

## MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING

3/5/19

The legal voters of the Town of Fayston were notified and warned to meet at the Fayston Municipal Building/Robert Vasseur Town Hall on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 to transact the following business:

9:35 a.m. Jared Cadwell opened the meeting and welcomed all. He asked for a moment of silence to remember, Kris Colvin, Gerald (Bruce) Dunbar, Robert Griffin, and John Winchell.

He called attention to the town report dedication to Lisa & Ky Koitzsch and thanked them for their contributions to the Town of Fayston through the Fayston Conservation Commission.

He also thanked John Shea, who is stepping down as DRB Chair, for his 20+ years of service on the DRB. All heartedly clapped and agreed.

Jared then read Article 1,

**Article 1.** To elect a Moderator for the year ensuing. Rick Rayfield's term expires.

Tony Egan nominated Rick Rayfield (Rick). Reed Henry seconded.

No further nominations were heard.

Jared cast one ballot on behalf of the house and Rick was elected as Moderator for the ensuing year.

Before moving to the next article Rick explained that all voters needed to have a purple card in order to vote. All non-registered voters would not be able to vote nor speak unless permission was granted by the body. He asked permission from the body to allow the HUUSD representatives to speak as well. He explained Robert's Rule of Order, amendments, division of the house, and the process to request a paper ballot.

Rick then read Article 2,

**Article 2.** To elect a Town Clerk for the year ensuing. Patti Lewis' term expires.

Carolyn Bauer nominated Patti Lewis. Reed Henry seconded.

No further nominations were heard.

Rick cast one ballot for the election of Patti Lewis for the ensuing year.

**Article 3.** To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers for the year 2018.

Jared Cadwell went over pieces of the Selectboard Report found on page 14 of the Town Report. He introduced the DRB members and asked that anyone interested in serving please let the Selectboard know.

He emphasized the benefit of the Town having its own gravel pit.

He touched on the municipal building ADA standards stating it would be explained further along in the agenda.

He wished to recognize the Planning Commission and DRB members for their hard work during the Zoning Regulation updates and as they move forward with the Town Plan updates. To which Carol Chamberlin noted the Town Plan should be updated by the end of the year.

He stated his appreciation for Ed Read and Russ Bowen for their oversight of the town finances.

Jared Cadwell noted that the Selectboard members also serve on other boards. Jared Cadwell is on the Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee and Chuck Martel sits on the Mad River Solid Waste Management Alliance.

There being no further questions or comments Rick moved on to article 4,

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of general revenue and with short term notes fund the Capital Budget.

Freddie Graves made a motion to so authorize. Ed Read seconded. Jared Cadwell explained it allows the Selectboard flexibility should borrowing be necessary leading up to the collection of taxes, but that this was rarely necessary.

No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 5.** Shall the Town pay the Selectboard expenses, and if so, how much?

Freddie Graves made a motion to continue to pay the Selectboard members \$750.00/year. Michael Quenneville seconded.

No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 6.** To assess a time of payment of education and municipal taxes. Property taxes are due 30 days from generation of the bills. Taxes not paid by Friday November 1, 2019 (postmarks (not metered mail) accepted), a one-time penalty of 8% and interest of 1% per month for the first three months and 1.5% per month thereafter shall be applied.

Freddie Graves moved the article as written. Reed Henry seconded.

Happy Mayer asked questions about percentage of people who pay on time and should the due date be extended from 30 days to 45. Patti Lewis thought that probably 50% pay on time. After clarification it was noted that tax payers have more like 90 days to pay as the delinquent date is not until Nov. 1 of each year. Happy Mayer asked what percentage pay before becoming delinquent and Patti Lewis replied the majority pay on time.

Rick restated the question. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 7.** To elect a Treasurer for the year ensuing. Patti Lewis' term expires.

Michael Quenneville nominated Patti Lewis. Ben Bridgewater seconded.

No further nominations were heard.

Rick cast one ballot for the election of Patti Lewis for the ensuing year.

**Article 8.** To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for the year ensuing. Patti Lewis' term expires.

Ed Read nominated Patti Lewis. Reed Henry seconded.

Tony Egan asked if that salary was directly connected to the delinquent tax payers and the answer was yes.

No further nominations were heard and Rick cast one ballot for the election of Patti Lewis for the

ensuing year.

**Article 9.** To elect a Selectman for a three-year term. Chuck Martel's term expires.

Reed Henry nominated Chuck Martel.  
Robert Newton nominated Michele Gaboriau.  
No further nomination was heard.

Each candidate spoke about their backgrounds and interests in serving. Jared Cadwell asked for a division of the house vs voice vote. Gail Breslauer asked for a paper ballot. Rick asked for a show of hands in favor of a paper ballot and counted more than seven and thus moved to a paper ballot.

Rick read results of the balloting with 57 votes for Chuck Martel and 16 for Michele Gaboriau.

Chuck Martel elected to a three- year term on the Selectboard.

**Article 10.** To elect a Lister for a three-year term. Sarah Stavraky's term expires.

Gussie nominated Sarah Stavraky. Tony Egan seconded.  
No further nominations were heard and Rick cast one ballot for the election of Sarah Stavraky for a three-year term.

**Article 11.** No article 11 present on warning.

**Article 12.** To elect a Second Constable for a one-year term. Kevin Vanschaick's term expires.

Freddie Graves nominated Kevin Van Schaick. Albert Coccagna seconded.  
No further nominations were heard and Rick cast one ballot for the election of Kevin Vanschaick for the ensuing year.

**Article 13.** No article 13 on warning.

**Article 14.** To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a three-year term. David Koepele's term expires.

Jared Cadwell nominated David Koepele. Michael Quenneville seconded.

David Koepele spoke briefly on the columbarium project. Question was asked what the timeline looked like and would there be opportunity for public input. David Koepele answered that anyone interested should contact one of the Cemetery Commissioners.

No further nominations were heard and Rick cast one ballot for the election of David Koepele for a three-year term.

**Article 15.** To elect a Grand Juror for a one-year term. Matt Howes' term expires.

Chuck Martel nominated Matt Howes. Jared Cadwell seconded.  
Question was asked what a Grand Juror does and answered that it is mostly an obsolete office and would likely soon be an eliminated position.

Theresa Membrino asked if the Selectboard members were allowed to make nominations. Rick replied that they may.

No further nominations were heard and Rick cast one ballot for the election of Matt Howes for the year ensuing.

**Article 16.** To elect a Town Agent for a one-year term. Lindsay Browning's term expires.

Michael Quenneville nominated Lindsay Browning. Shane Mullen seconded. Question was asked what a Town Agent does and Lindsay Browning responded she provides legal assistance to the Selectboard. Jared stated it was greatly appreciated this past year. No further nominations were heard and Rick cast one ballot for the election of Lindsay Browning for the ensuing year.

**Article 17.** Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Municipal Building Reserve Fund, to be used for ADA Compliant and Maintenance Projects, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

David Koepele made a motion to establish a reserve fund. Tony Egan seconded.

Questions, not limited to, were asked and answered regarding Efficiency Vermont's involvement, (\$20k energy savings since 2010) ADA Compliance issues (bathrooms & front entry), maintenance issues (windows, doors, insulation, humidity problems), the cost of \$54,000.00 to remedy those issues, a deeper look into the building needs vs. spending this money now with a potential of undoing some of that work later.

Question was asked what portion of the \$1.2 million budget is slated for the ADA upgrades and the answer was \$54k.

Question was asked if the Town would incur a penalty if it did not meet ADA compliance. Answered no penalty that the Selectboard was aware of.

Freddie Graves asked to call the question. By a show of hands all were in favor of calling the question.

No further discussion, Rick restated the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 18.** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$34,000.00 to fund the Municipal Building Reserve Fund?

Paul Sipple made a motion to appropriate \$34,000 to fund the Municipal Building Reserve Fund. Ed Read seconded.

Question was asked if it was funded \$34,000 this year would that amount need to be spent? Answer was no, it would not need to be spent in 2019.

Question was asked where the \$34,000 came from when the project was projected at \$54,000.00. Chuck advised people to look at Article 20 for the additional \$20,000.

Question was asked if all our bridges are in good shape in consideration of moving reserve funds from that fund.

Question was asked if the \$34,000.00 was enough to cover the ADA compliance issues without other projects included. Answer no and that \$43,000.00 was needed to complete the ADA

projects alone.

Question was asked if just the \$34,000 was approved what would happen and Chuck Martel replied he guessed they would have to scale back the project and to complete only a portion of the work.

Ed Read explained that the point of creating a separate reserve account is that it is an ongoing account vs. a line item that has funds that go away from year to year vs. being reserved for specific projects. I.E., no blending in with the general budget line items.

No further discussion, Rick restated the question, all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 19.** Shall the voters authorize a sum of money (\$1,274,584.82) to pay debts and expenses of the Town of Fayston for the year ending December 31, 2019?

Freddie Graves made the motion. Ed Read seconded.

Jared Cadwell then walked the body through budget income and expense line items including but not limited to; the funds needed to be raised of \$1,008,796.82, additional administrative support needed in direct response to the general road permit issues, the rationale behind moving funds within reserve funds (bridge reserve is earmarked for the bridge by the municipal building which has been dropped of AOT radar, and reappraisal reserve is healthy, as is our CLA currently at 100%), Fayston tax as compared to other Washington County towns, highway equipment replacement schedule being reduced from 10 years to 7, the need for additional zoning administration hours, and shifting money vs. borrowing.

Jared Alvord noted a difference between the fire reserve number on Page 24 and 29. Page 24 is correct.

Ned Kelley and Carolyn Bauer both expressed their appreciation for the hard work of the road crew. Carolyn Bauer asked if a guard rail might be installed at the bottom of Bragg Hill. Road department will look into that.

Rick restated Article 19. All in favor, motion carried.

At this point Rick asked permission to allow Kari Dolan, Fayston's State Representative to speak to the body. All agreed.

Ms. Dolan highlighted some of the items on the "Town Meeting Report" she and Maxine Grad had created. She spoke of her accomplishments and goals. Inviting all to meet with her at one of her coffee break meetings.

Theresa Membrino asked permission to speak prior to Article 24 as she had a scheduling conflict. The body allowed her to do so. She first thanked Jill Ellis for her six years on the HUUSD Board. All heartedly clapped and agreed. Theresa Membrino then went over some of her views at the HUUSD level. Including, but not limited to, high school renovations with or without Crossett Brook, numbers to renovations, bond vote not happening in June, unity across the district re: Harwood upgrades needed, alternative teaching models, and her desire to think about the district holistically.

Tim Jones then introduced himself as a candidate to the HUUSD Board being voted by Australian ballot today. He has been a resident since 2003, had two children, is an environmental consultant, and his work in the public domain.

**Article 20.** Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to move funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the established Re-Appraisal Reserve Fund and \$10,000.00 from the Bridge Reserve Fund to the Municipal Building Reserve Fund if Article 17 passes?

Gussie Graves made a motion to move funds within the reserve accounts. Jody Chamberlin seconded.

No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 21.** Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to set the necessary tax rate after the Grand List has been completed and lodged in the Office of the Town Clerk?

Carol Chamberlin made the motion. Candace Porter seconded.  
No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 22.** Shall the Town vote to eliminate the appointed positions of Fence Viewers?

Jared Cadwell introduced the current fence views as himself, Kevin Wry and Ed Read.

Freddie Graves made the motion. Sue Jefferys seconded.

Question was asked what a fence viewer did and Jared Cadwell responded that in the past they would make decisions on maintenance of fences between neighbors. The Zoning Administrator now takes care of any zoning regulation issues.

No further discussion, majority in favor, motion carried.

**Article 23.** Shall the Town vote to start next year's Town Meeting (March 3, 2020) at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon at the Fayston Municipal Building/Robert Vasseur Town Hall?

Tony Egan made the motion, Reed Henry seconded.

There was discussion including, but not limited to, who makes the decision on location (answered the Selectboard), efficiency of holding it at town hall vs. the school, space differences, if HUUSD would charge the Town for school usage, parking considerations at both locations, and road crew work to move chairs/tables one way or another.

Paul Sipple made a motion to amend the article to state that the Town Meeting should be at the Fayston Elementary School. Sue Jefferys seconded.

Rick restated the question. Voice vote was undeterminable so a hand count was conducted. 35 voted in favor of keeping the Town Meeting at the Town Hall with 20 voting against.

Rick restated the main motion. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 24.** To elect a representative to fill a 3-year term to the Harwood Union Unified School District Board of Directors. Jill Ellis' term expires. Article to be voted by Australian ballot at the Robert Vasseur Town Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on this date.

**Article 25.** To transact any other business which may properly come before the meeting?

Carol Chamberlin, on behalf of the Planning Commission, wanted to acknowledge Polly McMurtry for her many years of service on that Board. All heartedly clapped and agreed. Carol told everyone of the need to update the Town Plan by the end of the year and the survey that was out there on the Town website, encouraging everyone to participate.

Freddie Graves and Holiday Rayfield discussed a lunch at Town Meeting in the future. It was decided to bring back pot-luck next year and see what happens.

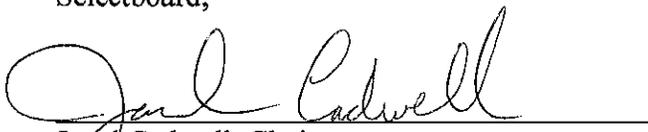
Holiday Rayfield asked about an email list that was talked about last year. Mike Jordan responded it should be launched in a short period and that it would be an opt in or out system.

Wesley Bell asked about the 1% LOT Tax. Jared Cadwell responded that they have had three Town meetings with additional smaller meetings around the valley. It is a continuing process. Albert Coccagna asked if it would eventually come to a town meeting vote and Jared Cadwell responded that was likely a fair conclusion.

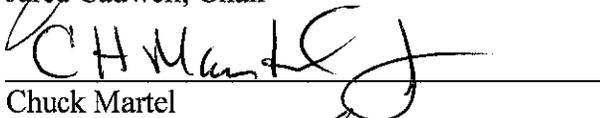
Kevin Van Schaick read a letter with more detail and support of the MRVAS report in the town report on page 33. They were not asking for funds at this meeting but asking individuals to please support the MRVAS to enable it to continue its service to the Valley. If anyone wants to join the MRVAS they will pay for training.

12:37 p.m. Sue Jefferys made a motion to adjourn. Jody Chamberlin seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Selectboard;



Jared Cadwell, Chair

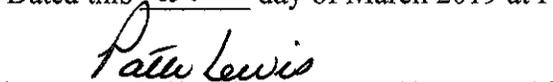


Chuck Martel



Michael Jordan

Dated this 26 day of March 2019 at Fayston, Vermont



Patti Lewis, Fayston Town Clerk

Received and recorded this 28 day of March 2019.