

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
March 4, 2017

Present on stage: Matt Maxham, Philip Swanson, John Doten, Margaretta Howe, L.D."Butch" Sutherland Jr., Preston Bristow, Robert Holt, Charles Degener

Matt Maxham gave a some interesting facts from the 1917 Town Meeting, such as \$1,821 spent on the poor (part of which was to cover 37 tramps). There was concern for uniformity among the multiple school districts within the town.

At 10:00 he called the meeting to order, mentioned points of order and read out the Town Meeting Warning.

State Representative Charlie Kimbell then gave an update of what is going on in Montpelier and encouraged everyone to participate in the Doyle Poll.

ARTICLE I: "The election of Town Officers for the ensuing year as required by law including: (Australian Ballot)." Matt offered candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves. Sonya Stover, Preston Bristow, Matt Stover, and Vicki Jas spoke.

ARTICLE II: "To see if the Town will receive and act upon reports submitted by the Town officers." Moved by John Doten and seconded by Edwin English, there was no discussion and the motion passed.

ARTICLE III: "To see if the Town and Town School District will vote to collect the Town General, Highway, School District Taxes and State Education Taxes on real property and all other taxes levied through the Treasurer under the provisions of Title 32 VSA Chapter 133 and fix the dates of payment as November 3, 2017, and May 4, 2018." Moved by John Doten, seconded by Byron Quinn, voted and adopted.

ARTICLE IV: "To see if the Town will vote to pay the Town Officers in accordance with Title 24 VSA, Section 932 as follows:

Select Board	\$ 1,000.00	per year
Town Treasurer	16,000.00	per year
Listers	23.80	per hour
Constable	23.80	per hour
Moderator	50.00	each time serves"

Moved by John Doten, seconded by Edwin English, voted and adopted.

ARTICLE V: "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board to borrow money, if necessary, in anticipation of taxes for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to defray current expenses and debts of the Town and Sewer Department." Moved by Edwin English, seconded by Jennifer Maxham, voted and adopted.

ARTICLE VI: "To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Five Million Four Hundred Fifty One Thousand Seven Hundred Eleven Dollars (\$5,451,711) which includes the specified sums of money to operate each department; and to raise by taxation the amount of Three Million Six Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Eighty One Dollars (\$3,663,081) which is the necessary sum to defray operating costs for FY 2017-2018." Moved by Jeff Kahn and seconded by Edwin English.

Town Manager Phil Swanson and the Selectboard members gave detailed information regarding various sections of the budget. Phil explained that in 1980 it was voted to combine the Town and Village Highway Departments, and that in 1984 a vote was taken to separate them. The 1984 vote to separate the departments did not pass, upholding the 1980 vote to combine departments. There have been no subsequent votes which have altered the status of a combined department. Therefore, this year's budget includes a unified Town/Village Highway Department. Sally Miller and Kathy Fiske spoke regarding the issue. In keeping with what has become a tradition, John Doten regaled the audience with a true story extolling the importance of humility, especially when your dog is right and you are wrong. At this point Preston Bristow, in his capacity as Chair, presented Grettie Howe with an engraved Simon Pearce bowl in appreciation of her ten years of service on the Selectboard. Al Alessi, Tom Hartman, Byron Quinn, Oliver Goodenough, Jack Anderson, Candice Coburn, Ed English, Joe DiNatale, David Schwartzman, and Tom Weschler participated in the discussion. Article VI was re-read, voted, and adopted.

- ARTICLE VII:** “To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Million Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$1,012,225), which includes Seven Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$779,225) from user fees and Two Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$233,000) from other revenues, to pay the current expenses and debt of the sewer department for FY 2017-2018.” Moved by John Doten and seconded by Byron Quinn. Jill Davies asked about user fees and Phil Swanson answered. The motion passed.
- ARTICLE VIII:** “To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Dollars (\$900) and pay each of the Trustees Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) for the purpose of paying the Trustees of Public Funds for services rendered, and approve the expenditure from the income of the Trust Funds for that purpose.” Moved by John Doten, seconded by Carol M. Wood, and passed.
- ARTICLE IX:** “To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) for the purpose of having the Public Trust Funds audited and approve the expenditure of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) from income of the Trust Funds to pay for the Annual Audit.” Moved by Edwin English, seconded by John Doten, and passed.
- ARTICLE X:** “To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Twenty Five thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for general improvements to Vail Field.” Moved by Rob Behrns, seconded by Jeff Kahn, and passed after a brief discussion.
- ARTICLE XI:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for the support of the Woodstock Area Job Bank to continue free employment referral services in the greater Woodstock area. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Michelle Fountain spoke in support of this article.
- ARTICLE XII:** Shall the Town of Woodstock vote to appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for Woodstock Community Television to help support coverage of ongoing events within the Town of Woodstock. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Macy Lawrence spoke in favor of this article
- ARTICLE XIII:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from the general fund the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients’ homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Matt Maxham noted that Larry Roberts has long been an ardent supporter of this group, and now that he is utilizing their services, spoke on behalf of Larry in support.
- ARTICLE XIV:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Two Hundred Forty Seven Dollars (\$3,247) to help support outpatient mental health, and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. (HCRS). (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) No discussion.
- ARTICLE XV:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Woodstock in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Steve Geller, Executive Director, spoke in favor of the article.
- ARTICLE XVI:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) for the support of Senior Solutions (formally Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) No discussion.
- ARTICLE XVII:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250) to support programming of the Spectrum Teen Center. Our objective is to engage teens in healthy activities and make youth feel supported, welcomed and included. There is no charge to attend our program. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) No discussion.
- ARTICLE XVIII:** Shall the Town of Woodstock vote to appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) to support the mission of WISE (Women’s Information Services, Inc.) in

providing free crisis intervention and support services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, training to community members and professionals, and prevention education. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Meg Matz spoke in favor of the article.

ARTICLE XIX: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to support programming of the Ottauquechee Community Partnership (OCP) and OCP's Mentor and Buddy Program. These programs help keep youth in the WCSU area drug-free, engaged in healthy activities, and provided with opportunities for leadership and personal growth. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Chief Robbie Blish spoke in favor of the article.

ARTICLE XX: Shall the Town of Woodstock vote to appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) for Windsor County Partners for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Lynn Murrell spoke in favor of the article.

ARTICLE XXI: Shall the Town of Woodstock appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) to the Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community through volunteer service. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) No discussion.

ARTICLE XXII: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be allocated to the Woodstock Area Chamber of Commerce for operational expenses of the Mechanic Street Welcome Center for FY 2017-18. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Gary Thulander, President of the Chamber, spoke in favor of the article.

ARTICLE XXIII: Shall the Town of Woodstock vote to appropriate the sum of Thirty Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$34,250) as the Town's share of service for the Woodstock Area Council on Aging to run the Thompson Senior Center. The Thompson is an important community resource – providing daily meals, medical and area transportation, and an array of health educational and social services. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Deanna Jones, Director, spoke in favor of the article.

ARTICLE XXIV: Shall the Town vote to appropriate and raise by property taxes, the sum of Fifty One Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$51,250) for the Norman Williams Public Library to help support the operations and maintenance of the library. These funds are over and above the level budgeted support that the Town provides to this library for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Dave Sullivan, Interim Director, spoke in favor of the article.

ARTICLE XXV: Shall the Town vote to appropriate and raise by property taxes, the sum of Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000.00) for Pentangle Council on the Arts to help support the activities of Pentangle and the operation of the Town Hall Theatre. This level funded request is over and above the budgeted support that the Town provides to Pentangle for fiscal year 2017-2018. (By Petition) (Australian Ballot) Alita Wilson, Director, spoke in favor of the article.

ARTICLE XXVI: To entertain the discussion of any other business of interest to the legal voters, such discussion shall not be construed in any manner as binding Municipal action. Edwin English discussed sidewalk improvements, Mary Riley spoke in favor of the Historical Society's education program with schoolchildren, Jill Davies introduced herself as a candidate for Selectboard. Phil Swanson asked for consensus of whether it should be publicized in advance the order of Town and School Annual Meetings. The audience seemed in favor of it. George Sadowsky gave a report of EC Fiber.

The moderator then called for adjournment at 12:15 P.M., with the meeting to resume Tuesday March 7, 2017 at 7:00 AM for the purpose of Australian Balloting.

Respectfully submitted,

F. Charles Degener III, Town Clerk Matt Maxham, Moderator