

TOWN OF LYNDON
MINUTES OF
2011 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The 221st Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was held as warned at the Lyndon Town School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Moderator Norman Messier gaveled the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. A moment of silence was observed to remember those townspeople who had passed away during the year. Mr. Messier led the assembly of 125 in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the recitation of *A Town Meeting Invocation*. Legislative representatives Howard Crawford and Dick Lawrence along with State Senator Joe Benning addressed the assembly regarding the happenings in Montpelier. The selectboard members and the town clerk were introduced and the rules of conducting the meeting were reviewed. Michelle Barrett and Jason Harris were thanked for running the cordless microphone during the upcoming meeting. There being no objection, Municipal Administrator Dan Hill was allowed to speak during the meeting although he is not a resident of Lyndon. The reading of the Warning was dispensed with.

Selectboard Chairman Kevin Calkins announced that the Town of Lyndon has been awarded a 2011 Gold Award by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Worksite Wellness and thanked the Town's Wellness Coordinator Laurie Willey for all of her efforts and hard work. Mr. Calkins presented Mr. Messier with a plaque expressing appreciation for his eleven years of service to the Town as Moderator. Mr. Messier, who is not seeking reelection this year, received a standing ovation from the appreciative assembly. David Dill thanked those appearing on the cover of the Town Report for their service to the Town. The photograph was taken at the 2010 Vermont Public Service Awards.

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 Sue Teske, seconded by Derek Murphy, 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 Sherm Laughton, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 2. There being no 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, 2011 through December 31, 2011, and to set the date of collection of same?

Motion made by Derek Murphy, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 3. Carol Fisher was told that the fee will remain at \$175 for 2011. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 4. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$5,400 to assist the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont in providing services to senior citizens in the ensuing year?

Motion made by Edson Birchard, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 4. Lynn Goulding answered Tamie Pitman's and Carol Fisher's questions about the organization and described the services they provide to the community. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$9,500 to the Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice to be used in providing health care services?

Motion made by Mark Beattie, seconded by Stephanie Jackson, 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 \$1,000 to Catamount Arts?

Motion made by Julia Sturm, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adopt Article 6. Motion made by Carol Fisher, seconded by Linda Toborg, to passover Article 6. Tim Sturm asked why we would passover the article. There being no further discussion, the motion to passover Article 6 was defeated by voice vote. Carol Fisher and six others asked for a paper ballot. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by a paper ballot count of Yes - 52, No - 33.

Article 7. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$3,000 to the Darling Inn Senior Meal Site, Inc.?

Motion made by Derek Murphy, seconded by Susan Gallagher, 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 \$5,000 for the support of the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium to provide free unlimited admission to the residents of the Town?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Mark Beattie, to adopt Article 8. Mark Beattie responded to Carol Fisher's comment, stating that it was hard for these organizations to have a representative at all the area town meetings. Motion made by Carol Fisher, seconded by Don Gardner, to passover Article 8. The motion to passover Article 8 was defeated by voice vote. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,500 to the Lyndon Area Senior Action Center, Inc.?

Motion made by Edson Birchard, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 9. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 10. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,000 to Lyndon Outing Club?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Mark Beattie, to adopt Article 10. Sue Teske spoke on behalf of the organization. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 11. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,000 to Lyndon Youth Baseball/Softball?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adopt Article 11. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 12. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$7,009 to Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc., to assist in providing mental health, substance abuse, medical/psychiatric, and developmental services to adults, adolescents and children?

Motion made by Stephanie Jackson, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adopt Article 12. Mark Beattie, speaking on behalf of the organization, answered Bill Beaulac's and Carol Fisher's questions. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 13. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$250 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services for support of the Northeast Kingdom Adult Education and Literacy Program?

Motion made by Mark Beattie, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 13. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 14. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$2,750 to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services to support their work with youth and families in our community?

Motion made by Derek Murphy, seconded by Rose Aldrich, to adopt Article 14. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 15. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$2,288 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?

Motion made by Cathy Boykin, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 15. Ken Burchesky was told that NVDA's report was on page 87 of the town report. Mr. Burchesky asked that budget information be included in their report next year. Martha Feltus answered questions about the organization. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 16. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$6,440.63 to Rural Community Transportation for services provided to residents that live in the Town of Lyndon?

Motion made by Edson Birchard, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adopt Article 16. Carol Fisher asked several questions about the operation of the organization and stated that she feels it is not a well coordinated service. Leonard Wellman, Lyndon's representative on the RCT board, answered questions about the organization. Wanita Gardner spoke of her use of the service. Sue Teske's question about a negative motion was answered by the Moderator. Marty Fors spoke for the organization as did Edson Birchard. Bill Beaulac commented that we should not be micromanaging these organizations. Mark Beattie spoke for the organization.

Motion made by Dick Boera, seconded by Edson Birchard, to amend the amount of the appropriation to \$6,440. There being no discussion, the motion to amend Article 16 carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

There being no further discussion, the article as amended carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 17. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$4,000 to Umbrella, Inc. to serve victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children, and to ensure families have access to affordable, high quality child care?

Motion made by Julia Sturm, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adopt Article 17. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 18. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$7,500 to the Village Improvement Society (VIS) to use towards operating the Powers Park Summer Program?

Motion made by Mark Beattie, seconded by David Cobb, to adopt Article 18. Chris Hunter answered Carol Fisher's questions about the organization. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 19. 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 Rick Messier, seconded by David Cobb, to adopt Article 19 in the amount of \$2,297,226. Kevin Calkins, selectboard chair, gave an overview of the major items of interest in the 2011 budget. Edson Birchard's questions were answered as were Dick Boera's and Bill Beaulac's. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 20. 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 Derek Murphy, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 20. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 21. 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 2011 Grand List?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adopt Article 21. Edson Birchard was told that a booklet would be sent out upon completion of the reappraisal. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 22. 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 4, 2011, 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 4, 2011, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Derek Murphy, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 22. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 23. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon, pursuant to the provisions of Title 32, Section 3849 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, vote to repeal the tax on business personal property?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Carol Fisher, to adopt Article 23. Kevin Calkins and Norman Messier, as lister, answered the questions of Tim Sturm, Carol Fisher, Ken Burchesky, and Bill Beaulac. David Stahler spoke in favor of the article as did Edson Birchard, Pat Lacourse, Sue Teske, and David Dill. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 24. If the vote on Article 23 shall be in the affirmative, shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon, pursuant to the provisions of Title 32, Section 3849 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, vote to repeal said tax in its entirety effective with the 2012 tax year?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Sherm Laughton, to adopt Article 24. Edson Birchard spoke in favor of the three year enactment. Kelly Harris, lister, answered Ken Burchesky's questions and told David Martin that the most efficient way for the Town would be to eliminate the tax in one year. Dennis Sweet suggested exempting new businesses from the tax. Mark Beattie spoke against that suggestion. David Stahler spoke in favor of the article as did Ellen Gould. Sue Teske's motion to call the question was approved by voice vote. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote. The vote was immediately followed by a round of applause from the assembly.

Article 25. If the vote on Article 24 shall be in the negative, shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon, pursuant to the provisions of Title 32, Section 3849 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated,

vote to repeal said tax at the rate of thirty-three and one-third percent (33 1/3%) per year for the next three (3) years commencing with the 2012 tax year?

Since the vote on Article 24 was positive, Article 25 was passed over.

Article 26. Australian balloting for election of officers, school district budget, and the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District budget. (Result reported at the end of these minutes.)

Article 27. Do the voters of the Town of Lyndon desire to transact any other proper business?

Kevin Calkins introduced Russell Blake who spoke of the ongoing work of the garage site search committee.

There being no further business, motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Derek Murphy, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

TOWN OF LYNDON
MINUTES OF
2011 ANNUAL TOWN HIGHWAY DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual Town Highway District Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was gaveled to order at 12:05 PM.

Article 28. 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 Sue Teske, seconded by David Dill, to adopt Article 28 in the amount of \$1,270,791. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 29. 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 Sue Teske, seconded by David Dill, to adopt Article 29. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 30. Shall the voters of the Town Highway District vote to authorize the Selectboard to determine the rate necessary to raise said assessment on the 2011 Highway Grand List?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Sherm Laughton, to adopt Article 30. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 31. 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 4, 2011, 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 4, 2011, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by David Dill, to adopt Article 31. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 32. Do the voters of the Town Highway District desire to transact any other proper business?

Dan Hill answered Teresa Vasko's question about the poor condition of McGoff Hill Road.

Joe Benning's question about the poor condition of Memorial Drive/Broad Street was answered. Motion made by Joe Benning, seconded by Jean Charles, to adopt the following resolution: "That the voters of the Town of Lyndon ask the State of Vermont to repave Memorial Drive as soon as possible." The nonbinding resolution was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Moderator Norman Messier thanked Michelle Barrett and Jason Harris for running the cordless microphone during the meeting.

There being no further business, motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by David Dill to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM.