

Minutes of the 2012 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 6, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator. She led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those beloved townspeople who are no longer with us. She reviewed the Robert's Rules of order and requested those who were not registered voters to raise their hand. She reviewed the Warning and then 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. Motion passed by voice vote.

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: Gavin Ryan spoke to this year's report. He discussed the flooding on the roads from the May 20th event and the FEMA process. At some point, reimbursements will be made by FEMA for 90% of the costs. The Wanzer Road bridge will be replaced this coming year by the State with our portion being 10% but we do not yet know how much the total will be. A new truck was purchased and a payloader will be needed soon. Motion made by James Gregoire, seconded by Toby Fulwiler to accept the Town Report as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

3. TO ELECT FROM THE LEGAL VOTERS OF SAID TOWN THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:
 - a. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 3 YEARS: Gene Archambault nominated by Gerald Jewitt and seconded by Bennett Dawson. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Gene Archambault. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - b. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 2 YEARS: Norman Menard nominated by Greg Christie and seconded by Mike Malone. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Norman Menard. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - c. ONE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR FOR 3 YEARS: Linda Hodet nominated by Melissa Manson and seconded by James Gregoire. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Linda Hodet. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - d. ONE AUDITOR FOR 3 YEARS: Joy Kane nominated by Tom Howrigan and seconded by James Gregoire. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Joy Kane. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - e. ONE AUDITOR FOR A ONE YEAR TERM TO FILL THE REMAINDER OF A THREE YEAR TERM: Kerri Little Howrigan nominated by Kenderlyn Phelps. Judy Magnan nominated by Jeanne Persons. 103 votes cast. Judy Magnan 68- Kerri Little Howrigan 35. Judy Magnan elected by ballot.
 - f. ONE LISTER FOR 3 YEARS: James Gregoire nominated by Dan McCoy. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for James Gregoire. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - g. A FIRST CONSTABLE AND A SECOND CONSTABLE FOR 1 YEAR: Colleen Veino nominated for First Constable by Amanda Forbes and seconded by Mike Malone. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Colleen Veino. Motion passed by voice vote. Linda Hodet nominated for Second Constable by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Gavin Ryan. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Linda Hodet. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - h. ONE OR MORE GRAND JURORS FOR 1 YEAR: Todd Merchant nominated by Gene Archambault and seconded by Greg Christie. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Todd Merchant. Motion passed by voice vote.

- i. A TOWN AGENT FOR 1 YEAR: Vanessa Kittell nominated by Mike Malone and seconded by Bennett Dawson. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Vanessa Kittell. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - j. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 3 YEARS: Sue Magnan nominated by Laura Fulwiler and seconded by Kenderlyn Phelps. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Sue Magnan. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - k. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 2 YEARS: Albert Tetreault nominated by Julie Wolcott and seconded by Sarah Howrigan. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Albert Tetreault. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - l. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 1 YEAR TO FILL THE REMAINDER OF A 3 YEAR TERM: Julie Wolcott nominated by Albert Tetreault and seconded by Mike Malone. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Julie Wolcott. Motion passed by voice vote.
4. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE TOTAL 2012 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES OF \$1,230,957 OF WHICH \$804,713 SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$426,244 BY NON-TAX REVENUES?: Motion made by Julie Wolcott and seconded by Toby Fulwiler. Motion passed by voice vote.
 5. SHALL PROPERTY TAXES BE DUE AND PAYABLE ON THE THIRD FRIDAY IN NOVEMBER, THIS YEAR BEING NOVEMBER 16th?: Motion made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by James Gregoire. 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 John Baxter and seconded by Jerry Yates. Motion passed by voice vote.
 7. SHALL THE NAMES OF DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS BE INCLUDED IN THE TOWN REPORT?: Motion made by James Gregoire and seconded by Mike Howrigan. Al Capone does not believe that listing names is a necessary deterrent and this type of public humiliation is below Fairfield. Sue Magnan noted that despite not listing them until the second year of delinquencies the totals are going down, not up. Linda Hodet, Delinquent Tax Collector said it is her experience that the possibility of being listed in the book is a deterrent. James Gregoire explained that the totals are not going down because delinquencies are not fully listed in the book, but is directly related to the stricter tax sale policy enacted by the Selectboard. Sarah Howrigan believes listing in the book is about accountability, she noted that the office is easy to work with to set up payments. Jo Laggis was concerned that people who are listed would be less likely to go to Town Meeting. Roger Dow stated pay your taxes and it will not be an issue.

The Article was amended by Sue Magnan to:

SHALL THE NAMES OF DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS BE INCLUDED IN THE TOWN REPORT, NOT FOR ONE OCCURRENCE BUT ONLY AFTER SUBSEQUENT OCCURRENCES (CARRYING AN OVERDUE BALANCE FOR LONGER THAN ONE YEAR) ALONG WITH THE FULL TOTALS? Motion made by Toby Fulwiler and seconded by Kate Paradee. The amendment passed by voice vote. The motion passed by voice vote.

Moderator suggested adjourning the meeting temporarily for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Motion made by Mike Malone and seconded by Bennett Dawson. All in favor.

Governor Peter Shumlin made a visit during lunch and spoke about Vermont's future and fundraising for Tropical Storm Irene victims.

8. TO HEAR THE REPORT OF THE LIBRARY: Motion made by Al Capone, seconded by Toby Fulwiler. Julie Wolcott, Library Trustee, discussed the opening of the library and their request for the same amount of money as last year from the voters. Their goal this year is to look at what exactly a municipal library looks like. Julie then thanked Terry Hale for her many years of service to the library. Kristen Hughes, Librarian, discussed the library activities, exhibits, programs and collections. Al Capone praised the Trustees and Librarian for being such a valuable asset to Fairfield.
9. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE EXPENDITURES OF \$197,285 FOR THE BENT NORTHROP MEMORIAL LIBRARY, \$11,065 OF WHICH SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$186,220 BY NON-TAX REVENUES? Motion made by Diana Bailey and seconded by Kelly Sargent. Motion passed by voice vote.
10. SHALL THE TOWN REIMBURSE THE LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PAFUNDI PROPERTY AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF \$31,000 FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS? Motion made by Bet Howrigan and seconded by Kelly Sargent. Gerry Longway asked if we already paid for the land, why do we have to do it again? She questioned whether they had any money left. Julie Wolcott responded that the Selectboard made a commitment to reimburse the endowment if they purchased the Pafundi property for the location of the library. That purchase was made based on that commitment. Todd Merchant asked the Selectboard to confirm they had made that commitment. Gene Archambault responded that no formal motion was ever made but individual members did indicate they would do that and he feels strongly they should follow through. Laura Fulwiler noted that the Trustees did receive a letter in November 2011 from the Selectboard agreeing to pay. Albert Tetreault felt it was important to reimburse the endowment because \$1 million was left to the Town and the interest earned on that money was to go towards operating expenses. Gerry Longway asked whose name the deed was in and Amanda Forbes, Clerk, responded that the Bent Northrop Memorial Library was. Gerry stated that the deed should be transferred into the Town's name if we pay. Gene Archambault called the question. Motion passed by voice vote.
11. SHALL THE TOWN AUTHORIZE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION BUILDING AND THE BORROWING OF FUNDS FOR THAT CONSTRUCTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$375,000 TO BE FINANCED FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED FIVE YEARS? Motion made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Greg Christie. Gene Archambault explained the aging structure and the inconvenient location of the current fire station. The garage is now paid off so that money can be used towards the fire station. Gavin Ryan stated that the loan will be a five year loan at 2.5%, 80k per year. The old station needs repairs and this is a long term investment in infrastructure. If everything, including the library, warnings and fire station is approved the affect will be a 3 cent increase in taxes. Diane Andrews is concerned about how seniors are supposed to pay the increases. James Gregoire stated that this Selectboard is sensible, will not overspend and interest is low right now. Ned Branon was impressed that the town clerk's office is paid for, the garage is paid for and now is the time to move forward with the fire station while the interest rates are so good. John Baxter is supportive of the fire station because with the school so close it is problematic with events and parking. The old building can be used for the recreation committee, library and the outdoor classroom. Mary Schreindorfer stated she was prepared to support the article based on the location and the upgrading needed on the current building. Juana Berry wondered who owned the current building and if there would be a purchase price? Michael Malone replied that the fire department owns the building and the school owns the land. Todd Merchant questioned it only being a tax increase of 3 cents and it was confirmed by Gavin that according to the Treasurer, that is the increase. James Gregoire was asked to explain how much 3 cents meant to a taxpayer's bill and he replied that it was about \$30.00 on a \$100,000 property. Motion passed by voice vote.

12. SHALL THE TOWN VOTE TO SUPPORT OPENING TOWN ROADS TO LEGAL ATV USE WITH HELP FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY ATV ASSOCIATION, INC. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO TOWN BUSINESSES, ETC.? VASA did not have a representative available but based on an email sent to the Selectboard Gene Archambault explained that the VASA is an ATV club that has rules and they are not looking to open up every road but a few select ones. Kevin Michael Howrigan asked if ATVs could be ridden on roads currently if the ATV is registered and the operator has a license. Laura Fulwiler has asked the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns this question and they have told her that they are not legal unless the Selectboard opens them up. Marilyn Lagrow asked if this includes class 4 roads and it was answered yes. James Gregoire wondered if this would open up liability issues and Gene Archambault stated the club has insurance. Shawnee Higgins is not in favor of opening roads to ATV use. Diana Bailey asked about enforcement and it was explained that VASA has its own trail warden for policing with fines. Based on not having enough information available Ned Branon made a motion to table the article with a second by Bennett Dawson. Motion to table passed by voice vote.

13. TO ADJOURN TEMPORARILY THE BUSINESS OF THE TOWN UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING: Motion made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Bennett Dawson. Motion passed by voice vote.

14. TO ELECT A MODERATOR FOR THE SCHOOL MEETING: Bridget Howrigan Rivet nominated by Gene Archambault and seconded by Bennett Dawson. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Bridget Howrigan Rivet. Motion passed by voice vote.

15. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROPRIATE \$5,241,635.00 WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR THE SUPPORT OF ITS SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2012? [AUSTRALIAN BALLOT]: Moderator explained that Australian ballot items could be discussed at the meeting if the voters chose to.

(Results counted after the polls closed at 7:00 p.m. showed the budget passed 159 to 91)

16. 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 Bet Howrigan and seconded by Beth Branon. Motion passed by voice vote.

17. TO APPROVE THE USE OF \$4,000 OF THE CURRENT (June 30, 2011) CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE FUNDING OF THE TOWN GRANTWRITER POSITION: Motion made by Julie Wolcott and seconded by John Baxter. Mary Schreindorfer noted that the Grantwriter made the town more than \$4,000 last year. Motion passed by voice vote.

18. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVE THE USE OF ANY CURRENT (JUNE 30, 2011) FUND BALANCE RESERVED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR VARIOUS BUILDING AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS?: Motion made by John Baxter and seconded by Kenderlyn Phelps. Mike Malone was asked about the fund balance for 2011 and he said it was at \$213,000. One of their goals is to replace the gym floor and this will cost approximately \$50,000. Anne Howrigan asked if there were other plans for the gym besides the floor and Mike responded that they are planning a future expansion of the gym. Motion passed by voice vote.

19. TO ELECT ONE (1) SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR BY BALLOT FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM: Mike Malone nominated by John Baxter. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Mike Malone. Motion passed by voice vote.

20. TO ELECT ONE (1) SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR BY BALLOT FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM: Bennett Dawson nominated by Greg Christie. Sarah Howrigan nominated by Ruth Mangan. Nominations ceased. The nominees were asked to say a few words about why they wanted to be on the school board. 95 votes cast. Bennett Dawson 69- Sarah Howrigan 26. Bennett Dawson elected by ballot.
21. TO ELECT ONE (1) SCHOOL TREASURER BY BALLOT FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM: Ruth Mangan nominated by Sarah Howrigan. Motion made by Mary Schreindorfer to cease nominations and cast one ballot for Ruth Mangan for School Treasurer. Motion passed by voice vote.
22. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING. The Moderator stated that if there were no objections she would like to suspend the rules to allow Lynn Dickinson, Representative, to speak. No objections heard, Lynn Dickinson stood and thanked the Town of Fairfield for the privilege and honor of representing it for the past four years. The districts are changing and Fairfield will now be with Bakersfield and Fletcher rather than the Town of St. Albans. Although she will not be serving Fairfield directly, she still wants to help if she can.

THE TOWN PORTION OF THE MEETING RESUMED.

23. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE \$82,341.29 TO HELP SUPPORT THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$86,693): Motion made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Bet Howrigan. Motion passed by voice vote.
24. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$15,000 FOR THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$6000): Motion made by Greg Christie and seconded by Barry Fauteux. Nancy Shaw, Community Center Director, explained the Community Center is asking for an increase due to lost revenue from the preschool moving to the elementary school. She explained that the Community Center is celebrating its 20th birthday and still continues to meet the needs of the community. She mentioned all of the different programs including summer camp, bingo, food shelf, senior meals, brunches etc. They have put money into the building and have been good tenants. They have increased the value of the building and are asking for support towards building costs to continue their services. They have the potential to have a full time daycare provider to rent the space in the building but they would like to put in some paint, carpet and furnishings. They estimate these costs to be \$5,000 for the upgrade and the remaining \$10,000 will go into building expenses. Jane Williams stated that there are great things happening at the Community Center including being a place where seniors can gather and have a meal. She asked that the Town please support it. Toby Fulwiler called the question. Motion passed by voice vote.
25. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$2940 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME HEALTH AGENCY, INC. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$2940): Motion made by Virginia Howrigan and seconded by Jane Williams. Jennifer Archambault spoke to the care given to 60 Fairfield residents and this donation has been the same amount since 1998 and equals to \$1.75 per resident. Motion passed by voice vote.
26. 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 Bennett Dawson and seconded by Jane Williams. Motion passed by voice vote.

27. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$2500 FOR THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$2500): Motion made by Barry Fauteux and seconded by Mike Malone. Motion passed by voice vote.
28. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$500 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$500): Motion made by Gail Williams and seconded by Julie Wolcott.

The Article was amended by Diana Bailey to:

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

Gail Williams explained the Humane Society has a spay/neuter clinic as well as adoptions of animals. Amendment to the motion passed by voice vote. Amendment carried. The motion was passed by voice vote.

29. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$500 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. (PREVIOUS YEAR-\$0): Motion made by Marilyn Savoy and seconded by Greg Christie. Motion passed by voice vote.
30. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING.

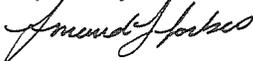
Anne Howrigan requested that flags be hung in both villages before Memorial Day.

Marilyn Savoy praised the town road crew on a fabulous job on the roads during the year.

Jane Williams reminded everyone that the Sap Run Boogie to benefit the Community Center was being held at the Branon's Sugarhouse Saturday, March 10th from 7 pm- 10 pm.

31. TO ADJOURN. A motion to adjourn was made by Toby Fulwiler and seconded by Mike Malone at 1:45 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 6, 2012.



Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator



Tom Howrigan, Selectboard Chair