

Minutes of the 2015 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 3, 2015. Gavin Ryan, Select Board Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Announcements regarding lunch and bake sale were made. The Pledge of Allegiance was done later in the meeting upon request of John Baxter after missing it here. Nominations for Moderator were requested.

1. MODERATOR: Vanessa Kittell was nominated by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Gene Archambault. Nominations ceased. The Clerk was asked to cast one ballot for Vanessa Kittell.
2. TO RECEIVE THE VARIOUS REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT AS CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT TOWN FINANCIAL REPORT: It was noted by Roger Adkins that Doug Williams' name should be included in the deaths. Mike Malone made a correction to page 115 that FY15 should be FY16.
3. TO AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO APPOINT A COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES IN ACCORDANCE WITH 17 V.S.A. § 2651d(a): Motion to approve made by James Gregoire and seconded by Kenderlyn Phelps. Motion passed by voice vote.
4. TO ELECT FROM THE LEGAL VOTERS OF SAID TOWN THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:
 - a. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 3 YEARS: Gene Archambault nominated by Kerry Lambert and seconded by Charlie Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Gene Archambault.
 - b. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 2 YEARS: Greg Christie nominated by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Michael Malone. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Greg Christie.
 - c. ONE AUDITOR FOR 3 YEARS: Mary Schreindorfer nominated by Joy Kane and seconded by James Gregoire. Julie Wolcott nominated Joy Kane. Joy Kane declined. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Mary Schreindorfer.
 - d. ONE LISTER FOR 3 YEARS: James Gregoire nominated by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Greg Christie. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for James Gregoire.
 - e. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 3 YEARS: Susan Magnan nominated by Norman Menard and seconded by Albert Tetreault. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Susan Magnan.
 - f. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE FOR 2 YEARS: Laura Fulwiler nominated by Kerry Lambert and seconded by Toby Fulwiler. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Laura Fulwiler.
 - g. A FIRST CONSTABLE FOR 1 YEAR: Linda Hodet nominated for First Constable by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Michael Malone. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Linda Hodet.
 - h. A DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR FOR 3 YEARS: Not needed due to Article #3 approval.
 - i. ONE OR MORE GRAND JURORS FOR 1 YEAR: Charlie Thomas nominated by Gene Archambault and seconded by James Gregoire. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Charlie Thomas.
 - j. A TOWN AGENT FOR 1 YEAR: Vanessa Kittell nominated by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Charlie Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Vanessa Kittell.
5. SHALL THE TOWN ELIMINATE THE DISCOUNT OF 4% ON PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS CURRENTLY ALLOWED WHEN TAXES ARE PAID WITHIN 30 DAYS OF TAX BILLS BEING ISSUED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH 32 V.S.A § 4773? Motion made by Greg Christie and

seconded by Dan McCoy. Amanda Forbes explained the current process and the history of the discount. It was pointed out that the current expense of \$105,000 is in the 2015 budget and it has increased by 75% over the past 7 years. It is now the largest expense line item besides paving. The overall discount when taking the initial expense into account is 1.1%. Those not taking advantage of the discount pay 2.87% of their total tax bill towards the expense. It was asked how much borrowing would be and it was answered that \$200,000 at approximately 1% interest it would cost the town about \$300 per month to borrow money if needed. There will be a need to move up the due date for taxes by a couple of weeks each year to get it back to October to limit the amount of time to borrow. Greg Christie spoke to his feelings that those who can least afford the discount and don't benefit from it have to pay for those who do. The Select Board was asked whether the taxes would be dropped by \$105,000 this year and Gavin replied that it could be and that was up to the voters to amend the budget. A motion to call the question was made by Toby Fulwiler and Kristen Hughes. A motion to use paper ballots was made by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Pat Winegar. Ballots were counted and 57 were in favor and 48 were not in favor of eliminating the discount. Motion passed.

A motion to approve all elections by voice vote in Article #4 a-j made by John Schreindorfer and seconded by Tom Howrigan. Motion passed by voice vote.

6. SHALL PROPERTY TAXES BE DUE AND PAYABLE ON THE THIRD FRIDAY IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER? Motion made by John Dority and seconded by Rebecca Moyer. Motion made by Toby Fulwiler and seconded by Pat Winegar to amend the article to the first Friday in November. After discussion a motion was made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Paula Yandow to move the question. Amendment failed. A motion made by Charron True and seconded by Paula Yandow to call the original question. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE 2015 TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES OF \$1,388,500, OF WHICH \$932,691 SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$455,809 BY NON-TAX REVENUES?: Motion made by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Melissa Manson to amend the question to: Shall the Voters Approve the 2015 Total General Fund Expenditures General Fund Expenditures of \$1,283,500, of which \$827,691 shall be raised by taxes? Julie Wolcott asked if the interest expense for borrowing was in the budget and it was replied, that yes, each year money is budgeted in case of borrowing expenses. Julie Wolcott requested the Selectboard speak to the budget this year. Gavin explained that the Board worked to present a level budget this year. This year the planned paving includes finishing the North Road, around the school and Church Road. Two bridges are being replaced by the State. One on South Road and one on Elm Brook Road. The culvert at the end of Swamp Road is also planned to be replaced with an Emergency Grant from the State, of which we will be responsible for 10% of the total cost. Jerry Yates felt that the entire cost should be provided by the State as it is in their right of way. A question was asked about the \$7,500 budgeted for the improvements on the Municipal Building. Plans include repairing floors, interior painting and exterior painting to keep up with maintenance. Discussion ended. Motion made by Toby Fulwiler and seconded by Paula Yandow to call the question. Amended motion passed by voice vote.
8. TO HEAR THE REPORT OF THE LIBRARY: Sarah Montgomery, Librarian, asked that the Trustee's Report be submitted as written on page 82 in the Town Report.
9. SHALL THE VOTERS APPROVE EXPENDITURES OF \$130,300 FOR THE BENT NORTHROP MEMORIAL LIBRARY, \$15,128 OF WHICH SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$115,172 BY NON-TAX REVENUES? Motion made by Julie Wolcott and seconded by Rebecca Moyer. Motion to call the question made by Damian Boomhower and seconded by Kristen Hughes. Motion passed by voice vote.
10. SHALL THE TOWN EXEMPT FROM TAXATION REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE EAST FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS? Motion made by

Toby Fulwiler and seconded by Joanna Jerose. The question was asked whether this was new and was the fire department paying taxes before. Amanda responded that this is not new but must be voted upon every five years according to statute. The question was called by Paula Yandow and seconded by Dan McCoy. Motion passed by voice vote.

11. SHALL THE TOWN EXEMPT FROM TAXATION REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER AND COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "MEETING HOUSE ON THE GREEN" FOR A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS? Motion made by Greg Christie and seconded by Kenderlyn Phelps. The question was asked why the difference in time period between this article and the fire department article. Amanda answered that according to statute the first term can be up to 10 years, and five years thereafter. She added that this article was submitted by petition from the Community Center.
12. 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. Break for lunch at 11:40 am. At 12:20 pm the meeting was called back to order.
13. TO ORGANIZE THE ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL MEETING.
14. TO ELECT A MODERATOR FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL MEETING: Vanessa Kittell was nominated by Michael Malone and seconded by Kenderlyn Phelps. Nominations ceased. The Clerk was asked to cast one ballot for Vanessa Kittell.
15. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROPRIATE \$5,409,074 WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR THE SUPPORT OF ITS SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015? [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.

Michael Malone spoke to the budget, noting a minor .38% increase, and the difficulty in planning when enrollment numbers constantly change. Although we have been losing students there are 39 preschoolers planned for next year due to a change requiring early childhood education be offered to 3 year olds.

Charlie Thomas spoke to plans to update the kitchen to make it safer and more efficient. This work was noted by Kenderlyn Phelps to not be included in the current budget but rather in the Capital Reserve Fund so it will not affect the tax rate.

(Results counted after the polls closed at 7:00 p.m. showed the budget passed 146 to 78.)

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 Larry Steenick and seconded by John Baxter. Motion passed by voice vote.
17. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVE THE USE OF ANY CURRENT (JUNE 30, 2014) FUND BALANCE RESERVED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR VARIOUS BUILDING AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS: Motion made by Kelly Sargent and seconded by Joanna Jerose. Gavin asked what the current fund balance is and it was answered that \$49,000 was added from 2014 making the total fund balance \$313,129. Motion passed by voice vote.
18. TO ELECT ONE (1) SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR BY BALLOT FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM: Michael Malone nominated by Charlie Thomas and seconded by Howard Mitchell. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Michael Malone. Motion passed by voice vote.

19. TO ELECT ONE (1) SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR BY BALLOT FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM: Damian Boomhower nominated by Paula Yandow and seconded by Kristen Hughes. Michael L'Esperance nominated by Michael Malone and seconded by Kenderlyn Phelps. The candidates introduced themselves and spoke about their intent to be on the Board.

John Dority nominated by himself and seconded by Cynthia Ryan. He introduced himself and spoke about his intent to be on the Board.

A paper ballot election was conducted and the results were Michael L'Esperance 37, Damian Boomhower 20 and John Dority 12.

Michael L'Esperance was elected to the two year School Board Director position.

20. TO ELECT ONE (1) TREASURER FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM: Ruth Mangan nominated by Mary Schreindorfer and seconded by Michael Malone. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Ruth Mangan.
21. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING. No discussion.
22. TO RESUME THE BUSINESS OF THE TOWN.
23. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD APPROVE \$56,723 FOR SUPPORT OF THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. APPROPRIATION TO BE PAID UPON CONDITION THAT THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBMIT TO THE TOWN, BY JUNE 30, 2015 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 Julie Wolcott. Motion passed by voice vote.
24. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD APPROVE \$35,000 FOR SUPPORT OF THE EAST FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. APPROPRIATION TO BE PAID UPON CONDITION THAT THE EAST FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBMIT TO THE TOWN BY JUNE 30, 2015 A COPY OF ITS MOST RECENT BALANCE SHEET AND BANK STATEMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE TOWN AUDITORS: Motion made by Toby Fulwiler and seconded by Paula Yandow. Motion to call the question made by Gene Archambault and seconded by Mary Schreindorfer. Motion passed by voice vote.
25. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$15,000 FOR THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION: Motion made by Joanna Jerose and seconded by Debby Paradee. Motion to call the question made by Juana Berry and seconded by Michael Malone. Motion passed by voice vote.
26. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$3,782 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME HEALTH AGENCY, INC.: Motion made by Mary Schreindorfer and seconded by Dan McCoy. Motion to call the question made by Dan McCoy and seconded by Michelle Bessette. Motion passed by voice vote.
27. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$1,500 FOR THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY AREA AGENCY ON AGING: Motion made by Howard Mitchell and seconded by Gavin Ryan. Motion to call the question made by Gene Archambault and seconded by Michael Malone. Motion passed by voice vote.
28. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$2,500 FOR THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: Motion made by Damian Boomhower and seconded by Michael Malone. Joanna Jerose explained the program as one that teaches students about maple sugaring and its history.

There is also a high tunnel in which food is grown for the school and food shelf. They also maintain Chester Arthur trails as well as learn about local rivers and community heritage. Motion to call the question made by Paula Yandow and seconded by Damian Boomhower. Motion passed by voice vote.

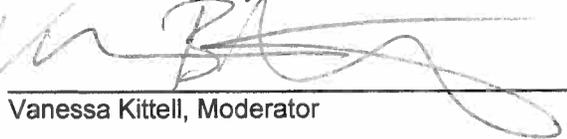
29. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$1,000 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY: Motion made by Gail Williams and seconded by Damian Boomhower. Gail Williams announced the new name of Franklin County Animal Rescue and the spay/neuter program. Motion to call the question made by Michael Malone and seconded by Kenderlyn Phelps. Motion passed by voice vote.
30. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$1019 FOR THE GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AGENCY? Motion made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Howard Mitchell. Motion to call the question made by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Joanna Jerose. Motion passed by voice vote.
31. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING: Alisha Larocque introduced herself as the new Zoning Administrator and announced that the Town Plan Public Hearing is set for Monday March 23rd at 7:00 pm at the Town Clerk's Office.
32. TO ADJOURN. A motion to adjourn was made by Patrick Winegar and seconded by Michael Malone at 1:30 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 3, 2015.



Vanessa Kittell, Moderator



Tom Howrigan, Select Board Chair



Michael Malone, School Board Chair