

**CONDENSATION OF MINUTES
TOWN OF WAITSFIELD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2011**

Following are the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Waitsfield of March 1, 2011 pursuant 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1).

In the absence of resigned Moderator, Peter Joslin, Selectboard Chairperson Kate Williams called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Those present (approximately 200 people) joined Ms. Williams in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Williams recognized the dedication, expression of appreciation and special appreciation. Ms. Williams introduced the Selectboard, Town Administrator Valerie Capels and Town Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Peterson.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator Pro-Tempore for the Town.

Article 1 was passed over by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Moderator for the Town. Brian Shupe was elected by majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. Various reports were discussed and accepted.

ARTICLE 4: 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?

Article 4 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: 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 Monday, September 12, 2011, with the remaining half (50%) to be paid without discount not later than Tuesday, November 15, 2011?

Article 5 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: 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 6 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of Taxes and State Aid Money? Article 7 was approved by a majority voice vote.

The Moderator introduced State Representative, Adam Greshin, who updated the assembly of the legislative highlights. Discussion followed.

ARTICLE 8: [By Petition] Shall the Town vote to approve the following resolution entitled "Fairness in Waitsfield Municipal Water System Fees":

Since the Town of Waitsfield does not own the Well property, as previously assumed by the Town, will the voters of the Town of Waitsfield vote to accept both of the following conditions, subject to review at Town Meeting:

a.) shift approximately 30% (roughly \$50,000 annually) of the annual debt service cost of the Municipal Water infrastructure away from the users and spread the infrastructure cost out, to be shared by all the taxpayers. *(If billed as a flat fee this would equal roughly \$30 per taxpayer, per year).*

b.) have the water users pay a small purchase fee for the water used, comparable to average Municipal Water user fees across the state of Vermont. *(Specific numbers to be presented and explained at Town meeting but, in the order of 0.0028 cents per gallon for residential and tiered commercial rate starting at approximately 0.0056 cents per gallon).*

The entire Community of the Mad River Valley benefits from having healthy, viable business in our Town Center. We all have a role to play in the success of our Community. Charging a per gallon user fee is also the best mechanism for promoting Water Conservation in our community.

Voting YES will mean that the Town can avoid the attempt to Condemn 3 to 4 acres of Private Property and stop further, unforeseen, lengthy, costly, legal proceedings against the Town that could cause the Water project to Fail. A motion to object to consider Article 8 was approved by 131 standing yes votes 63 standing no votes.

ARTICLE 9: Will the Town raise and appropriate a sum of \$135,500 to be added to the Town's Reserve Funds as follows:

FUND	AMOUNT
Equipment – Road Dept. Truck Reserve	\$40,000
Equipment – Road Dept. Heavy Equip. Res.	15,000
Equipment – Fire Dept. Truck Reserve	18,000
Fire Dept. Roof Repair Reserve	5,000
Covered Bridge Maintenance Reserve	10,000
Reappraisal Reserve	15,000
Restroom, Recreation & Conservation Reserve	10,000
Route 100 Transportation Path Reserve	20,000
Street Trees Reserve Fund	2,500
Total	\$135,500

Following a 2/3 vote to end discussion, Article 9 was amended and approved with an additional \$20,000 appropriate to the Fire Department Roof Repair Reserve bringing the total appropriation of Article 9 to \$155,500 by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Will the Town vote to reallocate the balance of the Gravel Pit Reserve Fund (\$17,870 plus any accrued interest) as a revenue to the General Fund? Article 10 was approved by a majority voice vote.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:58 p.m.

ARTICLE 11: Will the Town vote to reallocate the balance of the TIF District Reserve Fund (\$14,372 plus any accrued interest) as a revenue to the General Fund? Article 11 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to establish a reserve fund for the replacement of culverts and to appropriate the sum of \$18,000 to establish such fund in 2011? Following discussion, Article 12 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to establish a reserve fund for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to establish such fund in 2011? Article 13 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for replacement of the Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Station roof, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate? Article 14 was passed over by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: Will the Town vote to renew the exemption of the Waitsfield Couple's Club Recreation Field from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years pursuant to Title 32 V.S.A. Section 3840? Article 15 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: Will the Town vote to renew the exemption of the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service, Inc., facility located at 4177 Main Street from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years pursuant to Title 32 V.S.A. Section 3840, and including an exemption from the educational grand list as property owned by a non-profit volunteer rescue or ambulance organization pursuant to Title 32 V.S.A. Section 5404? Article 16 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 17: Will the Town vote to exempt the Valley Lodge #16 (Odd Fellows) meeting hall located at 1774 Main Street, Condominium Unit 2, from real estate taxes for a period of ten (10) years pursuant to Title 32 V.S.A. Section 3840? The Moderator announced that the correct address in the Article should have been 4254 Main Street. Article 17 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 18: Will the voters designate the Town of Waitsfield as a Clean Energy Assessment District pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 3261(a) for the purpose of authorizing the Town to enter into written agreements with eligible owners of real property to incur indebtedness for or otherwise finance projects relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency undertaken by the owners of real property within the boundaries of the town, the costs of which to be levied as a special assessment on the real property owner's tax bill? Following discussion, Article 18 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 19: 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? Following discussion, Article 19 with a budget of \$1,675,429 was approved passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 20: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Michael Sharkey suggested that Town bury wires on Bridge Street during the sidewalk project. Marie Leotta expressed a desire for the Town to improve sidewalks on Bridge Street. Kate Williams thanked Charlie Goodman and the Road Crew for doing a great job plowing to the church. Laura Caffry expressed appreciation for the civil behavior at Town Meeting and thanked Brian Shupe. Darryl Forrest thanked Charlie Goodman and the Road Crew for a job well done and thanked the Budget Task Force.

The Moderator recessed the meeting at 2:55 p.m. until the closing of the polls for Australian ballot items at 7:00 p.m.