

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2013**

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 5, 2013 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 9:02 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.

A Motion was made to suspend the rules to allow Governor Peter Shumlin to speak which was passed without objection.

He addressed issues such as high speed internet access, health insurance system and renewable sources of energy.

Education – training for future jobs – college more affordable – changing teaching methods and revamping the welfare system. He then took questions from the assembly. Governor Shumlin left at 9:35

David Liebow then introduced Richard Marek. He spoke to several issues, took questions and left at 9:40

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

David Liebow opened nominations for Moderator.

Carol Melis nominated David Liebow.

There being no others, Henry Martin 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, 2012 - June 30, 2013 Auditors' Report:

Carole Melis made a motion to approve the Auditors' report, seconded by Craig Hunt.

No Discussion. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Article II passed

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

Town Clerk:	\$ 33,535.00/ yr
Town Treasurer:	\$ 2,215.00/ yr
Select Board: (1) Chair:	\$ 725.25/ yr
(4) Members:	\$ 625.00/ yr
Listers, Auditors, assistants and casual labor:	\$ 13.25/ hr

So moved by Carole Melis; seconded by Craig Hunt

No discussion. The motion passed by voice vote

Article III passed

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

TOWN CLERK: 1 – one year term: Nominated: Anita Bean – Art Monette, Respectfully declined

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: Hedy Harris

Carole Melis made a motion to close nominations and have the clerk cast one ballot for Hedy Harris for a three year term on the Select Board; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Hedy Harris, 3 year term on Select Board

1 – one year term: Nominated: Chad Greenwood

Carole Melis made a motion to close nominations and have the clerk 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: Scott Chase and Ryan Hockertlotz
Kristine Kuch explained that Ryan is still an elected Auditor and therefore cannot be a member of the Select Board.

Carole Melis made a motion to close nominations and have the clerk cast one ballot for Scott Chase for a one year term on the Select Board; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Scott Chase, 1 year term on Select Board

LISTERS: 1 – three year term: Nominated: Richard Lucier

Carole Melis made a motion to close nominations and have the clerk cast one ballot for Richard Lucier for a three year term as Lister; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Richard Lucier, 3 year term as Lister

1 – one year term: Nominated: Steve Lott

Carole Melis made a motion to close nominations and have the clerk cast one ballot for Steve Lott for a one year term as Lister; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Steve Lott, 1 year term as Lister

1 – one year term: Nominated: Jeff Russ – declined, Paula Newton

Carole Melis made a motion to close nominations and have the clerk cast one ballot for Paula Newton for a one year term as Lister; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Paula Newton, 1 year term as Lister

AUDITORS: 1 – three year term: Nominated: Kristine Grotz-Kuch

Carole Melis made a motion to close nominations and have the clerk cast one ballot for Kristine Grotz-Kuch for a three year term as Auditor; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Kristine Grotz-Kuch, 3 year term as Auditor

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTOR: 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 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: Warren Beattie

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

Warren Beattie, 1 year term as First Constable

SECOND CONSTABLE: **1 – one year term:** Nominated: Michael Cutts

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

Michael Cutts, 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 TRUSTEES: **1 – five 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 five year term as Library Trustee; seconded and carried by voice vote.

Margaret Bills, 5 year term as Library Trustee

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER: **1 – five year term:** Nominated: Howard Graff

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

ARTICLE V. To see if the Town will authorize its Property Tax Collector to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 30, 2013; November 29, 2013; March 28, 2014; and May 30, 2014? 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, 2014.

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded by Carole Melis.

Discussion ensued regarding payment date of March 28, 2014.

Motion to change the payment date to February 28, 2014 was made by Carole Melis and seconded.

A voice vote of the amendment passed making it now the main motion, which passed by voice vote

Article V, as amended, passed

ARTICLE VI. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$ 494,520.00 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the Town, of which \$ 184,114.00 to be raised by taxation.

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded by Carole Melis.

Discussion – Why the difference in the appropriation amount and the amount to be raised by taxes.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article VI passed

ARTICLE VII. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$837,651.00 for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads, of which \$779,651.00 to be raised by taxation.

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded by David Dezendorf.

David Dezendorf explained the figures listed on Page 17 of the Town Report.

Discussion – preventative maintenance on Town Trucks – FEMA lawsuit and appeal regarding the dam culvert.

If FEMA money comes in the amount will be put toward the setting of the tax rate. Budget amount up 13% would be 3% if FEMA money came in.

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

Explanation of Fog Line Painting and Special Projects

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article VII passed

ARTICLE VIII. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$85,000.00, by taxation, to be used toward the purchase of a new Highway Department truck.

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded by Ken Lemire.

Discussion – what is owed on equipment at this time? What is the actual cost of the new truck?

Replacement cost with trade-in (T-8) of 35,000.00 to 40,000.00. Cost of a new truck between 155,000.00 to 165,000.00 per truck.

Lease possibility. Good practice to trade-in truck before warranty runs out

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article VIII passed

ARTICLE IX. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 5,000.00, by taxation, to be placed in a Stone Arch Bridge Reserve account for the maintenance of the Town's historic stone arch bridges.

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded by Carole Melis.

Discussion - Historic bridges cannot be used for travel but the town is responsible for their upkeep and maintenance.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article IX passed

ARTICLE X. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 5,000.00, by taxation, to be put into a Fire Pond Reserve account for the maintenance of municipal fire ponds.

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded by Carole Melis.

Discussion – Where are the ponds in question. David Dezendorf gave a brief run down.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article X passed

ARTICLE XI. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 5,000.00, by taxation, to be used for the study of a new transfer station and recycling facility.

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded by Craig Hunt.

Discussion – Transfer site location - Hedy Harris said they were looking at Grafton Road (old site) and Taft Meadows. Henry Martin explained that the current system is antiquated and the compactor is dying. It is time to start looking for an updated system and equipment.

Contacted other towns to see how their transfer stations and recycling facilities are operated.

There being no further discussion, the motion failed by voice vote.

Article XI failed

ARTICLE XII. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$43,257.00, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the Library.

So moved by Craig Hunt and seconded by Carole Melis.

There being no discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article XII passed

ARTICLE XIII. 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 Carole Melis and seconded by Craig Hunt.

Motion to amend the Article to read \$20,000.00 was made by Dale Davis and seconded by Carole Melis.

Discussion – The cost for a new Fire Truck is approximately 300,000.00. A new truck needs to be purchased in 7 years. If the reserve amount is not increased there will not be enough money to purchase a new truck.

Henry Martin stated that raising the amount would be an increased burden on the tax payer and seeing the Town can borrow money at a low rate it would be better to wait and take out a loan at the time of the Purchase.

There being no further discussion, the motion to amend failed by voice vote.

Main Motion – Request for Paper Ballot

First round of voting was declared spoiled vote due to an unregistered voter casting a ballot. Moved to a second round of voting.

Total Ballots Cast - 98 Yes - 63 No - 34 Spoiled - 1

Article XIII passed

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:05, to reconvene after the Townshend School District Meeting.

Newly elected officers were sworn in by the Town Clerk.

There was a brief explanation of page 29 in the Town Report.

The Moderator reconvened the Town Meeting at 2:00 P.M.

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 by Craig Hunt.

There being no discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article XIV passed

ARTICLE XV. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$ 14,510.00, by taxation, for the support of Social Services, as recommended by the Screening Committee.

So moved Craig Hunt and seconded by Carole Melis .

There being no discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article XV passed

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, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded by Charlie Marchant.

There being no discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article XVI passed

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.

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded by Charlie Marchant.

There being no discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Article XVII passed

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.

So moved by Carole Melis and seconded by Craig Hunt.

There being no discussion, the motion passed by voice vote

Article XVIII passed

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

There was no article to set the date for the next town meeting. The moderator recommended setting the date for the next annual meeting on the first Tuesday in March 2014 at 9:00 A.M.

Issues discussed included Scott Bridge
Contracting services for the highway department
Hydro Project
Sign-up sheet for town report.

There being no further discussion motion to adjourn at 2:10 P.M. was made by Carole Melis, seconded and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Bean, Town Clerk

David Liebow, Moderator

Joseph Daigneault, Justice of the Peace