

MINUTES OF THE LOWELL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Lowell, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Lowell Graded School on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** to act on the following articles of business:

TOWN MEETING:

- The Lowell Town Meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

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**.

Questions and Comments:

- **Motion made and seconded to accept the report as written**
- Marie Busch, Town Treasurer, read the list of corrections that need to be made before excepting the book. **The corrections are as follows: 1. Page 4, Pope Frontier Society was accidentally overlooked when typing in the appropriations, total appropriations should be \$9,326. 2. Pages 7, 15, and 19 Funds carried over from prior year due to a computer glitch error.**
- Motion made and seconded to accept the report with the above corrections
- **Voice vote/ carried**

ARTICLE 3: Shall the legal voters of **Lowell** Choose to have the Select Board **APPOINT a ROAD COMMISSIONER**, rather than the town voters elect a **ROAD COMMISSIONER** pursuant to 17 V.S.A. & 2651?

- Motion was made and seconded to pass over Article 3
- Request was made to vote paper ballot to pass over Article. Moderator asked for a show of 7 hands to vote by paper ballot, 7 hands were raised.
- Moderator stated that Yes will pass over the article and No will continue the article.
- No’s have it with 61 votes , Yes’s had 52, and 1 spoiled with a total of 114 votes
- Motion made and seconded to have the select board appoint the road commissioner.
- David DiZazzo asked for the Selectboard to explain the difference between appointed and elected. The Selectboard members explained that the only difference is that the board will be helping with decisions for the road budget rather than just one person, but the job itself will remain the same.
- There were several concerns that by appointing the Road commissioner that the towns people would have no voice. Dotty Spoerl stood up and spoke and stated that she had the same fear after the passing of our former Road Commissioner. She stated that she has come to every selectboard meeting due to this fear and found that by doing this she still had a voice and that the Board really listens and takes consideration of what the towns people would like to have happen. She has not been disappointed with any of what the Board had been doing to make sure that the roads are still being maintained and felt that they are better than they were before.
- Albert Pion had concerns that the Town was falling apart.
- Lyse McAllister asked the Board if they had anyone in mind for the position? The Board stated that they were waiting for the outcome of Article 3 before pursuing any possible persons of interest in the job. If Article 3 passes they will be posting the position in the paper and on all the forums the town uses for posting jobs. They also stated that the Job description has been left on the back table for anyone who is interested in it if the Article passes.
- Other people voiced their opinion of not being for appointing.
- Reginald Pion Spoke about his past position of Road Commissioner with the Town and his feelings about not appointing the position.

- Both Tod Morin and Camellia Morrison spoke about staying connected and being more present with the process of the Town to stay involved with ongoing decisions.
- Legh Higgins asked if the Road Commissioner would be required to attend Selectboard meetings, the Board answered yes, as he always has.
- Ginger Guyette asked who would she call if she needed something done for her road, the Board answered that she could call any of the Selectboard or the Road Commissioner after one is hired.
- Motion was made to call the question; voice vote/carried
- Continued of Article 3, to Appoint or Elect a Road Commissioner? The Moderator instructed the Towns people to vote by paper ballot. Results were in favor of Appointing with the totals being: Appoint-60 and Elect-56 and 1 spoiled ballot Totaling 117 votes

Lunch Break was announced at 12:30 pm and would resume 1:00 pm.

- Before continuing with the Rest of the meeting **Mark Higley, Town Representative** asked to speak to the Towns people on upcoming Laws to be passed and other Laws that will be changed. He also spoke of upcoming Mandates in the works.

ARTICLE 4: To ELECT the following OFFICERS required by law:

a. SELECT PERSON 3-year term

- Jennifer Blay-Nominated.
- Shawn Warner - Nominated
- Gordon Spencer-Nominated
- Moderator stated paper ballot would need to be voted for all three candidates.
- Request made to hear from the candidates-
- Jennifer Blay spoke first, then Shawn Warner, And William Herrera Spoke on behalf of Gordon Spencer, as he had just had surgery and could not be at the meeting.
- Paper ballot count was Shawn warner- 11, Gordon Spencer- 15, Jennifer Blay - 64, Total Votes- 90
- **JENNIFER BLAY-ELECTED**

b. LISTER 3-year term

- Mark Higley- nominated.
- **MARK HIGLEY– ELECTED By clerk casting 1 paper ballot.**

c. 1st CONSTABLE 1-year term

- Ashley Callahan- nominated; voice vote / carried.
- **ASHLEY CALLAHAN- ELECTED**

d. 2nd CONSTABLE 1-year term

- Joshua King-nominated; voice vote/carried.
- **JOSHUA KING -ELECTED**

e. LIBRARY TRUSTEE 5-year term

- Brandie Cochran-nominated; voice vote/ carried.
- **BRANDIE COCHRAN -ELECTED**

f. AUDITOR 3-year term

- Gordon Spencer-nominated; voice vote/ carried
- **GORDON SPENCER-ELECTED By clerk casting 1 paper ballot**

ARTICLE 5: Shall the legal voters appropriate the sum of \$ **386,429.00** for **TOWN EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES** (Select Board’s Account)?

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

ARTICLE 6: Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ **150,000.00** plus Vermont State Aid funding for **WINTER ROADS**?

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

ARTICLE 7: Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ **150,000.00** plus Vermont State Aid funding for **SUMMER ROADS**?

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

ARTICLE 8: Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ **35,000.00** for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT**?

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

ARTICLE 9: Shall the legal voters appropriate \$ **7,500.00** for the **COMMUNITY LIBRARY**?

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

ARTICLE 10: 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 11: Shall the legal voters appropriate the following sums:

2025

- a) \$500 to **AMERICAN LEGION JAYPEAK POST # 28, INC.**
- b) \$1000 to **GREEN MOUNTAIN FARM-to-SCHOOL, INC.**
- c) \$50 to **GREEN UP VERMONT**
- d) \$200 to **MISSISQUOI RIVER BASIN ASSOC.**
- e) \$300 to **NORTHEAST KINGDOM COUNCIL ON AGING**
- f) \$1,758 to **NORTHEAST KINGDOM HUMAN SERVICE, INC.**
- g) \$250 to **NORTHEAST KINGDOM LEARNING SERVICES, INC.**
- h) \$843 to **NORTHEASTERN VT. DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**
- i) \$200 to **ORLEANS COUNTY CITIZEN ADVOCACY (ConnectABILITIES)**
- j) \$550 to **ORLEANS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
- k) \$500 to **POPE FRONTIER SOCIETY**
- l) \$1600 to **RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION**
- m) \$825 to **UMBRELLA**
- n) \$200 to **VACD – VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION**
- o) \$200 to **VT ASSOC for the BLIND and VISUALLY IMPAIRED**
- p) \$250 to **VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK**
- q) \$100 to **VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

\$9,326.00 Totals for above appropriations

- Motion made and seconded.
- **ARTICLE PASSEDAAS WRITTENBY VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

- No other business was transacted.

ARTICLE 13: TO ADJOURN

- The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Town Meeting; voice vote / carried.
- **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:48P.M.**

Attest:

MODERATOR: Alden Warner _____

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE: Jeff Parsons _____

PRESIDING OFFICER: Christy M. Pion _____

Received for recording in Town Proceeding Book

Attest: Christy M. Pion- Town Clerk