

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN

2020 TOWN MEETING

MARCH 3, 2020

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 3, 2020 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, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Clerk, Barbara Graham read the warning:

Matthew Powell, Moderator went over Robert's Rules of Order.

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 783. The results were as follows:

Moderator, 1 year

Matthew B. Powell.....	700
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	2
Blank.....	81
Total.....	783

Selectman, 3 years

Jasmin Couillard.....	573
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	46
Blank.....	164
Total.....	783

Selectman, 2 years

Jessica Worn.....	571
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....	37
Blank.....	175
Total.....	783

Selectman, 1 year remaining from a 2 year term

Rodney Graham.....	382
Rama Schneider.....	336
Write In: Miscellaneous.....	10
Blank.....	55
Total.....	783

School Director, 3 year

Sarah Launderville.....633
Write In: Miscellaneous.....1
Blank.....149
Total.....783

School Director, 3 years

Jennifer Bisson.....628
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....3
Blank.....152
Total.....783

Lister, 3 years

Gordon A. Murray.....678
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....9
Blank.....96
Total.....783

Lister, 2 years remaining of a 3 year term

Write-In: Miscellaneous.....72
Blank.....711
Total.....783

Trustee of Public Funds, 3 years

Philip Winters.....680
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....2
Blank.....101
Total.....783

Cemetery Commissioner, 5 years

Matthew Couillard.....658
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....7
Blank.....118
Total.....783

Cemetery Commissioner, 2 year remaining of a 5 year term

Daphne Herwig.....617
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....1
Blank.....165
Total.....783

Library Trustee, 5 years

Helen L. Duke.....672
Write In: Miscellaneous.....3
Blank.....108
Total.....783

Library Trustee, 3 years remaining of a 5 year term

Jill McGlynn Plastridge.....682
Write In: Miscellaneous.....2
Blank.....99
Total.....783

Library Trustee, 1 year remaining of a 5 year term

Write In: Miscellaneous.....78
Blank.....705
Total.....783

Town Grand Juror, 1 year

Richard Powell.....663
Blank.....120
Total.....783

Town Agent, 1 year

Write-In: Miscellaneous.....54
Blank.....729
Total.....783

Trustee for the Henry S. Baker Fund, 3 years

Theresa Knight.....656
Write-In: Miscellaneous.....0
Blank.....127
Total.....783

Trustee for the Henry S. Baker Fund, 1 year remaining of a 3 year term

Write-In: Miscellaneous.....72
Blank.....711
Total.....783

- ART 2: **To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.**
The motion was made by Winston Chambers and seconded by Barbara Graham to approve the reports of the Town Officers.
Winston Chambers wanted to know why there was a large amount in the budget line on page 73, \$2,051,570.00. Jackie Higgins, Town Manager was given permission to speak as she is not a town resident. Jackie Higgins explained that when we collect taxes the school portion and highway has not been taken out and we have to cut a check to the school. 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, 2020, 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 Richard Powell and seconded by Heather 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 Francis Covey. 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 Heather Powell and seconded by Kim Siner 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 Winston Chambers and seconded by Richard Powell to pay the Officers \$11.00/hour and the Chair person at \$12.00/hour and Selectboard \$750.00 for the year and the Chair \$1000.00. There was some 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, 2020.**
The motion was made by Horace Duke 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 \$1,236,093.14, 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 Heather Powell to approve the article as written. Matthew Rouleau, Board Chair, explained the increase in the General Fund. An increase in the BCA elections, Town Manager's contract, salaries, upgrade computers IT service, monitoring land fill, animal control officer, ambulance salaries, insurance, fire truck reserve fund. Library was increased last year and salaries. Matthew Powell explained that the library line item is back in the Town budget. Winston Chambers expressed again his concerns for the amount of money in the general fund revenue. Town Manager, Jackie Higgins explained the actual fiscal year column 2019/2020 shows an abundance in the general fund tax revenue fund as the treasurer has not removed school and highway. After taxes are collected then the treasurer cuts a check to the school. With there being no further discussion the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 9:

To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$1,044,701.50 or some other amount, to support the Highway Fund.

The motion was made by Matt Rouleau and seconded by Jasmin Couillard to approve the article as written. Matt Rouleau explained the highway budget increase. Road crew has been doing road rehab, and they worked through their July vacation on this. The Town will be hiring a part time summer employee, a tax stabilization fund, increase the material budget. John Taylor asked if the material on the roads is different now than in the past. Matt Rouleau relied that Mr. Taylor was not the first person to ask that question and they are working on this. Freda Hollyer questioned the part time maintenance/summer employee, what qualifications are you looking for, that it seems like a high wage for summer time help. Was wondering what the justification for this is. Matt Rouleau explained that the Town is looking for someone with an equipment/CDL background. Someone that would know how to run a grader and other equipment, to assist with the full time members. With there being no further discussion the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 10:

Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$60,000.00 from the 2019 General Fund Surplus to reduce 2019-2020 taxes and the remaining balance of \$41,636.82 to go into the Tax Stabilization Fund for future use?

The motion was made by Winston Chalmers 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 appropriate the sum of \$50,422.00 or some other amount to the following organizations: Kids Place \$750, Orange County Diversion \$500, Washington County Youth \$250, CV Home Health & Hospice \$6700, CV Council on Aging \$1750, Peoples Health & Wellness \$1000, Project Independence \$1000, CV Adult Basic Education \$1500, GMTA \$2004, Good Beginnings of CV \$300, Center for Independent Living \$400, Family Center \$500, Williamstown Historical Society \$10,000, Safe Line \$1200, Clara Martin Center \$4968, Williamstown Beautification \$1500, Williamstown Food Shelf \$7500, American Red Cross \$1500, Arts Bus \$500, CVSPAB \$100, Williamstown Youth Sports \$6500.**

The motion was made by Matthew Rouleau and seconded by Richard Powell to approve the article as written. Matthew Rouleau explained that the CVSPAB is the Central Vermont State Police Advisory Board which himself and Barbara Graham are part of. It is an interaction with the state police with their operations on a bi-monthly bases. The \$100 goes to help support a summer barbeque that takes place in August. Heather Powell made the motion to amend \$2,500 to the Williamstown Food Shelf, with the total of appropriations to read \$52,922.00 seconded by Alvin Avery. With there being no further discussion on the amendment, the amendment passed by voice vote. With there being no further discussion the motion passed by voice vote.

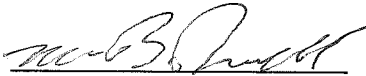
ART 12: **To see if the Town will vote to exempt from taxation, that portion of the property owned by Billtown Moonshiners, for a period of 5 years, as provided for in 32 V.S.A. Section 3840. This vote shall first effect the April 1, 2020 Grand List.**

The motion was made by Jimmy Hebert and seconded by Barbara Mitchell to approve the article as written. Jimmy Hebert gave a brief summary on the snowmobile club. The club receives a little under \$3000 from Vermont Association Snow Travelers and the rest of the revenue comes from fundraising. With 18 miles of trails in Williamstown, the people that work on the trails, the groomer operator are all volunteers. Everything goes back into the trails and would like to thank everyone who has supported the club. With there being no discussion the motion passed by voice vote.

ART 13: **To transact any other business deemed necessary and proper.**

Town Clerk, Barbara Graham mentioned the rabies clinic, March 21, 2020 to be held at the Public Safety Building from 9:00 to Noon. John Perkins would like anyone requesting appropriations to submit a letter for their request in the Town Report. Chris Peloquin spoke on the Board of Civil Authority which held an abatement recently with a 100% of the abatement being granted. Was wondering if they were setting a precedence. Matthew Rouleau replied he didn't feel that they were based under the circumstances. Mark Siner felt we needed to hold Town Meeting at another place and time with the lack of attendance. Jennifer Cummings thanked everyone for their donations of money and food to the food shelf. It is very much appreciated. Becky Watson thank everyone for their support in the Historical Society. John Taylor encouraged the Board to postpone the ATV Ordinance vote that will be taking place. Jackie Higgins, Town Manager replied that a petition has already been submitted and has to hold a vote within 60 days. Matthew Powell mentioned he had recently spent a week in Masadonia, a country north of Greece, America is don't such a bad place to live.

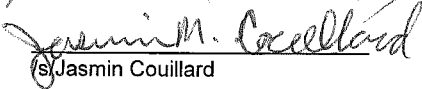
The motion was made by Barbara Graham and seconded by Heather Powell to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote and adjourned at 11:30 A.M.




/s/Matthew Powell, Moderator



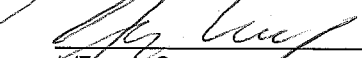
/s/Matthew Rouleau, Chair



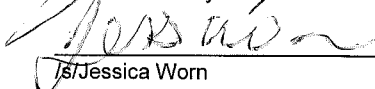
/s/Jasmin Couillard



/s/Barbara Graham, Town Clerk



/s/Francis Covey



/s/Jessica Worn