

## MINUTES

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

March 6, 2012

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

David Sanders was nominated by Jo Ann Morse. Marc Burroughs-Biron made a motion cease nominations, seconded by Harold 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 hear and act upon the reports of the town officers.

a. Selectmen's Report. Motion to accept as written made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Marc Burroughs-Biron asked for a moment of silence in memory of Doug James. Marc then gave a brief overview of the report that was included in town meeting book. The sewer project is about 90% completed for phase 1, then phase 2 which is the solar drying which is due to start in June, then phase 3 which is the implantation of a new sewer line which is scheduled for 2013. The hope is to coordinate the new sewer line with improvements to RTE 242. There has been discussion with VTrans. The town is looking to make the road safer. Phase 1 of the sewer project is moving along nicely with the treatment plant to be online by June of this year. Marc spoke about the town garage project. The project ran from June to October and came in under budget. Marc told everyone the leach field still needs to be completed due to engineering and time. Marc explained the savings we incurred during the project with the fill being donated by Jay Peak and the hauling of the fill by Dale Percy, along with the town crew doing the site work.

b. Road Commissioner's Report. Motion to accept as written made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote.

c. School Director's Report. Motion made to accept as written by Emy Harmon, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote.

d. Treasurer's Report. Motion made to accept as written by Emy Harmon, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote.

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

a. Town Clerk for three years. Tara Morse was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Roseanne Beaudry made the motion to cease nominations, Emy Harmon seconded. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Tara Morse was elected Town Clerk for three years.

b. Town Treasurer for three years. Tara Morse was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Roseanne Beaudry made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Emy Harmon. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Tara Morse was elected Town Treasurer for three years.

c. Selectman for three years. Peggy Loux was nominated by Pat Sanders. No other nominations. Peggy Moran made the motion to cease nominations, Emy Harmon seconded. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Peggy Loux was elected Selectmen for three years.

d. School Director for three years. Jeff Morse was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Le-Ann Tetrault made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Emy Harmon. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Jeff Morse was elected School Director for three years.

e. Lister for three years. Fred Cushing was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Jeff Morse 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. Fred Cushing was elected Lister for three years.

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

g. NCUHS/NCUJHS School Director for three years. Sheila Burger was nominated by Jo Ann Morse. No other nominations. Emy Harmon 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. Sheila Burger was elected NCUHS/NCUJHS School Director for three years.

h. Delinquent Tax Collector for one year. Cynthia Vincent was nominated by Jeff Morse. No other nominations. Emy Harmon made motion to cease nominations, seconded by Jeff Morse. 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.

i. Town Agent for one year. Roger Morin was nominated by Emy Harmon. 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.

j. Grand Juror for one year. Roger Morin was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. Roseanne Beaudry 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.

k. Constable for one year. Michael Caffrey was nominated by Jeff Morse. No other nominations. Emy Harmon 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.

**Article 4.** Shall the town appropriate \$228,887 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Budget for year 2012? Motion to accept as written by Emy Harmon, seconded by Al Baraw. Voted by voice vote to approve \$228,887. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Tim Cook asked about RTE 242 if that was included in the budget. It was stated to Tim that is a State maintained highway. There were no further questions.

**Article 5.** Shall the Town of Jay appropriate \$466,734 for the Selectboard & Equipment Budget for 2012? Motion to accept by Pat Sanders, seconded by Emy Harmon. Voted by voice vote to approve \$466,734. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Very little discussion. Tim Cook asked what this article included. Tara explained this budget included the repair and maintenance of equipment, the loan payment for the town garage, and the normal expenses for the selectboard such as salaries, benefits, town office expenses.

**Article 6.** Shall the town appropriate \$56,159 (2.5% of the 2011 Grand List 2,383,754) to the Jay Volunteer Fire Department? Motion to accept by Al Baraw, seconded by Emy Harmon. Mike Pappalardo stated that maybe the percentage should be looked at for future to give more money because Doug James dedicated a lot of time, and knowing costs are rising. Marc B noted the fire department is receiving rent money for the storage of the sewer project greenhouse, which offsets the need for increase this year. Voted by voice vote to approve \$56,159. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

**Article 7.** Shall the town voters allow the selectmen to enter into an agreement with the MVAS & surrounding communities to help pay down the costs of an ambulance facility? Motion to accept by Al Baraw, seconded by Tim Cook. There was discussion regarding the purpose of this article. When this article came up for vote, no one from the ambulance service was present to answer questions. Marc B stated that for now the town has offered the old town garage for a temporary housing. There is some work needed to the building the door headers need to be fixed, and some other items are needed to make sure the building is safe. Sally Rivard made a motion to table discussion until later in the meeting, seconded by Peter Fina. Voted by voice vote to table until later. No one opposed. Ayes carried. When the article was revisited, Scott Rappold from the ambulance squad was present to answer questions. In response to the question of the cost for the ambulance facility, Scott explained that the ambulance wanted to build on land they own next to the fire department. . Tim Cook asked what the budget for the facility was. Scott said it would be around \$400,000 for a 5000 square foot building which included space for trucks, equipment, bunk rooms, meeting room & kitchenette for volunteers to stay overnight. The building would be similar to the Johnson & Orleans facilities. Scott explained the ambulance intentions were to get the issue out so that plans could be formed to provide the towns with the service that is needed. Irene McDermut suggested Degree's Auction house which is was for sale as a possibility for the ambulance. Scott said they could look at, but they already own land in Jay. Sally R. asked by voting yes on this does it allow the selectboard to talk with MVAS and create a budget to present to voters. Scott said yes that is the intent of the article. The actual cost would go back to the Towns at another warned meeting. Sally R. asked what if other towns do not approve. Scott responded MVAS needs to move forward with this building, and hopefully all towns are in agreement. Hope Seddon asked if there would be different ideas

looked at and Scott answered in the affirmative. Marc B asked about the financials for the ambulance service. Scott said they have not been done yet because they do not have the funding to outsource the bookkeeping and it is done in house. Scott explained the ambulance service has kept the appropriations the same for the last few years, and this is something that needs to be looked at because they struggle to make ends meet. Using another ambulance services would cost the towns a lot more money and they would be traveling from further away. After discussion it was decided that the selectmen would be allowed to enter into discussion with MVAS. Voted by voice vote to approve. No one opposed. Ayes carried

**Article 8.** Shall the town voters approve the following sums for appropriations: Motion to accept by Al Baraw as one package, seconded by Jeff Romanowski. No discussion. Voted by voice vote to approve. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

- 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. \$ 547 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. \$ 100 to Northern VT RC & D Council.
- q. \$ 50 to Vermont Green Up Inc.
- r. \$ 300 to Rural Community Transportation.
- s. \$ 400 to Hazen's Notch Association.
- t. \$ 250 to Frontier Animal Society.
- u. \$ 150 to Jay Focus Group.
- v. \$ 100 to Jay Halloween Party.
- w. \$ 250 to American Red Cross.
- x. \$ 250 to Green Mtn. Farm to School.

**Article 9.** Shall the voters of the Town of Jay vote to appropriate \$5,000 for the continued development, operational expenses, matching funds for grants for the Jay Land Trust (Jay community Recreational Center)? Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Kurtis Johnson. Marc Burroughs-Biron made an amendment to have this article be a yearly item on the warning, seconded by Theresa Patch. Discussion on this followed. Pat Sanders asked why this was being voted on separately and questioned if it would be something we would vote on each year. Tara explained to everyone this is the first time so it would be a separate article and if it was approved then the following years it would be built into the budget. Emy H asked if the reserve money of \$10,961 was all from fundraising and Sally & Tara they both said yes. Sally explained

that the fundraising is not enough to do what the group is looking at doing with the property, and they have done a revised five year plan. Sally stated the land trust group has applied for a grant which has made it through the first stage and is now in VTrans hand. Emy H commended Sally for the work she and the committee have done. Peter F thanked everyone for donating bottles. Denis Desjarlais stated the land trust committee is made up of very few people and asked for more volunteers. The amendment was voted on by voice vote not to approve the amended motion by Marc. Some opposed. Ayes carried. The original article was then voted on by voice vote to approve. Few opposed. Ayes carried.

**Article 10.** Shall the town collect taxes on real estate, payable to the town Treasurer on or before Friday October 12, 2012? Motion to accept made by Michael Pappalardo, seconded by Emy Harmon. Voted by voice vote to collect real estate taxes on October 12, 2012. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

**Article 11.** To see if the legal voters of the Town of Jay agree to distribute surplus funds into two categories:

20% of the general/highway fund budgets to cover operation expenses to be placed in the general fund until taxes are collected? Motion to accept made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Peter Fina. Voted by voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried. 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. Irene asked if it would be better to have the taxes due twice a year. Tara explained to everyone that would be a lot more work, and there would still probably be the same number of delinquent taxes. Tara told everyone there that the office is more than willing to arrange individual payment plans to make it easier for people to pay their taxes.

The residual to decrease loan balance on the new town garage. Motion to accept made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Peter Fina. Voted by voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Tara told the voters the audits are not completed yet, but that she felt comfortable by reducing the loan balance by \$50,000.

**Article 12.** Shall the voters of the Jay Town School District vote to appropriate the sum of \$82,377 to meet the Local School Board expense? Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Emy Harmon. Voted by voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Peggy Moran asked what this budget included. Between Sally & Tara it was explained that it was transportation for 7-12 graders, and mainly pre-school.

**Article 13.** 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 made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Jeff Morse. Voted by voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Tim Cook questioned what this article meant. Tara explained the school does not receive any money until taxes are collected, but they need to operate. This article would allow the school board members to get a loan until they received their tax money.

**At 12:05 PM the meeting was suspended for lunch and restarted at 1:00 PM.**

**Article 14.** Shall the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,182,274 dollars to defray the expenses & liabilities for Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School for the ensuing year with a net assessment to the town of \$693,291? Motion to accept made by Pat Sanders, seconded by Jeff Morse. Voted by paper ballot. **Jay Yes 34 No 5 Westfield Yes 45 No 14.** There was little discussion as to what changes/additions were in the budget. Between board members and Tara it was explained that the increases were mainly contractual and fixed costs. There was some discussion on NECAP scores that were printed in the newspaper, but what the board had did not show the same figures. Sally explained the school did well in meeting or exceeding the standards. Jay/Westfield compared to the State on reading was 74% State, Jay/Westfield 78%, and Math State 65%, and Jay/Westfield 84%.

**Article 15.** Shall the voters of the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$21,916.31 to defray the expenses and liabilities for the deficit of FY11 for the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School, less \$15,000 from the money market account with a net of \$6,916.31 to be raised in taxes, contingent upon approval of Westfield voters? Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Harold Morse. Voted by paper ballot. **Jay Yes 28 No 1 Westfield Yes 44 No 14.** Hope asked how the deficit happened. Tara and the board members explained it was a result of under budgeting contractual services and benefits. The school had budgeted for a half time teacher when the position needed to be fulltime. The school had a para-professional take insurance which was higher than what was budgeted. Lastly the hot lunch program, which is not a budgeted item, ran a deficit which the general fund had to subsidize.

**Article 16.** Shall the voters of the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be put into the Buildings & Grounds Reserve Fund for future renovations to the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School, contingent upon approval of Westfield voters? Motion to accept made by Jeff Morse, seconded by Peter Fina. Voted by paper ballot. **Jay Yes 29 No 1 Westfield Yes 52 No 8.** Jeff explained to everyone that the board wanted to be proactive because the heating system is getting old and in need of repairing. It is ok for now, but the board wanted to set aside money so it would not have to happen all at once.

**Article 17.** To see if the town will employ a CPA to review all town accounts? Motion to accept made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Jeff Romanowski. Vote by voice vote to hire a CPA. Ayes carried. Tara just explained this is a reoccurring article each year. Tara gave a brief update to the audit status. 2010 was 98% completed and 2011 had not started yet.

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

Bill Stenger from Jay Peak spoke, and wanted to express his appreciation on being able to speak to everyone. Bill addressed the audience expressing his thoughts and prayers for the loss of Doug James, and spoke briefly on losing Delbert Cota 18 months ago and how these two members were “giants of support” for the fire department. Bill gave an update on the mountains progress and construction at the mountain. The resort is now a four season resort with the golf course being named the best course in the State. Bill wanted to thank the zoning board, and selectboard for all their hard work and support of all the projects. Bill spoke briefly about the new venture that would be starting May 1, 2012 which includes plans for a medical facility to be put in the Snowline Lodge which the mountain has purchased, that would serve the mountain as well as Jay/Montgomery residents. The facility will be affiliated with either NCH or the Notch Group. This project will take place over a 12-month period.

Sally wanted to thank everyone for all the support they have given the school. She also mentioned the Land Trust was having a Moonlight madness at the Jay Community Recreational Centre.

**Article 19.** To adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Jo Ann Morse at 1:27 PM, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry which passed unanimously.

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

There were 298 names on the checklist.

Australian Ballot items are voted at the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School during the day on March 6, 2012. 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>58</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 \$642,750?

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>45</u>
	Opposed	<u>13</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>

**Article 22.** Budget & other items of the North Country Union High School District. (Australian Ballot).

Budget \$15,106,500

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u>42</u>
Opposed	<u>16</u>
Blank	<u>0</u>

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

Budget \$4,536,340

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u>40</u>
Opposed	<u>16</u>
Blank	<u>2</u>

Town Clerk

Moderator \_\_\_\_\_

Selectmen