

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
2018 TOWN MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018

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 6, 2018 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning (A.M.) to act upon the following articles, viz:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Matthew Powell, Moderator. Recessed until School District Meeting. Matthew Powell, called the meeting back to order at 10:25 A.M. and 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 470. The results were as follows:

Moderator, 1 year

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Matthew B. Powell..... | 413 |
| Write-In: Miscellaneous..... | 3 |
| Blank..... | 54 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Selectman, 3 years

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Francis Covey..... | 299 |
| Jessica Worn..... | 156 |
| Blank..... | 15 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Selectman, 2 years

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Jasmin Couillard..... | 203 |
| Edward McGlynn..... | 246 |
| Write-In: Miscellaneous..... | 2 |
| Blank..... | 19 |
| Total..... | 470 |

School Director, 3 years

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Rama Schneider..... | 388 |
| Write In: Miscellaneous..... | 8 |
| Blank..... | 74 |
| Total..... | 470 |

School Director, 2 years

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Write In: Miscellaneous..... | 27 |
| Blank..... | 443 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Lister, 3 years

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| William Peabody..... | 412 |
| Write-In: Miscellaneous..... | 1 |
| Blank..... | 57 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Trustee of Public Funds, 3 years

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Write-In: Miscellaneous..... | 35 |
| Blank..... | 435 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Trustee of Public Funds, 2 year remaining from a 3 year term

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Philip Winters..... | 424 |
| Blank..... | 46 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Cemetery Commissioner, 5 years

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| John Perkins..... | 426 |
| Write-In: Miscellaneous..... | 4 |
| Blank..... | 40 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Cemetery Commissioner, 4 year remaining from a 5 year term

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Write-In: Miscellaneous..... | 41 |
| Blank..... | 429 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Library Trustee, 5 years

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| William Johnson..... | 400 |
| Write In: Miscellaneous..... | 3 |
| Blank..... | 67 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Town Grand Juror, 1 year

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Richard Powell..... | 423 |
| Blank..... | 47 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Town Agent, 1 year

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Write-In: Miscellaneous..... | 35 |
| Blank..... | 435 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Trustee for the Henry S. Baker Fund, 3 years

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Write-In: Miscellaneous..... | 37 |
| Blank..... | 433 |
| Total..... | 470 |

Trustee for the Henry S. Baker Fund, 2 year remaining from a 3 year term

Write-In: Miscellaneous.....31
Blank.....439
Total.....470

ART 2: **Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a town clerk as provided to 17 VSA Sec. 2651e? To be voted by Australian Ballot.**

YES.....192
NO.....255
Blank.....23
Total.....470

ART 3: **Shall the Town of Williamstown enter into a communications union district to be known as Central Vermont Internet, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Ch 82? To be voted by Australian Ballot.**

YES.....303
NO.....123
Blank.....44
Total.....470

Matthew Rouleau made the motion to recess an additional 15 minutes for Town Manager, Jackie Higgins to arrive, and seconded by Francis Covey. Motion passed by voice vote.

State Representative, Rodney Graham spoke on what has been happening at the State House. He also spoke on Article #2, 17 VSA Sec. 2651e, that even if you were to appoint a Town Clerk, they would have the same duties as an elected Town Clerk, as in making their own hours. If the Select Board wanted to be in sole control of the Town Clerk, they would need to do a Charter change. He also spoke on the Carbon Tax and that he is opposed to it. Conrad Beattie came to the microphone and said he was opposed to it as well.

The meeting came back to order at 10:50 A.M. with no objections to allowing the Town Manager, Jackie Higgins to speak if called upon, as she is not a town resident.

There was no discussion on Article #2.

On Article #3, Conrad Beattie said he would like to have someone explain this article. Matthew Rouleau and Rama Schneider explained it would bring better communication via internet, phone, etc. with no cost to the Town.

ART 4: **To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.**

The motion was made by Scott Vaillancourt and seconded by Sarah Launderville 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 pay it's Real and Personal Property taxes to the Treasurer on or before November 15, 2018, 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 Francis Covey and seconded by Allen Palmer to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 6: **To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to take advantage of any State or Federal monies available.**

The motion was made by Heather Powell and seconded by Barbara Mitchell. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 7: **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 Matthew Rouleau 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 what amount the Town will vote to pay its elected Officers, except the Clerk.**

The motion was made by Robert Erickson and seconded by Francis Covey to pay the Officers \$10.50/hour and the Chair person at \$11.50/hour and the Selectboard \$750.00 for the year and the Chair \$1000.00. Mary Paquin questioned why the Town Clerk is not paid the same way as the Board. Matthew Rouleau replied that this has always been the way it has been done and decided to keep it the same way. Rodney Graham mentioned that at one point in time it was voted by the Town to pay the Clerk this way and it would have to go back to the Town to change it. With there being no further discussion, motion passed by voice vote.

ART 9: **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, 2018.**

The motion was made by Heather Powell and seconded by John Taylor 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 the sum of \$1,115,436.36 or some other amount, to support the General Fund of which includes Cemetery, Fire Department, Ambulance and Library Budgets.**

The motion was made by Matthew Rouleau and seconded by Richard Powell to approve the article as written. Matthew Rouleau spoke regarding the increase and that all budgets went up this year. Conrad Beattie asked about the firetruck, Engine 3, he knew it was in a mishap and needed replacing, but did not see anything in the budget. Matthew Rouleau explained we had a second committee made up of two firemen, two selectmen and two town residents, which resulted in more bids. Ultimately, they decided to go with the same truck the first committee recommended. Between using funds from the truck replacement, and borrowing approximately \$100,000.00 and payment being made out of the truck fund, with a 7 year pay off. This will not increase taxes. With there being no further discussion motion passed by voice vote.

ART 11: **Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$34,187.40 to Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Account?**

The motion was made by Matt Rouleau and seconded by Barbara Mitchell to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 12: **To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$819,703.12, or some other amount, to support the Highway Fund.**

The motion was made by Matthew Rouleau and seconded by Daphne Herwig to approve the article as written. John Taylor asked if the equipment fund was included, the answer was yes. There was no more discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 13: **Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$67,710.51 of the Highway Fund Surplus to Road Rehab Reserve?**

The motion was made by Matthew Rouleau and seconded by Allen Palmer to approve the article as written. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 14: **Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3000.00, or some other amount, for the support of a Town celebration/parade?**

The motion was made by Heather Powell and seconded by Matthew Rouleau to approve the article as written. Matthew Rouleau would like to have someone spear head the Memorial Day parade this year. That there is many people who would like to contribute to this but need someone who has the time to lead it. Rodney Graham mentioned that he organized the 2011 Fire Department's 100th Anniversary parade and that there was a lot of work that is involved into planning such a task. The last several years the Fire Department has done all the organizing, last year, Chief William Graham asked the Board for some additional help and received none. Rama Schneider called for a point of order, and said this was not germane to this article. Moderator, Matthew Powell felt that it was germane and Rodney Graham finished up by stating the Board needs to plan it this year. With there being no further discussion motion passed by voice vote.

Moderator, Matthew Powell was told that lunch was ready if we wanted to recess or would we like to finish up since there is only two articles remaining. A hand vote was called and it was voted to continue with the meeting.

ART 15: **Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40, 847.00 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 \$400, Williamstown Beautification \$1500, Vermont State Police Association \$100, Family Center \$500, Williamstown Historical Society \$6000, Safe Line \$1200, Clara Martin Center \$4968, Williamstown Food Shelf \$7500, American Red Cross \$1500, Art Bus \$500.**

The motion was made by Allen Palmer and seconded by Robert Erickson to approve the article as written. Rama Schneider amended the motion to increase the Williamstown Food Shelf of \$7500.00 to \$10,000.00, seconded by Donna Pratt. Rama Schneider feels that there is a great need to increase this by \$2500.00 that there has been an increase in participation in this program. Jennifer Cummings, Co-Chair of this program mentioned that 159 households and 468 people received food donations. With there being no more discussion the vote to amend the motion passed by voice vote. John Perkins inquired as to how these petitions work to get on this article and Town Manager, Jackie Higgins replied you need to receive 100 signatures. John Perkins stated that if we don't receive a letter for the Town Report stating what these programs support and how they benefit then they shouldn't be put on the list. Matthew Rouleau stated that the \$100.00 for the Vermont State Police

was to help with their summer picnic. The amended motion of \$43,347.00 which includes the \$2500.00 for the Food Shelf for the purpose of this article. Motion passed by voice vote.

ART 16:

To transact any other business deemed necessary and proper.

Matthew Rouleau distributed FEMA Planning Commission flyers on the chairs.

The motion was made by Allen Palmer and seconded by Barbara Mitchell to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote and adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

/s/Matthew Powell, Moderator

/s/Barbara Graham, Town Clerk

/s/Matthew Rouleau, Chair

/s/Francis Covey

/s/Ed McGlynn

/s/Scott Vaillancourt

/s/Rodney Graham

