

**CONDENSATION OF MINUTES
TOWN OF WAITSFIELD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 4, 2014**

Following are the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Waitsfield of March 4, 2014 pursuant 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1).

Moderator Brian Shupe called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Those present (approximately 85 people) joined Mr. Shupe in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Shupe explained general information about the conduct of the meeting and use of Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town. Jim Leyton nominated Brian Shupe. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed, and Brian Shupe was elected by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. Mr. Shupe recognized the dedication to Delbert Palmer, and Paul Hartshorn spoke of Delbert's service to the Town. Reports of the Planning Commission, Development Review Board, Water Commission, Conservation Commission, Energy Committee, Delinquent Tax Collector, Waitsfield-Fayston Volunteer Fire Department, Road Department, Dog Warden, Waitsfield Cemetery Commission, Joslin Memorial Library, and Selectboard were discussed and accepted.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters authorize the Town to collect taxes on real estate by four (4) equal payments made to the Treasurer as follows: one quarter (25%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Wednesday, September 10, 2014, the second quarter (25%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Friday, November 14, 2014, the third quarter (25%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Wednesday, February 11, 2015, with the remaining quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Friday, May 15, 2015? Article 3 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters authorize the Town to borrow an amount not to exceed \$300,000, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate for the purpose of moderating the impact resulting from

the one time change in fiscal year and an eighteen (18) month budget to be paid as approved in Article 3? Article 4 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters authorize the Fire Department Roof Repair Reserve Fund to be renamed the Fire Department Building and Equipment Reserve Fund, allow the balance of funds (approximately \$14,724) to be used for this purpose, and to appropriate \$7,500 to the fund in FY2015? Article 5 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters authorize the Town to borrow an amount not to exceed \$20,000, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate, for the purpose of providing matching funds for up to two grant applications, if awarded, from the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery fund to implement the Bridge Street improvement projects identified in the Vermont Downtown Assistance Team (V-DAT) final report? Article 6 was approved by majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters authorize the Town to borrow an amount not to exceed \$50,000, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate, for the purpose of road paving projects? Article 7 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters authorize the Town to borrow an amount not to exceed \$75,000, less any grants or other reimbursements, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate, to cover the increased estimated costs that exceed available funds and previously approved borrowing capacity for the rehabilitation of the Covered Bridge; to repair or replacement of the culverts, catch basins, and associated stormwater infrastructure on Bridge Street; to repair the retaining wall; and to repave the street from its intersection with Main Street to the Covered Bridge? A motion to amend Article 8 and add language to increase the allocated amount to \$475,000, to install underground utility lines, and to provide loan funding to homeowners who need assistance was opposed by paper ballot vote of 98 no, 80 yes. A motion to amend Article 8 to increase the

allocated amount to \$375,000 and to install underground utility lines was opposed by paper ballot vote of 93 no, 66 yes. Article 8 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to set the salaries of the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A. Sections 932 and 933? Article 9 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide for the voted Town and School District budgets? Article 10 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town of Waitsfield adopt its budget by Australian ballot? Article 11 was opposed by a majority hand count vote of 107 no, 39 yes. Article 10 with a budget figure of \$2,527,963 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters authorize the Town to borrow money in anticipation of Taxes and State Aid Money? Article 12 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters authorize the Town to borrow money from reserve accounts in anticipation of Taxes and State Aid Money as an alternative to commercial tax anticipation notes, with such funds to be repaid in full to the respective accounts with interest? Article 13 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town vote to require that the signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of the legal voters of the town are necessary for a petition for reconsideration or rescission of action taken at an annual or special town meeting to be valid? A motion was made and seconded to amend the article “to require that the signatures of at least twenty percent (20%) of the legal voters of the town are necessary for a petition for reconsideration or rescission of action taken at an annual or special town meeting to valid.” The motion to amend article 14 failed by majority voice vote. Article 14 was approved by majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: Whereas the establishment of a Public Bank in Vermont will help towns reduce the local tax burden by offering low cost bonds for public works and a depository for their accounts with competitive interest;

Whereas a Public Bank that makes loans and investments in Vermont's people and our economy will help create jobs, income, and economic security for all Vermonters,

We call on the State Legislature to create a Public Bank for Vermont that enhances the work of the Vermont Economic Development Authority, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, the Municipal Bond Bank, and Vermont chartered community banks and credit unions by accepting deposits from the state and municipal governments and making loan programs available for students, homeowners, municipalities and enterprises to make Vermont economically stable, self-reliant, and successful. Article 15 was approved by majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Paul Hartshorn recognized exiting Selectboard Member, Bill Parker, whose term is expired. Mr. Hartshorn also recognized Valerie Capels for her hard work. Bill Parker invited citizens to participate as members-at-large for the Selectboard. Rob Williams thanked Moderator, Brian Shupe.

The Moderator recessed the meeting at 5:10 p.m. until the closing of the polls for Australian ballot items at 7:00 p.m.