

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

MARCH 5, 2001 AND MARCH 6, 2001

Moderator Andrew McKeever called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.
And welcomed those present and thanked them for coming considering the bad weather.

With 28 people in attendance the meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan introduced Board Members Rick Goddard and Ellen Jennings. Chairman Bahan noted that because of the storm Diane King was not present and Gary Weller, Arlington Highway Foreman was working on the roads.

Moderator McKeever then briefly explained the rules of the meeting and assured everyone that they would get their chance to speak. Moderator McKeever also noted that Representative Molloy would be attending and when he arrived we would break from the business and hear from our Representative, should those present give permission for Representative Molloy to speak.

Rose Stone moved to dispense with the reading of the warning, Barbara Goddard seconded the motion. The motion duly carried.

Article 1: To see if the Town will approve the reports of the Town Officers as presented in the Annual Report. Peter Putis moved to accept article one, Dorothy Conklin 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. Andrew Holzman moved to accept article two, Dorothy Conklin 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. Peter Putis moved to accept article three, Peter VanVleck 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. Dawn Kelley moved to accept article four, John Kent seconded the motion. Peter Putis asked about the times that the due dates fall on Saturday or Sunday. Treasurer Rose Keough explained that if the due date were on a Saturday her office would be open to accept payments, however, if the due date is on a Sunday, which this April 15th is, everyone will have Monday the 16th and still be timely. Article four 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, Andrew Holzman seconded the motion. Melanie Hogg asked when notices are sent to the people that have not paid timely. Treasurer Rose Keough noted that the Delinquent Tax Collector would be the one to discuss this issue. Rose Stone asked why the delinquent taxes could not go through the Treasurer's Office, she was aware that some towns have it that way. Treasurer Rose Keough explained that it is handled by two different positions and possibly the Treasurer is the Delinquent Tax Collector in those towns. Article five carried.

Article 6: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to decide upon any appropriation request under \$1000.00. Weiland Ross moved to accept article six, Richard Ashley seconded the motion. Peter Putis asked why this article has been presented to the voters. Town Clerk Rose Keough explained that the warning keeps growing each year and she asked the Selectboard to present this article in order to keep thing streamlined and more efficient. Peter Putis stated that he was against doing this and felt that the voters should be able to be involved. Weiland Ross noted that there are ten articles under the \$1000.00 amount and eight of them are for \$500.00 or less, stating that the Board of Selectmen could make these decisions. Article six duly carried.

Article 7: To see if the Town will authorize the Cemetery Commissioners to spend Unanticipated funds such as grants and gifts. Peter Putis moved to accept article seven, Dorothy Conklin seconded the motion. Andrew Holzman asked the meaning of article seven. Town Clerk Rose Keough explained that an opinion from the Secretary of State's Office stated that approval from the voters was needed to spend unbudgeted money and the Cemetery Commission received a donation for maintenance and are now asking for Town's approval to expense the money. Article seven duly carried.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to exempt 4-H Camp Ondawa, Inc. from taxation. Dorothy Conklin moved to accept article eight, Melanie Hogg seconded the motion. Mary Murphy asked how many acres were owned by Camp Ondawa, Rose Keough stated that she was unsure but thought it was around one hundred fourteen acres. John Kent asked if the Town received anything in return from Cam Ondawa. Philip Bahan stated that residents use the facilities. Weiland Ross moved to amend article eight to read To see if the Town will vote to exempt 4-H Camp Ondawa, Inc. from taxation for five years, Dorothy Conklin seconded the motion to amend. Rose Keough noted that she recommended a one year exemption because 4-H Camp Ondawa is checking into becoming statutory exempt and this would be the best for the Town. The amended motion failed with a vote of eleven in favor and fourteen opposed. Article eight as presented carried.

Article 9: 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. Melanie Hogg moved to accept article nine, Carl Rice seconded the motion. Melanie Hogg stated that her daughter attends the Daycare and she feels it is a great organization. Article nine duly carried.

Article 10: 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.

Barbara Goddard moved to accept article ten, Dawn Kelley seconded the motion. Article ten duly carried.

Article 11: 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.

Carl Rice moved to accept article eleven, Darri Cepela-Beach seconded the motion. Article eleven unanimously carried.

Article 12: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$8,510.00 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. Stuart Hill moved to accept article twelve, Andrew Holzman seconded the motion. Carl Rice asked how they arrived at the dollar figure. Phillip Bahan noted that it is based on a per capita amount. 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 twelve unanimously carried.

Article 13: 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. Dawn Kelley moved to accept article thirteen, Melanie Hogg seconded the motion.

Article thirteen unanimously carried.

Article 14: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 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. Peter Putis moved to accept article fourteen, Stuart Hill seconded the motion. Article fourteen duly carried.

Article 15: 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.

Andrew Holzman moved to accept article fifteen, Richard Ashley seconded the motion. Article fifteen duly carried.

Article 16: 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.

Dorothy Conklin moved to accept article sixteen, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Article sixteen duly carried.

Article 17: 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. Weiland Ross moved to accept article seventeen, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Article seventeen duly carried.

Article 18: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$500.00 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. Stuart Hill moved to accept article eighteen, Andrew Holzman seconded the motion. Article eighteen duly carried.

Article 19: 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. Dorothy Conklin moved to accept article nineteen, Stuart Hill seconded the motion. Article nineteen duly carried.

Article 20: 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 twenty, Weiland Ross seconded the motion. Article twenty carried unanimously.

Article 21: 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. Weiland Ross moved to accept article twenty-one, Melanie Hogg seconded the motion. Article twenty-one duly carried.

At 8:05 P.M. Moderator McKeever asked permission for Representative Larry Molly to speak to the residents of Sunderland. Peter Putis moved to allow Representative to address the voters, Carl Rice seconded the motion. The motion duly carried. Representative Molloy stated that very little has been accomplished in session so far. He also noted that it was nice to have two Sunderland officials attend Government Day in Montpelier this year, Selectman Richard Goddard and Town Clerk/Treasurer Rose Keough. Representative Molloy discussed the topics of environmental focus on the permit process, prescription drug reform, the state budget, education funding, and taxes. John Kent asked about the surplus this year and why worry about next year. Representative Molloy stated that the debt service needed to be lowered. Darri Cepela-Beach asked about the lack of a Sunderland zip code and what the residents could do about getting one. She also stated that Title 1 services were losing money because of the lack of a zip code. Moderator McKeever thanked Representative Molloy for attending our meeting and resumed the voting on articles at 8:20 P.M.

Article 22: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to help defray the expenses of the Bennington County Conservation District programs, and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Weiland Ross moved to accept article twenty-two, Dorothy Conklin seconded the motion. Article twenty-two duly carried.

Article 23: 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. Peter Putis moved to accept article twenty-three, John Kent seconded the motion. Article twenty-three duly carried.

Article 24: 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. Dorothy Conklin moved to accept article twenty-four, Rose Stone seconded the motion. Dale Jennings asked when the Kelley Stand Bridge would be built and Rick Goddard stated that it would be in 2003. Article twenty-four duly carried.

Article 25: 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. Peter Putis moved to accept article twenty-five, Stuart Hill seconded the motion. Rose Stone asked which road would be done. Philip Bahan stated that it would be Sunderland Hill around the school and north toward the Town Garage. Article twenty-five duly carried.

Article 26: 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. Peter VanVleck moved to accept article twenty-six, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Peter VanVleck asked where the guardrails would be placed and Philip Bahan stated that they would be on Bacon Hollow Road. Stuart Hill stated that Sunderland Hill Road needs guardrails badly. Article twenty-six duly carried.

Article 27: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Municipal Office Building Sinking Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Peter Putis moved to accept article twenty-seven, Andrew Holzman seconded the motion. Article twenty-seven duly carried.

Article 28: To transact any other non-binding business. Rose Stone asked about having delinquent taxes payable to the Town Treasurer. Rose Keough explained that the Treasurer is not the collector of delinquent taxes, it is a separate office. Rose Keough then thanked Ellen Jennings for her service to the Town as a selectman. Elizabeth "Kate" Hewes asked about the \$5000.00 for sublet mowing in the Cemetery Budget. It was explained that the Town has three cemeteries to be mowed. Moderator McKeever then listed the offices that would be voted for on Tuesday. At 8:40 PM Moderator McKeever declared the meeting adjourned until 10:00 AM Tuesday March 6, 2001.

The ballot boxes were declared open, on March 6,2001, at 10:00 AM by Town Clerk, Rose Keough, and declared closed at 7:00 PM.

The results follow:

Article 29: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$6,575.00 to defray the expenses of the Cemetery Maintenance Fund.

YES	82	NO	15
	TOTAL		97

Article 30: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$97,720.00 to defray the General Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$111,050.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$13,330.00; Taxes estimated at \$97,720.00)

YES	78	NO	19
	TOTAL		97

Article 31: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$92,740.00 to defray the Highway Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$185,540.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$92,800.00; Taxes estimated at \$92,740.00)

YES	79	NO	18
	TOTAL		97

Article 32: To elect by Australian Ballot all officers required by law.

For Auditor, for 3 years		For Town Grand Juror, for 1 year	
WRITE IN Fred Maas	12*	WRITE IN Albert Bowen	2
WRITE IN Other	7	WRITE IN Michael DiMonda	2
BLANK	77	WRITE IN Carl Rice	2
SPOILED	1	WRITE IN Other	2
TOTAL	97	BLANK	89
		TOTAL	97
For Auditor, for 2 years (Bal. of 3yr term)		For Town Clerk, for 3 years	
WRITE IN Fred Maas	3	ROSE M. KEOUGH	92*
WRITE IN Other	8	BLANK	5
BLANK	86	TOTAL	97
TOTAL	97		
For Cemetery Commissioner, for 3 years		For Town Agent, for 1 year	
JAMES ENNIS	94*	WRITE IN Rose Keough	2
BLANK	3	WRITE IN Other	2
TOTAL	97	BLANK	95
		TOTAL	97

For Selectman, for 3 years
 PHILIP H. BAHAN 87*
 BLANK 10
 TOTAL 97

For Delinquent Tax Collector, for 1 year
 KATHLEEN MORSE 73*
 WRITE IN Other 6
 BLANK 18
 TOTAL 97

For Selectman, for 1 year
 DOROTHY CONKLIN 81*
 DIANE KING 68*
 WRITE IN Other 5
 BLANK 40
 TOTAL 194

For Town Treasurer, for 3 years
 ROSE M. KEOUGH 92*
 BLANK 5
 TOTAL 97

For First Constable, for 1 year
 WRITE IN Gordon Hall 11*
 WRITE IN Leroy Morse 4
 WRITE IN Other 5
 BLANK 77
 TOTAL 97

For Second Constable, for 1 year
 WRITE IN Dawn Kelley 7*
 WRITE IN Other 2
 BLANK 88
 TOTAL 97

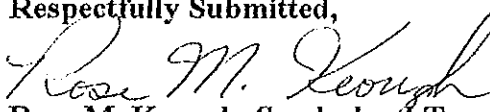
For Lister, for 3 years
 THADDEUS LENCZOWSKI 89*
 BLANK 8
 TOTAL 97

For Town Moderator, for 1 year
 WRITE IN Andrew McKeever 26*
 WRITE IN Other 3
 BLANK 68
 TOTAL 97

*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