

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

MARCH 5, 2012 & MARCH 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Sally Ayrey at 8:17 PM. With approximately 60 people in attendance.

Moderator Sally Ayrey asked Selectboard Chairman Steven Bendix to introduce the other members of the Board, Joseph Boutin, Mark Hyde, David Kiernan and Bruce Whitaker.

Hearing no objections Moderator Sally Ayrey waived the reading of the warning which is on page seven of the Town Report.

Article 1. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to establish the salaries, wages and other compensation of the employees and other officers of the Town?

Hearing no objections article one is approved.

Article 2. Shall the Town 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?

Hearing no objections article two is approved.

Article 3. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 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?

Hearing no objections article three is approved.

Article 4. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 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?

Moderator Sally Ayrey noted that this is a \$5000.00 increase over last year.

Ward Wilson moved to approve article four, seconded by Weiland Ross.

Richard Goddard asked why the increase to \$25,000.00. It was stated that each person with insurance is required to pay \$1,000.00.

Moderator Sally Ayrey noted that the letter from the Arlington Rescue Squad is on page 65 of the Town Report.

Roy Johnson asked if the Town has any other options such as service from Manchester.

Carl Graves stated that Manchester takes more time.

Article four is approved.

Article 5. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to help defray the expenses of Burdett Commons, Inc., and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount?

Hearing no objections article five is approved.

Article 6. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$6,360.00 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?

Rose Keough noted that last year's request was \$5,300.00.

Janet Wilson moved article six, seconded by Harriet Welther.

Article six is approved.

Article 7. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$4,500.00 to be used for the general operating expenses for the Recreation Park in Arlington, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount?

Moderator Sally Ayrey noted that the request last year was \$3,525.00.

Marjorie Maas moved to approve article seven, seconded by Diane King

Dineen Squillante asked if the Town of Arlington is taking over the Recreation Park.
Rose Keough stated that the request came from the Town of Arlington.
Janet Wilson stated that she did not see that as a problem as long as the Park remained accessible for no personal money.
Joseph Boutin stated that as things stand now there will be no charge for anyone. The running of the Park is out of the Town of Arlington budget.
Article seven is approved.

Article 8. Shall the Town approve the sum of \$40,000.00 to be added to the Equipment Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?
Richard Goddard moved to approve article eight, seconded by Carl Graves.
Richard Goddard stated that all the sinking funds are being referred to as reserve funds and what is needed for equipment.
Rose Keough explained that sinking funds are defined as funds to pay off money owed and reserve funds are defined as funds being saved.
Joseph Boutin explained that the piece of equipment needed is a backhoe and that cost is \$225,000.00.
James Ennis stated that he had figures of \$150,000.00 and that \$225,000.00 is a big difference. That is a lot of money.
Jeremy Crumb asked if \$225,000.00 is the purchase price.
Joseph Boutin stated that the original price was \$219,000.00.
Mark Hyde stated that once the lease is finished the Town will own the equipment.
Rick Sargent asked how much was requested before last year and if it was the same amount as this year.
Rose Keough stated she was unsure.
Article eight is approved.

Article 9. Shall the Town approve the sum of \$1,500.00 to be added to the Guard Rail Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?
Hearing no objections article nine is approved.

Article 10. Shall the Town approve the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?
Michael Perra moved to approve article ten, seconded by Carl Graves.
Richard Goddard asked if "Irene" was taken under consideration.
Robert Alexander asked if there were plans for certain roads.
Joseph Boutin stated that he was putting together a list for a five year plan. The priorities, with "Irene" under consideration, are Sunderland Hill, North Road, South Road, around the CVPS access.
Carl Graves asked if the Town owned a paving machine.
Joseph Boutin stated that the does not and paving was contracted by putting it out to bid.
Article ten is approved.

Article 11. Shall the Town approve the sum of \$15,000.00 to establish a Road Projects Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?
Carl Graves moved to approve article eleven, seconded by Michael Perra.
Joseph Boutin explained that in order to activate a five year plan the money was necessary.
Richard Goddard stated that it should be spread out in line items of the budget.
Mark Hyde stated that the \$15,000.00 was a drop in the bucket considering a quote to remove trees on Bacon Hollow Road was \$68,000.00. Harriet Welther felt that it seemed prudent to set aside money.
Article eleven is approved.

Article 12. Shall the Town approve the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the State/Town Bridge Co-Op Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?
Hearing no objections article twelve is approved.

Article 13. Shall the Selectboard be required to have voter approval on the design of any Municipal Building prior to Construction?
Roy Johnson moved to approve article thirteen, seconded by Jeremy Crumb.

Hearing no objection article thirteen is approved.

Article 14. Shall the Town approve the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Municipal Office Building Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the General Fund Budget by this amount?

Carl Graves moved to approve article fourteen, seconded by Roy Johnson.

Moderator Sally Ayrey recognized John Williams, Building Committee Chairman. .

John Williams reviewed the work of the committee and the needs of the Town. A \$10,000.00 grant was awarded to the project from DuBois and King. The funding has been very helpful in identifying the space requirements and the wetland issues on part of the town property. Richard Goddard asked about the replacement design for the septic system. John Williams explained that a replacement system design is no longer required. Weiland Ross asked about the road and what if the developer of the lots adjacent to the town property did not develop that area. John Williams stated that the Town should know more when it comes time to build and that would have to be addressed at that time. Marie Litowinsky thanked John Williams for explaining the project in a manner that could be understood. Joseph Boutin stated that an architect will cost money and it will be the decision of the Selectboard to authorize approval for any expense. The approval of this article would be the consensus of the Town to go ahead with the project. Steven Bendix, on behalf of the Selectboard thanked John Williams and the committee for the work they have done and the service they have given to the Town.

Article fourteen is approved.

Article 15. To transact any other non-binding business.

Moderator Sally Ayrey explained that this is the time for any questions about the articles we will be voting on tomorrow.

Mark Hyde announced that the Sunderland website is active and it is a good place to look for Town information and announcements. Minutes of all meetings of Town Boards are posted on the website. The website is: sunderlandvt.org. Another informational place is the Front Porch Forum and forms are available for anyone that would like more information or want to sign up as a member for free.

Tulianna Garces spoke about the Citizens United issues and how corporations now have the same rights as we the people. They have put millions of dollars into our democratic system to influence votes. There is a proposal to amend the constitution so that Citizens United would have to at least disclose how much money and who have contributed. Information about all of this can be obtained from Senator Bernie Saunders. Tulianna Garces asked everyone to look at the information and to get involved with keeping the rights to we the people.

Patricia Giuliani expressed major concern over the bank of the river by her house. The access to the river has been eliminated and the Town should fix it. David Kiernan advised Patricia Giuliani to talk to the Selectboard at one of their meetings. Joseph Boutin stated that he attended a meeting that discussed this problem and a major concern is the money that is not easy to come by. Joseph Boutin stated that the Town will be keeping on top of this issue. Richard Goddard stated that he liked the high bank of rocks.

Dineen Squillante commends the Selectboard for the work they did on the insurmountable task of Irene.

Moderator Sally Ayrey adjourned the meeting at 10:55PM until Tuesday March 6, 2012 when polls will open at 10:00AM until 7:00 PM.

The ballot boxes were declared open, on March 6, 2012, at 10:00 AM by Town Clerk Rose Keough and declared closed at 7:00 PM. The results follow:

Article 16. Shall the Town approve the sum of \$11,255.00 to defray the expenses of the Cemetery Maintenance Fund? (Budget amount \$11,255.00)

YES	175
NO	31
BLANK	8
SPOILED	0
TOTAL	214

Article 17. Shall the Town approve the General Fund Budget of \$173,345.00? (Anticipated income estimated at \$21,415.00; Taxes estimated at \$151,930.00)

YES	182
NO	28
BLANK	4
SPOILED	0
TOTAL	214

Article 18. Shall the Town approve the Highway Fund Budget of \$299,300.00? (Anticipated income estimated at \$137,950.00; Taxes estimated at \$161,350.00)

YES	172
NO	36
BLANK	6
SPOILED	0
TOTAL	214

Article 19. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by Law:

FOR AUDITOR, for 3 years

Write-in Cynthia Herrmann	10*
Write-in Others	4
Blank	199
Spoiled	1
TOTAL	214

FOR AUDITOR, for 2 years

Write-in Various	5
Blank	207
Spoiled	2
TOTAL	214

FOR AUDITOR, for 1 year

Write-in	1
Blank	212
Spoiled	1
TOTAL	214

FOR CEMETERY COMMISSIONER, for 3 years

Lucille Morse	149*
Write-in Others	5
Blank	60
TOTAL	214

FOR CEMETERY COMMISSIONER, for 2yrs

Write-in Various	21
Blank	191
Spoiled	2
TOTAL	214

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR, for 1 year

Kathleen C. Morse	167*
Write-in Others	2
Blank	45
TOTAL	214

FOR FIRST CONSTABLE, for 1 year

Jesse Stone	153*
Write-in Others	5
Blank	55
Spoiled	1
TOTAL	214

FOR SECOND CONSTABLE, for 1 year

Write-in Various	19
Blank	193
Spoiled	2
TOTAL	214

FOR LISTER, for 3 years

Peter Van Vleck	159*
Write-in Other	1
Blank	53
Spoiled	1
TOTAL	214

FOR SELECTMAN, for 3 years

Helen Weller	63
Write-in Jon French	101*
Write-in Other	5
Blank	44
Spoiled	1
TOTAL	214

FOR SELECTMAN, for 1 year	
James Ennis	130*
Mark Hyde	110*
Write-in Judy Edmunds	61*
Write-in Tom Towslee	22
Write-in Diane King	19
Write-in Others	33
Blank	265
Spoiled	2
TOTAL	642

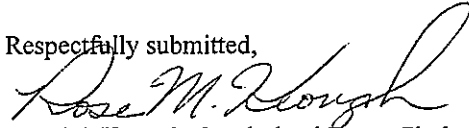
FOR TOWN AGENT, for 1 year	
Write-in Other	4
Blank	209
Spoiled	1
TOTAL	214

FOR TOWN GRAND JUROR, for 1 year	
Write-in Other	3
Blank	209
Spoiled	1
TOTAL	214

FOR TOWN MODERATOR, for 1 year	
Sally Ayrey	168*
Write-in Other	2
Blank	44
TOTAL	214

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

Respectfully submitted,



Rose M. Keough, Sunderland Town Clerk