

TOWN OF LYNDON
MINUTES OF
2012 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The 222nd Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was held as warned at the Lyndon Town School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 6, 2012. Moderator Joe Benning gaveled the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Boy Scout Troop #738 members Mitchell Chase, Daven Webber, Zack Willis, and Tyler Aiken together with Cub Scout Samuel Chase presented the colors and led the assembly of 147 in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Benning offered an ovation for outgoing moderator Norman Messier for his eleven years of service to Lyndon. Following the reading of the rules of conduct, Mr. Benning introduced the selectboard and town clerk and thanked Jason Harris and Michelle Barrett for running the cordless microphones during the meeting. Legislative representatives Howard Crawford and Dick Lawrence along with Senator Joe Benning addressed the assembly regarding the happenings in Montpelier. After twenty years of service, Mr. Crawford will not be seeking another term. Municipal Administrator Dan Hill and School Superintendent Vicky Scheufler were given permission to speak during the meeting although they are not Lyndon residents. The reading of the Warning was dispensed with.

Article 1. 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 Sue Teske, seconded by Pat Jauch, 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 set charges by residential unit to defray the cost of sanitation service for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, and to set the date of collection of same?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 2. Carol Fisher was told that collection of delinquent sanitation charges is accomplished through placing a lien on the property. Siobhan Shufelt was told that the fee would remain at \$175 for 2012. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 3. 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 Mark Beattie, seconded by Stephanie Jackson, to adopt Article 3. Edson Birchard spoke on behalf of the organization. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 4. 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 Dona Jackson, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 4. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,000 to Catamount Arts?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Siobhan Shufelt, to adopt Article 5. Sarah Houghton was told that the organization's report explained what the funding was used for. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$3,000 to the Darling Inn Senior Meal Site, Inc. to provide services to residents of the Town?

Motion made by Edson Birchard, seconded by Carol Fisher, 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 \$5,981 for the support of the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium to provide free unlimited general admission to the Museum to the residents of the Town?

Motion made by Stephanie Jackson, seconded by Edith Bell-Brown, to adopt Article 7. Carol Fisher's question about how many people from Lyndon take advantage of the program went unanswered. Al Toborg and Adrienne D'Olimpio explained that our school children use the program. Al Dille spoke on behalf of the article. Mark Beattie mentioned the weather forecasts that are broadcast from the museum. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$2,000 to the Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce to maintain the operation of the information booth on Broad Street?

Motion made by Siobhan Shufelt, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 8. Donna Stark answered Sue Teske's question about the appropriation and the service the information booth provides. 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 Siobhan Shufelt, seconded by Dennis Sweet, to adopt Article 10. Sue Teske spoke on behalf of the organization. Carol Fisher suggested that next year's appropriation request be for more money. 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 David Cobb, seconded by Pat Jauch, 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 \$2,750 to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services to support their work with youth and families in our community?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Stephanie Jackson, to adopt Article 12. Sue Teske spoke on behalf of the organization. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 13. 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 Dona Jackson, seconded by Siobhan Shufelt, to adopt Article 13. Martha Feltus answered Ken Burchesky's question about the organization. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 14. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$1,700 to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Anne Brown, 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 \$6,441 to Rural Community Transportation for services provided to residents living in the Town of Lyndon?

Motion made by Mark Beattie, seconded by Hartley Jackson, to adopt Article 15. Stanley Francis spoke on behalf of the organization. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 16. Shall the Town of Lyndon appropriate \$4,800 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 Pat Jauch, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 16. Sarah Houghton spoke against the organization. Daisy McCoy spoke on behalf of the organization. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 17. 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 Dennis Sweet, seconded by Stephanie Jackson, to adopt Article 17. Adrienne D'Olimpio spoke on behalf of the organization and told Carol Fisher that residents of any town could be members of the VIS board. Mrs. D'Olimpio also told Ken Burchesky that VIS is working with

Lyndon State College. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 18. 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 Pat Jauch, seconded by Sue Teske, to adopt Article 18 in the amount of \$2,088,148. Martha Feltus, selectboard chair, gave an overview of the proposed budget. Mrs. Feltus answered Donna Edwards' question about the pedestrian bridge. Mrs. Feltus also told Carol Fisher that there was never any serious consideration to tearing down the gymnasium. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 19. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon authorize the transfer of the \$60,217.54 in Special Revenue savings for the Waste Water Plant Upgrade to be used to help fund a capital fund for general fund equipment?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by David Cobb, to adopt Article 19. Kermit Fisher, selectboard member, explained that the money came from general fund savings of \$15,000 in 1998, 1999, and 2000 plus accumulated interest over the years. Edson Birchard was told that any expenditure from the fund would go through the budget process. Ken Burchesky asked that better odor control be looked at for the wastewater plant. Sherb Lang suggested the money be used for wastewater plant equipment. Martha Feltus explained that the money was raised through general fund taxes and that the wastewater fund is an enterprise fund funded by users of the service. Bill Beaulac asked that the money be returned to the taxpayers. Motion made by Sherb Lang, seconded by Carol Fisher, to call the question. Motion to call the question carried in the affirmative. 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 that taxpayers pay real property taxes to the Treasurer on or before 4:30 PM on Friday, November 2, 2012, 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, 2012, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Steve Pitman, seconded by Stephanie Jackson, 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 its selectboard for a period of one (1) year to enter into contracts with new industrial and commercial owners, lessees, bailees, or operators of industrial and commercial real property, including additions to existing real property, for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List or for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount in money which shall be paid as an annual tax upon such real property pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 2741?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by David Cobb, to adopt Article 21. David Dill, selectboard member, explained the purpose of the article and reviewed the proposed policy associated with it. Mr. Dill explained that it is a tool to promote businesses coming into Lyndon. Mr. Dill told Ken Burchesky that many towns in Vermont have such a policy. Carol Fisher's question was answered. Bill Beaulac commented on the need for more specific criteria and flexibility in the policy as drafted. Mr. Dill told Russell Blake that the voters would need to approve this article every year and told Sue Teske that this would be an incentive to businesses. There being no further discussion, the article was carried in the affirmative by voice vote of more than a two-thirds majority.

Article 22. Shall the voters of the Town of Lyndon vote to authorize its selectboard for the period of one (1) year to enter into contracts with agricultural owners, lessees, bailees, or operators of agricultural real property or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees, or operators who construct or acquire new agricultural real property, including additions to existing real property, for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List or for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount of money which shall be paid as an annual tax upon such real property pursuant to the provision of 24 V.S.A. 2741?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Carol Fisher, to adopt Article 22. David Dill, selectboard member, explained the purpose of the article and reviewed the proposed policy associated with it. Ken Burchesky stated that he felt the article was unclear. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 23. Australian balloting for election of officers, school district budget, and the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District budget. (Results reported at the end of these minutes.)

Article 24. Do the voters of the Town of Lyndon desire to transact any other proper business?

Sue Teske invited those interested to help the Lyndon Outing Club with their building replacement project. Edson Birchard spoke of the recent reappraisal. Kathy Schnepf commented that she enjoyed the wreaths that were placed on the Miller's Run covered bridge, as pictured on the cover of the Town Report. Siobhan Shufelt asked for more curbside recycling days. Martha Feltus stressed the importance of recycling. Steve Pitman thanked Jason Harris and Michelle Barrett for running the microphone during the meeting. He also thanked the selectboard, moderator, and clerk for their service. David Dill spoke of volunteer opportunities in Lyndon. Dan Hill was thanked for attending the meeting. Sherb Lang commented that 8 of the 15 special appropriation requests were from organizations outside of Lyndon. In the future, Mr. Lang would like to know the number of Lyndon residents served by these organizations.

There being no further business, motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Sherb Lang, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM.

TOWN OF LYNDON
MINUTES OF
2012 ANNUAL TOWN HIGHWAY DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual Town Highway District Meeting of the Town of Lyndon was gaveled to order at 1:00 PM on March 6, 2012.

Article 25. 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 Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 25 in the amount of \$1,243,802. Kermit Fisher, selectboard member, gave an overview of the proposed budget. Mr. Fisher thanked the road crew for their hard work maintaining the Town's roads. Stephanie Jackson was told that the Charles Street project is a Village project and that the Route 5 project is slated for 2014. There being no further discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 26. 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, 2012, 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, 2012, at 4:30 PM?

Motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Pat Jauch, to adopt Article 26. There being no discussion, the article carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

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

There being no other business, motion made by Sue Teske, seconded by Ted Dinkel, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 PM.

A True Record.

ATTEST:

Martha Feltus, Selectboard Chair

Joe Benning, Moderator

Lisa J. Barrett, Town Clerk