

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND  
MINUTES  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 6 & MARCH 7, 2017**

Moderator Sally Ayrey called the Town of Sunderland and the Sunderland Town School District meeting to order at 7:00 PM with approximately 65 people in attendance. Moderator Sally Ayrey recessed the Sunderland Town School District meeting until the end of the Town of Sunderland meeting. Moderator Sally Ayrey introduced Selectboard members Richard Timmerman, Jon French, Mark Hyde, Steven Bendix and John Williams and Town Clerk/Treasurer Rose Keough. Moderator Sally Ayrey had everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Ayrey read an invocation from the Town of Danville to remind everyone to think clearly and to be respectful of each other. Moderator Sally Ayrey reminded everyone that the conduct and procedures of the meeting would be under Robert's Rules of Order 11<sup>th</sup> edition and according to Vermont State law.

Selectboard Chairman Mark Hyde announced that the reassessment for the town has been completed and the Town Listers are working on compiling all the information for the new grand list as of April 1, 2017.

Hearing no objections Moderator Sally Ayrey dispensed with the reading of the warning.

**Article 1.** Shall the voters of Sunderland authorize the Selectboard to establish the salaries, wages and other compensation of the employees and other officers of the Town?

Moved by: James Ayrey

Seconded by: Janet Wilson

With no discussion article one was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 2.** Shall the voters authorize the payment of its personal and property taxes to the Town Treasurer in equal installments with the payments to be in the hands of the Treasurer by October 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>?

Moved by: Harriet Welther

Seconded by: Sally Stone

With no discussion article two was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 3.** Shall the voters of Sunderland provide notice of the availability of the annual town report by postcard, mailed to all registered voters at least 30 days before the annual meeting in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the report to the voters of the town pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 1682?

Moved by: John Williams

Seconded by: Colleen York

John Williams explained that the law does not say we have to change the way the town distributes the Annual Report but this would be more economical with a first year savings of about \$1200.00. John Williams explained that a postcard would be mailed to the voters letting them know that the reports are available and they can either pick one up at the Town Clerk's Office, call and have one mailed to them or view the report on the website of [sunderlandvt.org](http://sunderlandvt.org). Nancy Wolf asked what would happen to the difference of the money budgeted and the amount spent if this article passes and if the budget would reflect the savings the following year. Rose Keough explained that any remaining funds at the end of the fiscal year would go back to the taxpayers by reducing the tax rate and the next budget would show a drop on that line item. Harriet Welther stated that it is a wonderful idea and would save a lot of paper. Michael Hall asked for the breakdown of the savings. John Williams stated that the current cost for the printing of the report was \$1740.00, postage was \$311.40 and the bulk rate permit was \$225.00. John Williams explained that the new amounts would be \$870.00 for printing, postage \$25.00 and about \$150.00 for the postcards. Brian Bushee asked if there would be an additional cost if more reports had to be printed. Rose Keough explained that she would print them from the computer and not go back to the printer. Dineen Squillante suggested that only one postcard be sent to each household. Joshua Volovik stated that he thought it is a good idea and there could be an electronic version and allow people to be taken off the mailing list if requested. Moderator Sally Ayrey stated that the report is available on the website.

Article three was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 4.** Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate, for a proposed VTrans Grant, the required 20% match in the sum not to exceed **\$31,000** to improve roadway safety with the construction of a paved shoulder on Sunderland Hill Rd, from the town garage property to property 2539 Sunderland Hill Rd, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?

Moved by: Marie Litowinsky

Seconded by: Harriet Welther

Marie Litowinsky, Chairperson for the Safe Roads Committee, explained Act 158 and how putting a four foot shoulder on the most dangerous part of Sunderland Hill Road would be added protection for all users of the road. Marie Litowinsky explained that typically these grants are a twenty percent match and should the town receive a \$150,000.00 grant the town would have to pay \$31,000.00. Marie Litowinsky stated that if the article is approved the committee would have to apply for the grant by July and should know if it is approved by the fall of 2017. Kevin Keough asked how they are going to get around the culvert in the dip of the road. Scott York stated that the engineering report stated that would not be a problem. Michael Hall stated that he was not opposed to the idea but the Legislators have to look at how they are going to fund these laws and not put it on the back of the property owners. Michael Hall stated that because of the lack of funding by the lawmakers he is opposed to the project at this time. Matthew Vernon stated that it was a good point but the grant funds are going to go to somebody and we need to decide if it goes to other communities or ours. Matthew Vernon noted that the road is very dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. Phyllis Warren asked what would happen to the \$31,000.00 if we do not receive the grant. Marie Litowinsky explained that it could be rolled over to next year or it could be returned to the taxpayers. Harriet Welther stated that because the state recognizes the safety factors that it is a good sign for us and she agreed that it is a very dangerous road. Robert Faley noted that the four foot shoulder would be on the right side of the road heading south. Robert Faley asked if the idea of maybe removing guardrails as a safety concern has been considered. Scott York stated that the guardrails are not a problem. Weiland Ross stated that we just voted to save maybe \$300.00 by not mailing town reports and now are looking to spend \$31,000.00 which is counterintuitive for something that may or may not contribute to the safety of the town. James Ayrey moved to call the question and Rose Stone seconded the motion. The motion to end the discussion was approved by a voice vote.

Article four was approved by a voice vote.

**Article 5.** Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$65,000.00** to be added to the Equipment Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fun Budget by this amount?

Moved by: Weiland Ross

Seconded by: Scott York

With no discussion article five was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 6.** Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$65,000.00** to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund, and if so voted, authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?

Moved by: Marlyn Couture

Seconded by: Sally Stone

Nancy Wolf asked if this money was for a current paving project or is it to be used for future projects. Richard Timmerman stated that the board is trying to build up the fund primarily for class three roads which do not qualify for grants. Richard Goddard stated that the fund was originally set up for class three roads. Marc Johnston explained how the fund has been utilized since he was hired and felt that the town is just hanging in there so the money is needed to try to keep up on the "ten year" plan. Michael Hall noted that asphalt prices are right now at the lowest and we have not seen these prices since the 1990's and feels that the fund should be continued and well-funded.

Article six was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 7.** Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be added to the Road Projects Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?

Moved by: Jennifer Rosenthal

Seconded by: Carl Graves

With no discussion article seven was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 8.** Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the State/Town Bridge Co-Op Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?

Moved by: Kimberly Clark

Seconded by: Rose Stone

With no discussion article eight was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 9.** Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be added to the Guard Rail Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase to the Highway Fund Budget by this amount?

Moved by: Melanie Virgilio

Seconded by: Patricia Rutkins

With no discussion article nine was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 10.** Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be added to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund, and if so voted, to authorize an increase in the General Fund Budget by this amount?

Moved by: Janet Wilson

Seconded by: Carl Graves

Michael Hall asked what the fund would encompass, would the town garage be included. Mark Hyde explained that it would strictly be used for the municipal office building. Mark Hyde explained the reason for the reserve fund is for the long term such as replacing siding or roof and other items for long term maintenance of the building. Michael Hall questioned whether this was enough money. Mark Hyde stated that hopefully the money would not be required for fifteen or more years. Melanie Virgilio asked how much is in the fund now. Rose Keough stated \$1,500.00 which was approved last year. Carl Graves asked if the money could be switched over as the town grows for an addition to the building. John Williams assured everyone that the building is large enough and it was built to be large enough for at least fifty years. Article ten was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 11.** Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of Arlington Area Childcare, Inc. (Happy Days Playschool) to provide services to the Town?

Moved by: John Williams

Seconded by: Lily Van Haverbeke

Joshua Volovik asked what are the services the Arlington Area Childcare provides. Kimberly Clark stated that Happy Days provides daycare, preschool classes, after school care and summer daycare. Moderator Sally Ayrey noted that the annual report for Happy Days is on page eighty-seven of the Town Report and will provide more information. Stephanie Wells noted that Happy Days also provides special education services. Tammy Reilly stated that Happy Days has a lot of special programs and they are a great organization.

Article eleven was approved by a voice vote.

**Article 12.** Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$1,000.00** for the support of **Burdett Commons, Inc.** to provide services to residents of the Town?

Moved by: Colleen York

Seconded by: Patricia Rutkins

With no discussion article twelve was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 13.** Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$1,500.00** for the support of **Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc.** to provide services to residents of the Town?

Moved by: Nancy Wolf

Seconded by: Marie Litowinsky

With no discussion article thirteen was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 14.** Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$5,000.00** for the support of the **Recreation Park in Arlington** to provide services to residents of the Town?

Moved by: Scott York

Seconded by: Janet Wilson

With no discussion article fourteen was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 15.** Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$7,500.00** for the support of the **Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc.** to provide services to the Town?

Moved by: Alyson Grzyb

Seconded by: Rita Bendix

With no discussion article fifteen was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 16.** Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of **Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging**, to provide elder services to the residents of the town?

Moved by: Matthew Vernon

Seconded by: Carl Graves

With no discussion article sixteen was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Article 17.** To transact any other non-binding business.

Weiland Ross stated that the Selectboard should get a microphone for the head table so people are able to hear what is being said.

Town Clerk Rose Keough made a correction to the minutes of February 29 and March 1, 2016 to clarify that James Ennis was not against the "share the road" program. James Ennis had stated that he was **aware** of the "share the road" program.

Moderator Sally Ayrey adjourned the town portion of the annual meeting at 8:15 PM.

The ballot boxes were declared open on March 7, 2017 at 7:00AM by Town Clerk Rose Keough and closed at 7:00 PM. The results follow:

**Article 18.** Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the total sum of \$12,300.00 for the Cemetery Maintenance Budget?

<b>YES</b>	184
<b>NO</b>	21
<b>BLANK</b>	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	215

**Article 19.** Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the total sum of \$326,475.00 for the General Fund Budget?

<b>YES</b>	180
<b>NO</b>	22
<b>BLANK</b>	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	215

**Article 20.** Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the total sum of \$352,500.00 for the Highway Fund Budget?

<b>YES</b>	180
<b>NO</b>	25
<b>BLANK</b>	9
<b>SPOILED</b>	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	215

**Article 21.** To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

**Auditor** –1 year term

WRITE-IN Weiland Ross	1
BLANK	214
TOTAL	215

**Auditor** -2 year term

WRITE-IN Kathleen Johnson	1
WRITE IN Kathleen Yanez	1
BLANK	213
TOTAL	215

**Auditor**- 3 year term  
 WRITE-IN Leslie Perra 1  
 BLANK 214  
 TOTAL 215

**Cemetery Commissioner** -3 year term  
 KATHLEEN JOHNSTON 174\*  
 BLANK 41  
 TOTAL 215

**First Constable** -1 year term  
 JESSE STONE 180\*  
 WRITE IN 1  
 BLANK 34  
 TOTAL 215

**Lister** -2 year term  
 WRITE IN James Ennis 1  
 WRITE IN Neil Jacobson 1  
 WRITE IN John Stuermer 1  
 WRIE IN Peter Van Vleck 1  
 BLANK 211  
 TOTAL 215

**Selectboard Member** -3 year term  
 RICHARD TIMMERMAN 174\*  
 BLANK 41  
 TOTAL 215

**Town Agent** -1 year term  
 JAMES S. AYREY 176\*  
 BLANK 30  
 TOTAL 215

**Town Moderator**- 1 year term  
 SALLY AYREY 176\*  
 WRITE-IN Alyson Grzyb 1  
 BLANK 38  
 TOTAL 215

**Cemetery Commissioner** -2 year term  
 WRITE IN James Ennis 2  
 WRITE IN Clem Morse 1  
 WRITE IN Kathleen Morse 1  
 WRITE IN Lucille Morse 1  
 BLANK 210  
 TOTAL 215

**DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR** – 1 year term  
 KATHLEEN C. MORSE 170\*  
 BLANK 45  
 TOTAL 215

**Second Constable** -1 year term  
 RENEE STONE 172\*  
 BLANK 43  
 TOTAL 215

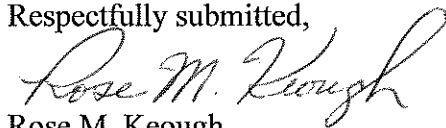
**Lister** - 3 year term  
 BLANK 215  
 TOTAL 215

**Selectboard Member** -1 year term (vote for 2)  
 STEVEN BENDIX 174\*  
 WRITE IN BILL BOWEN 1  
 BLANK 255  
 TOTAL 430

**Town Grand Juror** -1 year term  
 JAMES S. AYREY 178\*  
 BLANK 37  
 TOTAL 215

The meeting was adjourned after announcing the results at 8:15 PM. \*(denotes elected)

Respectfully submitted,



Rose M. Keough  
 Sunderland Town Clerk