

**TOWN OF ORANGE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2019 6:30 P.M.**

Town Moderator, Adrian Otterman stated that before he called the meeting to order, Eric Holmgren, Chairman of the Selectboard, had a few introductions to do. Eric proceeded to introduce Angela Eastman as the new Town Clerk and Linda Eggleston as the Treasurer.

Adrian then called upon Siobhan Perricone to the floor and she stood up and spoke about Central Vermont Fiber. She is currently the Orange delegate for this group. Central Vermont Fiber is looking to provide high speed reliable internet to Orange and the surrounding communities. She stated that no tax money would be used for this and residents would have the option to obtain this fiber network or not. She asked for a volunteer to be an alternate for Orange. This alternate would be responsible for attending meetings once every month and to participate in other activities if they wanted to/could.

Adrian asked if there was any objection to allowing State Representatives Graham and Demrow to speak. Hearing none, Mr. Graham and Mr. Demrow approached the stage and introduced themselves. The two representatives Carl Demrow and Rodney Graham talked a little bit about what is happening in the house and state government and how they could be reached. Representative Demrow asked to leave a handout in the back with more information, which he did.

Town Moderator, Adrian Otterman called the annual meeting for the Town to order at 6:47 p.m. Adrian opened with a meeting with the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence and prayer.

Adrian explained the Roberts Rules of Order that he would be following for the meeting and that he would moderate this meeting until another Moderator was elected under article 1 of the town meeting.

Moderator Adrian Otterman opened the town meeting and read the warning in its entirety.

Article 1. Francis Kidder nominated Adrian Otterman for Moderator. The motion was seconded by Dustin Comstock. Adrian was elected as Moderator for the ensuing year. The motion passed as written.

Article 2. There was motion by Pat Doyle to approve the reports of the Town Officers as printed. The motion was seconded by Siobhan Perricone and passed as written.

Article 3. There was a motion made by Steve Pratt to give the Selectboard the authority to appoint the Town Clerk position. Siobhan Perricone seconded the motion. Siobhan asked the question of whether or not by appointing the Town Clerk it made things smoother and both Lee Youngman and Eric Holmgren spoke that it would make things smoother. Jessica Foster spoke and stated that she thinks the Town Clerk should be a person who lives in town. Dustin Comstock asked how many Town Clerks we have had and Eric responded with two and discussed how it has been divided to have a town clerk and a treasurer. Mary Clafin asked if this was a 40hr a week position and would we be open 5 days per week and Eric and Lee responded that we would. Steve Pratt asked how it would work out if the town clerk did not "work out" and Eric spoke about this. The motion passed as written.

Article 4. There was a motion made by Dirk Anderson to give the Selectboard the authority to appoint the Town Treasurer position. Steve Pratt seconded this motion and the motion passed as written.

Article 5. Siobhan Perricone made a motion to eliminate the position of Auditor the motion was seconded by Jessica Foster. Steve Pratt spoke asking if this was necessary and prudent and asked if this could be done by townspeople. Eric Holmgren stated that having a professional audit was prudent to get the books straight and that the current auditors are “burned out” John McNeil, Auditor stood up and spoke stating that the auditors are not qualified to do this and it is prudent to have a professional audit done. Adrian then asked the town clerk for a single vote to be cast for a professional audit to be done. A single vote was cast for a professional audit to be done and the motion passed as written.

Article 6. Adrian noted that we did not have to elect the positions of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer as they were appointed in Articles and 3 and 4. Kevin Wilson made a motion to nominate Mary Claflin for a one-year term as Delinquent Tax Collector. The motion was seconded by Steve Pratt and Mary Claflin was elected for a one-year term and the motion passed as written.

John Barnes made a motion to nominate Eric Holmgren for a three-year term as Selectman. The motion was seconded by Angela Eastman. Fred Kidder made a motion to nominate Dustin Comstock for Selectman. Adrian asked if Dustin wanted to speak on his behalf and he stood up and spoke on his behalf citing why he wanted to be Selectboard member. Adrian then explained as there were two nominations then a paper vote would need to be cast. A paper vote was cast and the votes were tallied. Dustin Comstock had 13 votes and Eric Holmgren had 47 votes. The motion to have Eric Holmgren continue on as Selectboard chairman stands for another 3-year term. The motion passed as amended.

John McNeil made a motion to nominate Arthur McNeil for a three-year term as Lister. Adrian then asked the town clerk for a single vote to be casted for a Lister position to be done. A single vote was cast for a Lister position and Arthur McNeil was voted in. A motion was made and passed as written.

Adrian noted that the auditor position will be eliminated with a professional audit and the term for Cemetery Commissioner is not due and this will be tabled until next year.

Article 7. There was a motion by Kevin Wilson to raise the sum of \$260,411.00 for the General Fund of which \$190,158.00 is to be raised in taxes. Eric Holmgren made a motion to amend the numbers as follows: \$277,411.00 to be raise the sum, and \$207,158.00 to be raised in taxes. The motion passed and was approved as amended.

Article 8. Dirk Anderson made a motion to raise the sum of \$447,050.00 for the Highway Fund of which \$373,050.00 is to be raised in taxes. Steve Pratt seconded the motion and it passed and was approved as written.

Article 9. Clark Agnew made a motion to raise the sum of \$7,000.00 to support the Town Cemeteries. The motion was seconded and passed and approved as written.

Articles 10-20. Adrian suggested that Articles 10-20 were nonprofit companies asking for donations and if we could do all of them in one single vote. Adrian read each company and the money requested and a motion was made by Francis Kidder and seconded by Siobhan Perricone to approve all requested monies to the nonprofits and the motion passed and approved as written.

Article 21. For this article Adrian stepped down to the floor to speak and Lee Youngman took over duties as Town Meeting Moderator. Adrian made a motion for town to donate \$1,000 to the Cornerstone Homeschool

Group and it was seconded by Stephen Beede. Adrian spoke about the homeschool group which is a homeschool servicing about 20 families and is a 501c3 coop. He stated that the money would be going towards tuition for his 2 children and to support the group activities that occur within the coop every other week. Jessica Foster stood up and spoke stating that homeschooled groups are allowed to participate in public school programs. The motion passed and approved as written.

Article 22. There was a motion made by Kevin Wilson to collect taxes by Mary Clafin and seconded by Francis Kidder. Mary Clafin asked for no 5-day grace period. Motion was made for no grace period by Mary Clafin and seconded by Kevin Wilson. The motion passed as amended.

Article 23: Janis Blais made a motion, seconded by John McNeil, to set Town Meeting 2020 for the first Tuesday in March at 6:30 pm. The motion was approved and was passed as written.

Article 24: Adrian asked if there was any other non-binding business to come before the assembly. Residents asked if the Selectboard members telephone numbers could be posted on the website and in the town report. Dustin Comstock suggested that the dirt roads be graded every 4 weeks and the suggestion of the use of microphone was to be used at next years meeting.

With no other business to come before the board, Adrian asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:18pm.



Attest: Angela Eastman, Town Clerk