

Town of Westmore, VT
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2015

The legal voters of the Town of Westmore met at the Fellowship Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 10 o'clock a.m. 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.

Greg asked for nominations for Moderator. Gerald Saindon nominated Vince Dotoli, seconded by Robert Butler. Faye Perkins moved, seconded by Richard Boucher to cease nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Vince Dotoli. Passed.

Moderator Vince Dotoli asked for a moment of silence for those in the community that had passed away:

Robert Van Zile Sr., John Roy Ferguson, Robert Decker, Margery Day, Charlotte M. Casey, Marcene Alyce Dentel, Theresa Van Zile and Stephen Richards.

The Moderator then asked Chief Deputy Phil Brooks to come forward and address the Town for the Sheriff's Department:

The Deputy touched on their involvement with the new Westmore ordinances, the Department's level funded budget and their new K-9 Kilo dog. He was asked if they could patrol the 4th of July fireworks which start at least one week early and go on for another week. There was also a question of what hours people could call their dispatch. Deputy Brooks said his dispatch is available 8-4:30. They often have patrols out 6 AM until midnight. Any calls after 4:30 should go to the State Police and ask for Sheriff's office.

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

Louisa moved to passover Article #2, seconded by Robert Butler. Passed.

Greg made a correction to the Annual Report. Page 20 should have the TRASH/RECYCLING BUDGET. This got lost some where in the editing and printing process. The \$39,962 amount is, however, included in the total budget number.

Article 3. Shall the Town vote to eliminate the elected positions of "Town Auditor" and hire an independent contractor to audit the town records?

Gerald moved and Robert Butler seconded Article #3. Glenn Harter made three points to keep local auditors and volunteered to run if that was needed. Several other residents spoke for eliminating the local position based on the added number of responsibilities for Auditors. Gerald moved the question, seconded by Faye Perkins. The article passed with one nay.

Representative Paul Lefebvre was asked to address the group. He stated that the state is in a serious financial bind. Education rates are going up at least 3%. The committee that he is on has been mandated by EPA to come up with regulations to clean up Lake Champlain. The cost of this effort could be borne by a fertilizer tax as well as an increased Rooms and Meals tax. Burton had a strong concern about adding more taxes to people in Vermont that are already the highest taxed.

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Article 4. To elect the following officers:

A. Selectman for three years -

Gerald moved and Richard Boucher seconded David Stevens. Gerald moved and Bruce Tanner seconded to cease nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for David Stevens. Passed.

B. Lister for three years -

Helen Kalstrom had an issue with having her address changed several times and still getting her Town Report at the old address. Greg explained that all the changes in her address went through the Grand List. The Town Report was mailed from the Checklist which hadn't gotten updated. He said he will correct it.

Chris Evans nominated and Robert seconded Gerald Saindon. There being no other nominations, Louisa moved and Robert seconded to cease nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Gerald Saindon. Passed.

C. Auditor for one year -

Position eliminated by Article #3.

D. Auditor for two years -

Position eliminated by Article #3.

E. Auditor for three years -

Position eliminated by Article #3.

F. Cemetery Commissioner for three years -

William Perkins nominated, seconded by Gerald, Steve Davenport. Gerald moved and Robert seconded to cease nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Steve Davenport. Passed.

G. Current Year Tax Collector for one year -

Gerald nominated Greg Gallagher, seconded by Robert. Gerald moved and Robert seconded to cease nominations and have the Moderator cast one ballot for Greg Gallagher. Passed.

H. Delinquent Tax Collector for one year -

Paul nominated, seconded by Terry Sicard, Erik Swanson. Gerald moved and Robert seconded to cease nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Erik Swanson. Passed.

I. Town Grand Juror for one year -

Gerald nominated Chris Evans seconded by Pam Kennedy. Gerald moved and Terry Sicard seconded to cease nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Chris Evans. Passed.

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J. Town Agent for one year -

Gerald nominated Greg Gallagher, seconded by Alison Valley. Gerald moved and Robert seconded to cease nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Greg Gallagher. Passed.

Article 5. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Current Year Tax Collector to collect current year property taxes due on or before October 20, 2015 at 4:00 pm?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Robert. Passed.

Article 6. Shall the Town vote to set the delinquent tax date for property taxes on October 20, 2015 at 4:01 pm, with an 8% collector's fee charged and subject to interest charged against them from the due date?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Erik Swanson. Passed.

Article 7. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to set the Municipal Tax Rate after the Grand List has been completed?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Robert. Passed.

Article 8. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to use a portion of unspent general fund surpluses, as needed, to help offset the 2015 Municipal Tax Rate?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Robert. Passed.

Article 9. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to use a portion of unspent general fund surpluses, as needed, to cover any deficit amounts?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Robert. Passed.

Article 10. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow, if needed, for current expenses?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Robert. Florence asked if there was any cap on the borrowing. Glenn asked if this was from a line-of-credit. The Selectboard answered "no" to both questions. Mary French asked if this had anything to do with the State Education Tax. Greg said "no". Motion passed.

Article 11. Shall the Town vote to accept the proposed 2015 budget of \$347,518.08 for General Fund?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Robert, with the understanding that Trash Pickup of \$39,962 is included in that amount. Passed.

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Article 12. Shall the Town vote to accept the proposed 2015 budget of \$243,923.00 for the Highway Operating Fund?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Robert. Gerald asked what the total of #s 12, 13, 14 and 15 was. He wanted to compare it to last year's funding. Bill said it was less than last year. Peter Berteletti moved, seconded by Louisa to vote on Articles # 12, 13, 14 and 15 all together. There were no concerns from the voters. Motion passed.

Article 13. Shall the Town vote to add \$35,693.37 to the Paving Reserve Fund?

Passed with Article #12.

Article 14. Shall the Town vote to add \$32,117.95 to the Gravel Reserve Fund?

Passed with Article #12.

Article 15. Shall the Town vote to add \$61,369.98 to the Town Equipment Reserve Fund?

Passed with Article # 12.

Article 16. Shall the Town vote to add \$4,330.00 to the Cemetery Reserve Fund?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Chris Evans and Faye Perkins. Passed.

Article 17. Shall the Town vote to add \$1,853.07 to the Deed/Vault Restoration Reserve Fund?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Robert. Passed.

Article 18. Shall the Town vote to add \$1,898.16 to the Audit Reserve Fund?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Chris. Passed.

Article 19. Shall the Town vote to add \$15,000.00 to the Milfoil Program Reserve Fund?

Gerald so moved, seconded by Robert. Passed.

Article 20. Shall the Town vote to accept the proposed amount of: \$34,223.00 for Community Appropriations?

The list of individual appropriations are as follows:

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|----|-------|---------------------------|
| a. | 25000 | Westmore Firemans Assoc. |
| b. | 200 | OC Court Diversion |
| c. | 80 | VT Ctr for Ind Living |
| d. | 100 | VT Rural Fire Protection |
| e. | 50 | Green UP |
| f. | 350 | Rural Comm Transportation |
| g. | 600 | OC Citizen Advocacy |

