

**ANNUAL TOWN OF ROXBURY MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2018**

Lucinda Sullivan, Town Moderator, called the Town portion of meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

- Art. 1. To elect the following officers of the Town. (Australian Ballot)
- Town Moderator for a term of one year
 - Town Clerk for a term of one year
 - Town Treasurer for a term of one year
 - Selectman for a term of three years
 - Lister for a term of three years
 - Auditor for a term of three years
 - Library Trustee for a term of three years
 - Library Trustee for a term of two years
 - Library Trustee for a term of one year
 - Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year
 - Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years
 - First Constable for a term of one year
 - Second Constable for a term of one year
 - Grand Juror for a term of one year
 - Town Agent for a term of one year

- Art. 2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.
Tom Frazier moved the article, Ed Carney seconded.

Jeremy Reed, Chair of the Selectboard, spoke about tax rates and the budget. Also mentioned was the needs of the community and building repairs. The Board tried to level fund the highway budget. The current budget is already over on diesel. Highlights of the year are the painting/repairs to the Community Hall/Senior Center - thank you to Terry Edwards for painting the entire building by himself, the painting of the Library building, the purchase of a 2018 International truck. The 2002 International truck will be sold this year; equipment is aging, some need replacing.

Discussion on the condition of the sidewalk in the village. Tom Frazier mentioned property values lower because of a couple of properties in the village. The sidewalks need to be rehabilitated. In front of the home owned by Dave Santi there is debris, people have to use the road to walk around it. These properties affect everybody and they need to be cleaned up. During the summer, camp kids used to use the sidewalk. Possibly applying for a grant to clean the sidewalks. Safe Routes Grant was mentioned, the school would need to apply for this grant. Sue Nevins mentioned the people in the village see the area all the time, we should consider the people in village. Jeremy stated the Board would discuss this at their next meeting and to also talk to their school counterparts. Sally Kirn mentioned that she agreed with the discussion and is also concerned about safety issues and what if someone is hurt. Brett Cox also agrees this is a valid concern and is an important issue with those that live in the village. It was mentioned that the Constable has no power to enforce ordinances or violations. Ordinances, enforcement and penalties discussed.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 3. Shall the Town of Roxbury enter into a communications union district to be known as Central Vermont Internet, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Ch 82?
Ed Carney moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

Jeremy Reed spoke about the reason the article was on the warning. Jeremy Hansen from Berlin (he is also a professor at Norwich University) came to the Selectboard to discuss the Central Vermont Internet. He said other towns have the article on their warning. This is not supposed to cost the town anything to join. This is a separate entity. Questions were asked about existing internet service. Most in attendance said their internet service is not good, those in the village have really good service. If article passes, Roxbury would send a delegate to be on the board. The Central Vermont Internet is supposed to be cheaper than the existing internet provider. Joining now would enable Roxbury to help set up the charter. The organization needs seven towns to begin the process. There is a website that people can look at to learn more. Internet

service is unregulated. Fiber optic would help Roxbury residents. Jeremy stated the risk to Roxbury is unclear. No taxpayer money can be used to create the utility. It was also mentioned that EC Fiber is not interested in expanding to Roxbury. Jeremy Hansen's presentation to the Selectboard is on Roxbury's website. It was mentioned that the Town didn't pursue solar panels because they didn't want to lease them, we should look forward to the future not be in doubt. Jeremy spoke about potential liabilities - he had spoken to a couple qualified IT people after Jeremy Hansen had visited the Selectboard. What is backing this organization - the answer is unclear. It was also mentioned that Roxbury residents have no power when dealing with TDS. If Roxbury joins Central Vermont Internet, we would have some power.

Brett Cox called the question, Ed Carney seconded. The voters approved the motion to call the question. The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and a couple nos.

- Art. 4. Will the voters approve the collection of taxes on real estate in four (4) equal installments on the second Friday of August 2018, the second Friday of November 2018, the second Friday of February 2019 and the second Friday of May 2019, with interest of one half percent (0.5%) per month, or fraction thereof, on the unpaid taxes after each installment due date? Karen Hedding moved the article, Jeanne Beckwith seconded.

After a couple questions about payments, the article was before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 5. Will the voters approve the sum of \$512,909.00 for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? Beverly Rutter moved the article, Carol Randall seconded.

No discussion. The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 6. Will the voters approve the sum of \$232,214.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. Brett Cox moved the article, Brock Freyer seconded.

No discussion. The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 7. Will the voters approve the sum of \$3,900.00 to be administered by the Cemetery Commission for tree removal and stump grinding at First Settler East Cemetery? Adam Jackson moved the article, Jane Pincus seconded.

There was a brief discussion on the plans for removing the trees. Sue Nevins, Cemetery Commissioner, said the plans are to be selective on the cuts. There is one area that needs attention.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 8. Will the voters approve the sum of \$29,680.00 for the Roxbury Free Library, to be administered by the Trustees, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Brett Cox moved the article, Hannah Zajac seconded.

Jane Pincus, Library Trustee Chair, mentioned she has been on the Board for thirteen years. Ryan Zajac is the Library Director. The other members on the Board are Carl Ellis and Colleen Flanagan. She thanked the people and invited them to be on the Board of Trustees. The meetings are open to the public. Other Town's come to Roxbury's library.

Carl Ellis amended the article to insert the words **from this appropriation** after the word **excess**. Sally Kirn seconded the amendment. Carl wanted to make sure the fundraising money is kept separate. Tammy Legacy mentioned the fundraising money is kept in a different account. Library payroll was discussed. The Trustees do not receive compensation, the library staff are the only ones paid. The amendment is before the voters.

Will the voters approve the sum of \$29,680.00 for the Roxbury Free Library, to be administered by the Trustees, with any excess from this appropriation to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? The amendment passed with many ayes and 1 no.

The article is now before the voters? Will the voters approve the sum of \$29,680.00 for the Roxbury Free Library, to be administered by the Trustees, with any excess from this appropriation to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 9. Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department Truck Capital Account? Carol Randall moved the article, Andre Souigny seconded.

There were questions on the purpose of the fund. Don Randall from the Fire Department spoke about the article. Money is being put aside along with fundraising to purchase vehicles without borrowing. This is an annual article.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 10. Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,930.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department's operating expenses, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Lisa Frost moved the article, Adam Jackson seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 11. Will the voters approve the sum of \$4,000.00 for the Fire Department Equipment Fund. These funds will be used to purchase equipment. Don Randall moved the article, Wade Holt seconded.

There were questions about breather tanks and whether this was enough money to run the fire department. Don Randall said the fire department has enough money to run the fire department. There are three vehicles (2 are all wheel drive). This year the operating money and equipment money is separate at the request of Selectboard. The fire department needs to purchase self contained breathing apparatuses. It will be a multiyear process. Each unit cost \$6,000 and they need eight units. Don expects to purchase a couple this year. A question about defibrillators. Don said the fire department owns several.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

Art. 12. Shall town vote to give \$350.00 to the Roxbury Food Shelf to pay their dues to the Vermont Food Bank. Ed Carney moved the article, Fran French seconded.

A question on whether this was enough money and is there enough food. Claire Chomentowski said they are grateful for anything they can get. It was mentioned that the insurance company dropped the Church's insurance (the Food Shelf is in the Church) because of the need for repairs. The stairs need to be fixed. The steeple needs painting and repairs. It is very costly. Another insurance company has insured the Church but the steeple needs to be fixed this spring. It will cost about \$10,000 plus more to repair the steeple. The attendees thanked Claire and Tom Chomentowski for running the Food Shelf. Fundraising during the year was mentioned. It was mentioned that we need to separate Church and State. It cost money to heat and maintain the building that the Food Shelf is in. It was mentioned that the Library used the Church for cooking classes.

Carlos Montero amended the article to change to: Shall the town vote to give \$1,000.00 to the Roxbury Food Shelf for dues and monthly orders? Betty Carney seconded.

Discussion on how this would be administered to keep separation from Church and State. The Town will pay the invoices out of the general fund. No funds from the Church will be sent to the Food Bank and no funds from the Town are kept in the church account.

The amendment is before the voters. The amendment passed with many ayes and 1 no.

The article is before the voters: Shall the town vote to give \$1,000.00 to the Roxbury Food Shelf for dues and monthly orders? The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 13. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure of \$500.00 for The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc., d/b/a Northfield Senior Center? Karen Hedding moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

Jane Pincus said the Seniors in Roxbury get their food from Northfield Senior Center. Any one is invited to join them, you don't have to be Seniors.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 14. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure of \$500.00 for the Capstone Community Action, Inc. (formerly Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc: helping people build better communities through weatherization, business development, food shelves, Head Start, emergency heating, housing counseling, job training, and financial education? Adam Jackson moved the article, Lisa Frost seconded.

Laura Sudhoff works for Capstone. She reported on the organization and said it was worthwhile.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 15. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice in the amount of \$1,250.00: a full service non-profit Visiting Nurse Association providing high-quality, health care services to all central Vermonters in their own homes, regardless of their ability to pay? Beverly Rutter moved the article, Fran French seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 16. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Family Center of Washington County in the amount of \$200.00, building resourceful families and healthy children to create a strong community? Ryan Zajac moved the article, Adam Jackson seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 17. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the amount of \$500.00: since 1926, enabling Vermonters with vision problems, whether blindness or impairment, to achieve and maintain independence? Claire Chomentowski moved the article, Karen Hedding seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 18. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Good Beginnings of Central Vermont in the amount of \$100.00: supporting the transition to parenthood with free services for all families with new babies? Jeanne Beckwith moved the article, Fran French seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 19. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for People's Health and Wellness Clinic in the amount of \$300.00, providing free primary standard and complementary health care, including mental health, oral health, and wellness education to the uninsured and underinsured community members of Central Vermont who cannot otherwise afford these services? Sue Nevins moved the article, Claire Chomentowski seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 20. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club in the amount of \$250.00, Youth/family

counseling; drug/alcohol treatment; help for runaway and homeless youth; support for teen parents; teen centers; reentry program for young offenders; 24-hour crisis intervention; and more? Ryan Zajac moved the article, Lisa Frost seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 21. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Central Vermont Council on Aging in the amount of \$900.00: supporting central Vermonters to age with dignity and choice, CVCOA provides a wide range of programs and services for aging persons to lead healthy, independent, and meaningful lives in their home and communities? Karen Hedding moved the article, Andre Souigny seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 22. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter) in the amount of \$100.00: a community-based organization dedicated to ending domestic abuse? Adam Jackson moved the article, Chris Dorer-Williams seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 23. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Prevent Child Abuse Vermont in the amount of \$200.00: working effectively to prevent child abuse and neglect through parent education, support and public awareness? Karen Hedding moved the article, Andre Souigny seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 24. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Sexual Assault Crisis Team for Washington County in the amount of \$150.00: advocacy for female and male victims of sexual violence, their family members, spouses, and friends; includes emotional, legal, and medical support, shelter, training and 24-hour Hotline? Sue Nevins moved the article, Jeanne Beckwith seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 25. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Central Vermont Adult Basic Education in the amount of \$600.00: free adult education: reading, writing, math and computer literacy; English language and citizenship skills; high school completion programs; and academic readiness for career and college? Andre Souigny moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 26. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Art's Bus, Inc in the amount of \$500.00: delivering free art, music, drama and literacy to children and families in rural Central Vermont? Jane Pincus moved the article, Claire Chomentowski seconded.

Ryan Zajac mentioned what the funds do for Roxbury. Roxbury children can go to the Art's Bus any place it is, they do not have to only use it when it is in Roxbury.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 27. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Good Samaritan Haven in the amount of \$300.00: Central Vermont's only homeless shelter, providing emergency shelter and support services to individuals experiencing homelessness in our community? Claire Chomentowski moved the article, Karen Hedding seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 28. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Home Share Now, Inc. in the amount of \$300.00: created 99 affordable housing units last year by bringing together aging adults with a bedroom to offer and vetted home seekers in need of affordable housing? Last year 115 people secured their housing thanks to

Home Share Now. Chris Dorer-Williams moved the article, Sue Nevins seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 29. Shall the voters authorize expenditure for Community Harvest of Central Vermont in the amount of \$100.00: a volunteer driven nonprofit that through gleaning recovers surplus food from local farms to maximize community resources, reduce waste, educate about the local food system and help feed those in the community who have limited access to healthy fresh local food? Lisa Frost moved the article, Adam Jackson seconded.

Lisa Frost mentioned she volunteers with them. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Lisa.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 30. Shall the voters authorize expenditure for Washington County Mental Health in the amount of \$800.00: working to serve our community through education, support, and treatment of individuals who live with mental health challenges, developmental disabilities, and substance use issues? Ryan Zajac moved the article, Brock Freyer seconded.

No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 31. To transact any other proper business to be brought before said meeting. Ben Pincus moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

Ben Pincus requested the notices about organizations get posted. Jeremy stated that at the Selectboard meeting the night before it was mentioned that there are links to these organizations on the town's website. Fran French mentioned that the Auditors have a binder that they keep the notices in.

Carl Ellis mentioned that when his report was delivered to his house, it was left under the eaves and was not in good shape.

Carlos Montero mentioned there was no article on the warning for the Community Hall Fund. Jeremy stated the town is taking over the repairs of buildings so no article was necessary. Repairs to buildings were discussed. Carlos requested a meeting be scheduled with the Community Hall group to discuss priorities. Dave McShane said a meeting will be scheduled.

Sue Nevins said the Historical Society steps need repairing. Dave said they would be fixed before July 4th.

Tom Chomentowski talked about the Church. Over twenty years ago, the Selectmen (School Board) helped with remodeling of School and driveways. Church has no place to park anymore because of neighbor on the north side of Church. The Church was built in 1871. The owner of property north of Church says it is his land. There is confusion about property. The Church used to be used by Grange. A toilet and water were put in the Church. This is more complicated than Church and State. The Church pays for the electricity of water pump. Rhett Williams asked if the School should be responsible for repaying the Church for the electricity. Easements and documents were discussed. Tammy Legacy mentioned easements and deeds were recorded in Town Office. Ryan Zajac said he would contact the Superintendent about ownership of septic system.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.