

Minutes of the 2009 Annual Town Meeting of the Town and Town School District of Fairfield, Vermont

The inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield met at Veteran's Hall, Fairfield Center School, on March 3, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Harold Howrigan. He read the warning, then asked for nominations for Moderator.

1. MODERATOR: Harold Howrigan was nominated and seconded. Nomination ceased. Passed by voice vote.
2. TO ACT UPON THE REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS OFFICERS: Motion made, seconded and passed by voice vote to accept the Town Report as presented.
3. SHALL THE TOWN VOTE TO ELECT THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR TO A THREE YEAR TERM?: Motion made and seconded to elect the delinquent tax collector to a three year term. Passed by voice vote.
4. TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:
 - a. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 3 YEARS: Gene Archambault nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Gene Archambault. Passed by voice vote.
 - b. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 2 YEARS: Greg Christie nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Greg Christie. Passed by voice vote.
 - c. ONE AUDITOR FOR 3 YEARS: Joy Kane nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Joy Kane. Passed by voice vote.
 - d. ONE LISTER FOR 3 YEARS: James Gregoire nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for James Gregoire. Passed by voice vote.
 - e. A COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES FOR TERM DETERMINED UNDER ARTICLE 3: Linda Hodet nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Linda Hodet. Passed by voice vote.
 - f. A FIRST CONTABLE AND A SECOND CONSTABLE FOR 1 YEAR: Luke Howrigan nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased. Moved to cast one ballot for Luke Howrigan. Linda Hodet nominated and seconded for Second Constable. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Linda Hodet. Passed by voice vote.
 - g. ONE OR MORE GRAND JURORS FOR 1 YEAR: Todd Merchant nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Todd Merchant. Passed by voice vote.
 - h. A TOWN AGENT FOR 1 YEAR: William Kittell nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for William Kittell. Passed by voice vote.
 - i. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 3 YEARS: Julie Wolcott nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Julie Wolcott. Passed by voice vote.
 - j. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 2 YEARS: Elizabeth Howrigan nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast on ballot for Elizabeth Howrigan. Passed by voice vote.
5. TO VOTE A TOWN BUDGET AND TO SET A TAX RATE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE THE SAME:
The amount of taxes to be raised in 2009 to cover the general and highway fund budget is \$748,270. Motion made and seconded to add a \$4,200 appropriation for the recreation committee, to raise a total of \$752,470 in taxes. Gavin Ryan explained the 2008 budget which ended in a deficit of 27,079.14 due to an omission of the fire department appropriation (\$88,426) in the setting of the tax rate. Discussion followed concerning the decrease in State Highway Aid; the decrease of overtime hours by the road crew; the possible Federal Stimulus money; and the remaining payments for the town garage. Motion made and seconded to approve the town budget of \$752,470. Passed by voice vote.
6. SHALL TAXES BE PAYABLE AND DUE ON NOVEMBER 25? SHALL THERE BE A 4% DISCOUNT GIVEN FOR PAYMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF TAX BILLS? (State payments not included): Motion made, seconded and passed by voice vote.

7. AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO BORROW MONEY IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES: Motion made, seconded and passed by voice vote.
8. TO SEE IF THE NAMES OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE TOWN REPORT: Motion made, seconded and passed by voice vote.
9. TO VOTE A SUM OF MONEY (\$9,000) TO COVER EXPENSES OF THE LIBRARY: Librarian explained the need for the increase: \$5.00 per person will help to sustain the library's current functions. Many towns are charging upwards of \$14.00 per person. Patronage is up to 150 and circulation is up from last year. Motion to appropriate \$9,000, seconded and passed by voice vote.
10. TO AUTHORIZE THE SELECTMEN TO BORROW MONEY TO COVER THE EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE LIBRARY: Discussion regarding the situation in which this authorization would be needed. Motion made, seconded and passed by voice vote.
11. ADJOURN TEMPORARILY THE BUSINESS OF THE TOWN UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING: Motion made, seconded and passed by voice vote.
12. ORGANIZE THE ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING: Motion made, seconded and passed by voice vote.
13. TO ELECT A MODERATOR FOR THE SCHOOL MEETING: Harold Howrigan nominated, seconded and elected by voice vote.
14. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS TO BORROW MONEY IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES AS NECESSARY, FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR: Motion made, seconded and passed by voice vote.
15. TO APPROVE THE USE OF \$6,500 OF THE CURRENT (June 30, 2008) FUND BALANCE RESERVED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR FUNDING OF THE TOWN GRANTWRITER POSITION: Motion made and seconded. The School Board noted that they were not in support of this Article and would rather use the funds for improvements to the school. The Article was defeated unanimously by voice vote.
16. TO ELECT SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR FOR 3 YEARS: Michael Malone nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Michael Malone.
17. TO ELECT SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR FOR 2 YEARS: Michael L'Esperance nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Michael L'Esperance.
18. TO ELECT SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR FOR 2 YEARS TO COMPLETE A 3 YEAR TERM: Barry Fauteux nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Barry Fauteux.
19. TO ELECT ONE (1) SCHOOL TREASURER FOR 3 YEARS: Ruth Mangan nominated and seconded. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Ruth Mangan.
20. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING: A 2008 change in the law 17 VSA § 2640(c) now permits the public discussion of ballot issues and the people were given the opportunity to discuss the school budget.
21. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$76,623
22. FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER: \$2500
23. FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME HEALTH: \$2940
24. FRANKLIN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: \$500

- 25. CHAMPLAIN VALLEY AREA AGENCY ON AGING: \$1500
- 26. TRI-COUNTY FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM: \$350
- 27. FAIRFIELD PLAYGROUND GROUP: \$5,000

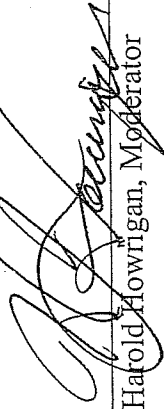
28. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING.
Veronica Ryan stood and was recognized for her many years of attendance at Town Meeting Day.

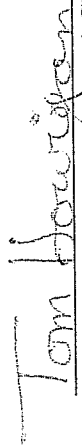
29. ADJOURN: Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda L. Forbes, Clerk

To the best of my recollection I attest that these minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the events of Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2009.


Hafold Howrigan, Moderator


Tom Howrigan, Selectboard Chair