

**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 3, 2009**

Following are the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Waitsfield of March 3, 2009 pursuant 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1).

The Moderator called the Annual Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Those present (approximately 100 people) joined the Moderator in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator explained general information about the conduct of the meeting and use of Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

The Moderator announced a change in legislation that allows attendees of Town Meeting to discuss items being voted by Australian ballot other than elected officials.

**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.** Mr. Joslin introduced the Selectboard, Town Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Peterson and Town Administrator Valerie Capels. A motion was made and seconded to hear and act upon the reports of Town Officers. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

There was discussion about 2008 expenses including the "Other" Miscellaneous Expenses and "Town Pond" Miscellaneous Expenses.

The Moderator recognized the dedication to Waitsfield farms and farmers, the Expression of Appreciation to former employees and board members and the Special Appreciation to Roy Hadden for his contributions to the Selectboard.

The Moderator referred to the Report of Elected Auditors, the Selectboard Annual Report, the Planning Commission Annual Report and Development Review Board Annual Report. There were no questions about the reports.

The Moderator referred to the Delinquent Tax List. Brief discussion followed.

The Moderator referred to the Statement of Taxes Raised and the Town Clerk Report. There were no questions about the reports.

The Moderator referred to the report of the Waitsfield-Fayston Volunteer Fire Department. Brief discussion followed.

The Moderator referred to the Road Department Report. Brief discussion followed.

The Moderator referred to the Waitsfield Cemetery Commissioner's Report and report of the Trustees of Cemetery Funds. Brief discussion followed.

The Moderator referred to the Joslin Memorial Library Receipts/Disbursements Report and William Yacavoni's Independent Auditor's Report. There were no questions about the reports.

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?** Roy Hadden made a motion to adopt Article 3, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Hosford. Discussion ended 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 1, 2009, with the remaining half (50%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday, November 16, 2009?** Roy Hadden made a motion to adopt Article 4, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Hosford. 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?** Roy Hadden made a motion to adopt Article 5, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Hosford. 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?** Roy Hadden made a motion to adopt Article 6, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Hosford. Discussion ended 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 \$97,000 to be added to the Town's Reserve Funds as follows:**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Covered Bridge Maintenance Reserve	\$20,000
Equipment – Road Dept. Truck Reserve	\$30,000
Equipment – Road Dept. Heavy Equipment Reserve	\$15,000
Equipment – Fire Dept. Truck Reserve	\$15,000
Fire Department Roof Repair Reserve Fund	\$7,000
Street Trees Reserve Fund	\$5,000
Joslin Memorial Library Repair Reserve	\$2,500
Restroom, Recreation & Conservation Reserve	\$2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$97,000</b>

Roy Hadden made a motion to adopt Article 7, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Hosford. Discussion followed. Elwin Neill, Jr. made a motion to appropriate \$20,000 to the Covered bridge Maintenance Reserve; \$15,000 to the Equipment – Road Dept. Truck Reserve; \$7,500 to

the Equipment – Road Dept. Heavy Equipment Reserve; \$7,500 to the Equipment – Fire Dept. Truck Reserve; \$7,000 to the Fire Department Roof Repair Reserve Fund; \$0.00 to the Street Trees Reserve Fund; \$2,500 to the Joslin Memorial Library Repair Reserve and \$0.00 for the Restroom, Recreation & Conservation Reserve bringing the total appropriation of Article 7 to \$59,500. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed.

Liz Laferriere made a motion to amend the amendment that would restore the Equipment – Road Dept. Heavy Equipment Reserve to \$15,000 rather than cutting it in half bringing the total appropriation of Article 7 to \$67,000. The motion was seconded. The motion to adopt the amendment to the amendment was approved by 55 standing yes votes over 52 standing no votes.

The motion to adopt the amended amendment to Article 7 was approved by a majority standing vote.

The motion to adopt Article 7 as amended with a total appropriation of \$67,000 was approved by a majority voice vote.

With approval of the assembly, Sarah Nevin spoke on behalf of Good Beginnings prior to Town Meeting's being recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon to resume after the Waitsfield School meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:36 p.m.

**ARTICLE 8: Will the Town vote to increase the Veterans' Exemption for qualified disabled veterans within the Town of Waitsfield from \$10,000 of appraisal value to \$40,000 of appraisal value as authorized by 32 V.S.A. §3802(11)?** Roy Hadden made a motion to adopt Article 8, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Hosford. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 8 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 9: Will the Town exempt alternate energy sources, as defined in 32 V.S.A. Section 3845, from real and personal property taxation, first applicable against the Grand List of the year in which the vote is taken and continue until voted otherwise by the voters of Waitsfield?** Paul Hartshorn made a motion to adopt Article 9, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Hosford. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt Article 9 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 10: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for repairs and improvements to the Town Pond at Winter Park, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate?** Roy Hadden made a motion to adopt Article 10, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Hosford. Discussion ended and Jim Boylan made a motion to amend the Article as follows:

**Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for repairs and improvements to the Town Pond at Winter Park, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate?** The motion was seconded. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt the amendment to Article 10 was defeated by a majority voice vote. The motion to adopt

Article 10 as originally warned was approved by 62 standing yes votes over 26 standing no votes.

**ARTICLE 11: 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?** Bill Parker made a motion to adopt Article 11 with a budget of \$1,507,346, and the motion was seconded by Roy Hadden. Discussion followed. Bill Parker made a motion to amend the budget figure increasing it by \$61,000 for the gravel pit development. The amended budget figure was \$1,568,346. The motion was seconded. Discussion ended and the motion to adopt the amendment to Article 11 was approved by a unanimous voice vote. Discussion followed and Robin Morris made a motion to amend the budget reducing it by \$20,000 in an attempt to level fund expenses. The amended budget figure was \$1,548,346. The motion was seconded. The motion to adopt the amendment to Article 11 was approved by 30 standing yes votes over 27 standing no votes. The motion to adopt Article 11 with an amended budget of \$1,548,346 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.** There was discussion including the suggestion to buy 27 Bridge Street to be used as a municipal building and the suggestion that the Selectboard be in close contact with ANR regarding the town pond.

Brian Fleisher asked for support for a non-binding concept encouraging the Waitsfield Planning Commission to consider, in their rewrite of the 2010 Town Plan, creating a zone that would allow existing business to that are limited by the zoning they are in to grow if they are required to contribute “green” type or renewable resource and possibly alternative or affordable housing to their expansion projects. After a brief discussion, the voters supported asking the Planning Commission to examine such a concept by majority voice vote.

Other discussion included an alternative site for wastewater and affordable housing. The Moderator expressed his appreciation to everyone who turned out.

The Moderator recessed the meeting at 4:48 p.m. until the closing of the polls for Australian ballot items at 7:00 p.m.

**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD  
TOWN MEETING, MARCH 3, 2009  
AUSTALIAN BALLOT RESULTS  
TOTAL VOTERS: 511 (including 33 absentee), 36.1% of checklist**

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

SELECTBOARD MEMBER (3 years)		LIBRARY TRUSTEE (5 years)	
Paul Hartshorn	<u>435</u> votes	John Reilly	<u>446</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>15</u> votes	Various Write Ins	<u>5</u> votes
	<u>3</u> spoiled		<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>58</u> blank		<u>60</u> blank

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SELECTBOARD MEMBER (2 years)	
Russell Bennett	<u>103</u> votes
Darryll Forrest	<u>136</u> votes
Sal Spinosa	<u>252</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>2</u> votes
	<u>3</u> spoiled
	<u>15</u> blank

SCHOOL DIRECTOR (3 years)	
Scott Kingsbury	<u>236</u> votes
Rob Williams	<u>258</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>2</u> votes
	<u>1</u> spoiled
	<u>14</u> blank

SCHOOL DIRECTOR (2 years)	
Elizabeth Cadwell	<u>255</u> votes
Kari Dolan	<u>199</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>1</u> votes
	<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>56</u> blank

LISTER (3 years)	
Blaine Laskowski	<u>447</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>3</u> votes
	<u>1</u> spoiled
	<u>60</u> blank

AUDITOR (3 years)	
Laura Titus	<u>448</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>1</u> votes
	<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>62</u> blank

GRAND JUROR (1 year)	
Dana Haskin	<u>448</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>3</u> votes
	<u>1</u> spoiled
	<u>59</u> blank

LAW AGENT (1 year)	
Write In (Peter Joslin)	<u>29</u> votes
<b>Various Write Ins*</b>	<u>47</u> votes
	<u>6</u> spoiled
	<u>429</u> blank

SCHOOL TREASURER (1 year)	
Wendy Gilbert	<u>433</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>2</u> votes
	<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>76</u> blank

COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES (1 year)	
Janet L. Smith	<u>462</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>1</u> votes
	<u>1</u> spoiled
	<u>47</u> blank

CEMETERY TRUSTEE (3 years)	
Gib Geiger	<u>456</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>4</u> votes
	<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>51</u> blank

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (5 years)	
Victoria Kingsbury	<u>458</u> votes
Various Write Ins	<u>2</u> votes
	<u>0</u> spoiled
	<u>51</u> blank

**\* Law Agent was won by Peter Joslin with 29 votes. Balance of Write Ins included 20 other individuals.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer R. Peterson  
Town Clerk

Approved by the Selectboard on: \_\_\_\_\_