

TOWN OF WORCESTER

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 6, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Paul Hanlon at 9:33 a.m. at the Doty Memorial School Gymnasium on Tuesday, the 6th day of March 2012.

[Article 2 will be voted on by Australian Ballot between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Doty Memorial School Gymnasium.]

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

Paul Hanlon nominated by Donna Pollard. Bill Pollard seconded. There being no other nominations, Selectboard Chair Cliff Mullen called for the vote, which was unanimous.

ARTICLE 2. To elect the following Town Officers, **by Australian Ballot:**

Town Clerk	one year
Treasurer	one year
Select Person	three years
Select Person	two years of a three year term
Select Person	one year of a three year term
Auditor	three years
Lister	two years of a three year term
Lister	three years
LRSWD Supervisor	two years

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

Victor Ehly moved to accept the reports of the Town Officers as printed in the Town Report. Marty Kovacs seconded. No discussion. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 4. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for the year ensuing.

Craig Lang nominated Sandra Ferver. There being no other nominations, Moderator called for a vote, which was unanimous.

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

Bill Pollard nominated Shawn McManis. There were no other nominations, and the vote was unanimous.

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

Earlene Forbes nominated Bob Martin. There being no other nominations, the vote was called and was unanimous.

ARTICLE 7. To elect a Grand Juror and Town Agent for the year ensuing.

Tom Lang nominated Mick Eckart. There being no other nomination,

the vote for Mick was unanimous.

ARTICLE 8. *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 Wednesday, August 15, 2012 (Town Tax) and on or before Thursday, November 15, 2012 (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 article as written. Donna Pollard seconded. No discussion. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 9. *To see if the Town will approve a town budget of \$540,867.86*

Donna Pollard moved the article as written. Marlene Kovacs seconded. Cliff Mullen discussed various aspects of the budget including anticipated rising gas prices, reduction in number of road crew, unspent feasibility study monies, what happens to the budget if special articles are passed which request organizational support from the town. Also discuss was the budgeted amount for storm water management and the unspent highway road sign budget. The article passed as written, unanimously.

ARTICLE 10. *To see if the Town of Worcester shall appropriate the sum of \$400.00 for the support of Home Share Now, an organization that helps central Vermonters develop homes shares in order to create affordable housing options. (By Petition)*

Mark Powell moved the article as written. Marcia Bancroft seconded. Christina Goodwin spoke about the work of the organization and how the organization went about supporting their mission. The organization is currently serving 8 people in Worcester. The motion passed.

ARTICLE 11. *To see if the Town of Worcester shall appropriate the sum of \$1,700.00 for the support of Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice, a full service Visiting Nurse Association providing home health and hospice care regardless of ability to pay. (By Petition)*

Bill Pollard moved the article as written. Victor Ehly seconded. The motion passed.

ARTICLE 12. *To see if the Town of Worcester shall appropriate the sum of \$300.00 for the support of the Friends of the Winooski River, an organization that protects and restores the Winooski River including the North Branch. (By Petition)*

Bill Haines moved the article as written. Mark Powell seconded. The motion passed.

ARTICLE 13. *To see if the Town of Worcester shall appropriate the sum of \$16,739.00 for the support of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library? (By Petition)*

Larraby Fellows moved the article as written. Kathy Barrows seconded. Sandra Ferwer moved to amend the article to read that the Town support the library with an appropriation of \$10,000.00 instead of the requested amount. Bob Martin seconded. Much discussion ensued. Greg Labarthe called the question. Seconded. The motion passed and the debate was ended. The floor vote was inconclusive and the Moderator called for a re-vote by asking the participants to stand. The amendment was defeated and discussion continued on the main motion. It would appear clear that the majority in attendance feel the services of the library are important and should be supported. Kathy Barrows called the question. Suzanne Powers seconded. The motion passed and the debate was ended. The article as written passed.

ARTICLE 14. *To see if the Town of Worcester shall appropriate the sum of \$350.00 to the Montpelier Senior Activity Center, to be used for operating expenses within the fiscal year July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013? (By Petition)*

Amy Darley moved article as written. Michele Hill seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion passed as written.

ARTICLE 15. *To see what sum of money the Town will raise on the Grand List of 2012 to pay the expenses and indebtedness of the Town.*

Cliff Mullen moved to raise the sum of \$560,356.86 [the budget in Article 9 (\$540,867.86) plus Article 10 (\$400.00) plus Article 11 (\$1700.00) plus Article 12 (\$300.00) plus Article 13 (\$16,739.00) plus Article 14 (\$350.00)] on the Grand List. Peter Strobridge seconded. Stew Clark moved to reduce the amount proposed by the selectboard by \$100,000.00 (\$460,356.86). Mary Anne Powers seconded.

A break in the Meeting was called at 10:40 a.m. to allow Peter Peltz and Shap Smith to discuss current events in government, including the recent re-districting, budget deficits and what was learned from Flood Irene.

At 11:00 am Cliff Mullen moved to recess the Town Meeting until 1:00 pm to hold the School Meeting and have lunch. Shawn McManis seconded. Cliff withdrew his motion without objection. Amy Darley moved to recess the meeting to be called into session at the discretion of the moderator. Marlene Kovacs seconded. Passed.

The Moderator called the Town Meeting back into session at 11:20 am., and the meeting reconvened.

Ellen Maxon moved to amend the first amendment by substituting \$19,489 for the \$100,000. Peter Strobridge seconded. Vigorous discussion ensued. The vote was called on the second amendment, and it did not pass. Bob Martin called the question on the first

amendment. Marlene Kovacs seconded. Passed. The vote was called on the first amendment, and it did not pass. In fact, no one voted in favor of this motion, not even Stew Clark (He claimed to have been educated!). The vote on the original motion was called, and it passed.

ARTICLE 16.

To see if the voters of the Town of Worcester shall increase the 2012 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.

Shawn McManis made moved to adopt the article as written. Seconded by Alyssa Johnson-Kurts. Discussion ensued. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 17.

Advisory Article. In light of the United States Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the Town of Worcester, VT vote on Tuesday March 6, 2012 to urge the Vermont Congressional delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U.S. constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure."(By Petition)

Dell Waterhouse moved the article as written from the words "to urge...". Donna Pollard seconded. A great deal of discussion ensued. Donna Pollard called question. Marlene Kovacs seconded. The motion to end debate was carried, and the main motion passed.

ARTICLE 18.

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

Cliff Mullen spoke to the meeting about the proposed purchase of the Maxham property. Advantages: turn-key operation; size and space meets needs of highway and fire departments. Disadvantages: takes 9 acres and building off Grand List; the cost, which includes additional costs of engineering (15-20k) and bond costs (including costs of auditing); access requires shared right of way; current septic design has the Town sharing with private interests. He also spoke of pursuing other opportunities by possibly expanding the current town complex to reduce crowding in town garage and fire department which could be done in stages with a loan and not a bond. The immediate disadvantages: this solution doesn't address material piles in close proximity to river. Cliff asked the meeting if the Selectboard should pursue the purchase of the Maxham property. In response to questions asking what did the word "pursue" mean. Cliff responded that it means looking at other options as well but focusing on the Maxham opportunity. Bill Haines moved the question: Should the town of Worcester pursue the purchase of the Maxham garage and property. Bob Martin seconded.

*Rose Leach moved to recess the meeting for lunch until 1:15 pm. Seconded. Passed.
The meeting reconvened at 1:30pm.*

Discussion continued. The advisory motion passed.

*Vivian Adair asked for volunteers to join the Energy Committee.
Craig Lang encouraged participation in town government and reminded
the meeting that there were several open seats.*

Bob Martin thanked Cliff Mullen for his work on the Selectboard.

*Paul Hanlon thanked Greg LaBarthe and Gretchen Saries for the lunch.
Dell Waterhouse also thanked the Worcester Historical
Society and Greg and Gretchen for the lunch.*

*Judy Knapp previewed the 2012 Fourth of July activities-"...gonna be a
big one!"*

Marcia Hill moved to adjourn. Donna Pollard seconded. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Approved by:

Submitted by:

Moderator
Paul P. Hanlon

Town Clerk
Sandra Ferver

Selectboard Chair

March 6, 2012
Date