

**Town of Westmore, VT
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2016**

The legal voters of the Town of Westmore met at the Fellowship Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 10:00am to transact the following business:

Greg Gallagher called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The citizens of the town stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Greg informed the voters that it was also Presidential Primary and for them to go to the ballot clerks and vote.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Greg asked for nominations for Moderator.

Peter Berteletti nominated Andy Berley, seconded by Bruce Tanner. There being no other nominations, Robert Fitzpatrick moved and Peter Berteletti seconded to cease nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Andy Berley. Motion passed.

Moderator Andy Berley asked for a moment of silence for those in the community who have passed away:

Theresa Van Zile, Stephen Richards, Stephen Dube, Paul Moffat, Helen Seube, Norman Houle, Martha Wellman McKay, Ellie Hinton, William Vincent, David Hale, Catherine Patrissi

Deputy Bingham, Orleans County Sheriff's Department, gave a report of the year's activities. Randi Pickel stated that she has not seen the police presence this winter. Mary Smith said that she sees them "all the time." Mary Liz Riddle said she sees them a lot in the summer when she is working at the Boat Launch as a Greeter. Millie Davies also stated that she sees them all the time.

Article 2. Shall the Town vote to accept the Town report as printed?

Rick Mallary moved to pass over, seconded by Kathy Holmes. Nancy Mallary asked if it could be accepted without an audit. Burton said it could be accepted subject to audit. On a voice vote the motion to pass over passed.

Article 3A. To elect a Town Clerk for the term of 3 years.

Randi nominated Greg Gallagher, seconded by Peter Chase. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Randi moved, seconded by Peter Chase for the Moderator to cease nominations and cast one ballot for Greg Gallagher. Passed.

Article 3B. To elect a Town Treasurer for the term of 3 years.

Kristen Olbrys nominated Greg Gallagher, seconded by Peter Berteletti. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Peter Chase moved and Randi seconded for the Moderator to cease nominations and cast one ballot for Greg Gallagher. Passed.

Article 3C. To elect a Selectman for the term of 3 years.

Ann Parenteau nominated Bill Perkins, seconded by Paula Phipps. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Peter moved and Paul seconded for the Moderator to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Bill Perkins. Passed.

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Article 3D. To elect a Lister for the term of 3 years.

Rick Mallary moved to pass over Articles 3 D and E, seconded by Nancy Mallary. Rick stated that the State is taking too much money from us. They need a message if they require re-appraisals. Tim Aldrich asked who would appraise his new building. Rick said the State. Bob Fitzpatrick said it was a State issue. This should be pursued with the State. Nancy said the amount for Listers should be reduced since the town was just re-appraised. Bill Perkins stated that there was still work to be done by the Listers. We really cannot get rid of them. Andy said that there is a motion on the floor. By a voice vote, the nays have it. Motion to pass over the Listers positions was defeated.

Kathy Holmes nominated Kristen Olbrys, seconded by Chris Evans. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Randi moved and Peter seconded for the Moderator to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Kristen Olbrys. Passed.

Article 3E. To elect a Lister to finish the remaining 2 years of a 3 year term.

Chris Evans commented that this would be about two days per week, paid. Ann Parenteau nominated Maree Bushey, seconded by Kristen. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Randi moved and Peter seconded for the Moderator to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Maree Bushey. Passed.

Article 3F. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for the term of 3 years.

Ann nominated Bill Perkins, seconded by Bob. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Randi moved and Peter seconded for the Moderator to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Bill Perkins. Passed.

Article 3G. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner to finish the remaining 1 year of a 3 year term.

Bill moved and Maree seconded Miriam Simonds. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Peter moved and Bob seconded for the Moderator will cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Miriam Simonds. Passed.

Article 3H. To elect a Current Year Tax Collector for the term of 1 year.

Randi nominated Greg Gallagher, seconded by Peter Berteletti. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Bob moved and Randi seconded for the Moderator to cease nominations and the Moderator cast one ballot for Greg Gallagher. Passed.

Article 3I. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for the term of 1 year.

Randi nominated Ann Parenteau, seconded by Ron Holmes. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Ron moved and Peter Berteletti seconded for the Moderator to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Ann Parenteau. Passed.

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Article 3J. To elect a Town Agent for the term of 1 year.

Kathy Holmes nominated Greg Gallagher, seconded by Ron Holmes. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Ron moved and Kathy seconded for the Moderator to cease nominations and the Moderator cast one ballot for Greg Gallagher. Passed.

Article 3K. To elect a Grand Juror for the term of 1 year.

Kristen nominated Chris Evans, seconded by Pam Kennedy. The Moderator asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Paul moved and Kristen seconded for the Moderator to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Chris Evans. Passed.

Article 4. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Current Year Tax Collector to collect current year property taxes due on or before October 20, 2016 at 4:00pm?

Nancy Tanner so moved, seconded by Maree Bushey. Randi asked if taxes could be pre-paid or the due date extended. Bill stated that if the Town accepted credit card we would lose money to the fees. Burton stated that right after he pays his taxes, he starts putting money aside for next year's taxes. He also said that the Town counts on the tax money in October. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Andy then asked Paul Lefebvre, District Representative, to come forward and address the audience.

Rep. Lefebvre said he has been working on Act 46, Renewable Energy Siting, The Clean Water Act, to name a few.

Randi stated that the legalization of marijuana would cost the state money. Rep. Lefebvre replied that the bill has not yet passed, but the tax will pay the cost.

Rick Mallary stated that as a "Gold Town", Act 46 cannot save us money, without any reductions in staff. He also stated that Westmore should not approve consolidation since that would mean we would assume the debt of other towns. Nancy Mallary echoed those remarks and said that Westmore should not pay for other towns' debts. She also said that Education money has been used by the state for non-education funding such as Highways. Rep. Lefebvre thanked the audience for their comments.

Article 5. Shall the Town vote to set the delinquent tax date for property taxes on October 20, 2016 at 4:01pm, with an 8% collector's fee charged and subject to interest charged against them from the due date?

Faye Perkins so moved, seconded by Nancy Mallary. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Article 6. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to set the Municipal Tax Rate after the Grand List has been completed?

Randi so moved, seconded by Ron Holmes. The motion passed on a voice vote.

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Article 7. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to use a portion of unspent general fund surpluses, as needed, to help offset the 2016 Municipal Tax Rate?

Randi so moved, seconded by Ron.

Rick asked what does "as needed" mean, who decides? David answered that some accounts have money left over. That all goes back into the General Fund. Randi asked of the \$209,000 Fund Balance, how much will be applied against the tax rate? Burton said that is done when the Selectboard sets the tax rate. The Board likes to keep the tax rate as low as possible, but does not like to have it low one year and then spike up the next-not roller coaster. Rick stated that he would like to see the tax rate as low as possible.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to use a portion of unspent general fund surpluses, as needed, to cover any deficit amounts?

Randi so moved, seconded by Peter Chase. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow, if needed, for current expenses?

Ron so moved, seconded by Peter Chase. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 10. Shall the Town vote to accept the proposed 2016 budget of \$358,488.08 for General Fund?

Nancy Mallary moved to Pass Over Article 10 and vote on each account separately, seconded by Ron Holmes.

Rick said that the Transfer Station budget is too high. We are paying to haul our garbage twice. Westmore should get out of the trash business. Bill said that you could not beat the cost now. Nancy said they pay \$7 to have their trash hauled once a month and their recycling is free at the Trading Post. Bill said that "Trash" was the biggest topic at Selectboard Meetings last year.

Peter Chase "moved the question." The motion to Pass Over Article 10 and vote on each account separately was defeated by a voice vote.

Back to Article 10. Bob so moved seconded by Bruce Tanner.

Rick moved, seconded by Nancy to Amend the motion to \$168,488, a \$190,000 cut. Randi asked where he would make those cuts. Rick stated a number of cuts to the General Fund from page 18-22 in the Annual Report.

Peter Berteletti "Moved the question." The Motion to Amend Article 10 by -\$190,000 was defeated on a voice vote.

Back to Article 10. Faye Perkins so moved, seconded by Evelina Busby.

Rick asked what the \$10,000 in "Contract" was. Burton said it was for road surveying and legal work.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 11. Shall the Town vote to accept the proposed 2016 budget of \$299,110.00 for the Highway Operating Fund?

Ron so moved, seconded by Peter Chase. Rick said he'd like to make do with a little less.

Randi stated that Salaries were too high. Ann Duggan said that Education tax to the State is the bulk of our taxes. Why should we reduce our budget?

The motion passed on a voice vote.

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Article 12. Shall the Town vote to move \$6,007.45 from the Audit Reserve Fund to the General Fund, thus adding to the amount approved in Article 10, and close the Audit Reserve Fund?

Randi so moved, seconded by Bob. Greg explained that at last year's Town Meeting, the voters eliminated the position of Town Auditors in favor of having an annual audit by a CPA firm. Therefore, the "Audit Fund" was no longer needed and since the audit would be an annual event, we should budget it yearly.
The motion passed on a voice vote.

Being twelve noon, the Moderator recessed for one hour for lunch.
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Andy resumed the meeting at 1:01.

The Moderator thanked the Westmore Ladies Aid and others that provided a delicious meal.

Article 13. Shall the Town vote to add \$30,000.00 to the Paving Reserve Fund?

Peter Chase so moved, seconded by Bruce Tanner. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 14. Shall the Town vote to add \$32,850.00 to the Gravel Reserve Fund?

Chris McCarthy so moved, seconded by Peter Chase. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 15. Shall the Town vote to add \$68,522.05 to the Town Equipment Reserve Fund?

Kathleen Aldrich so moved, seconded by Tim Aldrich.
Kathy Holmes asked if equipment for the town offices was included in this budget. Burton said yes. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 16. Shall the Town vote to add \$6,840.01 to the Lister Reappraisal Reserve Fund?

Pam Kennedy so moved, seconded by Maree Bushey. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 17. Shall the Town vote to add \$5,000.00 to the Cemetery Reserve Fund?

Chris McCarthy so moved, seconded by Tim Aldrich. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 18. Shall the Town vote to add \$136.14 to the Deed/Vault Restoration Reserve Fund?

Chris McCarthy so moved, seconded by Peter Chase. The motion passed on a voice vote.

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Article 19. Shall the Town vote to accept the proposed amount of \$33,773.00 for Community Appropriations as follows?

Peter Berteletti so moved, seconded by Ruth Gjessing.

Pam Kennedy asked to level fund the libraries. She said the Barton Library has started a free garden seed program. Bruce Tanner said that the libraries had requested \$2,000 each, but only in for \$1,000. Burton said they were cut at a budget meeting.

Peter Chase moved to amend the motion by \$1,000, \$500 for each library, seconded by Bruce Tanner. The amendment to Article 19 passed on a voice vote.

Bill Perkins said that O-E VNA & Hospice offered excellent services.

Chris McCarthy thanked the town for their WF&R support.

Andy, as Chair of NEK Learning Services, thanked the town.

The amended motion (\$34,773) passed on a voice vote.

a.	Westmore Fireman's Association	\$ 25,000
b.	OC Court Diversion	200
c.	VT Ctr for Independent Living	80
d.	VT Rural Fire Protection	100
e.	Green Up	50
f.	Rural Comm Transportation	350
g.	OC Citizen Advocacy	600
h.	NEK Learning Services	300
i.	NEK Human Services	368
j.	O-E VNA & Hospice	900
k.	Pope Mem Frontier Animal Shelter	500
l.	Old Stonehouse Museum	425
m.	Barton Senior Ctr	750
n.	Umbrella	250
o.	Jones Memorial Library	1,500
p.	NEK Council on Aging	400
q.	Lake Region Senior Ctr	500
r.	Barton Library	1,500
s.	American Red Cross	250
t.	NorthWoods Stewardship	750

Article 20. To do and transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Back to Article 2. Peter Chase so moved, as amended, seconded by Chris McCarty. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Greg thanked his assistant, Michele Labounty for her excellent job on getting the "Annual Report" and the budget prepared.

Mary Smith thanked Andy for doing the Moderator's job.

Burton thanked all of those that serve the town.

Miriam Simonds said that there are 5 gallon compost containers provided by NEKWMD available at the Transfer Station.

Bill Perkins said that the tractor which is pictured in the Book will be used for road side mowing.

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Chris said that 911 forms are available on the way out for anyone who wishes to be checked on during emergencies like extended power outages.

Article 21. To Adjourn.

Bob so moved at 1:24, seconded by Peter Berteletti. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Signed by,

Greg Gallagher
Westmore Town Clerk

ATTESTED BY:

Andrew Berley, Moderator

Date

David Stevens, Selectman

Date

William Perkins, Selectman

Date

Burton Hinton, Selectman

Date