

Minutes for Annual Town and Town School District Meeting March 5, 2013

The legal voters of the town and town school district of Greensboro will meet at Fellowship Hall in the town of Greensboro, Vermont, on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 10 A.M. to transact the following business:

Article 1: To elect a moderator to govern said town for the coming year.

So moved. Tim Nisbet was nominated by Dave Smith, elected on a voice vote.

Article 2: To take action on the auditors' printed report of officers.

So moved. Corrected spelling of Peggy Lipscombs last name and added Susan Woods phone number under Health Officer

Took a break for the Greensboro Award Presentation – Warren Hill made the presentation to this year's recipient Helen Dimick

John Rodgers, our State Legislator gave a brief update on what he has been working on – one area is the proposed moratorium on wind towers - currently under consideration is commercial projects would be subject to Act 250 review – possible health concerns connected to wind turbines needs to be address – He also brought up that in terms of usage, electricity isn't as high as some other resources and that thermal energy should be reviewed and expanded.

Mary McGrath mentioned that she didn't agree with his statements on gun control and assault weapons and asked John to expand on this topic. John stated the he doesn't consider what is available to individuals "assault weapons" – he feels only the military has access.

Jim Sowles inquired about solar energy, Johns response was related to methane digesters and that more could be done with "harvesting" energy from this source

Article 3: Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of **\$679,878** (Australian Ballot)

Article 3 passed – Yes: 144 - No:11 – Blank: 2 Total ballots cast: 157

Article 4: Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Greensboro in amount not to exceed Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$920,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal construction grants-in-aid and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of constructing a fire station and related improvements for use by Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department, such improvements estimated to cost Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (**\$920,000**), (Australian Ballot).

Article 4 passed: Yes: 123 – No: 34 – Total ballots cast 157

Article 5: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve the proposed Zoning By-Law changes (Australian Ballot).

Article 5 passed: Yes: 140 – No: 14 – Blank: 2 – Total ballots cast 156

Article 6: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve the formation of an exploratory committee to investigate the possibility of developing a theatre within the Town Hall building with sponsorship from the Greensboro Arts Alliance.

So moved: Jim Sowles gave a presentation on the request, Valdine clarified that if this article was approved, that the request would be researched and the conclusion or consensus would be presented to the voters at another Town Meeting for a vote. People interested in serving on the committee should send a letter of interest to the Selectboard.

Article 6 passed on a voice vote

Article 7: To elect town officers and school district officers required by law and one or more library trustees:

Office	Term	Elected/Nominated By
Select Board	2 yrs	<i>Warren Hill/Marsha Gadoury</i>
Select Board	3 yrs	<i>Bridget Collier/David Smith</i>
Auditor	3 yrs	<i>Jim Cook/Rosane Hickey-Cook</i>
Trustee of Public Funds	3 yrs	<i>Sherral Lumsden/Valdine Hall</i>
Lister	3 yrs	<i>Harold Tolman/Valdine Hall</i>
Lister (to complete 3 yr term)	2 yrs	<i>vacant</i>
Greensboro School Board	3 yrs	<i>Jerilyn Verden/Judy Carpenter</i>
Lakeview Union Director	3 yrs	<i>Tara Reynolds/Valdine Hall</i>
Lakeview Union Director	3 yrs	<i>Bryanne Castle/Tracy Collier</i>
Lakeview Union Director (to complete 3 yr)	2 yrs	<i>Jerilyn Verden/Valdine Hall</i>
Hazen Union Director	3 yrs	<i>Phil Gray/Bridget Collier</i>
First Constable	1 yr	<i>Rick Walsh/Mark Snyder</i>
Second Constable	1 yr	<i>Mark Snyder/Janet Long</i>
Library Trustee	3 yrs	<i>Denise Stuart/Michael Stuart Diane Irish/Ed Stehle – ballot vote total ballots cast 102 Denise Stuart 59 – Diane Irish 41- spoiled -2 . Denise Stuart elected</i>
School District Treasurer	1 yr	<i>Lorraine Tolman/Valdine Hall</i>

Office	Term	Elected/Nominated By
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 yr	<i>Janet Long/Anne Harbison</i>
Town Agent	1 yr	<i>David Smith/Judy Carpenter</i>
Town Grand Juror	1 yr	<i>David Smith/Karl Stein</i>

Peggy Lipscomb did not seek re-election, newly elected Selectboard member Bridget Collier was sworn in and took Peggy's seat with the Board. Marsha Gadoury, Chari of the Selectboard, presented Peggy with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service to the Town.

Article 8: Shall the Town appropriate the following sums for the following uses and agencies? If all of the requested appropriations are approved, we would add approximately .0394 cents to the tax rate.

Use or Agency	Amount
Area Agency on Aging	\$ 1,000
AWARE	1,500
Ballfield	800
Beach	2,100
Caledonia Home Health	1,400
Caspian Milfoil Program	5,000
Cemetery	10,000
Clarina Howard Nichols Center	200
Conservation Commission	2,000
Craftsbury Community Care Center	10,000
Four Season's of Early Learning	9,500
Green Up	50
Greensboro Free Library	20,000
Greensboro Historical Society	1,000
Greensboro Nursing Home	20,848
Greensboro Recreation	3,000
Hardwick Area Community Coalition	500
Hardwick Area Food Shelf	500
Hardwick Area Restorative Justice	1500
Lamoille Family	500
Memorial Day	250

Use or Agency	Amount
Northeast Kingdom Learning Services	250
North Country Animal League	600
Northeast Kingdom Human Services	800
NVDA	450
NVRCDC	100
Orleans County Historical Society	400
Orleans County Citizens Advocacy	800
Orleans County Court Diversion	100
Red Cross	250
Rescue squad	4,425
Rural Community Transportation	900
VT Center for Independent Living	210
Wonder & Wisdom/Senor Trotters	3,500
Total	\$ 104,433

So Moved. David Smith Called to Move the Question, 2nd by Nancy Sullivan, Tim explained what this meant, motion passed on a hand vote. Article 8 passed on a voice vote

Article 9: Shall the town approve the proposed budget in the amount of **\$1,601,068.00**, which contains the necessary amount required by law and proposed expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013?

So moved by Bridget Collier, 2nd by Ed Stehle. Mark McGrath asked for a breakdown of taxes between education and municipal, Valdine (Town Clerk/Treasurer) explained, that as in past years, our cost is about 1/3 town and 2/3 education. Bridget pointed out that there was a chart on page 4 in the Annual Report showing this.

Article 9 passed on a voice vote

Article 10: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve moving any surplus from the current fiscal year Road Budget into the HERF account in the next fiscal year?

Moved by Irwin (Junior) Salls, 2nd by Marsha Gadoury. Erika Karp asked for an explanation, Valdine replied that due to underfunding of the HERF account in the past, we were anticipating larger annual payments. Dan Tanner, our Road Foreman, requested that if there was a surplus in his annual budget that it go into the HERF account, Warren pointed out that there may not be a surplus, but if there is it would be transferred to the

HERF to go toward equipment replacement.

Article 10 passed on a voice vote.

Article 11: Shall the voters of the Town Greensboro approve applying surplus from the current fiscal year General Fund to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?

So moved. Article 11 passed on a voice vote

Article 12: Shall the Town vote to instruct the selectboard to set the tax rate necessary to raise the specific amounts for the town and the amount necessary to raise by law for the Hazen Union School District No. 26 and the Lakeview Union School District No. 43 based on the FY2014 Grand Lists? Taxes will be delinquent if not received in the office of the Town Treasurer by Thursday, October 17, 2013, at 4:00 p.m.

So moved. Article 12 passed on a voice vote

Article 13: Shall the town instruct the selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

So moved. Article 13 passed on a voice vote.

Article 14: Shall the town school district approve the proposed budget of **\$39,619**, which contains the necessary amounts to defray town school district expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013, and authorize the selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same? Taxes will be delinquent if not received in the office of the town treasurer by Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

So moved. Article 14 passed on a voice vote

Article 15: Shall the town school district authorize the school directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and state revenues?

So moved. Article 15 passed on a voice vote

Article 16: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro instruct the Selectboard to enact the following resolution to protect citizen health and safety, water bodies and other natural resources, in relation to tar sands oil transport through Vermont? **WHEREAS**, the oil industry appears to be planning to use an aging oil pipeline, built in 1950, to bring Canadian tar sands diluted bitumen through Vermont on its way to Portland, Maine for export; and **WHEREAS**, the mining, drilling, and processing of tar sands requires a vast and destructive industrial operation that emits 3-5 times more carbon pollution per barrel than conventional U.S. crude oil, among many other problems; and **WHEREAS**, pipelines carrying tar sands have a greater likelihood of leaks and spills because of the corrosive properties of tar sands, and such spills are more costly and difficult to clean up than conventional oil spills, as demonstrated by a 2010 tar sands spill that

contaminated the Kalamazoo River in Michigan.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:

- 1.) That the Town expresses its opposition to the transport of tar sands oil through Vermont, and its deep concern about the risks of such transport for public health and safety and property values, and our natural resources; and
- 2.) That the Town shall require every fuel vendor, as a precondition for doing business with Town, to provide complete and current lists of the refinery sources of origin for all fuel the vendor sells, and thereby direct the Town's purchases as much as possible toward vendors whose refinery sources do not use any material derived from tar sands; and
- 3.) That the Town encourage the State of Vermont and other northeast states to support policies phasing out fuel purchases as quickly as possible from vendors whose refinery sources of origin use any form of tar sands, and support policies such as a Clean Fuels Standard to help keep such fuels out of the region's fuel supply; and
- 4.) That the Town call upon the Vermont State Legislature and the U.S. Congress to ensure thorough environmental impact reviews of any tar sands-related pipeline proposals, including the health and safety impacts of potential tar sands oil spills, along with clear guidelines for tracking the origins and chemical composition of pipeline contents and feedstocks; and
- 5.) That the Town transmit a copy of this resolution to all relevant state, federal and Canadian officials, and the CEOs of Portland Pipe Line Corporation, Montreal Pipe Line Limited, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobil, and Enbridge Inc.

So moved. Mike Lammert asked if area vendors would be able to comply with statement #2 – Peter Romans made a motion, 2nd by Judy Carpenter to amend the Article to include only statement #1. Judy Carpenter made a motion, 2nd by David Smith, to amend the Article to also include statement #4. Deb Holmes made a motion, 2nd by Bridget Collier, to amend the Article to also include statement #5. Joanna Beresford made a motion to amend the Article to also include # 3 – this motion was not seconded and the Article was voted on as amended above.

Article 16 passed on a voice vote as amended: To include Statement #1, #4 and # 5

Erika Karp will provide the office with the names and addresses to which to mail the amended resolution

Article 17: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

It was announced that lunch was served by Four Seasons of Early Learning

*4th of July celebration will be on July 6th with a rain date of July 7th
Valdine made a plea for people to help with the activities*

Karl Stein encouraged people to take the upcoming EMT class

Mark Snyder spoke on the importance of weatherization

Vicki Strong and Sam Young, our House Representatives had stopped by to fill us in on what they have been working on.

Sam covered The Health Care Exchange, scheduled to go into effect in 2014 – portions of the new program will start in October 1, 2013.

Sam has also been working on the draft regulations regarding the radar activated lighting on wind towers on Lowell mountain.

Vicki, Sam and John came to Greensboro recently and met with a small group of people at Fellowship Hall –

Warren wanted to know what they were doing to not increase our taxes – Warren specifically mentioned the increase in commercial truck registration and tax on diesel fuel

Mary McGrath mentioned that she'd like to see intermittent lights on Sheffield wind towers

John Stone, representing the Greensboro Association had attended Town Meeting to discuss/answer questions regarding the "Village Beautification" project – as lunch had been announced, everyone was milling around and unfortunately, John did not have an attentive audience – John, on behalf of the Town, my apologies.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20

Selectboard:
Marsha Gadoury, Chair
Bridget Collier (newly elected)
Susan Wood
Anne Stevens
Warren Hill

School Board:
Wayne Young
Barb Howard
Majorie Urie

