

## **ANNUAL TOWN OF ROXBURY MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2023**

Lucinda Sullivan, Town Moderator, called the annual Town Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Lucinda welcomed the attendees to Town Meeting, the first one since 2020. Lucinda read some interesting things to the group and explained the rules and procedures of the meeting.

The Library is holding a raffle. Ed Carney, Park Committee, talked about the park and what the committee has been doing. The Planning Commission has obtained the village center designation for the village and the park committee was able to obtain a grant. If the park committee raises \$7,500 it will be matched with \$15,000. They have sixty days to raise the funds. As of day 33, the deadline is April 11, the committee has raised \$3,350. The committee members are Ed Carney, Jim Roger, Craig Sullivan, Dotti Guiffre and Elizabeth Carney.

Art. 1. To elect the following officers of the Town. (Australian Ballot)

Town Moderator for a term of one year  
Town Clerk for a term of one year  
Town Treasurer for a term of one year  
Selectman for a term of three years  
Lister for a term of three years  
Lister for a term of two years  
Auditor for a term of three years  
Auditor for a term of two years  
Library Trustee for a term of three years  
Library Trustee for a term of three years  
Library Trustee for a term of three years  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year  
Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years  
First Constable for a term of one year  
Second Constable for a term of one year

Art. 2. Will the voters approve the collection of taxes on real estate in four (4) equal installments on August 18, 2023, November 10, 2023, February 9, 2024 and May 10, 2024, with interest of one half percent (0.5%) per month, or fraction thereof, on the unpaid taxes after each installment due date? Ryan Zajac moved the article, Ed Carney seconded. After a brief discussion the article was before the voters and passed with all ayes.

Art. 3. Will the voters approve the sum of \$704,273.00 for the operation and maintenance of Town roads? Lisa Mercurio moved the article, Jill George seconded. Judy Lusk requested the Board speak on the article. Dave McShane explained the increase in the budget was due to increase in insurance, gas, diesel, vehicle maintenance, sand, gravel and culverts. There was a discussion on how much the State pays for highway maintenance and equipment replacement. Tom Frazier asked about replacing the Town Garage. Dave McShane stated the Board is looking at a couple of locations and different models and systems. Sidewalks in the village was discussed. The article was before the voters, the article passed with all ayes.

- Art. 4. Will the voters approve the sum of \$270,413.00 for the operation of the Town Administrative functions? This does not include any funds that may be approved in any other article. John Parzych moved the article, Fran French seconded. Dave McShane explained what the funds are used on. After a brief discussion, the article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 5. Will the voters approve the sum of \$3,000.00 to be administered by the Cemetery Commission for maintenance and restoration of town cemeteries? Judy Lusk moved the article, Jill George seconded. Sue Nevins, Cemetery Commissioner spoke. On behalf of the Cemetery Commission, Sue moved to amend the article to Will the voters approve the sum of \$3,500 to be administered by the Cemetery Commission for maintenance and restoration of town cemeteries? Don Randall seconded the amendment. After a brief discussion, the amendment passed with all ayes. The article is before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$3,500 to be administered by the Cemetery Commission for maintenance and restoration of town cemeteries? The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 6. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury establish a reserve fund to be called the Municipal Building Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintaining town buildings? Chris Dorer moved the article, Ed Carney seconded. After a brief discussion, the article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 7. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury authorize transfer of the balance from the Municipal Building Repair Fund to the Municipal Building Reserve Fund? Heidi Albright moved the article, Fran French seconded. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 8. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury establish a reserve fund to be called the Historical Society Reserve Fund? Andre Souigny moved the article, Heidi Albright seconded. There were questions on what the funds are used on. They are used on upkeep of building, attending Vermont History Expo (which no longer exist). The building is only open one day a year. The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 9. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury authorize transfer of the balance from the Historical Society Fund to the Historical Society Reserve Fund? Wade Holt moved the article, Ben Pincus seconded. The motion passed with all ayes.
- Art. 10. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury establish a reserve fund to be called the Accounting Reserve Fund? Wade Holt moved the article, Ed Dickinson seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion was with all ayes.
- Art. 11. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury authorize transfer of the balance from the Accounting Fund to the Accounting Reserve Fund? Jackie Frazier moved the article, Lisa Mercurio seconded. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 12. Will the voters approve using general government surplus funds to be allocated to the Accounting Reserve Fund to be used for a future audit? Juniper (Rian) Johns moved the article, Wade Holt seconded. The article passed with all ayes.

Art.13. Will the voters approve the sum of \$32,850.00 for the Roxbury Free Library, to be administered by the Trustees, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Bill Hansen moved the article, Ed Dickinson seconded. There was a discussion on maintenance to the outside of the building and property for all seasons. The Town pays for the mowing and lawn maintenance of other town properties but does not for the library. Tom Frazier volunteers to mow the lawn. Sue D'Amico thanked Tom for all his help. Ed Carney was thanked for his time on the Board and Jane Pincus was thanked for her years on the Board. Jim Rogler volunteered to paint and weedwack as long as the town supplies the paint. The voters requested the Selectboard discuss and clarify the maintenance issue. Sue Nevins said volunteers do the maintenance at the Historical Society. Dave Santi thanked Dave McShane for the maintenance on the Historical Society steps. Ryan Zajac spoke about Library Programs. The article is before the voters. The article passed with all ayes.

Art.14. Will the voters of the Town of Roxbury establish a reserve fund to be called the Roxbury Free Library Computer Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of replacing computers and related technology, software, etc.? Carl Ellis moved the article, Sally Kirn seconded. The article passed with all ayes.

Art.15. Will the voters approve the sum of \$300.00 for the Roxbury Free Library Computer Capital Reserve Fund? Heidi Albright moved the article, Elizabeth Carney seconded. Discussion on the need for new computers in a few years. Sue D'Amico moved to amend the article: Will the voters approve the sum of \$500.00 for the Roxbury Free Library Computer Capital Reserve Fund? Fran French seconded the amendment. The amendment passed with all ayes. The amended article is before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$500.00 for the Roxbury Free Library Computer Capital Reserve Fund? The article passed with all ayes.

Lucinda paused the meeting at noon for lunch. Lunch break ended at 12:52 p.m.

Art.16. Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department Truck Capital Account? Don Randall moved the article, Heidi Albright seconded. No discussion, the article passed with all ayes.

Art.17. Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,850.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department's operating expenses, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Judith Shaw moved the article, Ed Dickinson seconded. John Parzych moved to amend the article to remove the section after expenses. Don Randall explained that this was not the case for the Library and Fire Dept; if the Fire Dept did not spend their funds, it was transferred into the reserve fund. Don does not think the funds should go back to the Town; equipment cost money. Sue D'Amico mentioned it should be consistent; keep the article as is and next year go back to the way it used to be. Jill George think it is cleaner to have a designated amount go into reserve funds. After more discussion, the amendment is before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,850.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department's operating expenses? The vote was by hand count, the vote is 13 yes, 30 no. The amendment failed. The original article is before the voters: Will the voters approve the sum of \$15,850.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire

Department's operating expenses, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? The article passed with all ayes. The voters requested the Selectboard consider where the excess funds should go at the end of the year.

Art.18. Will the voters approve the sum of \$8,000.00 for the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department radio upgrade which includes a repeater, allowing for communication with the firefighter's portable radio? Wade Holt moved the article, Carol Randall seconded. There was no discussion, the article passed with all ayes.

Art. 19. Will the voters approve the sum of \$1,000.00 to provide entertainment for the Roxbury 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? Juniper Johns moved the article, Wade Holt seconded. There was a discussion on what the funds were for. Mary Bouchard explained volunteers helped last year. There is no budget. Last year a group volunteered to do the entertainment but it was hard to get others to volunteer when you couldn't offer them anything like gas money. The funds would help with getting entertainment. John Parzych doesn't think \$1,000 is enough and wants to add \$500. John's amended article: Will the voters approve the sum of \$1,500.00 to provide entertainment for the Roxbury 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year, with a second from Dave Santi was before the voters. More discussion on last years festivities. Mary Bouchard stated she thinks \$1,000 is enough. There was a discussion on 2023 festivities. The amendment failed with many nos and a couple of yes. The original article is before the voters. Will the voters approve the sum of \$1,000.00 to provide entertainment for the Roxbury 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, with any excess to be directed to the Town's general fund at the conclusion of the fiscal year? The article passed with a many ayes and 1 no.

Art. 20. Shall the Town of Roxbury Ordinance Regulating the Disposal of Solid Waste and the Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles, as adopted by the Selectboard on December 19, 2022, be disapproved? (Australian Ballot)

Lucinda explained the article is voted by Australian ballot and can be discussed at this meeting but no voting will be done on the floor. Tom Frazier moved the article, Ed Dickinson seconded. There was a lot of discussion on the article and the way it was written. The actual wording of the article came from the Town Attorney. Jackie Frazier would like to call the question. Many ayes in favor of calling the question, 2 nos.

Art. 21. Will the voters appropriate \$5,879.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown?

Green Mountain Transit	\$ 429.00
Roxbury Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc	\$ 500.00
Capstone Community Action, Inc	\$ 500.00
Family Center of Washington County	\$ 200.00
VT Assoc. of the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$ 500.00
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$ 100.00

Washington County Mental Health Services	\$ 800.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 900.00
Circle (Battered Women's Services)	\$ 100.00
CV Adult Basic Education	\$ 600.00
Community Harvest of Central Vermont	\$ 250.00

Andrew Apgar moved the article, Claire Chomentowski seconded. The organizations listed in this article did not request an increase. If any organization requested an increase, they are voted on separately. Dave Santi moved to amend the article to add People's Health & Wellness for \$250. Jackie Frazier seconded the amendment. Dave Santi talked about People's Health & Wellness. Tammy Legacy, Town Clerk, explained a joint petition was received with the amounts they are requesting. The amended article is before the voters:

Will the voters appropriate \$6,129.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown?

Green Mountain Transit	\$ 429.00
Roxbury Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc	\$ 500.00
Capstone Community Action, Inc	\$ 500.00
Family Center of Washington County	\$ 200.00
VT Assoc. of the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$ 500.00
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$ 100.00
Washington County Mental Health Services	\$ 800.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 900.00
Circle (Battered Women's Services)	\$ 100.00
CV Adult Basic Education	\$ 600.00
Community Harvest of Central Vermont	\$ 250.00
People's Health & Wellness	\$ 250.00

More discussion on organizations. The amended article passed with all ayes. Ed Dickinson would like to increase the amount of their request by 10% except for People's Health & Wellness. Don Randall seconded. Jackie Frazier seconded. More discussion. Some voters were for the amendment and some were against the amendment. The amended article is before the voters:

Will the voters appropriate \$6,742.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown?

Green Mountain Transit	\$ 472.00
Roxbury Food Shelf	\$1,100.00
The Greater Northfield Senior Citizens, Inc	\$ 550.00
Capstone Community Action, Inc	\$ 550.00
Family Center of Washington County	\$ 220.00
VT Assoc. of the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$ 550.00
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$ 110.00
Washington County Mental Health Services	\$ 880.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 990.00
Circle (Battered Women's Services)	\$ 110.00
CV Adult Basic Education	\$ 660.00

Community Harvest of Central Vermont	\$ 275.00
People's Health & Wellness	\$ 275.00

The amendment passed with many ayes and a couple of nos. The amended article is before the voters. The article passed with mostly ayes and 1 no.

- Art. 22. Shall the voters authorize expenditure for Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice in the amount of \$1,700.00? Heidi Albright moved the article, Claire Chomentowski seconded. Jane Pincus supports the organization. The article passed with all ayes.
- Art. 23. Shall the voters authorize expenditure for Mosaic (formerly Sexual Assault Crisis Team for Washington County) in the amount of \$250.00? Andrew Apgar moved the article, Carmeta French seconded. No discussion. The article passed with all ayes.

Lucinda explained that voters can now speak on any other business but there will be no action. Lucinda thanked people. Discontinuing a portion of Shaw Road was discussed. There were open positions that no one is running for but there is a contested Selectboard race. The vacant positions are important too. Selectboard meetings have time frames was mentioned; it is important to listen to the citizens. It was suggested the Town purchase a PA system because people in the back couldn't hear very well. A suggestion that the Town hold an informational session so people can learn about town positions. Roxbury Roots Potlucks was mentioned. It was noted that younger people need to get involved, to grow into their positions and the Selectboard seems to be disrespected. Ed Carney announced Amy Barrett as the winner of the library raffle.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Tammy Legacy  
Town Clerk