

**TOWN OF ORANGE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 3, 2020 6:30 P.M.**

Town Moderator, Adrian Otterman called the annual meeting for the Town to order at 6:30 p.m. Adrian opened with a meeting with the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of prayer.

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

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 talked a little bit about what is happening in the house and state government. Representative Graham spoke about carbon reduction bill, Act 250 changes, marijuana bill and the prostitution Bill. Representative Demrow asked to leave a legislative handout in the back with more information and how he could be reached.

Adrian then called upon Siobhan Perricone to the floor and she stood up and spoke about Central Vermont Fiber. 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 updated us that CV Fiber has received a federal grant and a state grant to conduct a feasibility study for fiber in local towns and is being conducted now.

Adrian then called upon Chris LaMonda from Barre Town EMS who gave an update on the ongoing ambulance services available in the area and updates to the ambulances. He also mentioned that they had two ambulance providers return home safely from the middle east after being deployed. Chris will leave his business card in the back of Town Hall for anyone interested.

Moderator Adrian Otterman opened read the warning in its entirety.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the coming term as the law directs. Francis Kidder nominated Adrian Otterman for Moderator. Adrian was elected as Moderator for the coming term as the law directs. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 2: To receive and act upon the reports of the Town Officers as printed in the current Town Report. There was motion by Lee Youngman to receive and act upon the reports of the Town Officers as printed in the current Town Report. The motion was seconded by Ron Tallman and the motion carried unanimously. Eric Holmgren, Selectboard Chair stated that there was a supplement to the town report that was printed and handed out that included new budget numbers. The handout includes what was spent in 2019. There were no questions asked and no comments given about the town reports.

Article 3: To elect all necessary town officers as the law directs

1 Year Term: Delinquent Tax Collector Mr. Kevin Wilson nominated Mary Clafin as delinquent tax collector for a one-year term. There was no discussion amongst residents. The motion carried unanimously.

3 Year Term: Selectboard Member Mr. Dirk Anderson nominated Ms. Emily Ruff as selectboard member. Mr. Gary Eggleston nominated Mr. Kevin Wilson as selectboard member. Moderator Adrian Otterman asked if each candidate would like to stand up and speak on their behalf. Ms. Emily Ruff stood up first and spoke followed by Mr. Kevin Wilson. After each candidate voted, a floor vote was taken. Kevin Wilson received 23 votes and Emily Ruff received 29 votes for a 3-year term.

3 Year Term: Lister Lee Youngman nominated John McNeil for Lister and seconded by Michelle Boyer. John was elected as Lister for the coming term as the law directs. The motion carried unanimously.

3 Year Term: Cemetery Commissioner (2) Angela Eastman nominated Cemetery Commissioner and Clark Agnew nominated Tom Seerveld as Cemetery Commissioner. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 4: To determine if the electorate will vote to raise the sum of \$338,467 for the General Fund of which \$181,682 is to be raised in taxes. Jessica Foster made a motion and seconded by Lee Youngman to raise the sum of \$338,467 for the general fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 5: To determine if the electorate will vote to raise the sum of \$640,329 for the Highway Fund of which \$353,355 is to be raised in taxes. Jessica Foster made a motion and seconded by Michelle Boyer to raise the sum of \$353,355 for the highway fund. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion was had amongst resident regarding the salary increases and the road conditions.

Article 6: Will the town vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow money in anticipation of the taxes and money allocated by the State and Federal government Jessica Foster made a motion and seconded by Siobhan Perricone to authorize the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of the taxes. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 6b: To determine if the electorate will vote to raise the sum of \$7,000 to support the Town Cemeteries Jessica Foster made a motion to raise the sum of \$7,000.00 to support the Town Cemeteries. The motion was seconded by Siobhan Perricone. The motion carried unanimously.

Articles 7-17: Adrian suggested that Articles 7-17 were nonprofit agencies asking for donations and if we could do all of them in one single vote. Adrian read each agency and the money requested and a motion was made by Sean Brown and seconded by Siobhan Perricone to approve all requested monies to the nonprofits and the motion carried unanimously.

Article 18: To determine the method of collection of taxes for 2020 The electorate voted to keep the method of collecting taxes the same as last year. Gary Eggleston made a motion, and this was seconded by Ernie Wilson Sr. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 21: Will the Town vote to set the time to start Town Meeting 2021 Kevin Wilson made a motion, seconded by Siobhan Perricone, to set Town Meeting 2021 for the first Tuesday in March at 6:30 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 22: To discuss any other business that may come before this meeting Adrian asked if there was any other non-binding business to come before the assembly.

Angela Eastman explained that a subsequent validation meeting would need to be held no later than thirty days from now to validate this town meeting business as the meeting was not properly warned. The electorate voted to recommend to hold the meeting on April 13, 2020. This was a non-binding vote.

Gary Eggleston asked if a bulletin board could be posted outdoors for news. Angela Eastman stated that there was a board posted outside the Town Clerk's Office for news and announcements and that the town would consider purchasing a larger one.

Cheyenne Barnaby suggested having a leash law in town due to recent circumstances involving her dog being bitten by another dog. The selectboard responded to her stating that this will be in further discussion at a later selectboard meeting.

Discussion was held to move the school meeting to the 2nd Tuesday in March, one week after Town Meeting at 6:00pm to help eliminate the subsequent meetings. Jessica Foster will bring this information to her next school board meeting and get back to the town regarding this.

With no other business to come before the board and the electorate, Adrian asked for a motion to adjourn the town meeting at 8:40pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Eastman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Attest: Angela Eastman, Town Clerk