

TOWN OF STRATTON
Minutes of the
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 7, 2017

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton met as warned at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Moderator, Diana Stugger, called the meeting to order at 10:03am. Selectman, Al Dupell, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk took the roll. Initially, 31 voters were present; therefore, 16 votes constitute a majority. Guests present were Officer William Young of the Windham County Sheriff's Dept., and Larry Geller, who owns a home in Stratton. The Moderator asked new attendees to introduce themselves, after which Shane and Alexa Boatright did so, as did Melissa Walker.

The Moderator read the following Articles and conducted the meeting as follows:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Kent Young nominated Diana Stugger. Siobhan Eddy Young seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Chris Liller seconded. All concurred. Diana Stugger was elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To act on the Town Report.

Kent Young moved to approve the Town Report. Chris Liller seconded. Discussion: The Moderator noted a mistake in the list of Officers and asked for an amendment to correct the name of the current constable to Boomer Walker. Kent Young so moved DR Holton seconded. A voice vote approved the amendment. The Moderator then read from the Selectmen's report within the Town Report, which recognized the long service of Joann Liller, who retired from the Board of Auditors this year. She also read the Selectmen's appreciation of individuals who had volunteered services to several town events and projects during the past year. With no other discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article as amended. The ayes were unanimous and the Town Report was approved as amended.

ARTICLE 3: To elect Town officers as required by law:

Town Clerk (one three-year term): Al Dupell nominated Kent Young. Larry Bills seconded. Chris Liller moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. Kent Young was elected Town Clerk for a three-year term.

Treasurer (one three-year term): Candie Bernard nominated Alyson Marcucci. Al Dupell seconded. Chris Liller moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Lorraine Weeks-Newell seconded. All concurred. Alyson Marcucci was elected Treasurer for a three-year term.

Selectman (one three-year term): Kent Young nominated Greg Marcucci. DR Holton seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred. Greg Marcucci was elected Selectman for a three-year term.

Selectman (one one-year term): Kent Young nominated Al Dupell. Kevin Robinson seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kevin Robinson seconded. All concurred. Al Dupell was elected Selectman for a one-year term.

Selectman (one one-year term): Larry Bills nominated Kevin Robinson. Chris Liller seconded. Kent Young moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. Kevin Robinson was elected Selectman for a one-year term.

Planning Commissioner (one four-year term): Kent Young nominated George Rigoulot. Al Dupell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred. George Rigoulot was elected Planning Commissioner for a four-year term.

Planning Commissioner (one four-year term): Kent Young nominated Rob Wadsworth. Siobhan Eddy Young seconded. Chris Liller moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Boomer Walker seconded. All concurred. Rob Wadsworth was elected Planning Commissioner for a four-year term.

Lister (one three-year term): Kent Young nominated Allan Hicks. Larry Bills seconded. Chris Liller moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Boomer Walker seconded. All concurred. Allan Hicks was elected Lister for a three-year term.

Auditor (one three-year term): Hellen Fuller Eddy nominated Stacie Chiodi. Siobhan Eddy Young seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred. Stacie Chiodi was elected Auditor for a three-year term.

Auditor (one three-year term): No nominations. The Moderator asked for a motion to pass over this position and if anyone is interested to fill it they can contact the Selectmen. All concurred and the position was passed over.

Cemetery Commissioner (one three-year term): Larry Bills nominated Kent Young. Kevin Robinson seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kevin Robinson seconded. All concurred. Kent Young was elected Cemetery Commissioner for a three-year term.

Delinquent Tax Collector (one one-year term): Siobhan Eddy Young nominated Candie Bernard. Lorraine Weeks-Newell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kevin Robinson seconded. All concurred. Candie Bernard was elected Delinquent Tax Collector for a one-year term.

Trustee of Public Funds (one one-year term): Siobhan Eddy Young nominated Alyson Marcucci. Lorraine Weeks-Newell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kevin Robinson seconded. All concurred. Alyson Marcucci was elected Trustee of Public Funds for a one-year term.

Constable (one one-year term): DR Holton nominated Boomer Walker. Rob Wadsworth seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kevin Robinson seconded. All concurred. Boomer Walker was elected Constable for a one-year term.

Grand Juror (one one-year term): Kent Young nominated John Waite. Al Dupell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot.

Chris Liller seconded. All concurred. John Waite was elected Grand Juror for a one-year term.

Town Agent (one one-year term): Kent Young nominated John Waite. Greg Marcucci seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kevin Robinson seconded. All concurred. John Waite was elected Town Agent for a one-year term.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will furnish bonds where bonds are required. Kent Young so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 4 was approved.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow money on notes of the Town or otherwise in anticipation of taxes and/or current expenses. Kent Young so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 5 was approved.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following appropriation requests:

American Red Cross	500.00
Community Food Pantry	500.00
CURRENT	250.00
Grace Cottage Foundation	7,000.00
Green Up Vermont	50.00
Groundworks Collaborative	500.00
Health Care and Rehabilitation Services	500.00
Historical Society of Windham County	250.00
LaMarche Scholarship Fund	500.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue	1000.00
Senior Solutions	500.00
SeVEDS.	648.00
Valley Cares, Inc.	335.00
VT Center for Independent Living	500.00
VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	100.00
VT Trails and Greenways	85.00
Visiting Nurse Association	600.00
Wardsboro Public Library	5,000.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Association	5,000.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Rescue	3,000.00
Windham County Humane Society	400.00
Winhall Library	2,100.00
<u>Women's Freedom Center</u>	<u>750.00</u>
TOTAL	\$30,068.00

Kent Young so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. Discussion: John Waite questioned why the article gave \$500.00 to VT Center for Independent Living, when the request letter asked for only \$105.00. Speculation was that it was a typo. Kent Young said that the article can be amended to include other changes if desired. George Rigoulot asked about the increase for the Wardsboro Library. Candie Bernard pointed out their request letter which explained salary increases for the librarian and other issues. John Wadsworth asked why Rescue Inc. was not included. The Selectmen explained that they

bill the town for services, so they are not included as an appropriation. Lorraine Weeks-Newell said that she was disappointed that the Selectmen refused to include the request from the Betty Boop bus. The Selectmen said that currently no one in Town used that service. She replied that since it had been submitted, it should have been included so the Town could decide whether or not to remove it. Kent Young explained that the Selectmen have the choice of including a request by letter. If it had been a request by petition of 5% of the voters, then it would have had to be included in the Warning. Shane Boatright asked Lorraine Weeks-Newell to explain the service, which she did, after which Mr. Boatright agreed to pay the request from his own pocket. Following the discussion, no one asked to amend the Article; therefore, the Moderator asked for a voice vote on Article 6, as warned and the article was approved.

At 10:35AM, 33 voters were present – 17 votes constitute a majority.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$52,150.00 for the Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company operating budget. Kent Young so moved. Steve Goldfarb seconded. Discussion: Shane Boatright asked if the Hunters' Supper held in November also raises funds for the Fire Dept.. Chris Liller explained that this Article raises money for the Stratton Mt. Fire Co., while the Hunters' Supper is a fundraiser for the Wardsboro Fire Dept., which is the fire company for the neighboring town. He explained that the Wardsboro Fire Dept. was appropriated funds in Article 6. Mr. Boatright asked if Wardsboro would respond to his house if he had a fire and Chris Liller replied that it would. Both fire companies provide service to Stratton, as all the towns in the area provide mutual aid to their neighbors and may even respond to more distant towns if necessary. James Saulnier asked who would respond to his house on Rte. 100. Chris Liller stated that West Dover would probably respond first, but Wardsboro and Stratton would also respond. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 7 was approved.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town of Stratton will vote to exempt the Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company from municipal and education taxation on its lands and buildings located at 5 Brazers Way in Stratton for a period of five (5) years, from July 1, 2017. Chris Liller so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 8 was approved.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year. Larry Bills so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 9 was approved.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$972,913.11 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018). John Waite so moved. Larry Bills seconded. Discussion: A question about the Town Garage was deferred to the Article 11 discussion. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 10 was approved.

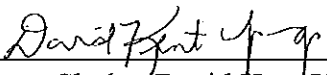
ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$910,800.00 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Fund for fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018). John Waite so moved. Kent Young seconded.

Discussion: John Wadsworth asked if the construction on the Town Garage is complete and wanted to know why there were expenses for repairs to the roof, since it was new. Al Dupell explained that there had been leakage or a condensation problem in the building, which could not be pinpointed. The company that installed the building worked with the town to correct the issue, but it was not resolved, so the Town had an independent inspection performed and had the Town Attorney pursue a resolution with the architect and the manufacturer. Ultimately, the Selectmen decided that it was not worth the expense of a lawsuit the Town would likely not win and that the roof should have had a membrane installed anyway, so they decided to proceed with having the membrane installed. This seems to have resolved the problem. DR Holton asked if the town had any additional large projects planned. Al Dupell responded that there are none. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 11 was approved.

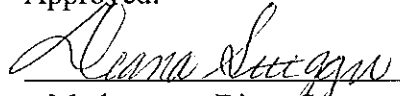
ARTICLE 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Shane Boatright introduced himself and his wife, Alexa and explained that they had moved into town about two years ago from Alabama and decided to become residents here. He inquired about various issues concerning taxes, the local economy, and schooling and he expressed some of his concerns about each – a general discussion ensued. At 11:00am, the Moderator informed the voters that the School Meeting must begin and stated that the current discussion could continue after the School Meeting. At this time, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn.

Adjourn: Al Dupell moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred and the meeting adjourned.


Minutes by:


Town Clerk – David Kent Young

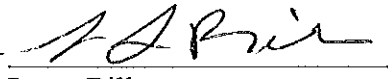
Approved:

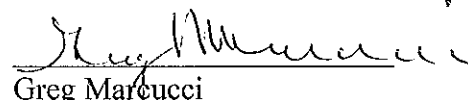

Moderator – Diana Stigger

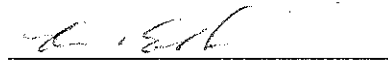
Approved by the Selectmen:


Albert Dupell


Chris Liller


Larry Bills


Greg Marcucci


Kevin Robinson