

**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 4, 2008**

Peter Joslin called the Annual Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Those present (approximately 150 people) joined Mr. Joslin in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Joslin explained general information about the conduct of the meeting and use of Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure. He reminded voters that issues being voted on by Australian ballot cannot be discussed during Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town. Jim Leyton nominated Peter Joslin, and the nomination was seconded. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed, and Peter Joslin was elected by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. Moderator Peter Joslin introduced the Selectboard, Town Administrator Valerie Capels and Town Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Peterson. He noted that the 2007 Town Report has been dedicated to Leslie and Steve Flemer and reviewed the location of various reports in the Town Report. Attention was called to the expression of appreciation to persons who serve on various commissions or in different positions in Town. An observer asked that the term "Selectpersons" rather than "Selectmen" be used when referring to the Selectboard. Liz Laferriere noted the correct phone number for the Mad River Valley Senior Citizens listed on the back cover of the Town Report is 496-2543.

Peter Joslin referred to the Report of Elected Auditors. There were no questions about the report.

Peter Joslin referred to the Selectboard Annual Report. There were no questions about the report.

Peter Joslin referred to the Planning Commission Annual Report. There were no questions about the report.

Peter Joslin referred to the Development Review Board Annual Report. Elwin Neill, Jr. asked Brian Shupe to speak on how he feels the change from a Zoning Review Board to a Development Review Board has gone. Mr. Shupe reported that the change has been smooth. He added that since there is only one board involved in the review process, the change was a good decision for applicants and land owners. There were no questions about the report.

Peter Joslin referred to the Delinquent Tax List. Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Janet Smith, reported that as of March 3, the total taxes due was \$64,488.12 for 2006 and 2007. Delbert Palmer acknowledged Ms. Smith saying she is doing a terrific job. There were no questions about the report.

Peter Joslin referred to the Statement of Taxes Raised and the Town Clerk Report, respectively. Mr. Joslin indicated that vital records statistics were not included in the 2007 Town Report noting the explanation furnished on page 48. Charlie Hosford pointed out passport revenue from 2007 acknowledging Janet Smith for continuing to provide passport acceptance services on behalf on the Town. There were no questions about the reports.

Peter Joslin referred to the report of the Waitsfield-Fayston Volunteer Fire Department. Delbert Palmer, Fire Chief, noted that the fire department responded to 88 calls in 2007. He added that the budget increased significantly due to fuel, training and the Department's putting a security system in at the fire house. Peter Joslin expressed, on behalf of the Town, his appreciation for the Fire Department. There were no questions about the report.

Peter Joslin referred to the Waitsfield Cemetery Commissioner's Report and report of the Trustees of Cemetery Funds, respectively. There were no questions about the reports.

Peter Joslin referred to the Joslin Memorial Library Receipts/Disbursements Report. Mary Alice Bisbee suggested that the names of the trustees and a narrative about what's happening with the

library be included in future reports provided by the Library Trustees. There were no questions about the report.

Peter Joslin referred to William Yacavoni's Independent Auditor's Report. There were no questions about the report.

Discussion ended on Reports of the Town Offices.

ARTICLE 3: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift or purchase, land for a municipal forest to procure wood products, maintain wildlife habitat, protect water species, provide forest recreation, and for conservation education purposes? Elwin Neill, Jr. made a motion to adopt Article 3, and the motion was seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion to adopt Article 3 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: Will the Town vote to collect taxes on real estate by two (2) equal payments made to the Treasurer as follows: Half (50%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Tuesday, September 2, 2008, with the remaining half (50%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday, November 17, 2008? Roy Hadden made a motion to adopt Article 4, and the motion was seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion to adopt Article 4 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to set the salaries of the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A. Sections 932 and 933? Elwin Neill, Jr. made a motion to adopt Article 5, and the motion was seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion to adopt Article 5 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of Taxes and State Aid Money? Elwin Neill, Jr. made a motion to adopt Article 6, and the motion was seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion to adopt Article 6 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Will the Town raise and appropriate a sum of \$92,000 to be added to the Town's Reserve Funds as follows:

Fund	Amount
Equipment – Road Dept. Truck Reserve	\$30,000
Equipment – Road Dept. Heavy Equipment Reserve	\$15,000
Equipment – Fire Dept. Truck Reserve	\$15,000
Route 100 Transportation Path Reserve	\$15,000
Joslin Memorial Library Repair Reserve	\$2,500
Restroom Recreation & Conservation Reserve	\$2,500
Street Trees Reserve Fund	\$5,000
Fire Department Roof Repair Reserve Fund	\$7,000
Total	\$92,000

Sal Spinosa made a motion to adopt Article 7, and the motion was seconded. Jim Leyton noted that when the [Route 100] Transportation Path project began, the anticipated cost to the Town was \$75,000 (or 10% of the total cost) to be paid for with reserve funds of \$15,000 each year for five years. He asked why an additional \$15,000 is being requested when there is currently \$113,000 in the project's reserve fund. Elwin Neill, Jr. responded that as time continues and the project is not complete, the cost escalates. Mr. Neill continued that the current cost of the project is estimated at \$1.4 million, and the additional reserve is required to meet the matching federal fund needs of the project.

Delbert Palmer asked the Selectboard to consider putting an additional \$5,000 in the Fire Department's Truck Reserve fund for a tanker that the Fire Department will need in three to four years. When asked by Roy Hadden how much a tanker would cost, Mr. Palmer estimated it to be between \$120,000 and \$130,000, shared 60/40 with the Town of Fayston. Dr. Hadden pointed out that there is currently \$62,000 in Fire Department's Truck Reserve. Once the \$15,000 appropriation in 2008 is added, and with Fayston's 40% contribution, the reserve should contain sufficient funds to purchase the tanker in a few years. Mr. Palmer was satisfied.

Marie Leotta asked for clarification of where and transportation path starts and ends. Ms. Leotta also asked what the money in the Street Trees Reserve fund is used for. Charlie Hosford responded that the path will begin at the Waitsfield Elementary School parking lot and continue to Bragg Hill Road. Ms. Leotta was confused about what the Transportation Path funds are used for, and Mr. Hosford explained that these funds are not for on-going maintenance of the existing sidewalk but for construction of the new sidewalk. Ms. Leotta wanted to know if the water and wastewater bond vote is approved, would the \$15,000 appropriated to Transportation Path Reserve be applied to the water and wastewater project or is that a separate expense. Peter Joslin pointed out that discussion about the water and wastewater could not occur because the articles were being voted on by Australian ballot in the same room. Mr. Joslin and Elwin Neill, Jr. continued that the \$15,000 would go into a reserve fund to match the Town's 10% share of the cost to do the construction of a new sidewalk in 2010 regardless of anything else.

Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 7 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Will the Town vote to create a reserve fund for repairs and improvements for the Historic Waitsfield Village Covered Bridge and to appropriate a sum of \$30,000 to start the fund in 2008? Elwin Neill, Jr. made a motion to adopt Article 8, and the motion was seconded. Charlie Hosford spoke on behalf of the article noting that there is a federal grant, but the town would need to contribute 20% toward the grant to receive funding. Darryl Forrest asked if there were safety concerns with the covered bridge and with only 10% of a 20% match being satisfied within this article, when would the bridge be fixed. Mr. Hosford answered that the work would require a bidding process and engineering before federal grant money would be disbursed, but he hoped the construction would be done in 2009 or 2010. Regarding the safety of the bridge, Mr. Hosford responded that the State inspected the bridge in 2007, and the State determined that the bridge is structurally sound. Roy Hadden added that only 10% of the match is being requested this year because there is in-kind funding available from the Town and the balance will be requested next year as an addition to the reserve fund. Mary Alice Bisbee added that she would like to see the bridge returned to its original appearance without grey siding. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 8 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Will the Town Voters authorize expenditures for the non-profit organization Central Vermont Adult Basic Education in the amount of \$600? Mary Alice Bisbee made a motion to adopt Article 9, and the motion was seconded. Freddie Mahlmann spoke on behalf of the article describing the services of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 9 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Will the Town Voters authorize expenditures for the non-profit organization Family Center of Washington County in the amount of \$500? Freddie Mahlmann made a motion to adopt Article 10, and the motion was seconded. Freddie Mahlmann spoke on behalf of the article describing the services of Family Center of Washington County. Darryl Forrest asked where the money for this organization came from before it was requested from the Town. Ms. Mahlmann answered that she thought past funds came from grants and fund raising. She believed the need for services has increased so the organization has gone to the towns for support. Mary Alice Bisbee pointed out that Waitsfield is in Washington County, and there are many organizations that serve the Mad River Valley and have not been supported by Waitsfield in the past. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 10 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Will the Town Voters authorize expenditures for the non-profit organization Good Beginnings of Central Vermont in the amount of \$300? Freddie Mahlmann made a motion to adopt Article 11, and the motion was seconded. There being no one to speak on behalf of Good Beginnings of Central Vermont, Jim Leyton asked the Selectboard to provide information via the request letter from the organization. Elwin Neill, Jr. responded that Waitsfield gets a tremendous number of requests each year, and it has been the Selectboard's position that when they put a request on the warning, it is the organization's responsibility, not the Selectboard's, to have a representative present to explain the need for funds from the Town. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 11 was defeated by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Will the Town approve the amendments to the Town of Waitsfield Subdivision Regulations as approved by the Selectboard on January 21, 2008, the complete text of which is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and on-line at www.waitsfieldvt.us? The proposed amendments, which apply to all lands within the town of Waitsfield, would:

- 1. more effectively reflect the desired land use pattern specific to each zoning district within a more readable format;**
- 2. incorporate feedback from the public particularly in regard to connectivity and prime agricultural land;**
- 3. include mandated flood hazard language; and**
- 4. make minor editorial changes.**

(This Article to be voted by Australian Ballot.)

ARTICLE 13: Will the Town pass a non-binding resolution to support the implementation of full bike lanes on Route 100 from Bragg Hill Road in Waitsfield to Warren Village when it is repaved, currently scheduled for 2010. Safety, health and wellness, recreation and tourism are all benefits of the state fulfilling the requirements of Vermont Statutes Chapter 19 Section 2310 (a) and (b) that state "it is the policy of the state to provide paved shoulders on major state highways with the intent to develop an integrated bicycle route system." Jim Leyton made a motion to adopt Article 13, and the motion was seconded. Brian Fleisher spoke on behalf of the article explaining how he has been lobbying to the State to get full four-foot lanes added to the sides of roads and existing bridges when Route 100 from Waitsfield to Warren is repaved. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 13 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Will the Town pass a non-binding resolution to reduce the aggregate energy usage and carbon emissions of the residences, businesses, and institutions within the Town of Waitsfield by 10% by the year 2010. Sal Spinosa made a motion to adopt Article 14, and the motion was seconded. Dennis Derryberry from Carbon Shredders spoke on behalf of the article. There was discussion between Mr. Derryberry and Marie Leotta about how the program will affect individuals' and businesses' privacy and how much it will cost in the end. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 14 was approved by a majority voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: Will the Town vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide for the voted Town and School District budgets? Elwin Neill, Jr. made a motion to adopt Article 15 with a budget of \$1,560,385, and the motion was seconded. Matthew Riven questioned whether the amount budgeted for sand was sufficient. Roy Hadden confirmed that although the price of sand has gone up, the Town has a surplus. Charlie Goodman acknowledged the road crew for stretching the salt supply during this year's difficult winter.

Stan Barosky asked why the Town purchased the emergency generator without an automatic transfer switch. Charlie Hosford explained that an auto start is much more complicated than realized while it is not unusual to start and exercise the generator every two weeks. Mr. Hosford continued that the generator was not purchased for instantaneous power to the school but in an emergency event when the school must be converted into a shelter. Michael Kingsbury asked what the total cost of the generator was to the Town, and Valerie Capels responded that the final cost to the Town was \$27,723.

Peter Joslin announced that there was a motion to amend to the final budget figure due to a mathematical error. Elwin Neill, Jr. explained that the budget is actually \$1,570,385. He explained that the \$10,000 Fund Balance line item on page 38 of the Town Report is actually the establishment of a fund balance to be carried over to this year's budget so it is an expense. Mr. Neill further explained the Town's surplus due to the timing of the paving project and the receipt of the paving grant proceeds plus unexpected miscellaneous income. He continued that the surplus would be used to pay down the paving loan, reducing the amount that needs to be raised by taxes. The motion to amend the budget was seconded. Discussion ended and the motion to amend the budget figure to \$1,570,385 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Sal Spinosa reviewed the legal expenses explaining that the actual 2007 legal expense is \$5,000 over budget versus \$30,000 over budget as in the previous year, and the lower deficit is due in part to a policy implemented by the Selectboard to consciously reduce legal fees by looking at pending litigation before it takes its final form. Jean Sherman asked whether there were any

liabilities being carried over from 2007, and Peter Joslin responded that debt service and contingent liabilities would be carried from 2007.

Matthew Riven asked how the Town will get operating expenses to meet revenue in 2009 when the \$243,000 carry-over balance won't be available then as it is this year. Charlie Hosford explained that as expenses for the Town go up, the rate will as well unless there is additional revenue to offset the expenses. Elwin Neill, Jr. added that by applying the surplus toward 2008's expenses to eliminate the debt service on the paving loan, the Town will not need to raise money by taxes for that loan as it would have otherwise. He continued that since the Selectboard made an effort to spread the surplus over as many years into the future as possible, the Town should see a reduction in the municipal tax rate in 2008, and the 2009 tax rate should remain level or increase very slightly. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 15 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Charlie Hosford elaborated on the dedication of the Town Report to Steve & Leslie Flemer. Mr. Hosford also recognized Elwin Neill, Jr. for over 25 years of service to the Town. Mr. Neill thanked the voters and acknowledged those he has served with over the years. Mary Alice Bisbee suggested putting the phone numbers both Evergreen Place and the Mad River Valley Seniors in Town Report in the future. Peter Joslin thanked the group for being respectful to one another.

Mr. Joslin recessed the meeting for lunch at 11:45 a.m. to be reconvened at 1:00 p.m. for the school board annual meeting.

**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD
TOWN MEETING, MARCH 4, 2008
AUSTALIAN BALLOT RESULTS
TOTAL VOTERS: 865 (including 97 absentee), 64.7% of checklist**

The following are the results of the Australian ballot elections for Town Officers:

TOWN CLERK (3 years)		GRAND JUROR (1 year)	
Jennifer Peterson	<u>777</u> votes	Dana Haskin	<u>747</u> votes
Write In	<u>3</u> votes	Write In	<u>0</u> votes
	<u>0</u> spoiled		<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>85</u> blank		<u>118</u> blank
SELECTMAN (3 years)		LAW AGENT (1 year)	
Bill Parker	<u>514</u> votes	Peter Joslin	<u>770</u> votes
Sal Spinosa	<u>286</u> votes	Write In	<u>1</u> votes
Write In	<u>1</u> votes		<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>3</u> spoiled		<u>94</u> blank
	<u>61</u> blank		
SELECTMAN (2 years)		TOWN TREASURER (3 years)	
Richard Rivers, Jr.	<u>310</u> votes	Jennifer Peterson	<u>755</u> votes
Kate Williams	<u>488</u> votes	Write In	<u>2</u> votes
Write In	<u>0</u> votes		<u>1</u> spoiled
	<u>1</u> spoiled		<u>107</u> blank
	<u>66</u> blank		
SCHOOL DIRECTOR (3 years)		SCHOOL TREASURER (1 year)	
Wrenn Flemer Compere	<u>744</u> votes	Wendy White Gilbert	<u>726</u> votes
Write In	<u>4</u> votes	Write In	<u>3</u> votes
	<u>2</u> spoiled		<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>115</u> blank		<u>136</u> blank
SCHOOL DIRECTOR (2 years)		COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES (1 year)	
Melissa Siner Shea	<u>723</u> votes	Janet L. Smith	<u>749</u> votes
Write In	<u>5</u> votes	Write In	<u>0</u> votes
	<u>0</u> spoiled		<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>137</u> blank		<u>116</u> blank
LISTER (3 years)		CEMETERY TRUSTEE (3 years)	
John J. Reilly	<u>710</u> votes	Andrew Baird, Jr.	<u>764</u> votes
Write In	<u>7</u> votes	Write In	<u>0</u> votes
	<u>1</u> spoiled		<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>147</u> blank		<u>101</u> blank
AUDITOR (3 years)		CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (5 years)	
Jim Leyton	<u>727</u> votes	Robert Danaher	<u>741</u> votes
Write In	<u>0</u> votes	Write In	<u>2</u> votes
	<u>1</u> spoiled		<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>137</u> blank		<u>122</u> blank
LIBRARY TRUSTEE (5 years)			
Peter Joslin	<u>773</u> votes		
Write In	<u>0</u> votes		
	<u>0</u> spoiled		
	<u>92</u> blank		

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer R. Peterson
Town Clerk

Approved by the Selectboard on: March 17, 2008