

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 2 & 3, 2020**

Selectboard Chairman Jon French called the Town of Sunderland Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 PM with 59 people in attendance.

The first order of business: elect a Moderator for tonight's meeting. The elected Moderator was unable to attend. Richard Zens nominated Jon French. No other nominations were made, and Jon French was declared the Moderator.

Moderator French greeted the people in attendance and welcomed all new residents and voters. Moderator French led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then introduced Town Clerk/Treasurer Rose Keough, Selectboard Members Andrew McKeever, Connor Stewart, Richard Timmerman and Richard Zens. Moderator French then advised that we are a small community, we are all neighbors and we need to be respectful to each other. Moderator French then reviewed the rules of conduct for this meeting noting Robert's Rules of Order 11th edition and Vermont State law.

With no objections Moderator French dispensed with the reading of the warning, which is on page 1 of the Annual Report.

Article 1. Shall the Town of Sunderland enter into a communications union district (CUD) to be known as the Southern Vermont Communication Union District, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. chapter 82?

Article one was moved by Colleen York and seconded by Sally Stone. Moderator French stated that there is a report on page 42 of the Annual Report and asked Andrew McKeever to address this article. Andrew McKeever explained that this was created by the legislature in 2015 for broadband service. Andrew McKeever stated that this should help with internet speed and even possibly have a positive effect on the charges for cable, telephone and internet. He also noted that there is no financial responsibility to the town because a state grant of \$60,000.00 would pay for the feasibility study to see if this is needed.

Article one was unanimously approved with no discussion.

Article 2. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$65,000.00** to be added to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund?

Article two was moved by Marlyn Couture and seconded by Kevin Keough.

Article two was approved with no discussion.

Article 3. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$65,000.00** to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund?

Article three was moved by Harriet Welther and seconded by Colleen York.

Article three was unanimously approved with no discussion.

Article 4. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be added to the Road Projects Reserve Fund?

Article four was moved by Phyllis Warren and seconded by Gloria Alexander. Michael Perra asked what the fund is for and Richard Timmerman explained it covers any projects that are not in the budget like tree trimming and other items that the Road Crew would not normally do. Melanie Virgilio asked why it is not a part of the budget and Rose Keough explained that the reserve was created to cover the cost of projects that would be expensive and a burden to cover in one budget so the money can be accumulated and the expense is spread out. Melanie Virgilio asked if there are any upcoming projects and Marc Johnston stated that the paving on the North Road is not covered by a grant so some money is used for that and if a grant is received the town has to pay a percentage of the cost. Marc Johnston also stated that culverts were replaced on the Kelley Stand Road and the Town share was paid for from the Road Project Reserve Fund. Article four was unanimously approved.

Article 5. 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 five was moved by Virginia Dexter and seconded by Sally Stone.

Article five was unanimously approved with no discussion.

Article 6. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be added to the Guardrail Reserve Fund?

Article six was moved by Harriet Welther and seconded by Colleen York.

Article six was approved with no discussion.

Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be added to the Salt Shed Reserve Fund?

Article seven was moved by Jeffrey Dexter and seconded by Sally Stone. Phyllis Warren asked how much is in the fund and Richard Timmerman stated \$50,482.00. Carolyn Hartshorn asked how much the salt shed would cost and Richard Timmerman stated that it would be a little over \$50,000.00. Melanie Virgilio asked if there were quotes for the salt shed and Richard Timmerman stated that there is for the blocks and everything. Melanie Virgilio asked if the salt shed would be completed this year and Richard Timmerman stated that it would be.

Article seven was approved.

Article 8. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of **\$2,000.00** for the Technology Reserve Fund?

Article eight was moved by Marlyn Couture and seconded by Gloria Alexander. Joyce Williams asked what the fund would be used for and Richard Zens explained that it is to maintain the computers and technical equipment in the town hall.

Article eight was approved.

At 7:27 p.m. Moderator French announced a brief recess to give State Representative Cynthia Browning the opportunity to address the assembly. The meeting reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

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

Article nine was moved by Alyson Grzyb and seconded by Kevin Keough.

Article nine was unanimously approved with no discussion.

Article 10. 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 ten was moved by Melanie Virgilio and seconded by Michael Welther.

Article ten was approved with no discussion.

Article 11. 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 eleven was moved by Heidi French and seconded by Colleen York. Sarah Hackett asked what this was about, and Harriet Welther explained that it is for the youth in our area.

Article eleven was unanimously approved.

Article 12. 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 twelve was moved by Michael Welther and seconded by Harriet Welther.

Article twelve was unanimously approved with no discussion.

Article 13. 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 thirteen was moved by Colleen York and seconded by Sally Stone.

Article thirteen was approved with no discussion.

Article 14. Shall the voters of Sunderland appropriate the sum of **\$9,100.00** for the support of the **Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc.** to provide services to the town?

Moderator French noted that last year a sum of \$8,200.00 was requested and this year they are requesting \$9,100.00.

Article fourteen was moved by Phyllis Warren and seconded by Joyce Williams.

Article fourteen was approved with no discussion.

Article 15. 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 fifteen was moved by Gloria Alexander and seconded by Colleen York. Gloria Alexander asked everyone to support this because they do a lot for the elderly and we need them.

Article fifteen was unanimously approved.

At 7:41 p.m. Moderator French recessed the meeting to give State Representative Kathleen James the opportunity to address the assembly. The meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Article 16. To transact any other non-binding business that may come before this meeting.

Moderator French noted that this is the time to discuss the Cemetery, General and Highway budgets and to ask any questions. He also noted that there are several offices with no one running and asked that anyone wishing to be a write in candidate to please introduce themselves.

Bruce Mattison announced that he is running as a write in for the three-year Selectboard Member. Marc Johnston announced that Kathleen Johnston is running as a write in for the three-year Cemetery Commissioner. Jeffrey Dexter as a member of the energy committee addressed

the assembly concerning Sunderland's energy plan which is a part of the town plan. Jeffrey Dexter noted that it is a very well written plan and it shows that a lot of work went into it. He stated that a window dressing program is in effect in 2020. Jeffrey Dexter and his wife attended a workshop in Bristol, Vermont to learn how to make a window dressing. He showed a sample of a window insert to stop drafts which would reduce heating cost, these would cost between \$30.00 and \$70.00 depending on the window size. He also asked everyone to visit the Sunderland website which is sunderlandvt.org for more ways to reduce energy and associated expenses. Richard Zens thanked Jeffrey Dexter for all his hard work along with the other members of the energy committee. Richard Zens stated that Richard is his legal name, but he is usually called Dixie and is on the ballot as a one-year Selectboard Member. Rose Keough announced that Representative's Cynthia Browning and Kathleen James had left newsletters in the hallway for anyone to take. Rose Keough also stated that there is a handout about the hazardous waste collection date and time. Information on the need for census takers which pays \$20.00 per hour is available. Handouts explaining the need to license all dogs and a handout about our clean water supply is also available. Rose Keough stressed how important it is to get involved in our community, the people of Sunderland need to step up to the plate and preserve our town. Rose Stone announced that she would not be running for the position of Justice of the Peace at our General Elections in November and if anyone is interested in the position to please see Rose Keough about getting on the ballot. Melanie Virgilio announced that she is on the Taconic and Green Regional School District ballot for Schoolboard Member from Sunderland. Colleen York stated that the town does need people to come forward to help the town. Richard Zens thanked Marc Johnston and Josh Corey for the great job they are doing on the Sunderland roads. The assembly applauded in agreement. Carolyn Hartshorn stressed how dangerous the parking lot and road for the school is and asked the town to consider taking care of them. Moderator French explained that because the Taconic and Green Regional School District owns the property, she should take her concerns to them. Moderator French adjourned this portion of the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and noted that the polls will be open tomorrow March 3, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. to vote on articles seventeen through twenty at the Sunderland Town Offices.

The ballot boxes were declared open on March 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. by Town Clerk Rose Keough and closed at 7:00 p.m. The results follow:

Article 17. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Cemetery Maintenance Budget?

Yes **257**

No 25

Blank 19

TOTAL 301

Article 18. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$358,230.00 for the General Fund Budget?

Yes **265**

No 18

Blank 18

TOTAL 301

Article 19. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$380,100.00 for the Highway Fund Budget?

Yes **257**

No 26

Blank 18

TOTAL 301

ARTICLE 20. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

Auditor, 3-year term

Write in OTHERS 3

Blank 298

TOTAL 301

Cemetery Commissioner, 3-yr term

Write in Kathleen Johnston 14*

Write in OTHERS 2

Blank 285

TOTAL 301

First Constable, 1-year term

WAYNE GODFREY 241*

Write in OTHERS 4

Blank 56

TOTAL 301

Lister, 3-year term

Write in OTHERS 2

Blank 299

TOTAL 301

Selectboard Member, 2 years of 3-yr term

ANDREW MCKEEVER 263*

Write in OTHERS 1

Blank 37

TOTAL 301

Town Agent, 1-year term

Write in OTHERS 1

Blank 300

TOTAL 301

Town Moderator, 1-year term

Write in OTHERS 5

Blank 296

TOTAL 301

Cemetery Commissioner, 1 year of 3-yr term

Write-in Kathleen Johnson 11

Write in OTHERS 4

Blank 286

TOTAL 301

Delinquent Tax Collector, 1-year term

RICHARD A. DAVIS, II 252*

Blank 49

TOTAL 301

Second Constable, 1-year term

KEVIN R. HEWES 229*

Write in OTHERS 4

Blank 68

TOTAL 301

Selectboard Member, 1-year term

RICHARDS ZENS 239*

Write in OTHERS 2

Blank 361

TOTAL 602

Selectboard Member, 3-year term

Write in Bruce Mattison 15*

Write in OTHERS 7

Blank 279

TOTAL 301

Town Grand Juror, 1-year term

Write in OTHERS 1

Blank 300

TOTAL 301

*denotes elected

Respectfully submitted,

Rose M. Keough

Sunderland Town Clerk