**Minutes**

For the Regular Annual Meeting and

Town School District Meeting

**Windham, Vermont**

**March 1, 2016**

The legal voters of the Town of Windham met at the Town Hall in Windham, Vermont, on Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

**The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Michael McLaine, the 2015 elected moderator, and serving in that capacity until the Town votes on articles 1 & 2.**

Michael reviewed Roberts Rules of Order.

Several corrections to Town Report were noted: On page 58, Rick Weitzel’s name was accidentally omitted. On page 74, John Hoover’s name should replace Micheael Simond’s name under the lister elected in 2015. Diane Newton’s name is erroneously listed as the Town representative to the Leland & Gray board instead of Howie Ires’ name. The members of the planning commission were listed incorrectly, John Lingley and Jim Morey are no longer on the Planning Commission therefore their names should be deleted. Jeff Wheeler and Bill Dunkel, two new appointees, need to be added.

**Article 1:** **To choose a Town Moderator for the year ensuing**. Michael Simonds nominated Michael McLaine. Michael Simonds moved that the nominations be closed and the clerk cast one vote for Michael McLaine. Carol Bellucci seconded.

**Michael McLaine was voted as Town Moderator.**

**Article 2**: **To elect a School Moderator for the year ensuing.** Ellen McDuffie nominated Michael McLaine. Mary Boyer moved that that the nominations be closed and clerk cast one vote for Michael McLaine. **Michael McLiane was voted as School Moderator.**

**Article 3: To see if voters will accept the Town Report prepared by the Auditors.** Ernie Friedli spoke about his concerns with the accuracy of the Town Report’s financial reports. Ernie brought up inconsistencies in the reporting of dog accounts and the equipment fund. The dog report on page 38 is correctly listed. Ernie made a motion to not accept the Town Report. This generated questions on how the meeting could progress without an approved Town report. There was concern about the high level of money that the Town has in its possession and that financial information is presented in a confusing way in the report. Mary made a motion to call the question (article 3). Mary McCoy seconded. **The Town voted unanimously in favor of accepting the Town Report with none opposed.** The article passed.

Dr. Roger Fox made his 40th trip to Windham Town Meeting and spoke on behalf of the Mountain Valley medical clinic.

**Article 4: To elect the following Town Officers:**

**Office Term**

**Town Clerk 3 years**

**Town Treasurer 3 years**

**Selectman 3 years**

**Lister 3 years**

**Auditor 3 years**

**Constable 2 years**

**Delinquent Tax Collector 1 year**

**Grand Juror 1 year**

**Town Agent 1 year**

**Windham Center Cemetery Commissioner 5 years**

**West Windham Cemetery Commissioner 5 years**

**West Windham Cemetery Commissioner 4 Years**

**North Windham Cemetery Commissioner 5 years**

**Library Trustee 5 years**

**Windham School Director 3 years**

**Town Clerk**: There were two nominations for Town Clerk: Imme Maurath nominated Jo–Jo Chleboggiannis and Beth McDonald nominated Terry Farace. Terry spoke of her clerical and accounting experience and her people skills. Jo-Jo spoke of her managerial and inter-personal skills. The vote results: 114 votes were cast. The entrance sheet matched this number. The selectboard list had 111. A motion was made by Mary Boyer to accept the voting results despite the non-agreement in the numbers because the results supported this action. Seconded by Mary McCoy. The motion passed unanimously. The count: 66 for JoJo, 47 for Terry, 1 spoiled for a total of 114. **Jo-Jo Chleboggiannis was elected Town Clerk.**

A motion was made by Asa Goodband to change the order of voting and do the selectboard vote next. It was seconded by Mark Emmons. The motion passed with one vote against and the rest in favor.

**Selectman:** David Crittenden nominated Maureen Bell. Bob Kehoe nominated Paul Wyman. 114 votes total were cast, 70 for Maureen Bell, 44 for Paul Wyman**. Maureen Bell was elected Selectman.**

Town Meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:30 after a few announcements: Bill Dunkel spoke about an incentive fund that can help former CVPS customers pay for electrical improvements. An additional supplemental page for the Town Report was issued to correct the omission of the required statement for the Community Improvement Grant Program.

At 1:30 pm, the Town Meeting resumed. Carolyn Partridge and Matt Trieber, the two State representatives for Windham, spoke of their work in the legislature.

**Town Officicials Election (Article 4) Resumed**

**Town Treasurer**: Michael Pope-France nominated Peter Chamberlain for Town Treasurer. Michael Simonds made a motion that the nominations be closed and the clerk cast one ballot for Peter Chamberlain. Kathy Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously. **Peter Chamberlain was elected Town Treasurer.**

**Lister:** John Hoover nominated Michael Simonds for Lister. Bob Kehoe made a motion that the nominations be closed and the clerk cast one ballot for Michael Simonds. David Corriveau seconded. The motion passed. **Michael Simonds was elected lister.**

**Auditor:** Sally Hoover was nominated for Auditor by Michael Simonds. Ginny Crittenden made a motion that the nominations be closed and the clerk cast one ballot for Sally Hoover. This was seconded by Mary Boyer. The motion passed. **Sally Hoover was elected Auditor.**

**Constable:** Paul Wyman nominated Joe Lamson for Constable. Michael Simonds made a motion that the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Joe Lamson. This was seconded by Kathy Scott. The motion passed. **Joe Lamson was elected constable.**

**Delinquent Tax Collector:** Bob Kehoe nominated Ernie Friedli for Delinquent Tax Collector. Carol Belucci made a motion to close the nominatons and the clerk cast one ballot for Ernie Friedli. This was seconded by Mary Boyer. The motion passed unanimously. **Ernie Friedli was elected Delinquent Tax Collector**.

**Grand Juror:** Rick Weitzel nominated Jim Scott. Michael Simonds moved that the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Jim Scott. This was seconded by Ellen McDuffie. The Town voted all in favor. **Jim Scott was elected Grand Juror**.

**Town Agent:** Carol Bellucci nominated Michael Simonds. Bob Kehoe moved that the nominations for Town Agent be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Michael Simonds. Pete Newton seconded. The Town voted all in favor. **Michael Simonds was elected as Town Agent.**

**Windham Center Cemetery Commission:** Michael Simonds nominated Mark Emmons. Bob Kehoe moved that the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Mark Emmons. Mary Boyer seconded. The Town voted all in favor. **Mark Emmons was elected to the Windham Center Cemetery Commission.**

**West Windham Cemetery:** Pete Newton nominated Michael Pelton. Mary Boyer made motion to close nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Michael Pelton. Seconded by Diane Newton. The Town voted all in favor. **Michael Pelton was elected West Windham Cemetery Commissioner.**

**North Windham Cemetery Commissioner:** Ralph Wyman nominated Jon Gordon for North Windham Cemetery Commissioner. Michael Simonds moved that nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Jon Gordon. David Corriveau seconded. **Jon Gordon was elected North Windham Cemetery Commissioner.**

**Library Trustee:** Carol Bellucci nominated John Hoover for Library Trustee. Michael Simonds moved that nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for John Hoover. Maureen Bell seconded. The Town voted all in favor. **John Hoover was elected Library Trustee.**

**Windham School Director:** Beth McDonald nominated Antje Ruppert. Michael Simonds made a motion that the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Antje Ruppert. Seconded by Kathy Scott. The Town voted all in favor. **Antje Ruppert was elected School Director.**

Michael McLaine and the voters thanked Mary Boyer for her years of service on the Select Board.

**Town Meeting: Recessed at 2:10. The Windham Town School District Meeting was called to order at 2:11 pm.**

**Town School District Meeting**

**Article 5: Shall the voters pay a salary of $2,250 ($750 each) to the School Directors for FY 2016-2017 school year?** Antje so moved. Kathy Scott seconded. **The article passed unanimously.**

**Article 6: Shall the voters authorize the School Directors to expend $388,957 to defray the expenses of the Windham Elementary School District for FY 2016-2017 school year?** Antje made a motion to approve this article as written. Heath Boyer seconded. Antje made a presentation about the budget. **The voters approved the article unanimously.**

**The Town School Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.**

**Town Meeting Resumed at 2:56 pm.**

**Article 7: Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to collect current taxes?** Ellen McDuffie moved the Article as written. Peter Chamberlain seconded. The Town voted all in favor. **The article was approved**.

**Article 8: Shall the voters appropriate $186,105 for the General Fund?**

**Voted 2015: $159,885**

Howie Ires made a motion to approve the article as written. Seconded by Kathy Scott. Article 8 was passed as written.

**Article 9: Shall the voters appropriate $402,970 for Town Highways?**

 **Voted 2015 Proposed 2016**

**Summer Roads $204,854 $192,476.50**

**Winter Roads $224,097 $210,493.50**

**Total Town Highways $428,951 $402,970**

Kathy Scott moved the article as written. Michael seconded. Article 9 was passed as written.

**Article 10: Shall the voters appropriate $95,000 for repaving (formerly referred to as bituminous retreatment), and large structures (formerly referred to as bridges) repair and replacement?**

 **Voted 2015 Proposed 2016**

**Repaving $50,000 $80,000**

**Large Structures Repair**

**And Replacement: $15,000 $15,000**

**Total: $65,000 $95,000**

Heath Boyer made a motion to approve the article as written. Peter Chamberlain seconded. **The voters approved Article 10 unanimously.**

**Article 11:Shall the voters appropriate $20,000 to the Windham Volunteer Fire Company?**

Bob Kehoe moved the article as written. Seconded by Ellen McDuffie. The Town voted all in favor. **Article 11 was approved as written.**

**Article 12: Shall the voters appropriate $250 to the West River Community Project?** Alison Trowbridge moved the article as written. Michael Simonds seconded. The Town voted all in favor. **Article 12 was approved as written.**

**Article 13: Shall the Town use $2500 to establish a special fund (in accordance with 24 V.S.A. section 2804) to be funded by taxes and called the Windham Weatherization Fund to be used to reduce energy use and increase energy efficiency for Windham’s public buildings?**

Michael Simonds made a motion to amend the article to $5,000. Diane Newton seconded. The extra amount would allow the Town to cover more energy improvements to the Meetinghouse, Town Office and the Town Garage. Beth McDonald thanked the energy committee for considering all the publicly used buildings and called the question. At a vote of 27 to 19 the amendment passed. Bob Kehoe moved the amended motion and Diane Newton seconded it. After some discussion Mary Boyer called the question and Kathy Scott seconded it. The Town voted for the amended motion with one vote against. **Article 13, with an amended allocation of $5,000 was approved.**

**Article 14: Shall the Town change its method of payment for the Town Clerk to a salary without benefits instead of the present system of pay that consists of a salary and 90% of the recording fees paid to the Town? (**This proposal would result in 90% of recording fees becoming income in the Town budget. The other 10% goes to the Restoration Fund as required by Vermont State Law.) Mary moved the question as written. It was seconded by Vance Bell. The Town voted all in favor. **Article 14 passed unanimously.**

**Article 15: To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.**

It was suggested by Lydia Pope, with much agreement from the other residents, to look into ways to make the Town Meeting voting process more efficient. Jerry Dyke suggested holding the meeting upstairs and eat downstairs to eliminate the time necessary to set up tables.

Mary Boyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 pm. Ellen McDuffie seconded. The Town Meeting was Adjourned at 3:55 pm.