

Town of Montgomery

Annual Town Meeting Minutes – 2016

Moderator, Timothy Murphy, called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

1) Elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Patrick Farmer nominated Timothy Murphy. No other nominations were made. Timothy was elected by voice vote.

2) Accept the reports of the Town Officers.

Scott Perry made a motion to accept the reports and was seconded. Hearing no question, the reports were accepted by voice vote.

3) Shall the town vote to appoint a Road Commissioner as provided in 17 V.S.A. §2651, if not, shall the Town elect a Road Commissioner as provided in 17 V.S.A. §2646(16)?

Sharon Perry made a motion to appoint and motion was seconded. Following discussion, the motion to appoint passed by voice vote.

The Moderator, hearing no objections, recognized Scott Perry, Selectboard Chairman, for a small presentation.

Scott called attention to the Town Report cover, which features and acknowledges eight town residents for their twenty-plus years of service. Scott briefly explained that the Vermont Public Service Award program is facilitated by the Vermont Secretary of State's office and described the requirements for nomination.

Scott drew attention to the presence of only four Selectboard members and explained Susan Regan's absence, as well as the presence of Thomas Stanley as the appointed board member that filled Carol McGregor's seat following her resignation in August 2015. Scott also acknowledged Wendy Howard as the longest serving woman on the Selectboard and her intent to not seek re-election. As is tradition, Wendy was presented with an engraved trunnel. A trunnel was made for Carol as well but she was not present at this time.

Scott announced that a revised budget and proposed revised warning had been distributed and anyone needing a copy could find them at the front of the room. A brief explanation of the needed changes and cause for adjustment was given.

With the permission of the Moderator, Bruce Mercy, School Board Member, announced the Annual School Meeting to be held on Monday, March 14th, 2016 at 7:00PM in the School Gymnasium and that it will be followed by a presentation regarding Unification.

Merle Van Gieson moved to suspend the rules and discuss the two Australian ballot items being considered. Needing a two-thirds majority voice vote, the motion failed.

4) Elect the remaining town officers as required by law.

a. A Selectman for the remainder of a two year term expiring in 2017 by ballot. (Carol McGregor resigned, Thomas Stanley appointed)

Wendy Howard nominated Sarah Silva. Sharon Perry nominated Armand Auclair. Paul Nichols nominated Thomas Stanley. Wendy Howard nominated Darren Drevik. Hearing no other nominations, each nominee was given the opportunity to make a statement with Sharon Perry reading a statement from Armand, who was unable to attend. The first vote resulted in no nominee winning a 50% majority. Darren withdrew in the interest of time. The second vote resulted in no nominee winning a 50% majority. Sarah Silva was elected with a third vote.

b. A Selectman for a term of two years by ballot. (Susan Regan – term expires)

Christina Suarez nominated Colin Sorenson. Marijke Dollois nominated Darren Drevik. Paul Nichols nominated Thomas Stanley. Hearing no other nominations, Colin was given the opportunity to make a brief statement. Colin Sorenson was elected with the first vote.

c. A Selectman for a term of three years by ballot. (Wendy Howard – term expires)

Sharon Perry nominated Charles Hancock. Marijke Dollois nominated Darren Drevik. Paul Nichols nominated Thomas Stanley. Jill Cummings nominated Merle Van Gieson. Hearing no other nominations, Charles and Merle were given the opportunity to make a brief statement. The first vote resulted in no nominee winning a 50% majority. Merle withdrew from the race. Charles Hancock was elected with the second vote.

d. A Lister for a term of three years by ballot. (Deanna-Dee Robitaille – term expires)

Parma Jewett nominated Deanna-Dee Robitaille. No other nominations were made. The Moderator, without objection, instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot re-electing Deanna-Dee Robitaille.

e. An Auditor for a term of three years by ballot. (Marsha Phillips – term expires)

Marijke Dollois nominated Erin Kopacz. No other nominations were made. The Moderator, without objection, instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot electing Erin Kopacz.

f. An Agent to prosecute and defend suits in which the Town is interested for a term of one year. (Barry Kade – term expires)

Wendy Howard nominated Barry Kade. No other nominations were made. Barry was re-elected by voice vote.

g. A Cemetery Commissioner for the Village Cemetery Association for a five year term. (Lois Lumbra – term expires)

Lynda Cluba nominated Lois Lumbra. No other nominations were made. Lois was re-elected by voice vote.

h. A Cemetery Commissioner for the Center Cemetery Association for a five year term. (Charles Purrier – term expires)
Richard Morgan Daybell nominated Charles Purrier. No other nominations were made. Charles was re-elected by voice vote.

i. A Library Trustee for a term of three years. (Jane Presler – term expires)
Marijke Dollois nominated Jane Presler. Bernadette Earley nominated June Abramowitz. Jane Presler was elected by voice vote.

j. A Fire Commissioner for a term of two years. (William Baker Sr. – term expires)
Deanna-Dee Robitaille nominated William Baker Sr. No other nominations were made. William was re-elected by voice vote.

k. A First Constable for a term of one year. (Brent Godin – term expires)
Darren Drevik nominated Brent Godin. No other nominations were made. Brent was re-elected by voice vote.

l. A Planning Commission member for a term of three years. (Alissa Hardy – term expires)
Charles Hancock nominated Alissa Hardy. Coin Sorenson nominated Abram Barnard. Abram withdrew. No other nominations were made. Alissa was re-elected by voice vote.

m. One or more Grand Jurors for a term of one year. (Selectboard – term expires)
Richard Morgan Daybell nominated the Selectboard. No other nominations were made. The Selectboard was re-elected by voice vote.

5) Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to \$130,000 for a term of five years to purchase a new ten wheel, fourteen yard dump truck with snow plow and wing.

Scott Perry moved as written and was seconded. Following discussion, motion passed by voice vote.

6) Shall the Town vote the following sums of money to defray expenses in the ensuing year for:

a. Fire Department: 2015 - \$28,000; 2016 - \$23,000

William Morgan Daybell made a motion for \$23,000 and was seconded. Sharon Perry, as a member of the Budget Committee, explained that the \$5,000 reduction in the request is due to the \$5,000 insurance expense will now be paid by the Town. Joseph Zartarian made a motion to amend the amount to \$28,000 and was seconded. Joseph and Gregory Lucas gave an explanation of what the Department will do with the increase. The motion to amend passed by voice vote. The amended motion passed by voice vote.

b. Rescue Department: 2015 - \$26,500; 2016 - \$29,600

Mark Brouillette made a motion for \$29,600 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

c. Machinery Replacement Fund: 2015 - \$10,000; 2016 - \$20,000

Scott Perry made a motion for \$20,000 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote following discussion.

Scott Perry moved to suspend the rules and move to Article 10. Motion passed by a two-thirds voice vote.

10) Shall the Town vote to reprogram funds previously appropriated to the Bridges Reserve Fund for Infrastructure Replacement Reserve Fund.

Scott Perry moved as written and was seconded. Scott explained that the reprogramming would allow for these funds to be used for bridges, culvert projects, paving and any other infrastructure projects as necessary. Motion passed by voice vote.

6) Continued

d. Infrastructure Replacement (Bridges): 2015 - \$10,000; 2016 - \$25,000

Scott Perry made a motion for \$25,000 and was seconded. Motion passes by voice vote.

e. Library Operating Expenses & Payroll: 2015 - \$18,917; 2016 - same

Marijke Dollois made a motion for \$18,917 and was seconded. After discussion, motion passed by voice vote.

f. Building Capital Improvement & Maintenance: 2015 - \$15,000; 2016 - \$50,000

Scott Perry made a motion for \$50,000 and was seconded. After discussion, motion passed by voice vote.

g. Recreation Department: 2015 - \$18,000; 2016 - \$20,000

Charles Fichman made a motion for \$20,000 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

h. Reappraisal Fund: 2015 - \$4,000; 2016 - \$12,000

Wendy Howard made a motion for \$12,000 and was seconded. Following discussion, motion passed by voice vote.

i. Conservation Commission: 2015 - \$750; 2016 - same

Charles Hancock made a motion for \$750 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

j. Emergency Management: 2015 - \$6,340; 2016 - \$0

Barry Kade made a motion to passover and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

7) Shall the Town vote for the following sums of money for the Town Officers as requested?

Klaus Voos moved suspend the rules to approve Article 7, in its entirety, as written and was seconded. Motion passed by two-thirds voice vote.

- a. **Town Clerk: 2015 - \$16,000; 2016 - same**
- b. **Town Treasurer: 2015 - \$13,000; 201 - \$14,000**
- c. **Each Selectboard Member: 2015 - \$1,000; 2016 - same**
- d. **Listers: 2015 – 1st year members \$14.00/hr, 2nd year members \$15.00/hr; 2016 – 1st year members \$15.00/hr, 2nd year members \$18.00/hr**
Merle Van Gieson moved to amend to the 2015 rates and was seconded. Following discussion, the amendment failed by voice vote.
- e. **Auditors: 2015 – 1st year members \$9.00/hr, 2nd year members \$10.00/hr; 2016 – 1st year members \$9.60/hr, 2nd year members \$10.60/hr**
- f. **Board of Civil Authority: 2015 - \$9.15; 2016 - \$9.60**
- g. **Board of Abatement: 2015 - \$0; 2016 - \$9.60**
- h. **All duly elected or appointed Town Officers the IRS allowance for mileage for travel as part of official duties and reimbursement of expenses related to those duties if approved in advance by the appropriate governing body or duly appointed board?**

Motion to approve Article 7, in its entirety, passed by voice vote.

The Moderator, with a two-thirds voice vote, suspended the rules and acknowledged State Representative Larry Fiske. Larry made a short address to the voters.

8) Shall the Town of Montgomery appropriate the following sums of money as requested by the specified agencies?

Darren Drevik made a motion to suspend the rules and approve Article 8, in its entirety, and was seconded. Motion passed by two-thirds voice vote.

- a. **Champlain Valley Agency on Aging for Meals on Wheels, Case Management, Transportation, and the toll-free Senior HelpLine: 2015 - \$1,800; 2016 – same**
- b. **Franklin County Home Health Agency, Inc.: 2015 - \$2,402; 2016 - same**
- c. **Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation: 2015 - \$500; 2016 – same**
- d. **Hazen’s Notch Association’s Campership Fund: This money would be applied towards the cost of sending three or more children from Montgomery to the Hazen’s Notch Association’s Summer Camp. 2015 - \$1,000; 2016 – same**
- e. **Green Up Day Vermont: 2015 - \$100; 2016 – same**
- f. **Mississquoi River Basin Association: 2015 - \$500; 2016 – same**
- g. **Green Mountain Transit Authority: 2015 - \$568; 2016 – same**

Motion to approve Article 8, in its entirety, passed by voice vote.

9) Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$428,548 for Contingent Selectboard? 2015 - \$539,546

Sharon Perry made a motion for \$428,548 and was seconded. Following discussion, motion passed by voice vote.

11) To do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.

Brent Godin would like to get a sense of the desire to have Town Reports mailed.

Barry Kade asked the Selectboard to look into the air quality due to manure spreading. A poll was taken by voice vote and passed to urge the Selectboard to investigate.

Marijke Dollois made a motion to adjourn at 12:32pm and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

A true record this 4th day of March, 2016.

Attest: _____
Deanna-Dee Robitaille, Town Clerk

Attest: _____
Timothy Murphy, Moderator

Attest: _____
Scott Perry, Selectboard Chair