

MINUTES OF THE LOWELL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Lowell, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Lowell Graded School on **Saturday, June 12, 2021** at **10:00 a.m.** to act on the following articles of business:

- The Lowell Town Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. Moderator Alden Warner asked voters to take a moment to honor our American Flag and led voters in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Alden read the announcements notifying the voters of the new Town Office hours, and the normal announcements of the Town Meeting.
- Alden reviewed the Roberts Rules of conduct to be adhered to throughout the meeting.

TOWN MEETING:

ARTICLE 1: *To ELECT TOWN MODERATOR for the ensuing year.*

- Alden Warner nominated; voice vote / carried.
- **ALDEN WARNER – ELECTED**

ARTICLE 2: *To HEAR and ACT upon reports of TOWN OFFICERS.*

- Before Article 2 was discussed Priscilla Matten-Administrative Assistant spoke to the Towns people to announce that she had retired as the Town Treasurer and would be staying on a couple days a week to help Rebecca DiZazzo finish training as the New Town Treasurer.
- Motion made and seconded to accept the reports as written.
- Moderator asked for any errors or omissions in the town reports.
- Keri Willey, F.O.L.K. Member stood and spoke on behalf of the F.O.L.K. organization to clear up the miscommunication between the F.O.L.K. financials and what was written in the Auditor's Report page. She had stated that they had spoken with Gordon Spencer during a Selectboard meeting and got the concerns and confusion cleared up, and that what was written in the report was not meant the way it was written, that their financials were being done as requested.
- **TOWN REPORT ACCEPTED AS WRITTEN, BY VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE 3: *To ELECT the following OFFICERS required by law:*

a. SELECT PERSON 3-year term

- Alden asked that the town residents please give a standing ovation for Richard Pion and Dwight Richardson for dedicating so many years of great service as town's selectmen.
- Andre Tetreault Jr.- nominated.
- Wayne Richardson-nominated.
- **Results by paper ballot: Andre Tetreault Jr.-19, Wayne Richardson -63, Total votes 82**
- **WAYNE RICHARDSON – ELECTED**

b. LISTER 3-year term

- Chris Hager- nominated.
- There were no other nominations, the Moderator using unanimous consent, instructed the Clerk to cast one paper ballot for Chris Hager.

- **CHRIS HAGER - ELECTED**

- c. **AUDITOR** 3-year term

- Arlon Warner- nominated.
- There were no other nominations, the moderator using unanimous consent, instructed the clerk to cast one paper ballot for Arlon Warner.

- **ARLON WARNER – ELECTED**

- d. **AUDITOR** 3-year term

- No one nominated, one will be appointed at a later date.

- e. **1st CONSTABLE** 1-year term

- Jason Randall- nominated; voice vote / carried.
- **JASON RANDALL – ELECTED**

- f. **2nd CONSTABLE** 1-year term

- Lyse McAllister-nominated; voice vote/carried.
- **LYSE MCALLISTER-ELECTED**

- g. **LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

- Faye Starr-nominated; voice vote / carried
- **FAYE STARR-ELECTED**

- h. **LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

- Gail Sicotte-nominated; voice vote / carried
- **GAIL SICOTTE-ELECTED**

ARTICLE 4: *Shall the legal voters appropriate the sum of \$ 280,000.00 for TOWN EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES (Select Board's Account)?*

- Article moved and seconded.
- **Article passed by Voice Vote**

ARTICLE 5: *Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ 135,000.00 plus Vermont State Aid funding for WINTER ROADS?*

- Article moved and seconded.
- **ARTICLE PASSED By Voice Vote.**

ARTICLE 6: *Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ 135,000.00 plus Vermont State Aid funding for SUMMER ROADS?*

- Article moved and seconded.
- **ARTICLE PASSED By Voice Vote.**

ARTICLE 7: *Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ 30,000.00 for the FIRE DEPARTMENT?*

- Article moved and seconded
- **ARTICLE PASSED By Voice Vote**

ARTICLE 8: *Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ 6,000.00 for the COMMUNITY LIBRARY?*

- Article moved and seconded.
- **ARTICLE PASSED By Voice Vote.**

ARTICLE 9: *Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ 3,000.00 for the LITTLE LEAGUE & T-BALL teams?*

- Article moved and seconded.
- **ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE 10: *Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ 1,000.00 for the JR. HOOP BASKETBALL teams?*

- Article moved and seconded.
- Question was asked what was the money used for? Jill Legacy spoke on behalf of the JR. HOOP fund by saying that the money is always used to purchase uniforms, equipment, and trophies for the kids.
- **ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

ARTICLE 11: *Shall the legal voters appropriate the sum of \$ 3,500.00 to the ORLEANS ESSEX VNA & HOSPICE, INC. for the services of Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Medical Social Work, Licensed Nurse's Aide, Homemaker, Personal Care Attendant, Hospice, and Maternal Child Health Programs, and other community health programs provided by the Agency?*

- Article moved and seconded
- **ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$7,937.28 for contract services to the ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT for law enforcement services and to direct the Select persons to assess a tax over and above the budget to sufficient to meet the same? This will be used for 144 hours of routine patrols, answering complaints, and investigating incidents. It will also cover administrative expenses, including salaries, vehicle, benefits, liability Insurance, maintenance, gasoline, supplies, telephone costs, and crime prevention programs.

- **Article moved and seconded**
- Question was asked why are we voting on this subject, when the town voted it out years ago. Answer by the moderator was that a request was sent in by Sheriff Jennifer Harlow and was approved by the Board to be put on the warning as an article to give a second chance.
- Another person made his opinion that our town doesn't need the Sheriff's department help.
- Another person asked to hear the Sheriff.
- Sheriff Harlow was given permission to speak by unanimous consent
- Sheriff Harlow had started her conversation by saying that she had been in law enforcement for 25 years and would like to earn a second chance to service the Town of Lowell. She would like to regain the trust of the community to be here when needed. She noted that she would respect any decision the towns people made.
- A request to have a paper ballot was made, a simple yes or no vote
- **Results by paper ballot: No= 38 and Yes 34, a total of 72 votes**
- **ARTICLE DEFEATED**

ARTICLE 13: Shall the legal voters appropriate the following sums:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	
a)	\$250	\$250	to AMERICAN RED CROSS
b)	\$500	\$600	to GREEN MOUNTAIN FARM-to-SCHOOL, INC.
c)	\$ 50	\$50	to GREEN UP VERMONT
d)	\$0	\$300	to JAY PEAK POST NO. 28, INC. – AMERICAN LEGION
e)	\$1000	\$1000	to LAMOOILE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH
f)	\$200	\$200	to MISSISQUOI RIVER BASIN ASSOC.
g)	\$300	\$300	to Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc. – (OCCD)
h)	\$300	\$300	to NORTHEAST KINGDOM COUNCIL ON AGING
i)	\$1,758	\$1,758	to NORTHEAST KINGDOM HUMAN SERVICE, INC.
j)	\$200	\$200	to NORTHEAST KINGDOM LEARNING SERVICES, INC.
k)	\$659	\$659	to NORTHEASTERN VT. DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
l)	\$200	\$0	to ORLEANS COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
m)	\$500	\$0	to ORLEANS COUNTY CITIZEN ADVOCACY
n)	\$500	\$500	to ORLEANS COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION-(OCFA)
o)	\$550	\$550	to ORLEANS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
p)	\$0	\$500	to POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER
q)	\$0	\$500	to PREVENT CHILD ABUSE VERMONT
r)	\$700	\$700	to RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION
s)	\$825	\$825	to UMBRELLA
t)	\$100	\$100	to VACD – VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION
u)	\$200	\$200	to VT ASSOC for the BLIND and VISUALLY IMPAIRED
v)	\$90	\$90	to VT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
w)	\$250	\$0	to VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK
x)	\$100	\$0	to VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

\$9,232.00 \$9,582.00 Totals for above appropriations
PLEASE NOTE: Individual service reports printed in back of town report.

- **Article Moved and seconded**
- Question was asked why should we give \$550 to letter O when they should only be given \$500..
- **Motion made and seconded to change the amount from \$550 to \$500**
- **Motion failed by voice vote. Amount remained at \$550**
- Motion was made and seconded to call the question; voice vote/carried
- **ARTICLE PASSED AS WRITTEN BY VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE 14: *To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.*

- Request was made to have voting present at the Town meeting even if it is only paper ballot voting.
- Question was asked, what is the town doing with the money from the logging of town land. Priscilla answered with, the money has been put aside for emergency purposes. A suggestion was made to use the money to help maintain Gelo park. Jennifer Blay asked to speak, she stated that she had already walked the Gelo Park Forest with Richard Pion, and the students are already marking trails for the new trail system in the Gelo park forest.
- Gordon Spencer requested an update on the paving grant.

Priscilla’s response:

The State rep. verbally stated the State would pay \$175,000 toward the 2020 Paving cost of \$500,000. That was rescinded during Covid -19. It was later noted to the Town, that the State would still pay the \$175,000 in 2021 for additional paving work. The last notice the town

received from the state is that there will still be a grant issued for the 175,000 but can be applied toward the paving cost of 2020. The town has processed the paperwork to start this grant.

- Gordon Spencer asked what the Town was going to do with the money for the Town Land that was sold. Priscilla stated the plan is to put the money in a separate account towards the 10% requirement for the replacement of the Hodgeman bridge.
- Roger Willey asked what the saving for the Town would be now that we are leasing our own trucks. Priscilla answer that the Town would be saving a minimum of \$28,133.80 for 2021, and a minimum of \$31,913.49 for the year 2022.
- Maurice Pion asked if anyone other than town employees would be able to drive the new Town trucks, the Selectboard answered this question with a stern NO.

ARTICLE 15: TO ADJOURN

- The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Town Meeting; voice vote / carried.
- **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:53 A.M.**

Attest:

MODERATOR: Alden Warner _____

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE: Sadie Willey _____

PRESIDING OFFICER: Christy M. Pion _____

Received for recording in Town Proceeding Book

Attest: Christy M. Pion- Town Clerk