

TOWN OF LYNDON
MINUTES OF
2010 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The 220th Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was held as warned at the Lyndon Town School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Moderator Norman Messier gavelled the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. A moment of silence was observed to remember those townspeople who had passed away during the year. Mr. Messier led the assembly of 174 in the Pledge of Allegiance. Michelle Barrett and Jason Harris were thanked for running the cordless microphone during the upcoming meeting. The selectboard members and the town clerk were introduced and the rules of conducting the meeting were reviewed. There being no objections, Municipal Administrator Dan Hill was allowed to speak during the meeting, although he is not a resident of Lyndon. The reading of the Warning was dispensed with.

Immediately after Article 17, our legislative representatives Howard Crawford and Dick Lawrence addressed the assembly regarding the happenings in Montpelier and the efforts to cut \$150 million from the State's budget. The State's Primary Election has been moved from the 2nd Tuesday in September to the 4th Tuesday in August. Messrs. Crawford and Lawrence answered questions from the assembly.

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 Sue Teske, 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 Derek Murphy, seconded by Mark Beattie, 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, 2010 through December 31, 2010, and to set the date of collection of same?

Motion made by Pat Jauch, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 3. Carol Fisher was told that the rate for 2010 would remain at \$175. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 4. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$5,400 to assist the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont in providing services to senior citizens in the ensuing year?

Motion made by Derek Murphy, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 4. Lynn Goulding spoke on behalf of the appropriation and described the services provided by the organization. Steve Pitman asked that the letter included in the Town Report include the amount of money

being requested. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$9,500 to the Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice to be used in providing health care services?

Motion made by Mark Beattie, seconded by Cathy Boykin, to adopt Article 5. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$3,000 to the Darling Inn Senior Meal Site, Inc.?

Motion made by Sherm Laughton, seconded by Chris Hunter, to adopt Article 6. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 7. 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 Mark Beattie, seconded by Patty Murphy, to adopt Article 7. Carol Fisher asked how many Lyndon residents took advantage of the offer and spoke against the article. Bill Beaulac spoke for the article, as did Mark Beattie, David Martin, and Adrienne D'Olimpio. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,000 to Helping Other People Everyday (H.O.P.E.) to continue providing basic needs (food and clothing) and improving the quality of life for the children, individuals and families in our community?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adopt Article 8. Carol Fisher spoke for the organization but against the article. Sue Teske spoke for the article. Jodi Wheeler explained that the organization served 2300 people in 2008 and 7000 people in 2009. She believes this may be a one-time request as the organization should be able to obtain grant funding in the future. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,000 to the Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce to repair and refurbish the Welcome Center located on Broad Street?

Motion made by Tim Sturm, seconded by Sherm Laughton, to adopt Article 9. Tim Sturm spoke in favor of the organization but asked why local businesses were asking for money to get their name out there. Wanita Gardner spoke for the article. In response to Carol Fisher's question, Donna Stark explained that this was a one-time request to get the Welcome Center up and running. In response to Donna Edwards' question, Ms. Stark described the volunteer base and their hope to hire a student to help operate the Welcome Center. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 10. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,500 to the Lyndon Area Senior Action Center, Inc.?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adopt Article 10. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 11. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,000 to Lyndon Outing Club?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Patty Murphy, to adopt Article 11. Sue Teske spoke for the organization and described the programs offered. Sherb Lang approved of the idea of locating the proposed skateboard park at Shonyo Park, which, Ms. Teske announced, the Lyndon Outing Club board of directors has recently approved. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 12. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$7,009 to Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc., to assist in providing mental health, substance abuse, medical/psychiatric, and developmental services to adults, adolescents and children?

Motion made by Siobhan Teske, seconded by Stephanie Jackson, to adopt Article 12. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 13. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$2,750 to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services to support their work with youth and families in our community?

Motion made by Mark Beattie, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 13. Derek Murphy spoke on behalf of the organization. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 14. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$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?

Motion made by Siobhan Teske, seconded by Patty Murphy, to adopt Article 14. Ken Burchesky was told that NVDA owns parcels of land in the Industrial Park and that the staff of NVDA operates the park through the Industrial Park Board. Tim Sturm felt that the last exchange was out of order and spoke in favor of the article. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 15. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$6,440.63 to Rural Community Transportation for services provided to residents that live in the Town of Lyndon?

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

Article 16. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$4,000 to Umbrella, Inc. to serve victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children, and to ensure families have access to affordable, high quality child care?

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

Article 17. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$7,500 to the Village Improvement Society (VIS) to use towards operating the Powers Park Summer Program?

Motion made by Siobhan Teske, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 17. Sue Teske spoke in favor of the article but expressed concern over her inability to obtain a copy of the organization's by-laws. Steve Pitman spoke in favor of the article. Bill Beaulac expressed concern over so many different organizations attempting to work on the proposed skate park. Chris Hunter explained the VIS board did not feel that Powers Park was the right location for the proposed skate park. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 18. 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 Sue Teske, seconded by David Dill, to adopt Article 18 in the amount of \$1,990,862.63. Members of the Selectboard gave an overview of the proposed 2010 budget. Edson Birchard was told that the reappraisal would be completed in 2011. Wayne Fox asked that when the second police officer leaves (as rumored), that the position not be filled. Sue Teske answered Linda Palmers' question about the status of the proposed skateboard park. Sherb Lang was told that Lyndon Rescue's appropriation was included in the general fund budget because Lyndon, as a member town, is an owner of the organization. Carol Fisher asked that the ambulance be parked and not be used as a personal vehicle. Don Gardner's question about police employee benefits was answered. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 19. 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 David Dill, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 19. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 20. 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 2010 Grand List?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Stephanie Jackson, to adopt Article 20. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 21. 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 5, 2010, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months, where after 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 5, 2010, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Stephanie Jackson, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 21. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 22. Shall the voters designate the Town of Lyndon as a Clean Energy Assessment District, as defined in the Vermont Energy Act of 2009 (Act 45), so that the Town may operate a program, in cooperation with other municipalities if the Select Board so approves, to enable participating property owners to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and to pay back the cost as a regular municipal assessment on that property owner's property tax bill?

Motion made by Sherb Lang, seconded by Don Gardner, to pass over Article 22. Ben Luce spoke to the motion being an attempt to prevent open discussion. Leslie Gensburg asked that the assembly be allowed to hear the information, as did Jean Charles. There being no further discussion, the motion to pass over the article was defeated by voice vote.

Motion made by Siobhan Teske, seconded by Ben Luce, to adopt Article 22. Steve Pitman spoke against the article for various reasons stating providing these services is not the function of a municipality. Ben Luce described the proposed program and told Carol Fisher that the source of funds would be bonds. Sherb Lang spoke against the article stating that the Town should not be the banker. Bill Beaulac's comment was clarified, the selectboard would approve cooperating with other municipalities, not approve creation of the district.

Motion made by Martha Feltus, seconded by Bill Beaulac, to amend Article 22 to include "Before implementation the Selectboard shall receive approval from the voters (at a special or annual town meeting) of a detailed projection of how the program would work. The projection should include, as a minimum, information relating to possible source and cost of funding, qualification process of participants, proposed participation guidelines that may be more restrictive than Act 45, and cost of administration and how it will be funded." Tamie Pitman asked that the amendment be amended to say only "Town Meeting" since attendance at special meetings is historically low. Ben Luce clarified that any bonding would need to be approved by the voters. There being no further discussion, the motion to amend Article 22 carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Carol Fisher felt the Town should not be in the banking business. David Dill asked why a CEAD needed to be established before undertaking the procedure to study the issue. Mr. Dill's request to have the article read just the part added by the amendment was deemed not possible by the Moderator since the original article must be part of the article to be voted on and can not be eliminated. David Martin was told that as amended, the article is voting on getting more information. Dennis Sweet's motion to move the question was approved by a 2/3 vote. Carol Fisher, and at least six others, asked for a paper ballot, the results of which were Yes – 58, No – 73. The article, as amended, was defeated.

Article 23. Australian balloting for election of officers, school district budget, and the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District budget. (Results reported at the end of these minutes.)

Article 24. Do the voters of the Town of Lyndon desire to transact any other proper business?

Dick Boera thanked the Town Clerk and Municipal Administrator for not taking pay raises this year.

Ken Burchesky spoke of the proposed energy park to be located in Lyndonville and asked for a show of hands of those who had heard of the park and also asked for a show of hands of those desiring that the park be located in another location.

Kevin Calkins thanked the staff of the Town Clerk's office, the Municipal Administrator, the Zoning Administrator, and the road crew for being so conscientious and stated that the Town of Lyndon is well served.

Sue Teske challenged everyone to bring someone new to Town Meeting next year to fill all the empty seats.

There being no further business, motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Siobhan Teske, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

TOWN OF LYNDON
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2010 ANNUAL TOWN HIGHWAY DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual Town Highway District Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was gaveled to order at 12:50 PM.

Article 25. 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 Stephanie Jackson, to adopt Article 25 in the amount of \$1,390,779. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 26. 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 Cathy Boykin, to adopt Article 26. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 27. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote to authorize the Selectboard to determine the rate necessary to raise said assessment on the 2010 Highway Grand List?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Cathy Boykin, to adopt Article 27. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 28. 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 5, 2010, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months, where after 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 5, 2010, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Dick Lawrence, to adopt Article 28. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 29. Do the voters of the Town Highway District desire to transact any other proper business?

The assembly thanked Michelle Barrett and Jason Harris for running the cordless microphone during the meeting.

There being no further business, motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Cathy Boykin, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.