

## MINUTES

### Annual Meeting Town of Jay & Jay School District

March 2, 2010

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

Fred Cushing was nominated by Peter Fina. 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 Emeline Harmon, seconded by Jeff Morse. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Marc Burroughs-Biron stood up, and reported this year the write up is included in the town report. Marc explained that the wild and scenic committee is looking for a representative from Jay to serve on the board. If anyone was interested to contact Anne McKay from North Troy.

b. Road Commissioner's Report. Motion to accept as written made by Emeline Harmon, seconded by Roger Morin. 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 Emeline Harmon, seconded by Frank Baraw. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Shirley Talbot and Chris Beerworth questioned Special Ed in the aspect of how many children, do the para educators do anything else besides working with the children, and how many staff do we have for Special Ed. Between Sally and Tara they answered the questions that 25% of the student population is Special Ed. The Para Educators solely work with the children, and that there are four Para Educators associated with Special Ed.

d. Treasurer's Report. Motion made to accept as written by Emeline Harmon, seconded by Sally Rivard. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Tara asked the audience if there was anything they would like to see different or if there was anything they wanted clarified? Emeline asked why does the board have a budget figure under equipment loan when Emeline thought the loan was over in December 2009? Tara explained the board wanted to keep the money in the budget due to the fact the town is in need of new equipment. It was just placed in the wrong line, and no we did not have a loan outstanding. Tara explained the budget line item should have been put into the equipment line or under a capitalization fund for future use to purchase road equipment.

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

a. Selectman for three years. David Sanders was nominated by Jude Smith. Michael Pappalardo was nominated by Peter Fina. No other nominations. Emeline Harmon made the motion to cease nominations, Peggy Moran seconded. So carried. RESULT OF VOTE: David Sanders 26 Votes, and Michael Pappalardo 10 Votes. David Sanders was elected Selectman for three years.

b. Selectman for one year. Marc Burroughs-Biron was nominated by Pat Sanders. Michael Pappalardo was nominated by Peter Fina. No other nominations. Emy Harmon made the motion to cease nominations, Richard Thompson seconded. So carried. RESULT OF VOTE: Marc Burroughs-Biron 24 Votes, and Michael Pappalardo 13 Votes. Marc Burroughs-Biron was elected Selectman for one years.

c. School Director for three years. Peter Fina was nominated by Chris Beerwoth. No other nominations. Emy Harmon 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. Peter Fina was elected School Director for three years.

d. Lister for three years. Edna Cushing was nominated by Emeline Harmon. No other nominations. Roger Morin made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Dee Burroughs-Biron. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Edna Cushing was elected Lister for three years.

e. Auditor for three years. Christine Beerworth was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Emy Harmon made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Richard Thompson. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Christine Beerworth was elected Auditor for three years.

f. Delinquent Tax Collector for one year. Cynthia Vincent was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Roger Morin made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Frank Baraw. 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 Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Emy Harmon 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 Town Agent for one year.

h. Grand Juror for one year. Roger Morin was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Emy Harmon made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Dee Burroughs-Biron. 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 Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Michael Pappalardo made a motion to cease nominations, seconded by Emeline Harmon. 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 town appropriate \$235,801 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Budget for year 2010? Motion to accept as written by Emeline Harmon, seconded by Frank Baraw. Voted by voice vote to approve \$235,801. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Their was no discussion.

**Article 5.** Shall the voters of the Jay Town School District vote to appropriate the sum of \$81,031 to meet the Local School Board expenses? Motion to accept by Pat Sanders, seconded by Jeff Morse. Voted by voice vote to approve \$81,031. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

**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 Pat Sanders, seconded by Bill Rivard. Voted by voice vote to approve. No one opposed. Ayes Carried.

**Article 7.** Shall the town compensate the town collector of delinquent taxes by paying a salary of \$6,000 in lieu of fees and commissions allowed under 24 V.S.A. § 1530? Motion to accept made by Richard Thompson, seconded by Emeline Harmon. Roger Morin made a comment to the effect it was taking away the incentive for collecting taxes. Emeline stated that Cindy has done an excellent job and has collected everything. Emeline mentioned that years ago the clerk's office spent a lot more time doing part of the work, but today computers do the calculating for you by pressing a button so it does not take as much time at the clerk's office. David Sanders said the board wanted to keep the positions in town equal. Dave's example was the \$6,000 would equate to 8hrs. per week @ \$15hr roughly. Dave explained there is staff now not making \$15hr. trying to keep it equal. Marc explained the same idea as Dave that the board felt that the pay was not in line with other positions in town. Dave explained in prior years the delinquent tax collector held other positions that did not get compensated for. It was explained that the attorney conducts the tax sale. Someone asked if Cindy agreed with the \$6,000 and it was stated that Cindy did not agree. Dave stated Cindy has done a great job. Jeff Ward said \$6,000 is a good sum of money to collect taxes. Jeff Ward also stated Cindy has done a great job. Marc explained also the board was looking at different projects coming up in town that this would help not having to raise it in taxes. Sandy Leonard it is not coming from tax payers. It comes from delinquent accounts. Svein Kruse does not come out of town contributions may contribute to helping out the bottom total. Sandy wanted to know where the money comes from to pay the \$6,000 if there is no delinquent accounts? The town budget would pick up that figure. Sandy asked how it would be paid? Some thoughts were put out there could be in two installments, at the end of the year would have to be discussed if passed. Dee thought when she heard this is just was not fair, but after she had time to think about it she realized that the pay equity to other positions was not fair. The example Dee gave was the time it took being a selectmen, and she felt the collector does not spend the same amount of time as the selectboard. After a lengthy discussion it went to a vote. Voted by voice vote to approve \$6,000. Fred Cushing the moderator asked for a division of the house to make it clear. There were 4 No's and 33 in Favor. Ayes carried.

**Article 8.** Shall the town appropriate \$53,088 (2.5% of the 2009 Grand List 2,123,552) to the Jay Volunteer Fire Department? Motion to accept by Peter Fina, seconded by Richard Thompson. Rick Thompson asked why the fire department needed an increase while the rest of the town level funded.? Doug explained that the amount is tied to the grand list, and with the 2009 reappraisal that increased the listed

values. Doug noted that in 2009 the percentage was 3.5% and in 2010 was 2.5% since the grand list increased so much. Doug said the department was running older equipment, they have an outstanding equipment loan in the amount of \$116,000.00. The \$53,000 would make the department break even. Emeline asked about the new Fire Department located at Jay Peak. Doug explained to everyone the current agreement with Jay Peak is the mountain will pay for fuel, plow, and the fire department will pay the electric/phone and insurance. Chris Beerworth asked does it really cost \$5,000 to heat this department. Doug responded yes. Voted by voice vote to approve \$53,088. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

**Article 9.** 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? Fred said the dollar figure is \$12,059. Motion to accept by Michael Pappalardo as one package, seconded by Peter Fina with discussion on each one if necessary. Emeline Harmon amended the motion to do each one separately. Emeline withdrew her motion. David Sanders is concerned about agencies not submitting any reports. Jeff Ward mentioned if the agency does not report we do not accept their request. The voters that attended the meeting would like someone from the agency to attend or have the write up state what they do and what they did for our town. Peggy Moran spoke in behalf of the NEKHS and stated the service is well worth the money. Sue Kopec questioned the dollar value on the Frontier Animal Society. Mike Caffrey said that is where he can bring the dogs that he cannot find homes for or the owners. Voted by voice vote to approve \$12,059. Ayes carried.

- a. \$5,112 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. \$ 500 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. \$ 300 to Hazen's Notch Association.
- u. \$ 250 to Frontier Animal Society.
- v. \$ 100 to Jay Focus Group.
- w. \$ 100 to Jay Halloween Party.

**Article 10.** Shall the voters of the Town of Jay vote to exempt the following properties from Town & Education Property Tax Liability for a period of five years? Jay Volunteer Fire Department. Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Jeff Ward. It was stated that this exemption was for the Fire Station located at Jay Peak. Voted by voice vote to approve. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

**Article 11.** 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 Pat Sanders, seconded by Sally Rivard. Voted by voice vote to approve. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Emeline questioned what debt? Tara said 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 that is all.

**Article 12.** Shall the town collect taxes on real estate, payable to the town Treasurer on or before Friday October 8, 2010? Motion to accept made by Emeline Harmon, seconded by Frank Baraw. Voted by voice vote to collect real estate taxes on October 8, 2010. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

**Article 13** Shall the Town of Jay appropriate \$384,144 for the Selectboard & Equipment Budget for 2010? Motion to accept by Pat Sanders, seconded by Michael Brady. Voted by voice vote to approve \$384,144. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Emeline asked the question about the bridge line. Tara explained that line was for guardrails where they are needed and any repairs to the bridges necessary. Emeline stated the selectboard are required to maintain certain length bridges 20ft was mentioned. Emeline questioned the line item of Tax Maps. Dave Sanders stated Fred was getting three quotes. The board has not been able to contact any other town on the companies they have got the quotes from yet. The maps have not been done since 1992. Another question brought up was the administrative position advertised in the paper. The administrative assistant is for the selectboard meetings held twice a month, and any other work needed by the board that they can not keep up with. The main reason is the sewer project the majority of the cost will be reimbursed by the sewer department.

**Article 14.** Shall the Town of Jay appropriate \$5,000 to place in the town account for matching funds for grant purposes? Motion to accept made by Emeline Harmon, seconded by Sally Rivard. Voted by voice vote to approve \$5,000. One opposed. Ayes carried. Pat Sanders told everyone the town received a grant for a new town sign. The town has to match \$2,600.00. The sign is lighted and will fit on the sign already at the town office, and it will conform to zoning. The sign will be put in during the summer. Jeff Ward asked what the sign looked like hoping it was not a sign like the Newport Center School. Jeff Ward also asked if people would be able to view the sign before hand? Peggy Loux said they are going to have a committee to look at the options of signs, and told Jeff he could be one of the members. Jeff said no thank you. It was mentioned that the selectboard was also looking into a generator grant.

**Article 15.** Shall the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,050,518 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 \$585,663. Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by David Sanders. Voted by paper ballot. Jay 24 Yes 14 No. Westfield 58 yes and 14 no. Very little discussion.

**Article 16.** To see if the town will employ a CPA to review all town accounts? Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Michael Brady. Vote by voice vote to hire a CPA. One opposed. Ayes carried. Tara explained to the voters she would like to see the town be on a regular basis for a audit with the town being done every three years and on alternating years a review so the books would be looked at by a CPA firm every year. Tara told the towns people the audit for 2009 is still underway and has not been completed as of today. The cost for the audit for 2009 is \$6,250.00, and a review would cost \$3,750.00. Emeline said the town has never had an avenue to go to for help with the books with questions on better ways to do things. Tara said she thought this would be an assurance for the town's people and is a wonderful idea. Tara also explained especially when you start getting grants that requires an audit and it is easier to do on a yearly basis. Bill Leonard asked how many hours for the audit. Tara explained a full audit would be about 80hrs she thought, and a review would probably be 40hrs. Bill said that is more than \$15 an hour. Tara just explained it is up to all of you if you would like it done.

**Article 21.** To transact any other (non-binding) business which may legally come before this meeting?

Bill Stenger thank you for the opportunity to say hello. Bill wanted to give a brief over view of what has been going on at Jay Peak. The Tram Haus Lodge opened December 18, 2009, the construction under way of the ice arena, and the water park which will be underway in the Spring of 2010. Bill told the towns people how these changes will help individuals in the surrounding towns. These expansions will give the ability to have full time year round employment, and bring revenue into the local businesses. Bill wanted to thank the selectboard and the fire department crews for all the hard work they have done to get the projects going. Bill told the towns people after the ski season is finished there will be an open house for town's people to see what changes have gone on at the mountain. May 15<sup>th</sup> the ice arena will open, and around June

15<sup>th</sup> the club house will also open. Bill wanted to make sure everyone knew all the facilities at the mountain are open to the public. The first of May the old hotel will come down. Chris Beerworth asked what the mountain was doing with the material inside the hotel. Bill said some things are being kept and others will be auctioned off. Chris Beerworth asked if the water park was going to be only for kids? Everyone in the audience started to laugh. Bill said no it is for small children, teenagers, and adults.

There was a little discussion on the focus group by Peggy Loux. Peggy pointed out about the major three events taking place. One is Casino night located at the Cedarwood Lodge on April 3<sup>rd</sup> @7:30 P.M., second the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Summer Fest on Saturday, August 14, 2010, third is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Golf Tournament located at Jay Peak on Sunday, September 26, 2010. Peggy mentioned the focus group was set up as a non-profit organization.

Tara wanted to mention to everyone that town meeting next year would more than likely be at the school and not the fire station. Due to the fire station will be housing materials for the sewer department.

Peggy mentioned the Halloween party would be at the Cedarwood Lodge this year.

**Article 22.** To adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Morse at 12:35 PM, seconded by Pat Sanders which passed unanimously.

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

There were 298 names on the checklist.

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Australian Ballot items are voted at the Jay Firehouse during the day on March 2, 2010. The polls open at 10:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.

**Article 17.** To elect a joint school district treasurer. (Australian Ballot).

<u>RESULT OF VOTE:</u>	Tara Morse	<u>49</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>
	Write In	<u>0</u>

**Article 19.** Budget & other items of the North Country Union High School District. (Australian Ballot).

Article IV: Budget \$13,874,687

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>28</u>
	Opposed	<u>18</u>
	Blank	<u>3</u>

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

Article VI: Budget \$4,643,327

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>29</u>
	Opposed	<u>17</u>
	Blank	<u>3</u>

Budget of North Country Career Center. (Australian Ballot).

Article V: Budget \$3,079,620

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>29</u>
	Opposed	<u>17</u>
	Blank	<u>3</u>

**Article 18.** Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$606,120.00?

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>37</u>
	Opposed	<u>11</u>
	Blank	<u>1</u>

**Article 20.** Shall the voters adopt the revised Development and Land Use Regulations?

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	FAVOR	<u>34</u>
	OPPOSED	<u>12</u>
	BLANK	<u>3</u>

Town Clerk

Moderator

Selectmen