

## TOWN OF LYNDON MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The 226<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was held as warned at the Lyndon Town School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. 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 Norm Messier who passed away on December 17, 2015. Mr. Messier was a Lister with the Town of Lyndon as well as a past Lyndon Town School board member and CNSU Superintendent. Presenting the Colors as well as leading the assembly of 119 in the Pledge of Allegiance were Cub Scout Pierce Thompson, Boy Scouts Zach Wilson, Lucas Patoine, and Jordan Patoine, all from Troop 738. The Moderator introduced the Selectboard members, Chair, Kermit Fisher, Marty Feltus, and Dan Daley; Town Clerk, Dawn Dwyer, Municipal Administrator, Justin Smith, and Gatekeepers Linda Lee and Kaela Gray. Mollie Smith, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader student at Lyndon Town School was our runner.

The Moderator introduced Lyndon's House Representatives Martha "Marty" Feltus and Richard "Dick" Lawrence. Mr. Benning then stepped down from the podium to speak as State Senator. Marty Feltus explained to the assembly the State budget breakdown, where the money is spent. Dick Lawrence addressed the assembly as to how a bill is processed into law, increases in state fees which are reviewed every three years, GMO labeling and the clean water bill. Senator Benning spoke regarding changing the term for the Governor from a two to a four year term, the lack of an Ethics Committee, a divestiture bill that is in the Senate Government Operations Committee, privacy issues, specifically the use of drones and license plate readers, and the marijuana issue.

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 David Stahler, seconded by Michael 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 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 Mark Beattie, to adopt Article 2. Edson Birchard questioned how the amount was determined and Christopher Stranathan asked if the amount was necessary. Chair Kermit Fisher explained it was an amount determined by the Town Clerk. There being no further 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, 2016 through December 31, 2016 and to set the date of collection of same?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Stephanie Bubrowski, 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 Jim Jardine, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 4. Motion made by Jim Jardine, seconded by Mark Beattie, "shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote the total sum of \$65,652 to support the Special Appropriation requests in Articles 4 through 16?" Carol Fisher wanted it clarified that this motion would eliminate any discussion on the individual articles, some of which she has questions about. It was confirmed by the Moderator that there would be no discussion on the combined articles. Bill Beaulac asked if this combination of Articles was for the current year only and was assured by the Moderator that it was for 2016 as amended. The Moderator confirmed to Jim Proctor that Articles 4 through 16 would be combined and therefore the Assembly would not be able to amend the individual Articles. Lauren Loomis Hubbell, Ron Guy and Linda Toborg were all against the idea. Mrs. Toborg feels the discussion on Articles is the most interesting part of Town Meeting. Sue Teske ask if allowing "the discussion on the motion was getting ahead of ourselves"? The Moderator confirmed that a motion was made and seconded. Ms. Teske then announced that she was going to make the same amendment and that the Special Appropriations were needed to enrich our community. Carol Fisher expressed that it is her right to discuss the Articles asking for money. She feels her tax dollars should go toward repairing roads and bridges and that Special Appropriations go above and beyond, therefore needs to be discussed. The Moderator advised Mrs. Fisher she had used her second opportunity to discuss an issue, as advised to the assembly before the reading of the Articles. Mike Schlesinger expressed his enjoyment of attending Town Meeting and appreciates hearing the comments, but the Special Appropriations have never been

voted down since he's attended Town Meeting and called the question. Debate was ceased and the assembly, by voice vote, agreed to call the question.

“Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote the total sum of \$65,652 to support the Special Appropriation requests in Articles 4 through 16?” The Moderator explained that by passing the motion, we will then skip to Article 17. If the motion is defeated, we will go back to address Articles 4 through 16 individually. Carol Fisher asked for voting by paper ballot. The Moderator asked the assembly if there were seven voters to second the motion. Being enough, paper ballots were cast. There being no further discussion, the article was adopted by a vote of Yes – 69, No – 21.

Article 17: Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon 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 Terry Dwyer, to adopt Article 17. Marty Feltus gave a brief overview of the budget. Carol Fisher inquired if this was an appropriate time to discuss Special Appropriations and was told no by the Moderator. Robert Kantor thanked the Selectboard and expressed how impressed he was with the services provided. The Board received a round of applause. The Moderator then rescinded his answer to Carol Fisher; now would be an appropriate time to discuss Special Appropriations. Carol Fisher will meet with Sue Teske after the meeting regarding her questions relating to the Lyndon Outing Club.

With no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 18: 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 4, 2016, **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 4, 2016, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Mike Schlesinger, to adopt article 18. Bill Beaulac asked why the change in not accepting postmarks. Dawn Dwyer, Town Clerk, told the assembly that State Statute states that postmarks are not accepted unless voted on to accept them at a duly warned meeting. She also answered Jodi Gingue's question that the 8% penalty is assessed on all remaining unpaid property taxes as of the close of business on the due date. Our office hours are from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Motion made by Fred Gorham to amend Article 18 to accept postmarks, seconded by Lauren Loomis Hubbell. Nancy Blankenship informed the assembly that all mail that is placed at the Post Office goes to White River Junction for processing. Ms. Hubbell expressed that the change will place the responsibility from the Post Office to the Town Clerk's Office. The amended article was called and a motion made by Christopher Stranathan to vote by paper ballot. The Moderator asked the assembly if there were seven voters to second the motion. Being enough, paper ballots were cast. There being no further discussion, the amended article was defeated by a vote of No – 49, Yes – 38.

The Moderator read Article 18 as originally warned. With 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 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 Twiladawn Perry, to adopt Article 19. Jodi Gingue asked what this article means. Kermit explained the purpose of Article 19 and 20. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 20: 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 David Stahler, seconded by Mike Schlesinger, to adopt article 20. With no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 21: Do the voters of the Town of Lyndon desire to transact any other proper business?

Carol Fisher asked the Selectboard who owned the Lyndon Outing Club. She was informed that the land was owned by the Town. She then asked by whom the decision would be made to discontinue to use the property as

a ski area. Marty Feltus explained that the Town of Lyndon owns the land and building and has a Management Agreement with the Outing Club. Sue Teske a member of the Lyndon Outing Club board, expressed that Shonyo Park is more than just a ski operation and that they operate the entire park with the exception of the baseball field.

The Moderator, after a question from a member of the audience, explained that Article 4 was acted upon in the proper manner. A motion to adopt the article was made and seconded. The motion was then amended. A voice vote in the affirmative was made to call the amended question, and finally the amended article was voted in the affirmative by paper ballot after receiving the request with seven other voting members agreeing.

Article 22: Australian balloting for election of officers, the school district budget and the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District budget. (Results reported at the end of these minutes).

There being no further discussion, motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Terry Dwyer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.

### TOWN OF LYNDON MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL TOWN HIGHWAY DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual Town Highway District Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was gaveled to order at 12:15 PM on Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

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 \$1,364,278.

Motion made by Stephanie Jackson, seconded by Cathy Boykin, 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 4, 2016, **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 4, 2016, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Stephanie Jackson, 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?

Teresa Vasko expressed how terrible the condition of College Road is. Kermit Fisher explained that College Road is on the agenda to be addressed during this budget cycle.

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Terry Dwyer, to adjourn the meeting. There being no discussion, the motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 PM.

A True Record:  
ATTEST:

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Kermit Fisher, Selectboard Chair

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Joe Benning, Moderator

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Dawn R. Dwyer, Town Clerk