

TOWN OF LYNDON
MINUTES OF
2008 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The 218th Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was held as warned at the Lyndon Town School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 4, 2008. Moderator Norman Messier gaveled the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. The reading of the Warning was dispensed with. A moment of silence was offered to remember Cola Hudson and other townspeople who had passed away during the year. Mr. Messier led the assembly of 225 people in the Pledge of Allegiance and then offered an invocation for Town Meeting. Clerk Lisa Barrett read a letter from Secretary of State Deborah Markowitz presenting the State flag to the Town of Lyndon. The flag was flown over the State House in memory of Representative Cola Hudson. Mr. Messier introduced the selectboard members and the town clerk and reviewed the rules of conducting the meeting. Municipal Administrator Arthur Sanborn was allowed to speak during the meeting, although he is not a resident of Lyndon.

During the ballot count of Article 6, our legislative representatives Dick Lawrence and Howard Crawford addressed the assembly regarding the happenings in Montpelier. The assembly thanked Jason Harris and Michelle Barrett for running the cordless microphone during the meeting.

Article 1. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon authorize the Selectboard to borrow for Town expenses not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in anticipation of taxes and to execute and deliver the note or notes therefore?

Motion made by Pat Jauch, seconded by Dave Cobb, to adopt Article 1. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon authorize the Selectboard to borrow money for the operation of the Wastewater Department not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in anticipation of revenues and to execute and deliver the note or notes therefore?

Motion made by David Dill, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 2. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 3. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon authorize the Selectboard to set charges by residential unit to defray the cost of sanitation service for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, and to set the date of collection of same?

Motion made by Page Dame, seconded by Susan Teske, to adopt Article 3. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 4. Shall the Town of Lyndon approve the following requests for appropriations, such requests totaling \$53,773.63? (These organizations are requesting the same or lesser funding from the Town of Lyndon in 2008).

- A. \$250 to the American Legion Post #30 to purchase flags to mark and decorate graves of deceased veterans on Memorial Day.
- B. \$4,875 to assist the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont in providing services to senior citizens in the ensuing year.
- C. \$9,500 to the Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice to be used in providing health care services.
- D. \$1,000 to Catamount Arts.
- E. \$3,000 to the Darling Inn Senior Meal Site, Inc.
- F. \$1,500 to the Lyndon Area Senior Action Center, Inc.
- G. \$1,000 to Lyndon Outing Club.
- H. \$600 to the Lyndonville Military Band.
- I. \$1,000 to Lyndonville Youth Baseball/Softball.
- J. \$5,720 to Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc., to assist in maintaining services in mental health, developmental services, family counseling, services to children and the elderly, substance abuse treatment, and 24-hour emergency services.
- K. \$250 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc. for support of the Northeast Kingdom Adult Education & Literacy Program.
- L. \$2,000 to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services.
- M. \$2,288 to the Northeastern Vermont Development Association for planning, development, promoting and publicizing the resources of Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties with other towns in the three counties.
- N. \$600 for support of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).
- O. \$2,000 to the Riverside Life Enrichment Center/Adult Day Health Services to be used in providing services to elders and disabled adults.
- P. \$6,440.63 to Rural Community Transportation.
- Q. \$4,000 to Umbrella, Inc. to serve victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children, families seeking child care, and child care providers.
- R. \$250 to support Vermont Center for Independent Living's programs and services to people with disabilities.
- S. \$7,500 to the Village Improvement Society (VIS) towards operating and maintenance of the pool at Powers Park.

Motion made by David Dill, seconded by Page Dame, to adopt Article 4. Motion made by Carol Fisher to amend the article to only include the appropriations for Lyndon Outing Club, Lyndonville Military Band, Lyndonville Youth Baseball/Softball, and Village Improvement Society (G, H, I, and S). Motion to amend seconded by Sherb Lang. Hilary Adams and Lynn Goulding spoke in favor of all the organizations requesting appropriations. Motion made by Bill Beaulac to amend the amendment to include Rural Community Transportation (P). Motion to amend the amendment seconded by Bob Heath. Mark Beattie spoke in favor of all the

organizations, as did Kathy Schnepf. Pam Simpson spoke in favor of the Darling Inn Senior Meal Site, while Derek Murphy spoke for NEKYS. Bob Heath stated that services for the elderly should be included. Sherb Lang asked the Selectboard to reduce the amount of the annual budget by the amount of special appropriations passed. Steve Feltus spoke in favor of all the organizations and expressed his support for the article as originally written. There being no further discussion, the amendment to the amendment was voted on by voice vote. As the intent of the voters was unclear, the moderator asked for a show of hands. The amendment to the amendment was defeated by a hand vote (Yes - 22, No - 72). Carol Fisher and at least six others asked for a paper ballot for the amendment. The amendment to Article 4 was defeated by paper ballot (Yes – 27, No – 99). There being no further discussion, the article, as originally written, carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$5,000 for the operation of the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium during the ensuing year, in exchange for free unlimited general admission to the Museum for all Lyndon residents?

Motion made by Sherm Laughton, seconded by Liz Berube, to adopt Article 5. Members of the assembly told Ruth Hamel that they did not think this included free admission to the planetarium. Dave Cobb explained to Carol Fisher that the trips the school takes to the museum are an educational based program, including transportation and museum staff coming to the school. Leslie Gensburg spoke in favor of the museum. Some spoke of being admitted for free, others spoke of having to pay for admission. Motion made by Patty Murphy to amend the article to \$3,240 (prior year appropriation). Motion to amend seconded by Bob Heath. There being no further discussion, the motion to amend the article was defeated by voice vote. Sherb Lang's request for a paper ballot was not supported by at least six others. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon authorize the Selectboard to add an additional officer to the Town of Lyndon's police department, which currently is staffed by two police officers? (Additional cost for 2008 would be \$17,655.)

Motion made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Page Dame, to adopt Article 6. Martha Feltus, selectboard chair, presented background information regarding the reason for the article and entertained questions from the assembly. Russell Blake read from a prepared statement answering "is more coverage needed" and "how is it best handled." Fred Gorham spoke of the need for local police for crime prevention and to keep tabs on released criminals living in our community. Donna Edwards spoke of the need to have someone in the police office to answer the phone and to assist people. Sue Teske was told that it has yet to be determined if adding a third officer would increase the coverage area. Motion made by Bob Heath, seconded by Carol Fisher, to postpone any action on Article 6 indefinitely, in order to give the Selectboard time to gather more information. Several people spoke for the article, while others spoke against the article. Wayne Fox stated that he would like to keep the funding for the department as it currently is. Police Chief Jack Harris answered several questions from the assembly. Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Craig Schnepf, to call the question. By show of hands, 148 voters voted to cease, well within the 2/3 needed. At least seven voters requested a paper ballot

on the amendment. The motion to amend the article passed in the affirmative by paper ballot (Yes – 99, No – 88), and Article 6 was postponed indefinitely.

Article 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to adopt the proposed General Fund budget for the ensuing year? (NOTE: Total General Fund budget is subject to increase by amounts approved on previous special appropriations.)

Motion made by Tim Sturm, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 7 in the amount of \$2,131,790.09. Selectboard members Martha Feltus and Kevin Calkins presented an overview of the proposed 2008 General Fund budget as shown in the Town Report. Questions from the assembly on specific items were answered. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to assess a general Town tax in an amount sufficient to support the adopted budget, including any special appropriation articles approved by voters?

Motion made by Pat Jauch, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adopt Article 8. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to authorize the Selectboard to determine the tax rate necessary to raise the approved assessment based on the 2008 Grand List?

Motion made by Derek Murphy, seconded by Sherm Laughton, to adopt Article 9. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote that taxpayers pay real and personal taxes to the Treasurer on or before 4:30 PM on Friday, November 7, 2008, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months, whereafter interest rates will be one and one-half percent per month, and an eight percent late penalty charged against them from the due date of November 7, 2008, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Liz Berube, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 10. Delinquent Tax Collector Linda Lee answered Carol Fisher's question regarding the balance of delinquent taxes. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 11. Australian balloting for election of officers and the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District budget. (Results reported at the end of these minutes.)

Article 12. Do the voters of the Town of Lyndon desire to transact any other proper business?

Martha Feltus thanked Arthur Sanborn for his six years of service to the Town as Municipal Administrator. Mr. Sanborn is resigning his position effective 3/31/08.

After reading the Town and Village annual reports, John Downs would like the merger issue to come up again and asked the assembly for a sense of how they feel about the merger issue. The voice response indicated that slightly more were in favor than were not.

Sherb Lang asked that people not leave their trash cans out to prevent them from being plowed into the snow banks.

Sue Teske asked that organizations requesting special appropriations have a representative at Town Meeting to answer questions.

The Moderator thanked everyone for their courteous debate and participation, making this one of the best Town Meetings he has attended.

There being no further business, motion made by Pat Jauch, seconded by Sue Teske, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

TOWN OF LYNDON
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2008 ANNUAL TOWN HIGHWAY DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual Town Highway District Meeting was gaveled to order at 2:05 PM.

Article 13. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote to adopt the proposed budget for the highway expenses for the ensuing year?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 13 in the amount of \$1,471,708. Selectboard member Kermit Fisher presented an overview of the proposed budget. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 14. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote to assess a Town Highway tax in an amount sufficient to support the adopted budget for the ensuing year?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Bruce James, to adopt Article 14. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 15. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote to authorize the Selectboard to determine the rate necessary to raise said assessment on the 2008 Highway Grand List?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Dave Cobb, to adopt Article 15. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 16. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote that taxpayers pay their Town Highway taxes to the Treasurer on or before 4:30 PM on Friday, November 7, 2008, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months, whereafter interest rates will be one and one-half percent per month, and an eight percent late penalty charged against them from the due date of November 7, 2008, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Ronald Rindelhardt, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 16. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 17. Do the voters of the Town Highway District desire to transact any other proper business?

Dave Cobb thanked the road crew for their work this record-breaking winter (amount of snow) to keep the roads safe.

There being no further business, motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Bruce James, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 2:17 PM.