

Minutes of the 2013 Annual 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 5, 2013. Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator reviewed the Robert's Rules of Order and requested those who were not registered voters to raise their hand. The meeting was then called to order at 10:12 a.m. She led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those beloved townspeople who are no longer with us. Amanda Forbes reviewed the Warning and Bridget asked for nominations for Moderator.

1. MODERATOR: Bridget Howrigan Rivet was nominated by Albert Tetreault and seconded by Jerry Yates. Nominations ceased. The Clerk was asked to cast one ballot for Bridget Howrigan Rivet.

2. TO ACT UPON THE VARIOUS REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT AS CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT TOWN FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion made by Greg Christie and seconded by James Gregoire to discuss the article. Motion made by Michael Malone, and seconded by Kenderlyn Phelps, to amend Article #15 of the 2012 Town Meeting Minutes to \$5,421,635 from the \$5,241,635 previously reported. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion made by James Gregoire, and seconded by Melissa Manson, to accept the Town Report as amended. Motion passed by voice vote.

3. TO ELECT FROM THE LEGAL VOTERS OF SAID TOWN THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:
 - a. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 3 YEARS: Tom Howrigan nominated by Greg Christie and seconded by Jerry Yates. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Tom Howrigan.
 - b. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 2 YEARS: Greg Christie nominated by Norman Menard and seconded by Bennett Dawson. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Greg Christie.
 - c. ONE AUDITOR FOR 3 YEARS: Judy Magnan nominated by Joy Kane and seconded by Mary Schreindorfer. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Judy Magnan.
 - d. ONE LISTER FOR 3 YEARS: Daniel McCoy nominated by James Gregoire and seconded by Lyndon Corey. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Daniel McCoy.
 - e. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 3 YEARS: Jennifer Archambault nominated by Laura Fulwiler and seconded by Toby Fulwiler. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Jennifer Archambault.
 - f. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 2 YEARS: Laura Fulwiler nominated by Kristen Runyon-Hughes and seconded by Shawnee Higgins. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Laura Fulwiler.
 - g. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR A TERM OF 1 YEAR TO FILL THE REMAINDER OF A 3 YEAR TERM: Julie Wolcott nominated by Albert Tetreault and seconded by Dan Connor. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Julie Wolcott. John Schreindorfer asked whose term they were filling and it was answered that it was Randy Clark's.
 - h. A FIRST CONSTABLE AND A SECOND CONSTABLE FOR 1 YEAR: Linda Hodet nominated for First Constable by Melissa Manson. Nomination withdrawn. Colleen Veino nominated for First Constable by Linda Hodet and seconded by Gail Williams. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Colleen Veino. Motion passed by voice vote. Linda Hodet nominated for Second Constable by Melissa Manson and seconded by Gavin Ryan. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Linda Hodet. Motion passed by voice vote.

- i. ONE OR MORE GRAND JURORS FOR 1 YEAR: Todd Merchant nominated by Anne Howrigan and seconded by Greg Christie. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Todd Merchant.
 - j. A TOWN AGENT FOR 1 YEAR: Vanessa Kittell nominated by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Kristen Runyon Hughes. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Vanessa Kittell.
4. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE TOTAL 2013 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES OF \$1,294,147, OF WHICH \$859,641 SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$434,506 BY NON-TAX REVENUES?: Motion made by Melissa Manson and seconded by Toby Fulwiler. Mary Schreindorfer requested the Selectboard speak to the budget this year. Gavin Ryan explained that the increases this year were due to the \$31,000 library property reimbursement being put in the budget for the first year and \$23,000 in fuel and salary increases. Ruth Mangan asked what the library reimbursement was for and Gavin noted that this was an article passed at last year's meeting to reimburse the library for the purchase of the Pafundi property. Mary Schreindorfer complimented the Selectboard on the management of the Town and building of infrastructure. Gavin thanked the volunteers who worked on the new fire station building. Bennett Dawson inquired about possible declining revenues from the State and Gavin responded that there are three bridges currently on the State's plan to be replaced within the next couple of years. Discussion ended. Motion passed by voice vote.
5. SHALL PROPERTY TAXES BE DUE AND PAYABLE ON THE THIRD FRIDAY IN NOVEMBER, THIS YEAR BEING NOVEMBER 15th?: Motion made by James Gregoire and seconded by Lyndon Corey. Motion passed by voice vote.
6. SHALL A 4% DISCOUNT BE ALLOWED FOR 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE OF THE TAX BILL?: Motion made by Sara Toof and seconded by Gerald Jewett. Michael L'Esperance asked if this was a change from last year. Amanda Forbes answered that this was not a change. Dan Ploof asked how many people take advantage of this discount and Amanda answered 60-70%. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. TO HEAR THE REPORT OF THE LIBRARY: Julie Wolcott, Library Trustee, asked that the Trustee's Report be submitted as written in the Town Report.
8. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE EXPENDITURES OF \$199,400 FOR THE BENT NORTHROP MEMORIAL LIBRARY, \$15,128 OF WHICH SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$184,272 BY NON-TAX REVENUES? Motion made by Julie Wolcott and seconded by Jane Williams. Motion passed by voice vote.
9. TO ADJOURN TEMPORARILY THE BUSINESS OF THE TOWN UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING: Hearing no objection the business of the town was adjourned temporarily until after completion of the School District Meeting.
10. TO ELECT A MODERATOR FOR THE SCHOOL MEETING: Bridget Howrigan Rivet nominated by Michael Malone and seconded by John Baxter. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Bridget Howrigan Rivet.
11. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROPRIATE \$5,457,513 WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR THE SUPPORT OF ITS SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2013? [AUSTRALIAN BALLOT]: Moderator explained that Australian ballot items could be discussed at the meeting if the voters chose to and polls were open until 7pm to vote.

Julie Wolcott asked how important the Outdoor Classroom was to the School Board and if they would consider budgeting for a coordinator in the future. Michael Malone responded that it is something they will look into at their board meetings in the future. He feels it is important

because it augments the curriculum and gets the children outside. Patrick Winegar asked for clarification regarding taxes to be raised. The Town's share is \$1.8 million taxes of the total \$5.4 million, which is an increase from last year of \$35,000. Ruth Mangan noted that there is a \$400,000 fund balance over the past 2 years. She inquired whether the School Board could use that as they want. Michael Malone responded that these expenditures are voted on by the Town in separate articles. This year the Board will focus on asbestos abatement and a biomass boiler. He further explained that budgets are estimates so if high school enrollment or special education numbers go down it changes and leaves a fund balances. This balance is used for Capital Improvements and saves the School from having to go to bond vote. Michael can provide a list of improvements over the past couple of years. The gym floor was recently replaced at a cost of \$52,000. Beth Branon asked about changes in services and Michael responded that it reflects a reduction of a paraeducator, reduction of a part-time foreign language teacher and decreasing technology expenses by using remaining bus reserve funds as voted by the Town today. There is also an increase of the art teacher position from .6 to .8 to help retain a teacher. Gavin asked if there was a possibility for BFA to bus our students like Georgia. Mike said it was a possibility, and that BFA is looking into it, but it would be reflected in tuition. A suggestion was made to coordinate busing to high schools with Sheldon.

(Results counted after the polls closed at 7:00 p.m. showed the budget passed 110 to 57)

12. 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 by Julie Wolcott and seconded by Marilyn Lagrow. Motion passed by voice vote.
13. TO APPROVE THE USE OF \$4,000 OF THE CURRENT (June 30, 2012) CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE FUNDING OF THE TOWN GRANTWRITER POSITION: Motion made by Greg Christie and seconded by Joanna Jerose. Motion passed by voice vote.
14. TO APPROVE THE USE OF ANY CURRENT (JUNE 30, 2012) FUND BALANCE RESERVED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR VARIOUS BUILDING AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS: Motion made by John Baxter and seconded by Rebecca Moyer. Question was raised as to whether this was the money previously spoken about and yes, it is. What is the amount and what do they plan on doing with it? Michael Malone will put together a full list but a Biomass boiler and asbestos abatement in floors under carpets are two goals. Bennett Dawson explained that the School Board is given the authority with this vote to make decisions on the improvements that are needed. Bids are obtained and at a public meeting they will vote on where that money is spent. These meetings are warned and public participation is encouraged. Minutes and agendas are posted at the Town Clerk's office, at the school and online. Dick Howrigan requested using a sandwich board to notify residents. John Schreindorfer asked that the sign out front be taken down or repaired. John Dasaro noted that the Rec. Committee is repairing the sign. Motion passed by voice vote.
15. TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE FUND BALANCE CURRENTLY RESERVED FOR BUS PURCHASES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000, TO INSTEAD FUND TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES: Motion made by Juana Berry and seconded by John Baxter. Kingman Brewster asked what technology purchases were planned. Michael L'Esperance responded that it would allow them to buy more netbooks and laptops for the kids. This is in addition to the amount in the budget for technology. This pays for technology coordinator, software as well as hardware. Technology is a good use of the money, to prepare the kids for the 21st century. Jane Williams asked if they could amend the motion so that the money could be spent on the outdoor classroom instead. The moderator explained that the amounts could be amended but not where the money is going. In order to follow the Robert's Rules the topic could be brought up under other business and suggestions on where to spend money can be made but not would not be binding. Another suggestion was to bring it up again when voting for the outdoor classroom appropriation. Kristen Runyon Hughes asked how much was going towards maintaining old technology versus buying

new and Michael responded that approximately 20% was spent in maintenance. Motion passed by voice vote.

16. TO ELECT ONE (1) SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR BY BALLOT FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM: Kenderlyn Phelps nominated by Bennett Dawson and seconded by Howard Mitchell. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Kenderlyn Phelps. Motion passed by voice vote.
17. TO ELECT ONE (1) SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR BY BALLOT FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM: Michael L'Esperance nominated by Jerry Yates and seconded by Michael Malone. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Michael L'Esperance.
18. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING. The moderator reminded everyone that items discussed here are suggestions for the school and non-binding at this meeting. It was asked that an update be given regarding the kitchen/gym renovations. Barry Fauteux responded that they currently have 7 people for the committee and they would like to have 12. The plan is to work with a designer to build a better kitchen and gym. They are also considering moving art and music out of the Common School and into the main building. Susan Magnan requested that they use a sandwich board to notify people of the meetings.

The moderator asked the assembly if they wished to break for lunch considering it was 11:30 am and Gavin Ryan made the motion to break and Mike Malone seconded. Some disagreement was heard so a voice vote was held and the nays had it. Motion denied.

19. TO RESUME THE TOWN PORTION OF THE MEETING. Motion made by Sara Toof and seconded by Barry Fauteux.
20. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE \$52,191 FOR SUPPORT OF THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$47,341), APPROPRIATION TO BE PAID UPON CONDITION THAT THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBMIT TO THE TOWN, BY JUNE 30, 2013 A COPY OF ITS MOST RECENT BALANCE SHEET AND BANK STATEMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE TOWN AUDITORS: Motion made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Gavin Ryan. Marilyn Savoy asked why the balance sheet and bank statement were to be reviewed by the Town Auditors before payment and Gavin Ryan answered that there is currently no back up to show auditors. Motion passed by voice vote.
21. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE \$35,000 FOR SUPPORT OF THE EAST FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$35,000). APPROPRIATION TO BE PAID UPON CONDITION THAT THE EAST FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBMIT TO THE TOWN BY JUNE 30, 2013 A COPY OF ITS MOST RECENT BALANCE SHEET AND BANK STATEMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE TOWN AUDITORS: Motion made by John Schreindorfer and seconded by Julie Wolcott. Gerry Longway indicated that she felt an amendment should be made to not require a balance sheet and bank statement for payment because she doesn't understand the need for it. Sarah Toof stated that it was good for checks and balances and the School and Town have to report. Anne Howrigan noted it was good business practice. Beth Branon asked why all of the other appropriations don't require that they show backup and it was answered by Amanda Forbes that these were small donations and the amounts paid to the fire departments raised through taxes was much larger. John Baxter noted that the outdoor classroom is audited through the school. Pat Winegar agreed that this was good business practice. Rebecca Moyer asked why Gerry Longway objected and the Moderator said they should speak about it later. Gavin Ryan called the question. Motion passed by voice vote.
22. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$15,000 FOR THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$15,000): Motion made by Julie

Wolcott and seconded by Jane Williams. Jane Williams reported that she is on the Community Center Board and there are great things going on there. Motion passed by voice vote.

23. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$3782 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME HEALTH AGENCY, INC. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$2940): Motion made by Greg Christie and seconded by Kenderlyn Phelps. Motion passed by voice vote.
24. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$1500 FOR THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY AREA AGENCY ON AGING. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$1500): Motion made by Greg Christie and seconded by Kelly Sargent. Motion passed by voice vote.
25. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$2500 FOR THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$2500): Motion made by Greg Christie and seconded by Barry Fauteux. Motion passed by voice vote.
26. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$500 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$1000): Motion made by Gail Williams and seconded by Greg Christie. Gail Williams spoke to their feral cat spay/neuter program and their March 23rd rabies/microchip clinic at Walkers. It was asked why the amount was different from last year and it was replied that the amount had been amended from the floor to \$1,000.

The Article was amended by Jane Williams and seconded by Marilyn Lagrow to:

TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$1000 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY?

Amendment to the motion passed by voice vote. Amendment carried. The motion was passed by voice vote.

27. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$250 FOR THE MISSISQUOI RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$0): Motion made by Jerry Yates and seconded by Jane Berry. Jerry Yates asked what the money was for and Jane Berry responded that the association is part of a grant program to test the streams that feed Lake Champlain. They also plant new trees along streams. Brian Jerose, Board Member, also stated that the tree planting is done by Fairfield students as part of an educational program. John Gorton has benefited from the tree planting. Motion passed by voice vote.
28. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS: THE OIL INDUSTRY APPEARS TO BE PLANNING TO USE AN AGING PIPELINE, BUILT IN 1950, TO TRANSPORT CANADIAN TAR SANDS THROUGH VERMONT TO PORTLAND, MAINE FOR EXPORT; EXTRACTING AND PROCESSING TAR SANDS OIL CAUSES GREAT ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE, AND TAR SANDS OIL IS MORE LIKELY TO CAUSE THE PIPELINE TO LEAK.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD EXPRESSES ITS OPPOSITION TO THE TRANSPORT OF TAR SANDS OIL THOROUGH VERMONT AND CALLS UPON THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE AND THE US CONGRESS TO ENSURE THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEWS OF ANY TAR SAND OIL PROPOSALS, AND

THE SELECTBOARD SHALL SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION THE VERMONT CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE GOVERNOR, THE SPEAKER OF THE VERMONT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE VERMONT SENATE PRO TEM.

Motion made by Doug Flack and seconded by Toby Fulwiler. Doug Flack thanked the Selectboard for putting this Article in the Warning. He spoke to the issue explaining that pumping

tar sands is different than pumping oil. There have been spills in the past that reached Lake Memphremagog. It does not float, part of it evaporates and the rest sinks. The pipeline is old and unreliable. Bennett Dawson did not want to send a letter without having scientific based information included and whether it would create jobs. Marilyn Lagrow noted that it the oil is certainly to be exported overseas and will create few jobs. Environmentally sands are more harmful and it is an aging pipeline. John Schreindorfer appreciated Doug's concern but also did not want to vote on something like this. Kristine Kubaz stated that she trusts Doug's opinion and believes that if there is a leak it will destroy our land. Sonny Morey noted that none of the towns that the pipeline actually goes through had any objections. A motion to postpone indefinitely was made by Ben Toof and seconded by John Schreindorfer. A voice vote could not be determined so a show of hands was called for. Yes 45, No 32. Motion to postpone indefinitely passed.

29. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING.

Patrick Winegar asked for information on the old fire station. The school purchased it for \$10,000 for the use of the outdoor classroom and storage.

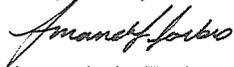
Anne Howrigan requested that flags be hung in both villages before Memorial Day.

Richard Howrigan is putting a plaque on the covered bridge in honor of those from Fairfield who died in wars.

Jane Williams reminded everyone that the Sap Run Boogie to benefit the Community Center was being held at the Branon's Sugarhouse Saturday, March 9th.

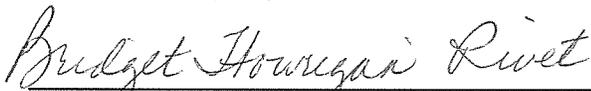
30. TO ADJOURN. A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Christie and seconded by Bennett Dawson at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

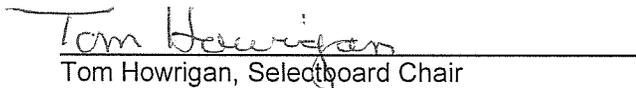


Amanda L. Forbes, Clerk

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 5, 2013.



Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator



Tom Howrigan, Selectboard Chair