

TOWN OF STRATTON
MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF
MARCH 6, 2018

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton met as warned at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. Moderator, Diana Stugger, called the meeting to order at 10:02am. Selectman, Al Dupell, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk took the roll. Initially, 29 voters were present; therefore, 15 votes constitute a majority. Guests present: Officer John Griffus of the Windham County Sheriff's Dept. The Moderator read the names of Stratton Residents, whom we had learned had passed away in the last year – Al Roberts, Doug Forrester, Marie Minners, Milly Hoffmann, Donato Circello, Rona Hicks and Ken Maurer, then asked for the assembly to pause for a moment of silence in their honor; after which, the meeting resumed.

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. Al Dupell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. Diana Stugger was elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To act on the Town Report.

Al Dupell moved to approve the Town Report. Larry Bills seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article. The ayes were unanimous and the Town Report was approved.

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

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

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

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

Planning Commissioner (one four-year term): John Wadsworth nominated Chris Mann. Rob Wadsworth seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred. Chris Mann was elected Planning Commissioner for a four-year term.

Planning Commissioner (the remaining one year of a four-year term left by resignation and currently filled by appointment): Kent Young nominated Anne Patten. Al Dupell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred. Anne Patten was elected Planning Commissioner for the one-year remaining of a four-year term.

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

Auditor (one three-year term): No nominations. The position was left vacant.

Cemetery Commissioner (one three-year term): Larry Bills nominated Chris Liller. Kevin Robinson seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot.

Kent Young seconded. All concurred. Chris Liller 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. Al Dupell 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): Lorraine Weeks-Newell nominated Alyson Marcucci. Boomer Walker 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): John Wadsworth nominated Boomer Walker. Kevin Robinson 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. Kevin Robinson 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. Kevin Robinson seconded. Siobhan Eddy Young moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young 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. Kevin Robinson 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. Kevin Robinson seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 5 was approved.

ARTICLE 6: *To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to purchase the 4-acre parcel, known as the Old Town Common from the Stratton School District for the sum of \$200,000.00.* Larry Bills so moved. Kevin Robinson seconded. Discussion: John Wadsworth asked for an explanation. Kent Young explained that the Old Town Common is currently owned by the School District, but should be owned by the Town, as it is the site of the foundation of the old Meetinghouse and it is also the site of the Old Town Cemetery. It is a separate parcel of the Recreation Area. The sale will provide much needed revenue to the School District to compensate for the large increase in the school budget due to the large increase in the student population this past year. The \$200,000.00 sale price will raise the municipal rate by a little more than two cents; however, by applying that amount to the school budget, it will reduce the Residential School rate by more than 45 cents. This issue must also be voted at the School District meeting. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 6 was unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 7: *To see if the Town will vote to approve the following appropriation requests:*

American Red Cross	500.00
Community Food Pantry	500.00
Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc.	1500.00
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
Southern VT Therapeutic Riding Center	500.00
Stratton Mt. Rescue Ambulance Fund	6,000.00
Valley Cares, Inc.	335.00
VT Center for Independent Living	500.00
VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	100.00
Visiting Nurse Association	800.00
Wardsboro Public Library	5,125.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Association	5,000.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Rescue	3,000.00
Windham County Humane Society	400.00
Winhall Library	2,100.00
Women's Freedom Center	750.00
TOTAL	\$38,058.00

Kent Young so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. Discussion: Lorraine Week-Newell asked about the status of the LaMarche fund. Kent Young explained that it had been created in memory of Matthew LaMarche, a resident, who was killed in a motorcycle accident many years ago. The Moderator referred the voters to the explanation given in the letter concerning that fund, located within the Town Report. Kent Young stated that the letter was duplicated from last year because Matthew's aunt, who had written the letter, passed away this last October. The fund is managed through Leland and Gray High School. DR Holton asked about the new request from Stratton Mountain Rescue for \$6000.00. Al Dupell said the request is for a new ambulance. He also clarified that Stratton Mountain Rescue only is in service during the day. With no further questions, the Moderator asked for a voice vote. Article 7 was unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$65,650.00 for the Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company operating budget. Al Dupell so moved. Kent Young seconded. Discussion: Al Dupell stated that the Fire Co. is in need of volunteers – not only for firefighting, but also for other help at the fire house. With no other discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 8 passed.

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. Kent Young so moved. Larry Bills 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 \$1,200,066.39 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). Al Dupell so moved. DR Holton seconded. Discussion: Boomer Walker asked about expenses for street lighting. Al Dupell said that the Town is responsible for lights on Town Roads and that they have street lights at each of the major intersections in Town. With no further questions, the Moderator asked for a voice vote. Article 10 was unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$878,700.00 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Fund for fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). Al Dupell so moved. Kent Young seconded. Discussion: John Wadsworth asked what section of road will be paved this coming year. Chris Liller responded that the section of Stratton-Arlington Rd. from the Town Hall toward Grout Pond Rd. where about 30 culverts had been replaced this past summer,

will be paved. The Selectmen hope to obtain a grant for this paving. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote and Article 11 passed.

ARTICLE 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Discussion: Helen Eddy explained the situation regarding auditing, in that the Town now has an official outside audit completed each year. The Auditors do, however, prepare information for inclusion in the Town Report. She hopes to find someone that is willing to help herself and Stacie Chiodi with this job. If anyone is interested they can discuss it with her or Stacie Chiodi or the Town Office. The Moderator also read names of volunteers from the Selectmen's Report and joined the assembly in thanking those volunteers for their service to the Town.

Adjournment: With no further business, the Moderator asked for a motion to Adjourn. Chris Liller so moved. Boomer Walker seconded all concurred and the meeting adjourned at 10:35AM.

Minutes by:

David Kent Young
Town Clerk – David Kent Young

Approved:

Diana Stugger
Moderator – Diana Stugger

Approved by the Selectmen:

Albert Dupell
Albert Dupell

Chris Liller
Chris Liller

Larry Bills
Larry Bills

Greg Marchucci
Greg Marchucci

Kevin Robinson
Kevin Robinson

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
March 20 A.D. 2018
at 2 O'clock 30 Minutes P.M.
Attest: David Kent Young
Town Clerk