

TOWN OF LYNDON MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The 227th Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was held as warned at the Lyndon Town School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Moderator Joe Benning gavelled the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The Moderator asked the assembly for a moment of silence for those who have passed during the year, with a special mention of Jean Charles who passed away unexpectedly on February 24th. Mr. Charles was a Justice of the Peace for the Town of Lyndon as well as a Grand Juror. Presenting the Colors, as well as leading the assembly of 85 in the Pledge of Allegiance were Boy Scouts Cameron Barney, Silas Findlay, Pierce Thompson, Josh Walker, Zach Willson and Joe Wray, all from Troop 738. The National Anthem was sung by Lyndon Town School Chorus members Konnery Buoniconti, Phoebe Forrester, Alexis Gervais, Abby Robinson, and Madison Weeks, led by Band & Chorus teacher Johanna Schillemat. The Moderator introduced the Selectboard members, Chair Dan Daley, Marty Feltus, and Kermit Fisher; Town Clerk Dawn Dwyer, Gatekeeper Linda Lee as well as himself.

The Moderator introduced Lyndon's House Representatives Martha "Marty" Feltus and Richard "Dick" Lawrence. Mr. Benning then turned the podium over to the Clerk and joined the legislators on the floor to speak as State Senator. Marty Feltus explained the State budget breakdown and where the money is spent. Dick Lawrence discussed with the assembly some of the work that was done last year in Montpelier including the Clean Water Act, Lifetime Hunting/Fishing Licenses, and the Recount in Orange 1 House Race. Senator Benning spoke briefly on Act 46, the act related to "making amendments to education funding, education spending, and education governance" as well as the Immigration Bill.

Mr. Benning returned to the podium and as Moderator addressed the assembly with the rules used to run the Annual Meeting and commenced with the reading of the Warning.

Article 1: 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 Sue Teske, seconded by Mark Beattie, 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 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 Sue Teske, seconded by Evan Carlson, 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 solid waste management services for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 and to set the date of collection of same?

Motion made by Stephanie Jackson, seconded by Sue 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 appropriate \$9,500 to Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice to be used in providing health care services?

Motion made by Cathy Boykin, seconded by Stephanie Jackson, to adopt Article 4. Motion made by Mark Beattie, seconded by Dixie McFarland, to amend the Article to consolidate Articles 4 through 15 for a single vote. The Moderator explained that because the original Article had a motion and a second, those moving and seconding the Article would both need to withdraw their respective motions. Cathy Boykin would not rescind the motion, Stephanie Jackson would rescind the second, and therefore the Article must be voted on separately. With no further discussion, the Article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,000 to Catamount Arts?

Motion made by Mark Beattie, seconded by Dixie McFarland, to amend Article 5 to consolidate and approve Articles 5 through 15. There being no discussion, Article 5 was amended by voice vote to amend the Article to "Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote the total sum of \$54,152 to support the Special Appropriation requests in Articles 5 through 15"? There being no discussion, the amended Article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 16: 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.)

Selectboard Chair, Dan Daley explained that the General Fund Budget was level funded. Without Special Appropriations, the tax rate is expected to go down \$0.0025; with Special Appropriations, the tax rate is anticipated to increase by \$0.015. Salary increases were 2% across all departments, healthcare increased approximately 6% and Workman's Compensation increased across the department. Dan pointed out that our Combined Sewer Overflow debt was paid off with funds from savings. Dan thanked all departments for their efforts to hold costs down. Dan took questions from the assembly. Clerk Dawn Dwyer explained to Ken Burchesky that the Reappraisal Savings is money received from the State on a yearly basis. A portion of the funds goes into the General Fund to offset Lister's salaries to appraise properties and a portion goes into a restricted savings account to be used when a town-wide reappraisal is needed. Adrienne D'Olimpio asked if residents are charged for false alarm calls to the Fire Department. Chief Greg Hopkins was not at the meeting and the question could not be answered. Christian Thompson asked if more graphs and pictures could be added to the Town Report to give residents a better understanding of the financial state of the town. Dan Daley reminded the voters that the second Community Visit Program meeting held by Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14th from 6:30 to 9 PM at the Lyndon Town School. The agenda is to review the action items determined at the first meeting, discuss what is most important, to vote on the Community Projects and sign up for Task Forces. Annie Guyer moved to amend Article 16 by increasing it by \$2,000 with the recommendation to the Selectboard that it be directed to the Chamber of Commerce to be used for repairs to the information booth. Cathy Boykin seconded the motion. With no discussion, the Article was amended to read "Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to adopt the amended General Fund Budget in the amount of \$2,090,223 for the ensuing year? (Note: this amount includes the previously approved Special Appropriations in the amount of \$63,652, as well as the \$2,000 requested increase). Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Mike Schlesinger to adopt Article 16 as amended. With no further discussion, the motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 17: Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote that taxpayers pay real property taxes to the Treasurer on or before 4:30 PM on Friday, November 3, 2017, **postmarks not accepted**, 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 3, 2017, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Stephanie Jackson, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 17. Mike Schlesinger asked if it is necessary to vote this article every year. Selectboard member Marty Feltus explained that yes we do. Each year when the budget is passed, the mechanism to collect said property taxes must also be set. Steve Feltus thought the order in which the interest rates and late penalty are addressed is confusing. Town Clerk Dawn Dwyer explained that the 8% late fee was assessed on all taxes not paid as of 4:31 PM on the due date. Interest is then assessed at the rate of 1% per month for the first three months and then increases to 1 ½ % thereafter on all unpaid taxes until paid in full. It was agreed that the order in the Article is confusing and will be reviewed for next year. With no further discussion, the motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 18: Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to authorize its Selectboard (for a period of one (1) year) to enter into contracts with new industrial and commercial owners, lessees, bailees, or operators of industrial and/or commercial real property, (including additions to existing real property), for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List – or for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the tax rate applicable to such real property pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 2741?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Mark Beattie, to adopt Article 18. Ken Burchesky asked if any contracts had been entered into during the year. The Board informed the assembly that they had not been asked to enter into such contract. With no further discussion, the motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 19: Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to authorize its Selectboard (for a period of one (1) year) to enter into contracts with agricultural owners, lessees, bailees, or operators of new agricultural real property, (including additions to existing real property), for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List – or for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the tax rate applicable to such real property - pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 2741?

Motion made by Stephanie Jackson, seconded by Mike Schlesinger, to adopt Article 19. With no discussion, the Article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 20: Do the voters of the Town of Lyndon desire to transact any other proper business?

Sue Teske thanked the voters for their continued support for the Lyndon Outing Club. She also announced that the gate to the park would remain locked for the month of March, as directed by the Town, to prevent vehicles from tearing up the parking lot and lawn as has happened in the past. The park can still be accessed by parking across the street and walking in. Joe Benning reminded the assembly that he had asked the Lyndon Town School Directors to consider naming a piece

of school property after Norm Messier. He was pleased to announce that the School Directors will be naming the baseball field the Norm Messier field. This is appropriate in that Mr. Messier was involved in Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball for many years.

Article 21, The School District Budget and the NEK Waste Management District Budget to be voted on by Australian ballot.

Article 21: To elect the following Town and Town School District officers as required by law: Town Moderator, School District Moderator, Selectperson for three (3) years, Lister for three (3) years, Town Agent, Town Grand Jurors (2), First Constable, Second Constable, Cobleigh Public Library Trustee for five (5) years, Sanborn School Fund Trustee for three (3) years, Sanborn School Fund Trustee for one (1) remaining year of a three (3) year term, School Director for two (2) years, and two (2) School Directors for three (3) year terms.

There being no further discussion, motion made by Sue Teske to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 AM.

TOWN OF LYNDON MINUTES OF THE 2017
ANNUAL TOWN HIGHWAY DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual Town Highway District Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was gavelled to order at 10:15 AM on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

Article 1: Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote to adopt the proposed budget for the highway expenses for the ensuing year? Total Highway Budget expenses being \$2,101,296.

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Mike Schlesinger, 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 Highway District vote that taxpayers pay their Town Highway taxes to the Treasurer on or before 4:30 PM on Friday, November 3, 2017, **postmarks not accepted**, 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 3, 2017, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Ellen Hinman, to adopt Article 2. There being no discussion, the Article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 3: Do the voters of the Town Highway District desire to transact any other proper business?


Mike Schlesinger spoke to the Town about not being responsible to maintain Class IV roads. He previously spoke to Municipal Administrator, Justin Smith, about making the intersections off Class IV roads safer. He discussed the lack of ability to stop at the end of Vermont Drive before going onto South Wheelock Road. He suggested the Selectboard consider maintaining 25-100 feet at the end of Class IV roads for safety reasons.


With no further discussion, motion made by Mike Schlesinger to adjourn the meeting. There being no discussion, the motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 AM.

A True Record:

ATTEST:


Dan Daley, Selectboard Chair


Joe Benning, Moderator


Dawn R. Dwyer, Town Clerk