

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND  
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

**MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 2007**

The meeting was called to order by Sally Ayrey, Moderator at 7:30 PM. With approximately 70 people in attendance

Town Clerk Rose Keough led the pledge of allegiance.

Moderator Sally Ayrey reviewed the procedures for the meeting.

Rose Stone moved to dispense with the reading of the warning, seconded by Philip Letiecq.

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. The motion carried

Article 2. To see what compensation will be paid the various Town Officers and to authorize the Selectboard to establish the salaries, wages and other compensation of the employees and other officers of the Town. Philip Letiecq moved to accept article two, seconded by Russell Housman. The motion 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. Patrick Monroe moved to accept article three, seconded by Kimble Knapp. The motion carried.

Article 4. To see if the Town will pay it's 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, Betty Ross seconded the motion. The motion 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. Philip Ehert moved to accept article five, Rose Stone seconded the motion. The motion 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. Ward Wilson moved to accept article six, Judith Cotter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Article 7. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$3,355.00 to be used for the 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. Marjorie Maas moved to accept article seven, seconded by Janet Wilson. The motion carried.

Article 8. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 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. Russell Housman moved to accept article eight, seconded by Betty Ross. Philip Letiecq asked for the amount requested last year and Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan noted that \$13,000.00 was requested and approved. The motion carried.

Article 9. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$5,300.00 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. Judith Cotter moved to accept article nine, seconded by Shirley Letiecq. Richard Goddard, II asked why the increase from last year and Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan referred to page 78 of Town Report and stated that representatives from the library came before the Selectboard. Philip Letiecq stated that he feels the money is justified. The motion carried.

Article 10. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1,250.00 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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article ten, seconded by Patrick Monroe. The motion carried.

Article 11. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 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, seconded by Philip Ehret. The motion carried.

Article 12. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 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. Philip Ehret moved to accept article twelve, Frederick Maas seconded the motion. Philip Letiecq asked for updated information. Selectperson Gary Weller stated that the funds need to keep going because of the number of bridges the town has and this will help the town qualify for state funding. Joseph Boutin asked what the balance is currently in the fund and Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan stated about \$85,000.00. He also noted that the money will be used on bridge #14. The motion carried.

Article 13. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be added to the Paving Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Philip Ehret moved to accept article thirteen, Patrick Monroe seconded the motion. Michael Perra asked what the amount requested last year was and why the decrease. Selectperson Gary Weller stated that \$40,000.00 was requested last year and the board decided to allocate the money to other areas. The motion carried.

Article 14. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 to be added to the Guard Rail Sinking Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Robert Alexander moved to accept article fourteen, seconded by Sally Stone. The motion 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. Roberta Housman moved to accept article fifteen, seconded by Russell Housman. Robert Waibel asked for an update on the plans. Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan stated that there is \$152,755.00 in the fund. Robert Waibel asked about the cost for upkeep and Selectperson John Stuermer stated that the current rent money would be used. Robert Waibel asked if the town has voted on the building and stated that he is not sold on the idea and would hope that there would be a special meeting on the topic. Shirley Letiecq stated that we need a town hall. The motion carried.

Article 16. To see if the Town will raise the amount of the veteran's exemption to \$40,000.00, as authorized by T32 V.S.A. Sec 3802 (11). Weiland Ross moved to accept article sixteen, seconded by Russell Housman. Patrick Monroe asked what the article means. Michael DiMonda explained that it would cost approximately \$2.50 per hundred thousand assessed value. Town Clerk Rose Keough explained that qualifying veterans are by law allowed a \$10,000.00 reduction on the assessment of their home. This article would extend that reduction to \$40,000.00. The taxpayers of Sunderland would then pay the school tax portion on the additional \$30,000.00 for each qualifying veteran. The motion carried.

Article 17. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 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. Patrick Monroe moved to accept article seventeen, seconded by Edward Toth. Joseph Boutin asked what is the difference between article fifteen and seventeen. It was explained that article fifteen is for the fund to build the office and this article is for operating expenses if an office is built. Richard Goddard, II noted that there is \$20,000.00 plus in the office equipment fund. Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan stated that money will be used after the office is built. Maureen Richman asked why this article is needed in addition to article fifteen. Selectperson John Stuermer explained that this article for \$5,000.00 would be used for everyday expenses such as the electric bill and the \$10,000.00 would be used for the construction. Moderator Sally Ayrey requested a hand vote after the voice vote in order to be clear on the results. 33 yes votes and 26 no votes. The motion carried.

Article 18. To transact any other non-binding business. Patrick Monroe moved to accept article eighteen, seconded by Martin Arons.

Tulianna Garces stated that she is a new citizen and acknowledged that it is a privilege to be able to speak and act in the public process. She then presented the following resolution:

**IMPEACHMENT RESOLUTION**

Whereas George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney have:

1. deliberately misled the nation about the threat from Iraq in order to justify a war,
2. condoned the torture of prisoners in violation of the Geneva Convention and US law,
3. approved illegal electronic surveillance of American citizens without a warrant, and

Whereas these actions have undermined our Constitutional system of government, damaged the reputation of America, and threatened our national security,

Therefore, the voters of the town of Sunderland, Vermont call upon the U.S. House of Representatives to investigate these charges, vote to impeach George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney as provided in the Constitution of the United States of America. This resolution shall be signed by the Town Clerk and forwarded to both the Speaker and the Clerk of the US House of Representatives, and Representative John Conyers of the House Judiciary Committee.

Frederick Maas stated that if you impeach Bush then Cheney would be president. Philip Letiecq asked if there is any evidence. Tulianna Garces stated she has been talking to people and they are in favor of this resolution with not many opposed. Maureen Richman moved to accept the resolution, seconded by Patricia Toth. Patrick Monroe asked to have the vote. The motion carried.

Robert Waibel stressed that the selectboard needs to call a special meeting to discuss the town office building with more information available. Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan stated that Selectpersons Gary Weller and John Stuermer have done the legwork.

Patrick Monroe asked about the delinquent taxes and what is being done to reduce the dollar amount. Town Clerk Rose Keough noted that would be for the Delinquent Tax Collector Kathleen Morse to discuss.

With no other business to discuss Moderator Sally Ayrey adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM until Tuesday March 6, 2007 when the polls will open at 10:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

The ballot boxes were declared open, on March 6, 2007, 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 \$11,000.00 to defray the expenses of the Cemetery Maintenance Fund. (Budget amount \$11,000.00)

YES 171 NO 32 BLANK 4 SPOILED 0  
TOTAL 207

Article 20. To see if the Town will approve the General Fund Budget of \$155,845.00. (Anticipated income estimated at \$16,145.00; Taxes estimated at \$139,700.00)

YES 170 NO 34 BLANK 3 SPOILED 0  
TOTAL 207

Article 21. To see if the Town will approve the Highway Fund Budget of \$260,600.00. (Anticipated income estimated at \$117,320; Taxes estimated at \$143,280.00)

YES 168 NO 37 BLANK 2 SPOILED 0  
TOTAL 207

Article 22. Shall the Town of Sunderland borrow (bond or commercial loan) an amount not to exceed the sum of \$185,000.00 to be used for the purpose of constructing a municipal office building. (The monies would be added to the Municipal Office Building Fund.)

YES 87 NO 118 BLANK 2 SPOILED 0  
TOTAL 207

Article 23. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

Auditor, for 3 years		Auditor, for 2 years of 3 year term	
Write in – Fred Maas	10*	Write in – Others	11
Write in – Others	9	Blank	195
Blank	187	Spoiled	1
Spoiled	1	Total	207
Total	207		
For Cemetery Commissioner, for 3 years		For Delinquent Tax Collector, for 1 year	
Write in – James Ennis	7*	KATHLEEN C. MORSE	159*
Write in – Others	13	Write in – Others	4
Blank	185	Blank	43
Spoiled	2	Spoiled	1
Total	207	Total	207
For First Constable, for 1 year		For Second Constable, for 1 year	
JESSE STONE	157*	RENEE TOBIN	146*
Write in – Others	7	Write in – Others	6
Blank	42	Blank	54
Spoiled	1	Spoiled	1
Total	207	Total	207
For Lister, for 3 years		For Selectman, for 3 years	
RUSS C. VAN VLECK	180*	PHILIP H. BAHAN	174*
Write in – Others	3	Write in – Others	3
Blank	23	Blank	29
Spoiled	1	Spoiled	1
Total	207	Total	207
For Selectman, for 1 year (Vote for two)		For Town Agent, for 1 year	
JOHN STUERMER	151*	Write in – Others	13
GARY WELLER	140*	Blank	193
Write in – Others	3	Spoiled	1
Blank	118	Total	207
Spoiled	2		
Total	414		
For Town Grand Juror, for 1 year		For Town Clerk, for 3 years	
Write in – Others	12	ROSE M. KEOUGH	193*
Blank	194	Write in – Others	1
Spoiled	1	Blank	13
Total	207	Total	207
For Town Moderator, for 1 year		For Town Treasurer, for 3 years	
SALLY AYREY	168*	ROSE M. KEOUGH	194*
Blank	38	Write in – Others	1
Spoiled	1	Blank	12
Total	207	Total	207

The meeting was adjourned after announcing the results. (\*denotes elected)

Respectfully submitted,

Rose M. Keough, Sunderland Town Clerk