

Annual Town Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Townshend are hereby notified and WARNED to meet at Dutton Gym in Townshend, Vermont, on Tuesday March 7, 20-23 at 9:00am to act on the following articles viz:

The Assembly held a moment of silence for all those departed family and friends who we have lost since the last time we met in person for a Town Meeting.

David Liebow, moderator, calls the meeting to order at 9:05am and goes over the rules of the meeting.

ARTICLE I To choose a moderator for the ensuing year:

David Liebow opens the nominations for Moderator. Steve Frisk nominates David Liebow for Moderator. Irv Stowell seconds the nomination. There being no others, nominations are closed, and the clerk is instructed to cast a single ballot for David Liebow, as Moderator, for a 1 year term. Nomination passes by a voice vote.

David Liebow, Moderator, 1 year term.

ARTICLE II To act upon the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 independent auditor's report:

Eugene Kuch makes a motion to act upon the independent auditor's report. Cindy Lescheck seconds the motion. There being no discussion, Article II passes by a voice vote.

Article II passes.

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

Town Clerk:	\$40,180.86
Town Treasurer:	\$32,301.36
Selectboard;	
(1) Chair	\$1200.00
(4) Members	\$1,000.00
Town Clerk Assistant(s) & Casual Labor	\$15.90

Cindy Leszczak makes a motion to pay the above salaries and wages. Charlie Merchant seconds the motion.

Andy Snelling introduces an amendment to increase the Treasurer's salary to be equivalent to the Town Clerk's salary. Bob Desiervo seconds the motion. More than six people call for a paper ballot vote. A paper ballot vote is held on the amendment. The result of the vote is 11 yes votes for the amendment, 70 no votes against the amendment, and 1 blank ballot. Amendment fails.

Jean McIntyre introduces an amendment to increase the Clerk Assistants and Casual Labor rate by 8%. This would bring the rate to \$16.84. Allie Evans amends the amendment to adopt a rate of \$17.00 for the Town Clerk Assistants and Casual Labor rate. Barbara Guerrero seconds the amendment. A discussion ensues about who would get the percentage increase. More than six people call for a paper ballot vote. A paper ballot vote is held. The result of the vote is 46 yes votes, 34 no votes, and 1 blank ballot. The amendment carries.

David Liebow restates the Article III as amended. To see what salaries the Town will vote to pay its various officials for the ensuing year.

Town Clerk:	\$40,180.86
Town Treasurer:	\$32,301.36
Selectboard;	
(1) Chair	\$1200.00
(4) Members	\$1,000.00
Town Clerk Assistant(s) & Casual Labor	\$17.00

There being no further discussion, Article III passes by voice vote.

Article III passes as amended.

Article IV **To elect all Town Officials for ensuing year(s):**

Town Clerk: Kathy Greve nominates Ellenka Wilson as Town Clerk. Being there are no other nominations, Moderator Liebow closes nomination and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Ellenka Wilson for a 1 year term. Nomination carries by a voice vote.

Ellenka Wilson elected to 1 year term as Town Clerk.

Town Treasurer: Barbara Guerrero nominates Elaine Hill as Town Treasurer. Being there are no other nominations, Moderator Liebow closes nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Elaine Hill for a 1 year term. Nomination carries by voice vote.

Elaine Hill elected to 1 year term a Town Treasurer.

Selectboard 3 year term: Anita Bean nominates Steve Frisk for a 3 year term as Selectboard. Ellenka Wilson nominates Katie Marrow to a 3 year term as Selectboard. Steve Frisk declines his nomination. Moderator Liebow closes nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Katie Marrow for a 3 year term as Selectboard. Motion carries by voice vote.

Katie Marrow elected to 3 year term as Selectboard.

Selectboard 1 year term: Steve Frisk nominates Rob Swiger to a 1 year term as Selectboard. Barbara Guerrero nominates Phoebe Connolly for a one year term as Selectboard. Phoebe Connolly withdraws her nomination. Moderator Liebow closes nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Rob Swiger for a 1 year term as Selectboard. Nomination carries by voice vote.

Rob Swiger elected to 1 year term as Selectboard.

Selectboard 1 year term: Elizabeth Brown nominates Phoebe Connolly to a 1 year term as Selectboard. Moderator Liebow closes nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Phoebe Connolly for a 1 year term as Selectboard. Nomination carries by voice vote.

Phoebe Connolly elected to 1 year term as Selectboard.

Lister 3 year term: Khrist Grotz-Kuch nominates Eugene Henry Kuch to a 3 year term as Lister. Moderator Liebow closes nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Eugene Kuch for a 3 year term as Lister. Nomination carries by voice vote.

Eugene Kuch elected to 3 year term as Lister.

Delinquent Tax Collector: Irv Stowell nominates Becky Nystrom Reilly to a 1 year term as Delinquent Tax Collector. Moderator Liebow closes nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Becky Nystrom Reilly for a 3 year term as Delinquent Tax Collector. Nomination carries by voice vote.

Becky Nystrom Reilly elected to 1 year term as Delinquent Tax Collector.

1st Constable: Steve Frisk nominates Warren Beattie to a 1 year term as 1st Constable. Moderator Liebow closes nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Warren Beattie for a 1 year term as 1st Constable. Nomination carries by voice vote.

Warren Beattie elected to 1 year term as 1st Constable.

2nd Constable: Jeff Russ nominates Mike Cutts to a 1 year term as 2nd Constable. Kristina Wright nominates Michelle Brooks to a 1 year term as 2nd Constable. Moderator Liebow closes the nominations and holds a voice vote for the position. Mike Cutts is elected by voice vote to the 1 year term as 2nd Constable.

Mike Cutts elected to 1 year term as 2nd Constable.

West River Modified Union Educational Director: Joe Winrich nominates Al Claussen to a 3 year term as West River Modified Union Educational Director. Moderator Liebow closes nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Al Claussen for a 3 year term as West River Modified Union Educational Director. Nomination carries by voice vote.

Al Claussen elected to 3 year term as West River Modified Union Educational Director.

Cemetery Commissioner: Charlie Merchant nominates Carly Sanderson to a 5 year term as a Cemetery Commissioner. Moderator Liebow closes nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Carly Sanderson for a 5 year term as Cemetery Commissioner. Nomination carries by voice vote.

Carly Sanderson elected to a 5 term as Cemetery Commissioner.

Library Board of Trustees: Marilee Attley nominates Elizabeth Brown to a 5 year term as Library Board of Trustees. Moderator Liebow closes the nominations and instructs the Clerk to cast one ballot for Elizabeth Brown for a 5 year term as Library Board of Trustees. Nomination carries by a voice vote.

Elizabeth Brown elected to a 5 year term as Library Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE V To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to cover all monies raised for municipal entities for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes:

Irv Stowell so moves the motion. Charlie Merchant seconds the motion. Being no further discussion, motion carries by voice vote.

Article V passes.

ARTICLE VI To see if the Town will authorize its Property Tax Collector to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 25, 2023, November 22, 2023, February 23, 2024, and May 24, 2024. Monthly Interest will be charged at the rate of one-half percent (.05%) or fraction thereof, interest of one percent (1%) or fraction thereof plus penalties will commence on May 30, 2023:

Eugene Kuch moves the motion. Ellenka Wilson seconds the motion. Ellenka Wilson amends the article to correct the date to May 30, 2024. Amendment is accepted by voice vote. Article VI, as amended, passes by voice vote.

Article VI passes as amended.

ARTICLE VII To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$581,199 to pay for the running expenses and Liabilities of the Town of which \$392,482 to be raised in Taxes:

Eileen Fahey so moves the motion. Gene Kuch seconds the motion. Andy Snelling makes an amendment to increase the amount to be raised in taxes by \$10,000 to cover the increase to the casual labor rate. Alex Morse seconds the motion.

Eileen Fahey makes an amendment to say "up to \$10,000". Eileen's amendment fails in a voice vote. Andy Snelling's amendment fails in a voice vote. Motion to approve Article VII as written passes by a voice vote.

Article VII passes.

ARTICLE VIII To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$723,214 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads of which \$610,214 to be raised in Taxes:

David Liebow moves the motion to approve Article 8. Rich Matschke seconds the motion. There being no discussion, motion passes by a voice vote.

Article VII passes.

ARTICLE IX To see if the Town will raise \$59,608.93, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the Library:

Jean McIntyre makes a motion to approve Article IX. Cindy Leszczak seconds the motion. There being no discussion, Article IX passes by a voice vote.

Article IX passes.

ARTICLE X To see if the Town will vote to raise \$2,100, by taxation, for the Old Cemetery Fund:

Irv Stowell makes a motion to approve Article X. Charlie Merchant seconds the motion. There being no discussion, Article X passes by a voice vote.

Article X passes.

ARTICLE XI To see if the Town will vote to raise \$20,000, by taxation, to be placed in the capital expenditure fund fire department reserve toward a future pumper:

Charlie Merchant makes a motion to approve Article XI. Eileen Fahey seconds the motion. A discussion ensues about if the fire department needs the \$20,000 if they are receiving ARPA funds. Fire Chief Beattie summarizes the proposal on purchasing a new pumper. Article XI passes by a voice vote.

Article XI passes.

ARTICLE XII To see if the Town will vote to raise \$20,866, by taxation, for the support of Social Services, as recommended by the Social Services Committee.

Nacelle Winrich makes a motion to approve Article XII. Kris Grotz-Kuch seconds the motion. There being no discussion, Article XII passes by a voice vote.

Article XII passes.

ARTICLE XIII To see if the Town will vote to raise \$50,000, by taxation, to be held in a reserve account for the repair of the stone arch bridge on Back Windham Road contingent upon successful award of grant funds:

Moderator Liebow calls for a discussion. Andy Snelling raises the issue that there has been no movement on this project. He states that he does not see a plan and there are better things to spend the \$50,000 on. Charlie Merchant gives a summary of the plan, the timeline, and the funding. Kris Grotz-Kuch comments on the importance of maintaining bridges. Warren Beattie asks if the weight limit will be removed when the restoration is completed. Charlie said he will find out. Warren says that he thinks it will be a benefit. Being that there is no further discussion, Article XIII passes by a voice vote.

Article XII passes.

ARTICLE IV To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire land by gift or purchase for municipal forest to promote reforestation, water conservation, and good forestry practices:

Irv Stowell makes a motion to approve Article XIV. Allie Evans seconds the motion. A discussion ensues about whether this article means the Selectboard can purchase land without holding a town vote. Sherwood Lake, Selectboard Chair, clarifies that if there is money in the budget the Selectboard would not have to hold a town vote. He also clarifies that this language is required by the State of Vermont. Being that there is no further discussion, Article XIV passes by a voice vote.

Article XIV passes.

ARTICLE V To transact any other non-binding business to properly come before said Meeting:

Charlie Merchant thanks the Assembly for their support of the Stone Arch Restoration Project and to promote membership in the Townshend Historical Society.

Kathy Greve thanks the people who put together such a nice Town Report.

Ellenka Wilson announces the formation of a committee to publish a Town Newsletter.

Linda Sperry points out that the Town Juror was not elected. Moderator Liebow clarifies that it is now an appointed position.

Alex Morse points out that there is no article to set next year's Town's Meeting. Liebow recognizes the error but since it has not been warned the assembly cannot take up that issue.

Rob Swiger announces that there is currently a job opening for the town road crew.

Moderator Liebow adjourns the meeting at 12:00pm.