

## Minutes for Annual Town and Town School District Meeting March 4, 2014

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 4, 2014 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, seconded by Valdine Hall. Passed on voice vote*

Article 2: To elect a town clerk for a three-year term.

*So moved. Valdine Hall was nominated by David Smith, seconded by Jane Johns. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.*

Article 3: To take action on the auditors' printed report of officers.

*So moved. Moderator Tim Nisbet read the list of corrections that had been submitted by Clerk Valdine Hall –The Town Report was amended as follows: Remove 3 yr Hazen Union Director seat, add a 3 yr and a 1 yr Library Trustee seats. In the budget, under Highway Projects, change Better Back Road Grant Match, to Grant Match.*

*Auditors printed report was accepted as amended*

**AT THIS TIME WE TOOK A SHORT BREAK IN ORDER TO PRESENT THE GREENSBORO AWARD. THIS YEARS RECEIPT WAS ALDEN LAUNER. CHAIR, WARREN HILL READ THE TRIBUTE AND PRESENTED ALDEN WITH AN ENGRAVED CLOCK.**

Article 4: Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of **\$694,978** (Australian Ballot)

**YES - 103                      NO - 9**

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize the elimination of the Office of Lister and replace it with a professionally qualified assessor appointed by the Selectboard who shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for Listers or the board of Listers under the provisions of Title 32. (This requires a vote by Australian Ballot, 17 V.S.A –§ 2651c (b) (1))

**YES - 102                      NO - 10**

(If Article 5 passes, the term of office of any Lister in office on the date a town votes to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45<sup>th</sup> day after the vote or on the date upon which the Selectboard appoints an assessor under this subsection, whichever occurs first.)

Article 6: Shall the voters authorize the elimination of the office of Town Auditor, with future audits to be provided by a certified public accountant, and all other auditor duties performed by others as directed by the Selectboard. (This requires a vote by Australian Ballot, 17 V.S.A – §2651b)

**YES -108                      NO - 4**

(If Article 6 passes, the term of any auditor in office on the date a town votes to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45<sup>th</sup> day after such vote or on the date upon which the Selectboard enters into a contract with a public accountant under this section, whichever occurs first.)

Article 7: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve the proposed Zoning By-Law changes (This will be by Australian Ballot).

**YES - 87                      NO - 24                      BLANK - 1**

Article 8: To elect a treasurer for a three-year term.

*So moved. Valdine Hall was nominated by Kim Greaves, seconded by Mike Metcalf. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.*

Article 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro authorize property tax exemption for the “Ballfield” property identified as parcel ID 005-0002 for a one year period. This will eliminate the municipal property tax due. However, the amount due for education taxes will still need to be raised and will be included in our Local Agreement Rate. (If approved the \$800 appropriation will be removed from the budget).

*So moved. Valdine Hall - Seconded by David Smith. Passed on a voice vote.*

Article 10: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro authorize property tax exemption for the “Greensboro Hospital Association” identified as parcel ID 414-0473 for a one year period. This will eliminate the municipal property tax due. However, the amount due for education taxes will still need to be raised and will be included in our Local Agreement Rate. (If approved the \$22,693 appropriation will be removed from the budget).

*So moved. David Smith - Seconded by Valdine Hall. The Nursing Home Administrator was originally in favor of the Article, but upon further investigation, it was discovered that it was in the Nursing Homes best interest to pay the property taxes and to be able to offset the expense.*

*The Article failed on a voice vote*

Article 11: To elect town officers and school district officers required by law and one or more library trustees:

**Select Board – 2 Year Term - Marsha Gadoury** was nominated by Valdine Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Warren Hill – *It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.*

**Select Board- 3 Year Term - Peter Romans** was nominated by Wayne Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valdine Hall. Terence O’Connor was nominated by Warren Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marsha Gadoury - *Votes Cast 110, needed to win 56, spoiled 3. Peter Romans 72 – Terence O’Connor -34*

**AT THIS POINT, WE TOOK A SHORT BREAK TO PRESENT A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO ANNE STEVENS FOR 9 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BOARD. AFTER WHICH VALDINE ADMINISTERED THE OATH TO NEWLY ELECTED SELECTBOARD MEMBERS AND PETER ROMANS JOINED THE SELECTBOARD AT THE FRONT TABLE**

**Auditor - 3 Year Term - Mary Metcalf** was nominated by Jane Johns, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kim Greaves. *It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.*

**Trustee of Public Funds – 3 Year Term - Lorraine Tolman** was nominated by Valdine Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bridget Collier. *It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.*

**Lister –3 Year Term - Earl Kasper** was nominated by Janet Long, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anne Harbison. *It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.*

**Lister - 2 Year Term - (to complete 3 yr term) – Tom Hurst** was nominated by Bridget Collier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Erika Karp. *It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.*

**Greensboro School Board – 3 Year Term - Barbara Howard** was nominated by Tara Reynolds, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patty Launer. *It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.*

**Lakeview Union Director – 3 Year Term - Charles McAteer** nominated by Valdine Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anne Harbison. Patty Launer was nominated by Tara Reynolds, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerilyn Virden and Erin Dezell was nominated by Tara Reynolds, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karl Stein.

*Votes cast 95 needed to win 48 – Charlie 43 – Erin 18 – Patty 34.*

2<sup>ND</sup> Round – Karl Stein requested that the candidates speak on why they want the position. Erin and Patty are both currently serving on the board and talked about the committees that they sit on. Charlie spoke of his contact with the superintendent and the principal while working with the exploratory theater committee and his desire to become more involved with the school.

*Votes cast 110, needed to win 56 - Charlie 51 – Patty 31- Erin 28.*

**Karl Stein expressed how fortunate we were to have three qualified candidates and how difficult it was to choose only one - Tara Reynolds, who served with both Erin and Patty on the Lakeview Board, spoke highly of both candidates. Penny Bretschneider suggested that one of the candidates drop out and run for the Hazen Union seat.**

*3<sup>RD</sup> Round – Charlie offered to drop out, but Erin spoke up and said as she had received the least amount of votes, that she would withdraw.*

*Votes cast 110 – needed to win 56- Charlie 63 – Patty 47*

**Lakeview Union Director - 3 year term - Patty Launer.** *Erin Dezell was nominated by Janet Long, 2nd by Karl Stein. Patty Launer was nominated by Tara Reynolds, 2nd by Anne Harbison. Votes Cast 107 - needed to win 54. Patty 56 - Erin 51*

**A round of appreciation was extended to the three candidates for the willingness to serve the community.**

**OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES VICKI STRONG AND SAM YOUNG ARRIVED, IT WAS DECIDED THAT VICKI AND SAM WOULD JOIN US FOR LUNCH, AT THIS TIME WE VOTED TO TAKE A 45 MINUTE BREAK, AFTER WHICH WE WOULD HEAR FROM OUR STATE REPS.**

**Vicki Strong continues to work on the Judiciary Committee and gave the voters an update on the committee work she has been involved in, one of the bills is H. 62 a bill that would prohibit the use of any handheld portable electronic device. Vicky was asked why an exemption was being proposed for farmers. Sam Young expressed doubt that a State Bank would be successful - He has been working with the Workforce Development Bill (H.852) and will continue to work on bringing internet to the rural communities that still do not have access. Sam is assigned to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. John Rogers did not make it this year**

**Hazen Union Director ( 1 year to complete a 3 yr term) - David Kelley** *David Kelley was nominated by Jim Johnston, Erin Dezell was nominated by Janet Long. Votes cast 98, needed to win 50. David Kelley - 51, Erin Dezell 47.*

**First Constable - 1 year - Rick Walsh - Rick Walsh was nominated by Mark Snyder 2nd by Valdine Hall. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.**

**Second Constable - 1 year - Mark Snyder - Mark Snyder was nominated by Rick Walsh, 2nd by Karl Stein. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.**

**Library Trustee - 3 year term - Ken Johnston - Ed Stehle nominated Ken Johnston, 2nd by Janet Long. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.**

**Library Trustee - 3 year term - Diane Irish - Ed Stehle nominated Diane Irish, 2nd by Anne Harbison. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.**

**Library Trustee - 1 year term (to complete 3 year term) - Gina Jenkins - Ed Stehle nominated Gina (Virginia) Jenkins, 2nd by Mary Metcalf. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.**

**School District Treasurer - 1 year term - Lorraine Tolman - David Smith nominated Lorraine Tolman, 2nd by Bridget Collier. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.**

**Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term - Janet Long - Marsha Gadoury nominated Janet Long, 2nd by Judy Carpenter. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.**

**Town Agent - 1 year term - David Smith - Mike Metcalf nominated David Smith, 2nd by Karl Stein. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.**

**Town Grand Juror - 1 year term - David Smith - Karl Stein nominated David Smith, 2nd by Mike Metcalf. It was moved that the clerk cast one ballot.**

Article 12: Shall the Town appropriate the following sums for the following uses and agencies? **As Article 9 passed, the \$800 appropriatoin for the Ballfield Property Taxes was removed from the budget.**

**David Smith called the question, seconded by Mike Metcalf -it takes a two thirds vote for this to pass – which it did. Article 12 passed as amended on a voice vote**

Use or Agency	Amount
Area Agency on Aging	\$ 1,000
AWARE	1,500
Ballfield deleted	<del>800</del>
Beach	2,450
Caledonia Home Health	1,400
Caspian Milfoil Program	6,000
Cemetery	15,000
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	1,500
Greensboro Nursing Home	22,693
Greensboro Recreation	2,000
Hardwick Area Community Coalition	500
Hardwick Area Food Shelf	2,000
Hardwick Area Restorative Justice	1,500
Lamoille Family	500
Memorial Day	250
Northeast Kingdom Learning Services	250
North Country Animal League	600
Northeast Kingdom Human Services	800
NVDA	450
Orleans County Historical Society	400
Orleans County Citizens Advocacy	800
Orleans County Court Diversion	100
Red Cross	250
Rescue squad	4,883
Rural Community Transportation	900
VT Center for Independent Living	210
Wonder & Wisdom/Senor Trotters	3,500
Total	<del>\$ 113,986</del>
<b>AMENDED TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 113,186</b>

Article13: Shall the voters approve the proposed budget (including appropriations) in the amount of ~~\$1,614,825.00~~, which contains the necessary amount required by law and proposed expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2014? **AFTER REMOVING THE \$800 BALLFIELD APPROPRIATION, THE AMENDED BUDGET IS \$1,614,025 .**

**Moved by Bridget Collier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Metcalf. Christine Armstrong had a question on budget asked if agencies requesting funds had to submit every year, or if it was a standing request – also wanted to know if they submitted information pertaining to their finances - Outside agencies must make their request each year and some provide financial information. The AMENDED Budget passed on a voice vote.**

Article 14: 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?

*So moved, by Valdine Hall, second by Bridget Collier – Janet asked what HERF was, Valdine explained that it was the "Highway Equipment Replacement Fund" which was started by Peter Gebbie when he was on the Selectboard. Terry O Connor asked why there would be money left over, it should be spent on the roads - Terry doesn't think equipment is maintained. Janet asked why money didn't go to reduce taxes in general – State Statutes require Highway money to stay in the Highway Account. General Fund money does go to reduce property taxes if approved by the voters, see next article.*

Article 15: 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 by Phil Gray seconded by Karl Stein. Passed on voice vote*

Article 16: 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 FY2015 Grand Lists? Taxes will be delinquent if not received in the office of the Town Treasurer by Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.

*So moved by Valdine Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kim Greaves – passed on voice vote*

Article 17: Shall the town instruct the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

*So moved Janet Long, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phil Gray – passed on voice vote*

Article 18: Shall the town school district approve the proposed budget of **\$39,536**, which contains the necessary amounts to defray town school district expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2014, 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 16, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

*So moved by Valdine Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Carpenter – Valdine asked “what the money was used for -Jerilyn Virden and Michelle LaFlam, explained that this is an assessment that goes to the State to offset the cost of pre-kindergarten - even though we have been sending money not all children have been attending as it is not mandatory at this time. Article 18 passed on a voice vote*

Article 19: Shall the town school district authorize the school directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and state revenues?

*So moved Janet Long 2<sup>nd</sup> by “Wayne Young - passed on voice vote*

Article 20: Shall the legal Voters of Greensboro adopt the following:

**Whereas** the establishment of a Public Bank in Vermont will help towns

reduce the local tax burden by offering low cost bonds for public works and a depository for their accounts with competitive interest,

**Whereas** A Public Bank that makes loans and investments in Vermont's people and our economy will help create jobs, income, and economic security for all Vermonters,

We call on the Vermont State Legislature to consolidate the work of the Vermont Economic Development Agency, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and the Municipal Bond Bank and license them to become a Public Bank that accepts deposits from the state and municipal governments and makes loans to students, homeowners, municipalities and enterprises to make Vermont economically stable, self-reliant, and successful.

*So moved Bridget Collier – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Hurst – Lynette Courtney thought it made a lot of sense to have a Public Bank– Mike Cassidy had done some research, he initially thought it was a good idea, but the State has no experience running a bank and it wouldn't be FDIC insured . Seven other States have had their Public Banks fail, the only exception has been North Dakota. Also, they can't invest outside of Vermont – Stephanie Herrick is also opposed, after hearing a report onVPR - Warren Hill is also opposed and recommends we vote no. Erika Karp Spoke in favor. Nancy Potak echoed what Erika said. Anne Harbison wanted to table the Article. Mike Cassidy wanted to know if we could amend the Article, Valdine said she didn't think so. Warren Hill called the question – seconded by Valdine Hall. Article 20 failed on a voice vote.*

Article 21: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

*Erika Karp encouraged people to compost - held a drawing, which Peggy Lipscomb won the compost*

*Penny Bretschneider – brought up having TownMeeting on a different time – Saturday, Sunday or evening meeting – Shelly Jungwirth supported Penny's idea of changing time and or date. Terry O'Connor also supported moving time/date -*

*Penny announced that she could use Padlock locks with combinations so kids can practice before going to Hazen*

*Clive Gray volunteered to once again oversee the "4th of July" celebration which will be held on **Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> for the parade and fireworks** Valdine once again, asked that people come forward and help*

*Tara Reynolds reminded people about Lakeview Unions Annual Meeting which will be Thursday March 13, 2014 at 7PM*

*Jr (Erwin) Salls thanked Erika Karp and all of the people who hosted "house" meetings regarding the fire station. He also thanked Valdine Hall and Bridget Collier for all the time and effort we've contributed.*

*Karl Stein made his annual plea to put the correct 911numbers on your house*

*David Metraux thinks the new fire station is great, but we need a sign on the Craftsbury end of Town saying "Welcome to Greensboro"*

*Charlie Mcateer made the announcement that GAAR has a purchase and sales agreement with David Allen for a 10 acre lot, which would include the farmstand. David plans to build another, smaller stand on his remaining property.*

*Thanks to Ted Donlon for being our sound man and to Emilia and Leo Cireosta for being our microphone runners.*

*Judy Dales made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David Smith. Passed on voice vote, Meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM*

Select Board:  
Warren Hill

Susan Wood  
Marsha Gadoury  
Bridget Collier  
Peter Romans (newly elected, replacing Anne Stevens)

Greensboro School Board  
Barbara Howard  
Marjorie Urie  
Jerilyn Virden

\_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_, Election Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_, Selectboard

True Copy Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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