

## **Abstracts of Minutes**

# **TOWN OF WHITINGHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, **March 3, 2020** at 10:00 a.m. e.s.t. at the Twin Valley Middle High School in the Town of Whitingham, Vermont agreeable to the warning.

At 10:00 a.m. the Cub Scout Troop 461 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk, Almira Aekus declared the polls open.

The Moderator asked if there were any objections with dispensing with the reading of the warning. There were none. He asked the Board of Civil Authority to introduce themselves: Wayne Wood, Scott Reed, Craig Hammer, Tyson Dix, Elizabeth McKinley, Dana Homer, Susan Cooke Johnson, Abigail Corse, Seth Boyd, and Almira Aekus. At 10:10 a.m. the moderator declared the meeting open for business

### **Article 1**

To accept the reports of the Town Officers.

### **Article 2**

Voted to authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses for fiscal year July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021 of **\$608,406.00** of which **\$358,851.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$194,893.00** in anticipated revenues and **\$54,662.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance.

### **Article 3**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$18,878.00** for the Parks Committee (formerly known as Town Hill Committee) for fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

### **Article 4**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$76,046.00** for the operation of the Town Fire Department for fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

### **Article 5**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$20,000.00** to the Fire Department Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

### **Article 6**

Voted to authorize **\$1,369,882.00** for the maintenance and repair of Town Highways for fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 of which **\$1,250,726.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$119,156.00** in anticipated revenues.

### **Article 7**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$85,000.00** to the Highway Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2020 -June 30, 2021.

### **Article 8**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000.00** to the Hazard Mitigation Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

### **Article 9**

Voted to establish a reserve fund to be called the Town Highway Garage Renovation and/or Replacement Fund to be used to address the renovation or replacement of the Town Highway Garage in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804

### **Article 10**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to fund the Town Highway Garage Renovation and/or Replacement Fund.

**Article 11**

Voted to authorize **\$82,596.00** for the operation of the Whitingham Free Public Library for fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 with **\$69,271.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be offset by **\$13,325.00** in anticipated grants and donations.

**Article 12**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to the Municipal Facilities Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021 for continued maintenance.

**Article 13**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000.00** for the continuing support of Deerfield Valley Rescue for fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

**Article 14**

Voted to authorize payment of real estate taxes on or before November 1, 2020 with ninety-days' notice; to be made by physical delivery to the tax collector before 2pm on that date or with a first-class postmark on or before that date.

**Article 15**

Voted to make overdue taxes bear interest at a rate of one percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof for the first three (3) months and thereafter one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5136.

**Article 16**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,550.00** for the operation of Town Cemeteries for fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 with **\$19,550.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be offset by **\$1,000.00** in anticipated revenue.

**Article 17**

Voted to enter into a communications union district to be known as Deerfield Valley Communications Union District, under the provision of 30 V.S.A. chapter 82.

**Article 18**

Voted to grant an exemption pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3840 for a period of five years for the property owned by Unity Lodge 89 Free and Accepted Masons and used exclusively for the purposes of that organization for a five-year period beginning with July 1, 2020 tax year.

**Article 19**

Voted to and appropriate the sum of **\$400.00** for Brattleboro Area Hospice for delivery of volunteer hospice care, bereavement care and advance care planning services in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

**Article 20**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000.00** for Deerfield Valley Community Cares, an organization that provides fuel assistance for those not on state aid.

**Article 21**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500.00** for Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, an organization that provides programming and activities for youth and families that promote healthy behaviors and prevent youth drug and alcohol use.

**Article 22**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$500.00** for Deerfield Valley Food Pantry for the purpose of providing supplemental food assistance to area families in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

**Article 23**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500.00** to offset the cost of providing the community meals, to Dave and Terrie Dumaine, who provide the meals to the senior citizens in the valley.

**Article 24**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$305.00** for Green Mountain RSVP for support of senior volunteer program with training and support for the volunteers who teach Bone Builder classes and who deliver meals in Whitingham in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

**Article 25**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,203.00** for Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. to help support outpatient mental health and substance abuse services, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

**Article 26**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$750.00** for Senior Solutions-The Council on Aging for Southeastern VT, Inc. to serve elders and assist with funding the community meal, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

**Article 27**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,071.00** to Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region.

**Article 28**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,000.00** for Twin Valley Youth Sports, an organization that provides all students in Whitingham, grades pre-k through 6<sup>th</sup>, the opportunity to play the organized sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball.

**Article 29**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,000.00** for Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings.

**Article 30**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$250.00** for the Windham County Disaster Animal Response Team ("WinDART") in order to assist in the care and sheltering of pets in the event of a local emergency.

**Article 31**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,795.00** for Wings Community Program's summer programming providing four weeks of academic, enrichment, and physical activity for students entering grades K-8 in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691.

**Article 32**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** for Wings Community Programs that provide after school programs for Whitingham students Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Article 33**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$850.00** for the Women's Freedom Center for general operating support to provide services to domestic and sexual assault survivors and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691

**Article 34**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to support Economic Development in Whitingham for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

**Article 35**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$2,000.00** for support of Old Home Week activities for 2026?

**Article 36**

Voted to allow the Whitingham Free Public Library to spend grant monies and donations at the discretion of the Board of Trustees and Library Director.

**Article 37**

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Voted to suggest the town offer free childcare during future Town Meetings to encourage young parents, who may not have the ability to find and/or fund childcare, to attend and participate in town meeting.

Voted to recommend the selectmen uphold the right to bear arms as outlined in Chapter 1, Article 16 of the Vermont Constitution.

**Article 38**

To elect all Town Officers required by law. Polls were open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Twin Valley Middle High School Auditorium, 4299 VT Route 100, Whitingham, Vermont with the following results:

- Town Moderator, 1 year – Leon L. Corse
- Town Treasurer, 1 year – Almira L. Aekus
- Selectboard Member, 1 year - Phil Edelstein
- Selectboard Member, 2 years – Craig S. Hammer
- Selectboard Member, 3 years – Scott Reed
- Grand Juror, 1 year – Tanya Bernard
- Town Agent, 1 year – Susan Cooke Johnson
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 1 year – Almira L. Aekus
- Road Commissioner, 3 years – Stanley Janovsky, Jr.
- Library Trustee, 3 years – Maryann Chevalls
- School Director (TVUUSD), 1 year – Lesa J. Trowt
- School Director (TVUUSD), 2 years – Kristy Corey
- School Director (TVUUSD), 3 years – Christy Ann Betit

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Dated at Whitingham, Vermont this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

Attest: *Almira L. Aekus*

Almira L. Aekus, Town Clerk

NUMBER OF VOTERS ON THE CHECKLIST – 890  
NUMBER WHO VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT – 392  
HIGHEST NUMBER VOTED FROM THE FLOOR - 105