

MINUTES

Annual Meeting Town of Jay & Jay School District

March 1, 2011

Article 1. Elect a moderator for a one year term.

Fred Cushing was nominated by Sharon Diner. Roger Morin made a motion cease nominations, seconded by Sally Rivard. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes carried. Clerk cast 1 ballot in favor. Fred Cushing was elected moderator for a one year term.

Article 2. To hear and act upon the reports of the town officers.

a. Selectmen's Report. Motion to accept as written made by Hope Seddon, seconded by Jude Smith. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Marc Burroughs-Biron stood up, and gave a brief overview of the report that was included in town meeting book. Some key points were the budget is level funded for the third year. The sewer project is underway and going smoothly, and is on track. The town bought a 10.5 acre piece of land on VT RTE 105 for the town garage. The Planning Commission finished up the town plan. The selectboard adopted a Class IV Road policy so landowners could understand the town's responsibility for maintenance. The Trust for Public Land which is located on VT RTE 105 1022 acres will have a conservation easement and controlled by the County forester and the State. Marc thanked Peggy Loux & Pat Sanders along with Jay/Westfield residents for obtaining a grant to benefit the communities.

b. Road Commissioner's Report. Motion to accept as written made by Sally Rivard, seconded by Jude Smith. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Chris Beerworth wanted to say thank you to the road crew. The crew has done an excellent job on the roads.

c. School Director's Report. Motion made to accept as written by Jeff Morse, seconded by Pat Sanders. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote.

d. Treasurer's Report. Motion made to accept as written by Jeff Morse, seconded by Peter Fina. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Tara Morse updated the voters on the audit. Tara told everyone the 2009 audit is being wrapped up and the 2010 audit will begin on Wednesday March 2, 2011.

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

a. Selectman for three years. Marc Burroughs-Biron was nominated by Jude Smith. David Daigneault was nominated by Michael Pappalardo. No other nominations. Jude Smith made the motion to cease nominations, Svein Kruse seconded. So carried. RESULT OF VOTE: Marc Burroughs-Biron 43 Votes, and David Daigneault 8 Votes. Marc Burroughs-Biron was elected Selectman for three years. The two candidates were asked a few questions so Tara called the Elections office to clarify if it was ok. The answer was no questions would be allowed.

b. School Director for three years. Sally Rivard was nominated by Jeff Morse. No other nominations. Roger Morin made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Kelly Bradley. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Sally Rivard was elected School Director for three years.

c. Lister for three years. Arlene Bosco was nominated by Sharon Diner. No other nominations. Jeff Romanowski made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Roger Morin. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Arlene Bosco was elected Lister for three years.

d. Auditor for three years. Edna Cushing was nominated by Jeff Morse. No other nominations. Roseanne Beaudry made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Jude Smith. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Edna Cushing was elected Auditor for three years.

e. Auditor for two years. Kelly Bradley was nominated by Tara Morse. No other nominations. Roseanne Beaudry mad a motion to cease nominations, seconded by Jude Smith. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Kelly Bradley was elected Auditor for two years.

f. Delinquent Tax Collector for one year. Cynthia Vincent was nominated by Roseanne Beaudry. No other nominations. Jeff Morse made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Laura Romanowski. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Cynthia Vincent was elected Delinquent Tax Collector for one year.

g. Town Agent for one year. Roger Morin was nominated by Jeff Morse. No other

nominations. Roseanne Beaudry made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Jeff Romanowski. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Roger Morin was elected Town Agent for one year.

h. Grand Juror for one year. Roger Morin was nominated by Jeff Morse. No other nominations. Bryan Bowers made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Sally Rivard. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Roger Morin was elected Grand Juror for one year.

i. Constable for one year. Michael Caffrey was nominated by Jeff Morse. No other nominations. Bryan Bowers made a motion to cease nominations, seconded by Sally Rivard. 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.

j. Any other officers necessary. No others necessary.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the Jay Town School District vote to appropriate the sum of \$82, 503 to meet the Local School Board expenses? Motion to accept by Bryan Bowers, seconded by Pat Sanders. Voted by voice vote to approve \$82,503. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Sally explained this was for the transportation for NCUHS & NCUJHS busing.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Jay School District authorize the Board of School Directors to reduce the FY12 budget using surplus funds from FY10? Motion to accept by Jeff Morse, seconded by Kurtis Johnson. Voted by voice vote to approve FY10 surplus funds. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Tara explained the surplus funds. Tara told the audience the figure was \$12,798.00 due to the fact our revenues exceed our expenditures.

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Jay Town School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of revenue for the purpose of paying current expenses? Motion to accept by Irene McDermut, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by voice vote to approve. No one opposed. Ayes Carried.

Article 7. Shall the town appropriate \$56,159 (2.5% of the 2010 Grand List 2,246,377) to the Jay Volunteer Fire Department? Motion to accept by Roseanne Beaudry, seconded by Scott Rappold. Mark Lucier asked if this figure was an average figure for fire departments. Doug said a lot of other departments are run through selectboard budgets. Jeff Morse stated this was low in comparison to other surrounding towns. Voted by voice vote to approve \$56,159. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

Article 8. Shall the town voters approve the following sums for appropriations: Fred Cushing moderator of the meeting said last year everyone wanted to vote all as one package what would everyone like to do? Motion to accept by Chris Engler as one package, seconded by Rick Thompson. Jeff Ward asked about the \$1,000 for the Rand Memorial Library. Jeff would like to see money put into the school library. Nothing came about this because the audience said this is one package. Voted by voice vote to approve. Ayes carried with two nays.

- a. \$6,390 to Missisquoi Valley Ambulance Service.
- b. \$ 800 to Jay Athletic Association.
- c. \$ 250 to Jay Area Food Shelf.
- d. \$1,000 to Rand Memorial Library.
- e. \$ 200 to Northeastern VT Dev. Association.
- f. \$1,000 to Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice Inc.
- g. \$ 447 to NE Kingdom Human Services Inc.
- h. \$ 300 to NE VT Area Agency on Aging.
- i. \$ 250 to VT Assoc. of Blind & Visually Impaired.
- j. \$ 200 to Umbrella FKA STEP ONE.
- k. \$ 200 to VT Ctr. Of Independent Living.
- l. \$ 200 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services.

- m. \$ 800 to Orleans County Citizen Advocacy.
- n. \$ 75 to Orleans County Court Diversion Program (NECKA).
- o. \$ 100 to Orleans County Historical Society.
- p. \$ 75 to Northern VT RC & D Council.
- q. \$ 50 to Vermont Green Up Inc.
- r. \$ 250 to Tri Town Resources Committee.
- s. \$ 300 to Rural Community Transportation.
- t. \$ 400 to Hazen's Notch Association.
- u. \$ 250 to Frontier Animal Society.
- v. \$ 150 to Jay Focus Group.
- w. \$ 100 to Jay Halloween Party.
- x. \$ 250 to American Red Cross.
- y. \$ 250 to Green Mtn. Farm to School.

Article 9. Shall the town appropriate \$231,201 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Budget for year 2011? Motion to accept as written by Irene McDermut, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by voice vote to approve \$231,201. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Peggy Moran asked about mailboxes. Tara explained the town will not purchase the mailboxes, but the road crew will help putting them up. Dave Sanders wanted to just clarify the crew is not out doing this intentionally, and the mailboxes are in the town's right of way. Hope Seddon asked what happens if the cost of fuel goes up. Dave explained the road crew would still keep the roads maintained, and in the following year would have to recoup the extra cost. There was a discussion about contracted services. Tara explained this is really not the best way to go because you lose your personal touch the crew has, and the extra mile they go to help tax payers. For the most part your road crews are from the town and are taxpayers. The sewer department is contracted and it costs more to operate with less hours being performed.

Article 10. Shall the town authorize the board of Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of revenue for the purpose of paying debts and current expenses, said money to be paid into the Treasury of the town? Motion to accept made by Sally Rivard, seconded by Sharon Diner. Voted by voice vote to approve. No one opposed. Ayes carried. It was stated that this is a reoccurring article. This is here because we do not collect our taxes until October. This is in case we need the cash flow.

Article 11. Shall the town collect taxes on real estate, payable to the town Treasurer on or before Friday October 14, 2011? Motion to accept made by Sally Rivard, seconded by Jude Smith. Voted by voice vote to collect real estate taxes on October 14, 2011. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

Article 12. Shall the Town of Jay appropriate \$393,744 for the Selectboard & Equipment Budget for 2011? Motion to accept by Hope Seddon, seconded by Irene McDermut. Voted by voice vote to approve \$393,744. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Very little discussion. Dave just stated the board spent a lot of time working on the budgets, and the main things in the budget are your benefits and salaries which the board looked into a felt they were where they needed to be.

Article 13. Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to build a new Town Garage not to exceed Four Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$450,000.00) to be paid for over a period of five years? Motion to accept by Pat Sanders, seconded by Irene McDermut. Voted by voice vote to approve \$450,000.00 being financed over five years. Three opposed. Ayes carried. Some facts were pointed out that the voters over the last three years approved \$20,000 to set aside for the new garage. Scott Rappold has been working with the board and road crew to determine the requirements and needs of the new garage. The project will go out to bids after the vote takes place. The contractors will be asked to use local sub-contractors. The need for a new garage is because the current building is 34 years old and does not meet existing State and insurance requirements. The current location is encroaching on other abutting land owner's property. It is not big enough to house all the town's equipment, and some safety issues for the workers when they are working on the equipment. The new garage will be 50' X 100', wood frame with 5 bays, office, ½ bath, generator, basic security

system, sand and salt shed. Dave Sanders stated this is somewhat of a good time to build because material costs are low, and labor is reasonable. Dave foresees the economy turning around which will raise building costs. Dave talked about a few of the safety concerns the insurance company had. One was the wood burner which the town had to remove and replace with oil. Some others were no drainage, crew working on equipment limited space. The board looked into different options. Peter Fina asked Tara to explain the cost on taxes. Tara told the voters if you had a property worth \$100,000 it would have cost you \$35.60 more in taxes for 2010. That is having to raise another \$80,000 because the town has in its budget already \$20,000 that was rounding the payment to \$100,000 for five years. Tara also stated the taxes would go up no matter if you built the garage or not due to the way the State does the taxing. Tara explained that out of the 3.5 million dollars that is raised in taxes 2 million gets paid to the State of Vermont, \$853,000 goes to the elementary school, NCUHS, and NCUJHS and the remaining is town tax. Tara used her own tax bill for an example your town tax is 20% of your bill leaving 80% for the State portion. Tara told everyone there they need to talk to your legislators about the taxes because the town tax is not the one going up. The town has no control over the State portion. Tara explained that when your grand list grows the more you send to the State, but it does help the town portion. Mark Lucier asked the board if they looked into the future for the garage, and if they had considered the ambulance. The board responded the ambulance does not want to be included with the town and they have their own property. Mark just stated being fiscally responsible. Tim Cook asked about environmental clean up if any was needed. The board & Jeff were not sure. Dave Daigneault asked if this new garage would be good for the next 34 years or are we going to need a new one. Dave stated what the board is presenting will be sufficient for years, and Scott agreed. Mike Pappalardo brought up contracted services again saying we contract out our fire department and ambulance. Mike said before we are all done we are looking at million dollars between the garage and equipment because we do not have good equipment. Dee Burroughs-Biron responded to Mike's contracted service option. Dee said the State of Vermont contracts out, and they are looking to bring back that service, and hire because it is cheaper contracted is not the way to go. Peggy pointed out that the board is asking for 450,000 once and will not have to come back to the town's people to ask for more money, unlike the situation with the town office building. The board is hoping the garage will not cost 450,000, and there are options the town can pursue to lower the cost.

At 12:05 PM we broke for lunch and at 1:05 PM we restarted the meeting.

Article 14. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Jay agree to distribute surplus funds into two categories:

1. Reserve fund of 10% of the general and highway fund budget to cover expenses until taxes are collected. Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Irene McDermut. Voted by voice vote. Tara explained that the Government Finance Office Association recommends that municipalities have a reserve or fund balance for emergencies and cash flow. Tara explained the town runs on a calendar year so the town does not collect its taxes until September. This would allow no borrowing and the town would save \$5,000-\$6,000 in interest for a line of credit. The dollar value would be \$70,000. Tara also used an example of the the furnace failing you normally do not budget for a furnace.
2. The residual to decrease funds to be raised on the new town garage. Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Irene McDermut. Voted by voice vote. Tara told the voters the audits are not completed yet, but once they were the balance if any would be put towards the garage.

Article 15. To see how the legal voters of the Town of Jay agree to distribute Delinquent Tax Revenue for 2010? Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Sally Rivard. Voted by voice vote. Tara stated the amount that went delinquent was \$27,206.44 less \$6,000 for salary and \$143.36 for expenses that leaves \$21,063.08 which all will be collected by mid Summer. Irene McDermut made the motion the remaining money be spent at the discretion of the selectboard, seconded by Jude Smith. The selectboard gave two ideas they were looking at for the money. One was for a generator at the town office, and the difference be put towards paving the town office. Rick Thompson asked about waiting until 2012 & seeing if Pike will do it because it should be cheaper because they have to pave 242. Tara said she would check into it the only problem is Tara got a grant for \$5,000 which is only good until June 30, 2011.

Article 16. Shall the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,121,571 dollars to defray the expenses and liabilities for Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School for the ensuing year with a net assessment to the town of \$608,912. Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Chris Young. Voted by paper ballot. **Jay** 35 Yes 5 No. **Westfield** 46 yes and 5 no. A tax payer from the town of Jay asked about government stimulates money that was available, and how the school rated. Hope responded that was for charter schools not for public. Jeff Ward stated that NECAP tests are used for rating the school. Sally stated she did

not have the exact numbers but she knew the school rated well for the district. Chris Young told the tax payer they could get results from the NECAPS online and the system was user friendly. Sally explained the budget increases were loosing the ARRA funding for a paraeducator and a new principal with benefits, and the normal salary increases. Sally stated the board took out turning points hoping that it is not needed. Sally told everyone the superintendent was looking into the Westside Junior High again. That is removing your six graders and it would create space for pre-school. The Westside would be 6,7,8 graders from Lowell, Troy, Jay/Westfield, and maybe Newport Ctr. being centrally located.

Article 17. To see if the town will employ a CPA to review all town accounts? Motion to accept made by Irene McDermut, seconded by Scott Rappold. Vote by voice vote to hire a CPA. Ayes carried. Tara just explained this is a reoccurring article each year, and when a town receives federal money in the amount of \$500,000 that puts your town into a audit.

Article 18. To transact any other (non-binding) business which may legally come before this meeting?

Pat Sanders explained the E VT grant that Jay/Westfield received. Pat explained the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders each will be getting a netbook to be taken home. There will be an informational meeting on March 16, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Jay/Westfield School focuses on what ideas everyone has on communication or about internet. This will help with technology and improve Jay's website.

Irene asked about being able to ask questions about candidates on the floor if the selectboard could look into for next year.

Chris Beerworth stated she was a little disappointed that no one from Jay Peak was at the meeting to let everyone know the status. Peggy Loux gave a brief statement of what was happening at the mountain, and told everyone the zoning board is informed. Peggy stated they would be developing the Westbowl, putting in a new townhouse building, building near the golf course, and the Water Park will be functioning by the end of December 2011 into early 2012. Roseanne asked about the parking situation. Peter informed everyone that the zoning board is staying in contact with Jay Peak and they have a new security director who is doing a good job.

Mark Higley just wanted to let everyone know he dropped off Doyle surveys, a information sheet he prepared, and he had hats from National Guard for \$10.00.

Article 19. To adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Roseanne Beaudry at 1:50 PM, seconded by Pat Sanders which passed unanimously.

A great pot luck lunch organized by Christine Beerworth was enjoyed by all.

There were 294 names on the checklist.

Australian Ballot items are voted at the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School during the day on March 1, 2011. The polls open at 10:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.

Article 20. To elect a joint school district treasurer. (Australian Ballot).

<u>RESULT OF VOTE:</u>	Tara Morse	<u>55</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>
	Write In	<u>0</u>
	Spoiled	<u>0</u>

Article 21. Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$631,300.00?

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>39</u>
	Opposed	<u>15</u>
	Blank	<u>2</u>

Article 12. Budget & other items of the North Country Union High School District. (Australian Ballot).

Article IV: Budget \$14,618,000

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>38</u>
	Opposed	<u>17</u>
	Blank	<u>1</u>

Budget & other items of the North Country Union Junior High School District. (Australian Ballot).

Article V: Budget \$4,424,370

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>38</u>
	Opposed	<u>18</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>

North Country Union High School improvements to building, replacement of A Wing roof . (Australian Ballot).

Article VI: Budget \$300,000

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>40</u>
	Opposed	<u>16</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>

Town Clerk _____

Moderator _____

Selectmen