

TOWN OF ORANGE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE TOWN HALL
March 5, 2024

The 2024 Orange Town Meeting was called to order by David Childs, Moderator at 6:35p.m. Childs lead the Pledge of Allegiance before reading the warning.

Article One: To elect the moderator for the coming year as the law directs. Francis Kidder nominated David Childs as Town Moderator seconded by Steve Pratt. Nominations ceased, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for David Childs, so voted.

Article 2: To receive and act upon the Town Officers as printed in the current Town Report. Moved and seconded Sue Perrault moved the article as written. Eric Holmgren advised corrections to the Vital records in the Town Clerk report. Jessie Foster moved the article as amended and seconded. The article passed as amended by voice vote.

Article 3: Shall the voters authorize to change the Town Clerk and Treasurer positions from appointed to elected for a one-year term? During much discussion amongst the residents Moderator David Childs reported if this Article passed, he would then elect from the floor. Eric Holmgren stated if the position was elected from the floor, Ginny Raboin is a town official and would remain in the position as Town Clerk unless removed by cause until 2025. David Childs stated at the VLCT Training for moderators he sought advice that indicated he could elect from the floor. With more discussion regarding appointment and term, Shelia Stone confirmed each appointment was a one-year term. The article was moved as written, after a voice vote, division was called. Sam Frank called for a paper ballot, supported by the necessary 7 voters. 143 ballots cast, 66 in favor of the motion, 77 opposed, the motion failed.

Article 4: To elect all necessary town officers for the coming term:
Selectboard member for a term of one year. Shelia Stone, Wayne Symonds and Angela Eastman were nominated and seconded. Each nominee gave a brief statement, with 150 votes cast, Wayne Symonds with 91 votes, Shelia Stone with 35 votes and Angela Eastman with 23 votes and one blank, Wayne Symonds was elected to Selectboard for a term of one year.

Selectboard member for a three-year term. Eric Holmgren, Angela Eastman, Kristin Paya and Steve Simpson were nominated and seconded. With 141 ballots cast, Steve Simpson won the seat with 79 votes.

Lister one year term. Art McNeil was nominated and seconded. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for Art McNeil, so voted.

Lister two-year term. Edmund Bedard was nominated and seconded. John McNeil was nominated and withdrew his nomination. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for Edmund Bedard, so voted.

Lister three-year term. John McNeil was nominated, with no other nominations. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for John McNeil, so voted.

Two-year term as Cemetery Commissioner. Michael Raboin Jr. was nominated by Ginny Raboin. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for Michael Raboin Jr, so voted.

Three-year term as Cemetery Commissioner. Clark Agnew was nominated. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for Clark Agnew, so voted.

Article 5 Will the town set the compensation for elected Town Officers? Sue Perrault made a motion to set the compensation as indicated and seconded. Resident noted the Cemetery Commission did not have a compensation rate. This article passed by voice vote.

Article 6 Shall the voters authorize the General Funds Expenditures for operating expenses \$362,152.80 which \$162,097.30 shall be raised by taxes and \$200,055.50 by non-tax revenues? With discussion and clarification Lee Youngman made a motion to amend the Article to read Shall the voters authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$398,397.66 of which \$170,122.22 shall be raised by taxes and \$228,275.36 by non-tax revenue. The amendment passed with a voice vote, Moderator Childs declared the amendment as the original motion, so voted.

Article 7 Shall the voters authorize Highway Fund expenditures of \$495,680.67 of which \$482,730.67 shall be raised by taxes and \$12,950.00 by non-tax revenues? With much discussion a motion was made to amend the article as written by Sean Brown to read "Shall the voters authorize Highway Fund expenditures of \$554,741.09 of which \$541,791.09 to be raised by taxes and \$12,950.00 by non-tax revenues. The amendment passed and as the main motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 8 Shall the voters raise the sum of \$300,000.00 for reclaiming and repaving of 3600 feet of Tucker Road? The motion was made and seconded, the article was voted down.

Article 9 Shall the voters raise the sum of \$25,000.00 for 3210 feet of reclaiming Reservoir Road? A motion was made to amend the motion as written by Wayne Symonds to state "Shall the voters raise the sum of \$20,000.00 for the purpose of filling pot holes on Reservoir Road with hot mix by contractors" The motion passed and as the main motion passed by voice vote.

Article 10 Shall the voters raise the sum of \$11,176.00 to support the town cemeteries? Clark Agnew reported the Perpetual Care Investments had earned enough to cover the operating costs. Clark Agnew made a motion to spend \$0 to support the town cemeteries. The motion passed by voice vote.

Article 11 Shall the voters raise \$1500 to support the upkeep of the town recreation field? The motion was made, and the article passed by voice vote.

Article 12 Shall the voters authorize Hunting, Fishing and Trapping on Town Land? The motion was made to authorize Hunting, Fishing and Trapping on Town Land, so voted.

Article 13-23 On a motion by Sue Perrault and seconded the voters authorized \$8125 to support the non-profits listed in the combined articles by voice vote.

Article 24 Will the Town 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? With a motion by Lee Youngman and seconded this article passed as written.

Article 25 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes in 2 installments with the due dates being August 15, 2024 and November 15, 2024 delivery to the Town Clerk's Office postmarked on or before the due date? With a motion by Sue Perrault and seconded, this Article passes as written.

Article 26 Shall the Town vote to set the date and time of Town Meeting 2025 to be held Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.? with a motion by Lee Youngman and seconded, this motion passed as written.

Article 27 Other Business Jim Wild proposed the Town employees and elected officials be given cell phones.

With a motion and seconded the 2024 Orange Town Meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raboin
Town Clerk