

MINUTES

Annual Meeting Town of Jay & Jay School District

March 4, 2014

Meeting opened 10:08 a.m. 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.

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

David Sanders was nominated by Emy Harmon. 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 Pat Sanders. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Peggy thanked everyone who helped on committees throughout the year. Peggy also thanked zoning, clerk's office, road crew, land trust committee, Jay Focus Group members Kathy DiCarlo and Denise Rossignol-Kapeluck for the defibrillator grant work for town office and school, emergency services, Dave and Marc.

b. Road Commissioner's Report. Motion to accept as written made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Pat Sanders. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Chris Engler asked about work on Woodshed Rd. Jeff stated Woodshed Rd. was on the list for this coming summer for guardrail work. The road crew is hoping to fix the entire road but it depends on money. Question on signs. Tara explained new rules and regulations, and their will be new signs ordered for all town maintained roads. The signs are now reflective and much larger. Tara will meet with the road crew to make sure we have all materials needed.

c. School Director's Report. Motion made to accept as written by Emy Harmon, seconded by Pat Sanders. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Tara thanked everyone for their support, and went over math and reading NECAP scores.

d. Treasurer's Report. Motion made to accept as written by Emy Harmon, seconded by Pat Sanders. No one opposed. Report accepted as written by voice vote. Tara mentioned to everyone the status of the audits. She stated 2011 is almost completed and 2012 and 2013 will be started the first week in April. Tara mentioned to everyone the new office hour schedule. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7-4 and Wednesday 7-Noon.

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

a. Selectman for three years. Marc Burroughs-Biron was nominated by Peggy Loux. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Marc Burroughs-Biron was elected Selectmen for three years.

b. School Director for three years. Sally Rivard was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. 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 Emy Harmon. No other nominations. 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 Emy Harmon. No other nominations. 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. Delinquent Tax Collector for one year. Cynthia Vincent was nominated by Emy Harmon. No other nominations. 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.

f. Town Agent for one year. Irene McDermut was nominated by Emy Harmon. 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.

g. Grand Juror for one year. Irene McDermut was nominated by Emy Harmon. 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.

h. Constable for one year. Michael Caffrey was nominated by Emy Harmon. 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 town appropriate \$263,822 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Budget for year 2014? Motion to accept as written by Emy Harmon, seconded by Cindy Vincent. Voted by voice vote to approve \$263,822. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Emy wanted to express how great of a job the road crew has done this year maintaining the town roads.

Article 5. Shall the Town of Jay appropriate \$512,865 for the Selectboard & Equipment Budget for 2014? Motion to accept by Emy Harmon, seconded by Rick Thompson. Voted by voice vote to approve \$512,865. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Very little discussion. Their was a question as to what is included in the budget figures and why the increase from last year. Tara explained to everyone what the major increases were assessment/dues, insurance, guardrails, building/grounds.

Article 6. Shall the town appropriate \$75,800 (2.75% of the 2013 Grand List 2,756,376) to the Jay Volunteer Fire Department? Motion to accept by Emy Harmon, seconded by Al Baraw. Voted by voice vote to approve \$75,800. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Little discussion. It was stated to everyone that the fire department annual talks to the selectboard about increasing the percentage rate.

Article 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Jay vote to appropriate the sum of \$13,000 to the Orleans County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services? Motion to accept by Rick Thompson, seconded by Peggy Loux. Amendment to the article was made by Rick Thompson to suspend article and combine with article 8 for discussion purposes, seconded by Earline Morse. Peggy explained that the sheriff's department requires a minimum of 20 hours per month of patrol in order to sign a contract. It was stated that the selectboard could state where, when they wanted coverage. Marc explained the selectboard had brought Lt. Cooper to a meeting to discuss the issues the board had, and Mr. Cooper stated he has limited resources, and trying to provide more coverage. Discussion followed on to the town needs. It was stated that the town has a public safety issue with speeding along VT RTE 242 during morning commute. Their was a comment to how dangerous this is to everyone, and the town needs a short/long term solution for this situation. There was also concern of speeding along Cross Rd as well along with out of state driver's that do not know how to drive on snow/ice covered roads. Their was a questions as to has there been a lot of break ins in the last few years? No one had that information, but individuals did ask if the sheriff's department would still respond. The comment was no they would not respond to break ins without a contract. From here there was a lot of back/forth discussions on how there is already enough law enforcement around with Border Patrol and State Police. Emy stated in prior years the town received \$38 in fines that were collected. Selectboard told everyone in the coming year they will be working on peed limit ordinances. The original article was then voted on by paper vote for the appropriation. 15 Yes, 31 No. Nays carried.

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Jay vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to purchase radar data equipment? Motion to accept by Rick Thompson, seconded by Tim Cook. Amendment to the article was made by Rick Thompson to have no personal information only for data collection purposes, seconded by Ron Horton. Voted by Voice vote to approve \$6,000 with the amendment. Some opposed, but Ayes carried. This stemmed a lot of discussion. Rick Thompson asked to please explain this. Ron Kapeluck walked to the front of the room and gave an overview of what this was. Ron Kapeluck stated this will control about 90 percent of the traffic problems we have. This equipment was what the traffic committee came up with for part of the speeding problem. This piece of equipment would flash the speed you are going, take a photo of the driver's face along with your plate, and tally statistics about the volume of traffic and how many are speeding along with the time of day. This caused concerns for some residents. They did not want there picture being taken. They thought they would be targeted. They were concerned where the data would be stored. Ron went on to explain this device would give the state police the information they needed to see if we have a problem. Some were concerned would they receive a ticket in the mail, and they would be targeted. Ron responded no tickets could be issued unless there was a trooper on site, and it could recognize repeat offenders. Most of the voters seemed to think the flashing light would make people slow down. Peggy stated collection of data is all part of getting long-term help with traffic control. Part of this data collection is that the sate will not talk to us about stop lights, or any type of flashing light in the town unless we are able to provide data.

Article 9. Shall the town appropriate \$41,346 (1.5% of the 2013 Grand List 2,756,376) to the Missiquoi Valley Ambulance Service? Motion to accept by Emy Harmon, seconded by Scott Rappold. Voted by Voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried. There was a lot of discussion. Scott explained to the voters why the appropriation was up from last year. Scott explained the ambulance service decided to go off the grand list. Scott explained with tying it to the grand list if your town stays level so doesn't the appropriation, but if there is growth then funding goes up. Prior the ambulance was charging per capita. Scott explained expenses have gone up drastically over the last several years. Scott stated the ambulance service never has enough funding, they are always in the hole. Scott went on to explain the department wanted to make it fair to all communities. Scott went on to explain they pay full-time 6-6 Monday-Friday with weekend crews only paid when they go on a call. Some questioned why the ambulance service is not taking all the calls necessary. Scott also explained all the federal mandates the service needs, this also takes money. Some questioned if mandated why is there not funding. Tara was asked the percentage rate Jay Peak contributes. Before any calculations Tara said 70%, but after quickly calculating she came up with 33%. Tara wanted to make sure the correction got into the minutes the percentage is actually 63%. The group wants to see a business plan developed along with an advisory board which would have a representative from every town.

Article 10. Shall the town voters approve the following sums for appropriations: Motion to accept by Emy Harmon as one package, seconded by Earline Morse. No discussion. Voted by voice vote to approve. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

- a. \$ 800 to Jay Athletic Association.
- b. \$ 250 to Jay Area Food Shelf.
- c. \$1,000 to Rand Memorial Library.
- d. \$ 200 to Northeastern VT Dev. Association.
- e. \$ 750 to Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice Inc.
- f. \$ 547 to NE Kingdom Human Services Inc.
- g. \$ 300 to NE VT Area Agency on Aging.
- h. \$ 250 to VT Assoc. of Blind & Visually Impaired.
- i. \$ 200 to Umbrella FKA STEP ONE.
- j. \$ 200 to VT Ctr. Of Independent Living.
- k. \$ 200 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services.
- l. \$ 800 to Orleans County Citizen Advocacy.
- m. \$ 100 to Orleans County Court Diversion Program (NECKA).
- n. \$ 200 to Orleans County Historical Society.
- o. \$ 100 to Northern VT RC & D Council.
- p. \$ 50 to Vermont Green Up Inc.
- q. \$ 300 to Rural Community Transportation.
- r. \$ 450 to Hazen's Notch Association.
- s. \$ 250 to Frontier Animal Society.
- t. \$ 150 to Jay Focus Group.
- u. \$ 100 to Jay Halloween Party.
- v. \$ 250 to American Red Cross.
- w. \$ 250 to Green Mtn. Farm to School.
- x. \$ 300 to American Legion Post 28.

Article 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Jay vote to appropriate the sum of \$75 to the SymphonyKids Program of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra? Motion to accept made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Denise Rossignol-Kapeluck. Voted by voice vote to approve \$75. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

Article 12. Shall the town collect taxes on real estate, payable to the town Treasurer on or before Friday October 10, 2014? Motion to accept made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Deb Talty. Voted by voice vote to collect real estate taxes on October 10, 2014. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

Article 13. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Jay agree to distribute surplus funds into two categories:

Cover operating expenses to be placed in the general fund until tax money becomes available? Motion to accept made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried. It was asked if the town had a surplus? Tara stated yes there was a undesignated surplus \$269,557. Tara explained the town runs on a calendar year so the town does not collect its taxes until September. This would allow for no borrowing.

The residual to decrease loan balance on the new town garage. Motion to accept made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Tara explained to date their has been \$50,000 applied to the principal of the loan.

Article 14. Shall the voters of the Jay Town School District vote to appropriate the sum of \$102,005 to meet the Local School Board expense? Motion to accept made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by voice vote to approve \$102,005. No one opposed. Ayes carried. It was asked what this budget covered. Tara explained it covered pre-school, bussing for 7th & 8th students.

Article 15. 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 Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Ron Horton questioned what this was. Tara explained this an article that needs to be voted on each year to allow school board members to borrow money before taxes are collected.

At 12:15 PM the meeting was suspended for lunch and restarted at 12:50 PM.

Article 16. Shall the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,304,761 dollars to defray the expenses & liabilities for Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School for the ensuing year with a net assessment to the town of \$858,794? Motion to accept made by Chris Young, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by paper ballot. **Jay Yes 29 No 6 Westfield Yes 42 No 3.** No discussion.

Article 17. Shall the voters of the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$21,000 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 Irene McDermut, seconded by Pat Sanders. Voted by paper ballot. **Jay Yes 24 No 3 Westfield Yes 44 No 1.** Kristy the principal from Jay/Westfield told everyone the plan is to replace the heating system this coming Summer. Kristy also wanted to thank everyone for all the support, and anyone is welcome to visit the school.

Article 18. To see if the town will employ a CPA to review all town accounts? Motion to accept made by Emy Harmon, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. 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. 2011 is 90% completed and 2012 & 2013 will start the first week in April and they are scheduled for two weeks.

Article 19. 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 stated this is Jay Peak's 60th. Bill stated the mountain issued 1280 paychecks of which many of those were residents of Orleans County, and 250 employees are from the 05859 area. Bill stated the resort's goals have been to improve the economic and employment situation of the town and area. Bill wanted to thank everyone for all the support, cooperation from town. Bill spoke on the construction is nearing the end. The plans are to build a Indoor Recreation Center, and to develop the West Bowl, and lodging.

Mark Higley spoke quickly to everyone. Mark wanted to apologize to everyone he has not been able to make a presence the last few years. Mark had a paper with his contact information available if anyone wanted. Mark told everyone if they do not hear from him when they thought to please contact him again.

Peter Fina-Tar Sands -Shall the Town of Jay oppose the transmission of Tar Sands Oil through the Town without an environmental impact Study including a complete inspection and any needed upgrade to the existing Portland Montreal Pipeline? Some of the voters expressed their concerns. One resident felt the pipeline is already leaking. Currently what happens is Portland Pipeline carries oil up to Montreal. The pipeline has been installed for over 50 years. Questions arose to has the pipeline ever been tested? It was believed the fire department gets an annual report with updated testing. The Town of Jay has a short amount of pipe which is located private property on North Jay Rd. Exxon is looking to reverse the flow, and transmit tar sands down the pipe. Some of the voters felt the pipeline should be inspected and brought up to codes for today. After some discussion the voters agreed they wanted the state to look into an environmental study.

Peter Fina-Jay Sales Tax-Shall the town consider the collection of a 1% sale use option tax with funds collected to be applied against town property taxes. Peter gave examples if a skier goes to Jay Peak they would get taxed 1% if someone went to a restaurant they would be taxed 1%. Peter went on to say all of those fees get collected and reported to the state , and once a year the state would distribute funds back to the town. So basically the funds received would offset property taxes. Peter said he believed Williston and Stowe currently have an sale use option tax. Some taxpayers stated they could see those town's being able to impose an additional tax because they have a bigger business base then the Town of Jay. Our residents see this as detrimental to our businesses in town. Marc asked if it would be worth it? After some discussion the voters did not want to see this go in.

Peter Fina on behalf of the zoning board wanted to let everyone know the Town of Jay Plan will be revised for 2015 and there will be regular meetings for all to participate in.

Article 20. To adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Emy Harmon at 3:00 PM, seconded by Dee Burroughs-Biron which passed unanimously.

There were 316 names on the checklist.

Australian Ballot items are voted at the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School during the day on March 4, 2014. The polls open at 10:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.

Article 21. To elect a joint school district treasurer. (Australian Ballot).

<u>RESULT OF VOTE:</u>	Tara Morse	<u>56</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>
	Write In	<u>0</u>
	Spoiled	<u>0</u>

Article 22. Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$694,978.00?

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>32</u>
	Opposed	<u>21</u>
	Blank	<u>3</u>

Article 23. Budget & other items of the North Country Union High School District. (Australian Ballot).

Budget \$15,807,278

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>39</u>
	Opposed	<u>17</u>

Blank 0

NCUHS Capital Improvement Reserve Fund \$142,200

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor 42

Opposed 14

Blank 0

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

Budget \$4,996,476

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor 41

Opposed 15

Blank 0

NCUJHS Capital Improvement Reserve Fund \$155,600

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor 40

Opposed 16

Blank 0

Town Clerk _____

Moderator _____

Selectmen _____