

ANNUAL TOWN & SCHOOL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2016 6:30 P.M.

Town Moderator, Adrian Otterman called the Annual Meeting for the Town & School to order at 6:37 p.m. Adrian opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a reading of House Resolution 230 in honor of Margaret Richardson. We had moment of silence for Margaret and Adrian asked that we be thankful for the opportunity for self-governance.

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 school and town meetings.

Representative Rodney Graham and Representative Davis attended the meeting. Adrian asked if there was any objection to allowing them speak. Hearing none, Representatives Graham and Davis approached the stage and introduced themselves. Representative Davis wanted to point out some good things going for Vermont. We have #1 quality of Pre-K education; the unemployment rate is 3.6%; we are #1 in green jobs creation; we have the best pediatric services; we have less violent crime; we have the best beer and cheese; it is the #3 best state to live in; we have a great local food index and farm to table program; we are #5 for most happy states. Susan wanted to point out that she voted no for Act 46 as did Rodney. He stated he is still learning the ropes in the legislature. George Malek thanked them both for voting against Act 46.

Moderator Adrian Otterman thanked Fred Kidder for letting us use his PA system for the Annual Meeting. He asked that everyone stay civil, when debating make sure everyone has had a chance to speak before you call the question. Adrian read the school warning. At 7:00 pm the School meeting was recessed to close the polls for the Presidential Primary. The meeting was called back to order at 7:05 p.m. Adrian then read the town meeting warning. He asked to have one vote for Article 1 for moderator for both the school and town. Fred Kidder nominated Adrian Otterman for Moderator for 1 year for the school and the town. There was a second and Adrian was elected for the ensuing year. Adrian recessed the Town Meeting to complete the School District Meeting.

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Darin Magwire welcomed everyone and opened the School Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Article 2. Darin Magwire made a motion to nominate Jessie Foster for a three year School Director term. Linda Labrie stated that we need to be cautious on who we choose for the schoolboard. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 3. Jessie Foster made a motion to nominate Corinne Relation for a two year School Director term. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 4. Darin Magwire made a motion to authorize the School Treasurer to borrow money on the notes of the School District in anticipation of taxes. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

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Article 5. Fred Kidder made a motion to set the compensation for School Directors and the School Treasurer the same as last year. There was a second to the motion and the body approved compensation at \$1,000 each for the School Directors and \$3,717 for the School Treasurer.

Article 6. Linda Labrie made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,750,562 for the operation of the Orange K-12 School District for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded. This budget, after it was made, was deemed to be under the spending cap and the District will not have to raise \$60,000 for the penalty. Linda is not against the school but she wants to see the budget done economically and efficiently. There was discussion on the change in staff and how it could save money by hiring teachers with less experience. Darin stated that the high school students cost them \$848,885 and a lot of the budget is mandated by Act 46. There was discussion about the study committee with Washington and may include Waits River. There was discussion about contracting vs keeping our own busses. Chris Locarno explained that the only way to keep our own busses was to prove that we could have a significant savings by keeping our own busses and drivers and Orange cannot prove that. Our current bus drivers will have to interview with the Student Transportation. Jessie Foster made a motion to amend the motion to appropriate \$2,803,562 (the warned amount less \$15,000 for preschool). The motion was seconded. There was a request for a paper ballot for the amended motion of \$2,803,562. 43 voted yes and 31 voted no and the motion passed. The body then approved the amended main motion on a voice vote and the budget was set at \$2,803,562.

Article 7. George Malek made a motion to pass over this article. It would seem prudent to keep it in the budget and avoid a possible penalty in the future. The school cannot appropriate that money without permission from the voters. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 8. Darin stated that there will be study committee meetings with Washington and the public is welcome to attend. Susette Bollard stated that they are looking for residents to be on the study committee.

With no other business to come before the board, Adrian asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm. He stated there would be a 15 minute break and the 8th grade class had coffee and snacks on sale in the kitchen.

Attest: Kathie Felch, Town Clerk

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Town Moderator Adrian Otterman called the Town Meeting back to order at 8:30 p.m.

Article 2. There was motion by George Wild to approve the reports of the Town Officers as printed. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

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Article 3. There was a motion by George Wild to eliminate the positions of Town Grand Juror, Town Agent and Agent to Deed Land as all of these positions are now handled by the Town Attorney. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 4. Fred Kidder made a motion to nominate Kathie Felch as Town Clerk. There was a second to the motion and Kathie was elected for the ensuing year.

Fred Kidder made a motion to nominate Kathie Felch as Town Treasurer. There was a second to the motion and Kathie was elected for the ensuing year.

Fred Kidder made a motion to nominate Mary Claflin as Delinquent Tax Collector. The motion was seconded and Mary was elected for the ensuing year.

Dustin Comstock made a motion to nominate Eric Holmgren for a three year term as Selectman. Lynn Craig made a motion to nominate Bob Richardson for a three year term as Selectman. Adrian called for a paper ballot and the results were 30 for Eric Holmgren and 20 for Bob Richardson. Eric was elected for the ensuing three year term.

John McNeil made a motion to nominate Art McNeil for a three year term as Lister. The motion was seconded. There was a motion to cease nominations and for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Art McNeil. The Clerk cast one ballot for Art McNeil and he was elected for the ensuing three year term.

Fred Kidder made a motion to nominate Janis Blais for a three year term as Auditor. The motion was seconded. There was a motion to cease nominations and for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Janis Blais. The Clerk cast one ballot for Janis Blais and she was elected for the ensuing three year term.

Kathie stated that William Goulette did not want to be elected for another three year term as Cemetery Commissioner. Adrian asked for nominations. Hearing none, the vote on that position was passed over.

Article 5. Fred Kidder made a motion to approve all salaries for town officers at the same as last year. There was a second to the motion and the body voted to approve compensation at \$41,000 for the Town Clerk/Treasurer, \$19,000 for the Assistant, \$1,000 each for Selectboard and all other Town Officers at \$20.00 per hour.

Article 6. There was a motion by George Malek to raise the sum of \$250,102 for the General Fund of which \$213,578.13 is to be raised in taxes. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 7. Dustin Comstock made a motion to raise the sum of \$448,750 for the Highway Fund of which \$292,645.15 is to be raised in taxes. There was some discussion about the conditions of Tucker Road. Fred Kidder made a motion to appropriate an additional \$50,000 to the highway budget for road resurfacing. George Wild spoke about roads and stated the town would be coming up with a 5 - 10 year road plan. George Malek would like to see the plan and numbers for next year's town meeting. Adrian asked for a second to Fred Kidder's motion. Hearing none

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he asked if there was a second to the original motion. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 8. George Malek made a motion to raise the sum of \$3,000.00 to support the Town Cemeteries. Kevin Wilson talked about the old Peake Cemetery and there are trees growing up near stones and that a log truck had ripped up the land. George Wild stated that the Cemetery Commissioners are working on a 3 year plan for the maintenance of the old cemeteries. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Adrian asked if the voters want to approve the non-profit requests individually or vote on as one question. The voters approved merging articles 9-17 as one vote. He asked if anyone from the agencies wanted to speak. Sue Perreault spoke for Safeline and what an important organization it is especially now with the increase in domestic violence.

Article 9 -17. George Malek made a motion to approve a sum of \$6,125.00 to the non-profit agencies, as requested. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 18: Ginny Raboin made a motion to approve the sum of \$5,000 to the Orange Recreation Committee. The motion was seconded. Ginny spoke on behalf of the Recreation Committee about plans for the future. Fred Kidder made a motion to amend and that \$2,500 be appropriated and the committee to fundraise for anything above that. The motion to amend was not seconded. The body voted to approve the sum of \$5,000.

Article 19. Fred Kidder made a motion to collect taxes on August 15 and November 15 for 2017. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 20. Fred Kidder made a motion to approve a 5 day grace period in which time the Collector of Delinquent Taxes shall not assess a penalty. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 21. George Wild made a motion to set Town Meeting 2016 for the first Tuesday in March at 6:30 p.m. for 2017. There was a second to the motion and it was approved.

Article 22. Adrian asked if there was any other non-binding business to come before the assembly. There was no other business.

Darin Magwire made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm.

Attest: Kathie Felch, Town Clerk