

**TOWN OF TOWNSHEND
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2011**

The legal voters of the Town of Townshend are hereby notified and WARNED to meet at the Town Hall in Townshend, Vermont on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. to act on the following articles, viz:

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 A.M. David Liebow read the preamble. The Assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

David welcomed everyone and explained the procedure for the running of Town Meeting and pointed out the multiple handouts that are available. He then introduced the members of the Select Board.

A Motion was made to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Marek to address the assembly, which was passed without objection.

Representative Marek spoke to many issues including broadband, the State budget, health care reform, etc. and took questions from the voters. He left at 9:30.

Charles Marchant then spoke about the work that the Ancient Roads Committee has been doing in an effort to determine which roads are Class I, II or III. It's been an arduous project and he is hopeful to have it completed by Spring.

ARTICLE I. To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Steve Ovenden moved to open nominations for moderator.

Steve Ovenden nominated David Liebow.

Carole Melis moved that the nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for David Liebow as Moderator for one year, which was seconded and passed by voice vote.

David Liebow was elected Moderator for a term of one year.

ARTICLE II. To act upon the July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010 Auditors' Report:

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded.

There being no discussion motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE II was approved

ARTICLE III. To see what salaries the Town will vote to pay its various officials for the ensuing year:

Town Clerk:	\$ 31,916.00	per year
Town Treasurer:	\$ 2,105.00	per year
Select Board: (1) Chair:	\$ 675.00	per year
(4) Members:	\$ 600.00	per year
Listers, Auditors, assistants and casual labor:	\$ 12.61	per hour

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded.

Motion to Amend the Article to change the Clerk's and Treasurer's salary to an hourly wage of \$12.61 per hour was made by Mary Gould and seconded.

Brief discussion. Motion to call the question and was seconded.

Voice Vote – Ayes had it by 2/3 majority. Motion to Call the Question carried.

Motion to Amend Article III failed by voice vote.

Article III then passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE III was approved

ARTICLE IV. To see if the Town will vote to reduce the Board of Listers from 5 (five) members to 3 (three) members?

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded.

Brief discussion regarding the importance of having a 5 member board to guarantee that the Lister's Office is covered at all times and is efficient.

Motion to call the question made by Irvin Stowell, seconded and carried by 2/3 voice vote.

Motion to reduce the Board of Listers from 5 (five) members to 3 (three) members failed by voice vote.

ARTICLE IV Failed

ARTICLE V. To elect all Town Officials for the ensuing year(s):

TOWN CLERK

1 - one year term: Nominated: Anita Bean.
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Anita Bean for a one year term as Town Clerk; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Anita Bean, 1 year term as Town Clerk

TOWN TREASURER

1 - one year term: Nominated: Joseph Daigneault.
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Joseph Daigneault for a one year term as Town Treasurer; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Joseph Daigneault, 1 year term as Town Treasurer

SELECT BOARD

1 - three year term: Nominated: Irvin Stowell – respectfully declined; Roger Albee respectfully declined; Bob Desiervo respectfully declined; John Evans respectfully declined; Joe Winrich respectfully declined; Christina Wright respectfully declined; Dale Davis respectfully declined; Gregg Morrow respectfully declined; Ryan Hockertlotz.
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Ryan Hockertlotz for a three year term on Select Board; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Ryan Hockertlotz, 3 year term as Selectperson

1 – one year term: Nominated: Bruce Bills
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Bruce Bills for a one year term on Select Board; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Bruce Bills, 1 year term as Selectperson

1 – one year term: Nominated: Jeffrey Russ
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Jeffrey Russ for a one year term on Select Board; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Jeffrey Russ, 1 year term as Selectperson

LISTERS

1 – three year term: Nominated: Robin O'Neill, Howard Lott, Paula Newton
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Total Ballots Cast: 90 **O'Neill – 56** **Lott - 20** **Newton - 14**

Robin O'Neill, 3 year term as Lister

1 – one year term: Nominated: Howard Lott, Susan Eastwood, Lance Felker, Paula Newton
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Total Ballots Cast: 102 **Lott – 12** **Felker – 36** **Eastwood – 36** **Newton – 18**
Spoiled – 1

No majority win. Revote necessary.

Total Ballots Cast: 102 **Lott – 5** **Felker – 49** **Eastwood – 41** **Newton – 7**

No Majority win. Revote necessary

Total Ballots Cast: 104 **Lott – 5** **Felker – 56** **Eastwood – 40** **Newton – 3**
Spoiled - 1

Lance Felker, 1 year term as Lister

1 – one year term: Nominated: Susan Eastwood
Paula Newton
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Total Ballots Cast: 99 **Eastwood – 82** **Newton - 17**

Susan Eastwood, 1 year term as Lister

AUDITORS

1 – three year term: Nominated Eleanor, respectfully declines; Ann Allbee, respectfully declines; Rick Hege, respectfully declines; Mike Charles, respectfully declines; Beth Beattie, respectfully declines; Andrienne Esquivo, respectfully declines; Howard Graff, respectfully declines; Craig Hunt, respectfully declines; Holly Hockertlotz (Point of Order, husband on Select Board; Conflict of Interest); Judy Dickison, respectfully declines; Irvin Stowell, respectfully declines; Walter Meyer, respectfully declines; Henry (Kit) Martin, respectfully declines.
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Joseph Juhasz advised that the State Auditors office would provide assistance to new auditors, if needed.

No one elected. Select Board will need to appoint.

1 – two year term: No Nominations – Select Board needs to appoint

1 – one year term: No Nominations – Select Board needs to appoint

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

1 - one year term: Nominated: Becky Nystrom
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Becky Nystrom for a one year term as Delinquent Tax Collector; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Becky Nystrom, 1 year term as Delinquent Tax Collector

FIRST CONSTABLE

1 - one year term: Nominated: Mitchell Putnam
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Mitchell Putnam for a one year term as First Constable; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Mitchell Putnam, 1 year term as First Constable

SECOND CONSTABLE

1 - one year term: Nominated: Mark Morse
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Mark Morse for a one year term as Second Constable; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Mark Morse, 1 year term as Second Constable

TOWN GRAND JUROR

1 - one year term: Nominated: Margaret S. Bills
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Margaret S. Bills for a one year term as Town Grand Juror; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Margaret S. Bills, 1 year term as Town Grand Juror

TOWN AGENT

1 - one year term: Nominated: Henry Martin
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Henry Martin for a one year term as Town Agent; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Henry Martin, 1 year term as Town Agent

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

1 - five year term: Nominated: Marilee Attley
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Robin O'Neill for a five year term as Library Trustee; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Marilee Attley, 5 year term as Library Trustee

CEMETERY COMMISSION

1 – five year term: Nominated – Scott Nystrom
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Scott Nystrom for a five year term as Cemetery Commissioner; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Scott Nystrom, 5 year term as Cemetery Commissioner

ARTICLE VI.

To see if the Town will elect a Tax Collector, and if so, whom, to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, September 1, 2011; December 1, 2011; March 1, 2012; and June 1, 2012? Monthly interest will be charged at the rate of one-half percent (1/2%) or fraction thereof; interest of one percent (1%) or fraction thereof plus penalties will commence on June 2, 2012.

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded.

Brief discussion regarding interest charged on late payments and the change in quarterly payment dates.

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

ARTICLE VI, was approved

The meeting proceeded to the election of a Tax Collector.

1 - one year term:

Nominated: Joseph Daigneault

There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Carole Melis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Joseph Daigneault for a one year term as Tax Collector; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Joseph Daigneault, 1 year term as Tax Collector

ARTICLE VII.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$ 475,493.82 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the Town, of which \$ 384,787.82 to be raised by taxation?

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded.

Discussion concerning the amount to be raised by taxes referring to the sharp increase from the previous year.

A Motion was made to suspend the rules to allow Kim Ellison, bookkeeper, to speak which was passed without objection.

There being no further discussion Article 7 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE VII, was approved

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon, to reconvene after the Townshend School District Meeting.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to Grace Cottage Hospital for providing such a delicious lunch. It is greatly appreciated.

The Moderator reconvened the Town Meeting at 2:50 p.m.

ARTICLE VIII.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$ 682,255.00 for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads, of which \$543,884.41 to be raised by taxation?

A motion was made appropriate \$ 682,255.00 for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads, of which \$ 543,884.41 to be raised by taxation and was seconded.

Discussion regarding the legality of putting the purchase of equipment under the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the town's roads. Time frame for work on Windham Hill Road.

Motion to Call the Question and seconded. Carried by 2/3 voice vote.

Request for Paper Ballot.

Total Ballots Cast: 60

Yes - 36

No - 24

ARTICLE VIII was approved

ARTICLE IX. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 50,000.00, by taxation, to be placed in the Highway Equipment Fund toward the purchases of vehicles and equipment?

Motion to pass over made by Irvin Stowell and seconded.

Motion to pass over failed to receive 2/3 voice vote.

Main Motion

So moved by Steve Ovenden and seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding why it wasn't included in the budget. What would the town buy? Maintenance is extremely important. 50,000.00 not necessarily accounted for. People are struggling to pay taxes. Would add to their burden.

Town can borrow money for equipment but cannot finance the whole purchase price. The Select Board feels this is money put away in anticipation of future equipment purchases.

Motion to call the question made by Michael Charles, seconded and carried by 2/3 voice vote.

Request for Paper Ballot

Total Ballots Cast: 62 Yes - 36 No - 26

ARTICLE IX was approved

ARTICLE X. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, for the construction needs of the Townshend Fire Station, and if so, how much?

Motion to raise an amount not to exceed \$230,000.00 to rebuild the fire house at its current location was made by Charles Marchant and seconded.

Discussion – The existing fire station needs multiple repairs and modifications. There is no potable water and the septic system is not up to standards. Windows need to be replaced and a well is needed.

Dale Davis and Mike Cutts formed a committee to present the options to the voters:

- 1 - Use the building as it is after being after doing the necessary repairs;
- 2 – Do the necessary repairs and raise the roof of the building to accommodate larger fire trucks;
- 3 – Construct a new fire station on Taft Meadows.

Motion to call the question made by Steve Ovenden and seconded.

Motion passed by 2/3 voice vote.

Request for paper ballot.

Total Ballots Cast: 60 Yes - 6 No - 54

ARTICLE X failed

ARTICLE XI. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 10,000.00, by taxation, to be placed in the Capital Expenditure Fund Fire Department Reserve toward a future pumper?

So moved by Phillip Moriarty and seconded.

There was brief discussion regarding the wording of the article.

Point of order no need to vote on an amended motion if person making the motion will agree to the word change.

Motion to amend the article to read "To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 10,000.00, by taxation, to be placed in a **Fire Department Reserve for a future truck?**"

There being no further discussion Article 12 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XI was approved

ARTICLE XII. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 43,434.00, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the Library?

So moved by Margaret Bills and seconded.

There being no discussion Article 11 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XI I was approved

ARTICLE XIII. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 25,000.00, by taxation, for law enforcement services?

So moved by Kathleen Greve and seconded.

Good investment, produces income for the town.

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

ARTICLE XII was approved

ARTICLE XIV. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 1,500.00, by taxation, for the Old Cemetery Fund?

So moved by Charles Marchant and seconded.

Mr. Marchant explained that the fund takes care of the maintenance of 12 of the cemeteries.

There being no further discussion Article 14 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XIV was approved

ARTICLE XV. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 2,500.00, by taxation, for the Round Hill Cemetery?

So moved by Irvin Stowell and seconded.

Mr. Marchant explained that the Commission wants to expand the cemetery to provide more burial space. Jocelyn Brodie, who was a longtime town resident, agreed to donate some land to the town before she passed away. There is a verbal agreement with her son to honor his mother's wishes. Negotiations still in progress.

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

ARTICLE XV was approved

ARTICLE XVI. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 13,710.00, by taxation, for the support of Social Services, as recommended by the Screening Committee?

So moved by Kathy Greve and seconded.

After brief discussion Article 16 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XVI was approved

ARTICLE XVII. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 500.00, by taxation, for support of the Green Mountain Chapter of the American Red Cross, as requested?

So moved by Steve Ovenden and seconded.

Mr. Ovenden explained that the reason the Red Cross was not included in the Social Services article was because they submitted their request directly to the Select Board for inclusion in the Warning.

There being no further discussion Article 17 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XVII was approved

ARTICLE XVIII. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 260.00, by taxation, for support of the West River Watershed Alliance, as requested?

So moved by Mike Charles and seconded.

Brief explanation as to what the West River Watershed Alliance does.

There being no further discussion Article 18 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XVIII was approved

ARTICLE XIX. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to set a tax rate sufficient to cover all monies raised for municipal entities for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded.

There being no discussion Article 19 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE IX was approved

ARTICLE XX. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen 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 interest of the Town?

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded.

After brief discussion Article 20 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XX was approved

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

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded.

There being no discussion Article 21 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XXI was approved

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

Issues/Topics discussed:

- 1) Question as to who was on the Adhoc Committee - Bob DeSiervo and Elizabeth Garfield.
- 2) Total costs of Projects should be put in town report.
- 3) Select Board hiring of a new employee for the town highway.
- 4) Separate line items for Social Services requests.

- 5) Screening Committee does a great job.
- 6) Highway Foreman should be requested to attend Town Meeting.
- 7) Need better information in the Select Board minutes.

There being no further discussion, motion to adjourn at 5:15 P.M. to the next annual meeting on the first Tuesday in March 2012 at 9:00 AM, was made by David Dezendorf; seconded and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Bean, Town Clerk

David Liebow, Moderator

Joseph Daigneault, Justice of the Peace