

**ANNUAL TOWN OF ROXBURY MEETING  
MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2019**

Lucinda Sullivan, Town Moderator, called Town Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Lucinda welcomed everyone. She requested a moment of silence for those no longer with us. Lucinda went over Robert's Rules of Order.

- 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 one year
  - 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.  
Kate Jackson moved the article, Fran French seconded.

Chair of the Selectboard, Jeremy Reed, spoke about road projects. Warren Mountain Road has a serious slope issue and also on Warren Mountain Road is an area that gets very muddy. The Town received grants for these projects. An increase in the highway budget is payroll, diesel and an increase in the Highway Equipment Fund. An article on the warning is to cover town share for the two road projects. The Oxbow Road bridge was replaced due to sudden failure. The Bull Run Road Project is complete.

John Parzych asked questions about why the payroll section of the highway budget increased. Jeremy stated the increase was payroll, increase in health insurance and payroll taxes. There are four employees - two full time and two part-time. There were questions about the cost of ambulance service. Gerry D'Amico asked what the consequences would be if we did not contract for ambulance service - no one knew the answer. Jeremy stated Northfield was cheaper than other towns. Questions were asked about solid waste arrangements and Central Vermont Internet. Jeremy stated that Roxbury is not part of Northfield's solid waste district. Selectboard is looking into other solid waste districts. There was no update on Central Vermont Internet - Roxbury's representative was not at Town Meeting. Sue Nevins wondered if the reason for the failure of the Oxbow Bridge was log trucks. Jeremy stated he is not sure of the reason. There was discussion about speeders on Warren Mountain Road when the road is closed. Courtney Jenkins offered the use of her driveway for the Washington County Sheriff to park. Wendy Cashman was concerned about speeders in East Roxbury. Cell phone service was mentioned for Roxbury and East Roxbury. Tom Frazier mentioned the need for the Town Garage to be replaced. It is in a bad state of repair - the roof leaks, unsafe and employees work in the facility. He knows it would be expensive but would like to get things started on replacing the building. He invited people to come to the garage at the Rabies Clinic and look at the building. He does not think it is worth repairing. It was mentioned the need to replace the grader and loader - they are getting old. Jeremy stated Roxbury has a high tax rate. A new grader cost \$260,000 and a new loader cost \$180,000. Jeremy did say the insurance company does periodic audits of town buildings. Selectman Steve Twombly suggested the Board start exploring replacing the Town Garage. The Town Garage was built around 1970. Dave Santi mentioned the sidewalks. He said he always wanted the sidewalks cleared. The Town did a great job. Dave also mentioned complaints made to the State by town officials about a property on Premo Road. John Parzych again asked why there was a \$16,000 increase in highway payroll when there are only two extra employees in the winter and they don't get benefits. Jeremy stated it is an increase for all employees which

includes overtime, you can't predict overtime. Don Randall said Roger Thomas does an exceptional job on Bull Run Road. Jane Pincus thanked the road crew - they are amazing. Jill George thanked the Auditors for the reports being better in the Town Report. Dave Santi asked why we need the Sheriff? Jeremy stated there were break-ins in Town, the police reached out to the Selectboard. There were complaints about speeders. The Selectboard contracted with Washington County Sheriff's Department with focus on Warren Mountain Road. The Town does receive money from the tickets. Jeremy and Steve reported on the number of tickets given out. Courtney Jenkins mentioned again that the Sheriff can park in her driveway on Warren Mountain Road. There were concerns by those in attendance about the speeders on 12A and Warren Mountain Road. Ryan Zajac suggested people contact the State if they were concerned about speeding in the school zone. Jane Pincus mentioned she is thankful for the post office but it in disrepair.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and one no.

Moderator Lucinda Sullivan stated if there were no objections, she would like to suspend the rules and allow Roxbury's State Representative to speak. There were no objections. Representatives Ben Jickling and Jay Hooper spoke to the voters about what they have been doing in Montpelier. Ben is on the Health Care Committee and Jay is on the Education Committee. Jay thanked the School Board and community for acting on Act 46. There were questions and comments about background checks for people buying guns, cell service concerns, taxing electric cars and status of how the legislature is getting along with Governor. Some in attendance were concerned about the lack of response from the Legislators when they contacted them. Heather Holter mentioned she had voted for the school merger but felt some people were negatively impacted by the merger.

Art. 3. Shall the Town of Roxbury vote on all social service appropriations by Australian Ballot? This does not include organizations that are included in the General Fund Operating Budget. Beverly Rutter moved the article, Elizabeth Carney seconded.

Jeremy Reed mentioned there are eighteen articles for appropriations. This article would move them to Australian Ballot. Also mentioned by voters was voting all articles by Australian Ballot, if this passed it would shorten Town Meeting and maybe we should consider holding Town Meeting in the evenings. If passed, the articles would be voted individually. The process of submitting petitions was discussed.

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

Art. 4. Will the voters approve the collection of taxes on real estate in four (4) equal installments on the second Friday of August 2019, the second Friday of November 2019, the second Friday of February 2020 and the second Friday of May 2020, with interest of one half percent (0.5%) per month, or fraction thereof, on the unpaid taxes after each installment due date? Adam Jackson moved the article, Wendy Cashman seconded.

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

Art. 5. Will the voters approve the sum of \$550,180.00 for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? Trish Brown moved the article, Tom Frazier seconded.

Kate Jackson asked if this article includes money to be set aside for replacing equipment. Jeremy Reed said yes there is \$60,000 set aside for equipment fund. Tom Frazier asked about the schedule for replacing the loader & grader. Jeremy stated the Board is working on replacing the grader now. There is no discussion on replacing the loader at this time. Also mentioned was replacing vehicles quicker - cost of repairs are high. John Parzych said \$60,000 is not enough. John Parzych moved to increase the budget \$20,000 for the purpose of putting it into the equipment fund. Dave Santi seconded.

The amended article is: Will the voters approve the sum of \$570,180.00 with \$80,000 which will go into the equipment fund for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? Tom Frazier suggested next year having a

separate article for the Highway Equipment Fund. The amendment is before the voters. The amendment passed with many ayes and 2 nos.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and 2 nos.

- Art. 6. Will the voters approve the sum of \$65,000.00 for a local share match for a Class 2 Town Highway for limited paving and drainage on Warren Mountain Road and a Federal Highway ER Grant for Warren Mountain Road slope failure? Jeanne Beckwith moved the article, Wendy Cashman seconded.

The location of the slope damage was discussed - it is above Webster Road. Paving was mentioned. Paving will only happen on current paved portion. Estimate of Town's share was discussed. The Board is confident the share will be at least \$65,000. Right-of-way was mentioned - the Town has not yet paid for the right-of-way. What if the article is voted down. Jeremy explained the projects and costs. Steve Twombly stated the Town is lucky to have the grant (Federal ER Grant) - the Board had applied multiple times and never approved. Every spring the gravel portion gets worse. More questions on projects and breakdown of funds. Question about whether Warren Mountain Road should be paved. Jeremy stated the cost would be huge to pave Warren Mountain Road. The road would need to be reconstructed prior to paving. Discussion on guidelines for roads - Jeremy stated all roads need to meet State standards. More discussion about roads. Wendy Cashman called the question. Beverly Rutter seconded. The vote must pass by 2/3's vote. The question passed with many ayes and 1 abstention.

The article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and 2 nos.

- Art. 7. Will the voters approve the sum of \$251,382.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. Adam Jackson moved the article, Fran French seconded.

Carma Flowers asked about the \$19,000 budget increase. It was stated there is an increase in law enforcement, ambulance and dispatching. There was discussion on contracting with the Washington County Sheriff's Department. Washington County Sheriff has flexible hours. Dave Santi asked about a meeting Jeremy Reed attended. *(this meeting was held between State Police, Washington County Sheriff's Department, Washington County State's Attorney and people in Roxbury that were invited to the meeting by the State Police - it was not an official meeting of any Roxbury officials)* Dave asked if the meeting was public. Jeremy stated no. Dave Santi moved to amend the budget to remove law enforcement. Arthur Smith seconded the motion. Discussion on the amendment. Art Dickinson called the question. Beverly Rutter seconded. The vote must pass by 2/3's vote. The question passed with many ayes.

The amended article is before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$243,882.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. The amendment failed with 2 yes and many nos. Carl Ellis called the question. Art Dickinson seconded. The vote must pass by 2/3's vote. The question passed with many ayes.

The original article is before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$251,382.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. The article passed with many ayes and 1 no.

Lucinda called for a lunch break at 12:03 p.m.. The meeting started again at 12:53 p.m.

Art. 8. Will the voters approve the sum of \$2,000.00 to be administered by the Cemetery Commission for tree removal and stump grinding at West Hill Cemetery (Carrie Howe Road)? Beverly Rutter moved the article, Fran French seconded.

John Parzych asked if the road crew would do the work. Cemetery Commissioner Wendy Cashman replied the Cemetery Commission has contracted with Adam Whitney to do the work. Wendy expected more articles in future years - there is a big dead tree in Orcutt Cemetery. John Parzych asked if they would be open to volunteers. Wendy replied yes - there are stones that need to be cleaned. Carlos Montero mentioned that in the First Settlers Cemetery you can see where some stones were cleaned and some were not. Wendy mentioned that there is a Scout Project where the Scouts will work on fencing East Roxbury Cemetery. The Cemetery Commissioners have been working on the Winch Hill Cemetery.

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

Art. 9. Will the voters approve the sum of \$30,800.00 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? Ed Carney moved the article, Wendy Cashman seconded.

Gerry D'Amico wondered about the legality of the last part of article that states any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year. Jeremy stated they have been doing this for a couple of years and the Library has been deeded over to the Town and employees are considered Town employees. Brock Freyer asked what does the \$29,000 from last year get spent on. It was mentioned the budget report was not in the Town Report. Library Trustee Carl Ellis apologized for not getting the report into the Town Report. Carl stated he would like to amend the article to increase the budget \$600. The \$600 is to cover telephone bills which went up. Library had been getting a discount when they shouldn't have been. The motion was seconded by Hannah Zajac.

The amendment is before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$31,400.00 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? The amendment passed with all ayes.

The amended article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes, no nos and 1 abstention.

Art. 10. Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department Truck Capital Account? Gerry D'Amico moved the article and Heidi Albright seconded.

John Parzych asked what the \$15,000 is for. Fire Fighter Don Randall replied it is a truck capital account - equipment won't last forever.

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

Art. 11. Will the voters approve the sum of \$16,180.00 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? Ed Carney moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

Gerry D'Amico asked for more of the fire department's "Friends" budget. Jeremy Reed stated they had asked for it before but haven't seen it. Dave Santi replied it is private and by law they don't have to share it. Bill Jandl asked why can't we see where it goes. Ed Carney said it would be beneficial for transparency if the fire department would let us see it. Dave Santi said he agreed but it is what it is. Jeanne Beckwith asked if it is a separate organization from the town. Don Randall said if you look at recent purchases you will see that the Fire Department's Volunteers contributed a lot of money for the well and the last truck they contributed \$20,000. The primary objective is in support of those types of purchases. Carlos Montero asked why it is a problem having the people see where it goes - it is honest.

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

- Art. 12. 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, Wendy Cashman seconded.

Don Randall reported that the SCBAs are getting replaced, fire fighters are not allowed to enter buildings without wearing SCBAs. Two units have already been replaced at a cost of \$8,000 each. The fire department wants to purchase a total of eight over the next few years. There was discussion on the condition of trucks; Capital West Dispatching bylaws require no truck over twenty years. Also discussed was cost of replacing trucks. Dave Santi asked how many people were on the Fire Department, Don Stated eight or nine. Don also mentioned there were twenty-seven calls they participated in.

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

- Art. 13. Shall town vote to give \$1,000.00 to the Roxbury Food Shelf to pay their dues to the Vermont Food Bank. Ed Carney moved the article, Jeanne Beckwith seconded.

The article passed with many ayes and 1 no.

- Art. 14. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure of \$500.00 for The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc., d/b/a Northfield Senior Center? Adam Jackson moved the article, Carol Randall seconded.

The article passed with many ayes, no nos and 1 abstention.

- Art. 15. 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? Chris Dorman moved the article, Fran French seconded.

Representative from Capstone Laura Sudhoff mentioned they support our community by helping people with weatherization, heat, education and business development.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 16. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice in the amount of \$1,250.00: a nonprofit, full service Visiting Nurse Association committed to providing high-quality, medically-necessary home health and hospice care to all central Vermonters, regardless of their ability to pay? Our agency also promotes the general welfare of all central Vermont citizens with health promotion and long-term care services. Ed Carney moved the article, Wendy Cashman seconded.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 17. 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? Adam Jackson moved the article, Carol Randall seconded.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 18. 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? Ryan Zajac moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 19. 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? Trish Brown moved the article, Carlos Montero seconded.
- Chris Dorman asked if this is the bare bone that we can give. It was mentioned that the article could be amended. Chris moved to amend the amount to \$200. Ryan Zajac seconded.
- The amendment is before the voters: Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for Good Beginnings of Central Vermont in the amount of \$200.00: supporting the transition to parenthood with free services for all families with new babies?
- The amendment passed with many ayes and 1 no.
- The amended article is before the voters. The article passed with many ayes and 1 no.
- Art. 20. Shall the town voters authorize expenditures for People's Health and Wellness Clinic in the amount of \$200.00: providing free primary medical and complementary health care, including mental health, oral health, body work, and wellness education to the uninsured and underinsured community members of Central Vermont who cannot otherwise afford these services? Ed Carney moved the article, Dave Santi seconded.
- Dave Santi supports the organization, he said they are great people and he went to them for years.
- The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 21. 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; support for youth involved in foster care; 24-hour crisis intervention; and more? Trish Brown moved the article, Wendy Cashman seconded.
- There were questions on the location of the club.
- The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 22. 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? Ed Carney moved the article, Trish Brown seconded.
- Dave Santi stated you can get information from them.
- The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 23. 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? Chris Dorman moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.
- The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 24. 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? Heidi Albright moved the question, Laura Hamilton seconded.
- The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 25. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Sexual Assault Crisis Team for Washington County in the amount of \$200.00: providing advocacy and support

for people of all genders who have experienced sexual harm, and educating for a community free of sexual violence? Heidi Albright moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 26. 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? Heidi Albright moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 27. 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? Carol Randall moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

Dave Santi asked if there was any discussion on the Art Train coming here. Librarian Ryan Zajac said no.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 28. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Good Samaritan Haven in the amount of \$400.00: Central Vermont's only homeless shelter, providing emergency shelter and support services to individuals experiencing homelessness in our community? Ed Carney moved the article, Heidi Albright seconded.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 29. 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? Chris Dorman moved the article, Beverly Rutter seconded.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 30. Shall the voters authorize expenditure for Community Harvest of Central Vermont in the amount of \$100.00: recovers surplus food through gleaning from local farms to help feed residents with limited access to healthy food, maximize community resources, reduce waste, and create local food system awareness? Trish Brown moved the article, Carol Randall seconded.

Missy Axelrod spoke on behalf of the organization.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 31. 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? Chris Dorman moved the article, Ed Carney seconded.

The article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 32. To transact any other proper business to be brought before said meeting. Beverly Rutter moved the article, Wendy Cashman seconded.

Library Trustee Carl Ellis informed the voters that there was a Library Raffle. The lucky winner will get half of the money raised. The drawing will be on Green-up Day.

Library Director Ryan Zajac mentioned the program at the Library. People will be talking about their trips. Upcoming event will be on April 9th. Ben Pincus

will talk about his trip to Argentina and Chile. Ryan also mentioned a program sponsored by the School PTO and Library about raptors.

Wendy Cashman informed the voters she has a sign-up sheet for cemetery maintenance. Dave Santi asked Wendy if there are any projects for the big cemetery (Rte 12A). Wendy replied no, that was a private cemetery. It was also mentioned the Cemetery Commissioner's are attending trainings.

Sue Nevins and Carlos Montero talked about the Alternative Recycle Place in Barre.

Moderator Lucinda Sullivan thanked everyone for coming and for their patience. Ed Carney thanked Lucinda for her work.

Beverly Rutter moved to adjourn the meeting, Fran French seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Tammy Legacy  
Dated March 8, 2019