

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
March 3, 2020

The legal voters of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont were hereby warned to meet at the East Montpelier Elementary School in said Town on Tuesday, the third (3rd) day of March, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. to transact the following business and to vote by Australian Ballot from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on those Articles so noted:

Moderator Michael Duane called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. It was moved and seconded to hear a report from school directors prior to conducting business of the Town. An amendment was made and seconded to hear this information during the "other business" section of the meeting. The amendment passed 27-19 and the school report was postponed.

ARTICLE 1: The moderator noted those who are running for election to the following offices for the ensuing year. (To be voted by Australian Ballot).

Town Moderator, 1-year term
Elected: Michael Duane [887 votes]
Selectboard Member, 3-year term
Elected: Casey Northrup [852 votes]
Selectboard Member, 2-year term
Elected: Jon Jewett [829 votes]
Selectboard Member, 1 of 2-year term
Elected: Amy Willis 830 votes]
Lister, 3-year term
Elected: Robert Chickering [850 votes]
Auditor, 3-year term
Elected: Carla Occaso [822 votes]
First Constable, 1-year term
Elected: Jonathan Boucher [842 votes]
Second Constable, 1-year term:
No candidate
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term:
Elected: Clarice Cutler [757 votes]
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term:
Elected: Scott Hess [744 votes]
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term:
Elected: Siu Tip Lam 726 votes]

The Moderator noted a recent vacancy on the Planning Commission that has been posted and will be filled by the Selectboard.

ARTICLE 2: To hear the reports of several Town Officers and to act thereon.

The Article was moved and seconded. Chair Gardner recognized those who have served on various committees and boards over the past year and noted patience with bumpy roads was appreciated as the newly purchased road grader would be delivered soon.

There was a question about the Towne Hill/Gallison Hill/ Brazier Rd intersection. Chair Gardner responded that the situation has not been completely resolved, but the road crew has been ensuring

snowbanks are plowed back in the winter and roadside vegetation cut back in the summer to allow better line of sight. He indicated that if concerns remain, they should be brought to the Selectboard.

The Moderator noted that Selectboard member, Carl Etnier, is not at today's meeting due to illness.

The Chair moved on to discuss the Town Budget, noting that health insurance and ambulance staffing were the line items that created significant increases in the budget. There was discussion about ambulance service increases. Given voter interest, the Selectboard will explore the utilization of a contracted service to allow the tax rate to remain within the current range without sacrificing response time. Other discussion relative to cost sharing with neighboring towns and regionalization ensued.

Bill George and Marty Miller both passed away within the last few months and were recognized for their many years of service to the Town with a moment of silence. Having no further questions, the Article was closed.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$1,871,223** as proposed by the Selectboard, for laying out and repairing highways and for other necessary Town expenses for fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). (To be voted by Australian Ballot.)

Election Result: Passed [861 yes; 109 no]

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$42,022** for Kellogg-Hubbard Library for the support of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. (To be voted by Australian Ballot)

Rachel Senechal spoke regarding the library's adult and child programming and recognized Lindy Biggs for her years of service as East Montpelier's representative. Jennifer Myka, the new representative, gave statistical information.

Election Result: Passed [760 yes; 211 no]

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town authorize all property taxes for the fiscal year 2021 to be paid to the Treasurer, without discount in two installments and received by the Town Treasurer at the East Montpelier Municipal Building as follows: The first installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM Monday, November 16, 2020 and the second installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM Monday, May 17, 2021.

The Article was moved and seconded. An amendment was made and seconded to allow postmarks of the United States Postal Service on or before the due date as proof of timely payment. After discussion, the amendment was approved by voice vote.

Result: The Article, as amended, passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$4,000** for the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association for operating expenses during fiscal year 2021.

The Article was moved and seconded.

Result: The Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$9,000** for the Montpelier Senior Activity Center for operating expenses during fiscal year 2021.

The Article was moved and seconded.

Result: The Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$6,000** for Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice for operating expenses during fiscal year 2021.

The Article was moved and seconded.

Result: The Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$8,333** as its fiscal year 2021 share of the annual ongoing cost of providing the Green Mountain Transit commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into Montpelier. This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares.

The Article was moved and seconded.

Result: The Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$5,000** for Twin Valley Seniors, Inc. for operating expenses during fiscal year 2021.

The Article was moved and seconded.

Result: The Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$7,500** for Cross Vermont Trail Association to be used as a part of the required local match of federal grants for the construction of a stretch of the Cross Vermont Trail, mostly in East Montpelier, including a bridge across the Winooski River.

The Article was moved and seconded. There was discussion in support of this Article and the enhancements it brings to the East Montpelier Trail system, as well as a question regarding sustainability.

Result: The Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town raise the amounts listed below as recommended by the Town's Funding Request Study Committee, or what other amounts, for the following organizations for fiscal year 2021.

1) American Red Cross	\$ 250
2) Big Heavy World	\$ 250
3) Capstone Community Action	\$ 500
4) Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	\$ 750

5) Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 1,875
6) Central Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team	\$ 200
7) Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity	\$ 250
8) Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center	\$ 1,000
9) Circle	\$ 675
10) Community Harvest of Central VT	\$ 250
11) Downstreet Housing & Community Development	\$ 150
12) East Montpelier Community Connections	\$ 2,500
13) Family Center of Washington County	\$ 500
14) Friends of the Winooski River	\$ 200
15) Girls/Boyz First Mentoring	\$ 300
16) Good Beginnings of Central VT	\$ 300
17) Good Samaritan Haven	\$ 750
18) Green Mountain Transit	\$ 1,366
19) Green Up Vermont	\$ 150
20) HomeShare Vermont	\$ 800
21) North Branch Nature Center	\$ 750
22) Onion River Food Shelf	\$ 1,000
23) OUR House of Central VT	\$ 250
24) People's Health and Wellness Clinic	\$ 1,250
25) Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$ 300
26) Project Independence	\$ 125
27) Rural Community Transportation	\$ 1,000
28) Sexual Assault Crisis Team	\$ 250
29) T. W. Wood Gallery	\$ 500
30) Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$ 150
31) Vermont CARES	\$ 150
32) Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 300
33) Vermont Family Network	\$ 200
34) Washington County Diversion Program	\$ 600
35) Washington County Mental Health Services	\$ 800
36) Washington County Youth Service Bureau	\$ 400
37) Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District	\$ 500
TOTAL	\$21,541

The Article was moved and seconded.

Result: The Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town, as authorized by 24 V.S.A. §4501, create a nine-member conservation commission in accordance with Title 24, Chapter 118 of the Vermont Statutes.

The Article was moved and seconded. Charles Johnson spoke to the Article, and there was a great deal of discussion relative to why a commission was needed, if current committees could continue their specialized work as well as several voices in support of the Article. An amendment was made and seconded to strike the words "nine-member" from the Article. The amendment passed.

Result: The Article, as amended, passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Other non-binding business.

Shall the Town shift the timing for the annual Pre-Town Meeting Informational Forum from the Saturday preceding Town Meeting to a regular or special Selectboard meeting no more than ten days prior to Town Meeting.

Result: The Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

State Representative, Kimberly Jessup, gave an overview of work in the legislature and encouraged people to talk with her during lunch. She spoke briefly about Global Warning Solutions Act, Act 250 Modernization, Tax and Regulation of Cannabis and Minimum Wage. She reported that the Paid Family Leave act was vetoed by the Governor and there were not enough votes to support passage after the veto.

School Directors Flor Diaz-Smith and Lindy Johnson offered information relative to the newly-merged school district and its budget development. They indicated their hope to have school information in the Town Report next year.

Matt Peake remarked that he was ashamed about the article written by the Selectboard in the Signpost newsletter relative to the Town Constable, and that articles like that should not be permitted in the Signpost.

Kudos were given for the photo on the cover of the Town Report.

After being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Town Meeting minutes of March 3, 2020 approved by:

East Montpelier Selectboard Members

Seth B. Gardner

Seth Gardner, Chair

Carl Etnier

Carl Etnier

Jon Jewett

Jon Jewett

Casey Northrup

Amy Willis

Amy Willis

East Montpelier Town Moderator

Michael Duane

East Montpelier Town Clerk

Rosie Laquerre

Rosie Laquerre