

**TOWN OF ORANGE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2022 6:00 P.M.**

Town Moderator, David Childs called the annual Town Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Childs opened with the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence and announcement of rules. Mr. Childs introduced the town clerk, Selectboard and himself as the Town Moderator.

Mr. Childs then called upon Representative Rodney Graham. He spoke and gave an update of current bills in the house and a general update. Representative Samantha Lefebvre then spoke thanking Representative Rodney Graham for his work in the house and taking her under his wing as a new freshman representative and announced this will be his last Town Meeting.

Article 1. Mr. Clark Agnew made a motion to nominate Mr. David Childs for Moderator. The motion was seconded by John Barnes. On motion nomination ceased and clerk cast one ballot for Mr. Childs, Moderator. The motion passed as written.

Article 2. Mrs. Mary Montour noted a vital statistics error in the Town Report. Mr. Fred Kidder made a motion to accept the reports by the town officers as written with the vital records correction noted by Mrs. Montour. This was seconded by Ms. Perreault. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 3. On a motion made by Mrs. Sue Perreault and seconded by Mrs. Siobhan Perricone, the compensation rate for elected town officers was set as budgeted in the General Fund Budget. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 4. Selectboard Member for 2 years

Mr. Shane Lefebvre made a motion to nominate Mrs. Samantha Lefebvre for Selectboard. The motion was seconded by Mr. John Barnes.

Mr. Ernie Wilson made a motion to nominate Mr. Kevin Wilson for Selectboard. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fred Kidder.

Request for paper ballot requested and sustained. Results: **Mrs. Lefebvre 50 votes to Mr. Wilson 19 votes. Mrs. Lefebvre was declared the winner.**

Selectboard Member for 3 years

Mr. Lee Martenson made a motion to nominate Mrs. Shelia Stone for Selectboard. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chuck Houle.

Mr. Ray Rossi made a motion to nominate Mr. Eric Holmgren for Selectboard. This was seconded by Mr. Ernie Wilson.

Mr. Art McNeil made a motion to nominate Mr. Kevin Wilson for Selectboard. This was seconded by Fred Kidder.

Request for paper ballot requested and sustained. Results: **Mrs. Stone 37 votes to Mr. Holmgren 17 votes and Mr. Wilson 15 votes. Mrs. Stone was declared the winner.**

Lister for 3 years

Mr. John McNeil made a motion to nominate Mr. Art McNeil for lister. On motion nomination ceased and clerk cast one ballot for Mr. Art McNeil.

Cemetery Commissioner for 3 years

Mr. Clark Agnew made a motion to nominate Mr. Rod Coronado for cemetery commissioner. This was seconded by Mr. Steve Pratt. On motion nomination ceased and clerk cast one ballot for Mr. Rod Coronado.

Article 5. Ms. Emily Ruff moved that the voters authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$406,281.86 of which \$147,723.36 shall be raised by taxes and \$258,558.50 by non-tax revenues. This was seconded by Ms. Lee Youngman. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 6. Mr. Leo Martineau moved that the voters authorize Highway Fund expenditures of \$539,076.96 of which \$342,842.75 shall be raised by taxes, \$80,000 transferred from Highway Fund balance and \$116,234.21 by non-tax revenues. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Janis Blais. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 7. Shall the taxpayers approve the purchase of a 2022 medium duty truck in the amount of \$128,885 to replace the 2013 Freightliner? Request for paper ballot requested and sustained. As printed, results as follows: **49 votes yes and 11 votes no. The article passed.**

Article 8. Ms. Lee Youngman moved to appropriate up to the sum of \$85,000 from Highway Fund balance to be used for Tucker Rd improvements. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Janis Blais. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 9. Mr. Dirk Anderson moved to appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from the Town Hall Capital improvement fund balance for necessary improvements to the town hall. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sue Perreault. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 10. Ms. Sue Perreault moved to raise the sum of \$5,000 to support the Town cemeteries. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tim Stone. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 11. Mr. Fred Kidder motion to raise the sum of \$1,194 to support the upkeep of the town recreation field. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Eileen Houle. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Articles 12. Mr. David Childs suggested that Article 12 were nonprofit companies asking for donations and if we could do all of them in one single vote. Mr. David Childs read each company and the money requested and a motion was made by Mr. Dirk Anderson and seconded by Ms. Sue Perreault to approve all requested monies to the nonprofits. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 13. Ms. Emily Ruff moved to establish a conservation commission under the authority of 24 V.S.A. § 4501-4506. This was seconded by Mr. Leo Martineau. Request for paper ballot requested and sustained. As printed, results as follows: **16 votes yes and 43 votes no. The article was defeated.**

Article 14. Mr. Fred Kidder moved to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, grants and money allocated by the State and Federal government. This was seconded by Mrs. Peggy Thompson. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 15: Ms. Lee Youngman moved to authorize payment of property taxes in 2 (two) installments with the due dates being August 15, 2022 and November 15, 2022 delivery to Town Clerk's Office postmarked on or before the due date. This was seconded by Mr. Kevin Wilson. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 16: Mr. Fred Kidder moved to set the date and time of Town Meeting 2023 to be Tuesday March 7, 2023 at 6:00pm. This was seconded by Mr. Kevin Wilson. **The motion was so voted. The article passed.**

Article 17: To discuss any business that may come before the meeting. The following business was brought before the voters: Siobhan Perricone updated and answered questions about CV Fiber during the counting of paper ballots. Mrs. Angela Eastman, Town Clerk, announced a public hearing to be held March 21, 2022 at 6:00pm to discuss ARPA funding. She also conveyed Mr. Chris LaMonda, EMS Director, report on the Barre Town ambulance. Mrs. Angela Eastman recognized the hard work of Mr. John McNeil, Lister, for assembling the town report and recognized Mr. Eric Holmgren for his 6 years of service on the Selectboard. Mr. Leo Martineau, Resident, addressed the selectboard and encouraged them into looking at hiring student from the VOTECH center for temp help and also to look into hiring a third full time man. Representative Samantha Lefebvre updated the residents and Selectboard on redistricting.

With no other business to come before the board, Mr. David Childs asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:36pm.

Attest:

Angela Eastman, Town Clerk