

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN

2017 TOWN MEETING

MARCH 7, 2017

The legal voters of the Town of Williamstown, in the County of Orange, in the State of Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at Williamstown Middle High School on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. to act upon the following articles, viz:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Winston Chambers, Moderator. Recessed until School District Meeting. Winston Chambers, called meeting back to order at 10:30 A.M. Barbara Graham, Town Clerk read the warning.

ART 1: **To elect all necessary Town and Town School District Officers for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot. For the purpose of Article 1, the polls will open at 10:00 A.M. to act upon the following article, viz:**

The total votes cast were 414. The results were as follows:

Moderator, 1 year

Matthew B. Powell.....	385
Write-In: Winston Chambers... ..	2
Write-In: Orvil Lasell.....	1
Blank.....	26
Total.....	414

Selectman, 3 years

Rodney Graham.....	233
Larry Hebert.....	171
Blank.....	10
Total.....	414

Selectman, 2 years

Scott Vaillancourt.....	355
Write-In: Hayden Coon.....	2
Write-In: Donna Blight.....	2
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	12
Blank.....	43
Total.....	414

School Director, 3 years

Amanda Mills-Brown.....	357
Write In: William Brown.....	2
Write In: Horace Duke.....	2
Write In: Miscellaneous.....	2
Blank.....	51
Total.....	414

School Director, 2 years

Marie Abare.....	349
Write In: Miscellaneous.....	3
Blank.....	62
Total.....	414

Lister, 3 years

Gordon Murray.....	380
Write-In: Richard Flies.....	2
Blank.....	32
Total.....	414

Trustee of Public Funds, 3 years

Write-In: Phil Winters.....	4
Write-In: Horace Duke.....	2
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	29
Blank.....	379
Total.....	414

Cemetery Commissioner, 5 years

Write-In: John Taylor.....	10
Write-In: Conrad Beattie.....	5
Write-In: Rudy Townsend.....	4
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	30
Blank.....	365
Total.....	414

Library Trustee, 5 years

Marsha Martin.....	364
Write In: Jennefer Jolls.....	1
Blank.....	49
Total.....	414

Library Trustee, 4 year remaining from a 5 year term

Margaret Sample.....	367
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	1
Blank.....	46
Total.....	414

Library Trustee, 3 year remaining from a 5 year term

Helen Duke.....	262
William Palin.....	124
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	5
Blank.....	23
Total.....	414

Library Trustee, 1 year remaining from a 5 year term

William Johnson.....	364
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	1
Blank.....	49
Total.....	414

Town Grand Juror, 1 year

Richard Powell.....	378
Blank.....	36
Total.....	414

Town Agent, 1 year

Write-In: Donna Blight.....	2
Write-In: Will Knight.....	2
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	22
Blank.....	388
Total.....	414

Trustee for the Henry S. Baker Fund, 3 years

Theresa Knight.....	357
Blank.....	57
Total.....	414

ART 2: **To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.**
 The motion was made by Matthew Powell and seconded by Richard Powell to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 3: **To see if the Town will pay it's Real and Personal Property taxes to the Treasurer on or before November 15, 2017, with delinquent taxes and assessments having charged against them an eight percent (8%) penalty and interest charges of one percent (1%) per month, or fraction thereof, from the due date, as provided for in 32 V.S.A. §4773 and 5136.**
 The motion was made by Alvin Avery and seconded by Barbara Mitchell to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 4: **To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectman to take advantage of any State or Federal monies available.**
 The motion was made by Larry Hebert and seconded by Matthew Powell to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion was passed by voice vote.

ART 5: **To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money to pay the current expenses of the Town in anticipation of money to be received from taxes and the State of Vermont.**
 The motion was made by Alvin Avery and seconded by Freda Hollyer to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 6: **To see what amount the Town will vote to pay its elected Officers, except the Clerk.**
 The motion was made by Matthew Powell and seconded by Terry Knight to pay the Officers \$10.50/hour and the Chair person at \$11.50/hour and the Select board \$750 for the year and the Chair \$1000. Matthew Powell noted that in January minimum wage starts at \$10.50 an hour. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 7: **To see if the Town will vote to have the names of all delinquent taxpayers, including water and sewer users, with total amount of delinquencies printed in the Town Report as of December 31, 2017.**
 The motion was made by Alvin Avery and seconded by Barbara Mitchell to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

- ART 8: **To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$1,035,163.75, or some other amount, to support the General Fund of which includes Cemetery, Fire Department, Ambulance and Library Budgets.**
The motion was made by Larry Hebert and seconded by Dennis Beaudin to approve the article as written. Jackie Higgins, Town Manager was given permission to speak as she is not a town resident. Mike Sprano and Jill McKeon asked what the increase in the budget was. Town Manager, Jackie Higgins explained where the increases were and how much, the library budget, a new 32 hour ambulance position, insurances. With there being no further discussion, motion passed by voice vote.
- ART 9: **To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$802,340.46, or some other amount, to support the Highway Fund.**
The motion was made by Matt Rouleau and seconded by Richard Powell to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.
- ART 10: **Shall the Town vote to approve \$21,274.43 2016 General Fund Surplus to be transferred to the Tax Stabilization Fund?**
The motion was made by Larry Hebert and seconded by Alvin Avery to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.
- ART 11: **Shall the Town vote to approve \$150,372.42 of the 2016 Highway Fund Surplus to be transferred to the Road Rehab Reserve?**
The motion was made by Matt Rouleau and seconded by Francis Covey to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.
- ART 12: **Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum \$3000.00, or some other amount, for the support of a Town Memorial Day celebration/parade?**
The motion was made by Barbara Graham and seconded by Robert Erickson to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.
- ART 13: **Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$39,947.00 or some other amount to the following organizations: Kids Place \$750, Orange Co. Diversion \$225, Washington Co. Youth \$250, CV Home Health & Hospice \$6700, CV Council on Aging \$1750, Peoples Health & Wellness \$1000, CV Adult Basic Education \$1500, CV Econ Development Corp. \$500, GMTA \$2004, Central VT Com. Action \$300, Project Independence \$1000, Prevent Child Abuse \$400, Good Beginnings of CV \$300, Center for Independent Living \$500, Family Center \$500, Williamstown Historical Society \$5000, Safe Line \$1200, Clara Martin Center \$4968, Williamstown Food Shelf \$7500, American Red Cross \$1500, Art Bus \$500, Williamstown Beautification \$1500, Vermont State Police Association \$100.**
The motion was made by Conrad Beattie and seconded by Robert Erickson to approve the article as written. Freda Hollyer would like to see these appropriations voted on individually by Australian ballot. Horace Duke thanked everyone for their continued support for the food shelf. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.
- ART 14: **Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3300.00, or some other amount, for the support of the Williamstown Youth Sports Association?**
The motion was made by Francis Covey and seconded by Matthew Powell to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 15:

To see if the Town of Williamstown will vote to give The Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 1391 100% or some other amount of property tax exemption for a 5 year period.

The motion was made by Orvil Lasell to pass over this article and seconded by Conrad Beattie. Moderator, Winston Chambers explained, that although pass over is allowed by State law in order to relate it to Roberts Rules, to pass over before the article is considered equates to Roberts Rules (suspend the rules) and would therefore require a two thirds vote to pass. A request for paper ballot was called for and the moderator requested a show of seven hands which he saw and a paper ballot was taken. Total votes cast 77, 44 yes and 33 no, two thirds required 52 therefore the motion to suspend the rules failed. Back to the original question, Gabriel Cole made the motion and seconded by Brent Kidder. Gabriel Cole explained what the Moose Lodge does and Larry Hebert mentioned it was a great place to hold weddings and events. Larry Hebert made the motion to amend the motion to 50% and seconded by Allen Palmer. John Perkins asked what the approximate taxes would be. The amendment passed by voice vote. Freda Hollyer called for a paper ballot. Total votes cast 83, 67 yes and 16 no. Motion passed.

ART 16:

To transact any other business deemed necessary and proper.

State Representative, Rodney Graham explained the recount that recently took place in Orange County and thanked the BCA and Town Clerks for all that they do to make sure elections are run smoothly. Robert Erickson asked if there was anything new on with the Solid Waste and Jackie Higgins said it was still in progress. Arthur Kramer asked about Article 3, on where is the Personal Property. Jackie Higgins replied that there is none and it was printed in error. Becky Watson mentioned that the ice out tickets were available and that she would love to see the Town Meeting luncheon brought back. Larry Hebert also mentioned that he would like to see the luncheon back and asked for a straw vote. With the show of many hands, the church agreed to do the lunch next year if people will stay and attend. Terry Knight mentioned that the Town wide appraisal will be starting for 2018 Grand List. Barbara Graham announced that there will be a Rabies Clinic again this year. It will be held on March 18th from 9:00 to Noon at the Public Safety Building.

The motion was made by Matthew Powell and seconded by Stanley Peake to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote and adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

/s/Winston Chambers, Moderator

/s/Barbara Graham, Town Clerk

/s/Larry Hebert, Chair

/s/Francis Covey

/s/Matthew Rouleau

/s/Scott Vaillancourt

/s/Ed McGlynn

