

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN

2019 TOWN MEETING

MARCH 5, 2019

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 5, 2019 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning (A.M.) to act upon the following articles, viz:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by Matthew Powell, Moderator, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Matthew spoke briefly on a training he recently attended on being a Moderator, and how we follow the Robert's Rules of Order.

Carl Demrow, State Representative spoke regarding his first year being at the State House.

Horace Duke who is a member of our Planning Commission explained a recent FEMA survey through the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

The Selectmen then presented Horace Duke with the Citizen of the Year award.

Town Clerk, Barbara Graham 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 393. The results were as follows:

Moderator, 1 year

Matthew B. Powell.....	357
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	0
Blank.....	36
Total.....	393

Town Clerk, 3 years

Barbara C. Graham.....	330
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	7
Blank.....	56
Total.....	393

Selectman, 3 years

Matthew Rouleau.....	332
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	9
Blank.....	52
Total.....	393

Selectman, 2 years

Scott Vaillancourt.....	158
Christopher Wade.....	205
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	2
Blank.....	28
Total.....	393

Selectman, 1 year remaining from a 3 year term

Jasmin Couillard.....	182
Robert "Rex" Thompson.....	177
Write In: Miscellaneous.....	0
Blank.....	34
Total.....	393

School Director, 3 year

Horace H. Duke, Jr.....	347
Write In: Miscellaneous.....	3
Blank.....	43
Total.....	393

School Director, 2 years remaining from a 3 year term

Jessica Van Deren.....	330
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	1
Blank.....	62
Total.....	393

School Director, 1 year remaining from a 2 year term

Danielle Hulbert.....	331
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	1
Blank.....	61
Total.....	393

Lister, 3 years

Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	33
Blank.....	360
Total.....	393

Trustee of Public Funds, 3 years

Gary Storrs.....	341
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	1
Blank.....	51
Total.....	393

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

Orvil Lasell.....	318
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	8
Blank.....	67
Total.....	393

Cemetery Commissioner, 5 years

Orvil Lasell.....	326
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	7
Blank.....	60
Total.....	393

Cemetery Commissioner, 3 year remaining from a 5 year term

Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	62
Blank.....	331

Total.....393

Library Trustee, 5 years

Carol Corneille.....334
Write In: Miscellaneous.....2
Blank.....57
Total.....393

Library Trustee, 3 years remaining from a 5 year term

Karla D. Perkins.....352
Write In: Miscellaneous.....1
Blank.....40
Total.....393

Town Grand Juror, 1 year

Richard Powell.....344
Blank.....49
Total.....393

Town Agent, 1 year

Write-In: Miscellaneous.....33
Blank.....360
Total.....393

Trustee for the Henry S. Baker Fund, 3 years

Marvine B. Lasell.....330
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....3
Blank.....60
Total.....393

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

Write-In: Miscellaneous.....43
Blank.....350
Total.....393

ART 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.

The motion was made by Matthew Rouleau and seconded by Winston Chambers to approve the reports of the Town Officers. Rama Schneider made the motion to amend a correction to last year's minutes seconded by John Taylor, on Page 11, Article 14: "Rama Schneider called for a point of order, and said this was not germane to this article" should have read: "Rama Schneider called for a point of order regarding comments he felt were personal in nature and not germane to this article." Motion passed by voice vote. Winston Chambers asked why there were two different amounts for the Fire Dept. budget from page 61 and on page 67. Town Manager, Jackie Higgins was given permission to speak, as she is not a town resident. She said they both should have read \$226,694.00. Barbara Graham, Town Clerk noted that there were two marriages that were omitted from the 2018 Record of Civil Marriages, October 13, Ross Clark to Shannon Keahey in Berlin and November 4, Joshua Dobrovich to Jennie Holden in Williamstown, that they will be re-added in the 2019 Town Report. Also, made correction that the Fire Warden was listed incorrectly and is should be Michael St. Lawrence. With there being no further discussion, 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, 2019, 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 Richard Powell 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 Selectmen to take advantage of any State or Federal monies available.

The motion was made by Matthew Rouleau and seconded by Mike Sprano. There was no discussion and the motion 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 Matthew Rouleau and seconded by Winston Chambers 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 John Taylor and seconded by Evalyn Goodrich to pay the Officers \$10.50/hour and the Chair person at \$11.50/hour and Selectboard \$750.00 for the year and the Chair \$1000.00. Orvil Lasell mentioned that minimum wage is now higher. With there being no further discussion, 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, 2019.**

The motion was made by Barbara Mitchell and seconded by Kim Siner 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 \$1,050,809.87 or some other amount, to support the General Fund of which includes Cemetery, Fire Department and Ambulance Budgets.**

The motion was made by Matthew Rouleau and seconded by Larry Hebert to approve the article as written. Matthew Rouleau spoke that there were pay increases to all employee's salaries to bring them up to equal standards. Brent Slayton felt we needed to increase the highway and Matthew Rouleau replied that they did. Winston Chambers wanted to know why there was an increase to the Fire Department from \$55,000 to \$83,000. Town Manager, Jackie Higgins, stated that there was an increase in wages, minimum wage increase, staff being paid to be on call in the evenings, administrative pay verses fire fighter pay for the fire chief. Becky Watson wanted to know why the Library budget was not included in the General Fund and Matthew Rouleau replied that would be addressed in Article 12. 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 \$877,172.00, or some other amount, to support the Highway Fund.**

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

ART 10: **Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$60,000.00 from the 2018 General Fund Surplus to reduce 2019-2020 taxes and the remaining balance of \$22,676.38 to go into the Tax Stabilization Fund for future use?**

The motion was made by Matthew Rouleau and seconded by Conrad Beattie to approve the article as written. Stephen Hardaker would like clarification, as well as Conrad Beattie as to what the \$80,000 is used for and what is the long term plan. Town Manager, Jackie Higgins replied that 5 or 6 years ago we came up with a Tax Stabilization Fund. Yvan LeBlanc wanted to know if this is different than the equipment fund and have we lost control of this fund. Yvan also wanted to know if this is used only for Tax Stabilization or do you just dip into it. Matthew Rouleau replied that we would have to get voter's approval before we could spend it. He added that we are not losing control over it. With there being no further discussion motion passed by voice vote.

ART 11: **Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$7540.68 of the 2018 Highway Fund Surplus to Road Rehab Reserve?**

The motion was made by Charlotte Mills and seconded by Scott Vaillancourt to approve the article as written. John Taylor asked if this would be used for culverts and Town Manager, Jackie Higgins replied that it would be. Conrad Beattie asked if this was Board funded or would it come back to the voters. Jackie Higgins replied that it would be the Board's decision. With there being no further discussion motion passed by voice vote.

ART 12:

To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$71,249.00 to support the Library Budget.

The motion was made by Helen Duke and seconded by Barbara Smith to approve the article as written. Helen Duke asked Marvine Lasell and Ann Hegarty to come forward and receive flowers for their several years of service and dedication to the Library. Helen Duke read letters in support for the Library. William Johnson amended the motion to \$83,181.00 seconded by Barbara Smith. William Johnson spoke of the several duties and responsibilities the Town Librarian does and the many new patrons who have joined. This amount is made up of 55% is payroll, Librarian and 3 clerks, 30% is maintenance, 14% health insurance as the Librarian is full time. Conrad Beattie wanted to know why there was such an increase. William Johnson replied the health insurance for the Librarian. With no further discussion the amendment to the motion of \$83,181.00 passed by voice vote. Winston Chambers wanted to know why the Library budget was taken out of the General Fund. Matthew Rouleau explained that a 34% increase was huge and felt that the voters needed to be the ones to decide if they wanted to support this budget. Mike Sprano asked \$64,000 to \$80,000 that there was no break down. Wanted to know if it would continue not being in the General Fund. Matthew Rouleau replied that it would need to be a Board decision. Jessica Martin wanted to know if the Librarian is a Town employee, and the answer is yes. John Perkins calls for a paper ballot. The results are 62 Yes and 27 No. Motion passed.

Senator Mark MacDonald and Representative Rodney Graham spoke on the happenings at the State House. Conrad Beattie thanked Mark MacDonald for all that he does at the State House.

ART 13:

Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$41,947.00 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 \$500, Good Beginnings of CV \$300, Center for Independent Living \$400, Family Center \$500, Williamstown Beautification \$1500, Williamstown Historical Society \$6000, Safe Line \$1200, Clara Martin Center \$4968, Williamstown Food Shelf \$7500, American Red Cross \$1500, Art Bus \$500, CVSPAB \$100, Health HUB \$1000.

The motion was made by Conrad Beattie and seconded by Charlotte Mills to approve the article as written. Brent Slayton would like to amend the motion to add \$5000.00 for the clean up on Main Street. John Taylor called for a point of order that this would need to be properly warned. Moderator, Matthew Powell declared the amendment out of order, stating that he would need to do a petition with 100 signatures and has to be filed

with the Town. John Perkins asked why there was so many appropriations with no reports with their requests in the Town Report. John Perkins asked for an amendment for a decrease of \$1500.00 that the Red Cross requested seconded by Bernard Mills. Larry Hebert spoke in favor of keeping the \$1500.00 for the Red Cross. With no more discussion the amendment for \$40,447.00 failed by voice vote. Mary Gilbert called for a paper ballot. The results are 56 Yes and 21 No. Motion passed.

Rodney Graham added that the State may have grant monies available towards cleaning up Main Street.

Horace Duke made the motion and seconded by Jessica Martin to break for lunch at 12:20 PM. Motion failed by voice vote.

ART 14:

To see if the Town will vote to exempt from taxation, that portion of the property owned by Summit Lodge No.104 F & AM, that is used exclusively for the purpose of fraternal organization, for a period of 5 years, as provided for in 32 V.S.A. Section 3840. This vote shall first effect the April 1, 2019 Grand List.

The motion was made by Conrad Beattie and seconded by Evalyn Goodrich to approve the article as written. Barry Duquette spoke on what the Masons and Eastern Star do. Terry Knight spoke that the Masons pay \$6,867.00 on the rental property and \$5,600.00 is exempt from the Lodge. Rex Thompson spoke to keep Non-Profit in the community and open it up to the community. With there being no further discussion motion passed by voice vote.

ART 15:

To transact any other business deemed necessary and proper.

Rama Schneider spoke on behalf of the Food Shelf that there is still a great need and appreciated the support and the Onward kids who came down from the school with trucks loaded with food during the holidays. Charlotte Mills would like to have a straw vote on H57 which is the abortion bill so our legislators would know what the voters wanted. Moderator, Matthew Powell declined in doing this and said that it is a sensitive subject and you should contact your State legislators on your own. Francis Covey thanked Rep. Rodney Graham for his vote on the bill. Town Clerk, Barbara Graham, mentioned the Rabies Clinic on March 23, 2019 to be held at the Public Safety Building, from 9:00 to Noon.

The motion was made by Mike Sprano and seconded by Francis Covey to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote and adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

/s/Matthew Powell, Moderator

/s/Barbara Graham, Town Clerk

/s/Matthew Rouleau, Chair

/s/Francis Covey

/s/Ed McGlynn

/s/Scott Vaillancourt

/s/Robert Thompson

