

**CONDENSATION OF MINUTES
TOWN OF WAITSFIELD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 2, 2010**

Following are the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Waitsfield of March 2, 2010 pursuant 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1).

The Moderator called the Annual Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Those present (approximately 75 people) joined the Moderator in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator 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. Peter Joslin was elected by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. A motion to hear and act upon the reports of Town Officers was made, seconded, and carried by unanimous voice vote. Various reports were discussed and accepted.

ARTICLE 3: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift or purchase, land for a municipal forest to procure wood products, maintain wildlife habitat, protect water species, provide forest recreation, and for conservation education purposes? A motion to adopt Article 3 was made and seconded. A motion to amend Article 3 by omitting the words "or purchase" was made, seconded, and defeated by majority voice vote. The motion to adopt Article 3 as originally warned was approved majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: Will the Town vote to collect taxes on real estate by two (2) equal payments made to the Treasurer as follows: Half (50%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Friday, September 10, 2010, with the remaining half (50%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday, November 15, 2010? Article 4 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Will the Town 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 5 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of Taxes and State Aid Money? Article 6 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Will the Town raise and appropriate a sum of \$113,500 to be added to the Town’s Reserve Funds as follows:

Fund	Amount
Covered Bridge Maintenance Reserve	\$10,000
Fire Department Roof Repair Reserve Fund	\$ 6,000
Equipment – Road Dept. Truck Reserve	\$55,000
Equipment – Road Dept. Heavy Equipment Reserve	\$15,000
Equipment – Fire Dept. Truck Reserve	\$15,000
Joslin Memorial Library Repair Reserve	\$ 2,500
Restroom, Recreation & Conservation Reserve	\$ 2,500
Route 100 Transportation Path Reserve	\$ 5,000
Street Trees Reserve Fund	<u>\$ 2,500</u>
Total	\$113,500

A motion to adopt Article 7 was moved and seconded. A motion was made and seconded to amend Article 7 by increasing the Restroom, Recreation & Conservation Reserve fund from \$2,500 to \$10,000. The motion to adopt the amendment was approved by 72 standing yes votes over 51 standing no votes. Article 7 as amended with a total appropriation of \$121,000 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Will the Town vote to renew and extend for a maximum period of three years ending March 31, 2013, the Agricultural Tax Stabilization Agreement for farm lands, to the extent allowed by State law? (This program was adopted by the voters of the Town at the Annual Town Meeting of 1986 and renewed and extended by articles passed at Town Meetings in 1989, 1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2007.) Article 8 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to provide notice in the newspaper of record that the Town Report is available and to cease mailing one to each registered voter as a cost-saving measure and instead make them available for pick-up at locations in town and available to be mailed upon request? Article 9 was approved by 65 standing yes votes over 59 standing no votes.

ARTICLE 10: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$20,000, less any grants or funds from other sources, to fund needed repairs to the General Wait House (roof replacement, exterior and interior paint, refinish flooring, shutter repair, etc.), to be paid over a five-year period, with repayment expected to be through a modest increase in rent revenue and the cash-flow realized as a result of energy efficiency investments and lowered fuel costs? Article 10 was approved by a majority voice vote.

Town Meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and resume after the Waitsfield School meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:59 p.m.

ARTICLE 11: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to establish a Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund, whose total balance shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the current year total expense, and to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to establish such fund in 2010? A motion to approve Article 11 was made and seconded.

Discussion followed. A motion to end discussion was made, which did not require a second. The motion to end discussion was approved by a majority voice vote. The motion to adopt Article 11 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to install an automatic start on the emergency generator that serves the Elementary School and the General Wait House? (This Article is to be voted by Australian ballot.) There was discussion supporting and opposing Article 12.

ARTICLE 13: Will the voters of Waitsfield support a resolution requesting the Vermont legislature to:

- 1. Deny approval for the operation of Vermont Yankee after March 2012, which marks the end of its 40-year design life;**
- 2. Require that Entergy Corporation of Louisiana fulfill its pledge to fully fund the cleanup and decommissioning costs of closing Vermont Yankee; and**
- 3. Seek safe, renewable, regional sources of electricity combined with efficiency and conservation measure to replace the power presently provided by Vermont Yankee?**

A motion was made to pass over Article 13, which did not require a second. The motion was defeated by 43 standing no votes over 33 standing yes votes. Article 13 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Will the Town 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?

A motion was made and seconded to adopt Article 14 with a budget of \$1,674,904. A motion to vote each Special Appropriation in the budget line-by-line was made, seconded, and defeated by a majority voice vote.

The Moderator's ruling allowing the Assembly to consider voting items on the budget line-by-line was challenged. The Assembly sustained the Moderator's ruling.

A motion to amend the budget increasing the Town Garage Furnace Replacement (Capital and One-Time Expenses) line item from \$10,000 to \$25,000 was made, seconded, and defeated by a majority voice vote.

A motion to amend the budget decreasing the Sand (Materials, Road Department) expense from \$55,000 to \$35,000 was made, seconded, and defeated by 42 standing no votes over 20 standing yes votes.

A motion to amend the budget decreasing the Sand (Materials, Road Department) expense from \$55,000 to \$45,000 was made, seconded, and approved by a majority voice vote.

The amended budget figure was \$1,664,904. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 14 with an amended budget of \$1,664,904 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. There was discussion about the disappointing turnout for local Olympic skier signing ceremony; the disappointing atmosphere of recent town meetings; appreciation for the boards' time, moving future Town Meetings from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.; and expressions of appreciation from and for Peter Joslin, as this will be his last year as Moderator.

The Moderator recessed the meeting at 3:22 p.m. until the closing of the polls for Australian ballot items at 7:00 p.m.