

MINUTES
ANNUAL JAY TOWN MEETING AND JAY SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018

Meeting began at 10:04 am. Steve Wright, CEO at Jay Peak Resort was invited to speak at Town Meeting by Select Board Chair Peggy Loux to discuss positive changes at Jay Peak. He discussed the employment increase and benefit packages offered now to employees. Business levels have fluctuated, having highs and lows throughout year. Right now they are at full occupancy until around March 17th. He is feeling confident of the profitability this year. He also discussed the soccer fields being started soon. This will bring in a lot more business. Cindy Vincent-Goodyear introduced herself, the delinquent tax collector for the Town of Jay and asked Steve about the letter she received from the receiver, Michael Goldberg. Steve replied that he was only aware of it 14 minutes earlier when handed the letter but would check with Michael about it as soon as he could. The letter was looked upon by the town as a threatening letter about suing the town of Jay for asking for the 2016 Property Tax Interest & Penalties owed by Jay Peak Resort. As soon as Steve can look into this, he will report back to the town. This was brought up in part to the ski resort being put on the market in the near future and where the town stands for receipt of outstanding taxes from 2016. Steve stated that he felt the mountain resort will not be put up for sale May 1st as said recently, but possibly in a year or two.

Roseanne Beaudry asked Steve about wedding bookings for this year and how it looked for the mountain. Steve informed all that they have about 60 weddings booked from May 1st through to Thanksgiving, saying this was very good. Forecast for upcoming year, he said the bookings are 'off the charts'. They are looking for an excellent year.

Meeting opened 10:22 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.

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

David Sanders was nominated by Roseanne Beaudry. 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 Arnold Cota. No one opposed. Report accepted by voice vote.

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

- a. Town Clerk for a term of three years. Lynnette Deaette was nominated by Pat Sanders. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Lynnette Deaette was elected Town Clerk for three years.
- b. Treasurer for a term of three years. Lynnette Deaette was nominated by Pat Sanders. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Lynnette Deaette was elected Treasurer for three years.
- c. Selectboard member for a term of three years. Tara Morse was nominated by Peggy Loux. Marc Burroughs-Biron was nominated by Arnold Cota. 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 59 - Tara Morse and 11 - Marc Burroughs-Biron. Tara Morse was elected Selectboard member for 3 years.

- d. Lister for a term of three years. Kurtis Johnson 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. Kurtis Johnson was elected Lister for three years.
- e. Auditor for a term of three years. Roseanne Beaudry 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. Roseanne Beaudry was elected Auditor for three years.
- f. Auditor for a term of two years. Earline Morse was nominated by Jo Ann Morse. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Earline Morse was elected Auditor for two years.
- g. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year. Cynthia Vincent-Goodyear 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. Cynthia Vincent-Goodyear was elected Delinquent Tax Collector for one year.
- h. Town Agent for a term of one year. Irene McDermut 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. Irene McDermut was elected Town Agent for one year.
- i. Town Grand Juror for a term of one year. Irene McDermut 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. Irene McDermut was elected Grand Juror for one year.
- j. Constable for a term of one year. Michael Caffrey was nominated by Michael Pappalardo. 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 \$87,345 (2.75% of the 2017 Grand List \$3,176,171) to the Jay Volunteer Fire Department?

Motion to accept by Harold Morse, seconded by Earline Morse. Voted by voice to approve \$87,345. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Little discussion. Dennis Beloin asked if the Fire Station at Jay Peak and the Fire Station in town were both owned by the Jay Volunteer Fire Department. Jeff Morse replied yes.

Article 5. Shall the legal voters of the Town of Jay appropriate the sum of \$63,523 (2.00% of the 2017 Grand List \$3,176,171) to the Missisquoi Valley Ambulance Service?

Motion to accept by Cindy Vincent-Goodyear, seconded by Mike Pappalardo. Voted by voice to approve \$63,523. No one opposed. Ayes carried. No discussion.

Article 6. Shall the legal voters appropriate **\$8,872** to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

Motion to accept by Michael Pappalardo, seconded by Cindy Vincent-Goodyear. Little discussion. Ron Horton asked about the American Legion in North Troy and if they were still in business. Lynnette Deaette explained that she had spoken to Steve Russell recently. He is the new commander at Post 28. He had told her of his plans for the future of the legion, including summer activities of ball field games, camping onsite for ballgames, darts, horseshoes, cornhole. They were starting to open the bar area a few more nights a week.

Motion was voted by voice vote to approve. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

- a. \$800 to Jay Athletic Association
- b. \$250 to Jay Foodshelf
- c. \$1000 to Rand Memorial Library
- d. \$500 to Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA)
- e. \$750 to Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice, Inc.
- f. \$547 to Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS)
- g. \$300 to Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging.
- h. \$250 to Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- i. \$200 to Umbrella
- j. \$200 to Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)
- k. \$200 to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS)
- l. \$800 to Orleans County Citizen Advocacy (OCCA)
- m. \$300 to Orleans County Court Diversion Program. (NEKCA)
- n. \$375 to Old Stone House Museum (Orleans County Historical Society)
- o. \$100 to Vt. Rural Fire Protection Task Force.
- p. \$50 to Green Up Vermont
- q. \$300 to Rural Community Transportation, Inc.
- r. \$500 to Hazen's Notch Association Campership Fund
- s. \$250 to Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc.
- t. \$250 to American Red Cross
- u. \$250 to Green Mountain Farm-to-School, Inc.
- v. \$200 to Jay Focus Group
- w. \$100 to Jay Focus Group Children's Halloween Party
- x. \$300 to American Legion Post 28
- y. \$100 to Vermont Symphony Orchestra

Article 7. Shall the legal voters approve Selectboard fund expenditures of \$338,964 for 2018?

Motion to accept by Harold Morse, seconded by Tara Morse. Voted by voice vote to approve \$338,964. No one opposed. Ayes carried. No discussion.

Article 8. Shall the legal voters approve Highway fund expenditures of \$343,965 for 2018?

Motion to accept by Tara Morse, seconded by Pat Sanders. Voted by voice vote to approve \$343,965. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

Article 9. Shall the legal voters approve Equipment & Garage fund expenditures of \$217,582 for 2018?

Motion to accept by Michael Pappalardo, seconded by Harold Morse. Voted by voice vote to approve \$217,582. No one opposed. Ayes carried. No discussion.

Article 10. Shall the legal voters authorize payment of real estate property taxes on Friday, October 12, 2018 by 5:00 p.m.?

Motion to accept made by Tara Morse, seconded by Deb Talty. 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 11. Shall the legal voters approve the town to employ a CPA to review all town accounts?

Motion to accept made by Peggy Loux, seconded by Earline Morse. 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 they were \$6000-\$8000 in the past. Ron was not asking for an amendment to the article but would like to suggest possibly in next years' warning to have a 'fixed (not to exceed) amount'.

Article 12. To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting?

Peter Fina stated the zoning board is looking for participation in revisiting zoning laws for town. Pat Sanders recognized Peggy Loux's years of service as a Selectboard member. Peggy spoke about her years of service.

Harold Morse thanked Cindy Vincent-Goodyear for standing up for the town and asking the questions for taxes owed from Jay Peak.

Article 13. To adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Loux at 11:37 am, seconded by Pat Sanders. School meeting to follow.

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING:

Meeting opened 12:12 pm by David Sanders.

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

David Sanders was nominated by Peggy Loux. 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.

Jeff Morse 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. Jeff Morse was elected Jay School Board member for three years.

Article 3. To elect a Jay School Board Member for a term of one year.

Tracey Hinton 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. Tracey Hinton was elected Jay School Board member for one year.

Article 4. Shall the legal voters of the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,129,441 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 \$748,029? (**Paper ballot to be co-mingled with Westfield**)

Motion to accept made by Harold Morse, seconded by Irene McDermut. Voted by paper ballot. **Jay Yes 24 No 1 Blank 0 Westfield Yes 41 No 5.** No discussion. Kristy Ellis thanked everyone in the community for being so supportive of the school. Kristy stated she is grateful for a supportive community and proud to be able to be part of it.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$870,240 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 \$16,521 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.76% lower than spending for the current year.

Motion to accept made by Harold Morse, seconded by Earline Morse. 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?

Harold Morse told all we have the best school around.

Pat Sanders thanked the school for the educational use of the Land Trust area.

Sally Rivard suggested having children come to town meeting next year to tell about their learning.

Kristy Ellis spoke of the studies of the children using community members and interviewing them.

Dave Sanders discussed the meetings they have had in the past with legislature and talked about future funding.

Article 7. To adjourn.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jo Ann Morse at 1:10 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 6, 2018. 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 5, 2017.

Article 1. Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$760,519? (Australian Ballot)

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>54</u>
	Opposed	<u>12</u>
	Blank	<u>3</u>

Article 2. To elect a Jay/Westfield Joint School Treasurer for the school year 2018-2019. (Australian Ballot)

<u>RESULT OF VOTE (JAY)</u>	Tara Morse	<u>68</u>
	Blank	<u>1</u>
	Write In	<u>0</u>
	Spoiled	<u>0</u>

<u>RESULT OF VOTE (Westfield)</u>	Tara Morse	<u>62</u>
	Blank	<u>6</u>
	Write In	<u>0</u>
	Spoiled	<u>0</u>

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 \$15,848,200, 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 \$14,286 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 0.02% lower than spending for the current year. (Australian Ballot)

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u>60</u>
Opposed	<u>8</u>
Blank	<u>1</u>

Article 4. Shall the North Country Union High School District authorize the Board of School Directors to place \$350,000 of undesignated FY2017 fund balance from the general fund operations in the Capital Improvement Reserve fund? (Australian Ballot)

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u>58</u>
Opposed	<u>10</u>
Blank	<u>1</u>

Article 5. North Country Union Junior High School: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$4,360,600, 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 \$15,824 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.51% higher than spending for the current year. (Australian Ballot)

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u>52</u>
Opposed	<u>15</u>
Blank	<u>2</u>

Article 6. Subject to approval by the State Board of Education, shall the boundaries of North Country Union Junior High School District be changed to include Westfield Town School District?

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u>60</u>
Opposed	<u>7</u>
Blank	<u>2</u>

Town Clerk

Moderator

Selectboard

David Gunders

Arnold Pala
