

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

MARCH 4, 2002 AND MARCH 5, 2002

Moderator Andrew McKeever called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. and led The Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator McKeever then welcomed everyone and explained the process for the meeting. Approximately 82 people were in attendance.

Peter Putis moved to allow Representative Molloy to speak at this meeting, Steve Bendix seconded the motion. Moderator McKeever then introduced Representative Molloy and asked him to address the people present.

Representative Molloy gave an overview of the items that are being addressed in Montpelier. The re-apportionment is of great concern to us. Representative Molloy asked everyone to write to our Senators and let everyone know how concerned we are.

Roberta Housman asked if there has been any more discussion on raising the cigarette tax. Representative Molloy stated that a 67 cent increase is being discussed and it has a negative effect on the small business. Russell Housman asked about the state income tax and what will happen now because it is linked to the federal income tax. Representative Molloy stated that the state tax is based on the federal amount and Vermont is losing money. Representative Molloy left the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Weiland Ross moved to waive the reading of the warning, Peter Putis 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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article one, Peter Putis 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. Peter Putis moved to accept article two, Steve Bendix 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. Ellen Jennings to accept article three, Steve Bendix 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, Ellen Jennings seconded the motion. Kathy Johnston asked why the postmark was not accepted and would like to go back to accepting the postmark. Rose Stone stated that when people put the wrong zip code on it would take up to two weeks before it was received. Kathy Johnston

said it is ok with the IRS and it should be ok with Sunderland. Rose Stone suggested that the check could be dated the 15th and mailed two weeks early. Andy Holzman stated that the Town should consider a penalty for intentional zip code errors. 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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article five, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Article five carried.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to exempt 4-H Camp Ondawa, Inc. from taxation. Peter Putis moved to accept article six, Ellen Jennings seconded the motion. Kathy Morse asked why this issue was not on the ballot, Rose Keough explained that it is a public question and all public questions are voted off the floor. Phil Bahan stated that Camp Ondawa should be exempt. Kathy Morse stated that they should do the work to become exempt. Steve Bendix moved to amend the motion to state exemption for 5 years or as allowed by law. Peter Putis seconded the amended motion. Stephanie Holzman asked if this would slow the organization down from pursuing statutory exemption. Rose Keough stated that she thought it would. Dorothy Conklin disagreed. Roberta Housman stated that she was opposed to a 5-year exemption. The amendment failed. Article six 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. Ellen Jennings moved to accept article seven, Kathy Morse seconded the motion. Roberta Housman apologized for not having a report in, she stated that the service provides dental care, nursing scholarships, and they reimburse Manchester Nursing for their services in the home. Article seven 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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article eight, Robert Alexander seconded the motion. Article eight unanimously carried.

Article 9: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$8,500.00 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, Ellen Jennings seconded the motion. Kathy Morse asked how much of the budget is payroll. Holly Townsend stated that she was not sure but the payroll does not come out of this money. Kathy noted that there is full time staff. Holly said yes there is and has been for almost two years. Article nine carried.

Article 10: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1,250.00 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. Marjorie Maas moved to accept article ten, Rose Stone seconded the motion. Article ten duly carried.

Article 11: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1000.00 to help defray the expenses of the Burdett Commons, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount. Marjorie Maas moved to accept article eleven, Wendy Reynolds seconded the motion. Article eleven duly carried.

Article 12: 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. Ellen Jennings moved to accept article twelve, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Article twelve duly carried.

Article 13: 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. Roberta Housman moved to accept article thirteen, Patricia Putis seconded the motion. Kathy Morse asked if this would be the last bridge payment and Richard Goddard stated no and explained that the price went up. Kathy asked which bridge would be the last bride and Richard Goddard stated that the bridge on Hill Farm Road was next. Article thirteen duly carried.

Article 14: 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 fourteen, Steve Bendix seconded the motion. Holly Townsend asked if there were plans to pave Kelley Stand Road. Richard Goddard stated no. Paula Maynard asked if there were any long range plans to pave in Sunderland and could people know which ones and when. Richard Goddard stated that the North Road was done last year and resurfacing needed to be done. Paula Maynard stated that some roads should remain dirt. Richard Goddard stated that discussions were held with people living on the road, he also stated that there is no master plan. Philip Bahan stated that the North Road needed to be finished, up to the overpass and that would probably do it. Sunderland Hill and Hill Farm Road have not been resurfaced because of the Casella issue. Rose Stone stated she was not in favor of article fourteen because the paving was not done properly as shown by all the bumps and heaves on Bacon Hollow Road. Richard Goddard agreed the concerns about Bacon Hollow and stated that the North Road has been done right and that is why we need to finish it this year. Lucille Morse stated that people need to complain about roads before proper upkeep is done and asked if something will be done now with the new development off Bacon Hollow. Richard Goddard stated that nothing had been discussed. Lucille Morse stated that they needed to complain to Cub and Richard Goddard asked that people call him and not the Road Foreman. Kelly Stork asked about widening the road near Barney Matteson. Richard Goddard noted that there are water problems and an engineer was needed. Kelly Stork asked if anything was planned. Richard Goddard stated not with this budget. Article fourteen carried.

Article 15: 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. Dawn Kelley moved to accept article fifteen, Frederick Maas seconded the motion. Dale Jennings asked where the guardrails would be placed and

Philip Bahan stated that they would be on Bacon Hollow Road. Article fifteen carried.

Article 16: 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. Ellen Jennings moved to accept article sixteen, Kathy Johnston seconded the motion. Kathy Morse asked how close we are to an office building, Philip Bahan reported that a committee has been formed and they have had one meeting, Diane King chairs the committee. Article sixteen carried.

Article 17: Will the citizens of Sunderland, Vermont call upon the US government, and governments of all nuclear weapons states, to secure on an urgent basis a nuclear weapons abolition treaty that must include an early timetable for the elimination of nuclear weapons in a manner that is mutual and verifiable among all nations? (By petition). Steve Bendix moved to accept article seventeen, Alexandra Heintz seconded the motion. Alexandra Heintz explained the article. Michael DiMonda stated that he disagrees with the article. Article seventeen carried.

Article 18: To transact any other non-binding business. Paula Maynard asked if the cell tower issue was being addressed. Philip Bahan informed everyone that interim zoning addressing the issue has been enacted. He also noted that the Planning Commission is reviewing the Town Plan. Steve Bendix asked about the results of the survey that was sent out by the Planning Commission. Weiland Ross stated that everything needed to be pulled together.

With no questions about articles nineteen through twenty-one Moderator McKeever declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM until 10:00 AM Tuesday March 5, 2002.

The ballot boxes were declared open, on March 5, 2002, at 10:00 AM by Town Clerk, Rose Keough, and declared closed at 7:00 PM.

The results follow:

Article 19: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$6,575.00 to defray the expenses of the Cemetery Maintenance Fund.

YES	181	NO	56	BLANK	1
		TOTAL	238		

Article 20: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$109,525.00 to defray the General Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$120,045.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$10,520.00; Taxes estimated at \$109,525.00)

YES	182	NO	54	BLANK	2
		TOTAL	238		

Article 21: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$104,440.00 to defray the Highway Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$198,640.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$94,200.00; Taxes estimated at \$104,440.00)

YES	169	NO	66	BLANK	3
		TOTAL	238		

Article 22: To elect by Australian Ballot all officers required by law.

For Auditor, for 3 years
WRITE IN Richard Ashley 12*
WRITE IN Other 9
BLANK 217
SPOILED 0
TOTAL 238

For Town Grand Juror, for 1 year
WRITE IN Michael DiMonda 4
WRITE IN Other 9
BLANK 225
TOTAL 238

For Auditor, for 1 year (Bal. of 3yr term)
WRITE IN Richard Ashley 3
WRITE IN Other 16
BLANK 219
TOTAL 238

For Town Agent, for 1 year
WRITE IN Peter VanVleck 2
WRITE IN Other 5
BLANK 231
TOTAL 238

For Cemetery Commissioner, for 3 years
WRITE IN Lucille Morse 7*
WRITE IN Other 16
BLANK 215
TOTAL 238

For Delinquent Tax Collector, for 1 year
KATHLEEN MORSE 184
WRITE IN Other 8
SPOILED 2
BLANK 44
TOTAL 238

For Selectman, for 3 years
DIANE KING 139*
WRITE IN Mary Grey 20
WRITE IN Other 11
SPOILED 3
BLANK 65
TOTAL 238

For Second Constable, for 1 year
DAWN R. KELLEY 178*
WRITE IN Other 5
BLANK 55
TOTAL 238

For Selectman, for 1 year
DOROTHY CONKLIN 186*
WRITE IN Mary Grey 74*
WRITE IN Other 11
BLANK 205
TOTAL 476

For Town Moderator, for 1 year
WRITE IN Andrew McKeever 38*
WRITE IN Other 8
SPOILED 1
BLANK 191
TOTAL 238


For First Constable, for 1 year
GORDON HALL 190*
WRITE IN Other 5
BLANK 43
TOTAL 238

For Lister, for 3 years
ROBERT I. MONTGOMERY 196*
BLANK 42
TOTAL 238

* 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