

**Town of Westmore, VT  
Annual Town Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2017**

The legal voters of the Town of Westmore met at the Fellowship Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 10:00 am 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.

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

Peter Berteletti nominated Andy Berley, seconded by Ron Holmes.

There being no other nominations, Andy Berley was elected Moderator by a voice vote.

Sherriff's Deputy Bingham addressed those in attendance and asked if there were any questions. He was thanked for doing a good job.

Chris Evans reviewed the "911 Form" that was in the back of the room as well as in the back of the Annual Report. She asked that anyone needing emergency help fill it out and return it to her or Fire Chief, Chris McCarthy.

Megan Valley announced there were Act 46 surveys on the table in the back of the room.

Bill Perkins thanked retiring Town Clerk, Greg Gallagher, for his 11 years of service to the Town and presented him with a plaque.

Andy asked for a moment of silence for the those in the community that passed away in the last year:

*Robert C. Rash, Willie Mae Lockwood, James A. Casey, Jr., John R. Macklin, Michael Scott Roberts, Wilma M. Devost, Stephen Barrett Tanner, Larry Dean Rash, Richard Tokunboh Dabiri, Ivy Yvonne Sinclair, Paul A. Majchrzak, Catherine E. Perkins, John William Badger, Sr., Catherine M. Lucas Inman*

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

David explained that if this Article passed the meeting would be over.

Ron moved to table Article 2, seconded by Peter Berteletti. Passed

**Article 3. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to negotiate the Town Clerk's wage for FY17?**

Bill explained that due to a new Town Clerk being elected this year, the Selectboard would like to negotiate the new salary up to the amount budgeted.

Randi so moved, seconded by Pam Prue. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 4. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to negotiate the Town Treasurer's wage for FY17?**

So moved by Ron, seconded by Peter B. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 5A. To elect a Town Clerk to finish the remaining 2 years of a 3 year term**

Paul Wasklewicz nominated Melissa Zebrowski.

Don Ball nominated Maree Bushey.

Randi moved that nominations cease, seconded by Ron. Passed on a voice vote.

Bob Fitzpatrick asked if Town Clerks/Treasurers could be hired by the Selectboard.

Melissa introduced herself, gave her background and reasons she would be a good Town Clerk.

Maree Bushey then introduced herself and explained her qualifications.

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Burton asked if things that Greg did that were not specifically Town Clerk duties would be done by the contestants, e.g. organizing and attending Selectboard Meetings. Both answered that they would.

Ballots were passed out and citizens were asked to write their candidate in and bring the ballot to the front desk Ballot Box to be voted and checked off the Check List.

While this was happening, Representative Paul Lefebvre talked about what was going on in the Legislature.

After Alison Valley and Greg counted the ballots, Greg announced the results were, Melissa Zebrowski-57, Maree Bushey-15 with one blank. Melissa Zebrowski will be the new Town Clerk.

**Article 5B. To elect a Town Treasurer to finish the remaining 2 years of a 3 year term**

Paul W. nominated Melissa.

There being no further nominations, the Moderator asked to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Melissa Zebrowski.

**Article 5C. To elect a Trustee of Public Funds to finish the remaining 2 years of a 3 year term**

Paul W. nominated Melissa.

There being no further nominations, the Moderator asked to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Melissa Zebrowski.

**Article 5D. To elect a Current Year Tax Collector for the term of 1 year**

Ron H. nominated Melissa.

There being no further nominations, the Moderator asked to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Melissa Zebrowski.

**Article 5E. To elect a Selectman for the term of 3 years.**

Melissa nominated Burton Hinton.

There being no further nominations, the Moderator asked to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Burton Hinton.

**Article 5F. To elect a Lister for the term of 3 years.**

Ron H. nominated Chris Evans.

There being no further nominations, the Moderator asked to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Chris Evans.

**Article 5G. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for the term of 3 years.**

Bill Perkins nominated Miriam Simonds.

There being no further nominations, the Moderator asked to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Miriam Simonds.

**Article 5H. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for the term of 1 year.**

Ron H. nominated Annette Parenteau.

There being no further nominations, the Moderator asked to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Annette Parenteau.

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**Article 5I. To elect a Town Agent for the term of 1 year.**

Ron H. nominated Melissa.

There being no further nominations, the Moderator asked to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Melissa Zebrowski.

**Article 5J. To elect a Grand Juror for the term of 1 year.**

Pam Kennedy nominated Chris Evans.

There being no further nominations, the Moderator asked to cease nominations and the Clerk cast one ballot for Chris Evans.

**Article 6. Shall the Town of Westmore convey an easement across the Minister's Settlement Lot #43 off of Long Pond Rd to the Westmore Community Church.**

Bruce Tanner so moved, seconded by Ron H.

Bruce explained the Church's need to have a right-of-way across the Town's property to haul wood out of their wood lot. He said there would be no expense to the Town for road/bridge improvements.

Bill explained that the Town's attorney advised this method.

Cathi W. asked if another bridge coming out to Long Pond Rd would be needed. Bruce said, "No."

The Article carried on a voice vote.

**Article 7. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Current Year Tax Collector to collect current year property taxes due on or before October 20, 2017 at 4:00pm?**

Ron H. so moved, seconded by Bob F.

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**Article 8. Shall the Town vote to set the delinquent tax date for property taxes on October 20, 2017 at 4:01pm, with an 8% collector's fee charged and subject to interest charged against them from the due date?**

Randi objected to charging an 8% late fee for someone only a few days late.

Glenn Harter so moved, seconded by Ron H. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 9. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to set the Municipal Tax Rate after the Grand List has been completed?**

Ruth Gjessing so moved, seconded by Millie Davis. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 10. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to use a portion of unspent general fund surpluses, as needed, to help offset the 2017 Municipal Tax Rate?**

Ron H. so moved, seconded by Robert Fitzpatrick. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 11. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to use a portion of unspent general fund surpluses, as needed, to cover any deficit amounts?**

Ron H. so moved, seconded by Peter B. Passed on a voice vote.

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**Article 12. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow, if needed, for current expenses?**

Randi so moved, seconded by Peter B. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 13. Shall the Town vote to accept the proposed 2017 budget of \$376,346.62 for General Fund?**

Mary French asked if the tombstones could be cleaned. Bill said he would like to. Ron so moved, seconded by Peter B. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 14. Shall the Town vote to accept the proposed 2017 budget of \$261,353.00 for the Highway**

Ron H. so moved, seconded by Paul Wasklewicz. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 15. Shall the Town vote to add \$4,349.60 to the Milfoil Program Fund?**

So moved by Maree Bushey, seconded by Bruce Tanner.  
Susan Blackstone asked what could be done about run off from fields flowing into the Lake. Someone said to call the Agency of Natural Resources, Reg Smith, enforcement.  
Kathy Busby said that boats chew up and spread milfoil.  
Glenn Harter said some pollution is caused by septic tanks below the high water mark.  
David Stevens said "Nutrient Management" is now mandatory by the State.  
The Article passed on a voice vote.

**Article 16. Shall the Town vote to add \$6,000 to the Cemetery Reserve Fund?**

So moved by Peter B., seconded by Ron H. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 17. Shall the Town vote to add \$18,000 to the Capital Improvements Reserve Fund?**

So moved by Bruce Tanner, seconded by Kristen Olbrys. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 18. Shall the Town vote to add \$50.68 to the Deed/Vault Restoration Reserve Fund?**

So moved by Peter B., seconded by Ron H. Passed on a voice vote

**Article 19. Shall the Town vote to move \$120,000 to the Paving Reserve Fund from the surplus fund balance of General Fund, thus reducing the tax expense for this year?**

So moved by Ron H., seconded by Robert Fitzpatrick. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 20. Shall the Town vote to move \$18,527.76 to the Town Equipment Reserve Fund from the surplus fund balance of General Fund, thus reducing the tax expense for this year?**

So moved by Ron H., seconded by Megan Valley. Passed on a voice vote.

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**Article 21. Shall the Town vote to add \$64,553.58 to the Town Equipment Reserve Fund that will be included in the tax expense for this year?**

So moved by Ron H., seconded by Cathi Wasklewicz. Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 22. Shall the Town vote to include sand as an expense to the Gravel/Sand Reserve Fund?**

So moved by Ron H., seconded by Robert F.  
Ron said he has seen Gingue hauling out of that pit at night.  
Passed on a voice vote.

**Being twelve noon, the Moderator recessed for lunch.**

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**Moderator Berley reconvened the meeting at 12:35.  
Andy thanked the Westmore Ladies Aid for putting on a delicious lunch, followed by a standing ovation.**

**Article 23. Shall the town vote to add \$38,000 to the Gravel/Sand Reserve Fund?**

Ron H. so moved, seconded by Bruce Tanner.  
Robert Kennedy asked how the amount was determined.  
David said it was determined by expected future problems.  
Passed on a voice vote.

**Article 24. Shall the Town vote to accept the proposed amount of \$34,948.00 for Community Appropriations as follows?**

|    |                                  |           |
|----|----------------------------------|-----------|
| a. | Westmore Fireman's Association   | \$ 25,000 |
| b. | OC Court Diversion               | 300       |
| 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            | 500       |
| 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       |

Peter B. so moved seconded by Alison Valley.  
Pam Kennedy offered her support for both Libraries.

