

**TOWN OF ORANGE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 7, 2023 6:00 P.M.
ORANGE TOWN HALL**

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Orange was gavelled to order at 6:00pm on Tuesday March 7, 2023. Mr. Childs opened with the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence and announcement of rules. Mr. Childs introduced the Town Clerk, the Selectboard and himself as the Town Moderator.

Mr. Childs then called upon Representative Mr. Carl Demrow. He updated those assembled on Legislative activities and answered questions.

Ms. Siobhan Perricone, CV Fiber Representative, spoke on behalf of CV Fiber.

The warning was read in its entirety and the following actions took place:

Article 1—On a motion made by Mr. Francis Kidder, and seconded by Ms. Sue Perreault, Mr. David Childs was nominated to be Moderator. There being no further nominations, the moderator moved to close nominations and directed the town clerk to cast one ballot. **So voted.**

Article 2-- On a motion made by Ms. Sue Perreault, and seconded by Ms. Michele Boyer, the reports of the town officers were accepted as printed in the town report—**So voted.**

Article 3—On a motion made by Ms. Sue Perreault and seconded by Ms. Michele Boyer, the compensation for elected town officers be set as budgeted in the general fund—**So voted.**

Article 4—

Selectboard 3 Year Term:

On a motion made by Ms. Angela Eastman and seconded by Ms. Michele Boyer, Ms. Michele Brock was nominated for the seat of Selectboard for a 3-year term.

On a motion made by Mr. Gary Eggleston and seconded by Mr. Francis Kidder, Mr. Kevin Wilson was nominated for the seat of Selectboard for a 3-year term.

On a motion made by Mr. Chad Spencer and seconded by Mr. Leo Martineau, Mr. Chad Spencer was nominated for the seat of Selectboard for a 3-year term.

Mr. Kevin Wilson was elected to the seat of Selectboard with 32 votes to Ms. Michelle Brock, 25 votes and Mr. Chad Spencer, 1 vote and 2 votes were spoiled for a total cast of 60 votes cast.

Lister 3 Year Term:

On a motion made by Ms. Angela Eastman and seconded by Ms. Michele Boyer, Mr. John McNeil was nominated for the seat of Lister for a 3-year term. There being no further nominations, the moderator moved to close nominations and directed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot. **So voted.**

Cemetery Commissioner 3 Year Term:

On a motion made by Ms. Angela Eastman and seconded by Siobhan Perricone, Mr. Shane Lefebvre was nominated for the seat of Cemetery Commissioner for a 3-year term.

On a motion made by Mr. Gary Eggleston and seconded by Mr. Kevin Wilson, Ms. Michelle Brock was nominated for the seat of Cemetery Commissioner for a 3-year term.

Mr. Shane Lefebvre was elected to the seat of Cemetery Commissioner with 39 votes to Michelle Brock, 20 votes and Ms. Samantha Lefebvre, 1 vote for a total of 60 votes cast.

Article 5—On a motion made by Ms. Lee Youngman and seconded by Ms. Siobhan Perricone, the voters authorized General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$416,448.37 of which \$174,495.87 be raised by taxes and \$241,952.50 by non-tax revenue. **So voted.**

Article 6—On a motion made by Mr. Wayne Symonds and seconded by Mr. Steven Beede, the voters authorized Highway Fund expenditures of \$554,741.09 of which \$444,791.09 be raised by taxes and \$109,950.00 by non-tax revenues. **So voted** after discussion about what kind of materials should be used and upcoming plans for the year were discussed. Mr. Chad Spencer was directed to communicate his concerns about culverts on Emery Road to the Road commissioner.

Article 7—Mr. Wayne Symonds made a motion to raise the sum of \$100,000 for town highway paving. **So voted** after discussion. Mr. Wayne Symonds thought it would be a good idea to start a fund for paving. Mr. Jim Wild pointed out the condition of Tucker Road after Selectboard member Ms. Samantha Lefebvre gave some estimates for paving on several different town roads. The Selectboard also said they may consider bonding for paving and bring it before the voters at some point.

Article 8—On a motion made by Ms. Lee Youngman and seconded by Ms. Sue Perreault, the voters authorized the sum of \$13,000 to support the town cemeteries--**So voted.**

Article 9—On a motion made by Mr. Dirk Anderson and seconded by Ms. Siobhan Perricone, the voters authorized the sum of \$1,300 to support the upkeep of the town recreation field. **So voted.**

Articles 10-21. Without objection, on motion made by Mr. Fred Kidder and seconded by Mr. Steve Pratt the voters authorized the Moderator to combine Articles 10-21 for a total of \$10,275. **So voted** after Mr. Leo Martineau spoke in favor of the Barre Area Senior Center and Ms. Sue Perreault spoke in favor of Orange County Restorative Justice Center and Safeline. Mr. Jim Wild expressed concern about the ever-increasing cost of supporting non-profits and questioned if there was a way to cap it. On a motion made by Mr. Steven Beede and seconded by Ms. Sue Perreault, the voters approved Articles 10-21 for the sum of \$10,275. **So voted.**

Article 22—On a motion made by Ms. Lee Youngman and seconded by Ms. Siobhan Perricone, the voters authorized the Town Treasurer, with approval of the Selectboard, to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, grants, and money allocated by the state and federal government--**So voted.**

Article 23—On a motion made by Mr. Dirk Anderson and seconded by Ms. Michele Boyer, the voters authorized payment of property taxes in 2 installments due on August 15, 2023, and November 15, 2023 by delivery to town clerk's office or postmarked on or before the due date. **So voted.**

Article 24—On a motion made by Mr. Fred Kidder and seconded by Mr. Steve Pratt, the voters set the time and date of Town Meeting 2024 to be Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 6:00 PM--**So voted.**

Article 25--Other non-binding business: (discussed during the meeting)

Ms. Angela Eastman, Town Clerk/Treasurer and Ms. Michele Boyer, ACO, reminded voters dogs needed to be registered which prompted comments from dissatisfied resident Mr. Chad Spencer

Ms. Lee Youngman updated voters on the Annual School meeting and discussed that there would be a snowshoe hike in the Town Forest on March 25, 2023, at 10:00am.

Mr. Gary Eggleston asked if there was police presence at every meeting. He also discussed whether the meetings were being recorded or not and whether we edit the meeting recordings. Selectboard Vice Chair, Ms. Samantha Lefebvre responded by stating that the Selectboard does not have Police Presence at every meeting and that the Selectboard does not edit recordings.

Mr. Wayne Symonds commented on how much he enjoys the town website and asked if the town report could be posted on the town website in pdf form before town meeting. The town is in the process of doing this in the future.

Mr. Steve Pratt inquired about the collapsed town gazebo and was informed that insurance would cover the repair.

Mr. David Childs offered a resolution directing the town's elected school board directors to advocate changing the annual Echo Valley School district meeting to a different day than town meeting day to avoid conflicts with our town meeting. **So voted.**

With no other business to come before the board, Mr. David Childs asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm. Ms. Sue Perreault moved to adjourn. **So voted at 8:00 PM**

Attest:

Ms. Angela Eastman, Town Clerk/Treasurer