

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2016
MINUTES**

Town Meeting was held at the Samuel Morey Elementary School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. 87 voters registered at the door. Total number of voters on the voter checklist was 706.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Bruce A. Taylor, Moderator

Article 1. To elect a Moderator.

Russ Smith nominated Bruce A. Taylor for Moderator for one year. There were no other nominations. A motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Bruce A. Taylor, Moderator for one year.

With no objections from the voters the Moderator introduced Sarah Copeland-Hanzas, Fairlee's Representative to the Vermont State Legislature who gave an update on her first year as majority leader of the Vermont House and asked the voters to please sign her petition so her name would appear on the ballot for re-election. She distributed her town meeting legislature update flyer along with Senator Doyle's survey and encouraged voters to contact her with their concerns.

The Moderator continued the meeting by taking a monument to recognize our Veterans and then asked Russ Smith to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He encouraged the voters to support the 6th graders Hulbert trip by purchasing the refreshments they provided. He then announced that the polling for the Presidential Primary was at the Town Hall.

Article 2. To hear and act upon the Town Officers' Reports.

Clyde Blake made the motion to move Article 2. The motion was seconded. Article 2 was opened for discussion. Selectboard Member Peter Berger informed the voters of a correction to the Summary Budget on page 55 of the Town Report. A correction sheet had been passed out showing an \$11,000.00 decrease under the 2015 Taxes (Actual) column; General Fund (Income)/Expense line item. He apologized for the omission in recognizing Jean Ward's children, Steve, Rob, Connie and Judy in a photograph in this year's town report. Being there were no other corrections the question was called. The motion carried. Article 2 passed as corrected.

Article 3. To elect all necessary officers of the Town and to fill any office that may be vacant, including:

- Selectboard Member, for one year
- Selectboard Member, for three years
- First Constable, for one year
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes, for one year
- Lister, for three years
- Auditor, for three years
- Budget Committee Member, for three years
- Planning Commission Member, for one year
- Planning Commission Member, for four years
- Cemetery Commissioner, for five years
- Grand Juror, for one year
- Grand Juror, for one year
- Town Agent to Prosecute, for one year

Library Trustee, for four years
Library Trustee, for five years
Recreation Council Member, for one year
Recreation Council Member, for four years
Recreation Council Member, for five years

Russ Smith nominated Catherine (Cathy) McGrath for Selectboard Member for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Catherine (Cathy) McGrath, Selectboard Member for one year.

Clyde Blake nominated Frank J. (Jay) Barrett, Jr. for Selectboard Member for three years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Frank J. (Jay) Barrett, Jr., Selectboard Member for three years.

Dan Ludwig nominated Jason Bachus for First Constable for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Jason Bachus, First Constable for one year.

Dan Ludwig nominated Jason Bachus for Collector of Delinquent Taxes for one year. Jason Bachus declined the nomination informing the voters that last year it was voted in to make the Delinquent Tax Collector an appointed position. Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Town Clerk concurred with Jason Bachus and asked that this office be omitted from the warning and explained it should have been corrected under Article 2. The nomination was rescinded.

Dan Ludwig nominated Noël Walker Lister for three years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Noël Walker, Lister for three years.

Larry Martin nominated Richard (Rick) Walker for Auditor for three years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Richard (Rick) Walker, Auditor for three years.

Dan Ludwig nominated Steven Bentley for Budget Committee Member for three years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Steven Bentley, Budget Committee Member for three years.

Smith Reed nominated Timothy (Tim) Danen for Planning Commission Member for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Tim Danen, Planning Commission Member for one year.

Smith Reed nominated Denis Lambert for Planning Commission Member for four years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Denis Lambert, Planning Commission Member for four years.

Dan Ludwig nominated Charles (Chaz) Hinsley for Cemetery Commissioner for five years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Charles (Chaz) Hinsley, Cemetery Commissioner for five years.

Horace (Hod) Palmer nominated Clyde Blake for Grand Juror for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Clyde Blake, Grand Juror for one year.

Clyde Blake nominated William (Bill) Dunnack for Grand Juror for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for William (Bill) Dunnack, Grand Juror for one year.

Clyde Blake nominated Horace (Hod) Palmer III for Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Horace (Hod) Palmer III, Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits for one year.

Steve Brown nominated Crystal Champagne for Library Trustee for four years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Crystal Champagne, Library Trustee for four years.

Steve Brown nominated Charlotte Williams for Library Trustee for five years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Charlotte Williams, Library Trustee for five years.

Clyde Blake nominated Brooke Gladstone for Recreation Council Member for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Brooke Gladstone, Recreation Council Member for one year.

Clyde Blake nominated Cameron (Cami) Buster for Recreation Council Member for four years. There were no other nominations. Motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Cameron (Cami) Buster, Recreation Council Member for three years.

There were no nominations for Recreation Council Member for five years. No action was taken.

Article 4. To see what action the Town will take with regard to the following appropriations. All sums have been included in the Town Budget. A sum not to exceed:

- a) Five Hundred dollars (\$500) to the American Red Cross for disaster support (CO)
- b) Three Hundred dollars (\$300) to Capstone Community Action (formerly known as Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc.) for fuel, food and housing assistance to families (CO)
- c) Six Hundred dollars (\$600) to Central Vermont Council on Aging for senior services including a helpline, transportation and meal delivery (CO)
- d) Four Hundred dollars (\$400) to Central Vermont Adult Basic Ed. Inc. (CO)
- e) One Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five dollars (\$1,545) to Clara Martin Center for counseling services (CO)
- f) Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$250) to Cohase Chamber of Commerce for membership (CO)
- g) One Hundred dollars (\$100) to Green Up Vermont (CO)
- h) One Thousand dollars (\$1,000) to Green Mountain Economic Development (Z)
- i) Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the Lake Fairlee Association for milfoil eradication program (CO)
- j) Two Thousand dollars (\$2,000) to Little Rivers Health Care for insurance and medical assistance including mobile dental van (CO)
- k) Five Hundred dollars (\$500) to the Mentoring Project for young persons (CO)
- l) Two Hundred dollars (\$200) to the Orange County Diversion Program, a cost effective alternative to the criminal court system for eligible offenders (CO)
- m) Two Hundred dollars (\$200) to Orange County Parent Child Center (formerly known as Kids Place) for parenting and family support programs (CO)

- n) Two Thousand Two Hundred dollars (\$2,200) to the Orange East Senior Center for providing meal and social services at the center (CO)
- o) Three Hundred dollars (\$300) to the Oxbow Senior Independence Program for adult day care services (CO)
- p) Four Hundred Fifty dollars (\$450) to the Rivendell Trails Association for trail maintenance, hikes and education (CO)
- q) One Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$1,500) to Rivendell Rec Association (CO)
- r) Seven Hundred dollars (\$700) to Safeline for a hotline for crisis support and referral services (CO)
- s) One Thousand Four Hundred Ten Dollars (\$1,410) to Stagecoach Transportation for seniors, persons with disabilities, and commuters (CO)
- t) Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Two dollars (\$35,172) to Upper Valley Ambulance for emergency services (H)
- u) Three Hundred dollars (\$300) to the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired for services including rehabilitation, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, social networking and statewide transportation (CO)
- v) One Hundred Fifty-Five dollars (\$155) to the Vermont Center for Independent Living to help Vermonters with disabilities by providing the Meals on Wheels Program, Peer Advocacy Counseling Program and information and referral services (CO)
- w) One Hundred dollars (\$100) to Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force (CO)
- x) Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$5,250) to the Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT and NH/Hospice of the Upper Valley for home health care and hospice support services to individuals and their families (CO)

Russ Smith made the motion to pass Article 4 in its entirety. The motion was seconded. Article 4 was opened for discussion. Clyde Blake asked that the voters support the Upper Valley Ambulance appropriation. Being there was no more discussion the question was called. The motion carried. Article 4 passed in its entirety.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee authorize the Selectboard to accept and administer any Federal, State or private grant money?

Dan Ludwig made the motion to move Article 5. The motion was seconded. Article 5 was opened for discussion. Being there was no discussion the question was called. The motion carried. Article 5 passed in the affirmative.

Article 6. To act upon the Recommendations of the Budget Committee as they pertain to Highway Expenses and to appropriate a sum of money for Highway expenses.

Dan Ludwig made the motion for the Town to appropriate the sum of \$256,734.00 for Highway expenses. The motion was seconded. Article 6 was open for discussion. It was clarified that this amount appeared in the town report on pages 51-52. Being there was no other discussion the question was called. The motion carried. Article 6 passed in the affirmative.

Article 7. To raise such sum of money as may appear necessary for the Maintenance and Improvements of the Town Highways for the ensuing year, and to authorize collection of same by the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA 4791. Property taxes shall be billed on or before September 1, 2016 and shall be due and payable on or before October 3, 2016. Interest shall be at a rate allowed by law and shall be payable on all past due taxes.

Dan Ludwig made the motion that the Town raise by taxes \$191,734.00 for the Maintenance and Improvements of the Town Highways. The motion was seconded. Article 7 was opened for discussion. Being there was no discussion the question was called. The motion carried. Article 7 passed in the affirmative.

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee rename the name of the Capital Budget Fund "Highway Rebuilding" to "Highway Rebuilding & Repaving"? This is to better identify the use of funds for Highways as needed.

Clyde Blake made the motion to move Article 8. The motion was seconded. Article 8 was opened for discussion. Being there was no discussion the question was called. The motion carried. Article 8 passed in the affirmative

Article 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee transfer the funds within the Capital Budget Funds from the "Mountain Rd. Rebuilding" and "Highway" to "Highway Rebuilding & Repaving"?

Clyde Blake made the motion to move Article 9. The motion was seconded. Article 9 was opened for discussion. Being there was no discussion the question was called. The motion carried. Article 9 passed in the affirmative.

Article 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee appropriate the following sums to undertake and save for capital improvements within the Town in accordance with the Capital Budget and Program adopted by the Selectboard? All sums have been included in the Town Budget. A sum not to exceed:

- a) \$150,000 towards Highway Rebuilding & Repaving
- b) \$75,000 towards Town Hall
- c) \$4,000 towards Furnace Replacement
- d) \$5,000 towards Misc. Buildings
- e) \$7,333 towards Computer Plan
- f) \$7,000 towards Police Department
- g) \$1,500 towards Milfoil
- h) \$2,500 towards Village Center Enhancement

Cameron (Cami) Buster made the motion to move Article 10. The motion was seconded. Article 10 was opened for discussion. Discussion ensued regarding the \$7,000.00 Police Department line item which would be used to purchase the police cruiser, the \$2,500.00 Village Center Enhancement line item which would be used for main street beautification, the \$75,000.00 Town Hall line item which would be used for the roof repair, the \$150,000.00 Highway Rebuilding & Repaving line item and the \$5,000.00 Misc. Buildings line item which would be used for unanticipated building expenses. Being there was no more discussion the question was called. The motion carried. Article 10 passed in the affirmative.

Article 11. To act upon the recommendations of the Budget Committee as they pertain to Town Expenditures and to appropriate a sum of money for Town Expenses.

Dan Ludwig made the motion for the Town to appropriate the sum of \$907,685.00 for Town Expenditures. The motion was seconded. Article 11 was opened for discussion. A lengthy discussion ensued with voters expressing concerns over the increase in the budget to those voters who were in favor of the budget as presented.

Larry Martin made the motion to amend the original motion and cut the budget by \$75,000.00 leaving it to the Selectboard to decide where the cut would be made. The motion to amend was seconded. He requested a paper ballot vote which was supported by a show of hands. The outcome of the paper ballot vote was 24 voters in favor of the amendment to 55 voters opposed. The amendment failed. Being there was no other discussion the question was called. The motion carried. Article 11 passed in the affirmative.

Article 12 To raise such sum of money as may appear necessary for Town Expenses and Indebtedness for the ensuing year and to authorize collection of same by the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA 4791. Property taxes shall be billed on or before September 1, 2016 and shall be due and payable on or before October 3, 2016. Interest shall be at a rate allowed by law and shall be payable on all past due taxes.

Dan Ludwig made the motion that the Town raise by taxes the sum of \$914,551.00 for Town Expenses and Indebtedness. The motion was seconded. Being there was no discussion the question was called. The motion carried. Article 11 passed in the affirmative.

Article 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee allow the Recreation Council to establish a system for the sale of non-resident beach passes?

Clyde Blake made the motion to move Article 13. The motion was seconded. Article 13 was opened for discussion. Discussion ensued with some voters expressing concern over allowing nonresidents to use the beach due to limited parking and overcrowding. Recreation Members Clyde Blake and Cameron (Cami) Buster reassured the voters that only a limited number of non-residential passes would be available. After a lengthy discussion the question was called. Being unable to determine the voice vote the Moderator called for a division of the house by a show of hands. With a show of hands 43 voters were in favor to 14 voters opposed. Article 13 passed in the affirmative.

At this time the Moderator took a moment to read aloud the list of those deceased in 2015. A moment of silence was observed.

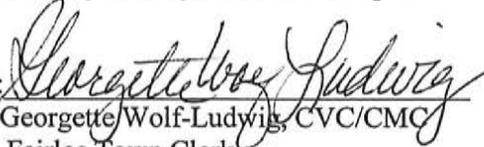
Russ Smith introduced newly elected Selectboard Member Catherine McGrath who then addressed the voters explaining her position on this year's budget and her plans to help with economic development in Fairlee.

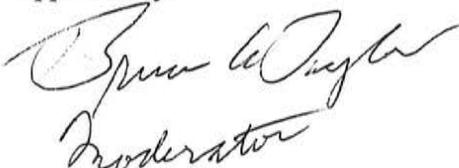
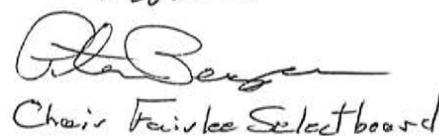
Article 14. To transact any other proper Town business that may come before this meeting.
a) Discussion on Lake Fairlee Dam Project

Clyde Blake made the motion to move Article 14. The motion was seconded. Article 14 was opened for discussion. Frank J. (Jay) Barrett, Jr. gave an update on the Lake Fairlee Dam project which will be rebuilt this summer with a new contractor and be dedicated sometime this fall.

Clyde Blake made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

Town meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.

Attest: 
Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, CVC/CMC
Fairlee Town Clerk

Approved by:

Moderator

Chair Fairlee Selectboard