

**TOWN OF TOWNSHEND - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2012**

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 6, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. to act on the following articles, viz:

The Assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance and David Liebow called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. Several announcements were made and the location of numerous handouts was pointed out to the Assembly. The preamble was read and a brief explanation was given of the procedure that would be followed during Town Meeting. The Moderator then introduced the members of the Select Board.

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

David Liebow opened nominations for Moderator.

Ryan Hockertlotz nominated David Liebow.

There being no others, David Liebow moved that nominations be closed and that the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for David Liebow as Moderator for a term of one year. Motion seconded and passed by voice vote.

David Liebow, 1 year term as Moderator

ARTICLE II. To act upon the July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 Auditors' Report:

Hedy Harris made a motion to approve the Auditors' report, seconded by Craig Hunt.

Discussion ensued over the assembly of the Town Report.

The motion was 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:	\$ 32,875.00 / yr
Town Treasurer:	\$ 2,170.00 / yr
Select Board: (1) Chair:	\$ 1,500.00 / yr
(4) Members:	\$ 1,000.00 / yr
Listers, Auditors, assistants and casual labor:	\$ 12.99 / yr

So moved by Charles Marchant, seconded by Vern Moberly. Discussion.

Janet Stowell made a motion to amend the Select Board salaries to last year's figures, \$675 for the Chair, \$600 for Members. Seconded by Irvin Stowell. A paper ballot was called for.

Joe Winrich made a motion to suspend the rules to require the raising of 25 hands to call for a paper ballot, which was seconded. By a two-thirds majority the Assembly **defeated** the motion.

A paper ballot was again called for and 7 individuals supported the request. The amendment to change the salaries of the Select Board **passes**. **Total Ballots Cast: 107 Yes 56 No 51**

The Moderator gave the floor to Senator Peter Galbraith to speak to the Assembly at 9:45 A.M. while the amendment votes were being tabulated. He spoke of the economy of the State and explained the re-districting that was approved by the Legislature, which split Townshend into two House of Representative districts. He urged the Assembly to sign a petition that would ask the Vermont Supreme Court to overturn the legislative action and return Townshend to one voting district. He finished speaking at 9:55 A.M.

Ryan Hockertlotz made a motion to amend all salaries to last year's level:

Town Clerk	\$31,916
Treasurer	\$2,105
Select Board Chair	\$675
Select Board Members	\$600
Listers, Auditors, casual labor	\$12.61 /hour

Seconded by Mary Gould. Discussion. A voice vote on the motion was inconclusive. The Moderator called for a division of the House.

Yes 42 No 54

Motion to Amend Salaries Fails

Warren Beattie made a motion to amend the Select Board salaries to the same percentage increase as the rest of the Town Officials, \$695.25 for the Select Board Chair and \$618 for the Select Board Members; seconded by Kimberly Liebow. Discussion.

Carole Melis called the question. Discussion was closed by a show of hands. The moderator called for a voice vote.

Motion to Amend Salaries Passes

The new salaries for the Select Board become part of the main motion that passes on a voice vote.

Article III was approved

David Dezendorf made a motion to suspend the rules to consider Article VI before Article IV; seconded by Craig Hunt. Motion **passed** by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI. Per 17 V.S.A. 2646 (7), to see if the Town will vote to elect its First and Second Constables to two years, rather than one year terms?

Janet Stowell made a motion to pass over this article, seconded by Mitchell Putnam. Motion fails on a voice vote.

David Dezendorf made a motion to move Article VI, seconded by Charles Marchant. Discussion over job requirements ensued.

Paul Jerz called the question and the motion failed on a voice vote.

Article VI fails

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

TOWN CLERK

1 – one year term: Nominated: Anita Bean

Carole Melis made a motion to close nominations and have the clerk 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

Carole Melis made a motion to close nominations and have the clerk 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, Henry Martin – respectfully declined.

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for David Dezendorf for a three year term on the Select Board; seconded and carried by voice vote.

David Dezendorf, 3 year term on Select Board

1 – two year term: Nominated: Henry Martin, Ryan Hockertlotz, Chad Greenwood – respectfully declines.

There being no others, the Moderator declared the nominations closed.

Total Ballots Cast: 117 Martin – 92 Hockertlotz – 25

Henry Martin, 2 year term on Select Board

1 – one year term: Nominated: Chad Greenwood

Mitchell Putnam moved that the nominations be closed and that the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Chad Greenwood for a one year term on the Select Board; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Chad Greenwood, 1 year term on Select Board

1 – one year term: Nominated: Jeffery Russ, Irvin Stowell, Michael Chase

There being no others, the Moderator declared the nominations closed.

Total Ballots Cast 120 Russ – 64 Stowell – 28 Chase – 28

Jeffery Russ, 1 year term on Select Board

LISTERS

1 – three year term: Nominated: Stanley “Mike” Bills, Richard Lucier – respectfully declined.

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Stanley “Mike” Bills for a three year term as Lister; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Stanley “Mike” Bills, 3 year term as Lister

1 – one year term: Nominated: Richard Lucier

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk 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: Howard Lott, John Evans – declined

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Howard Lott for a one year term as Lister; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Howard Lott, 1 year term as Lister

Auditors

1 – three year term Nominated: Ernie Ellingson

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Ernie Ellingson for a three year term as Auditor; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Ernie Ellingson, 3 year term as Auditor

1 – two year term Nominated: Ryan Hockertlotz

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Ryan Hockertlotz for a two year term as Auditor; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Ryan Hockertlotz, 2 year term as Auditor

1 – one year term Nominated: Judy Dickison – withdrew her name, Janet Stowell – declined, Kristine Grotz-Kuch

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Kristine Grotz-Kuch for a one year term as Auditor; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Kristine Grotz-Kuch, 1 year term as Auditor

Property Tax Collector

1 – one year term Nominated: Joseph Daigneault

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Joseph Daigneault for a one year term as Property Tax Collector; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Joseph Daigneault, 1 year term as Property Tax Collector

Delinquent Tax Collector

1 – one year term Nominated: Becky Nystrom

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk 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: Joe Novick, Mitchell Putmam – declined

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Joe Novick for a one year term as First Constable; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Joe Novick, 1 year term as First Constable

Second Constable

1 –one year term Nominated: Ryan Hockertlotz, Mark Morse – declines, Warren Beattie

Craig Hunt called for a paper ballot, which was supported by 6 other members of the Assembly.

Total Ballots Cast 120 Hockertlotz – 17 Beattie – 102 Spoiled – 1

Warren Beattie, 1 year term as Second Constable

Town Grand Juror

1 – one year term Nominated: Margaret Bills

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk 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: Carole Melis

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Carole Melis for a one year term as Town Agent; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Carole Melis, 1 year term as Town Agent

Library Trustee

1 – five year term Nominated: Marjorie Holt

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Marjorie Holt for a five year term as Library Trustee; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Marjorie Holt, 5 year term as Library Trustee

Cemetery Commissioner

1 – five year term Nominated: Charles Marchant

There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed and instructed the clerk to cast one ballot for Charles Marchant for a five year term as Cemetery Commissioner; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Charles Marchant, 5 year term as Cemetery Commissioner

ARTICLE V. If a quorum of Auditors is not elected, shall the voters of the Town of Townshend, per 17 V.S.A. 2651 (B), authorize the Select Board to contract with a public accountant licensed in the State of Vermont to perform an annual financial audit of all town funds?

Al Haumann moved to pass over Article V; seconded by David Dezendorf. By voice vote Article V was passed over.

Article V passed over

ARTICLE VII. To see if the Town will authorize its Property Tax Collector to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 31, 2012; November 30, 2012; March 1, 2013; and May 31, 2013? 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 1, 2013.

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded by Carole Melis. Minor discussion of changes in due dates.

There being no further discussion, Article VII passes on voice vote.

Article VII passes

ARTICLE VIII. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$ 419,420.00 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the Town, of which \$ 223,994.00 to be raised by taxation?

Article moved by Craig Hunt and seconded by Carole Melis.

Hedy Harris made a motion to amend the amount to be appropriated to \$422,600 of which \$223,994 would be raised by taxation. Seconded by Carole Melis.

David Dezendorf presented an explanation of increases in the fire department and emergency management budgets. Discussion ensued.

Al Haumann moved to amend the amendment to an amount appropriated of \$420,267 of which \$221,661 would be raised by taxation. Seconded by Mike Finnegan.

Rick Hege made a motion at 12:15 P.M. that the meeting recess for lunch until after the School District meeting at 1:00 P.M. Seconded and approved by voice vote.

Meeting was reconvened at 1:50 P.M.

Al Claussen made a motion to close discussion on the amendment to Article VIII. Seconded by Paul Jerz.
The motion to close debate passes by voice vote.

The Moderator explained the procedural order that the amendments would take to determine the main motion.

The amendment made by Al Haumann **passed** by voice vote replacing the monetary figures in the amendment made by Hedy Harris. A voice vote of the amended amendment **passed** making it now the main motion. The amended main motion **passed** by voice vote.

Article VIII passes

ARTICLE IX. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$ 811,060.00 for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads, of which \$ 698,060.00 to be raised by taxation?

Steve Ovenden moved the article; seconded by Nacene Winrich.

Irvin Stowell made a motion to amend the monetary amounts to \$677,060 in appropriations of which \$564,060 is to be raised by taxes. Seconded by Henry Martin. Discussion ensued about the origin of the figures.

Al Haumann called the question. A voice vote on the amendment was inconclusive and the Moderator called for a division of the house. Yes 41 No 36 The amendment **passes.**

Al Haumann called the question on the amended main motion. The motion **passes** on a voice vote.

Article IX passes

ARTICLE X. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 60,000.00, by taxation, to be placed in the Highway Equipment Fund toward the purchases of vehicles and equipment?

Janet Stowell made a motion to pass over Article X, which was seconded. The motion **failed** on a voice vote.

Carole Melis moved the article; seconded by Joe Winrich. Discussion ensued over the timing of the purchase of a new vehicle.

Tim Bell called the question. Debate was closed and the motion passed by voice vote.

Article X passes

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?

Irvin Stowell made a motion to approve the article; seconded by Craig Hunt.

Passed by voice vote.

Article XI passes

ARTICLE XII. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 43,757.00, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the Library?

So moved by Craig Hunt. Seconded by Carole Melis.

There being no discussion, the motion passes on a voice vote.

Article XII passes

ARTICLE XIII. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 7,000.00, by taxation for providing electrical services to Taft Meadows to allow use by fairs, exhibits, festivals and public gatherings?

David Dezendorf moved the article. Seconded by Ryan Hockertlotz.

Discussion about the extent and cost of the upgrades necessary to make Taft Meadows suitable as an event staging area.

Philip Moriarty called the question. Discussion closed.

By voice vote the motion failed.

Article XIII fails

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

Charles Marchant made a motion to approve the article. Seconded by Paul Jerz.

There being no discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote. The motion **passes**.

Article XIV passes

ARTICLE XV. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 14,670.00, by taxation, for the support of Social Services, as recommended by the Screening Committee?

Paul Jerz made a motion to approve the article. Seconded by Joe Winrich.

There being no discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote. The motion passes.

Article XV passes

ARTICLE XVI. 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, 2012 through June 30, 2013, and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

Craig Hunt made a motion to approve the article. Seconded by Irvin Stowell.

There being no discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote. The motion passes.

Article XVI passes

ARTICLE XVII. 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?

Charles Marchant made a motion to approve the article. Seconded by Joe Winrich.

There being no discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote. The motion passes.

Article XVII passes

ARTICLE XVIII. 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?

Irvin Stowell made a motion to approve the article. Seconded by Joe Novick.

There being no discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote. The motion passes.

Article XVIII passes

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

It was noted that the Road Forman had been present during the discussion of the highway budget and that several individuals found that helpful in making decisions.

Kathy DuGrenier asked that the Town Report include a summary of job descriptions for the various Town Officers.

Robert DuGrenier asked about the rumor that Scott Bridge would be torn down. The Agency of Transportation and the Vermont Historical Preservation Society are currently in discussion over the fate of the bridge.

Carole Melis made a motion to authorize the Select Board to show support for the preservation of Scott Bridge on behalf of the residents of Townshend. Craig Hunt seconded. The motion **passes** unanimously.

Note was made of the Democratic Caucus meeting on March 24, 2012.

Philip Moriarty made a motion to express appreciation to the Town road crew, other towns' road crews, and everyone else who helped support the recovery from Hurricane Irene. Seconded. **Passed** unanimously.

There will be a Special Town Meeting on April 2, 2012, at 6:00 P.M. to ratify the results of the Town Meeting held on March 6, 2012. If the Meeting results are not ratified, there will be a new Town Meeting on April 3, 2012, at 9:00 A.M. to revote on all the articles.

Skip Woodruff made note of the unusual amount of heavy truck traffic on Windham Hill Road. It was speculated that the traffic was a result of drivers trying to avoid bad roads in other towns still under repair from Hurricane Irene.

There being no further discussion, Irvin Stowell made a motion to adjourn at 3:40 P.M. until the ratification meeting on April 2, 2012. Seconded and **passed** by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Hege, Acting Clerk

David Liebow, Moderator

Anita Bean, Town Clerk

Joseph Daigneault, Justice of the Peace