

TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING

FEBRUARY 28, 2005 AND MARCH 1, 2005

Moderator Melanie Hogg called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and requested that Town Clerk Rose Keough lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Hogg then introduced Shirley Letiecq who spoke about her book in progress "Voices of Sunderland". Moderator Hogg then went over the procedures for the floor meeting with approximately 63 people in attendance.

Selectboard Chairperson Mary Grey introduced the Board Members present, Diane King, Philip Bahan and Richard Goddard. Chairperson Mary Grey then presented a plaque in recognition of Ted Lenczowski for his service to the Town as Zoning Administrator for the past eleven years.

Weiland Ross moved to dispense with the reading of the warning and John Stuermer seconded the motion. The motion 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, seconded by Frederick Maas. Janet Wilson asked what the comment about the Kelley Stand Road in the Selectperson's report meant and Chairperson Mary Grey stated that a good job was done. 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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article two, seconded by Peter Putis. Andrew Wolgemuth asked about the increase in the payroll line item. Diane King stated that the biggest increase is due to the Zoning Administrator rate of pay and number of expected hours. Janet Wilson asked how many hours the Zoning Administrator would be working and Richard Goddard stated that it would be up to twenty hours per week at the most. Joseph Boutin questioned the pay increase for the road foreman. He stated that according to last years report the hourly figure was \$15.28 per hour and this report shows \$18.21 per hour which is a huge increase. Town Clerk/Treasurer Rose Keough stated that she had made a typographical error and calculated that the hourly rate should read \$15.59 per hour. Rose Keough also noted that other increases had been made including a raise in her salary. 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, seconded by Carl Graves. 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. Russell Housman moved to accept article four, seconded by John Stuermer. 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 of each installment as provided by T32 VSA Sec. 5136 as amended. Frederick Maas moved to accept article five, seconded by Richard Ashley. 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 to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Janet Wilson moved to accept article six, seconded by Marjorie Maas. Article six carried.

Article 7. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$3,100.00 to be used for general operating expenses for the Arlington Recreational and Park Committee, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Gloria Alexander moved to accept article seven, seconded by Dianna Ingison. Article seven carried.

Article 8. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$12,000.00 to help defray the expenses of the Arlington Rescue Squad, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Sally Ayrey moved to accept article eight, seconded by Philip Letiecq. Article eight carried.

Article 9. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to help defray the expenses of the Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Marjorie Maas moved to accept article nine, seconded by Sally Ayrey. Article nine carried.

Article 10. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to help defray the expenses of the Burdett Commons, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Karin Nicholson moved to accept article ten, seconded by Darri Cepela-Beach. Article ten carried.

Article 11. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Highway Equipment Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Sally Ayrey moved to accept article eleven, Peter Putis seconded the motion. John Stuermer asked what the money would be used for and Richard Goddard explained that the sinking fund is used for all town highway equipment. Richard Goddard also noted that normally \$20,000.00 is requested however for the next couple of years \$30,000.00 is needed in order to replenish the fund and then they expect to go back to the \$20,000.00 request. Article eleven carried.

Article 12. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the State/Town Bridge Co-Op Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Rose Stone moved to accept article twelve, Janet Wilson seconded the motion. 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. Richard Ashley moved to accept article thirteen, Robert Alexander seconded the motion. 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, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Ward Wilson moved to accept article fourteen, Peter Putis seconded the motion. 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, Shirley Letiecq seconded the motion. Richard Ashley asked if this topic is ever going to end and Philip Bahan stated that he hoped that it would someday. Philip Bahan also stated that he would like more input from the Town. Philip Letiecq asked if there were any alternatives to put on the table compared to last years. Philip Bahan stated that there has been some talk about a pre-fab building. Philip Letiecq asked about using part of the school, people need more choices than constructing a new building. Richard Goddard stated that the town has the land so we could build or rent. Philip Bahan noted that there is a lot involved in order to do anything. Richard Ashley stated that we keep seeing the student population decreasing so why not use part of the school building. Donald Fisher stated that after last years vote of more than two to one it should be a dead issue. Donald Fisher also stated that he has not heard any out cries for change. Philip Bahan stated that Donald Fisher had a good point and that the existing office has been enlarged and seems adequate for now. Carl Graves suggested that the Town should look for grants. Frederick Maas stated that the Town needs to face reality because Rose Keough is not going to be Town Clerk forever and something has to be done. Carl Graves stated that the longer it is postponed the more costly it will be. Robert Alexander stated that he agrees with Richard Ashley and the Board should look into using or renting the school. John Stuermer asked for a show of hands. Article fifteen carried. 26 yes 24 no

Article 16. To see if the Town will raise the amount of the veteran's exemption to \$20,000.00, as authorized by Title 32 V.S.A Sec. 3802 (11). Weiland Ross moved to accept article sixteen, Michael DiMonda seconded the motion. Sally Ayrey asked what the exemption would be on and Rose Keough explained that it would deduct \$20,000.00 from the assessed value on the qualifying property instead of the current \$10,000.00. Michael DiMonda explained that the only Veterans eligible would be those that are 50% or more disabled.

Article 17. To transact any other non-binding business.

Marilyn Couture moved to have the Selectboard look into using the school building as a town office building, Shirley Letiecq seconded the motion. Andrew Wolgemuth stated that he would like to see community members added to a committee. Shirley Letiecq asked if the Board could make up a committee. Philip Bahan stated a committee had been started with Diane King as the lead person which included the entire Board and no one has given up on the building. Andrew Wolgemuth stated that all opportunities needed to be looked at. The motion failed.

Dianna Ingison moved to have the Selectboard and community members research all possibilities including the school for an office building, Carl Graves seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Michael DiMonda stated that he had presented two articles to the Selectboard and for legal reasons they could not be presented to the voters as a binding transaction. Michael DiMonda moved that the voters of Sunderland support a bill in legislation to exempt any resident Guard or Reserve Military personnel serving overseas during the present conflict, Operation Enduring Freedom, from taxation, James Ayrey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Michael DiMonda moved to support a bill in legislation to issue \$25.00 per month, not to exceed \$300.00, to any non-property owner resident serving overseas as Military personnel during the present conflict, Operation Enduring Freedom, Marie Litowinsky seconded the motion. John Stuermer ask what was meant by non-property and Michael DiMonda stated that it would mean renters. The motion failed.

John Stuermer moved to recess at 8:25 PM., seconded by Shirley Letiecq. The motion carried.

Moderator Hogg stated that the polls will be open at 10:00 AM on March 1st in order to vote on articles eighteen through twenty-one.

The ballot boxes were declared open, on March 1, 2005, at 10:00 AM by Town Clerk, Rose Keough and declared closed at 7:00 PM. The results follow:

Article 18. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$ 8,000.00 to defray the expenses of the Cemetery Maintenance Fund.

YES	152	NO	29	BLANK	0	SPOILED	1	TOTAL	182
-----	-----	----	----	-------	---	---------	---	-------	-----

Article 19. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$ 127,675.00 to defray the General Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$ 139,595.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$ 11,920.00; Taxes estimated at \$ 127,675.00).

YES	143	NO	37	BLANK	1	SPOILED	1	TOTAL	182
-----	-----	----	----	-------	---	---------	---	-------	-----

Article 20. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$119,495.00 to defray the Highway Expenses of the Town. (Budget amount of \$ 228,640.00; Anticipated income estimated at \$ 109,145.00; Taxes estimated at \$ 119,495.00).

YES	145	NO	35	BLANK	1	SPOILED	1	TOTAL	182
-----	-----	----	----	-------	---	---------	---	-------	-----

Article 21. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

Auditor, for 1 year:

Write in Richard Ashley-----4
 Write in Fred Maas-----4
 Write in Others-----5
 Blank-----1 69
 Spoiled-----0
 Total-----1 82

Auditor, for 3 years:

Write in Richard Ashley-----15*
 Write in Bob Montgomery-----4
 Write in Others-----5
 Blank-----1 58
 Spoiled-----0
 Total-----1 82

Cemetery Commissioner, for 3 years

Write in James Ennis-----5
 Write in Lucille Morse-----5
 Write in Others-----8
 Blank-----1 64
 Spoiled-----0
 Total-----1 82

Delinquent Tax Collector, for 1 year

KATHLEEN C. MORSE-----155*
 Write in Rose Stone-----1
 Write in Others-----0
 Blank-----26
 Spoiled-----0
 Total-----182

First Constable, for 1 year

JESSE STONE-----1 47*
 Write in D.Kelley-----1
 Write in Others-----0
 Blank-----3 4
 Spoiled-----0
 Total-----1 82

Second Constable, for 1 year

D. KELLEY-----133*
 Write in Rick Goddard-----1
 Write in Others-----0
 Blank-----48
 Spoiled-----0
 Total-----182

Lister, for 2 years

RUSS C. VAN VLECK-----1 54*
 Write in Others-----1
 Blank-----2 6
 Spoiled-----1
 Total-----1 82

Lister, for 3 years

Write in Robert Montgomery-----45*
 Write in Others-----5
 Blank-----132
 Spoiled-----0
 Total-----182

Selectman, for 1 year (vote for 2)

MARY A. GREY-----1 27*
 GARY WELLER-----1 12*
 Write in Others-----2 7
 Blank-----9 6
 Spoiled-----2
 Total-----3 64

Selectman, for 3 years

DIANE KING-----123*
 Write in Others-----8
 Blank-----50
 Spoiled-----1
 Total-----182

Town Agent, for 1 year

Write in Peter Van Vleck-----2
 Write in Others-----3
 Blank-----1 76
 Spoiled-----1
 Total-----1 82

Town Grand Juror, for 1 year

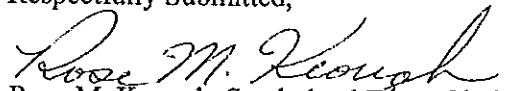
Write in Mike DiMonda-----2
 Write in Others-----5
 Blank-----175
 Spoiled-----0
 Total-----182

Town Moderator, for 1 year

Write in Melanie Hogg-----2 3*
 Write in Andrew McKeever-----2
 Write in Others-----6
 Blank-----14 9
 Spoiled-----2
 Total-----1 82

The meeting was adjourned after announcing the results.

Respectfully Submitted,


 Rose M. Keough, Sunderland Town Clerk

*Denotes elected