

MINUTES
ANNUAL JAY TOWN MEETING AND JAY SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 5, 2019

Meeting began at 10:05 am. Steve Wright, CEO at Jay Peak Resort was invited to speak at Town Meeting by Select Board Chair David Sanders to discuss Jay Peak. Construction was started on the recreation fields last summer, which are 90% complete. The receiver, Michael Goldberg has informed Steve that the mountain is being actively marketed for sale and to expect that the resort might sell within a six to twelve month period. Sales have been 3-4% up for season passes. This Christmas season was the best that they have had. Snow has been great. If everything continues as is going, this should be a record top year. Jay Peak is looking to increase wages and add benefits. 401K plan will begin May 1st. Wage increases start soon to get ready for the minimum wage hike scheduled between now and 2024. An investment bank has been hired to broker the sale for Jay Peak. There is a high interest in the property. Weddings are busy this year. Soccer fields are booking up fast. Hockey camps have increased by 25% this year. Steve then thanked the community for their support.

Ron Horton asked about the properties that were now owned by the receivership. Steve explained that it will go to sale, not auction.

Meeting opened at 10:15 am by David Sanders. Dave opened the meeting with an explanation of procedural issues to Roberts Rules of Order. Some key points were on amendments, questions for candidates, calling the question, and reconsideration of articles.

4 Unregistered voters acknowledged themselves before meeting began.

TOWN MEETING:

Article 1. To elect a moderator for a term of one year.

David Sanders was nominated by Cindy Vincent-Goodyear. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes carried. Clerk cast 1 ballot in favor. David Sanders was elected moderator for a one-year term.

Article 2. To hear and act upon the town report.

Motion to accept the report was made by Pat Sanders, seconded by Sally Rivard. No one opposed. Report accepted by voice vote.

Article 3. To elect all necessary town officials required by law.

- a. Selectboard member for a term of three years. Dave stepped down as Moderator and Tara replaced him for this vote. David Sanders was nominated by Peggy Loux. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator (Temp-Tara) asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. David Sanders was elected Selectboard member for 3 years.
- b. Lister for a term of three years. Ron Kapeluck was nominated by Peggy Loux. Earline Morse was nominated by Roseanne Beaudry. Moderator asked each candidate to identify themselves and tell all why they would be a good candidate for the position. Paper Vote was cast with a count of 17 – Ron Kapeluck and 20 – Earline Morse. Earline Morse was elected Lister for 3 years.
- c. Auditor for a term of three years. Elizabeth Sargent was nominated by Le-Ann Tetrault. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Elizabeth Sargent was elected Auditor for three years.
- d. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year. Cynthia Vincent-Goodyear was nominated by Sally Rivard. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Cynthia Vincent-Goodyear was elected Delinquent Tax Collector for one year.

- e. Town Agent for a term of one year. Irene McDermut was nominated by Le-Ann Tetrault. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Irene McDermut was elected Town Agent for one year.
- f. Town Grand Juror for a term of one year. Irene McDermut was nominated by Le-Ann Tetrault. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Irene McDermut was elected Grand Juror for one year.
- g. Constable for a term of one year. Michael Caffrey was nominated by Lynnette Deaette. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Michael Caffrey was elected Constable for one year.

Article 4. Shall the legal voters of the Town of Jay appropriate the sum of \$88,148 (2.75% of the 2018 Grand List \$3,205,394) to the Jay Volunteer Fire Department?

Motion to accept by Pat Sanders, seconded by Tara Morse. Little discussion. Kristy Pillsbury asked if the Fire Station could discontinue internet to save money. Jeff Morse replied no, that all of their dispatching is run using internet for the department to be able to be toned out using phones and radios. Voted by voice to approve \$88,148. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

Article 5. Shall the legal voters of the Town of Jay appropriate the sum of \$68,114 (2.125% of the 2018 Grand List \$3,205,394) to the Missisquoi Valley Ambulance Service?

Motion to accept by Jeff Morse, seconded by Peter Fina. No discussion. Voted by voice vote to approve \$68,114. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

Article 6. Shall the legal voters of the Town of Jay approve \$5,000 for maintenance expenses on the Land Trust for 2019?

Motion to accept by Peter Fina, seconded by Denise Rossignol. Discussion followed. Explain of maintenance was requested. Sally Rivard explained it was for tree removal, mowing, bush hogging and grooming of trails in winter. Earline Morse asked about reducing some of this cost by donated time. Sally explained that the town does not own the equipment to do this work so they need to contract this out. Pat Sanders asked if this was in addition to the \$5,000 that was already being budgeted yearly for the Land Trust. Sally replied that it was in addition, that the original budgeted amount was for Grant purposes. Lynnette Deaette replied that the original amount was voted on each year by the town, then was removed as a voted item and included as part of the budget due to amendment of article and this money is not designated at this point for Grant purposes only. Denise Rossignol replied that they still hold that as Grant funds separately. Lynnette replied that there was \$30,000 restricted to date for Grants. Sally explained that most grants are a 25% match. Bill Morse asked if the money was spent locally when work was needed at Land Trust and Sally replied it was. Peggy Loux asked how the increase would affect the tax payers. Lynnette answered with examples, coming up with approximately \$.01 increase to tax payers based on 2018 Tax Rates. Peter Fina also explained that the more funds you have for Grants, the more you can apply for. Dana Watts asked if this was a one-time voted amount request and what were some projects that the Land Trust was going to be looking into doing. Lynnette replied that this request of funds that is being voted on was for this year only, but letter stated they may be asking for the next couple of years for additional funding. Le-Ann Tetrault asked how many grants were applied for a year. Sally said they do multiple requests, maybe 4 or 5 a year, but they do not get all they apply for. The current grant request would be to make trails safer. Money has been spent on trail development in preparation for future projects. Peggy asked if Kristy Ellis could speak on what the Land Trust means to the children of the Jay/Westfield School. She spoke of outdoor classroom and exercise gained by the students at the Land Trust. Tanya Pappalardo asked if the Land Trust was open for events, family events, etc. This is a public

land and open to all, cannot book, may be insurance issues for charging or holding events. Rick Thompson made a motion to cease discussion. Ayes carried. Voted by voice vote to approve \$5,000. One opposed. Ayes carried.

Article 7. Shall the legal voters appropriate **\$8,547** to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

Motion was voted by voice vote to approve. Discussion followed. It was asked what Northeast Kingdom Human Services was to our town. Lynnette read the letter from NKHS explaining their services. It was asked about Northeastern Vermont Development Association and their services. Lynnette read the letter from NVDA explaining their services. Peter explained he works with NVDA and they are a great resource. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

- a. **\$250** to Jay Food Shelf
- b. **\$1000** to Rand Memorial Library
- c. **\$500** to Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA)
- d. **\$750** to Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice, Inc.
- e. **\$547** to Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS)
- f. **\$300** to Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging
- g. **\$250** to Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- h. **\$200** to Umbrella
- i. **\$200** to Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)
- j. **\$200** to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS)
- k. **\$800** to Orleans County Citizen Advocacy (OCCA)
- l. **\$300** to Orleans County Court Diversion Program. (NEKCA)
- m. **\$500** to Old Stone House Museum (Orleans County Historical Society)
- n. **\$100** to Vt. Rural Fire Protection Task Force
- o. **\$50** to Green Up Vermont
- p. **\$300** to Rural Community Transportation, Inc.
- q. **\$500** to Hazen's Notch Association Campership Fund
- r. **\$250** to Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc.
- s. **\$250** to American Red Cross
- t. **\$250** to Green Mountain Farm-to-School, Inc.
- u. **\$300** to Jay Focus Group
- v. **\$300** to American Legion Post 28
- w. **\$100** to Vermont Symphony Orchestra
- x. **\$350** to Orleans County Child Advocacy Center/Special Investigations Unit (OCCAC/SIU)

Article 8. Shall the legal voters approve Selectboard fund expenditures of \$336,238 for 2019?

Motion to accept by Pat Sanders, seconded by Peter Fina. Voted by voice vote to approve \$336,238. No one opposed. Ayes carried. No discussion.

Article 9. Shall the legal voters approve Highway fund expenditures of \$364,965 for 2019?

Motion to accept by Peter Fina, seconded by Kristy Pillsbury. Voted by voice vote to approve \$364,965. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Discussion Followed. Ron Horton thanked the Highway Department for their job well done. He asked what the \$20,000 addition was to the budget. He also asked what the status was on the Cross Road. Tara explained that the \$20,000 was already a part of the budget under the Selectboard budget for dispatching, which they felt

could be used towards the tar account in Roads budget this year since there was \$60,000 in that budget to date. Money needed to be put aside for tarring of the Cross Road. There was only a shift of funds from Selectboard to Roads budget. Jeff responded to the Cross Roads question. He explained that the culverts needed to be changed out and it was more cost effective to do this all at once. Unfortunately, the funding is not coming through from the State right now but we are looking into this. We have a meeting following Town Meeting with the State to discuss funding and hope that this timeframe that we have been given will change. The dust problem was brought up. Jeff discussed the amount of Chloride that has been used and until we can get some gravel put down, they are doing all they can right now. There is only one culvert left to change according to NVDA, who lets us know what needs to be done. Jeff explained that this is a work in progress. Earline made a motion to cease discussion. Ayes carried.

Article 10. Shall the legal voters approve Equipment & Garage fund expenditures of \$221,032 for 2019?

Motion to accept by Peter Fina, seconded by Tara Morse. Voted by voice vote to approve \$221,032. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Discussion about increase of \$4000 to budget. This was to correct the Loader loan amount that was off from previous year of \$3,100, along with small increases in salaries. There were no major changes.

Article 11. Shall the legal voters authorize payment of real estate property taxes on Friday, October 11, 2019 by 5:00 p.m.?

Motion to accept made by Sally Rivard, seconded by Peter Fina. Voted by voice vote to collect real estate taxes on October 12, 2018 by 5:00 pm. No one opposed. Ayes carried. No discussion.

Article 12. Shall the legal voters approve the town to employ a CPA to review all town accounts?

Motion to accept made by Sally Rivard, seconded by Irene McDermot. Vote by voice vote to hire a CPA. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Little discussion followed. Ron Horton asked what the costs were, and Tara Morse responded that we were unsure at the moment because the CPA we have used in the past was closed recently due to health reasons and we needed to review another replacement firm. It should be around \$5,000. This will be discussed at a future Selectboard meeting.

Article 13. To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting?

Dana Watts discussed ways to bring more people to Town Meeting. She also wanted to know about increasing taxes each year and wondering if this will ever become a driving force for some to leave town, if they will eventually get to be more than some can handle paying. Tara explained that what was voted on today the town tax rate would increase about one penny. The State of Vermont gives us the Education Tax Rate and we don't know what that will be at this point.

Pat Sanders asked what will happen if Jay Peak is sold for a loss of what they are valued at. Tara explained that it has been discussed very little. They will need to get with the Listers' on this. If the Grand List goes down, this will affect our tax rate. We will need to meet with the State to figure how this sale would affect the rest of the town, if this is a 'bad sale'. We would need to

hire an outside source that is not affiliated with the Jay Peak Resort or the Town of Jay for an appraisal to see what they come up with and bring that figure to the State and to the new buyer of the resort. The Selectboard is aware and are trying to be proactive. It is too soon to know what will happen.

Article 14. To adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Morse at 12:00 pm, seconded by Pat Sanders. School meeting to follow.

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING:

Article 1. To elect a moderator for a term of one year.

David Sanders was nominated by Jeff Morse. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes carried. Clerk cast 1 ballot in favor. David Sanders was elected moderator for a one-year term.

Article 2. To elect a Jay School Board Member for a term of three years.

Tracey Hinton was nominated by Tara Morse. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Tracey Hinton was elected Jay School Board member for three years.

Article 3. To elect a NCUHS School Board Director for a term of three years.

Le-Ann Tetrault was nominated by Jeff Morse. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Le-Ann Tetrault was elected NCUHS Board Director for a term of three years.

Article 4. Shall the legal voters of the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,269,453 dollars to defray the expenses and liabilities for the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School for the ensuing year with a net assessment to the town of \$795,312? **(Paper ballot to be co-mingled with Westfield)**

Motion to accept made by Sally Rivard, seconded by Kristy Pillsbury. Voted by paper ballot. **Jay** Yes **29** No **4** Blank **0** **Westfield** Yes **42** No **3**. No discussion.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$844,982 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,560 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.34% lower than spending for the current year.

Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Sally Rivard. Voted by voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried. No Discussion.

Article 6. To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting?

No discussion.

Article 7. To adjourn.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tara Morse at 12:17 pm, seconded by Pat Sanders.

Australian ballot items are voted at the Jay/Westfield Elementary School, 257 Revoir Flat Road during the day on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. The polls open at 10:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. Absentee ballots are available through 4 P.M. on Monday, March 4, 2019.

Article 1. Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$825,073? **(Australian Ballot)**

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>36</u>
	Opposed	<u>7</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>

Article 2. To elect a Jay/Westfield Joint School Treasurer for the school year 2019-2020. **(Australian Ballot)**

<u>RESULT OF VOTE (JAY)</u>	Tara Morse	<u>43</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>
	Write In	<u>0</u>
	Spoiled	<u>0</u>

<u>RESULT OF VOTE (Westfield)</u>	Tara Morse	<u>Re-elected</u>
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Article 3. North Country Union High School and North Country Career Center: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$16,279,900, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,332 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.93% higher than spending for the current year. **(Australian Ballot)**

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>35</u>
	Opposed	<u>8</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>

Article 4. North Country Union Junior High School: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$4,744,500, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,204 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.40% higher than spending for the current year. **(Australian Ballot)**

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>35</u>
	Opposed	<u>8</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>

Article 5. Shall the North Country Union High School District authorize the Board of School Directors to place \$350,000 of undesignated FY2018 fund balance from the general fund operations in the Capital Improvement Reserve fund? (**Australian Ballot**)

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>37</u>
	Opposed	<u>6</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>

Article 6. Shall the North Country Union High School District authorize the Board of School Directors to establish a School Improvement Reserve Fund to provide additional resources to improve school programs and place \$200,000 of FY2018 fund balance from the general fund operations in the district in said reserve fund? (**Australian Ballot**)

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>37</u>
	Opposed	<u>6</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>

Article 7. Shall the North Country Union Junior High School District authorize the Board of School Directors to establish an Athletic Field Maintenance Reserve Fund, for the ongoing maintenance of the school's athletic fields, and appropriate \$10,000 to be -placed in said fund? This fund is in support of the Field of Dreams project. (**Australian Ballot**)

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>34</u>
	Opposed	<u>9</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>