

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

MARCH 6, 2000 AND MARCH 7, 2000

Moderator Andrew McKeever called the meeting to order at 8:50 PM.
Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan introduced Board Members Rick Goddard, Ellen Jennings, Diane King, and Gary Weller.

Article 1: To see if the Town will approve the reports of the Town Officers as presented in the Annual Report. Roberta Housman moved to accept article one, Kevin Keough seconded the motion. Article one carried unanimously.

Article 2: To see what compensation will be paid the various Town Officers and to authorize the Selectmen to establish the salaries, wages, and other compensation of the employees and other officers of the Town. Phil Ehret moved to accept article two, Kevin Keough seconded the motion. Article two carried unanimously.

Article 3: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow in anticipation of taxes, such sum or sums of money as may be necessary to properly finance the affairs of the Town. Russell Housman moved to accept article three, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Article three carried unanimously.

Article 4: To see if the Town will pay its personal and property taxes to the Town Treasurer in equal installments with the payments to be in the hands of the Treasurer by October 15 and April 15. Sally Stone moved to accept article four, Jack Oventhal seconded the motion. Article four unanimously carried.

Article 5: To see if the Town will levy an interest charge on all delinquent taxes of One Percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof, for the first three months, and thereafter One and One Half Percent (1.5%) per month or fraction thereof from the due date as provided by T32 VSA Sec. 5136 as amended. Peter Putis moved to accept article five, Janet Simpson seconded the motion. Article five carried unanimously.

Article 6: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to help defray the expenses of the Arlington Area Childcare, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Janet Simpson moved to accept article six, Gloria Alexander seconded the motion. Article six duly carried.

Article 7: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1,100.00 to help defray the expenses of the Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Janet Simpson moved to accept article seven, Roberta Housman seconded the motion. Article seven duly carried.

Article 8: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$2,800.00 to be used for general operating expenses for the Arlington Recreational and Park Committee, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Phil Ehret moved to accept article eight, John Kent seconded the motion. Ted Lenczowski asked how much was requested from Arlington and Rick Goddard stated that there were two requests one for \$5200.00 and another for \$2500. Article eight unanimously carried.

Article 9: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$6,500.00 to help defray the expenses of the Arlington Rescue Squad Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Peter Putis moved to accept article nine, Shirley McTernan seconded the motion. Holly Townsend asked everyone to review the report on page 56, there are now three paid members. Gary Weller asked if there was any success in billing the insurance? Ron Ritchie stated that some money is starting to come in. Article nine unanimously carried.

Article 10: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to help defray the expenses of the Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council, Inc. (BROC), and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Shirley McTernan moved to accept article ten, Gloria Alexander seconded the motion. Article ten unanimously carried.

Article 11: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$750.00 to help defray the expenses of the Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Rose Stone moved to accept article eleven, Jack Oventhal seconded the motion. Article eleven duly carried.

Article 12: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$100.00 to help defray the expenses of the Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE), and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Janet Simpson moved to accept article twelve, Gloria Alexander seconded the motion. Article twelve duly carried.

Article 13: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$50.00 to help defray the expenses of the George D. Aiken Resource Conservation & Development, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Peter Putis moved to accept article thirteen, Kevin Keough seconded the motion. Article thirteen duly carried.

Article 14: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to help defray the expenses of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Bennington County (RSVP), and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Thelma Oventhal moved to accept article fourteen, Mike Hall seconded the motion. Article fourteen duly carried.

Article 15: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$750.00 to help defray the expenses of the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, and if so voted, to authorize

an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Gloria Alexander moved to accept article fifteen, Shirley McTernan seconded the motion. Article fifteen carried unanimously.

Article 16: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to help defray the expenses of the American Red Cross, and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Sally Stone moved to accept article sixteen, Robert Alexander seconded the motion. Article sixteen carried unanimously.

Article 17: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$145.00 to help defray the expenses of the Vermont Center for Independent Living, and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Kevin Keough moved to accept article seventeen, Janet Simpson seconded the motion. Article seventeen carried unanimously.

Article 18: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$50.00 to help defray the expenses of the Green Up Vermont, and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Peter Putis moved to accept article eighteen, Phil Ehret seconded the motion. Rose Keough stated that people keep throwing rubbish out and people should report on the ones doing it. Article eighteen carried unanimously.

Article 19: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to help defray the expenses of the Bennington County Court Diversion program, and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Shirley McTernan moved to accept article nineteen, Kevin Keough seconded the motion. Article nineteen duly carried.

Article 20: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to help defray the expenses of the Tutorial Center, and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Phil Ehret moved to accept article twenty, Robert Alexander seconded the motion. Ted Lenczowski asked if this was a non-profit organization and if anyone could report on any grants and fees collected? Article twenty failed.

Article 21: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be added to the Highway Equipment Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Kevin Keough moved to accept article twenty-one, Roberta Housman seconded the motion. Robert Alexander asked what equipment the Highway Fund needed? Gary Weller stated that the grader is 27 years old and the Board wants to set money aside each year. Mike Hall asked about the cost of a new grader and Gary Weller said it would be around \$100,000.00. Article twenty-one carried unanimously.

Article 22: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to the State/Town Bridge CO-OP Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Rose Stone moved to accept article twenty-two, Kevin Keough seconded the motion. Rick Goddard noted that three years ago the cost to replace the Kelley Stand Bridge was \$580,000.00 and now it is \$1.1 Million. Article twenty-two carried unanimously.

Article 23: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be added to the

Paving Fund in order to resurface an existing paved road, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Kevin Keough moved to accept article twenty-three, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Robert Alexander asked which road would be done. Gary Weller stated that it depends on what the State does financially but near the Covered Bridge and up to the Town Garage. Consideration will be made for North Road and Bacon Hollow Road. Gary stressed that nothing was cast in stone. Janet Simpson asked why the Board requested \$40,000.00 and not \$80,000.00? Gary Weller said because they felt that the voters would not give that much. Holly Townsend stated that she had heard that the Kelley Stand Road would be paved. Gary Weller said that was not a good rumor. Philip Bahan stated that this was for re-surfacing and no new roads are slated to be paved. Roberta Housman asked about speed bumps on Sunderland Hill Road. Philip Bahan stated that increasing the Bennington County Sheriffs might be the better solution. Kevin Keough stated that people should call the Sheriff's Department if there are any speeding problems. Article twenty-three carried unanimously.

Article 24: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to be added to the Guardrail Sinking Fund, and if so voted, authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Sally Stone moved to accept article twenty-four, Kevin Keough seconded the motion. Article twenty-four carried unanimously.

Article 25: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to establish a Municipal Office Building Sinking Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Rose Stone moved to accept article twenty-five, Phil Ehret seconded the motion. Article twenty-five carried unanimously.

Article 26: To see if the Town will authorize the transfer of the June 30, 2000 balance of the Municipal Building Fund to the Municipal Office Building Sinking Fund. Peter Putis Moved to accept article twenty-six, Kevin Keough seconded the motion. Phil Ehret asked if this would mean that the money could not be used for any other buildings? Phil Bahan stated that was correct. Carl Rice suggested that some money be left in the fund to cover possible repairs to the Town Garage. James Ennis stated that the building maintenance line item of the budget takes care of repairs. Article twenty-six carried unanimously.

Article 27: To see if the Town of Sunderland will prohibit constables from exercising any Law enforcement authority without having successfully completed a course of training under Chapter 151 of Title 20 (Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council). Holly Townsend moved to accept article twenty-seven, seconded by Rose Stone. Article twenty-seven carried unanimously.

Article 28: To see if the Town sanctions the construction of a natural gas pipeline within the territory of the Town of Sunderland. (by petition) Phil Ehret moved to accept article twenty-eight, seconded by Kevin Keough. After considerable discussion about the pipeline and the three hearings that have already been held Kevin Keough asked the Moderator to move the question. Article twenty-eight failed.

Article 29: To transact any other non-binding business. Roberta Housman moved article twenty-nine, Russell Housman seconded the motion. Article twenty-nine carried.

At 10:58 PM Moderator McKeever declared the meeting adjourned until 10:00 AM Tuesday March 7, 2000.

The ballot boxes were declared open, on March 7, 2000, at 10:00 AM by Town Clerk, Rose Keough, and declared closed at 7:00 PM.

The results follow:

Article 30: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$6,425.00 to defray the expenses of the Cemetery Maintenance Fund.

YES	190	NO	39
BLANK	4	TOTAL	233

Article 31: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$89,230.00 to defray the General Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$100,250.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$11,020.00; Taxes estimated at \$89,230.00)

YES	194	NO	33
BLANK	6	TOTAL	233

Article 32: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$87,850.00 to defray the Highway Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$176,950.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$89,100.00; Taxes estimated at \$87,850.00)

YES	193	NO	36
BLANK	4	TOTAL	233

Article 33: To elect by Australian Ballot all officers required by law.

For Auditor, for 3 years

WRITE IN Fred Maas	3
BLANK	216
WRITE IN Other	13
SPOILED	1
TOTAL	233

For Town Grand Juror, for 1 year

WRITE IN Michael DiMonda	2
WRITE IN Andrew McKeever	2
WRITE IN Other	16
SPOILED	1
BLANK	212
TOTAL	233

For Cemetery Commissioner, for 3 years

LESTER HARTMAN	175*
WRITE IN Other	5
BLANK	53
TOTAL	233

For Town Agent, for 1 year

WRITE IN Bill Bowen	2
WRITE IN Other	9
SPOILED	1
BLANK	221
TOTAL	233

For Selectman, for 3 years

RICHARD J GODDARD	200*
WRITE IN Other	2
BLANK	31

For Selectman, for 1 year	
ELLEN JENNINGS	171*
DIANE KING	140*
WRITE IN Other	12
SPOILED	1
BLANK	142
TOTAL	466

For Delinquent Tax Collector, for 1 year	
KATHLEEN C. MORSE	189*
WRITE IN Other	19
BLANK	23
SPOILED	2
TOTAL	233

For First Constable, for 1 year	
WRITE IN Leroy Morse	9*
WRITE IN Ben Morse	4
WRITE IN Other	15
BLANK	205

For Second Constable, for 1 year	
WRITE IN Charles Troumbley	2
WRITE IN Other	7
BLANK	224
TOTAL	233

For Lister, for 3 years	
PETER R VANVLECK, JR	208*
BLANK	25
TOTAL	233

For Town Moderator, for 1 year	
ANDREW MCKEEVER	206*
BLANK	27
TOTAL	233

*Denotes Election to Office

After announcing the results of balloting it was moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose M. Keough, Sunderland Town Clerk