

**TOWN OF TOWNSHEND
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2010**

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 2, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. to act on the following articles, viz:

David Liebow read the preamble.

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

Steve Ovenden moved to open nominations for moderator.

Charles Marchant nominated David Liebow.

Cynthia Davis 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.

The assembly was informed as to the rules and regulations that would be followed for participation in today's Town Meeting.

The assembly stood while Alice Gausch played the National Anthem.

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

Representative Richard Marek spoke until at 9:32.

The Moderator introduced the Select Board members.

ARTICLE II. To see if the Town will vote to revise the Warning for the 2009 Town Meeting, viz: "The legal voters are hereby notified and Warned to meet at the Town Hall in Townshend, Vermont on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 9:00 A.M. to act on the following articles."

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded by Elizabeth Garfield.

Motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE II was approved

ARTICLE III. To act upon the July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 Auditors' Report:

Motion "To approve the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 Auditors' Report" was made by Rick Hege and seconded.

Motion to amend "To approve the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 Auditors' Report and instruct the Auditors' to have a corrected and complete report available online and at the Town Hall" was made by Elizabeth Garfield and seconded.

Motion to amend the amendment "To approve the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 Auditors' Report and instruct the Auditors' to have a corrected and complete report available online" was made by Michael Charles and seconded.

The amendment to the amendment passed by voice vote.

The amendment passed by voice vote.

Motion "To approve the July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 Auditors' Report and to instruct the Auditors to have a corrected and complete Town Report online" passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE III, as amended, was approved

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

Town Clerk: \$ 31,300.00 / yr
Town Treasurer: \$ 2064.00 / yr
Select Board: (1) Chair: \$ 675.00 / yr
(4) Members: \$ 600.00 / yr
Listers, Auditors, assistants and casual labor: \$ 12.36 / hr

So moved by David Dezendorf and seconded.

Motion to amend “To pay the various officials the **actual** amount that they were paid in 2009” was made by Cynthia Davis and seconded.

Motion to call the question made by Elizabeth Garfield and seconded.

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

The amendment to the Main Motion “To pay the various officials the **actual** amount that they were paid in 2009” failed by voice vote.

Motion to amend “To reflect 2009 salary amounts” was made by Andrea Royce and seconded.

Motion to amend failed by voice vote.

Vote on Main Motion, as written, passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE IV was approved

Motion to suspend the rules and move to Article VI was made by David Dezendorf; seconded and passed by 2/3 Voice Vote.

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

So moved by David Dezendorf and seconded by Michael Charles.

Motion to Call the Question and end debate made by Elizabeth Garfield and seconded.

Voice Vote – Ayes had it by 2/3 majority.

Motion “To restore the Board of Listers from 3 (three) members to 5 (five) members” passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI was approved

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.

Michael Charles 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.

Andrea Royce 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: David Dezendorf (respectfully declined)
Hedy Harris
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 Hedy Harris for a three year term on Select Board; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Hedy Harris, 3 year term as Selectperson

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

Cynthia Davis 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: David Dezendorf (respectfully declined)
Henry Martin (respectfully declined)
Robert DeSiervo (respectfully declined)
Jeffrey Russ
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Michael Charles 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: Howard Lott
Will Johnson (respectfully declined)
Susanne Palmer
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

(Charles Marchant gave a brief report on Ancient Roads)

Total Ballots Cast: 101 Palmer – 54 Lott - 44 Spoiled – 2 Blank - 1

Susanna Palmer, 3 year term as Lister

1 – two year remaining on a three year term:

Nominated: Richard Lucier (respectfully declined)
Howard Lott
Mike Bills
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Total Ballots Cast: 95 Lott – 46 Bills – 49

Mike Bills, 2 year remaining on a 3 year term as Lister

1 – one year term Nominated: Susan Eastwood
Will Johnson
Richard Lucier (respectfully declined)

There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Total Ballots Cast: 104 Eastwood – 26 Johnson – 71 Spoiled - 7

Will Johnson, 1 year term as Lister

1 – one year term Nominated: Susan Eastwood
Richard Lucier (respectfully declined)
Howard Lott
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Total Ballots Cast: 100 Eastwood - 50 Lott - 50

Not a majority win. Revote

Total Ballots Cast: 104 Eastwood – 58 Lott - 46

Susan Eastwood, 1 year term as Lister

AUDITORS

1 – three year term Nominated – Barbara Marchant
Chris Kuch

Total Ballots Cast: 98 Marchant - 76 Kuch – 20 Blank - 2

Barbara Marchant, 3 year term as Auditor

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

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

Total Ballots Cast: 99 Cutts – 44 Nystrom - 55

Becky Nystrom, 1 year term as Delinquent Tax Collector

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 1:57 p.m.

FIRST CONSTABLE

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

Jessie Bishop 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.

Jessie Bishop 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.

Heidi Russ 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.

Cynthia Davis 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: Robin O'Neill
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Marge Holt 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.

Robin O'Neill, 5 year term as Library Trustee

CEMETERY COMMISSION

1 - five year term: Nominated – Rickie Snow
There being no others, Moderator declared nominations closed.

Cynthia Davis moved that nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Rickie Snow for a five year term as Cemetery Commissioner; seconded and carried by Voice Vote.

Rickie Snow, 5 year term as Cemetery Commissioner

ARTICLE VII. To see if the Town will elect a Tax Collector to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 30, 2010; November 15, 2010; February 15, 2011; and May 15, 2011? 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 May 15, 2011.

Motion “To elect a Tax Collector to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 30, 2010; November 15, 2010; February 15, 2011; and May 15, 2011? 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 May 15, 2011.” Made by David Dezendorf and seconded

Motion to amend to add “and if so, whom” after the words “Tax Collector” was made by David Dezendorf and seconded.

Motion to Amend passed by voice vote.

Motion: “To see if the Town will elect a Tax Collector and if so, whom, to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 30, 2010; November 15, 2010; February 15, 2011; and May 15, 2011? 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 May 15, 2011.”

Motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE VII, as amended, 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.

Michael Charles 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 VIII. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the Town, and if so, how much?

Motion made by David Dezendorf and seconded by Michael Charles “To appropriate \$371,576.00 of which \$250,158.22 will be raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of the town.”

Motion to amend the Main Motion to read “To appropriate \$351,576.00 of which \$230,158.22 will be raised by taxation raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of the town” was made by Irv Stowell and seconded.

Motion to Call the Question was made by Rick Snow and seconded.

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

The amendment to the Main Motion passed by voice vote.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules to allow Kim Ellison, Bookkeeper, to speak regarding the Common Fund.

Passed by 2/3 voice vote.

Motion “To appropriate \$351,576.00 of which \$230,158.22 will be raised by taxation raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of the town” passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE VIII, as amended, was approved

ARTICLE IX. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, for the purpose of purchasing a Highway Department truck, and if so, how much?

Motion “To raise \$190,000.00 by taxation for the purpose of purchasing a Highway Department truck” was made by Michael Charles and seconded by Hedy Harris.

Motion to amend “To authorize the Town to raise \$190,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a Highway Department truck, of which up to \$84,000.00 shall be raised by taxation, and to borrow up to of \$106,000.00 from the State of Vermont Municipal Equipment Fund and authorize the Select Board to secure the necessary bridge financing” was made by Peter Galbraith and seconded.

Motion to amend passed by voice vote.

Motion: “To authorize the Town to raise \$190,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a Highway Department truck, of which up to \$84,000.00 shall be raised by taxation, and borrow up to \$106,000.00 from the State of Vermont Municipal Equipment Fund and to authorize the Select Board to secure the necessary bridge financing.”

There were 7 requests for paper ballot.

Total Ballots Cast: 79 Yes - 52 No – 27

ARTICLE IX, as amended, was approved

ARTICLE X. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads, and if so, how much?

Motion made by David Dezendorf and seconded by Michael Charles "To appropriate \$633,648.00 of which \$589,913.84 will be raised by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads."

Motion was passed by Division of the House.

ARTICLE X was approved

ARTICLE XI. To see if the Town will vote to raise any money, by taxation, to be placed in a Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund for payment toward the future purchases of vehicles and equipment, and if so, how much?

Motion to pass over made by Henry Martin and seconded.

There were 7 requests for paper ballot.

Total Ballots Cast: 65 Yes 29 No 36

Motion to pass over Article XI fails.

Motion "To raise \$50,000.00 by taxation to be placed in a Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund" was made by David Dezendorf and seconded by Hedy Harris.

There were 7 requests for paper ballot.

Total Ballots Cast: 66 Yes 18 No 48

ARTICLE XI failed

ARTICLE XII. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$1000.00, by taxation, to be placed in a Capital Reserve Fund for the future purchase of office equipment?

Motion to pass over made by Henry Martin and seconded.

Motion to pass over passed by Division of the House.

ARTICLE XII passed over

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

Motion "To raise \$42,154.00 by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of the Library" was made by Margaret S. Bills and seconded.

Motion to amend to "decrease the amount by \$6,385.00" was made by Cynthia Davis and seconded by Gregg Morrow.

Motion to amend passed by voice vote.

Motion: "To see if the town will vote to raise \$35,769.00 by taxation for the running expenses and liabilities of the library." Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XIII, as amended, was approved

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

Motion “To raise \$25,000.00 by taxation to pay for law enforcement services” was made by David Dezendorf; seconded by Hedy Harris.

Motion to Call the Question was made by Gregg Morrow and seconded.

Voice Vote – ayes had it by 2/3 majority.

Motion “To raise \$25,000.00 by taxation to pay for law enforcement services” passed by Division of the House.

ARTICLE XIV was approved

ARTICLE XV. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 10,000.00, by taxation, to be placed in the "Act 60: Reappraisal Planning Fund” for payment in preparation of the next, State required, Town-wide reappraisal?

Motion to pass over made by Steve Ovenden and seconded.

Motion to pass over passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XV passed over

ARTICLE XVI. 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?

Motion “To raise \$ 10,000.00, by taxation, to be placed in the Capital Expenditure Fund Fire Department Reserve for payment toward a future pumper” made by Irv Stowell and seconded.

Motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XVI was approved

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

Motion “To raise \$ 1,000.00, by taxation, for the Old Cemetery Fund” made Charles Marchant and seconded.

Motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XVII was approved

ARTICLE XVIII. To see if the Town will raise any money, by taxation, for the repair and/or replacement of the Town's sidewalks, and if so, how much?

Motion “To appropriate up to \$80,431.00 of which up to \$16,000.00 to be raised by taxation” made by Steve Ovenden seconded by Hedy Harris.

Motion to amend “for the repair and replacement of the town sidewalks and to provide 7 parking places as per the design plans” was made by Steve Ovenden and seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Motion “To appropriate up to \$80,431.00 of which up to \$16,000.00 to be raised by taxation for the repair and replacement of the town sidewalks and to provide 7 parking places as per the design plans” passed by voice vote.

Article XVIII, as amended, was approved

ARTICLE XIX. 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 “To raise \$13,110.00 by taxation, for the support of Social Services as recommended by the Screening Committee” was made by Eleanor Lemire and seconded.

Motion passed by voice vote.

Article XIX was approved

ARTICLE XX. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$1000.00, by taxation, as a contribution to the Leland & Gray Educational Foundation?

Motion to pass over made by Henry Martin and seconded.

Motion to pass over passed by 2/3 voice vote.

ARTICLE XX passed over

ARTICLE XXI. 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, 2010 through June 30, 2011, and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

Motion “To authorize the Selectmen to set a tax rate sufficient to cover all monies raised for municipal entities for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes” made by Henry Martin and seconded by Joseph Daigneault.

Motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XXI was approved

ARTICLE XXII. To see if the Town will vote to exempt from taxation the real estate of Blazing Star Lodge #23, located at 1968 Vermont Route 30?

Motion “To exempt from taxation the real estate of Blazing Star Lodge #23, located at 1968 Vermont Route 30” made by Phillip Treverrow and seconded.

Michael Charles moved to pass over the Article.

Motion to pass over passed by Division of the House.

ARTICLE XXII passed over

ARTICLE XXIII. To see if the Town will vote to extend property tax relief to qualifying disabled Veterans who request said relief by an increase in the reduction of their property valuation from \$20,000, to \$40,000?

Motion “To extend property tax relief to qualifying disabled Veterans who request said relief by an increase in the reduction of their property valuation from \$20,000, to \$40,000” made by Mike Charles and seconded.

There were 7 requests for a paper ballot.

Total Ballots Cast: 52 Yes - 28 No – 24

ARTICLE XXIII was approved

ARTICLE XXIV. 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?

Motion “To 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” made by Charles Marchant and seconded.

Motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XXIV was approved

ARTICLE XXV. 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?

Motion “To authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift or purchase, land for municipal forest, to promote reforestation, water conservation and good forestry practices” was made by Charles Marchant and seconded.

Motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE XXV was approved

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

Issues/Topics discussed:

1. Planning Commission seeking two new members. Anyone interest should let the Select Board know.
2. Google has monies to provide rural towns with internet service. Request Select Board to send a letter of interest to Vermont Telecommunications.

A Motion was made to “Support the Select Board in their request to take some of Googles money” passed by voice vote.

3. Motion “Requesting the Select Board consider starting the Town Meeting earlier” failed by Voice vote.

There being no further discussion, motion to adjourn at 5:36 P.M. to the next annual meeting on the first Tuesday in March 2011, was made by Irv Stowell; seconded and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Bean, Town Clerk

David Liebow, Moderator

Joseph Daigneault, Justice of the Peace