

**CONDENSATION OF MINUTES  
TOWN OF WAITSFIELD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 6, 2012**

Following are the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Waitsfield of March 6, 2012 pursuant 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(1).

Moderator Brian Shupe called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Those present (approximately 125 people) joined local Boy Scouts in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Shupe explained general information about the conduct of the meeting and use of Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

**ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town.** Brian Shupe was elected by unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.** Mr. Shupe recognized the dedication and expression of appreciation. Reports of the Elected Auditors, Planning Commission, Development Review Board, Conservation Commission, Energy Committee, Delinquent Tax Collector, Waitsfield-Fayston Volunteer Fire Department, Road Department, Waitsfield Cemetery Commissioner, Joslin Memorial Library, and Selectboard were discussed and accepted.

Jerry Miller recognized George Tardy and his work at the cemeteries. Selectboard members, Paul Hartshorn and Charlie Hosford, recognized retiring Selectboard member, Kate Williams.

**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?** Article 3 was approved by a majority 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 Monday, September 10, 2012, with the remaining half (50%) to be paid without discount not later than Thursday, November 15, 2012?** 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?** 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?** Article 6 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 7: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$400,000, less any grants or other reimbursements, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate to refinance the balance of the one-year line of credit utilized to cover expenses related to the May 20, 2011 and August 28, 2011 federally-declared disasters?** A motion to amend Article 7 was approved by a majority voice vote. Article 7, as amended, reads:

**Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$305,000, less any grants or other reimbursements, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate to refinance the balance of the one-year line of credit utilized to cover expenses related to the May 20, 2011 and August 28, 2011 federally-declared disasters?** Article 7 as amended was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 8: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$50,000, less any additional grants or reimbursements, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate, to cover costs associated with the repair and renovation of the Waitsfield Historic Covered Bridge?** Article 8 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 9: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$200,000, less any grants, to be paid over a period not more than five years and on such other terms as the Selectboard shall negotiate for repair or replacement of the culverts, catch basins, and associated stormwater infrastructure on Bridge Street and to repave the street from its intersection with Main Street**

**to the Covered Bridge?** Article 9 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 10: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to establish a reserve fund for the expansion or relocation of the Town Office facility and to appropriate the sum of \$35,000 to establish such fund in 2012?** Following much discussion and a series of amendments, Article 10, as amended, was put before the voters as follows:

**Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to establish a reserve fund for the protection, expansion, or relocation of the Town Office facility and to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to establish such fund in 2012?** Article 10, as amended a second time, was approved by majority voice vote. A final vote to adopt Article 10, as amended, was approved by a majority vote.

Adam Greshin spoke to the assembly about legislatives updates.

**ARTICLE 11: Will the Town authorize the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$10,000 to the Waitsfield Cemetery Commission for the maintenance of Waitsfield cemeteries?** Article 11 was approved by a majority voice vote.

**ARTICLE 12: Will the Town vote to exempt the Masonic Lodge, located at 4376 Main Street, from real estate taxes for a period of ten (10) years pursuant to Title 32 V.S.A. Section 3840?** Following much discussion and efforts to amend the article, the motion to adopt Article 12 as originally warned was approved by a majority voice vote.

**ARTICLE 13: Will the voters designate the Town of Waitsfield as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District to enable participating property owners to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and then pay back the cost as a regular municipal assessment on that property owner's property tax or other municipal bill as provided for by 24 V.S.A. Chapter 87 (Section 3261 et seq.) and authorize the Selectboard to enter into an agreement with Vermont Energy Investment Corporation d/b/a Efficiency Vermont to operate the PACE program?** Article 13 was adopted by a majority voice vote.

Town Meeting was being recessed for lunch at 12:01 p.m. to resume after the Waitsfield School meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

**ARTICLE 14: In light of the United States Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the Town of Waitsfield vote on March 6, 2012 to urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U. S. Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure?** Article 14 was adopted by a unanimous 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?** Article 15 with a budget figure of \$1,871,893 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 16: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.** A typographical error in the Town Report was pointed out. Carol Hosford recognized Kate Williams service as Selectboard member. There was a motion to recess until the closing of the polls at 7:00 p.m., and the motion was seconded. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator recessed the meeting at 2:15 p.m. until the closing of the polls for Australian ballot items at 7:00 p.m