

Town of Worcester Annual Town Meeting - March 5, 2019

Paul Hanlon called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

ARTICLE 1 – To elect a moderator for the year ensuing.

Marcia Hill nominated Paul Hanlon as moderator. Cheri Goldstein seconded. There were no other nominations. Paul Hanlon, ELECTED.

ARTICLE 2 – Town officers (polls open at 10 a.m.)

ARTICLE 3 – To receive and act on the reports of the Town Officers as printed in the Town Report.

Cheri Goldstein moved to approve the reports of the Town Officers as printed in the Town Report.

Marlene Kovacs Seconded. Stewart Clark noted that there should be a correction on page 8 article 10 – the year was listed as 2017 and should be 2018. Katie Winkeljohn stated that the budget in the Article vs what was printed in the budget report shows a difference of \$95.00. The Article and budget are fine, and she will determine the discrepancy. Mr. Hanlon asked if the town accepts the town reports as written, except as noted. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 4 – To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector

Ted Lamb nominated Katie Winkeljohn. Marcia Hill seconded. There were no other nominations. ELECTED

ARTICLE 5 – To elect a Town Constable for the year ensuing.

Brian Powers nominated Shawn McManis. Ted Lamb seconded. There were no other nominations. ELECTED

ARTICLE 6 – To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for the term of three years.

Francette Cerulli nominated Steve Barrows. Michael Eckart seconded. There were no other nominations. ELECTED

ARTICLE 7 – To see if the Town will vote to have all property taxes paid to the Treasurer at the Town Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on or before Thursday, August 15, 2019 (Town Tax), and on or before Friday, November 15, 2019 (School Tax) **regardless of postmark**, and to charge a one-time penalty of 8% and interest at 1% per month or any part of a month on overdue taxes from the due date of the tax, as provided by law.

Marcia Hill moved the article as written in the town report. Audrey Richardson seconded. PASSED

ARTICLE 8 – To see if the Town will approve a budget of \$700,529.00.

Cheri Goldstein moved the article as printed in town report. Penny Marwede Seconded.

Ted Lamb noted that the top expenditures in the previous year's budget were gas for vehicles, heat for buildings and sand for roads. The total budget increase for the coming year is 1.7 percent, which is accounted for in an increase in paving (skim coat) for Minister Brook Rd. He shared that work is being done on a town plan – but it is not yet ready for public comment. Also, the Town Service Committee has begun work, though not yet formally recognized. Mr. Lamb also noted the recent explosion on Eagle Ledge Rd. where two community members were hurt, and sent well wishes. He also recognized Katie Winkeljohn for her exceptional work Town Clerk and Delinquent Tax Collector. He also commended

Brian Powers for his excellent job with the Highway Department and to Will Sutton of the Volunteer Fire Dept. He noted that the Fire Department needs volunteers.

Stewart Clark stated that on page 22 of the Town Report – under 2018 Budget, Special Articles – for organizational support – the number should be \$11,550. He also noted that the Kellogg Hubbard Library appropriation should be \$16,677. Katie Winkeljohn stated that the Cross VT Trail Association should not be there, and that the Montpelier Senior Activity Service Center amount was \$2,000 last year, not \$2,600, as shown. Paul Hanlon asked if the correct numbers included in budget. Katie Winkeljohn said that none of those numbers impacted what we are voting on. They were separate articles, not included in what we're voting on now.

Michael Eckart asked what is benefit of paving Minister Brook Road, and being on tail end of stick for getting repaved in future as well as the money it costs to do that – and then it doesn't hold up well. Brian Powers clarified. He shared that a substantial cost is still involved, and the State would not allow us to change it back to gravel due to Act 64 runoff. Roger Hill, Michael Eckart, and Stewart Clark added thoughts to paving/road issues. Further discussion. **The article PASSED.**

ARTICLE 9 – To see if the voters of the Town of Worcester shall approve an appropriation in the total amount of \$11,200.00.

Paul Hanlon moved to waive the reading of all of the separate items in the list. Penny Marwede seconded. Motion passed. Stewart Clark offered information on the list of nonprofits requesting funds. (Katie W declared polls open at 10:09 a.m.) **Marcia Hill moved the article as written. Cheri Goldstein seconded. PASSED**

ARTICLE 10 – To see if the voters of the town of Worcester shall approve an appropriation for the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in the amount of \$16,677.00 for the calendar year of 2019.

Kathy Barrows moved to approve the article as written. Marcia Hill seconded. Penny Marwede reported that the per capita spending to the library is \$17 per year. There are 373 Worcester residents with active library cards, and the amount the town gives to the library is 1.8 percent of their total budget. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 11 – Shall the town voters authorize an expenditure in the amount of \$5,000.00 to pay for the Worcester 4th of July fireworks display?

Alan Erdossy moved to approve the article as written. Penny Marwede seconded. Penny Marwede shared that she would like to see if we can get some other fundraising done for fireworks. Katie Winkeljohn noted that there is a handout at door that shows the effect of the expenditure on the budget. If you have home value of \$200k, you are contributing \$10.86 for the 4th of July. Judy Knapp shared an email from DJ Montague from Northstar Fireworks asking the town to approve an increase. Judy wants to ask surrounding towns for contributions. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 12 – To see what sum of money the town will raise on the Grand List of 2019 to pay the expenses and indebtedness of the Town.

Katie Winkeljohn moved to raise \$733,406.00 on the Grand List of 2019 to pay the expenses and indebtedness of the Town. Cheri Goldstein seconded. Katie noted that the amount is the added amounts of articles 8, 9, 10 and 11. **PASSED**

Article 13 – To see if the voters of the town of Worcester shall increase the 2019 Veterans’ Exemption (for disabled veterans per the Veterans Administration) in the amount of \$10,000 to the amount of \$20,000, said exemption amount to be voted on every year.

Marlene Kovacs move the motion as written. Shawn McManis seconded. Katie Winkeljohn noted that there are only three disabled veterans in town, and the contribution per homeowner is pennies. A discussion ensued. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 14 – To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Cheri Goldstein recognized Earlene Forbes for volunteerism.

Will Sutton asked for volunteers for the fire department. They meet every second Sunday at 9 a.m. for training, and the fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Alan Gilbert offered an update on the Central Vermont Internet Communications Union District.

Vivienne Adair noted the upcoming 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in 2020.

Cheri Goldstein moved to adjourn at 10:45. Seconded by Marlene Kovacs. PASSED

Approved by:

Paul P. Hanlon Moderator
Paul P. Hanlon

Submitted by:

Katie Winkeljohn Town Clerk
Katie Winkeljohn
March 9, 2019 Date

_____ Selectboard

SCHOOL PORTION

Paul Hanlon called the school district meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

ARTICLE 1 –To elect a moderator for the year ensuing

Dorothy Mitchell nominated Paul Hanlon as moderator. Will Baker seconded. There were no other nominations. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 2 – To receive and act upon the report of the School Directors

Matthew DeGroot moved to receive and approve the report of the school directors as written in the town report. Leslie Haines seconded. PASSED

ARTICLE 3 – To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

School Board Chair Will Baker shared that there is no budget on the table this year because the district is in the middle of school governance change within supervisory union. He offered an update on the merger/Act 46, and noted that there is a pending court appeal and legislative action regarding the State Board’s decision on forced mergers.

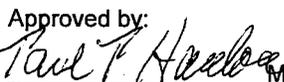
Alan Gilbert shared information regarding the upcoming budget vote and merger update regarding debt that may be shared throughout the new union district.

Chani Waterhouse and Matthew DeGroot offered thoughts about the work the board has done over the last year, and appreciated the respect for how the board and residents have communicated regarding the merger issue. Further discussion and questions ensued regarding debt and the potential loss of the small schools grant.

ARTICLE 4 – To elect the following School Directors:

- One (1) School Director Two (2) Year Term
- One (1) School Director Three (3) Year Term
- One (1) School Director Two (2) Year of a Three Year Term
- One (1) U-32 Director Three (3) Year Term

Marcia Hill moved to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Michael Eckart seconded. PASSED

Approved by:

Paul P. Hanlon Moderator

Submitted by:

Katie Winkeljohn Town Clerk
March 9, 2019 Date

_____ Selectboard