

## TOWN OF TOWNSHEND

### 2008 ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES MARCH 4, 2008

The Annual Town and Town School District meeting was called to order by Henry Martin, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, at 9:00 AM.

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

Henry Martin moved to open nominations for moderator.

Berenice Brooks 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 so voted.

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

Mr. Liebow advised the assembly as to the rules and regulations that would be followed for participation in today's Town Meeting. He then read the Warning which was followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Motion was made to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Marek to address the assembly, which was passed by Voice Vote.

The Moderator recognized Richard Marek who spoke and took questions from the floor. Representative Richard Marek left at 9:20.

Motion was made by Henry Martin and seconded by David Dezendorf to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Schumlin to speak Mr. Schumlin left at 9:45.

A motion was made by Henry Martin and seconded to suspend the rules to allow Art Monette to make an announcement.

Mr. Monette presented Elizabeth Garfield with a plaque in recognition of her many years of service on the Planning Commission and Historical Society as well as her efforts in obtaining grants and her many hours of research for the Planning Commission. She also served on the Select Board and is devoted to and passionate about her town. She is a true Townshendite.

The Moderator asked the Select Board members to introduce themselves.

**ARTICLE 2.** To act on the June 30, 2007 – July 1, 2008 (6/30/07 – 7/1/08) Auditor's Report.

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded.

Motion to amend the Article to read "To act on the July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 Auditor's Report. was made by Carole Melis and seconded by David Dezendorf.

**ARTICLE 2, as amended, was approved by Voice Vote**

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

So Moved by Henry Martin and seconded by David Dezendorf.

#### Town and School Officers:

Town Clerk \$30,103.00

Town Treasurer \$1,890.00 salaries for the fiscal year 2008-09

Selectboard (1) \$675.00 chair per year (4) \$600.00 members per year

Listers, Auditors, assistants and casual labor: \$12.12 per hour

School Board: (5) \$300.00 per year

School District Treasurer: \$1,654.00 per year



**1 – one year term:** Nominated: Brud Sanderson  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Elizabeth Garfield moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Brud Sanderson for a one year term on Select Board; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Brud Sanderson, 1 year term as Selectperson**

**TOWNSHEND SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD**

**1 – three year term:** Nominated: Craig Hunt  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

David Dezendorf moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Craig Hunt for a three year term on Townshend School District Board; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Craig Hunt, 3 year term on School Board**

**1 – one year term:** Nominated: Gregg Morrow  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Christine Dyke moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Greg Morrow for a one year term on Townshend School District Board; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Gregg Morrow, 1 year term on School Board**

**1 – one year term:** Nominated: Jessie Bishop  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

David Dezendorf moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Jessie Bishop for a one year term on Townshend School District Board; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Jessie Bishop, 1 year term on School Board**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER**

**1 – one year term:** Nominated: Anita Bean and Andrea Royce  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

**Total Ballots Cast: 122                  Bean -                  76                  Royce - 46**

**Anita Bean, 1 year term as School District Treasurer**

**LELAND & GRAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**1 – three year term:** Nominated: Joe Winrich  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

David Dezendorf moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Joe Winrich for a three year term as Leland & Gray Director; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Joe Winrich, 3 year term on Leland & Gray Board of Directors**

**1 – three year term:** Nominated: Paul Jerz  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Christine Dyke moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Paul Jerz for a three year term as Leland & Gray Director; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Paul Jerz, 3 year term on Leland & Gray Board of Directors**

## **LISTERS**

**1 – three year term:** Nominated: Richard Lucier (declined) and Andrea Royce  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Effie Chamberlin moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Andrea Royce for a three year term as Lister; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Andrea Royce, 3 year term as Lister**

## **AUDITOR**

**1 – two years remaining on a three year term:** Nominated: Jennifer Joyce (declined) and Carol Chidley  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Michalina Wasung moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Carol Chidley for a two year term as Auditor; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Carol Chidley, 2 year term as Auditor**

**1 – three year term:** Nominated: Elizabeth Jones (declined), Meredith Roberts (declined) and Eleanor Lemire  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Christine Dyke moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Eleanor Lemire for a three year term as Auditor; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Eleanor Lemire, 3 year term as Auditor**

## **DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR**

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Megan Richardson and Alicia Carusona  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

**Total Ballots Cast: 119                      Richardson – 98                      Carusona - 21**

**Megan Richardson, 1 year term as Delinquent Tax Collector**

## **FIRST CONSTABLE**

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

Andrea Royce 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.

Christine Dyke 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 Bills  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

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

**Margaret Bills, 1 year term as Town Grand Juror**

**TOWN AGENT**

**1 - one year term:** Nominated: Judy Tietz and Art Monette (declined)  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

David Dezendorf moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Judy Tietz for a one year term as Town Agent; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Judy Tietz, 1 year term as Town Agent**

**LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

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

Andrea Royce moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Margaret Bills for a five year term as Library Trustee; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Margaret Bills, 5 year term as Library Trustee**

**CEMETERY COMMISSION**

**1 – five year term:** Nominated – Howard Graff  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Christine Dyke moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Howard Graff for a five year term as Cemetery Commissioner; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

**Howard Graff, 5 year term as Cemetery Commissioner**

Henry Martin moved to suspend the rules and move to Article 22; seconded by Alene Evans and passed by 2/3 Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 22.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Tax Collector to receive its **Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 15, 2008, November 14, 2007, February 13, 2009 and May 15, 2009?** 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 May 16, 2009.

So moved by Henry Martin and seconded.

Motion to Amend the Article to read “To see if the Town will elect a Tax Collector to receive its **Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 15, 2008, November 14, 2008, February 13, 2009 and May 15, 2009?** 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 May 16, 2009.

Motion to Amend passes by Voice Vote.

As a brief explanation Alene Evans stated that, per the Secretary of State’s Office, a Tax Collector cannot be appointed by the Select Board but needs to be elected by the town.

A further Motion to Amend was made by David Dezendorf and seconded to add language “for one year commencing July 1, 2008” following the words Tax Collector and “and if so, who” following the words May 15, 2009? 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 May 16, 2009.

Motion to amend passed by Voice Vote.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator read Article 22, as amended “To see if the Town will elect a Tax Collector for one year commencing July 1, 2008 to receive its **Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 15,**

**2008, November 14, 2008, February 13, 2009 and May 15, 2009 and if so, who?** 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 May 16, 2009.

Article 22, as amended, passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 22 was approved**

The meeting then proceeded to the election of a Tax Collector.

Nominated: Joseph Daigneault and Andrea Royce  
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

**Total Ballots Cast: 95     Daigneault – 69     Royce – 22     Spoiled - 4**

**Joe Daigneault, 1 year term as Tax Collector**

The meeting was recessed for lunch for 45 minutes, to reconvene at 1:15 PM.

**The Moderator recalled the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m.**

The Town Clerk took the oaths of all newly elected officers who were present.

**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?

A Motion was made by Kathy Hege to raise \$1,287,326.00, by taxation to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the school and seconded.

After brief discussion, Article 6 passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 6 was approved**

**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 to pass over Article was made by Kathy Hege and seconded.

After minimal discussion, Motion to Pass Over Article 7 passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 7 passed over**

**ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to pay for the **running expenses and liabilities of the Town.** If so, how much?

Henry Martin moved to appropriate \$341,433.00, of which \$207,922.00 will be raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of the town; seconded by Alene Evans.

After minimal discussion, Article 8 passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 8 was approved**

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation for the purpose of buying a **backhoe.** If so, how much?

Motion to see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation for the purpose of buying a backhoe was made by Carole Melis and seconded.

Estimate from John Deere \$95,800.00 for a new backhoe. Down payment would be \$19,800.00. Carole Melis detailed the payment structure depending on the term of the loan; ie; 3 year, 4 year or 5 year program. She noted that financing is available through VLCT at 2% interest.

Motion to raise \$20,000.00, by taxation, for fiscal year starting July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009 as a down payment toward the purchase a backhoe was made by Michalina Wasung and seconded.

There was discussion regarding loans that the town can apply for. Essentially it was stated that the town could get a bank loan first, then get a state loan to pay off the bank loan.

Ms. Wasung stated that we need a definite number and estimated amount for interest.

Motion to raise \$25,000.00, by taxation, for fiscal year starting July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009 as a down payment toward the purchase a backhoe was made by Henry Martin and seconded.

Amend motion to purchase a back hoe by raising 25,000 by taxation for the fiscal year 7/1/08 – 6/30/09

Motion to call the question made by Mitchell Putnam and seconded.

Voice Vote – ayes had it by 2/3 majority hand vote. Motion to end debate carried.

Main Motion to purchase a new back hoe by raising \$25,000.00 by taxation for the down payment of said backhoe for the Fiscal Year 2008/2009

Voice Vote too close to call

Results of Paper Ballot requested by seven voters

**Total Ballots Cast: 91                      Yes – 62                      No – 29**

**ARTICLE 9 was approved**

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities for **summer and winter roads**. If so, how much?

Henry Martin moved to appropriate \$530,822.00, of which \$372,247.00 will be raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities for summer and winter roads; seconded by Anita Bean.

There was brief discussion regarding Windham Hill Road. Mr. Stowell stated that the road desperately needs repair.

Mr. Martin spoke to the issue and said that it was too costly, that there was no federal help available and the town could not afford it.

There being no further discussion, Article 10 passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 10 was approved**

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$12,500.00, by taxation, to pay to replace the existing **roof on the Library?**

So moved by Marilee Attley and seconded.

There was brief discussion regarding having fundraisers to help raise money for repairs, maintenance and other projects that needed to be done.

Motion to amend the Article and add language that says “any fundraising monies raised will be deducted from the \$12,500.00 set aside for the roof” was made by Mike Attley and seconded.

A further amendment to add language “not to exceed \$12,500.00” was made by Henry Martin and seconded.

The moderator explained both amendments and requested a vote on the on the amendment to add the language “not to exceed \$12,500.00”.

Amendment passed by Voice Vote.

There was further discussion regarding fundraising and the application of the money.

Amendment to add language “any fundraising for the roof be applied as such”.

Amendment passed by Voice Vote.

Main Motion – “To see if the Town will vote to raise, not to exceed \$12,500.00, by taxation, to pay to replace the existing roof on the Library and any fundraising for the roof be applied as such?”

There being no further discussion, Article 11, as amended, passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 11 was approved**

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the **Library**. If so, how much?

Marilee Attley made the Motion to raise \$41,194.00, by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of the Library, which was seconded.

There being no discussion Article 12 passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 12 was approved**

**ARTICLE 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, for **law enforcement services**. If so, how much?

Henry Martin made the Motion to raise \$.00, by taxation, for **law enforcement services**, which was seconded.

Mr. Martin explained that there is \$41,897.00 in reserve which is sufficient to pay for law enforcement.

Mr. Martin gave a brief rundown of the law enforcement service we receive

There being no further discussion Article 13 passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 13 was approved**

**ARTICLE 14.** To see if the Town will vote to \$10,000 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 Carole Melis; seconded by Henry Martin.

Voice Vote unclear – Division of house. Moderator requested a show of hands.

Article 14 passes by hand vote.

**ARTICLE 14 was approved**

**ARTICLE 15.** 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** for payment toward a future pumper?

So moved by Charles Marchant; seconded by Craig Hunt.

Motion to amend to the article to add the language “and interest from this fund to be retained for payment toward a future pumper” was made by Henry Martin and seconded.

Amendment passes by Voice Vote.

Mark Morse stated that the last purchase was in 2000 and that there is a 1986 truck that needs to be replaced.

There being no further discussion Article 15, as amended, passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 15 was approved**

**ARTICLE 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$1,000.00, by taxation, for the **Old Cemetery Fund**?

So moved Charles Marchant and seconded



There being no discussion, Article 16 passes by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 16 was approved**

**ARTICLE 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$290.00, by taxation, for the support of **West River Watershed Alliance?**

So moved by Henry Martin and seconded.

There being no discussion, Article 17 passes by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 17 was approved**

**ARTICLE 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$250.00, by taxation, for the support of **Historical Society of Windham County?**

So moved by Charles Marchant and seconded by Michalina Wasung

There being no discussion, Article 16 passes by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 18 was approved**

**ARTICLE 19.** 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?

Motion made by Henry Martin to raise \$15,041.00 by taxation, for the support of **Social Services**; seconded by Carole Melis.

Hedy Harris responded to questions regarding the United Way and HCRS.

Motion to amend the Article to add \$300.00 for United Way was made by Christine Dyke and seconded.

Amendment to Article passes by Voice Vote.

Main Motion “To see if the Town will vote to raise \$15,341.00, by taxation, for the support of **Social Services**.”

Henry Martin thanked the Social Service Committee for the work that they do.

Article 19, as amended, passes by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 19 was approved**

**ARTICLE 20.** To see if the Town will assume all responsibilities of the **Gazebo on the Common?**

Motion to suspend the rules to and pass over the Article was made by Jan Stowell and seconded by Michalina Wasung.

Motion to pass over failed by voice vote.

The Article was reread. To see if the Town will assume all responsibilities of the **Gazebo on the Common?**

So moved by Stephen McConnel; seconded by Elizabeth Jones.

There was discussion about upkeep, repair and maintenance as well as the cost associated with maintaining the Gazebo and who should take on the responsibility.

Motion to amend “to raise \$500.00 by taxation for the establishment of a Gazebo Fund and for the town to assume all responsibility for the gazebo” was made by Christine Dyke and seconded.

Discussion continued. Motion to call the question was made by Elizabeth Jones and seconded.

Voice Vote – ayes had it by 2/3 majority. Motion to end debate carried.

Amendment to raise \$500.00 by taxation for the establishment of a Gazebo Fund and for the town to assume all responsibility for the gazebo” passes by 2/3 hand vote.

There was additional discussion regarding the Townshend Business Association and their initial willingness to take on the maintenance, repair and financial burden associated with the Gazebo.

Motion to call the Question was made by Alicia Carusona and seconded.

Motion to call the question and end debate passed by 2/3 hand vote.

Main Motion "To see if the Town will raise \$500.00, by taxation, for the establishment of a Gazebo Fund and for the town to assume all responsibility for the gazebo on the common?"

Results of paper ballot on main motion requested by seven voters.

**Total Ballots Cast: 77                      Yes - 49                      No - 28**

**ARTICLE 20 was approved**

**ARTICLE 21.** To see if the voters will authorize the Selectmen to **set a tax rate** sufficient to cover all monies raised for municipal entities the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

Motion Made by Craig Hunt and seconded by Gregg Morrow

Voice Vote – ayes had it. Article 21 passes.

**ARTICLE 21 was approved**

**ARTICLE 23.** To see if the Town will raise any money, by taxation, to continue developing the **Town's infrastructure?** If so, how much?

Motion to Pass Over made by Alene Evans and seconded.

Ms. Evans stated that there was a reserve of \$15,846.00.

There being no further discussion Article 23 passed by Voice Vote.

**ARTICLE 23 was approved**

**ARTICLE 24.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard 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 Carole Melis and seconded.

Article 24 passes by Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 24 was approved**

**ARTICLE 25.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to **acquire, by gift or purchase** land for municipal forest, to promote reforestation, water conservation and good forestry practices?

So moved by Christine Dyke and seconded.

Article 25 passes by Voice Vote

**ARTICLE 25 was approved**

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

Henry Martin said that there are many issues that need to be addressed such as:

1. Solid waste truck is in need of repair;
2. Sidewalk in front of Town Hall needs repair; and
3. The Town Garage.
- 4.

Other issues discussed was the possibility of a Farmers Market on the common, cellular towers, parking spaces in front of town hall, dangerous conditions in front of the hospital and speed in town on Route 30. Also, the establishment of a Personnel Committee was brought up by Christine Dyke and discussed.

There being no further discussion Henry Martin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 4:01 P.M., to the next annual meeting on the first Tuesday in March 2009, made by David Liebow; seconded by Irvin Stowell and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Anita Bean, Town Clerk

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Carole Melis, Selectperson

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Joseph Daigneault, Justice of the Peace