

TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MARCH 3, 2015

Moderator Steve John called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. and read out the warning :

The legal voters of the Town of Marlboro, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town House of said Marlboro on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. to consider and act upon the following Articles:

He noted that the polls will be open on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the Marlboro Town Office for the purpose of electing by Australian ballot the officers listed in Article 3.

Article 1. To elect a moderator.

Motion made to amend Article 1 to include "for a one year term" to comply with State law.

Moved and seconded that the article include "for a one year term".

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

(Amended)Article 1: To elect a Moderator for a one year term.

Steven John nominated and seconded. Moved and seconded that the nominations be closed and that the Clerk cast a single ballot.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Steven John elected Moderator for a one-year term.

~ Constable Clarence Boston asked the Moderator to suspend the rules for Windham County Senator Jeanette White to speak to the meeting at 9:05 am

- Senator White reported on issues being worked on in Montpelier: jobs, water purity, budget for education & the \$120 million deficit, how to better protect children against crime, gun control in Vermont, health care, & the issues around the legalization of marijuana.
- She answered questions from the floor.

~Moderator Steven John reconvened the Town Meeting at 9:31 am and welcomed members of the public who are not registered voters and reminded them that they may not speak unless granted permission. He warned people of the possible snow slide off the east of the Town House, and thanked the Junior High for morning coffee they provided.

With the consent of the meeting, Moderator John adopted the 10th edition of Robert's Rules of Order and appointed T. Hunter Wilson, Justice of the Peace, to serve as Parliamentarian.

Article 2. To act upon the Auditors' Report.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed:

~ Auditor Rose Watson listed her corrections: the table of contents did not appear in the report but copies are available; a portion of the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company report also was

omitted in error; the term of Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel expires in 2017; Lister Eric Matt's first name was spelled wrong; under Town Organizations on page 4 Marlboro College Dean of Students is now Xenia Markowitt; and Marlboro Historical Society President Forrest Holzapfel's correct phone number 258-2568.

~Jennifer Mazur thanked the Auditors for including Marlboro Cares phone number 258-3030

~Lister Evan Wyse noted that on page 11, the tax rates should be \$2.00 per \$100 not per \$1.00

Moved and seconded to accept the Auditors' Report.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Auditors' Report accepted.

Article 3. To elect all town officers required by law to be elected at the Annual Town Meeting: Select Person, one three-year term; Lister, one three-year term; Auditor, one three-year term; Constable, one one-year term; Grand Juror, one one-year term; Town Agent, one one-year term.

At the invitation of the Moderator the candidates present stood: Pieter van Loon, Evan Wyse, Doreen O'Connor, & Clarence Boston. Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel noted that Stillman "Stretch" Vonderhorst is running for Grand Juror & Town Agent as a write-in candidate and is the incumbent, but failed to deliver his petition to be included on the ballot in a timely fashion, but would like to be re-elected.

~ Motion made to move to School District meeting ~

Moved and seconded to recess the meeting in order to convene the School District Meeting.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

~ Moderator Steven John recessed the meeting at 9:41 A.M. to proceed to the School District Meeting. ~

~ Moderator Steven John reconvened the Town Meeting at 10:11 A.M. ~

~ Constable Clarence Boston asks Moderator to suspend rules for Sheriff Keith Clarke to speak to the meeting at 10:12 am

- > Sheriff Clark spoke briefly to those assembled, and then answered questions regarding increased burglaries in Marlboro, neighborhood watch, and speeding on Ames Hill Road.
- > Sheriff Clark asked the public to please email him (kclark@windhamsheriff.com) when they witness speeding

~ Moderator Steven John reconvened the Town Meeting at 10:21 A.M. ~

Article 4. To see if the town will set Friday, October 9, 2015, as the due date for property taxes, payable to the Treasurer.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed:

~Richard Dror asked about paying property tax by credit card. Treasurer Linda Peters responded

that this coming fall it will be possible, but there will be a 3% additional fee for the company that administers the billing.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Friday, October 9, 2015 set as due date for property taxes, payable to the Treasurer.

Article 5. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$225,000.00 for the General Fund.

So moved and seconded.

Select Board members Pieter van Loon, Andy Reichsman & Tyler Gibbons rose to the dais at 10:25 AM.

Discussion followed:

~Pieter van Loon explained that the town budget is level funded from last year; the town is almost done with FEMA closeout and thanked former Town Clerk Nora Wilson for her persistence in the FEMA process but that the town is still owed money (\$50,000) from FEMA.

Motion made to amend Article 5 to read

To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$225,000.00 for the General Fund and authorize the expenditure of up to \$294,288.01

Seconded.

Discussion followed:

~Haley Elisha asked where the new "up to" amount comes from.

~Andy Reichsman is against the amendment because if the town needs to spend more we can't per the amendment.

~Moderator notes that Article 15 allows for this.

~Woody Bernhard urged to vote against the amendment and that last year we used *To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$225,000.00 for the General Fund* and that it served us well.

~Evan Wyse questioned the legality of the new amendment and urged the body to vote the amendment down.

Amendment voted down unanimously.

Revert to the original Article 5.

The Select Board will look into the best legal practice for the wording for next year.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$225,000.00 voted for the General Fund.

Article 6. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$315,000.00 for town highways, summer and winter maintenance.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed:

~Select Board member Pieter van Loon said the budget is level funded from last year.

~David Elliott spoke to the assembly: this winter he has heard a few complaints about plowing, he is happy to hear townspeople's concerns / alerts regarding the roads, and regarding the

upcoming mud season he urged tall boots and that residents be looking forward to getting some exercise this spring.

~Select Board member Pieter van Loon spoke about the Better Back Roads grant & the work that was done on MacArthur Road and Ames Hill Road to improve the roadbeds.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$315,000.00 voted for town highways, summer and winter maintenance.

Article 7. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$10,000.00 to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed :

~ Fire Chief David Elliott noted that part of the MVFC report was omitted from the Town Report including the training requirements and that there are fewer volunteers stepping up to help.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$10,000.00 voted to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

Article 8. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$11,783.04 to Rescue, Inc. for services.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed:

~Pieter van Loon said the town is currently looking for a representative to Rescue Inc. from our town.

~Allison Turner, Marlboro's former Rescue, Inc. representative, spoke to the details of the job.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$11,783.04 voted to Rescue, Inc. for services.

Article 9. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$1,500.00 to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. for services.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed.

~Mary Peterson asked if the service organizations included in this report generally would tell us how many people in our town are served by the money we are giving them.

~David Elliott showed that Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. transported 39 people in Marlboro last

year..

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$1,500 voted to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. for services.

Article 10. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$1,000.00 to Grace Cottage Hospital.

So moved and seconded.

No discussion followed.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$1,000.00 voted to Grace Cottage Hospital.

Article 11. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$50.00 for the support of Green Up Vermont to provide services to residents of the town.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed:

~Carie Kowalski, Green Up coordinator, stated that the money goes for promotional materials & Green Up bags. MES went to Green Up at Hogback Mountain in the past few years, which has gotten steadily less disgusting each year.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$50.00 voted for the support of Green Up Vermont.

Article 12. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend up to \$3,000.00 to support the production of the *Marlboro Mixer* newsletter.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed.

~Tyler Gibbons spoke to the article, thanking Robin MacArthur for her years of producing the newsletter, and that the next issue will be edited by a new person. The body thanked Robin MacArthur for her years of service.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$3,000.00 voted to Marlboro Mixer newsletter.

Article 13. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$500 to help the American Red Cross, Green Mountain in support of their mission and the work they do in Marlboro and the State of Vermont.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed.

~Adam Katrick spoke saying that the Red Cross discriminates against gay men for the donation of blood, but that he urged voting for the article.

~Emergency Management Director Andy Reichsman stated that the Dining Hall at Marlboro College will be the future emergency shelter in cooperation with the Red Cross.

~Fire Chief David Elliott says the Red Cross helps families in distress who get burned out of their homes by providing food & shelter for free.

~Ellen Lovell urged the appropriation at town level be separate from the organization's larger national issues.

Sophie Dennis called the question. Seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$500 voted to help the American Red Cross, Green Mountain.

Article 14. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$9,929.00 for the following social service agencies:

Brattleboro Area Hospice, Inc	\$ 250.00
The Current	\$ 250.00
Deerfield Valley Food Pantry	\$ 500.00
Gathering Place for Adult Day Services	\$ 500.00
Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center	\$ 230.00
Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont	\$1,050.00
Marlboro Cares.....	\$ 400.00
Senior Solutions	\$ 400.00
Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc.	\$ 970.00
Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire ...	\$3,179.00
Women's Freedom Center.....	\$1,200.00
Youth Services.....	\$1,000.00

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed:

Sophie Dennis called the question to cease debate. Seconded.

Voice vote with ayes being dominant but also loud nays. Justices of the Peace state that 2/3rd vote not achieved.

Return to discussion.

Motion made to amend Article 14 by removing HCRS from these town appropriations.

Seconded.

Discussion of merits of separating the line item.

Vote on amendment to remove HCRS line item. Amendment passed by unanimous voice vote.

~ **Moderator John suspended the rules to allow Sheriff Clark to speak**, as he is a board member of the HCRS. Clark says he will pass to the HCRS board that the money from our town goes to services, not salaries. He said the agency is trying very hard to provide services, and regrets mismanagement. **Meeting reconvened.**

Motion made to amend the amendment to Article 14 and return to the original article language.

So moved and seconded.

Discussion followed.

Call for a division of house to be counted by the Justices of the Peace:

YEA = 49 NAY = 23 Abstentions = 4

Amendment to the amendment passes, and Article 14 returns to its original language.

\$9,929.00 voted for the social service agencies listed above.

~ **Constable Clarence Boston asks the Moderator to suspend the rules for Representative Emily Long to speak to the meeting at 11:54 am** ~

- Representative Emily Long spoke to the assembly and offered her impressions of the legislature as a new member, and her work in allowing the small, rural towns to keep their voice in education, but that very tough funding decisions need to be made and there will be losses. She encouraged everyone to email her with their thoughts.
- She answered voters questions from the floor regarding Marlboro Elementary School and its future given the current difficulties with education funding statewide.

~ **Moderator Steven John reconvened the Town Meeting at 12:31 P.M.** ~

Article 15. To see if the voters of the Town of Marlboro will authorize the town to spend any unanticipated funds such as grants, gifts or other funds received by the Town.

So moved and seconded.

No discussion.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

The Town of Marlboro is authorized to spend any unanticipated funds such as grants, gifts or other funds received by the Town.

Article 16. To see if the voters of the Town of Marlboro will authorize the town to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

So moved and seconded.

No discussion.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

The Town of Marlboro will authorize the town to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

Article 17. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

The following announcements were made:

- Pieter van Loon asked for help from townspeople on serving on volunteer boards including Energy Coordinator, Animal Control officer (paid), and other volunteer opportunities.
- Clarence Boston asked for a sense of the meeting to move that the Select Board of the Town of Marlboro requests the State Legislature to make Town Meeting Day a paid holiday in the State of Vermont." So voted by unanimous voice vote.
- Sophie Dennis was applauded for her 20 years of work for the community coordinating the Town Meeting Lunch. She received a small gift from the Marlboro Alliance.
- **Moved to adjourn at 12:39 p.m.**

Subject to additions and revisions presented which may come up after the posting date, according to law.

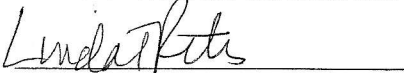
Respectfully Submitted,



Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk



Pieter van Loon, Chair of Select Board



Linda T. Peters, Treasurer & Justice of the Peace

Town of Marlboro
Marlboro, Vermont 05344

