

Annual Town Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2019
7:00 pm, Rochester Auditorium

The legal voters of the Town of Rochester, County of Windsor, State of Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Rochester High School Auditorium on said town Monday, March 4, 2019, at 7:00 pm to transact the following business:

Current Moderator Dan McKinley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. He reviewed Roberts Rules of Order for the meeting. Representative Sandy Haas spoke to report there is no more Doyle Pole. Senator Doyle, as you may know is no longer in the senate. That very long tradition seems to be at an end. She did share that her written report can be found in the lobby. She noted that there were changes in the House of Representatives this year. Of the 14 standing committees, 7 of them have new Chairmen, and 40 new members out of 150. Incredible amount of new energy and new ideas. 700 new bills have been introduced to the House and the Senate.

Article 1. To elect a Town moderator for the ensuing year. Frank Russell nominated Dan McKinley, seconded by Martha Slater. Dan asked to close nominations, seconded. Clerk cast one ballot for Dan McKinley

Article 2. To elect all Town Officers as required by law:

1. Selectboard Member ~ 3-year term
2. Town Clerk ~ 1-year term
3. Town Treasurer ~ 1-year term
4. Lister ~ 3-year term
5. Collector of Delinquent~1-year term
6. Library Trustee ~ 5-year term
7. Trustee of Public Fund ~ 3-year term
8. Cemetery Commissioner ~ 5-year term
9. Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits ~ 1-year term
10. Agent to Convey Real Estate ~ 1-year term

Article 2 Moved to amend by Chris Mattrick and seconded by Burma Cassidy.

Selectboard Member-3-year term: Martha Slater nominated Doon Hinderyckx, David Marmor seconded. No further nominations. Nominations closed, clerk cast one ballot for Doon Hinderyckx.

Town Clerk-1-year term: Joanne McDonnell nominated Julie Smith, seconded by Rebecca Klein. No further nominations. Nominations closed, clerk cast one ballot for Julie Smith. Dan thanked Joanne for all her years of service. Joanne commented that its been a real honor and a privilege.

Town Treasurer- 1-year term: Joanne McDonnell nominated Julie Smith. Seconded by Rebecca Klein. No further nominations. Nominations closed, clerk cast one ballot for Julie Smith.

Lister-3-year term: Louis Donnet nominated Caroline Meagher. Seconded by Burma Cassidy. No further nominations. Nominations closed, clerk cast one ballot for Caroline Meagher.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes- 1-year term: Frank Russell nominated Rebecca Klein. Seconded by Burma Cassidy. No further nominations. Nominations closed, clerk cast one ballot for Rebecca Klein.

Library Trustee- 5-year term: Brenda Goupee nominated Kelly Kelly. Seconded by Dick White. No further nominations. Nominations closed, clerk cast one ballot for Kelly Kelly.

Trustees of Public Funds- 3-year term: Nancy Woolley nominated Sandy Pierce. Seconded by Frank Russell. No further nominations. Nominations closed, clerk cast one ballot for Sandy Pierce.

Cemetery Commissioner-5-year Term: Bruce Flewelling nominated Ross Laffan. Seconded by Sandy Pierce. Tom Paquette spoke on behalf of Ross Laffan that he would decline the nomination. No further nominations. Selectboard would need to appoint.

Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits -1-year term: Frank Russell nominated Bill Matthews. Seconded by Joanne McDonnell. No further nominations. Nominations closed, clerk cast one ballot for Bill Matthews.

Agent to Convey Real Estate-1-year term: Joanne nominated Pat Harvey. Seconded by Frank Russell. No further nominations. Nominations closed, clerk cast one ballot.

Article 3. To Hear and act on the report of the Auditors. Dave moved and seconded by Leslie Straus. No discussion. Voted in the affirmative, Article 3 passes.

Article 4. To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers. Robert Meagher moves and seconded by Burma Cassidy. No discussion. Voted in affirmative, Article 4 passes.

Article 5. Shall the voters agree to pay all the taxes for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 (FY20) to the Town Treasurer as provided by law? Barb moved and Burma seconded. No discussion. Voted in affirmative, Article 5 passes.

Article 6. Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in four (4) installments, with due dates being August 15, 2019, November 15, 2019, February 14, 2020 and May 15, 2020, by delivery to the tax collector before 4:00 PM on that date. Postmarks are not considered timely payment? Joanne questioned the February 14th date as a mistake and Nancy Woolley spoke about the due date being a Monday or Friday and it is what is stated on the warning. Moved by Burma and seconded by Robert. No further discussion. Voted in the affirmative, Article 6 passes.

Article 7. Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,015,315.00 of which \$ 749,315.00 shall be raised by taxes? Moved by Burma and seconded by Leslie. Louis commented on a response for money taken out and set aside in anticipation of buying equipment for the road crew. Doon responded that money was removed from the highway and the Fire Department reserve fund. We resorted to that in attempt to keep the increase in taxes down. The budget started out with a 13% increase which was not acceptable and brought it down to a 2.3 % increase. No further discussion. Voted in the affirmative, Article 7 passes.

Article 8. Shall the voters appropriate \$ 45,625.00 towards operating expenses of the Rochester Public Library? Moved by Burma and seconded by Gary. Joanne wanted to know what the extra \$5,000 is going to be spent on? Several Library line items were over budgeted. She felt that the Library trustees needed to be more financially responsible. She also noted that a Librarian as a part time employee shouldn't be paying \$8,000.00 for a health insurance plan when she is eligible for Medicare in July. Her concerns are that the sidewalks are a mess, town office needs maintenance and town garage in terrible shape. She felt money should go towards the towns needs. Barb spoke as the Library trustee answered the \$5000 issue as a passed article last year. She said that the budget was not funded 100% by the town. She stated that they are financially responsible, and they do go line by line over their budget. Kathryn asked if the Librarian is a town employee. Discussion ensued. Jolanta spoke about the insurance and how it was voted back in 2005. Kathryn spoke kindly about Jeanette. Harland stated how a whole lot more stuff is happening at the Library. Kevin stated that the Library has been an asset to the town and that it would be worth our while to keep it as is. Tim shared his appreciation for the Library. Larry Creech questioned what would happen to the other \$4,000.00 from the insurance. Jolanta stated it would be reflected in the next years budget. Becky noted that when speaking about Salaries person to person. Its inappropriate to talk about a single employee. Discussion ensued. Chris Mattrick called the question. Two thirds vote ended the debate. Voted in the affirmative, Article 8 passes. Doon interjected that the response from the upset to pull the Library out of the budget gave the Library recognition.

Pat added that because the Library has its own budget, we can't control it one way or another. It was the best way to bring it to the floor and that they also support the Library as well.

Article 9. Shall the voters appropriate \$ 71,757.00 to provide ambulance service from White River Ambulance (WRVA)? Moved by Jenny, seconded by Barb. Vic spoke as the President of the Board to add the titles to the headings that were darkened out on page 47. David discussed that the Rescue Squad is another important town function that the Selectboard doesn't create the budget for. It's a good thing we vote on it separately when the Selectboard warns this meeting. He also wanted to alert us all next year, the rescue squad budget will be voted separately, its possible that the Selectboard will fold the Library back into the budget and it will seem like spending a lot more money when in fact we are not. Frank asked Vic wondering why the budget is more is that because of the transfers. Vic responded that there were more transfers from hospital to hospital. Frank responded that the management has been much improved. Vic spoke highly of Matt Parish. Discussion ensued. Walt asked about response time and Vic added there hasn't been an issue. No further discussion. Voted in the affirmative, Article 9 passes.

Article 10. To see if the voters will vote to appropriate the following sums as requested by the below listed community agencies:

Central VT Council on Aging	2,500.00
Clara Martin Center	2,066.00
Green Up Vermont	100.00
Quintown Senior Center (by petition)	9,849.00
Orange County Parent Child Center	250.00
SafeLine, Inc.	250.00
Stagecoach	1,300.00
Vermont Rural Fire Hydrant	100.00
VNH – Visiting Nurse Association	4,800.00
White River Partnership	875.00
WomenSafe	250.00

Total **\$ 22,340.00**

Moved by David, Seconded by Burma. Kathryn spoke that she has been 22 years with the Central VT Council on Aging. She is the local case manager and senior advocate working with folks 60 and over, and young and disabled adults. She asked to amend the article to make Central VT Council on Aging to \$3000.00 and it would raise the total to \$22, 840.00. Seconded by Robert. Discussion on increasing the amendment. Norm Smith spoke about the concern for the aging and how important the appropriation is for our community. Discussion ensued. Martha continued to show the importance and how Kathryn helped her with filing paperwork. Voted in the affirmative, amendment passes. Article continued discussion. Jola asked why the after-school program wasn't on the list. Nancy answered that Carrie McDonnell attended a budget and finance meeting and asked that it be removed from appropriations and be added into the budget under the Recreation Department. No discussion. Voted in the affirmative, Article 10 passes.

Article 11. Shall the voters approve an amount of \$ 15,000.00 to continue funding the Town Buildings and Property Reserve Fund? Moved by Joanne, seconded by Burma. Frank asked how this amount is arrived. Doon noted its from the maintenance issues that are pressing. No further discussion. Voted in the affirmative, Article 11 passes.

Article 12. Shall the voters approve an amount of \$ 1,000.00 to fund the Tennis Reserve Fund for on-going and future court maintenance? Moved by Burma and seconded by Carry. No discussion. Voted in the affirmative, Article 12 passes

Article 13. To transact any other legal and proper business to be brought before said meeting. Dick White suggested an amount to the budget for a better sound system. Robert Franks from Bethel spoke on behalf of the Rutland/Windsor Voting District. 2020 is coming quickly and voting stations and polling stations are going to take action that they are properly facilitated. He stated that he was simply there to question the board of civil authority of Rochester to presented on Election Day clarity of the rules that were unwritten but enforced by the Board of Civil Authority. He wanted to know what these unwritten rules are. He said that these rules need to be clearly stated so that they are publicized, and a candidate can obtain these sets of rules. Becky wanted to Thank the new Road Crew and what a great job they are doing. Joanne thanked Norm Smith for all his years of doing tax mapping for the Town. Diane spoke that on March 30 and April 13 will be the first and final round of Valley Idol. She said it is a lot of fun, lot of great singers and performers. The money raised will be split between Stockbridge and Rochester Fire Departments. So please come out to support our Fire Departments.

Barb thanked everyone for supporting the Library budget. Sue noted that Charlie Biederman years ago had a conference saying Where are we going to be in 2020? She wanted to know if there was going to be another reunion and talk about where we are going to be and what is going to happen as far as who are we as a community. Secondly, she wanted to honor Joanne for being the Town Clerk for so many years. A big thank you for the Selectboard for all the countless hours and the appreciation for that.

Motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm, seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith