

**ABSTRACTS OF MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018**

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 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. Cub Scout Troop 461 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk Almira Aekus declared the polls open. The moderator, Leon Corse thanked Mark Hayes for setting up for town meeting.

Moderator asked for and received permission for James Valente and Adam Waite, attorneys for the town working on the education funding litigation lawsuit against the State of Vermont. The attorneys reviewed the progress of the suit and answered questions from the electorate.

State Representative John Gannon gave an update on education tax changes that are in the Ways and Means committee.

Announcements:

Old School Community Survey was on the stage for voters to complete. Cub Scout Troop 461 was having a bake sale in the hall.

At 11:31 a.m. the moderator declared the meeting open for business.

The moderator asked if there were any objections with dispensing with the reading of the warning. There were none. The moderator appointed the Board of Civil Authority as ballot clerks for the duration of the meeting.

Article 1

Voted to accept reports of the Town Officers and act thereon.

Article 2

Voted to authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 of **\$557,044.00**, of which **\$223,657.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$196,826.00** in anticipated revenues, and **\$136,561.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance.

Article 3

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$7,775.00** for the upkeep and improvement of the Town Hill Common for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Article 4

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$69,127.00** for the operation of the Town Fire Department for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Article 5

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$20,000.00** to the Fire Department Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Article 6

Voted to authorize **\$1,264,647.00** for the maintenance and repair of Town Highways for fiscal

year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 of which **\$1,091,331.64** to be raised in taxes, offset by **\$119,011.36** in anticipated revenues and previous year balance of **\$54,304.00**.

Article 7

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$85,000.00** to the Highway Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.

Article 8

Voted to authorize **\$79,426.00** for the operation of the Whitingham Free Public Library for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 with **\$66,651.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be offset by **\$12,775.00** in anticipated donations.

Article 9

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$10,000.00** to the Municipal Facilities Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 for continued maintenance.

Article 10

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$10,000.00** for the continuing support of Deerfield Valley Rescue for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Article 11

Voted to make taxes due and payable on or before November 1, 2018 with ninety-days' notice.

Article 12

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 13

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$17,400.00** for the operation of Town Cemeteries for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Article 14

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$350.00** for Brattleboro Area Hospice for general budget support.

Article 15

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 16

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 17

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$500.00** for Deerfield Valley Food Pantry, an organization that provides supplemental food assistance to area families.

Article 18

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 19

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$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. Section 2691.

Article 20

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000.00** for the support of Pool Learning Center an organization that provides services to residents of the town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 2691.

Article 21

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$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. Section 2691.

Article 22

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$4,700.00** to Twin Valley Youth Sports Program, an organization that provides all children in Whitingham, grades pre-k through 6th, the opportunity to play the organized sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball.

Article 23

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,000.00** for Visiting Nurse and Hospice of 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 24

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$250.00** for 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 25

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$1,795.00** for Wings Community Program's 2018 Celebrate Summer program that provides 4 weeks of summer programming, arts and physical activities for youth, entering Kindergarten through those entering 5th grade.

Article 26

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$10,000.00** for Wings Community Programs that provide after school programs for Whitingham youth Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Article 27

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$850.00** for the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town.

Article 28

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$4,000.00** to support Economic Development in Whitingham for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Article 29

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

Article 30

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 31

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

Sherry Adams expressed her concern about the sound system in the auditorium. She expressed her disappointment that there was not much representation from the organizations that were asking for money from the town. She volunteered to contact the agencies next year and ask them to attend. John Robohm expressed his disappointment with the sound system and said it was difficult to hear. Susan Maddern said that a new system was being installed in a few days.

Article 32

To elect all officer and fill all vacancies. Australian ballot polls were open from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. with the following results:

- Moderator, 1 year - Leon L. Corse
- Treasurer, 1 year - Almira L. Aekus
- Selectboard, 3 years - Robin Kingsley
- Selectboard, 2 years - Allan Twitchell
- Lister, 3 years - Howard A. Dix
- Lister, 2 years - Wayne W. Wood
- Grand Juror, 1 year - Susan Cooke Johnson
- Town Agent, 1 year - Tanya Bernard
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 1 year - Almira L. Aekus
- Library Trustee, 3 years (2 trustees) - Tyler Colford & Susan Shepherd
- Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years - Dana Dix
- Cemetery Commissioner, 1 years - Tyson G. Dix

Meeting adjourned 2:15 p.m.

Dated at Whitingham, Vermont this 6th day of March 2018.

Attest: _____
Almira L. Aekus, Town Clerk

NUMBER OF VOTERS ON THE CHECKLIST - 878
 NUMBER WHO VOTED AUSTRALIAN BALLOT - 127
 HIGHEST NUMBER VOTED FROM THE FLOOR - 73
 ESTIMATED HIGHEST ATTENDANCE ON THE FLOOR - 100