

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF DUXBURY
AS A TOWN, March 3, 2020**

The inhabitants of the Town of Duxbury who are legal voters in said Town are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Crossett Brook Middle School in the Town of Duxbury, Vermont on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 9 o'clock in the forenoon to act upon the following: Called to order at 9 AM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was shared for residents of Duxbury who have passed in the last year. A welcome was made to the new residents that were born in the town in the last year.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator to preside at the meeting of the Town for the ensuing year.

Dan Senning was nominated. Motion was made and seconded that nominations cease and clerk to cast one ballot. Elected by voice vote.

Article 2: To act on the reports of the Town.

A motion made and seconded to accept the amended version of the budget report that was supplied which was approved by voice vote.

Article 3: To determine what action the Town will take with respect to compensating their officers for their official services during the ensuing year.

Motion made and seconded to compensate the Town Officers, as listed in the proposed budget. The question was called and seconded. Article was passed by voice vote.

Article 4: Shall the voters allow the Select board to appropriate \$30,000 to establish an Emergency Storm damage escrow.

Motion was made to table Article 4 until after Article 5 which was approved by voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the voters appropriate \$1,092,886 to fund the 2020-2021 Town Highway & General fund budget to pay the debts and current expenses of the Town and to pay county taxes with same and have the Selectboard set the necessary tax rate after the Grand List book has been completed and lodged in the office of the Town Clerk, and appropriate \$115,000 for the Capital Reserve, \$3,000 for paving escrow and \$156,611 for deficit retirement.

Motion was made to amend the article as follows:

Shall the voters appropriate \$1,014,420 to fund the 2020-2021 Town Highway & General fund budget to pay the debts and current expenses of the Town and to pay county taxes with same and have the Selectboard set the necessary tax rate after the Grand List book has been completed and lodged in the office of the Town Clerk, and appropriate \$75,000 for the Capital Reserve, \$3,000 for paving escrow and \$156,611 for deficit retirement.

Motion to amend the article was approved by voice vote.

1-8-311A - Selectboard Assistant - Motion was made to amend from \$44,500 to 22,000 and seconded.

A motion was made to further amend the associated lines

1-8-311 B Selectboard Assistant expenses from \$1,500 to \$500

1-8-311-C Retirement expense from \$2,003 to zero

1-8-311-D Health Insurance – from \$9,589 to zero

The question was called on the amendment and seconded. Voice vote all in favor.

The question was called and seconded. Voice vote with yes vote prevailing.

Motion was made to reconsider line 1-8-311-A from the budget and seconded.

The vote was called and seconded. By voice vote the reconsideration was defeated.

Line 1-7-804-C Salt Storage Building - Motion made and seconded to remove \$70,000 from the budget for matching funds for the salt shed. Motion to call the question was passed by voice vote. Voice vote did not determine the outcome, so a show of hands was 56 to reduce the line to zero and 68 to retain the \$70,000 in the budget. The amendment did not pass.

Motion made and seconded to recess for 45 minutes for lunch.

Capital Reserve - Motion made to amend the capital reserve amount to maintain the \$115,000 originally proposed from the \$75,000 in the motion and seconded. Voice vote did not determine the outcome. A hand count of the vote was 43 in favor of the increase and 36 opposed which passes the amendment.

Shall the voters appropriate \$1,014,420.67 to fund the 2020-2021 Town Highway & General fund budget to pay the debts and current expenses of the Town and to pay county taxes with same and have the Selectboard set the necessary tax rate after the Grand List book has been completed and lodged in the office of the Town Clerk, and appropriate \$115,000 for the Capital Reserve, \$3,000 for paving escrow and \$156,611 for deficit retirement.

The question was called and seconded. Voice vote did not determine the outcome so a hand count was done with 31 in favor of calling the question and 59 opposed so the article remained open for discussion.

After additional discussion the question was called and seconded and approved by voice vote.

Article 5 was passed by voice vote.

Article 4: Shall the voters allow the Select board to appropriate \$30,000 to establish an Emergency Storm damage escrow.

Motion made and seconded. Motion made and seconded to call the question which passed by voice vote. Voice vote did not determine the outcome so a count of 59 in favor and 42 opposed passed for the creation a \$30,000 storm escrow account.

Article 6: Shall the voters of the Town of Duxbury set the due date for the issuance of the tax warrant for real and personal property and the date taxes on such property shall become due and payable without discount as October 9, 2020 (second Friday in October) and also assess an 8% penalty as prescribed by the state statute and a 1% interest charge per month on such taxes not paid when due. Postmarks will not qualify as date of receipt.

Motion was made and seconded. Discussion about why we did not have multiple payments. The question was called and seconded which passed by voice vote. The article passed by voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the voters of the Town of Duxbury approve the expenditure from the Capital Reserve fund to purchase a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 4x4 pickup with a plow and sander not to exceed \$69,125.00.

Motion made and seconded to move article 7. Motion made to amend the expenditure with a reduction of \$10,000 to 59,125. Motion made to amend the amendment from \$10,000 reduction to \$17,000 and seconded. Motion made to call the question. Voice vote passed to call the question. Voice vote to amend the amendment did not determine the outcome. The vote to amend the amendment was 61 in favor and 31 opposed which changes the amendment to the article to a \$17,000 reduction. The question was called to vote on the amendment to reduce the amount by \$17,000 to the article which was not determined by voice vote. A division of the house passed the amendment to reduce the article by \$17,000 by a vote of 68 to 39.

The amended amount of \$52,125 was under consideration. Question was called and voice vote passed to call the question. The article passed by voice vote to purchase a truck not to exceed \$52,125.

Article 8: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to negotiate with the Waterbury Ambulance Service for a site to construct an Ambulance substation located on town land in Duxbury.

Motion was made to pass over the article and seconded. Article 8 was passed over by voice vote.

Article 9: To determine if the Town will have its current taxes paid to the Town Treasurer and its delinquent taxes be paid to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Article was moved and seconded. Question was called and seconded. Voice vote approved. Passed unanimously.

Article 10: To elect all Town officers required by law and to fill any other vacancies existing in Town.

Treasurer – Remaining two years of a three-year term.

Motion was made to nominate Maureen Harvey for the remainder of the term. Motion made and seconded that nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Maureen Harvey was approved by voice vote.

Selectboard – 3 year

Dan Schillhammer was nominated. Motion made and seconded that nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Dan Schillhammer was approved by voice vote.

Selectboard – 1 year

Nominations were made for both Kevin Garcia and Tony Touchette. Ballot results were 64 for Kevin Garcia, 44 for Tony Touchette, 2 Dan Schillhammer and one spoiled vote. Kevin Garcia was elected.

Selectboard – 1 year

David Specht was nominated and declined. Tony Touchette was nominated. Dick Charland was nominated. Bob Magee was nominated. First paper ballot was 50 for Dick Charland, 33 for Tony Touchette and 18 for Bob Magee. A majority was not obtained so a second ballot was done. The result of the second ballot was 53 for Dick Charland, 36 for Tony Touchette and 8 for Bob Magee. Dick Charland was elected.

Lister - 3 year

Mo Lavanway was nominated. Motion made and seconded that nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Mo Lavanway was approved by voice vote.

Auditor - 3 year

Carmel Kelly was nominated and declined. Bob Magee nominated and declined. Jeff Poitras nominated and declined. Maria Steyaart was nominated.

Motion made and seconded that nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Maria Steyaart was approved by voice vote.

Budget Committee – 5 year

David Wendt was nominated. Gary Winnie was nominated. Paper ballot was cast with 13 votes for David Wendt and 31 for Gary Winnie. Gary Winnie was elected.

Cemetery Commission - 3 year

Gloria Raplee was nominated. Motion made and seconded that nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Gloria Raplee was approved by voice vote.

1st Constable – 1 year

Nate Isham was nominated. Motion made and seconded that nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Nate Isham was approved by voice vote.

Delinquent Tax Collector – 1 year

Rachel Bolduc was nominated. Motion made and seconded that nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Rachel Bolduc was approved by voice vote.

Agent to Prosecute & Defend Suits & Grand Juror – 1 year

Gloria Rapalee was nominated. Motion made and seconded that nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Gloria Rapalee was approved by voice vote.

Article 11: To determine if the Town will elect a second constable and if so, to elect.

Motion was made to elect a second constable and nominate Rachel Bolduc with a second. Motion made and seconded that nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Rachel Bolduc was approved by voice vote.

Article 12: To any other business which may legally come before the Town.

Mark on behalf of the Duxbury Historical society Mark Morse thanked all the people that contributed.

Motion was made a seconded to adjourn

The following Articles shall be voted by Australian ballot:

Article A: Will the voters allow the Selectboard to bond not to exceed 20 years to repair structural deficiencies and thermal issues to the Town highway garage not to exceed \$300,000.

Total ballots cast – 5,482

Article VI: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$39,772,342, which is the amount the school board has determine to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,397 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.4 % higher than spending for the current year.

In favor: 2,254 Opposed: 3,048 Blank: 177 Spoiled: 3

Article VII: Shall the voters of Harwood Unified Union School District authorize the Board of School Directors to allocate its FY2019 un assigned audited fund balance as follows: assign \$1,880,109 to the school district's Maintenance Reserve Fund per 24 VSA § 2804?

In favor: 2,957 Opposed: 2,213 Blank: 312 Spoiled: 0

Article B: To elect a town School Board Director for the Harwood Unified School District for a term of three years.

577 Votes Cast – Alec Adams elected with 64 votes

Bond vote for garage repair was improperly warned and did not have the required hearing. Sealed and uncounted by the BCA

Approved and signed at Duxbury this _____ day of March, 2020.

Dan Schillhanmer, Selectboard

Kevin Garcia, Selectboard

Mari Pratt, Selectboard

Jerry McMahan, Selectboard

Bob Magee, Selectboard

Daniel Senning, Moderator

Received for recording and recorded this ____ day of March, 2020 in Town

Records Book II pages _____ - _____.

ATTEST:

Maureen G. Harvey, Town Clerk