

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES AND RESULTS**

MARCH 3RD AND 4TH, 2025

Select Board Chair, Richard “Dixie” Zens called the Town of Sunderland Annual Meeting to order at 7:00PM with an audience of approximately 50 in attendance. Chair Zens introduced the select board members, Todd Lawrence, Andrew McKeever, Bruce Mattison, Martin Nadler as well as Town Clerk Susan Whitney.

Article 1. To elect a Town Moderator. Andrew McKeever nominated Alyson Grzyb. No other nominations were received. Martin Nadler seconded the nomination. All in favor, Alyson Grzyb was declared Moderator.

Moderator Grzyb welcomed everyone and provided a brief outline of the rules to be followed for the meeting.

Article 2. Shall the voters of Sunderland authorize the payment of the personal and property taxes to the Town Treasurer in equal installments with the payments to be in the hands of the Treasurer by Wednesday, October 15th 2025 and Wednesday, April 15th 2026?

Harriet Welther moved the question, seconded by Virginia Dexter. No discussion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Article 3. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$70,000.00** to be added to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund?

Joe Boutin moved the question. Jared Bianchi seconded. Joe Boutin stated we need equipment. No further discussion. Article 3 passed with all in favor.

Article 4. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$70,000.00** to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund?

Motion made by Joe Boutin, seconded by Rick Timmerman. Joe Boutin asked if there is a plan for which road would be paved next? As no one from the highway department was in attendance, Select Board Road Liaison, Bruce Mattison responded that he had not received an indication of which road may be next and noted that with the price increases to paving there may not be sufficient funds to pave next fiscal year. David Traver Adolphus thanked the road crew for their work and noted the difference between our roads and other towns. No further discussion. Motion approved.

With the arrival of state representatives, Kathleen James and Rob Hunter, Moderator Grzyb recessed the meeting to allow them to address their constituents. The meeting resumed at approximately 7:48 PM.

Article 5. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be added to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund?

Motion made by Colleen York, Joe Boutin seconded. Clarification as to the use of the fund was provided- it is used for repairs and maintenance to the municipal building. No further discussion, article passed with all in favor.

Article 6. Shall the voters of Sunderland establish a reserve fund to be called the Audit Reserve Fund to be used for the engagement of professional auditing and financial services?

Article moved by Virginia Dexter, seconded by Rick Timmerman. Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty of finding auditors and the increase in price for their services, and the funding for those services. As a result of discussion, Rick Timmerman made the motion to amend the article to transfer any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year in the current budgeted audit line item to the new Audit Reserve Fund. Joe Boutin seconded the amended motion. Article as amended was approved by majority vote, one nay.

Article 7. 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 residents of the town?

Article moved by Harriet Welther, seconded by Mia Smith. No discussion, motion passed with all in favor.

Article 8. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$500.00** for the support of **WindowDressers** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Motion made by Marie Litowinsky, seconded by Timothy Knell. Jeff Dexter provided an explanation of what WindowDressers is and how funds are needed to support window inserts for low income residents. No further discussion, all in favor. Article approved.

Article 9. 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 the residents of the town?

Article moved by Michael Welther, seconded by Patricia Rutins. No discussion. All in favor, article approved.

Article 10. 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 the residents of the town?

Motion made by Colleen York, seconded by Alex Rutins. No discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Article 11. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$10,010.00** for the support of the **Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Moved by Mia Smith, seconded by Phyllis Warren. Rob Zeif asked is the \$10.00 was a typo? Clarification given that it was a 10 percent increase from \$9100.00 the previous year. No further discussion, all favor. Article approved.

Article 12. 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?

Article moved by Michael Welther, seconded by Patricia Rutins. No discussion, all in favor.
Article approved.

Article 13. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$150.00** for the support of the **Project Against Violent Encounters (P.A.V.E)** to provide victim services to the residents of the town?

Motion made by Harriet Welther, seconded by Colleen York. No discussion, all in favor.
Article passed.

Article 14. Discussion of other non-binding business that may come before this meeting.

Phyllis Warren asked candidates for office to introduce themselves. Rick Timmerman, Anthony Thompson, and Richard "Dixie" Zens all introduced themselves as one year select board seat candidates, and Todd Lawrence as a candidate for the three year select board seat. Alyson Grzyb mentioned she was on the ballot for moderator.

Chair Zens thanked retiring board member, Andrew McKeever for his service on the select board. Andrew McKeever thanked retiring Town Clerk and Treasurer, Susan Whitney on behalf of the select board and shared some "fun facts" about her.

Marie Litowinsky asked for input on continuing to pursue grant funding to extend the bike path. The majority in attendance responded positively to continue the bike path.

Jeff Dexter discussed the MERP (energy) Grant the town received and the items to be installed or improved. He also reminded everyone that Green Up day will be in May and to check the website for more information about the WindowDressers schedule.

Todd Lawrence introduced himself as Emergency Management and recommended folks sign up for VTAlerts to get emergency updates. Also to sign up for the CARES program which could assist residents with disabilities or other issues in an emergency.

Andrew McKeever spoke about the Community Visit meal with the folks from Rural Development scheduled for this spring. The dinner would be an opportunity to come together and discuss town improvements.

Richard Zens suggested a potluck dinner at future annual town meetings. Many in attendance responded positively to the suggestion.

With no further discussion, Moderator Grzyb reminded everyone that voting would continue by Australian ballot the next day March 4th from 10 AM until 7 PM.

Joe Boutin made the motion to adjourn this portion of the meeting, seconded by Marie Litowinsky. With no further discussion, this portion was adjourned at 8:42PM.

Polls were declared open on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 at 10:00AM by Town Clerk, Susan Whitney and closed at 7PM. Balloting results are as follows:

Article 15. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$ **21,245.00** for the Cemetery Maintenance Budget?

YES	137
NO	15
BLANK	8

Article 16. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$ **403,314.00** for the General Fund Budget?

YES	138
NO	16
BLANK	6

Article 17. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$ **556,215.00** for the Highway Fund Budget?

YES	136
NO	17
BLANK	7

Article 18. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

(* DENOTES ELECTED)

Cemetery Commissioner – 3 year term

Neil Humphrey	148*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>12</u>

TOTAL 160

Delinquent Tax Collector – 1 year term

Richard A. Davis II	149*
Write ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>11</u>

TOTAL 160

First Constable – 1 year term

Wayne M. Godfrey	129*
Write-ins	1
Over votes	1
<u>Blank</u>	<u>29</u>
TOTAL	160

Auditor – 3 year term

Theodore Rappahahn	132*
Write-ins	1
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>27</u>
TOTAL	160

Selectboard Members (2) - 1 year term

Anthony Thompson	86*
Richard "Rick" Timmerman	95*
Richard "Dixie" Zens	72
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>67</u>
TOTAL	320

Town Treasurer – 3 year term

Caroline Morse Hartshorn	147*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>13</u>
TOTAL	160

Auditor – 2 years remaining of a 3 year term

Write-ins	4
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>156</u>
TOTAL	160

Second Constable – 1 year term

Kevin R. Hewes	134*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>26</u>
TOTAL	160

Lister – 3 year term

Neil Humphrey	145*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	160

Selectboard Member – 3 year term

Todd Lawrence	140*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL	160

Town Moderator- 1 year term

Alyson Grzyb	146*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>14</u>
TOTAL	160

Town Clerk - 3 year term

Caroline Morse Hartshorn	154*
Write-ins	0
Over votes	0
<u>Blank</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	160

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Whitney
Town Clerk