

## **ABSTRACTS OF MINUTES TOWN OF WHITINGHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. e.s.t. at the Whitingham Municipal Center in the Town of Whitingham, Vermont agreeable to the warning.

At 10:00 a.m. the Cub Scout Troop 461 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk, Almira Aekus, declared the polls open.

The moderator asked if there were any objections with dispensing with the reading of the warning. There were none. The moderators appointed the Board of Civil Authority as ballot clerks for the duration of the meeting.

### **Article 1**

To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

### **Article 2 (by paper ballot)**

Voted to authorize the elimination of the office of Town Lister in accordance with 17 V.S.A. §2651c(b)(1) and replace it with a professionally qualified assessor 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 with the following results: 97 votes cast; 85 yes, 12 no and 0 blanks.

### **Article 3**

Voted to authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses for fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 of **\$581,945.00** of which **\$301,248.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$189,090.00** in anticipated revenues and **\$91,607.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance.

### **Article 4**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$8,004.00** for the upkeep and improvement of the Town Hill Common for fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

### **Article 5**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$80,284.00** for the operation of the Town Fire Department for fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

### **Article 6**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$20,000.00** to the Fire Department Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

### **Article 7**

Voted to authorize **\$1,325,795.00** for the maintenance and repair of Town Highways for fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 of which **\$1,129,863.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$119,146.00** in anticipated revenues and **\$76,786.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance.

#### **Article 8**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$85,000.00** to the Highway Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2019 -June 30, 2020.

#### **Article 9**

Voted to establish a reserve fund to be called the Hazard Mitigation Fund to be used to address flooding hazards in the Town in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804.

#### **Article 10**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000.00**, to fund the Hazard Mitigation Fund.

#### **Article 11**

Voted to authorize **\$81,140.00** for the operation of the Whitingham Free Public Library for fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 with **\$67,815.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be offset by **\$13,325.00** in anticipated grants and donations.

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$10,000.00** to the Municipal Facilities Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020 for continued maintenance.

#### **Article 13**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$10,000.00** for the continuing support of Deerfield Valley Rescue for fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

#### **Article 14**

Voted to authorize payment of real estate taxes on or before November 1, 2019 with ninety-days' notice; to be made by physical delivery to the tax collector before 2pm on that date or with a first-class postmark on or before that date.

#### **Article 15**

Voted to make overdue taxes bear interest at a rate of one percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof for the first three (3) months and thereafter one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5136.

#### **Article 16**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$19,500.00** for the operation of Town Cemeteries for fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 with **\$19,000.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be offset by **\$500.00** in anticipated revenue.

#### **Article 17**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$400.00** for Brattleboro Area Hospice for delivery of volunteer hospice care, bereavement care and advance care planning services in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 18**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$1,000.00** for Deerfield Valley Community Cares, an organization that provides fuel assistance for those not on state aid.

#### **Article 19**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$2,500.00** for Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, an organization that provides programming and activities for youth and families that promote healthy behaviors and prevent youth drug and alcohol use.



#### **Article 20**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$500.00** for Deerfield Valley Food Pantry for the purpose of providing supplemental food assistance to area families in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 21**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$1,500.00** to offset the cost of providing the community meals, to Dave and Terrie Dumaine, who provide the meals to the senior citizens in the valley.

#### **Article 22**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$305.00** for Green Mountain RSVP for support of senior volunteer program with training and support for the volunteers who teach Bone Builder classes and who deliver meals in Whitingham in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 23**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$1,203.00** for Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. to help support outpatient mental health and substance abuse services, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 24**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$750.00** for Senior Solutions-The Council on Aging for Southeastern VT, Inc. to serve elders and assist with funding the community meal, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 25**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$1,200.00** to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Whitingham in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need.

#### **Article 26**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$6,000.00** for Twin Valley Youth Sports, an organization that provides all students in Whitingham, grades pre-k through 6<sup>th</sup>, the opportunity to play the organized sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball.

#### **Article 27**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$4,000.00** for Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings.

#### **Article 28**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$250.00** for the Windham County Disaster Animal Recover Team ("WinDART") in order to assist in the care and sheltering of pets in the event of a local emergency.

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$1,795.00** for Wings Community Program's 2019 Celebrate Summer program that provides 4 weeks of summer programming, arts and physical activities for youth, entering Kindergarten through those entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Article 30**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$10,000.00** for Wings Community Programs that provide after school programs for Whitingham students Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Article 31**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$850.00** for the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to domestic and sexual assault survivors and their children in the town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

### **Article 32**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$4,000.00** to support Economic Development in Whitingham for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

### **Article 33**

Voted to pass over the article to **\$4,000.00** for the Historical and Recreational Park of the Deerfield Valley to match grant funds that promote multi-town economic development and tourism through the research, placement, and construction of historical markers and kiosks to be linked to a self-guided historical trail along Route 100.

### **Article 34**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$2,000.00** for support of Old Home Week activities for 2026.

### **Article 35**

Voted to allow the Whitingham Free Public Library to spend grant monies and donations at the discretion of the Board of Trustees and Library Director.

### **Article 36**

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Voted to recommend that selectboard look into rejoining Windham Solid Waste Management.

Voted to recommend holding an election to elect the vacant selectboard and library trustee office.

Voted to recommend that the annual town meeting be held at the school in the future.

### **Article 37**

To elect all Town Officers required by law. Australian ballot polls were open from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. with the following results:

- Town Moderator, 1 year – Leon L. Corse
- Town Clerk, 3 years – Almira L. Aekus
- Town Treasurer, 1 year – Almira L. Aekus
- Selectboard member, 2 years – Wayne C. Corse
- Selectboard member, 3 years – Wayne W. Wood
- Lister, 3 years -
- Grand Juror, 1 year – Tanya Bernard
- Town Agent, 1 year – Susan Cooke Johnson
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 1 year – Almira L. Aekus
- Library Trustee, 3 years – Edith Brigham
- Library Trustee, 3 years - Maryanne Johnson
- Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years – Tyson G. Dix
- School Director, 2 years – Maria Cunningham

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Dated at Whitingham, Vermont this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019

Attest:



*Almira L. Aekus, Town Clerk*

NUMBER OF VOTERS ON THE CHECKLIST – 869

NUMBER WHO VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT – 274

HIGHEST NUMBER VOTED FROM THE FLOOR – 97

ESTIMATED HIGHEST ATTENDANCE ON THE FLOOR - 97