

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND  
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

**MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Sally Ayrey at 9:45 PM. With approximately 70 people in attendance

Moderator Ayrey reviewed the procedures for the meeting.

Selectboard Chairman Philip Bahan introduced attending Board Members Dorothy Conklin and John Stuermer.

Moderator Ayrey stated that the Warning for this meeting is on page 6 of the Town Report. With no objection the reading of the Warning was dispensed with.

Article 1. To see if the Town will approve the reports of the Town Officers as presented in the Annual Report. Edward Toth moved to accept article one, seconded by Russell Housman. 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. Weiland Ross moved to accept article two, seconded by Martin Arons. The motion carried.

Article 3. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of taxes, such sum or sums of money as may be necessary to properly finance the affairs of the Town. Russell Housman moved to accept article three, seconded by Edward Toth. The motion carried.

Article 4. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds such as grants and gifts. Richard Ashley moved to accept article four, seconded by Rose Stone. The motion carried.

Article 5. 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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article five, Barbara Goddard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Article 6. 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. Marilyn Couture moved to accept article six, Anna Ennis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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 to the General Fund Budget by this amount. Ward Wilson moved to accept article seven, Carl Graves seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Article 8. 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. Harriet Welther moved to accept article eight seconded by Patricia Toth. The motion carried.

Article 9. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$11,000.00 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. Michael Welther moved to accept article nine, seconded by Martin Arons. Carl Graves stated that that was not much money and asked what was requested. Chairman Bahan stated that \$11,000.00 was the amount requested. The motion carried.

Article 10. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$5,304.00 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. Russell Housman moved to accept article ten, seconded by Harriet Welther. The motion carried.

Article 11. 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. Joan Bort moved to accept article eleven, seconded by Janet Wilson. The motion carried.

Article 12. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Highway Equipment Sinking Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Kay Kwasniewski moved to accept article twelve, seconded by Weiland Ross. Richard Goddard inquired about the equipment purchase reserve line item and what was the board planning on purchasing. Chairman Bahan stated that the town grader is an issue. Richard Goddard stated a grader will cost \$250,000. plus and the Board may want to look into subcontracting instead of purchasing. The motion carried.

Article 13. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be added to the State/Town Bridge Co-Op Sinking Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Weiland Ross moved to accept article thirteen, Michael Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Article 14. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be added to the Paving Sinking Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount. Kay Kwasniewski moved to accept article fourteen, Ellen Adler seconded the motion. Shirley Letiecq stated that there is a big improvement on the North Road. Martin Arons stated the south side of the Chiselville Bridge looks like it is sliding. Road Foreman James Ennis explained that work is scheduled to correct the problem. The motion carried.

Article 15. 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. Leslie Perra moved to accept article fifteen, seconded by Edward Toth. The motion 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. Janet Wilson moved to accept article sixteen, seconded by Gloria Alexander. Donald Fisher stated that we are not voting on a building this year and we keep putting \$10,000 each year in the fund. Chairman Bahan stated that the Board has not had any discussion this past year on a building. Roberta Housman stated that we do not own a building and we will have to build someday. Carl Graves stated that we should continue to put money aside for a future building. Donald Fisher noted that \$10,000 is not enough money. The motion carried.

Article 17. To see if the Town will exempt 4-H Camp Ondawa, Inc. from taxation for three years. (to begin with 2008-2009 fiscal year). Albert Bowen moved to accept article seventeen, seconded by Marilyn Couture. Edward Toth asked why the request is now. Albert Bowen explained that he has applied for Statuary exemption and the listers approval is needed. The motion carried.

Article 18. To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution:

Town of Sunderland  
Vermont Education Finance and Property Tax Reform  
Resolution

WHEREAS: Vermont's hybrid system of State- and Locally-controlled education finance is not working, proven by the complicated and expensive changes enacted almost yearly into law;

WHEREAS: Each year more State control of the education system is either enacted into law or discussed under the guise of controlling costs, hoping to make the system work better or making it less complex, and this process will continue each year under our current education funding law, without ever producing any meaningful reform;

WHEREAS: The complexity of Act 60/68 and the associated lack of clear accountability are the ultimate drivers behind the explosive growth in the education costs;

RESOLVED: The Administration, Legislature and Vermonters should identify and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of breaking from Act 60/68 and moving in one of two different directions:

1. A public education system that is governed, managed, and primarily financed locally, or;
2. A public education system that is governed, managed, and financed by the State;

BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED: There needs to be public discussion and a meaningful debate with the goal of moving to one model or the other while maintaining our commitment to a substantially equal education opportunity for all Vermont students.

Resolution adopted on March 3, 2008 by the Town of Sunderland.

Edward Toth moved to accept article eighteen, seconded by Ellen Adler. The motion carried.

Article 19. To transact any other non-binding business. Michael Hall stated that article two concerning compensation really needs to be have pay scales adjusted up.

With no other business to discuss Moderator Ayrey adjourned the meeting at 10:30 PM until Tuesday March 4, 2008 when the polls will open at 10:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

The ballot boxes were declared open, on March 4, 2008, at 10:00 AM by Town Clerk Rose Keough and declared closed at 7:00 PM. The results follow:

Article 20. To see if the Town will approve the sum of \$12,455.00 to defray the expenses of the Cemetery Maintenance Fund. (Budget amount \$12,455.00)

YES 275    NO 68    BLANK 9    SPOILED 0  
TOTAL 352

Article 21. To see if the Town will approve the General Fund Budget of \$187,950.00. (Anticipated income estimated at \$17,067.00; Taxes estimated at \$170,883.00)

YES 267    NO 75    BLANK 10    SPOILED 0  
TOTAL 352

Article 22. To see if the Town will approve the Highway Fund Budget of \$270,550.00. (Anticipated income estimated at \$117,668.00; Taxes estimated at \$152,882.00)

YES 269    NO 75    BLANK 8    SPOILED 0  
TOTAL 352

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	
Russell F. Housman	261*	Richard K. Ashley	267*
Write In – Others	5	Write In – Others	2
Blank	86	Blank	83
Spoiled	0	Spoiled	0
Total	352	Total	352

Auditor, for 1 year of 3 year term	
Write In - John Cullinan	1
Write In – Kay Sinay	1
Write In – Others	8
Blank	336
Spoiled	6
Total	352

Cemetery Commissioner, for 3 years	
Write In – Lucille Morse	8*
Write In – Ralph Morse	1
Write in – Others	15
Blank	325
Spoiled	3
Total	352

Delinquent Tax Collector, for 1 year	
Kathleen C. Morse	278*
Write In – Kelly Dickie	7
Write In – Others	6
Blank	60
Spoiled	1
Total	352

First Constable, for 1 year	
Jesse Stone	268*
Write In – Others	4
Blank	76
Spoiled	4
Total	352

Second Constable, for 1 year	
Renee Tobin	245*
Write In – Others	0
Blank	107
Spoiled	0
Total	352

Lister, for 3 years	
Robert L. Montgomery	275*
Write In – Others	1
Blank	75
Spoiled	1
Total	352

Selectman, for 3 years	
John Stuermer	184*
Gary Weller	103
Write In – Ellen Adler	8
Write In – Others	3
Blank	44
Spoiled	10
Total	352

Selectman, for 1 year (vote for two)	
James Ennis	172*
Weiland A. Ross	131*
Edward Toth	129
Write In – Ellen Adler	93
Write In – Others	6
Blank	169
Spoiled	4
Total	704

Town Agent, for 1 year	
Peter VanVleck	290*
Write In – Other	1
Blank	59
Spoiled	2
Total	352

Town Grand Juror, for 1 year	
Write In – Peter VanVleck	2
Write In – Others	12
Blank	336
Spoiled	2
Total	352

Town Moderator, for 1 year	
Sally Ayrey	285*
Write In	0
Blank	67
Spoiled	0
Total	352

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rose M. Keough, Sunderland Town Clerk