LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

**1- five year term:** Nominated: Marilee Attley

There being no further nominations, Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Marilee Attley, Library Trustee, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Marilee Attley, 5 year term as Library Trustee

## **CEMETERY COMMISSION**

**1 - five year term:** Nominated: Scott Nystrom

There being no further nominations, Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to

cast one ballot for Scott Nystrom, Cemetery Commissioner, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Scott Nystrom, 5 year term as Cemetery Commissioner

The Moderator asked the members of the School Board: Lorene Zeif, chairperson, Kathleen Hege, Al Claussen, Judith Tietz and Carl McNeely, to come and sit on the stage for the School District Articles.

**ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters of the Townshend School District authorize the expenditure of a portion of the current fund balance in an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for the purpose of replacing a portion of the school's roof?**

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded.

Lorene Zeif answered questions regarding the new roof stating that it makes more sense to replace the roof now because it is leaking and that could lead to more problems. A standing seam roof was discussed because of its longevity. They had received estimates from both Janiewicz Roofing and Michael Cutts. The job will need to go out for bid. (The board is not compelled to take the lowest bid.) She also stated that the balance of the money would be applied to the current budget.

There being no further discussion, Article 5 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 5. PASSES**

**ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the school. If so, how much?**

Lorene Zeif moved that the town vote to raise \$2,105,638.00 of which \$1,086,976.00 will be raised by taxation to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the schools; seconded by Carole Melis.

Kathleen Hege answered a question regarding rate per pupil and explained the difference in the tax rate. There was further discussion regarding the fact that a lot of the towns people do not understand the workings of Act 130 or the working of the school budget in general.

Mike Attley, one of our representatives to Leland & Gray School Board, proposed having a meeting in Townshend to discuss these issues. He said the Leland & Gray School Board would notice and warn such a meeting in the future.

There being no further discussion, Article 6 passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 6. PASSES**

**ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Townshend authorize the Townshend School District to raise \$5,000.00 by taxation for deposit into the School Capital Expenditures Fund?**

Motion made by Lorene Zeif to suspend the rules and pass over Article 7. Passed by 2/3 standing vote.

**ARTICLE 7. PASSED OVER**

The School Board left the stage and the Select Board and the Justices of the Peace resumed their seats.

***MEETING RECESSED FOR LUNCH***

Town Meeting reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

The Moderator, Lawrence Kraft, called the assembly to order. Elected officials that were present took their oaths at this time.

Henry Martin moved to suspend the rules and move to Article 12; seconded by Fredrick Hege and passed by 2/3 standing vote.

**ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will authorize the reduction of \$17,235.00 from its 2005 General Fund surplus - voted payment for Rescue Inc. services.**

So moved by Henry Martin; seconded by Carole Melis.

Henry Martin stated that this amount was not included when setting the 2005 tax rate. Michalina Wasung clarified that Rescue has been paid. The amount shows on the Balance Sheet must be zeroed out. There being

no further discussion, Article 12 passed by voice vote.

## **ARTICLE 12. PASSES**

Henry Martin gave special recognition to Luke Evans for his research and liaison work that he performed for the Select Board as part of his internship.

**ARTICLE 8.** **To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to divide the 2005 General Fund and Highway Department surpluses into 3 equal parts; applying 1/3rd toward the 1/01/06 – 6/30/06, 6 month budget and 2/3rd toward the 7/01/06 – 6/30/07, fiscal year budget.**

So moved by Henry Martin and seconded by Art Monette. There being no discussion, Article 8 passed by voice vote.

## **ARTICLE 8. PASSES**

**ARTICLE 9.** **A. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the Town for a 6 month period, 1/1/06 – 6/30/06. If so, how much?**

Henry Martin moved to appropriate \$160,860.00, of which \$119,562.00 will be raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of the town for a 6 month period, 1/1/06 – 6/30/06; seconded by Carole Melis.

Michalina Wasung asked for clarification. Select Board had subtracted Rescue money from 2005 surplus before applying Article 8.

There being no further discussion, Article 9 A. passed by voice vote.

## **ARTICLE 9. - A. PASSES**

**B. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the Town for a 12 month period, 7/1/06 - 6/30/07. If so, how much?**

Henry Martin moved to appropriate \$320,250.00, of which \$217,898.00 will be raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of the town for a 12 month period, 7/1/06 – 6/30/07; seconded by Carole Melis. Carole Melis asked why the 6 month expenses are not half of the fiscal year expenses. There was brief discussion. Michalina Wasung stated that some regular “yearly” expenses and revenues occur at specific times.

There being no further discussion, Article 9 B passed by voice vote.

## **ARTICLE 9. - B. PASSES**

**ARTICLE 10.** **A. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to pay for the running expenses and liabilities for summer and winter roads for a 6 month period, 1/1/06 – 6/30/06. If so, how much?**

Henry Martin moved to appropriate \$223,850.00, of which \$154,038.00 will be raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities for summer and winter roads for a 6 month period, 1/1/06 – 6/30/06; seconded by Carole Melis.

There being no discussion, Article 10 A. passed by voice vote.

## **ARTICLE 10. - A. PASSES**

**B. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to pay for the running expenses and liabilities for summer and winter roads for a 12 month period, 7/1/06 – 6/30/07. If so, how much?**

Henry Martin moved to appropriate \$524,950.00, of which \$385,915.00 will be raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities for summer and winter roads for a 6 month period, 7/1/06 – 7/30/07; seconded by Carole Melis. There being no discussion, Article 10 B. passed by voice vote.

## **ARTICLE 10. - B. PASSES**

**ARTICLE 11.**      **A. Shall the Town of Townshend vote to raise \$18,000 by taxation, for law enforcement services for the 6-month period, 1/1/06 – 6/30/06?**

So moved by Henry Martin, seconded by Cynthia Davis.

Questions regarding increase in law enforcement costs were brought to the floor. Henry Martin explained that the 2 for 1 “COPS” Grant had expired. He emphasized that law enforcement is very important. Traffic and speed control are definitely needed in town. He said that the town is in the process of speaking with the State Police regarding the possibility of retaining their services which would be provided by off duty patrolmen.

Don Williams voiced his concern that we were already paying for law enforcement services through our state taxes.

There being no further discussion, Article 11 A. passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 11. - A. PASSES**

**B. Shall the Town of Townshend vote to raise \$36,000 by taxation, for law enforcement services for a 12 month period, 7/1/06 – 6/30/07?**

So moved by Henry Martin and seconded. There being no discussion, Article 11-B. passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 11. - B. PASSES**

**ARTICLE 12.**      *Was acted upon by suspension of the rules earlier in the meeting.*

**ARTICLE 13.**      **To see if the Town of Townshend will vote to raise an additional \$10,000.00 by taxation, to be placed in the existing “Act 60: Reappraisal Planning Fund” for payment in preparation for the next, State required, town wide reappraisal.**

So moved by Henry Martin, seconded by Carl McNeely.

Michalina Wasung moved to amend the Article to read: “**To see if the Town of Townshend will vote to raise an additional \$10,000.00 by taxation for fiscal year 7/1/06 to 6/30/07, to be placed in the existing “Act 60: Reappraisal Planning Fund” for payment in preparation for the next, State required, town wide reappraisal?**”; seconded by Mark Morse.

Carole Melis asked about the money already allotted. Henry Martin said the town has contracted with B&B Appraisals and some of the money was used to pay them. Carole also asked how much the appraisal was costing. Henry Martin said he wasn’t sure at this time.

Elizabeth Garfield asked whether the appraisal was on schedule for 2007. Mr. Martin told her yes.

There being no further discussion, Article 13, as amended, passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 13., AS AMENDED, PASSES**

**ARTICLE 14.**      **A. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the library for a 6 month period beginning 1/1/06 – 6/30/06. If so, how much?**

Marjorie Holt moved to appropriate \$16,982.00 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the **library** for a 6 month period 1/1/06 – 6/30/06; seconded by Carl McNeely.

There being no discussion, Article 14 A. passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 14. - A. PASSES**

**B. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the library for a 12 month period 7/1/06 – 6/30/07. If so, how much?**

Marjorie Holt moved to appropriate \$35,064.00 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the **library** for a 12 month period 7/1/06 – 6/30/07; seconded by Carl McNeely.

There being no discussion, Article 14 B. passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 14. - B. PASSES

### ARTICLE 15.

**A. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$5,000.00, by taxation, for a 6 month period, 1/1/06 – 6/30/06 to be placed in the Capital Expenditure Fund Fire Department Reserve for payment toward a future pumper.**

So moved by Henry Martin; seconded by Mark Morse.

There being no discussion, Article 15 A. passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 15. - A. PASSES

**B. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$10,000.00, by taxation, for a 12 month period, 7/1/06 – 6/30/07 to be placed in the Capital Expenditure Fund Fire Department Reserve for payment toward a future pumper.**

So moved by Henry Martin; seconded by Mark Morse. There was a question as to how much a pumper would cost. The estimated cost would be around \$200,000.00. Mr. Morse stated that insurance mandates that the front line pumper be less than 20 years old.

There being no further discussion, Article 15 B. passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 15. - B. PASSES

### ARTICLE 16.

**A. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$375.00, by taxation, for the Old Cemetery Fund for a 6 month period, 1/1/06 – 6/30/06.**

So moved by Henry Martin; seconded by Charles Marchant.

There being no discussion, Article 16 A. passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 16. - A. PASSES

**B. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$750.00, by taxation, for the Old Cemetery Fund for a 12 month period, 7/1/06 – 6/30/07.**

So moved by Henry Martin; seconded by Charles Marchant.

There being no discussion, Article 16 B. passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 16. - B. PASSES

### ARTICLE 17.

**A. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$130.00, by taxation, for the support of West River Watershed Alliance for a 6 month period, 1/1/06 – 6/30/06.**

So moved by Carole Melis; seconded by Elizabeth Garfield.

A member from the West River Watershed Alliance gave a brief description of what the organization does.

Elizabeth Garfield explained that the Alliance is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to monitor and clean up the water in the West River Watershed in an effort to preserve natural resources.

There being no further discussion, Article 15 A. passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 17. - A. PASSES

**B. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$260.00, by taxation, for the support of West River Watershed Alliance for a 12 month period, 7/1/06 – 6/30/07.**

So moved by Henry Martin; seconded by Elizabeth Garfield.

There being no discussion, Article 17 B. passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 17. - B. PASSES

**ARTICLE 18.** **To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, for the support of Social Services as recommended by the Screening Committee, for the period 1/1/06 – 6/30/07 (18 months), if so how much?**

Henry Martin moved that the town vote to raise \$15,771.00 will be raised by taxation for the support of **Social Services** as recommended by the Screening Committee, for the period 1/1/06 – 6/30/07 (18 months); seconded by Ellie Lemire.

Motion to amend the Article to Read: “**To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, for the support of Social Services as recommended by the Screening Committee, for the period 7/1/06 – 6/30/07 (12 months), if so how much?**” made by Michalina Wasung and seconded.

Ms. Wasung went on to explain that these monies are paid in the Fall.

There being no further discussion, the amendment passed by voice vote.

Charles Marchant then questioned why Windham County Historical Society was denied. June Kipp explained that they decided it wasn’t necessary because Townshend has its own historical society. Mr. Marchant moved to amend the article to include an additional \$250.00 for the Windham County Historical Society. Mark Morse called the question.

The Moderator read the amended Article. “**To see if the Town will vote to raise \$16,021.00, by taxation, for the support of Social Services as recommended by the Screening Committee, for the period 7/1/06 – 6/30/07 (12 months).**

So moved by Charlie Marchant; seconded by Ellie Lemire.

There being no further discussion; Article 18, as amended, passed by voice vote.

#### **ARTICLE 18., AS AMENDED, PASSES**

**ARTICLE 19.** **To see if the voters will authorize the elimination of the Personal Property Tax starting with the Fiscal Year 7/1/06 – 6/30/07.**

So moved by Henry Martin; seconded by Carole Melis.

Carole Melis asked how much money was collected in personal property taxes. Henry Martin stated that it was approximately \$3,700.00.

Motion to amend the Article to read: “**To see if the voters will authorize the elimination of the Personal Property Tax beginning 1/1/06 – 6/30/07**” made by Michalina Wasung and seconded.

There being no further discussion, Article 19, as amended, passed by voice vote.

#### **ARTICLE 19., AS AMENDED, PASSES**

**ARTICLE 20.** **To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to set a tax rate sufficient to cover all monies raised for the period 1/1/06 – 6/30/06 and for the period 7/1/06 – 6/30/07 and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.**

So moved by Irvin Stowell; seconded by Carol Melis.

There being no discussion, Article 20 passed by voice vote.

#### **ARTICLE 20 PASSES**

**ARTICLE 21.** **A. To see if the Town will vote to have the Treasurer receive its Real and Personal Property taxes, for the 6 month period in one installment, due and payable in hand on or before June 15, 2006.**

Monthly interest will be charged at the rate of one percent (1%) or fraction thereof; interest of one and one half percent (1 ½% per month) or fraction thereof and penalties will commence on the last date of the year ending 6/30/06.

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded.

Carole Melis moved to amend the Article to remove the word “Personal” and change the due date to 6/30/06; seconded by Mark Morse.

Carole Melis asked when the tax bills would go out. Henry Martin said that it would be 30 days prior to the due date. She then changed her mind as to amending the Article as to the due date.

Michalina Wasung stated that a tax rate cannot be set until the Grand List is completed. Getting the tax bills out by May 15, 2006 may be a bit presumptuous.

Charlie Marchant asked if an estimated tax bill could be sent out so that people wouldn’t get their tax bills one right after the other.

Henry Martin stated that sending out an estimated tax bill based on the 2005 Grand List was a possibility.

There being no further discussion, the Article, as amended, was read: **“To see if the Town will vote to have the Treasurer receive its Real Property taxes, for the 6 month period in one installment, due and payable in hand on or before June 30, 2006.”** The Article, as amended, failed.

Henry Martin moved to amend the Article to read: **“To see if the Town will vote to have the Treasurer receive its Real Property taxes, for the 6 month period in one installment, due and payable in hand on or before June 15, 2006”**; seconded by Carole Melis.

There being no further discussion, Article 21 A, as amended, passed by voice vote.

#### **ARTICLE 21. - A., AS AMENDED, PASSES**

**B. To see if the Town will vote to collect its Real and Personal Property taxes in four installments, payable in hand on or before August 15, 2006; November 15, 2006; February 15, 2007 and May 15, 2007.**

Monthly interest will be charged at the rate of one percent (1%) or fraction thereof; interest of one and one half percent (1 ½% per month) or fraction thereof plus penalties will commence on the last date of the 2007 fiscal year.

So moved by Carole Melis; seconded by Effie Chamberlain.

Carole Melis moved to amend the Article and eliminate the word “Personal”; seconded by Henry Martin.

The Article, as amended, was read: **“To see if the Town will vote to have the Treasurer receive its Real Property taxes, in four installments, payable in hand on or before August 15, 2006; November 15, 2006; February 15, 2007 and May 15, 2007”**; seconded by Carole Melis.

There being no further discussion, Article 21B, as amended, passed by voice vote.

#### **ARTICLE 21. - B., AS AMENDED, PASSES**

**ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will raise \$15,000, for the period of 1/1/06 – 6/30/07, by taxation to continue developing the Town’s infrastructure.**

So moved by Henry Martin; seconded by Alene Evans.

Motion to amend Article to read: **“To see if the Town will raise \$5,000, for the period of 1/1/06 – 6/30/06 and \$10,000.00 for the period 7/1/06 to 6/30/07, by taxation to continue developing the Town’s infrastructure”** was made by Michalina Wasung and seconded.

There being no discussion, Article 22, as amended, passed by voice vote.

#### **ARTICLE 22., AS AMENDED, PASSES**

**ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to sell or convey properties acquired by the Town through tax sales and to execute, acknowledge and deliver deed and other transfer documents upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may deem to be in the best interest of the Town.**

So moved by Irvin Stowell and seconded.

There being no discussion, Article 23 passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 23. PASSES

**ARTICLE 24.** **To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift or purchase, land for municipal forest, to promote reforestation, water conservation and good forestry practices.**

So moved by Irvin Stowell and seconded.

There being no discussion, Article 24 passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 24. PASSES

At this time the Moderator moved to return to Article 2.

**ARTICLE 2.** **To act on the Auditor's report.**

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded.

Motion to amend the Article to read: "**To postpone acting on the Auditor's Report until the next official town meeting for review and discussion of a revised detailed sheet**"; made by Henry Martin and seconded.

Motion to amend amendment to read "**To postpone acting on the Auditor's Report until the next official town meeting for review and discussion of a corrected Auditor's Report**" made by Alene Evans and seconded.

There being no further discussion, Article 2, as amended, passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 2., AS AMENDED, PASSES

**ARTICLE 25.** **Shall the voters of the Town of Townshend instruct our State Representatives and Senators to oppose:**

- any use of the State Education Fund for purposes that are outside the law's original intent to "make payments to school district and supervisory unions for the support of education;
- the shifting of existing State General Fund expense obligations to the Education Fund; and
- the reduction of any existing State General Fund revenue support to the Education Fund?

So moved by Carole Melis, seconded by

There being no discussion, Article 25 passed by voice vote.

## ARTICLE 25. PASSES

**ARTICLE 26.** **To transact any other non-binding business to properly come before said Meeting.**

Lawrence Kraft said goodbye to all. This was his last year as Moderator as he and his wife are moving to Springfield.

Kathleen Morgan thanked all outgoing board members.

Effie Chamberlain said that for next year the Auditors might want to consider making the print for the Town Report larger.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 3:03 P.M.

Next Town Meeting - March 6, 2007 at 9:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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Anita Bean, Town Clerk

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Selectperson

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Joseph Daigneault, Justice of the Peace

