

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2004 AND MARCH 2, 2004**

Moderator Melanie Hogg called the meeting to order at 8:30 PM. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Hogg then welcomed everyone and explained the process for the meeting. Approximately 79 people were in attendance. Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan introduced the Selectboard members. John Stuermer moved to dispense with the reading of the warning, seconded by Robert Alexander. 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, Roberta Housman 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. Shirley McTernan moved to accept article two, Gloria Alexander 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. Peter Putis moved to accept article three, Steven Bendix 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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article four, Russell Housman 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. Dawn Kelley moved to accept article five, Rose Stone seconded the motion. Article five carried.

Article 6: 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. Roberta Housman moved to accept article six, Janet Wilson seconded the motion. Article six carried.

Article 7: 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. Dawn Kelley moved to accept article seven, John Stuermer seconded the motion. Article seven carried.

Article 8: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 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. Marjorie Maas moved to accept article eight, Dawn Kelley seconded the motion. Article eight carried.

Article 9: 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. Rose Stone moved to accept article nine, Linda McLenithan seconded the motion. Article nine carried.

Article 10: 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. Kathleen Yanez 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 \$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 eleven, Steven Bendix seconded the motion. Article eleven carried.

Article 12: 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 twelve, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Janet Wilson asked about the status of the Kelley Stand Bridge on Kansas Road. Richard Goddard stated that he was informed that work will begin in 2005. Article twelve carried.

Article 13: 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 thirteen, Robert Alexander seconded the motion. Robert Alexander asked where the paving would be done. Richard Goddard stated that the top coat on the North Road would be done and that the Board was talking about doing part of Sunderland Hill Road and Lathrop Lane. Michael Perra asked if the amount could be increased. Richard Goddard stated that the money would do about one mile of road. Article thirteen carried.

Article 14: 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 fourteen, Roberta Housman seconded the motion. Richard Ashley noted that some guardrails on Sunderland Hill Road were smashed. Richard Goddard stated that six to eight thousand dollars are needed to do the work and with this \$2,000.00 the fund would only be \$4,000.00. Article fourteen carried.

Article 15: 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. John Stuermer moved to accept article fifteen, Peter Putis seconded the motion. Richard Ashley asked how much money is in the building fund. Philip Bahan stated approximately \$118,000.00. Robert Waibel stated that he attended the Selectboard meeting that addressed the office building and felt that the board did a great job. He asked how we could justify the expense when it is already difficult for people to pay their taxes. Stuart Hill stated that there is no protection for the records and a fireproof space is needed. Article fifteen carried.

Article 16: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$8,305.00 to defray the expenses of the new municipal office building, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Peter Putis moved to accept article sixteen, John Stuermer seconded the motion. Richard Ashley asked what the money was for. Philip Bahan stated that it would cover operating expenses and interest on the bond. Article sixteen failed by a vote of 29 in favor and 38 opposed.

Article 17: To see if the Town will exempt 4-H Camp Ondawa, Inc. from taxation for three years (to begin with 2004-2005 fiscal year). Dawn Kelley moved to accept article seventeen, Ellen Jennings seconded the motion. Kathleen Morse asked about the status of statutory exemption. Members from 4-H Camp Ondawa stated that they were not pursuing it. Weiland Ross asked how the property is assessed. Peter VanVleck said it is assessed in the same fashion as homes and land. Weiland Ross stated that there is timber cutting being done and how does that affect the assessment. Dawn Kelley asked if the logging is providing and income. Members from 4-H Ondawa Camp stated that yes it does provide income. Roberta Housman asked how many children were involved and it was stated that around 200 or 64 per week. Article seventeen carried.

At 9:00 PM Representative Larry Molloy arrived and Moderator Hogg recessed the meeting to allow Representative Molloy the opportunity to speak with Sunderland residents.

At 9:10 PM Moderator Hogg called the meeting back to order.

Article 18: To transact any non-binding business.

Richard Ashley asked about the increase of the Grand List. Peter VanVleck explained that land values and square footage calculations have not been changed since 1991. Patrick Monroe asked for the percentage of the common level of appraisal. Peter VanVleck stated that Sunderland is at 95%. Janet Wilson asked how she could check to make sure the tax department received her declaration of Vermont homestead form. She was informed that the number to call is on the Vermont tax booklet or she could check the web site. Andrew Holzman asked for the annual cost of the proposed municipal office building. Philip Bahan stated it would be \$26,000.00 annually. The board discussed square footage cost and the design of the proposed municipal office building, noting that there would be a full basement. Hap Eliason stated that there is not much cost difference between a partial and full basement. Philip Bahan stated that the cost would add about three cents on the tax rate. Dawn Kelley stated that the design is extravagant for this town and asked if the Board would investigate a more reasonable size building. Philip Bahan stated that they would if that is what the town wanted them to do. He noted that this has been a lot of work and very educational. He stated that this is not out of line and there are not a lot of frills. Weiland Ross stated that putting this off is a bad move. Philip Bahan noted that the interest rate is 3.71% on average for a twenty year mortgage with the Municipal Bond Bank. Richard Ashley stated that the town is currently using 500 square feet why do we need such a big place. Mary Grey stated that the community has put aside \$10,000.00 each year and mandated last year that the Board do this. Steven Bendix stated that last year there were pictures of Windham, how did we progress to this.

Peter Putis moved to adjourn at 9:40 PM, seconded by Frederick Maas.

Moderator Hogg adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM until 10:00 AM Tuesday March 2, 2004.

The ballot boxes were declared open, on March 2, 2004, at 10:00 AM by Town Clerk, Rose Keough, and declared closed at 7:00 PM.

The results follow:

Article 19: Shall the Town of Sunderland borrow (bond or commercial loan) an amount not to exceed the sum of \$215,000.00, to be used for the purpose of constructing a municipal office building. (The monies would be added to the Municipal Office Building Sinking Fund.)

YES	85	NO	195	BLANK	5
		TOTAL		285	

Article 20: To see if the Town will adopt the interim telecommunications Facility Zoning Bylaw Section 11.00 as a permanent bylaw of the Town of Sunderland.

YES	173	NO	85	BLANK	27
		TOTAL		285	

Article 21: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$6,625.00 to defray the expenses of the Cemetery Maintenance Fund.

YES	229	NO	48	BLANK	7	SPOILED	1
		TOTAL		285			

Article 22: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$106,925.00 to defray the General Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$120,395.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$13,470.00; Taxes estimated at \$106,925.00)

YES	214	NO	59	BLANK	11	SPOILED	1
		TOTAL		285			

Article 23: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$110,340.00 to defray the Highway expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$215,240.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$104,900.00; Taxes estimated at \$110,340.00)

YES	211	NO	66	BLANK	8
TOTAL		285			

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

For Auditor, for 2 years		For Auditor, for 3 years	
WRITE IN Fred Maas	8	WRITE IN Fred Maas	13*
WRITE IN Other	11	WRITE IN Other	9
BLANK	266	BLANK	263
TOTAL	285	TOTAL	285

For Cemetery Commissioner, for 3 years		For Cemetery Commissioner, for 2 years	
JAMES ENNIS	230*	LESTER HARTMAN	221*
WRITE IN Other	3	WRITE IN Other	2
BLANK	51	BLANK	62
SPOILED	1	TOTAL	285
TOTAL	285		

For Delinquent Tax Collector, for 1 year		For First Constable, for 1 year	
KATHLEEN C. MORSE	172*	WRITE IN Jesse Stone	24*
GARY WELLER	92	WRITE IN Dawn Kelley	7
BLANK	19	WRITE IN Other	22
SPOILED	2	BLANK	231
TOTAL	285	SPOILED	1
		TOTAL	285

For Second Constable, for 1 year		For Lister, for 3 years	
WRITE IN Dawn Kelley	4	Peter VanVleck	4
WRITE IN Other	17	WRITE IN Other	6
BLANK	264	BLANK	274
TOTAL	285	SPOILED	1
		TOTAL	285

For Selectman, for 1 year		For Selectman, for 3 years	
RICHARD J. GODDARD, II	193*	PHILIP H. BAHAN	234*
MARY A. GREY	151*	WRITE IN Other	4
HELEN M. WELLER	111	BLANK	47
WRITE IN Other	5	TOTAL	285
BLANK	105		
SPOILED	5		
TOTAL	570		