

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

May 15, 2018

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Doten, Jill Davies, Mary Riley, L.D. Sutherland Jr., Sonya Stover Selectboard; Matt Maxham, Moderator; Phil Swanson, Manager; Jane Soule and Fred Barr, Justices of the Peace; Charlie Degener, Clerk; and approximately 65 Woodstock voters.

After reviewing points of order and procedure, Matt Maxham read out the Warning at 7:05.

Article I was moved by Sally Miller and seconded by Jeff Kahn. Sonya Stover spoke about the revision to the budget and explained how the Selectboard, after consultation with the Vermont League of Cities & Towns and others with municipal financial experience, have changed their borrowing/debt policy to be more in line with best practices. She also spoke of the necessary renovations needed at Town Hall covered by Article II. The last major renovations at Town Hall were more than 30 years ago. Sonya emphasized this budget is more of a change in timing of payment than in overall spending.

Chris Miller asked what the monetary difference is between the defeated and proposed budgets. Sonya said the new budget is about \$200,000 less. She noted we are not changing our spending, but rather our debt.

Charlie Kimbell asked how this budget would affect the tax rate. Sonya explained that this reflects an increase of approximately 3% or \$25.00 in taxes on a \$200,000 assessment. She then read an email from Tom Debevoise who was unable to attend the meeting due to evening chores. Tom spoke in support of the revised budget and the new borrowing policies.

Marian Koetsier asked if this budget includes the amount proposed in Article II. The answer was this budget includes the loan payment if Article II passes.

Roy Bates congratulated the Selectboard on its budget and pointed out that total expenditures are the same as two years ago.

Candace Coburn thanked the Board members for their hard work and asked about employee pay increases. Jill Davies said this year there will be a minor flat increase versus the merit increases of the past. Michael Brands spoke as a town employee of nearly thirty years. He spoke in favor of a merit based pay increase and the benefit to the Town of long-term employees making livable wages. These employees contribute to and support the community. Jeff Kahn, as a Village Trustee explained that merit is part of the plan.

Matt re-read the motion. Article I was voted and adopted.

Article II was moved by Marian Koetsier and seconded by Chris Miller. Chris mentioned this item has been accounted for in the Budget passed in Article I and these renovations are necessary. David Schwartzman questioned the phrase "terms advisable."

Matt re-read the motion. Article I was voted and adopted.

Article III, Other Business, was offered by the moderator. Mary Riley thanked all for attending the meeting. Sonya mentioned the Selectboard's recent inspection of potholes and said it is an issue they are aware of. Carey Agin mentioned cracks in the sidewalks.

Bob Holt moved to adjourn seconded by Anne Marie Boyd and so voted at 7:26 p.m.

Attest:

F. Charles Degener III, Town Clerk