

TOWN OF LYNDON
MINUTES OF
2007 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The 217th Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was held as warned at the Lyndon town School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. Moderator Norman Messier gaveled the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Mr. Messier led the assembly of 173 people, who had braved the record-breaking cold, in the Pledge of Allegiance and then offered an invocation for Town Meeting.

Our local representatives to the Vermont Legislature, Cola Hudson and Richard Lawrence, addressed the assembly on activity in the House of Representatives this legislative session and answered questions from the assembly. Mr. Hudson thanked retiring Selectman Bruce James for his twenty-one years of service on the Selectboard.

Mr. Messier introduced the Selectboard and Town Clerk, and thanked Lyndon Town School student Sarah Simpson for running the microphone through the assembly during the meeting. He then reviewed the rules of conduct to be followed during the meeting, Robert's Rules of Order. Municipal Administrator Arthur Sanborn, who is not a Lyndon resident, was given permission to speak during the meeting. The reading of the Warning was dispensed with.

Article 1. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon authorize the Selectboard to borrow for Town expenses not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in anticipation of taxes and to execute and deliver the note or notes therefore?

Motion made by Pat Jauch, seconded by Page Dame, to adopt Article 1. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon authorize the Selectboard to borrow money for the operation of the Wastewater Department not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in anticipation of revenues and to execute and deliver the note or notes therefore?

Motion made by Pat Jauch, seconded by Susan Teske, to adopt Article 2. Ruth Hamel's question regarding the purpose of the borrowing was answered by Martha Feltus. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 3. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon authorize the Selectboard to set charges by residential unit to defray the cost of sanitation service for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, and to set the date of collection of same?

Motion made by Susan Teske, seconded by Carol Fisher, to adopt Article 3. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 4. Shall the Town of Lyndon approve the following requests for appropriations, such requests totaling \$50,763.79? (These organizations are requesting the same or lesser funding from the Town of Lyndon in 2007).

- A. \$250 to the American Legion Post #30 to purchase flags to mark and decorate graves of deceased veterans on Memorial Day.
- B. \$4,875 to assist the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont in providing services to senior citizens in the ensuing year.
- C. \$600 to the Lyndonville Military Band.
- D. \$1,500 to the Lyndon Area Senior Action Center, Inc.
- E. \$5,720 to Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc., to assist in maintaining services in mental health, developmental services, family counseling, services to children and the elderly, substance abuse treatment, and 24-hour emergency services.
- F. \$2,000 to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services.
- G. \$250 to support Vermont Center for Independent Living's programs and services to people with disabilities.
- H. \$2,288.16 to the Northeastern Vermont Development Association for planning, development, promoting and publicizing the resources of Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties with other towns in the three counties.
- I. \$600 for support of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).
- J. \$7,500 to the Village Improvement Society (VIS) towards operating and maintenance of the pool at Powers Park.
- K. \$1,000 to Catamount Arts.
- L. \$3,240 for the operation of the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium during the ensuing year, in exchange for free unlimited general admission to the Museum for all Lyndon residents.
- M. \$2,000 to the Riverside Life Enrichment Center/Adult Day Health Services to be used in providing services to elders and disabled adults.
- N. \$9,500 to the Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice to be used in providing health care services.
- O. \$3,000 to the Darling Inn Senior Meal Site, Inc.
- P. \$6,440.63 to Rural Community Transportation.

Motion made by Page Dame, seconded by Dona Jackson, to adopt Article 4. Chris Hunter answered Carol Fisher's questions regarding Village Improvement Society/Powers Park. Bruce James answered Carol Fisher's question as to why Lyndon Rescue's request for funds was in the budget and not a special appropriation request. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,000 to Lyndonville Youth Baseball/Softball?

Motion made by Susan Teske, seconded by Tim Sturm, to adopt Article 5. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$4,000 to Umbrella, Inc. to serve victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children, families seeking childcare, and child care providers?

Motion made by Tim Sturm, seconded by Page Dame, to adopt Article 6. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$250 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc. for support of the Northeast Kingdom Adult Education & Literacy Program?

Motion made by Dona Jackson, seconded by Tim Sturm, to adopt Article 7. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,000 to Lyndon Outing Club?

Motion made by Virginia Downs, seconded by Carol Fisher, to adopt Article 8. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), for the purpose of replacing an old fire department emergency response vehicle by purchasing a replacement fire department emergency response vehicle, to be financed for not more than five (5) years?

Motion made by Pat Jauch, seconded by Dona Jackson, to adopt Article 9. Arthur Sanborn answered questions regarding proposed financing. Fire Chief Greg Hopkins presented a power point presentation showing the need for the piece of equipment as well as various pieces of equipment that the department could purchase. Chief Hopkins answered questions from the assembly. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to adopt the proposed General Fund budget for the ensuing year? (NOTE: Total General Fund budget is subject to increase by amounts approved on previous special appropriations.)

Motion made by Dick Boera, seconded by Page Dame, to adopt Article 10 in the amount of \$2,105,940.79. Selectboard members Martha Feltus and Bruce James gave an overview of the proposed 2007 budget. Mr. James thanked the library trustees for their work in making the Cobleigh Public Library such an asset to the community. Questions from Dick Banks and Edson Birchard regarding employee benefits were answered as was Carol Fisher's questions about the proposed skateboard park. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to assess a general Town tax in an amount sufficient to support the adopted budget, including any special appropriation articles approved by voters?

Motion made by Susan Teske, seconded by Jim Davis, to adopt Article 11. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to authorize the Selectboard to determine the tax rate necessary to raise the approved assessment based on the 2007 Grand List?

Motion made by Page Dame, seconded by Dona Jackson, to adopt Article 12. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote that taxpayers pay real and personal taxes to the Treasurer on or before 4:30 PM on Friday, November 2, 2007, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months, whereafter interest rates will be one and one-half percent per month, and an eight percent late penalty charged against them from the due date of November 2, 2007, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Pat Jauch, seconded by Susan Teske, to adopt Article 13. Delinquent Tax Collector Linda Lee answered Liz Berube's question regarding delinquent taxes. Bruce James and Dick Boera addressed Ron Rindelhardt's comments about quarterly installments for property taxes stating the Selectboard has not felt that installment payments was in the best interest of the townspeople. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 14. Australian balloting for election of officers and the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District budget. (Results reported at the end of these minutes.)

Article 15. Do the voters of the Town of Lyndon desire to transact any other proper business?

Zoning Administrator Justin Smith spoke of the Town Plan process and the Planning Commission's survey requesting information from townspeople.

Arthur Sanborn informed the assembly of the history and purpose of the Ancient Roads Committee.

John Downs asked for a standing ovation to thank those who served on the merger committees.

Bruce James handed out employee service awards to Linda Lee for 15 years of service, and to Rufus Dawson, III, and Arthur Sanborn for 5 years of service to the Town. Mr. James asked those in the assembly who have served the Town to stand and be recognized.

Martha Feltus thanked Bruce James for his energy, enthusiasm, and many contributions to the Town of Lyndon during his twenty-one years on the Selectboard. Mr. James received a standing ovation from the assembly.

There being no further business, motion made by Page Dame, seconded by Dona Jackson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

TOWN OF LYNDON
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The Annual Town Highway District Meeting was gaveled to order at 12:45 PM.

Article 16. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote to adopt the proposed budget for the highway expenses for the ensuing year?

Motion made by Martha Feltus, seconded by Bruce James, to adopt Article 16 in the amount of \$1,405,758. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 17. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote to assess a Town Highway tax in an amount sufficient to support the adopted budget for the ensuing year?

Motion made by Pat Jauch, seconded by Susan Teske, to adopt Article 17. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 18. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote to authorize the Selectboard to determine the rate necessary to raise said assessment on the 2007 Highway Grand List?

Motion made by Susan Teske, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 18. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 19. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote that taxpayers pay their Town Highway taxes to the Treasurer on or before 4:30 PM on Friday, November 2, 2007, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months, whereafter interest rates will be one and one-half percent per month, and an eight percent late penalty charged against them from the due date of November 2, 2007, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Nancy James, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 19. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 20. Do the voters of the Town Highway District desire to transact any other proper business?

There being no further business, motion made by Susan Teske, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 12:51 PM.