

**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 6, 2007**

Moderator Peter Joslin called the Annual Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Those present (approximately 120 people) joined Mr. Joslin in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Joslin 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. 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? Article 3 was approved by a unanimous 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 Monday, September 3, 2007, with the remaining half (50%) to be paid without discount not later than Thursday, November 15, 2007? Noting that Monday, September 3, 2007 is Labor Day, a motion was made and seconded to change Article 4 to read as follows, "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 Tuesday, September 4, 2007, with the remaining half (50%) to be paid without discount not later than Thursday, November 15, 2007?" The Selectboard was asked to consider changing the tax payment schedule from two installments to four installments. 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 7 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Will the Town raise and appropriate a sum of \$85,000 to be added to the Town's Reserve Funds as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Equipment - Road Dept. Truck Reserve	\$30,000
Equipment - Road Dept. Heavy Equipment Reserve	15,000
Equipment - Fire Dept. Truck Reserve	15,000
Route 100 Transportation Path Reserve	15,000
Joslin Memorial Library Repair Reserve	2,500
Restroom, Recreation & Conservation Reserve	2,500
Street Trees Reserve Fund	<u>5,000</u>
Total	\$85,000

Article 7 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to establish a reserve fund for the purpose of repairing the roof of the Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Station and to appropriate the sum of \$7,000 to establish such fund in 2007? Following discussion, Article 8 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Will the Town vote to increase the term of Town Treasurer from a one-year term to a three-year term, as provided in 17 V.S.A. §2646(3), commencing with the elections to be held in March of 2008? Following discussion, Article 9 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Will the Town vote to increase the term of Town Clerk from a one-year term to a three-year term, as provided in 17 V.S.A. §2646(2), commencing with the elections to be held in March of 2008? Following discussion, Article 10 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Will the Town vote to increase the number of members of the Conservation Commission from five (5) to nine (9)? Article 11 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Will the Town vote to renew and extend for a maximum period of three years ending March 31, 2010, 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, and 2004.) Article 12 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: 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 about the road department budget, longevity of the municipal project manager position, the emergency generator planned to be located at the elementary school, and management of legal expenses, Article 13 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. There was acknowledgement of the new Town staff and their contribution to the delivery of various services; mention of a change to a Development Review Board; a request to consider use of methane as a power source with the wastewater treatment plant; and revenue potential of a water pipeline.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. until the closing of the polls for Australian Ballots items at 7:00 p.m.