

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 4 & 5, 2019**

Selectboard Chairman Mark Hyde called the Town of Sunderland Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 PM with 43 people in attendance.

Article 1. To elect a Town Moderator for one year.

Mark Hyde asked for nominations. Rose Keough nominated Cynthia Herrmann and it was seconded by John Williams. With no discussion Mark Hyde declared Cynthia Herrmann elected.

Moderator Herrmann greeted the people in attendance and recognized Arthur Clark and Richard Zens as new residents. Moderator Herrmann led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Herrmann requested that the Selectboard introduce themselves. Mark Hyde, Jon French, Richard Timmerman, Steven Bendix and Melanie Virgilio were present. Moderator Herrmann recited an invocation to remind everyone to be civil and neighborly. Moderator Herrmann then reviewed the rules of conduct for this meeting noting Robert's Rules of Order 11th edition and Vermont State law.

John Williams moved to dispense with the reading of the warning. Colleen York seconded the motion. With no objections the motion carried.

Article 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Sunderland vote to make Camp Ondawa tax exempt for five years? (From 4/1/19 until 4/1/24)

Article two was moved by Richard Zens and seconded by Marlyn Couture. John Williams stated that in approving the article the town loses the collection of approximately \$2,500.00 per year in tax revenue and still pays the school district approximately \$2,000.00 per year. Over five years this affects the town by \$12,500.00 in lost revenue and causes the Town to expense an additional \$10,000.00. John Williams felt this was an expensive proposition for the Town to take on. Theodore Rappahahan asked if this article is new to the town. Rose Keough explained that Camp Ondawa has requested and been approved by the voters in the past except that it was for three years, state law now allows for a five-year request. Richard Zens wanted to be clear that this exemption has been approved in the past. Rose Keough stated yes.

Article two was approved.

Article 3. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the establishment of a Salt Shed Reserve Fund for salt storage?

Article three was moved by Sally Stone and seconded by Carl Graves. Richard Goddard inquired about where a new shed would be built. Richard Timmerman stated that it would be at the town garage site. Richard Goddard asked if there is enough room for it down there. Richard Timmerman explained that Road Foreman Marc Johnston has been in conversations about where it could go and felt we do have enough room. Richard Timmerman also explained that this article is to be able to set money aside. Article three was approved.

Article 4. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the transfer of any Highway Fund surplus on June 30, 2019 to the Salt Shed Reserve Fund?

Article four was moved by Colleen York and seconded by Michael Welther. Harriet Welther asked how much money this would be. Mark Hyde stated that there is no guarantee but typically it could be around twenty-five to thirty thousand. Harriet Welther inquired what would happen to that money if article four was not approved. Mark Hyde stated that it would go back to the taxpayers by applying it to the new tax rate.

Article four was approved.

Article 5. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$65,000.00** to be added to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund?

Article five was moved by John Williams and seconded by Sally Stone. Carl Graves asked how much money is currently in the reserve. Mark Hyde stated that it is approximately \$60,000.00.

Article five was approved.

Article 6. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$65,000.00** to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund?

Article six was moved by Harriet Welther and seconded by Theodore Rappahahan. Jeffrey Dexter asked what will be done with the money. Richard Timmerman stated that Road Foreman Marc Johnston does have a five-year plan however it depends on what we get for grant money.

Article six was approved.

Article 7. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be added to the Road Projects Reserve Fund?

Article seven was moved by Sally Stone and Seconded by Richard Zens.

With no discussion article seven was approved.

Article 8. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be added to the State/Town Bridge Co-Op Reserve Fund?

Article eight was moved by John Williams and seconded by Carl Graves. Mark Hyde explained that major work has been done on the Hill Farm Road Bridge and the North Road Bridge. Rose Keough stated that the reserve funds are needed in order to have the cash flow. When a grant is awarded the town pays the bill and the grant reimburses the town for the grant portion. Michael Welther asked if the last storm did any damage to the Sunderland Hill Road Bridge. Mark Hyde stated no.

Article eight was approved.

Article 9. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be added to the Guardrail Reserve Fund?

Article nine was moved by John Williams and seconded by Sally Stone.

With no discussion article nine was approved.

Article 10. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of **\$7,000.00** for the purchase and installation of handicap door openers on the two front doors of the Municipal Office Building?

Article ten was moved by Michael Welther and seconded by Rita Bendix. Harriet Welther asked if it would be push button. Steven Bendix explained that it would be push panels.

Article ten was approved.

Article 11. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the establishment of a Technology Reserve Fund for the purchasing and servicing of equipment?

Article eleven was moved by Colleen York and seconded by Theodore Rappahahan. Carl Graves inquired if the money would be used for computers in the town hall building. Mark Hyde explained that it would be used for that and noted that the Town Clerk computer failed this past year and had to be replaced. Mark Hyde also noted that a new computer was purchased for the Assistant Town Clerk and Zoning Administrator.

Article eleven was approved.

Article 12. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of **\$2,000.00** for the Technology Reserve Fund?

Article twelve was moved by Marlyn Couture and seconded by Jeffrey Dexter.

With no discussion article twelve was approved.

Article 13. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be added to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund?

Article thirteen was moved by Sally Stone and seconded by Carl Graves.

With no discussion article thirteen was approved.

Moderator Herrmann then ask John Williams to explain how articles fourteen through nineteen became part of the warning.

John Williams noted that articles fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen and nineteen were the same amounts that each requested last year so the organization put in a letter to request each article to the Selectboard. Article eighteen increased their request by \$700.00 so a petition was done and signed by at least 5% of the registered voters in order to be part of the warning.

Article 14. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of **Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.** (Happy Days Playschool) to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article fourteen was moved by John Williams and seconded by Alyson Grzyb.

Article fourteen was approved.

Article 15. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$1,000.00** for the support of **Burdett Commons, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article fifteen was moved by John Williams and seconded by Colleen York. Richard Zens asked for an explanation of what this article is for. Alyson Grzyb explained that Burdett does a lot of activities for the children in our area.

Article fifteen was approved.

Article 16. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$1,500.00** for the support of **Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article sixteen was moved by Michael Welther and seconded by Joyce Williams.

With no discussion article sixteen was approved.

Article 17. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** for the support of the **Recreation Park in Arlington** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article seventeen was moved by Harriet Welther and seconded by Richard Zens. Carl Graves asked if this amount had changed. John Williams stated the amount has not changed.

Article seventeen was approved.

Article 18. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$8,200.00** for the support of the **Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc.** to provide services to the town?

Article eighteen was moved by Harriett Welther and seconded by Alyson Grzyb.

With no discussion article eighteen was approved.

Article 19. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of **Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging** to provide elder services to the residents of the town?

Article nineteen was moved by Michael Welther and seconded by Rita Bendix.

With no discussion article nineteen was approved.

Article 20. To transact any other non-binding business that may come before this meeting.

Rose Keough asked the assembly to thank the out-going board members for their service. Mark Hyde Selectperson for eight years with most being chairman and Steven Bendix for eight years of service. Rose Keough also asked the assembly to thank Sally Ayrey for being our Moderator for at least twelve years. The assembly applauded in agreement. Rose Keough announced that Representative James and Browning had left newsletters in the hallway for anyone to take. Rose Keough also stated that there is a survey concerning the Solid Waste District which we are each asked to complete, and their newsletter is available. The hazardous waste collection date and time is there also. Rose Keough announced that there will be a rabies clinic on March 23, 2019 at the Second Chance Animal Center beginning at noon. Sunderland residents will be able to license their dogs at that time. Richard Zens stated that he is very concerned about energy conservation and would like to be part of a committee if one could be formed. Rose Keough stated that he should attend a Selectboard meeting and approach the topic there. Richard Zens was then asked about serving on the Selectboard and he stated that he would accept the position as a write in candidate. Jon French recognized that Melanie Virgilio will no longer be a member of the Selectboard after one year of service and eight years of service on the School Board. Jon French announced that Connor Stewart will accept a position of Selectperson for one year as a write in candidate. Jon French also noted that if anyone decides to get involved after the election just let the Selectboard know because they will appoint until the next election to the many vacant positions.

Moderator Herrmann recessed the meeting at 7:35 PM to allow a few minutes for Representative Kathleen James to address the people.

Moderator Herrmann reconvened the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Rose Keough reviewed that Connor Stewart will accept a write in election for a one-year Selectperson as will Richard Zens. James Ayrey will accept a write in election for Town Agent and Town Grand Juror. Cynthia Herrmann will accept a write in election for Moderator and Auditor. Rose Keough also introduced Theodore Rappahahan as a candidate on the ballot for Auditor for three years. Mark Hyde encouraged other people to run for a position on the Selectboard. Steven Bendix agreed and stated that it has been very rewarding. Moderator Herrmann announced that the polls will be open from 10:00 AM until 7:00 PM on March 5, 2019 at the Sunderland Town Office Building to vote on articles twenty-one through article twenty-four. Hearing no objections Moderator Herrmann adjourned this portion of the meeting at 7:45 PM.

The ballot boxes were declared open on March 5, 2019 at 10:00 AM by Town Clerk Rose Keough and closed at 7:00 PM. The results follow:

ARTICLE 24. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

AUDITOR, for 1 year term

Write In Cynthia Herrmann	16	(Declined)
Write In Others	7	
Blank	108	
TOTAL	131	

AUDITOR, for 3 year term

Theodore Rappahahan	104	*
Write In Others	2	
Blank	25	
TOTAL	131	

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER, for 3 year term

Neil Humphrey	115	*
Blank	16	
TOTAL	131	

FIRST CONSTABLE, for 1 year term

Jesse Stone	118	*
Blank	13	
TOTAL	131	

LISTER, for 1 year term

Write In Others	4	
Blank	127	
TOTAL	131	

SELECTBOARD MEMBER, for 1 year term (Vote for 2)

Write In Connor Stewart	42	*
Write In Richard Zens	29	*
Write In Others	14	
Blank	177	
TOTAL	262	

AUDITOR, for 2 year term

Write In Cynthia Herrmann	9	*
Stephanie Peters	1	
Blank	121	
TOTAL	131	

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER, for 2 year term

Write In James Ennis	2	
Write In Others	3	
Blank	126	
TOTAL	131	

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR, for 1 year term

Richard A. Davis, II	117	*
Write In Kathy Morse	1	
Blank	13	
TOTAL	131	

SECOND CONSTABLE, for 1 year term

Renee Stone	107	*
Blank	24	
Total	131	

LISTER, for 3 year term

Neil Humphrey	110	*
Blank	21	
TOTAL	131	

SELECTBOARD MEMBER, for 3 year term

Write In Connor Stewart	5	
Write In Lily Van Haverbeke	3	
Write In Others	4	
Blank	119	
TOTAL	131	

TOWN AGENT, for 1 year term

Write In James Ayrey	26	*
Write In Others	5	
Blank	100	
TOTAL	131	

TOWN GRAND JUROR, for 1 year term

Write In James Ayrey	23	*
Write In Others	4	
Blank	104	
TOTAL	131	

TOWN TREASURER, for 3 year term

Rose M. Keough	119	*
Blank	12	
TOTAL	131	

TOWN CLERK, for 3 year term

Rose M. Keough	123	*
Blank	8	
TOTAL	131	

TOWN MODERATOR, for 1 year term

Cindy Herrmann	29	*
Write In Others	4	
Blank	98	
TOTAL	131	

Respectfully submitted,
Rose M. Keough
Sunderland Town Clerk