

TOWN OF SUNDERLAND MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING

MARCH 3, 2003 AND MARCH 4, 2003

Moderator Melanie Hogg called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Sunderland School Swing Chorus instructed by Mrs. Linda Bischoff sang the Vermont State Song. Moderator Hogg then welcomed everyone and explained the process for the meeting. Approximately 91 people were in attendance. Philip Bahan introduced the Selectboard members and the Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Janet Wilson moved to dispense with the reading of the warning, seconded by Ellen Jennings. 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. Loyal Winters moved to accept article one, Peter Van Vleck seconded the motion. Article one carried.

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. Loyal Winters moved to accept article two, Steve Bendix seconded the motion. Article two carried.

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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article three, Dale Jennings seconded the motion. Article three carried.

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. Patricia Toth moved to accept article four, Ellen Jennings seconded the motion. 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. Rose Stone moved to accept article five, Shirley McTernan seconded the motion. Article five carried.

Article 6: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to help defray the expenses of the Bennington County Conservation District, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Dale Jennings moved to accept article six, Steve Bendix seconded the motion. Kathleen Morse asked for someone to explain what this is and Richard Goddard stated that it had to do with the Battenkill. With twenty-eight people in favor and thirty people opposed article six failed.

At 7:45 PM Moderator Hogg stated that if there were no objections Representative Molloy would address the people. Representative Molloy discussed the topics of the FY2004 budget, health care permit reform, school taxes, school funding, and transportation priorities. Frederick Maas asked how other schools could form a school fund and avoid being in the "shark pool" and Representative Molly agreed that it was not a good situation. Richard Ennis stated that he disagrees with the town of Manchester and he will not donate and they will boycott his business. He stated that he lives in Sunderland and that is where he will pay taxes. Representative Molloy was asked why the State wants to start new bridge projects when Sunderland has a project that has yet to be done. Representative Molloy will look into the matter. Representative Molloy left the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Article 7: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1,200.00 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. Shirley McTernan moved to accept article seven, Roberta Housman seconded the motion. Article seven carried.

Article 8: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$2,940.00 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. Stuart Hill moved to accept article eight, Edward Toth seconded the motion. Article eight 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. 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. Shirley McTernan moved to accept article ten, Marjorie Maas seconded the motion. Article ten 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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article eleven, Marjorie Maas seconded the motion. Article eleven 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. Weiland Ross moved to accept article twelve, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Article twelve carried.

Article 13: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 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 thirteen, Loyal Winters seconded the motion. Article thirteen carried.

Article 14: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be added to the Paving Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Peter Putis moved to accept article fourteen, Stuart Hill seconded the motion. 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. Peter Putis moved to accept article fifteen, Weiland Ross seconded the motion. 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, Loyal Winters seconded the motion. Article sixteen carried.

Article 17: Will the town of Sunderland build a town office on property owned for such purposes, with construction beginning by 1 May 2003 and be completed by 1 October 2003. Building to be no larger than 2000 square feet, built on a concrete slab foundation. Cost not to exceed \$200,000.00 Also to authorize selectmen to borrow the balance of cost over our current building fund, if any. (By petition). Stuart Hill requested article seventeen to be read aloud and Moderator Hogg accommodated the request. Stuart Hill moved to amend the article to read a suitable foundation and remove the wording of slab foundation, Kathleen Morse seconded the motion. James Ennis stated that he looked at foundations with a four-foot frost wall on a slab. Mary Grey stated that we would need to define the project more and figure out what a suitable foundation is. Kathleen Morse asked James Ennis to stand and give a presentation. Paul Ennis stated that his house is a slab foundation and it is fine. Stuart Hill stated he was worried about heat. Joseph Boutin stated that prints were needed along with an engineer to inspect the land, to start a project without a set of prints is unheard of. The amendment did not carry. Philip Bahan stated that the Selectboard has had no research done on the project. The Board had a meeting on the project about one and a half years ago and only eight people showed up. Philip Bahan noted that Diane King volunteered to chair a committee on the proposal of a office building and there have been no meetings. Philip Bahan stated that he checked with Rex Burke of the BCRC and Rex questioned the time frame involved, with no engineering and the time involved in the permitting process. Ellen Jennings asked if the petition is legal and Philip Bahan stated that it was. Edward Toth

asked about a site plan and landscaping. With no site plan how can the people decide. Edward Toth noted that he has grave reservation and thought it would be best to step back and think about this. James Ennis stated that he checked with the town of Windham and even with the permitting process they were in their building in four weeks. Richard Ashley stated that the egress from the building site is dangerous. Ellen Jennings asked about the water supply and if a well would need to be drilled. Clem Morse stated that the people have waited fifteen years and it is now time for the Selectmen to get in gear and do something. Clem Morse stated that he felt no need for an engineer and the Windham town hall is perfect. Edward Toth asked if the motion was to build the Windham town hall and Clem Morse stated that it is. Weiland Ross asked if this article could be voted down and under article eighteen instruct the Selectboard to get things set up. Kevin Keough called the question. Peter Van Vleck requested a paper ballot for article seventeen and eight additional people agreed. The results of the paper ballot was sixty-two no votes, thirty-three yes votes, one spoiled. Article seventeen failed.

Article 18: To transact any non-binding business. Anne Ehret requested that the petition she had concerning renewable energy source be read aloud. Moderator Hogg read the following:

Whereas the environmental, economic, and public health effects of global climate change, caused primarily by the burning of fossil fuels, pose serious threats to Vermont and to all of the earth's natural systems, and nuclear power produces dangerous and long-lasting nuclear waste;

Whereas the efficient use of energy saves money and reduces all types of pollution at the same time; and renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, biomass, hydro, and geothermal power, have the potential to provide affordable energy with minimal environmental harm;

Whereas the state and national economies would be strengthened by creation of millions of new jobs in the manufacturing and installation of renewable energy systems; in the creation of a fuel-efficient private and public transportation system; and in energy efficiency improvements in all residential, commercial, and government buildings;

Whereas Vermont and America would become more secure by becoming more independent in our ownership, production, and management of energy resources, especially by importing less oil from foreign countries;

"Be it resolved that the citizens of the town of Sunderland urgently call upon our municipal leaders, state legislators, governor, and Congressional delegation to put Vermont in the forefront of a sustainable energy future. Specifically, we request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont's homes, businesses, public buildings, and transportation systems, and to encourage expansion of the renewable energy industry in the state of Vermont."

Anne Ehret moved to accept the resolution, seconded by Rose Stone. The motion duly carried.

Weiland Ross moved to request the Selectboard to move on building a town hall as soon as possible using the money from the Office Building Fund as required to develop building and site plans, to be presented to the voters as soon as feasible, seconded by Edward Toth. Weiland Ross noted that the request is non-binding. The motion duly carried. Philip Bahan stated that it is the intent of the Selectboard to work on the project.

Kevin Keough moved to adjourn, seconded by Dale Jennings. Philip Bahan noted that the intent of the board is to level fund and even lower the expenses of the town. Shirley McTernan asked if there would be a new grand list and Peter Van Vleck stated that a computerized assessment would be completed before April 1, 2003.

Helen Weller stated that the retirement included in article twenty-one is actually a bonus, she does not have a problem with a retirement plan however this is not a qualified plan therefore it is a bonus. Diane King stated she disagreed and Helen Weller noted that input from Diane King is a conflict of interest.

Moderator Hogg adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM until 10:00 AM Tuesday March 4, 2003.

The ballot boxes were declared open, on March 4, 2003, 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 \$6,675.00 to defray the expenses of the Cemetery Maintenance Fund.

YES	181	NO	42	BLANK	2
		TOTAL	225		

Article 20: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$107,665.00 to defray the General Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$118,295.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$10,630.00; Taxes estimated at \$107,665.00)

YES	178	NO	44	BLANK	3
TOTAL		TOTAL		225	

Article 21: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$109,190.00 to defray the Highway Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$206,290.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$97,100.00; Taxes estimated at \$109,190.00)

YES	175	NO	48	BLANK	2
TOTAL		TOTAL		225	

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

For Auditor, for 3 years		For First Constable, for 1 year	
WRITE IN Richard Ashley	2	WRITE IN Gordan Hall	13*
WRITE IN Ralph Thomas	2	WRITE IN Anthony Ennis, Sr.	6
WRITE IN Other	8	WRITE IN Jesse Stone	3
BLANK	213	WRITE IN Other	9
TOTAL	225	BLANK	192
		SPOILED	2
		TOTAL	225
For Town Grand Juror, for 1 year		For Second Constable, for 1 year	
WRITE IN Marianne Kennedy	2	WRITE IN Dawn Kelley	11*
WRITE IN Other	10	WRITE IN Tony Ennis, Jr.	2
BLANK	213	WRITE IN Other	9
TOTAL	225	BLANK	201
		SPOILED	2
		TOTAL	225
For Town Agent, for 1 year		For Lister, for 1 year	
WRITE IN Marianne Kennedy	2	WRITE IN Other	7
WRITE IN Other	6	BLANK	218
BLANK	217	TOTAL	225
TOTAL	225		
For Selectman, for 3 years		For Lister, for 3 years	
DOROTHY CONKLIN	180*	PETER R. VanVLECK, JR.	189*
WRITE IN Other	3	BLANK	36
BLANK	42	TOTAL	225
TOTAL	225		
For Selectman, for 1 year		For Cemetery Commissioner, for 3 years	
RICHARD J. GODDARD, II	190*	WRITE IN Lucille Morse	5
MARY A. GREY	154*	WRITE IN Other	15
WRITE IN Other	2	BLANK	205
BLANK	104	TOTAL	225
TOTAL	450		

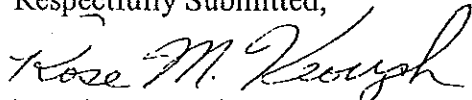
For Delinquent Tax Collector, for 1 year	
KATHLEEN MORSE	173*
WRITE IN Other	4
BLANK	48
TOTAL	225

For Town Moderator, for 1 year	
WRITE IN Melanie Hogg	25*
WRITE IN Andrew McKeever	9
WRITE IN Other	4
BLANK	187
TOTAL	225

*Denotes Election to Office

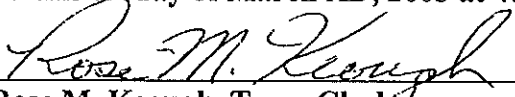
After announcing the results of balloting it was moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


 Rose M. Keough, Sunderland Town Clerk

SUNDERLAND TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Received for record this 7th day of March AD, 2003 at 4:35 PM.

ATTEST: 
 Rose M. Keough, Town Clerk