

**MINUTES
for the
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
of the
TOWN OF MORRISTOWN, VERMONT**

MARCH 5, 2019

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING

The inhabitants of the Town of Morristown, who are legal voters in Town Meeting of said Morristown, met in Annual Town Meeting at the Municipal Offices, (Tegu Building) 43 Portland Street in Morristown, Vermont on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at eight o'clock (8:00am) in the forenoon, Eastern Standard Time, to vote by Australian Ballot on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect Selectboard Members of the Town of Morristown:

1 for a term of three (3) years

1 for a term of two (2) years

The following officers were elected:

- Christopher Town for a term of three (3) years
- Brian Kellogg for a term of two (2) years

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Voters approve a non-binding resolution to change the official name of the Town of Morristown to the Town of Morrisville?

The voters approved the article on a vote 296 in favor and 268 opposed.

TRADITIONAL TOWN MEETING

The inhabitants of the Town of Morristown, who are legal voters, met in the 214th Annual Town Meeting at the Copley Memorial Gymnasium, Copley Avenue in said Morristown, Vermont on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 9:00 A.M, Eastern Standard Time.

Again this year, Allen Church entertained with his fiddle. New this year, the Peoples Academy Middle School chorus sang 80's songs as voters gathered. The flag salute was presented by local Boy Scout Troop 876. The Peoples Academy Middle level chorus sang the National Anthem. The town also welcomed PA students Cameron Chertoff & Madeline Moffett to the dais who assisted in the opening ceremonies. There were 158 registered voters in attendance.

The Morristown Selectboard dedicated the 2018 Annual Report to Carol Bradley for her 37 years of service as Finance Director to the Town of Morristown.

Vermont House Representatives Avram Patt and David Yacovone, along with Senator Richard Westman were present at the start of the meeting to speak and answer questions about current issues in the legislature.

After a lengthy discussion with the local representatives the annual meeting was called to order at 9:46 A.M. As David Polow was not in attendance therefore, Bob Beeman, chair of the Selectboard, facilitated the meeting until a moderator was elected. There was a correction noted in the unofficial published warning in Article 9. It was corrected to read business personal property instead of business personnel property. Hearing no objections, the reading of the entire Town warning was waived.

ARTICLE 3: To elect a Moderator of the Town Meeting for the ensuing year.

David Polow was recognized with a round of applause for his 17 years serving as moderator. Richard Sargent nominated Shapleigh Smith Jr. for moderator. Shapleigh Smith Jr. was elected moderator of the Town Meeting for the ensuing year on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: In Town Meeting, to elect all Town Officers required by law except for those officers to be elected by Australian ballot under Article 1 above.

- **First Constable:** **one year term**
Richard Keith nominated Eric Dodge. Eric Dodge was elected First Constable on a voice vote.
- **Second Constable:** **one year term**
Eric Dodge nominated Garth Christensen. Garth Christensen was elected Second Constable on a voice vote.
- **Grand Juror:** **one year term**
Julia Compagna nominated Richard Sargent. Richard Sargent was elected Grand Juror on a voice vote.
- **Town Agent to Convey Real Estate:** **one year term**
Brian Kellogg nominated Todd Thomas. Todd Thomas was elected Town Agent to Convey Real Estate on a voice vote.
- **Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits:** **one year term**
Julia Compagna nominated Richard Sargent. Richard Sargent was elected Town Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits on a voice vote.

- **Trustee of Public Funds:** **three year term**
Mary Ann Wilson nominated Angela Norder. Angela Norder was elected Trustee of Public Funds on a voice vote.
- **Lister:** **three year term**
Todd Thomas nominated Paul Griswold. Paul Griswold was elected Lister. Clerk instructed to cast one vote.
- **Library Trustees:** **two (2) five year terms**
Donna Merriam nominated Kim Whitcomb. Kim Whitcomb & Jennifer Faith were elected Library Trustees on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Will the Town vote to pay members of the Selectboard a salary, and if so, in what amount?

Mary Ann Wilson made a motion to accept the article. Gary Nolan seconded it. Mary Ann Wilson withdrew her motion.

Mary Ann Wilson moved to amend the motion to pay the Selectboard a salary of \$1,500 per member per year. Gary Nolan seconded the amendment. The motion as amended passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to establish a Reserve Fund for utilizing the surplus or money left over in the highway or municipal funds and authorize the Selectboard to spend said funds for defraying future Town expenses?

Grace Maniatty made a motion to accept the article. Kevin Bracey seconded it. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Michael "Min" Cote made a motion to reconsider article #6. Susan Sinnott seconded it. The motion to reconsider passed on a hand count vote of 60 in favor and 46 opposed.

Min Cote amended the article to dedicate the sum of \$50,000 for sidewalk replacement. Sarah Kourkoulis seconded the amendment. After deliberation the amendment failed on a voice vote.

The motion as originally presented passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Will the Town vote real and personal property taxes to be paid to the Treasurer in two equal installments; with delinquent taxes and assessments having charged against them an eight percent penalty after the second installment and interest charges of one percent per month or fraction thereof, for the first three months; and thereafter, 1 1/2% per month or fraction thereof, from the due date of such tax? Such interest shall be imposed on a fraction of a month as if it were an entire month. (32 V.S.A. § 5136) Payments are due in the hands of the Treasurer by 4:00 P.M. on the due dates. Only official USPS cancellation marks will be accepted as postmarked mail (32 V.S.A. § 4773). Per its Delinquent Tax Policy and Vermont Statutes (32 V.S.A. § 5252), the Town will immediately begin legal proceedings by turning all outstanding account balances over to an attorney for collection. First installment to be paid on or before November 15, 2019. Second installment to be paid on or before May 15, 2020

Edward Lambert made a motion to accept the article. Herbert Tilley seconded it. The motion passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Will the Town vote to authorize the total expenditure of \$6,510,960 for the operation of the Town, with the total of \$5,546,301 to be raised by taxes:

The Selectboard's Budget defines the total expenditures as follows:

Purpose	Estimated Total Budget	Estimated Revenue	Estimated Amount To Be Raised By Taxes
General Government Operations	\$ 1,992,602	\$ 532,034	\$ 1,460,568
Police Department	1,318,669	18,000	1,300,669
Fire Department	380,081	-	380,081
EMS Department	603,158	197,000	406,158
Highway Department	2,026,450	217,625	1,808,825
Paving	190,000	-	190,000
TOTALS	\$ 6,510,960	\$ 964,659	\$ 5,546,301

Katherine Bovey made a motion to accept the article. Charles Hess Jr. seconded it. The motion passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Will the Town vote to exempt Business Personal Property at an increasing amount of 25% (Twenty-Five) percent per year until 100% (One-Hundred) percent of Business Personal Property is exempt?

Julia Compagna made a motion to accept the article. Edward Wilson seconded it. After brief deliberation the motion passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Will the Town vote to raise taxes equal to one (1) cent on the Grand List to be dedicated to a Morristown Fire Department Capital Equipment Fund?

Everett Fryman made a motion to accept the article. Brian Kellogg seconded it. The motion passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Will the Town vote to raise taxes equal to one (1) cent on the Grand List to be dedicated to a Morristown Highway Department Capital Equipment Fund?

Mary Ann Wilson made a motion to accept the article. Gary Nolan seconded it. The motion passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Will the Town vote to raise taxes equal to one-half (1/2) cent on the Grand List to be dedicated to the Noyes House Museum Repair and Maintenance Fund?

Richard Sargent made a motion to accept the article. Mary Ann Wilson seconded it. The motion passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: Will the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$97,969 for the following purposes:

\$ 2,900	Central VT Adult Basic Education (CVABE)
900	Central VT Community Action Council (CVCAC)
2,500	Central VT Council on Aging (CVCOA)
1,750	Clarina Howard Nichols Center
5,763	Green Mountain Transit
1,000	Justice for Dogs
15,681	Lamoille Home Health and Hospice
2,500	Lamoille County Civic Association
5,000	Lamoille County Food Share
3,900	Lamoille County Mental Health/Community Connections
12,000	Lamoille County Youth Center (Youth Rocks)
4,000	Lamoille Economic Development Council (LEDC)
3,000	Lamoille Family Center
1,000	Lamoille Housing Partnership
1,500	Lamoille Restorative Center
3,375	Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit
10,000	Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County
1,000	North Country Animal League (NCAL)
4,000	Out & About Adult Day Care
5,200	RCT (Rural Community Transportation)
1,000	Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
10,000	River Arts
<u>\$97,969</u>	TOTAL

Todd Thomas made a motion to accept the article. Grace Maniatty seconded it. Todd Thomas asked the Selectboard to review their policy and have each agency reapply with a petition every three years.

Bob Beeman made a motion to amend the article to require that a member from every agency be present at Town Meeting in order to receive funding going forward. Grace Maniatty seconded it.

Everett Fryman made a motion to amend the amendment that in case of emergency and a member from an agency cannot be present that they could still receive funds. Grace Maniatty seconded the motion. The amendment to the amendment passed on a voice vote.

After deliberation the amendment to the motion failed on a voice vote.

Susanna Guthmann suggested that the Town increase funding to Lamoille County Mental Health next year.

The motion as originally presented passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town of Morristown vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$1,000 for the support of Lamoille County Habitat for Humanity to provide services to the residents of the Town?

David Bickford made a motion to accept the article. Jennifer Quevedo seconded it. The motion passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town of Morristown vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$15,000 for the support of Everyone = Morristown Community Center to provide services to the residents of the Town?

Patrick Spenser made a motion to accept the article. Aimee Towne seconded it. The motion passed on a voice vote.


ARTICLE 16: To do any other business that may legally come before the said meeting.

Marcia Marble requested that a report regarding the Noyes House Museum improvements be included in next year's Town Report.

Community members asked for clarification regarding any financial implications of changing the name of the Town. Mary Ann Wilson & Richard Sargent urged voters to vote in support of maintaining the Town name of Morristown on the non-binding resolution on the Australian ballot.

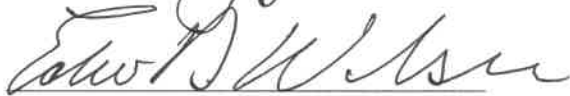
With no other business to legally come before the said meeting, the 2019 Annual Town Meeting was adjourned upon motion by Todd Thomas and seconded by Evertt Fryman at 11:27 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Sara Allyn Haskins, Town Clerk

Attest:


Shap Smith, Moderator


Edward Wilson, Chair of the Board of Civil Authority