

MINUTES

Annual Meeting Town of Jay & Jay School District

March 7, 2017

Meeting opened 10:05 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 Rick Thompson. 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 Peggy Loux, seconded by Marc Burroughs-Biron. No one opposed. Report accepted by voice vote.

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

a. Selectman for three years. Arnold Cota Jr. was nominated by Marc Burroughs-Biron. No other nominations. So carried. Voice vote all in favor. Ayes approved. Moderator asked Clerk to cast 1 ballot in favor. Arnold Cota Jr. was elected Selectmen for three years. Arnold gave a brief history of who he was.

b. Lister for three years. Arlene Starr 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. Arlene Starr was elected Lister for three years.

c. Auditor for three years. Sandra Leonard was nominated by Shirley Talbot. Sandra was not present and it was decided to have the Selectboard appoint an auditor.

d. Delinquent Tax Collector for 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.

e. Town Agent for 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.

f. Grand Juror for 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.

g. Constable for one year. Michael Caffrey was nominated by Mike 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 town appropriate \$87,177 (2.75% of the 2016 Grand List 3,170,069) to the Jay Volunteer Fire Department?

Motion to accept by Peggy Loux, seconded by Pat Sanders. Voted by voice vote to approve \$87,177. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Little discussion. Kurtis Johnson spoke briefly explaining what the appropriation request covers. Kurtis explained truck loan, replace equipment, insurance, electric, maintenance & training. Earline Morse asked if the department received money from other towns. The answer was no.

Article 5. Shall the town appropriate \$55,476 (1.75% of the 2016 Grand List 3,170,069) to the Missisquoi Valley Ambulance Service?

Motion to accept by Peggy Loux, seconded by Dee Burroughs-Biron. Voted by voice vote to approve \$55,476. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Little discussion. Bill Dicarolo, Marc Burroughs-Biron & Dee Burroughs-Biron stated the advisory committee is successful and the Ambulance Service is running well. Dee stated Jennifer Piette would like to see the advisory board continue.

Article 6. Shall the legal voters of the Town of Jay appropriate the sum not to exceed

\$20,000 for dispatching services provided to Missisquoi Valley Ambulance Service along with Jay Volunteer Fire Department to be placed in a reserve account for future services?

Motion to accept by Peggy Loux, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by voice vote to approve \$20,000. One nay vote. Ayes carried. Some discussion followed. Tara Morse explained back in the fall Newport Police Department gave pricing for dispatching Services. The cost would be \$10,000 for M-F coverage Saturday 7-3 & no coverage on Sundays. The board felt it was not in the town's best interest as weekends in the Winter are the busiest. Kurtis Johnson stated we are the only district at this point that does not pay. Kurtis stated it's only a matter of time before we have to pay. Denis Beloin asked who dispatches currently? Kurtis stated Williston is the main dispatch center for our district. Denis wanted to have everyone be cautious and suggested we use local dispatching because they know our area. Denis stated Newport Police Department has a ½ million dollar system.

Article 7. Shall the legal voters approve **\$8,672** for the following appropriations?

Motion to accept by Roseanne Beaudry, seconded by Peggy Loux. Some discussion arose on Rand Memorial Library along with American Legion Post 28. Ron Horton questioned what is the money used for at the American Legion Post 28. Tara explained the money is used to place flags on the veteran's grave sites. Jeff Ward asked about the Rand Memorial Library. Jeff asked what the library has and how many use it. Meredith Young explained the library has a wide variety of books, use of computers, movie rentals, along with Summer Programs for students.

Motion was 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. \$ 500 to Northeastern VT Dev. Association (NVDA).
- e. \$ 750 to Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice Inc.
- f. \$ 547 to Northeast Kingdom Human Services Inc (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. \$ 200 to Orleans County court Diversion Program. (NECKA).
- n. \$ 375 to Old Stone House Museum (Orleans County Historical Society).
- o. \$ 100 to VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force.
- p. \$ 50 to Vermont Green Up Vermont.
- q. \$ 300 to Rural Community Transportation, Inc..
- r. \$ 450 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. \$ 250 to Jay Focus Group & The Jay Focus Group Children's Halloween Party.

- w. \$ 300 to American Legion Post 28.
- x. \$ 100 to Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

Article 8. Shall the legal voters approve Selectboard fund expenditures of \$310,413 for 2017? Motion to accept by Peggy Loux, seconded by Denis Beloin. Voted by voice vote to approve \$310,413. No one opposed. Ayes carried. No discussion.

Article 9. Shall the legal voters approve Highway fund expenditures of \$361,880 for 2017? Motion to accept by Peggy Loux, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by voice vote to approve \$361,880. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Jerry Talty stated the crew did an excellent job this winter plowing. Denis Beloin asked is there a possibility for the town to wing back private roads? Peggy asked Denis to attend a Selectboard meeting to discuss with crew and board members.

Article 10. Shall the legal voters approve Equipment & Garage fund expenditures of \$185,882 for 2017? Motion to accept by Peggy Loux, seconded by Pat Sanders. Voted by voice vote to approve \$185,882. No one opposed. Ayes carried. No discussion.

Article 11. Shall the legal voters authorize payment of real estate property taxes on Friday, October 13, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.? Motion to accept made by Roseanne Beaudry, seconded by Deb Talty. Voted by voice vote to collect real estate taxes on October 13, 2017. No one opposed. Ayes carried. No discussion.

Article 12. 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 Marc Burroughs-Biron. Vote by voice vote to hire a CPA. No one opposed. Ayes carried. Tara stated the audit cost \$12,500.00. Tara stated she is in favor of having the audit, and felt it provides piece of mind for taxpayers and voters to be sure the money the town receives is expensed and recorded properly. Tara feels the money budgeted for the audit is well worth it. Tara Morse explained the town will do a review for two years and an audit on the third year. Question who is the audit firm? Tara Morse stated Gene A. Besaw currently audits the town accounts. Tara gave the audience an update to the audits, 2015 is almost complete and 2016 has had all field work completed. It was asked if the town put the audit out to bids for 2016. Tara Morse stated she finished out the audits with Gene A. Besaw, but the board can consider other firms for 2017. Tara explained she could help with other firm names if needed.

Article 13. To transact any other non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting.

Peter Fina the zoning board has a position opened on the board. The term is for one year. Peter stated the zoning board just updated the plan.

Michael Goldberg, the receiver from Jay Peak gave updates to the voters. Michael told everyone it's a record breaking year, and has booked 60 weddings for the coming Summer. Michael good news is the remaining construction will soon begin. The work will begin in the next few months on the medical and recreation center as well as stateside cottages. Michael it's important that all construction is completed at the resort for visa's, and to get the best price when it goes on the market. Jerry Talty asked if Michael could sell the resort? Michael stated he has the authority to sell. Michaels intentions on the sale of the Resort is in a few years. The resort will be advertised internationally. What Michael would like to see is a buyer who has knowledge of operating a resort, and the buyer has adequate capital resources before any sale goes through. Michael went on stating all contractors will be paid back 100% of what they are owed within the next few months as he is waiting on a settlement. Michael apologized to the town for not having the money to pay taxes, but we have committed to paying and will have the taxes paid in full. Michael wanted to thank everyone for bearing with the resort. Deb Talty asked if the resort had any plans for upgrading snowmaking or trails? Michael not at this point as the resort had a \$5,000,000 repair to the tram.

Mark Higley gave a quick update. Mark spoke a little on the agriculture water quality, minimum wage, paid family leave bill, and legalize marijuana. Water quality Mark stated estimated expenditures of 2.3 billion will be spent over the next 20 years for cleaning up our waters. The State is looking for a yearly funding source of \$25 million for part of its share. Denis asked about the GOP changes to Obama care. How does the effect. Mark did not know what was agreed on. Peggy asked on an update to dispatching. Mark that has been quiet. Jeff Ward asked about car inspections. Believes this law is going to take a lot of good cars of the road. Mark stated no bills have been put through. Denis feels the state has a tight system.

Tara Morse asked if she could speak for a minute. Tara thanked the town for the opportunity to serve and be a part of a wonderful community.

Peggy thanked Marc Burroughs-Biron for all his years of service.

Article 14. To adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Loux at 11:45 AM, seconded by Pat Sanders. School meeting to follow.

School District Meeting

Meeting opened 11:45 a.m. by David Sanders.

Article 1. To elect a moderator for 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.

Sally Rivard 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. Sally Rivard was elected Jay School Board member for three years.

Article 3. To elect a Jay School Board member for a term of two years.

Kristy Pillsbury 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. Kristy Pillsbury was elected Jay School Board member for two years.

Article 4. Shall the legal voter of the Jay Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,212,511 dollars to defray the expenses & liabilities for Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School for the ensuing year with a net assessment to the town of \$761,699?

Motion to accept made by Peggy Loux, seconded by Roseanne Beaudry. Voted by paper ballot. **Jay Yes 29 No 5 Blank 3 Westfield Yes 49 No 8.** No discussion. Kristy thanked everyone in the community for being so supportive of the school. Kristy stated she is grateful for an amazing group of educators and a supportive community and proud to be able to be part of it. Kristy invited the public to visit the school. Enrollment is going down, and small rural schools seeing more challenges.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$885,779 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 \$16,818 per equalized pupil. this projected spending per equalized pupil is 27.51% higher than spending for the current year. Motion to accept made by Pat Sanders, seconded by Peter Fina. Voted by voice vote. No one opposed. Ayes carried.

Article 6. To transact any other (non-binding) business which may legally come before this meeting? No other business

Article 7. To adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Pat Sanders at 12:10 p.m., seconded by Ron Horton.

There were 357 names on the checklist.

Australian Ballot items are voted at the Jay/Westfield Joint Elementary School during the day on March 7, 2017. The polls open at 10:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.

Article 1. Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$755,527? (Australian Ballot)

<u>RESULT OF VOTE</u>	In Favor	<u>38</u>
	Opposed	<u>11</u>
	Blank	<u>0</u>

Article 2. To elect a joint school district treasurer for the school year 2017-2018. (Australian Ballot)

<u>RESULT OF VOTE:</u>	Tara Morse	<u>49</u>
	Blank	<u>0</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 \$14,92,463 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 \$14,824 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.10% higher than spending for the current year. (Australian Ballot)

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u> 35</u>
Opposed	<u> 14</u>
Blank	<u> 0</u>

Article 4. Shall the North Country Union High School District authorize the Board of School Directors to place \$280,000 of undesignated FY2016 fund balance from the general fund operations in the Capital Improvement Reserve fund? (Australian Ballot)

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u> 36</u>
Opposed	<u> 13</u>
Blank	<u> 0</u>

Article 5. Shall the North Country Union High School District authorize the Board of School Directors to place \$110,000 of undesignated FY2016 fund balance from the general fund operations in Technology Reserve fund?

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u> 39</u>
Opposed	<u> 10</u>
Blank	<u> 0</u>

Article 6. North Country Union Junior High School: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$4,841,517 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 \$14,997 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.33% higher than spending for the current year. (Australian Ballot)

RESULT OF VOTE

In Favor	<u> 35</u>
Opposed	<u> 14</u>
Blank	<u> 0</u>

Town Clerk _____

Moderator _____

Selectmen _____