

## ANNUAL TOWN OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2020

Polls opened at 10 a.m. for Australian Ballot Voting.

Lucinda Sullivan, Town Moderator, called Town Meeting to order at 10:22 a.m. Lucinda welcomed the newcomers to the community and the new attendees to Town Meeting. Lucinda told everyone lunch is provided by the Roxbury Gardens. The Library is having a raffle and giving away seeds. Lucinda read from a book about the history of Town Meeting. The rules of Town Meeting were explained. Voters will be allowed to speak two times per article.

- 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
  - Selectman for a term of two years remaining of a three-year term
  - Lister for a term of three years
  - Lister for a term of two years remaining of a three-year term
  - Auditor for a term of three years
  - Library Trustee for a term of three years
  - Library Trustee for a term of three years
  - Library Trustee for a term of three years
  - 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.  
Ed Carney moved the article, Fran French seconded.

Chair of the Selectboard, Steve Twombly spoke to the attendees. Steve recapped from what was mentioned in the Selectboard Report. The Town purchased a new grader, a new International Truck has been ordered, it should be delivered in the fall. The Selectboard ordered a new one ton to replace the Ford Truck. The Town Office has been painted and the new Community Hall porch was built. The Selectboard signed a contract with Washington County Sheriff. The Town received an order to reappraise. RFPs were sent out, only one bid has been received but was not accepted. The Board will go back out to bid. The Selectboard has voted to join the Mountain Alliance for Solid Waste. The highway budget was increased to allow hiring a third full-time employee. There was a surplus in last year's budget, there is an article asking to use the surplus to reduce taxes which would offset the cost of hiring a third man. Steve mentioned there is a questionnaire from Central Vermont Internet.

Questions were asked about hiring a third person. Cell tower and roads were mentioned. Also questions about the surplus funds. If a third person is hired, it is reasonable to believe the Town would not need to hire out when doing projects, the employees would be able to do them.

Dogs were discussed. Two dogs in the village are a nuisance, people are being harassed, what is the Selectboard going to do. Steve explained the Board has not received complaints in a while, the Animal Control Officer was dealing with the issue but he resigned. People are concerned about the dogs.

Road projects were discussed. People are concerned about Steele Hill Road. Steve explained there are big projects planned but he is not sure Steele Hill Road is on the list.

More discussion on hiring a third person. Inefficient to do projects with only two guys and having vacation time during summer.

One voter is interested in being the Energy Coordinator.

Thanks were given to the road crew for the fantastic job this year. CV Fiber versus EC Fiber was discussed.

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

- Art. 3. Will the voters approve the collection of taxes on real estate in four (4) equal installments on Friday, August 14, 2020, Friday, November 13, 2020, Friday, February 12, 2021 and Friday, May 21, 2021, with interest of one half percent (0.5%) per month, or fraction thereof, on the unpaid taxes after each installment due date? Wendy Cashman moved the article, Ryan Zajac seconded.

Carma Flowers asked about statistics on how delinquency was since the Town went to four payments. Tammy Legacy did not have any statistics but explained that taxpayers had asked for more payments. It has helped the taxpayers, some people pay all at once, some make two installments and other do the four installments. Ed Dickinson asked if the Town has had to borrow since changing the number of due dates. Tammy Legacy said no.

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

- Art. 4. Will the voters approve the sum of \$619,390.00 for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? Tom Frazier moved the article, Ed Carney seconded.

Dave Santi called for paper ballot. Lucinda stated she would need seven people to vote yes for a paper ballot. No additional votes, no paper ballot was used.

Brock Freyer has concerns about Steele Hill Road. Dave McShane stated he would look into it. Mike McCorkel also stated Steele Hill Road needs maintenance. Ed Dickinson mentioned Warren Mountain Road is deteriorating, needs to be fixed.

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

- Art. 5. Will the voters approve the sum of \$241,972.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be

approved in any other article. Nick Laskovski moved the article, Sally Kirn seconded. No discussion.

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

- Art. 6. Will the voters approve using the \$21,500.00 in surplus funds from 2018/2019 fiscal year to reduce taxes? Courtney Jenkins moved the article, Fran French seconded.

Dave Santi asked where the surplus came from. Steve Twombly stated it was excess funds. Laura Sudhoff said that is good news. Louis Stamatelous asked if the funds could be invested instead. Steve said that was up to the voters.

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

At this time Gerry D'Amico asked about budget pages, it looked like one was missing but turns out the town government budget pages are out of order in the Town Report. Question regarding surplus by Dave Larcombe. It was stated the revenue received was higher than anticipated.

- Art. 7. Will the voters approve the sum of \$2,000.00 to be administered by the Cemetery Commission for tree removal and stump grinding at town cemeteries? Don Randall moved the article, Carol Randall seconded.

Tom Frazier had concerns a certain tree in the West Hill Cemetery was going to be removed. Cemetery Commissioner Jack Cashman discussed where the funds will be used. The plan is to use most of it in the Orcutt Cemetery but there are multiple projects planned.

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

- Art. 8. 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? Carl Ellis moved the article and Hannah Zajac seconded.

On behalf of the Library Trustees, Carl spoke. There are missing pages in the Town Report. The budget sheet was not printed, Carl brought copies for the voters. The budget request is \$600 less this year. Tom Frazier asked if the Auditors could make sure the Town Report is complete next year; there were issues last year too.

Library Trustee Ed Carney highlighted the upcoming programs. They are Master Gardener Program (they donated the seeds being given away), Verde Antique Marble Quarries in Roxbury, a presentation by Ed Carney on his Antarctic Expedition, a hands-on acting experience to solve a murder mystery in Roxbury presented by Jeanne Beckwith and great raffles. At 1pm on Saturday, March 7th, Roxbury's representative, Peter Reed and Jay Hooper will be speaking at the Library.

Mark Holderbach asked why unused budget funds do not stay with the Library. Carl responded that it was so organizations don't use it as a savings. Brock

Freyer thanked the Library for the Newsy (quarterly newsletter). Tom Frazier mentioned Dennis Kitz had information on Facebook about quarries. Dave Santi asked if the murder mystery was based on Roxbury's murder. The answer was no, it is fictional. Jane Pincus thanked Ryan Zajac for bringing the library into the 21st century and she thanked the Board. Also, a thank you to Adam Jackson for the wonderful bathroom floor.

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

At 11:21 a.m. Lucinda stated if there were no objections, our Roxbury Representatives would like to speak. Jay Hooper and Peter Reed spoke about what was happening in Montpelier. There were various questions asked the Representatives. Gerry D'Amico thanked Jay for not always voting on party lines. Concerns about motor vehicle inspection laws were discussed.

Art. 9. Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department Truck Capital Account? Don Randall moved the article, Sally Kirn seconded. No discussion.

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

Art.10. Will the voters approve the sum of \$16,330.00 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? Carol Randall moved the article, Tim Partlow seconded.

Dave Santi asked if all the money was spent last year. Tammy Legacy stated it was. Carlos Montero asked what was happening at the Fire Department. On behalf of the Roxbury Fire Department, Don Randall spoke. The Roxbury Fire Fighters Association purchased another truck to supplement the three trucks they already have, they paid \$6,000 for it. When one of the other trucks are down, this one will replace it. Mutual Aid calls usually need a tanker. Working on getting the new truck into service. SCBA were discussed. Two events were held in the fall by the Roxbury Fire Fighters Association, the Pig Roast and the Raffle Raffle. Don wanted the voters to know where the funds go. Dave Santi asked what will happen with the old SCBAs. Don said there were regulations they would need to follow because Department of Homeland Security funds were used to purchase them. Ryan Zajac thanked Mike Dickinson and Clarence Baker for helping with the ice rink. Don also mentioned that the Fire Department has delivered the Town Reports the last few years. The reasons they do that is to help lower cost and to familiarize the fire fighters with roads. Cell service was mentioned. Don is Roxbury's representative to CFMA. There is a program that would allow active 911 calls on cell phones for fire fighters. Wendy Cashman mentioned the need for 911 numbers for all cemeteries. Tammy will look into that. Wade Holt mentioned that Fire House Subs give money to fire departments, Fire House Subs is owned by former fire fighters.

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

Art. 11. Will the voters approve the sum of \$12,000.00 for the Fire Department Equipment Fund. These funds will be used to purchase Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Michelle Dickinson moved the article, Jean Henry seconded.

Fran French asked how many would be purchased with the funds. Don stated two.

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

Lucinda explained Articles 12 through 29 were by Australian Ballot. The voters can discuss under other business if they choose to. Heather Holter asked about the process for requesting the organizations to submit a petition. Is there an alternative process they could do, difficult for organizations to get signatures. Selectboard will look into it.

- Art. 12. Shall the voters of Roxbury approve the sum of \$429.00 to Green Mountain Transit. These funds will directly support Green Mountain Transit's ongoing operations and the amount is based on a fair share calculation applied to the municipalities Green Mountain Transit serves. (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 13. Shall town vote to give \$1,000.00 to the Roxbury Food Shelf to pay their expenses to the Vermont Food Bank. (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 14. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure of \$500.00 for The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc., d/b/a Northfield Senior Center? (Australian Ballot)
- 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? (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 16. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure 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. (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 17. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Family Center of Washington County in the amount of \$200.00, building resourceful families and healthy children to create a strong community? (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 18. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the amount of \$500.00: enabling Vermonters who are blind or visually impaired to be more independent, cultivate adaptive skills and improve their quality of life? (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 19. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure 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? (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 20. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for People's Health and Wellness Clinic in the amount of \$300.00: providing free primary medical and complementary health care, including mental health, oral health, body work, and wellness education to the uninsured and under-insured community

members of Central Vermont who cannot otherwise afford these services?  
(Australian Ballot)

- Art. 21. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club in the amount of \$250.00: Youth/family counseling; substance abuse 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? (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 22. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure 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 homes and communities? (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 23. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure for Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter) in the amount of \$100.00: a community-based organization dedicated to ending domestic abuse? (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 24. Shall the town voters authorize expenditure 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? (Australian Ballot)
- 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? (Australian Ballot)
- 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? (Australian Ballot)
- 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? (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 28. Shall the voters authorize expenditure for Community Harvest of Central Vermont in the amount of \$200.00: recovers surplus food through gleaning from local farms to help feed residents with limited access to nutritious food, maximize community resources, reduce waste, and create local food system awareness? (Australian Ballot)
- Art. 29. 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? (Australian Ballot)

Art. 30. To transact any other proper business to be brought before said meeting. Ed Carney moved the article, Wendy Cashman seconded.

Dotti Guiffre discussed the Roxbury PTOs plan to have a gazebo built on the school playground. The gazebo would be used for school functions like graduations and the teachers can use it as an outdoor classroom. Also, when school is not in session, families can use it for outings. It also allows shade when people are hanging out. The cost would be about \$25,000.00. They have already raised \$5,000.00. Discussion on the location of gazebo, it would be in an area that is not used by the children. It would be on school property and the school would be responsible for it. It would be delivered in sections and built by professionals. Tom Frazier had concerns about a gazebo and what could happen if it was on the playground. Tom feels it could be a hangout for kids, alcohol was a concern. An alternative location was suggested. There was support for the gazebo. Elizabeth Carney mentioned the Planning Commission's survey showed people think the vacant land near the Town Office is an area to consider. Arthur Smith wanted to hear from a School Director. Ryan Zajac said the PTO initiated the project. An article was planned for the Town Meeting Warning but it didn't happen. The PTO came to the School Board. School would take ownership of the gazebo. The PTO would fundraise. If the school closes in the future, the Town could buy the property for one dollar but there is no plan to close the school. Michelle Dickinson asked if there were any grants available. Ryan said they are looking into it. Dave Santi asked if people were happy with consolidation. Ryan stated is he, can't answer for others. Hannah Zajac said the PTO is 501c3 so any donations can be tax deductible. Plans to have a 4th of July Duck Race was mentioned.

Ben Pincus asked if more info on openings for office could be posted. Also having a meeting to meet candidates was discussed.

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

Lucinda stated if there were no objections, the meeting would adjourn. No objections. The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Tammy Legacy  
Dated March 6, 2020