

**ANNUAL WESTFIELD TOWN MEETING  
MINUTES  
MARCH 7, 2017**

The legal voters of the Town of Westfield are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Westfield Community Center, 59 North Hill Road, on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business:

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**TOWN MEETING:**

Immediately following the School Meeting, the Town Meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m.

**Article 1. To elect a moderator for a term of one year:**

The body voted to elect Pat Sagui to the position of Town and School Moderator during the school portion of the meeting.

**Article 2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers:**

Motion by Mary Lou Jacobs and second by Mike Piper to accept the Town Reports as presented. There was no discussion. **Vote: Motion passed by voice vote.**

**Article 3. To elect all necessary town officials required by law:**

- a. **Auditor, three year term:** It was announced that after many years serving as an Auditor, Gordon Lesperance will be moving out of Westfield and will not be running for Auditor. Gordon was thanked for his service. The responsibilities of the position were explained. There were no nominations for Auditor. **The Auditor position was left vacant.**
- b. **1<sup>st</sup> Constable, one year term:** Motion by Dianne Laplante to nominate Normand Piette. No other nominations were made. **Vote: Normand Piette was re-elected by voice vote for a one-year term. (2018)**
- c. **2<sup>nd</sup> Constable, one year term:** Motion by Dianne Laplante to nominate Mike Piper. No other nominations were made. **Vote: Mike Piper was re-elected by voice vote for a one-year term. (2018)**
- d. **Delinquent Tax Collector, one year term:** Motion by Mary Lou Jacobs to nominate Joyce Crawford. No other nominations were made. **Vote: Joyce Crawford was re-elected by voice vote for a one-year term. (2018)**
- e. **Lister, three year term:** Motion by Steve Dykeman to nominate Danny Young. No other nominations were made. **Vote: Moderator Sagui, without objection, instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot re-electing Danny Young for a three-year term. (2020)**
- f. **Selectperson, three year term:** Motion by Laini Fondiller to nominate Anne Lazor. Motion by Steve Dykeman to nominate Richard Degre. Hearing no other nominations the Moderator explained this vote would be by paper ballot. **First Vote: The results of the vote were: 27 votes for Anne Lazor and 27 votes for Richard Degre. Moderator Sagui explained we would continue to have paper**

votes until the tie is broken. **Second Vote:** The results of the second vote were: 28 votes for Anne Lazor and 25 votes for Richard Degre. **Ann Lazor was elected by paper ballot (28 to 25) to the Selectboard for a three-year term. (2020)** Richard Degre was thanked for his many years of service to the community.

- g. Town Agent, one year term:** Motion by Kevin Amyot to nominate Dianne Laplante. No other nominations were made. **Vote: Dianne Laplante was re-elected by voice vote for a one-year term. (2018)**
- h. Town Grand Juror, one year term:** Motion by Mary Lou Jacobs to nominate Mike Piper. No other nominations were made. **Vote: Mike Piper was re-elected by voice vote for a one-year term. (2018)**

**Article 4. Shall the legal voters approve \$64,670.55 for the following appropriations?**

Motion by Will Young and second by Mike Piper to bring the article to the floor. Moderator Sagui explained if all were in agreement she would read each appropriation name and the amount they were requesting. Following any amendments or discussion each amount would be voted on. The Moderator stated after the last appropriation was read we would amend the amount if needed and then vote on the total amount to be raised.

- a. \$500 to American Red Cross:**  
Discussion: Mike Piper asked if the Red Cross had withdrawn their support of the Community Center emergency shelter. Sue Scott responded by saying the Red Cross will still provide training and support for a shelter and will provide emergency assistance to anyone who has a disaster. **Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- b. \$250 to Big Heavy World:**  
Discussion: Mary Lou Jacobs stated this was a new request this year. She questioned how this would help Westfield residents. Jane Halbeisen felt this was a high amount being requested by an unknown organization. LaDonna Dunn stated other Town Clerk's mentioned on the Clerk and Treasurer email listserv that they did not know anything about this organization. **Motion to Amend: Connie LaPlume felt that appropriation funds should remain local and made an amendment motion to zero fund this appropriation request. The motion was seconded by Sue Scott. Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- c. \$100 to Felines & Friends Foundation:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.**
- d. \$250 to Green Mountain Farm-to-School, Inc.:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.**

- e. **\$50 to Green Up Vermont:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.**
- f. **\$450 to Hazen's Notch Association Campership Fund:**  
Discussion: Mary Lou Jacobs asked if we had any Westfield students that used the funds. Teacher Jane Halbeisen answered yes, every year 2-3 children apply. Dianne Laplante asked if it is the same children each year. Jane replied no. It was asked how many children this money will sponsor. Jane replied it depends if the child applied for the day camp or the overnight camp. **Vote: Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.**
- g. **\$800 to Jay Athletic Association:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.**
- h. **\$200 to Jay Focus Group/Jay Focus Group Children's Halloween Party:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.**
- i. **\$500 to Jay Food Shelf:**  
Discussion: Marion Myott asked why Westfield was being asked for \$500 when the other towns gave \$250. Rosemary Croizet answered that Westfield had decided to give \$500 for the past few years. **Motion to amend: There was a motion by Jim Cunningham to amend this article to \$250. It was seconded by Marion Myott. Vote: The motion to amend was defeated. Vote: Moderator Sagui restated the article being voted on which was \$500 to the Jay Food Shelf. The vote passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.**
- j. **\$200 to Jay Peak Post No. 28-American Legion:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- k. **\$200 to Missisquoi River Basin Association:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- l. **\$12,545 to Missisquoi Valley Ambulance Service:**  
Discussion: Someone asked if this was an increase from last year. LaDonna Dunn explained she is on the Ambulance Advisory Board and the ambulance service has been phasing in a 2% increase over the past few years. This appropriation request is approximately \$2,000 more than last years and is based on the grand list in each town. **Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- m. **\$4,000 to Montgomery Fire Department:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**

- n. **\$100 to North Country Friends of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.
- o. **\$200 to Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc. (NEKCA):**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- p. **\$300 to Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging (formerly Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont):**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- q. **\$563 to Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS):**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- r. **\$200 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS):**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.
- s. **\$375 to Old Stone House Museum (Orleans County Historical Society):**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.
- t. **\$500 to Orleans County Citizen Advocacy (OCCA):**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- u. **\$12,698.05 to Orleans County Sheriff's Department:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- v. **\$2,500 to Orleans Essex Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) & Hospice, Inc.:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- w. **\$500 to Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc.:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- x. **\$600 to Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT):**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- y. **\$750 to Troy and Area Lions Club to run the Westfield Senior Meal Site:**  
Discussion: Dianne Laplante asked if this was enough money to run the mealsite. Denny Lyster from the Lions Club said yes it was. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- z. **\$24,744.50 to Troy Fire Department:**  
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Passed unanimously by voice vote.

**aa. \$400 to Umbrella:**

Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed by voice vote with one vote in opposition.**

**bb. \$95 to Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL):**

Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**cc. \$100 to Vt. Rural Fire Protection Task Force- Vt. Assoc. of Conservation Dist.:**

Discussion: None. **Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**Vote on Main Motion: Moderator Sagui stated the main motion being voted on would be in the amount of \$64,420.55 due to amending Article 4b to zero. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**Article 5. Shall the legal voters approve general government fund expenditures of \$216,635.00, of which \$98,770.00 shall be raised by non-tax revenues and \$117,865.00 shall be raised by municipal taxes?**

Motion by Mike Piper and second by Will Young to bring the article to the floor.

Discussion: Jim Cunningham asked what non-tax revenues were. Yves Daigle explained it is grant money and state aid for highways. Jim then asked if taxpayer's money had anything to do with this. Treasurer Mary Lou Jacobs explained the items listed in the budget under general government revenue such as land use, pilot and Clerk's office revenues makes up part of this money. The Clerk's office makes money from photocopies, recording fees and various licenses. This is the money the town makes independently before raising money from taxes. Yves added there is \$10,000 in this budget for replacement of the 100 year old floor at the Community Center. He said if this budget passes there will be a new floor for next year's Town Meeting. Yvan LaPlume asked if the new floor would be put out to bid. Yves said yes it could be. Yves also stated this was almost a level-funded budget.

**Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**Article 6. Shall the legal voters approve highway fund expenditures of \$309,355.00, of which \$124,935.00 shall be raised by non-tax revenues and \$184,420.00 shall be raised by municipal taxes?**

Motion by Will Young and second by Anne Lazor to bring the article to the floor.

Discussion: Jacques Couture explained the non-tax revenue items could be found on page 21 under the highway fund revenue. He said the highway grants end up helping the town to replace culverts and do other road repairs while only costing the town ten percent of the actual costs.

**Vote: Passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**Article 7. Discussion of items to be voted on by Australian ballot.**

Moderator Sagui explained that Article 8 would be voted on by Australian ballot throughout the day until 7 p.m. at the Westfield Community Center. She explained she would read the article and then there would be an opportunity to ask questions. At the 7 p.m. closing of the polls on March 7, 2017 the Australian ballots were counted. The results of the vote are recorded following the 'discussion' in Article 8.

**Article 8. Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$755,527? (Australian Ballot)**

Discussion: Yves Daigle explained the Waste Management District budget is not money that the Town is raising from Westfield taxpayers but rather the voters are voting on the District's budget. Anne Lazor thanked Yves for running the Westfield Recycling Center and Dianne Laplante thanked the Town and Yves for progressing with recycling.

**Australian ballot election results: Yes – 63 No – 12 Spoiled – 0 Blank – 3  
Article 8 passed with 78 ballots cast.**

**Article 9. To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting.**

A. Sue Scott talked about the Local Disaster Shelter Initiative. She said the Red Cross is still supporting local shelters and talked about the Blood Drives held at the Community Center a couple of times per year. She talked about the Disaster Action Team (DAT) that she is part of and announced they are looking for more volunteers in Orleans County. She said there are currently only four members.

B. Connie LaPlume thanked Richard Degre for his years of service on the Selectboard. She asked the Selectboard to consider installing ceiling fans at the Community Center to help make it cooler for all using the community center during hot spells.

C. Jim Cunningham asked if the Town could purchase a wireless microphone for use during Town Meeting so everyone would be able to hear the Moderator better. He also suggested a different seating arrangement might be helpful. Yves Daigle stated the town already has a portable system. There was a show of hands to see if people favored looking into a new microphone system or trying the one the Town currently owns for next year's meeting. The majority favored trying the existing system. It will be set up for next year's meeting.

D. Rosemary Croizet spoke about the continuing problem of cars and especially trucks speeding through the village. Dianne Laplante thought a blinking solar speed sign might help in the village. There was discussion about the Selectboard reaching out to the trash hauling companies to request their speed be kept at the speed limit and possibly sharing the cost of a speed sign with other towns.

E. Jacques Couture thanked Richard Degre for his service and welcomed new Selectboard member Anne Lazor.

F. Yves Daigle said some of his family members had been sick over the past couple of years and people in town had shown much kindness by sending meals. He thanked everyone for their kindness.

**Article 10. To adjourn:**

There was a motion by Will Young and second by Mike Piper to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote.

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Submitted by: LaDonna Dunn  
LaDonna Dunn, Town Clerk

Dated at Westfield, Vermont this 31<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2017.

Yves Daigle  
Yves Daigle  
Chair, Westfield Selectboard

Pat Sagui  
Pat Sagui  
Moderator