

## TOWN OF MONTGOMERY ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES – 2020

The legal voters of the town of Montgomery in the County of Franklin are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020 AD, at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business to wit:

1. **Elect a Moderator for the ensuing year (Tim Murphy – term expires).** Pat Farmer nominated Tim Murphy. Hearing no other nominations, Tim was elected by voice vote. Felicia Leffler, State Representative, gave a brief report on legislative activity at the State House. Some items of note were the Minimum Wage Bill and Paid Family Leave Bill. Titus Presler asked Felicia about climate change initiatives and discussion ensued.
2. **Accept the reports of Town Officers.** Wendy Howard made a motion to accept the reports of the Town Officers and was seconded by Sue Wilson. Charlie Hancock made a motion to amend the reports of the Town Officers to include: On page 15, the second bullet point under *Expenses* should read “\$31,200” for the Sheriff Contract, not “\$38,000”. On page 28, *Report of Unreserved Funds* should read as “2019” not 2018. The motion to accept the reports as amended was passed by voice vote. Joe Sherman asked for an update on FEMA damage. Charlie Hancock responded about USDA programming and FEMA action to date. Merle Van Gieson asked for clarification on the Wastewater Feasibility Study, as to whether the contract is for a feasibility study or preliminary engineering. Charlie Hancock stated that the contract would be for both a feasibility study and preliminary engineering.
3. **Elect the remaining Town Officers as required by law:**
  - a. **A Selectperson for a term of two years by ballot (Leanne Barnard– term expires).** Pat Farmer nominated Alissa Hardy, who declined the nomination. Sue Wilson nominated Leanne Barnard. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to re-elect Leanne Barnard for a term of two years.
  - b. **A Selectperson for a term of three years by ballot (Darren Drevik – term expires).** Pat Farmer nominated Alissa Hardy, who declined the nomination. Joe Sherman nominated Darren Drevik, who declined. Larry Letourneau nominated Ken Miller, who declined. Sue Wilson nominated Suzanne Dollois. Hearing no further nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect Suzanne Dollois for a term of three years..
  - c. **A Delinquent Tax Collector for a term of three years by ballot (Anita Woodward – term expires).** Sue Wilson nominated Anita Woodward. Hearing

no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to re-elect Anita Woodward for a three year term.

- d. **A Lister for a term of three years by ballot (Joseph Jones – term expires).** Parma Jewett nominated Genevieve Lodal-Guild. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect Genevieve Lodal-Guild to a three year term.
- e. **A Lister for a term of three years by ballot (Wendy Howard appointed until 2020- remaining term of seat will expire 2022)** Parma Jewett nominated Wendy Howard. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect Wendy Howard.
- 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. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to re-elect Barry Kade for a term of one year.
- g. **One of more Grand Jurors for a term of one year (Selectboard – term expires).** Sue Wilson nominated the Selectboard. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to re-elect the Selectboard.
- h. **A Cemetery Commissioner for the Village Cemetery Association for a term of five years (JoAnne Lanphear – term expires).** Lois Lumbra nominated JoAnne Lanphear. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to re-elect JoAnne Lanphear.
- i. **A Cemetery Commissioner for the Village Cemetery Association for a term of four years (Joy Bosley – term expires).** Sue Wilson nominated Wendy Howard. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect Wendy Howard.
- j. **A Cemetery Commissioner for the Center Cemetery Association for a term of five years (Lyndol Elkins – term expires).** Lois Lumbra nominated Lyndol Elkins. Alissa Hardy nominated Jade Kelly Dixson-Boles. The Moderator instructed citizens to vote by show of hands; Jade Kelly Dixson-Boles won the nomination by majority and was elected to a five year term.
- k. **A Fire Commissioner for a term of two years (William Baker Sr. – term expires).** Tosca Smith nominated William Baker, Sr. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to re-elect William Baker, Sr.

- l. A Planning Commission member for a term of three years (Joseph Sherman – term expires).** Titus Presler, Sr nominated Joseph Sherman. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to re-elect Joseph Sherman.
        - m. A Planning Commission member for a term of three years (Roberta Baker – term expires).** Tosca Smith nominated Christine Convard. Wendy Howard nominated Roberta Baker, who declined. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect Christine Convard.
- 4. Shall the Town vote the following sums of money to defray expenses in the ensuing year for:**
  - a. Fire Department: 2019 - \$34,000; FY21 – \$47,471.** Sue Wilson made a motion for \$47,471 and was seconded. The Fire Department was asked to explain the difference in requested funds. Doug Kopacz responded that part of the difference is due to a change to an 18-month budget and part is due to replacement of equipment that has expired under fire safety standards. Tosca Smith moved to amend the motion to reduce the amount to \$42,471. The motion failed by voice vote. Further discussion ensued regarding all of the departments in town in regard to the 18-month budget and current needs of the community. The original motion of \$47,471 passed by voice vote.
  - b. Machinery Replacement Fund: 2019 - \$27,000; FY21 - \$0.** Mark Brouillette made a motion for \$0 and was seconded. Following a brief explanation by Mark Brouillette, the motion passed by voice vote.
  - c. Infrastructure Replacement Fund: 2019 - \$52,700; FY21 – \$0.** Mark Brouillette made a motion for \$0 and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.
  - d. Library Operating Expenses and Payroll: 2019 - \$19,032; FY21 – \$31,404.** Titus Presler Sr made a motion for \$31,404. Following discussion of current balance and use of the amount requested, the motion passed by voice vote.
  - e. Building Capital Improvement & Maintenance: 2019 - \$30,000; FY21 - \$0.** Mark Brouillette motioned for \$0 and was seconded. Passed by voice vote.
  - f. Recreation Department: 2019 - \$20,000; FY21– \$30,000.** Sue Wilson made a motion for \$30,000 and was seconded. Following a brief discussion of current balance and expected needs, the motion passed by voice vote.
  - g. Reappraisal Fund: 2019 - \$8,000; FY21– \$0.** Sue Wilson made a motion for \$0 and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.
  - h. Conservation Commission: 2019 - \$750; FY21– same.** Carissa Stein made a motion for \$0 instead of \$750. The motion passed by voice vote.

- i. **Emergency Management: 2019 - \$1,200; FY21– \$0** Christina Suarez-Pratt made a motion to vote on items 4i, 4j, and 4k together and was seconded. Christina Suarez-Pratt motioned to approve \$0 amounts as written for items 4i, 4j, & 4k seconded by Wendy. Passed by voice vote.
- j. **Restoration of Records: 2019 - \$0; FY21– \$0.** Unanimous voice vote.
- k. **Flood or Emergency Road Repairs: 2019 – \$5,000; FY21– \$0.** Unanimous voice vote.

**5. Shall the Town vote the following sums of money for the Town Officers as requested?**

- a. **Each Selectboard Member: 2019 - \$1,000 + thanks; FY21 – Same**  
Titus Presler Sr made a motion for \$1,000 + thanks and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.
- b. **Listers: 2019 – 1<sup>st</sup> year members \$15.00/hr, 2<sup>nd</sup> year members \$18.00/hr. FY21 – same.** Sue Regan made a motion for 1<sup>st</sup> year members \$15.00/hr, 2<sup>nd</sup> year members \$18.00/hr and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.
- c. **Board of Civil Authority: 2019 - Vermont Minimum Wage.; FY21 – same**  
Sue Wilson made a motion for Vermont Minimum Wage and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.
- d. **Board of Abatement: 2019 - Vermont Minimum Wage; FY21 - same**  
Parma Jewett made a motion for Vermont Minimum Wage and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.
- e. **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?** Wendy Howard made a motion to pass as written and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**6. Shall the Town of Montgomery appropriate the following sums of money as requested by the specified agencies?** Christina Suarez-Pratt made a motion to combine items 6a-6h into one article for consideration. Motion was passed by voice vote.

- a. Age Well 2019 - \$2,000; FY21 - requested \$2,000
- b. Franklin Home Health 2019 - \$2,522; FY21 – requested \$2,522
- c. Franklin County Industrial Dev 2019 - \$500; FY21- requested \$500
- d. Hazen’s Notch Association 2019 - \$1,000; FY21 – requested \$1,000
- e. Missisquoi River Basin Association 2019 - \$500; FY21 – requested \$600
- f. Green Up Day Vermont 2019 - \$100; FY21 – requested \$100
- g. Green Mountain Transit 2019 - \$568; FY21 – requested \$596
- h. Montgomery Center for Arts 2019 - \$1,000; FY21 – requested \$1,000

Pat Farmer motioned to approve all of the above agency requests as written. Motion passed by voice vote.

7. **Shall the voters of The Town of Montgomery advise the Selectboard to enter into a Contract with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department for police services, not to exceed an annual cost of \$20,800 (\$31,200 for an 18 month period).** Tosca Smith made a motion to postpone the measure indefinitely, which was seconded. Lengthy discussion was had regarding the necessity of the contract, hours per week for services, and how this would directly benefit the community. Gabrielle Marquette called the final question to put forth a vote. The Moderator, hearing no objection, moved to pass over this article indefinitely and this was passed by majority voice vote.
8. **Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$1,674,482 for FY2021 Contingent Selectboard? 2019- \$601,703.** Sue Wilson motioned to approve as written, Charlie Hancock made a motion to amend the amount to reduce the figure to \$1,643,282 to account for the removal of the Sheriff's contract figure from the proposed budget. Motion was seconded and the article was passed by voice vote. Amendment passed by voice vote
9. **Shall the town vote to approve a half cent increase in the tax rate to be allotted to the Conservation Reserve Fund (established by the voters in 2018) in accordance with 24 V.S.A.§2804.** Sue Wilson motioned to approve half-cent increase, seconded, and approved by voice vote. Charlie recapped the directive of this fund and noted that the contingency with this article is that it must be approved by the voters each year. Article was passed as written by voice vote.
10. **To do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.** Charlie Hancock took a moment to recognize the Municipal Clerk and Treasurer for their efforts in assuming new roles during a transitional budget year. Elizabeth Burgess asked the board to address the parking lot at the public safety building. Charlie noted that the expectation would be building that project into the streetscape in town. Barry Kade made a motion that the voters pass a non-binding resolution; therefore be it resolved that the Town of Montgomery, in response to the discourse that continues coming from Washington, collectively ask: 'WTF?'. Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. Tim Murphy announced his retirement from conducting Town Meeting, he has served faithfully for 25 years as the Moderator, he was recognized by standing ovation of applause. Brent motioned to adjourn at 11:29am, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Dated at Montgomery, Vermont this 11th day of March, 2020 AD

Selectboard Chair, \_\_\_\_\_

Town Moderator, \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Elizabeth Reighley, Municipal Clerk, Town of Montgomery