**Minutes**

**For the Regular Annual & Town School District Meeting**

Windham, Vermont

March 6, 2018

The legal voters of the Town of Windham met at the Town Hall in Windham, Vermont on Tuesday March 6th 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m.by Michael McLaine, the 2017 elected moderator, serving in that capacity until the town votes on articles 1 & 2.**

Michael gave general instructions and reviewed Roberts Rules of Order.

The following correction to the Town Report was noted:

* Error on page 51 of Town Report was mentioned – Jeffrey Weitzel, member for 19 years.

**Meeting resumed with nominations and voting on the following Articles:**

**Article 1:** To elect a Town Moderator for the year ensuring

* Walter Woodruff made motion to nominate Mike McLaine
  + 2nd by Jan Wyman
  + Town voted all in favor

**Article 2:** To elect a School Moderator for the year ensuing

* Carol Merritt nominated Mike McLaine
  + 2nd by Ellen McDuffie
  + Town voted all in favor

**Article 3:** To see if voters will accept the Town Report prepared by the Auditors

* Kathy Scott made motion
  + 2nd by Carol Bellucci
* Discussion brought forth in relationship to confusion in regards to balances stated on page 32 – where was the $135,943 from previous year listed.
  + It was listed under Assets – it was an error on last year’s Report and fixed this year
* Page 1 – States Office open until 5 on Wednesday – it should state 2 p.m.
* Road Report on page 29 - #5 – nothing was done with Road Crew this year on that item
* Page 18 – Revenue/Expenses – Donations and certain revenue are not Town Revenue
  + Donations and certain revenue go to a particular account such as Londonderry Transfer, Loggers or Fire Department and reflected as such
  + It was then suggested that a Review Committee of 3 to 5 people be formed to review the Town Report prior it going to printing to ensure accuracy
* Motion from Ernie Friedli to accept the Town Report as written
  + Town voted all in favor

**Article 4:** To elect the following Town Officers – Nominees given opportunity to speak to Voter on qualifications and why they are interested in position if they choose to do so.

* **Selectman –** 3 year term
  + Walter Woodruff made motion to nominate Robert Kehoe
  + 2nd by Mary McCoy
  + Tom Johnson made motion to nominate Hal Wilkins
  + 2nd by JoJo Chlebogiannis
  + Robert Kehoe elected as Selectman – 57- 47; total 104 votes
* **Lister** – 3 year term
  + John Hoover nominated Russ Cumming; Alison Cummings seconded
  + Russ Cumming was elected as Lister
* **Auditor** – 3 year Term
  + Ginny Crittenden nominated Kathy Jungermann
    - 2nd by Jo Jo Chlebogiannis
  + Town voted all in favor
* **Delinquent Tax Collector** - 1 year term
  + Cindy Kehoe nominated Erin Kehoe
    - 2nd by Nate Kehoe
  + Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis nominated Tom Widger
    - 2nd by Marcia Clinton
  + Show of hands
    - Erin Kehoe– 39 votes
    - Tom Widger – 38 votes
  + Too close to call – request for paper ballot received
    - Tom Widger conceded to Erin Kehoe
  + Erin Kehoe elected as Delinquent Tax Collector
* **Grand Juror** – 1 year term
  + James Scott nominated Walter Woodruff
    - 2nd by Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis
  + James Scott elected as Grand Juror
* **Town Agent** – 1 year term
  + Kathy Scott nominated Michael Simonds
    - 2nd by Carol Bellucci
  + Michael Simonds elected as Town Agent
* **Windham Center Cemetery Commissioner** – 5 year term
  + Heath Boyer nominated Margaret Dwyer
    - 2nd by Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis
  + Margaret Dwyer elected as Windham Center Cemetery Commissioner
* **West Windham Cemetery Commissioner** – 5 year term
  + Pete Newton nominated Diane Newton
  + Diane Newton was elected West Windham Cemetery Commissioner
* **North Windham Cemetery Commissioner** – 5 year term
  + Carol Merritt nominated Paul Wyman
    - 2nd by Mary Boyer
  + Paul Wyman elected as North Windham Cemetery Commissioner
* **Library Trustee** – 5 year term
  + Mary McCoy nominated Cindy Kehoe
    - 2nd by Walter Woodruff
  + Cindy Kehoe elected as Library Trustee
* **Windham School Director** – 3 year term
  + Allison Cummings nominated Beth McDonald
    - 2nd by Mary Boyer
  + Beth McDonald elected as Windham School Director
* **Constable** – 2 year term
  + Kathy Scott nominated Joe Lamson
    - 2nd by Walter Woodruff
  + Joe Lamson elected as Constable

**Article 5:** Shall the voters pay a salary of $2,250.00($750.00 each) to the School Directors for FY 2018-2019?

* A short discussion revolved around allocation and supporting the continuation – a look at the work involved and exactly where the funds go was brought forth.
  + Antje Ruppert made motion
  + Motion was 2nd to move as written
  + Town voted all in favor

**Article 6:** Shall the Voters authorize the School Directors to expend $387,103 to defray the expenses of Windham Elementary School for the FY 2018 – 2019 school year?

* Antje Ruppert presented the Budget to Town Voters – she thanked the community for their support. She outlined the difficulties the school/town encounters from the State as they are very small and the State would like to close the school and relocate the students. This would create a hardship and impact the future of the Town and is very concerning. A video is also available through the school revolving around the Budget and Voters are welcome to view. [www.wtspa.org/fundingvideo](http://www.wtspa.org/fundingvideo)
* Discussion went on to revolve around Salaries – as example the Principal Salary – however it was brought forth that the Principal is a teaching Principal, actually holds two positions – Salary needs to be comparable to other positions in Vermont otherwise it is difficult to find qualified individuals to replace. Medical insurance is also not paid for the Principal position. It was also mentioned that next year’s school attendance will be increasing.
  + Antje made motion to accept Budget as presented
    - 2nd by Mary Boyer
  + Budget approved as presented

Solar Array Discussion:

* Bill Dunkel – Energy Committee – took this time just before the group adjourned for lunch to talk about the proposed Solar Array which would be located on land given to the Town, East of the Central Cemetery. Part of the land would be used for burial; even with the extended burial land it leaves open area which could fit approximately 600 Solar Panels. The Panels would not be visible from the road given the way the land falls. There would not be any cost to tax payers; Bill went on to talk about the various benefits to the Town and the tax payers. He invited the tax payers to attend a public information session which was scheduled for the following Monday at the Town Meeting Hall.

**Adjourned for lunch at 12:10 p.m.**

* During lunch break a general discussion took place in regards to telling attendees to bring any dishes/boxes that they may have brought to the Meeting back home with them. In addition:
  + People cannot use own vehicles to plow on town roads
  + Library will be closed tomorrow due to storm – book club date moved
  + Floor given to Carolyn Partridge & Representative Matt Trieber from Bellows Falls – gave report on what committees they have been working on, bills they are working on now. Matt discussed the Appropriations Committee which he is on, dealing with issues revolving around low income Vermonters.
  + They printed out an Unclaimed Property list for Windham and explained how to claim your money from the State. Then took questions from attendees

**Meeting resumed at 1:44 p.m.**

* **Article 8:** Shall the Voters appropriate $184,994 for the General fund?
  + Voted in 2017 $192,461
  + Discussion from Ernie Friedli regarding (budget line 7) amending the article until a committee is formed to have more clarity as to where the money is going. There is not enough sufficient information, it is a matter of what is right and wrong about how the Tax Payers are not informed as to how money is spent.
  + Ernie moved an amendment to reduce the budget by $9,000, Imme Maurath 2nd
  + Peter Chamberlain responded that the past two years Dave Crittenden sent a general outline of where money went
  + Rick Weitzel asked why the expenditures for the Church were not reflected in the Town Report as other department breakdowns are, it should be in the Report.
  + Mary Boyer spoke about how amount is a bargain to cover expenses (amendment of amendment) – Moved to raise the amount to $10,000 – 2nd by Kathy Scott
  + Discussion continued in regards to Reports and clarity of information
    - Show of hands on amendment of amendment
      * Ayes have it
    - Amendment to increase the General Fund by $1,000 from $9,000 to $10,000 for the Meeting House
      * Yes - 16
      * No – 27
      * Amendment fails
    - Vote for Article 8
      * Town voted all in favor of article 8 as originally written

**Article 9: Shall the Voters appropriate $398,338 for winter and summer roads?**

* Voted in 2017 $410,602
  + Motion by Kathy Scott and 2nd by Vance Bell
  + Discussion revolved around more clarity for contracted services. Kord Scott responded explaining that it represents consolidated contracted services to reduce length of the Report. He then read a list of what is covered by the money such as bottled water, electrical subcontracting, fire extinguisher services, road crew uniforms, logos for trucks, propane for generator, roadside mowing and misc. other.
  + A question was asked about money spent on stone as some of the roads are in bad condition, the paved and non-paved roads do not have a good base.
  + Kord responded in favor, in general the Select Board tried not to increase due to proposed tax increase from the State. However next year may be the time to add an increase.
  + Vote for Article 9
    - Town voted all in favor

**Article 10:** Shall the voters appropriate $60,000 for repaving and $15,000 for the bridges and large structures fund?

* Voted in 2017 $90,000 - $15,000 bridges/large structures
  + Discussion ensued about allocation of funds and which roads would be worked on
  + Heath Boyer motion to accept as written and 2nd by Kathy Scott
  + Town voted all in favor

**Article 11:** Shall the voters appropriate $250 for the Londonderry Food Shelf/Bank?

* Motion to accept as written by Mary McCoy 2nd by Ellen McDuffie
  + Town voted all in favor

**Article 12:** Shall the voters appropriate $100 for Gerda’s Equine Rescue?

* Brief discussion ensued to clarify what the Article is and where do the horses come from.
  + Gerda Equine Rescue is a 501 (c) (3), Gerda is also setting up work study at Leland and Grey for students
  + Town voted all in favor

**Article 13:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

* Pat Cherry from Neighborhood Connections – thanked the Town for this year’s donation – She discussed what the Organization does, the towns covered, how the Organization helps the community. She discussed the new initiative which is called Helping Hands, the focus of which is to help the elderly/disabled individuals with home repair to keep them safe. Appreciates any contributions anyone would like to donate.
* Leigh Merinoff discussed the West River Community Projects, their focus to help individuals. Is also a 501 (c) (3). They would appreciate any donations/contributions. In addition, the Farmers’ Market welcomes volunteers.
* Attendees told that if they are not receiving email information from the Town and would like to receive them to please let Mike know.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:05 p.m. by Maureen Bell

* + Town voted all in favor

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Michael McLaine, Town Clerk

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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