

LONDONDERRY TOWN MEETING MINUTES

The inhabitants of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont, who are legal voters of the Town Meeting met at the Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry, on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. to act on the following Articles, namely: BUSINESS TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR: Tom Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 9:40. The Assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator to preside at Town Meeting. Pete Cobb nominated Doug Friant. Marge Fish seconded the nomination. No further names were placed in nomination. The body elected Doug Friant by a voice vote.

The Moderator went over the rules of procedure for the meeting. Steve Twitchell made a motion to recess the meeting for two weeks at the same time and place. There was no second to the motion.

Article 2: To act on the report of the Town Officers. Pete Cobb moved the article. George Mora seconded it. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 3: To elect all Town Officials required by law:

Selectboard member for a term of two years: Georgianne Mora nominated James Fleming. Danny Cobb moved that nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for James Fleming. Vincent Annunziata seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Selectboard member for a term of three years: George Mora nominated Taylor Prouty. Danny Cobb moved that nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Taylor Prouty. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Lister for a term of three years: Tina Labeau nominated Sandra Clark. Danny Cobb moved that nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Sandra Clark. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

First Constable for a term of one year: George Mora nominated Kevin Beattie. Danny Cobb moved that nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Kevin Beattie. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Second Constable for a term of one year: George Mora nominated Steve Twitchell. Danny Cobb moved that nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Steve Twitchell. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years: George Mora nominated Laurie Kroos Mullen. Danny Cobb moved that nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Laurie Kroos Mullen. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Trustee of Public Funds for a term of three years: Darcy Duval nominated Mike Goodbody. Danny Cobb moved that nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Mike Goodbody. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

South Londonderry Library Trustee for a term of three years: Barbara Wells nominated Margot Wright. Danny Cobb moved that nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Margot Wright. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 4: To see how much the Town will vote for a General Fund. Danny Cobb moved the article in the amount of \$2,087,527 for the General Fund. Chris Blackey seconded the motion. There was discussion about the money that the Trustees of Public funds manage, including

money for the cemetery fund. The discussion about revenue from “public funds” was ruled out of order by the moderator. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the Town vote for its taxes to be paid to the Town Treasurer as provided by law, due date to be on or before October 3rd, 2022. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 6: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,500 for the following organizations: Londonderry Conservation Fund \$500, Champion Fire Company #5 \$20,000, Phoenix Fire Company #6 \$20,000, Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad \$15,000, South Londonderry Library Association \$10,000. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,602 for the following organizations: Grace Cottage Foundation \$750, Greater Northshire Access TV \$2,000, Green Mountain RSVP \$415, Green Up Vermont \$100, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services \$1,513, Mountain Valley Health Council \$5,000, My Community Nurse program \$2,500, Neighborhood Connections \$6,000, Senior Solutions \$950, SVEDS \$5,307, SEVCA \$1,700, Southeast Vermont Watershed Alliance \$410, The Collaborative \$1,000, Valley Cares \$2,742, Visiting Nurse Assoc. of VT & NH \$7,000, Vermont Rural Fire Protection \$100, West River Montessori School \$3,000, Windham County Youth Services \$315, Women’s Freedom Center \$800. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The body allowed Nicole Wengerd to speak on behalf of Neighborhood Connections. She thanked the Londonderry Voters for supporting the work that Neighborhood Connections does in the community. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to support the American Red Cross. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 9: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to support Londonderry 4th of July. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 10: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to support the Flood Brook Athletic Association. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 11: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,167 to fund the hiring of an Administrative Assistant to the Planning Commission, a new position? George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. Pete Cobb asked why this position is needed. There was not a member of the Planning Commission present who spoke about the position. Steve Twitchell made a motion to table the article to a later date. Alexandra Randell seconded the motion. Steve Twitchell withdrew his motion. The second to the motion was not withdrawn so the motion remained on the floor. The voice vote was too close to call. The Moderator called for a division. There was a point of inquiry as to what a yes vote means and what a no vote means. There was a point of order called to address the difference in postponing the article to a date and time certain vs indefinitely. Steve Twitchell made a motion to amend his original motion to postpone until Sunday, May 1, 2022, at 12:00pm at the Town Hall. Alexandra Randell did not second the amendment to the original motion. The motion on the floor to

postpone indefinitely was voted on by a voice vote. The Moderator called for a division. The motion to postpone passed by division 63 yes 34 no.

Article 12: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$10,680, which will match \$3,000 of private funds raised by the Beautification Committee, to fund the fabrication and installation of four new "Welcome to Londonderry" signs. George Mora moved the article. Barbara Wells seconded the motion. The Beautification Committee spoke about the sign installation project. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to fund contracting with the Windham County Sheriff's Office for policing the town of Londonderry. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. Melissa Brown made a motion to postpone Article 13 until after Article 14 is voted on. Pete Cobb seconded the motion. The motion to postpone passed by voice vote.

Article 14: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to control speeding by designing and installing mechanical means, such as radar signs, rumble strips, and speed tables, at the select board's discretion? George Mora moved the article. Steve Swinburn seconded the motion. There was discussion about the usefulness of speed signs, rumble strips etc. vs contracting with the Windham County Sheriff's office for law enforcement. There was discussion about the amount of time the Sheriff's office spends on traffic tickets vs other tasks and the amount of money the Town gets from traffic tickets issued. Without objection from the assembly, a representative from the Windham County Sheriff's office spoke about the contract that they have with the Town of Londonderry. There was discussion about costs for the services that would be provided for both Article 13 and 14. There was discussion about dispatch services and the Sheriff interacting with Fire and Rescue. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Revisit Article 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to fund contracting with the Windham County Sheriff's Office for policing the town of Londonderry. Just to be safe, George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. There was more discussion about the need for the contract with the Windham County Sheriff and the amount of time they dedicate to different tasks. Jeff DiStasio made a motion to amend the article to add that all data on crime for the preceding five years in Londonderry be presented before the costs for this contract are voted on again and the contract is renewed. There was discussion about where statistics about crime and the sheriff's activities can currently be found. The Moderator ruled the motion out of order and not germane unless a dollar amount to complete the task of providing statistics was added to the amendment. There was a point of order about the process of seconding and voting on the motion. Jeff DiStasio made a motion to amend his amendment to add \$250.00 to the cost of the contract. The amended Article 13 would be: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,250.00 to fund contracting with the Windham County Sheriff's Office for policing the town of Londonderry, including gathering and providing statistics for crime that occurs in Londonderry. The amendment was seconded by Alexandra Randell. There was a question about whether statistics would include crime that occurred when the Sheriff was not on duty and the State Police would have jurisdiction. There was a voice vote on the amendment. The moderator called for a division of the assembly because the outcome of the

voice vote was not clear. There were 30 yes votes and significantly more than 30 no votes. The motion to amend the article failed. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 15: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be deposited into the Emerald Ash Borer Infestation Reserve Fund. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 16: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be deposited into the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. There was discussion about the difference between the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund for the purchase of vehicles and the Highway Improvement Reserve Fund for road improvement costs. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 17: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be deposited into the Town Buildings Reserve Fund. Steve Twitchell moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. There was discussion about several of the Town buildings needing repairs and why repairs are not happening as quickly as desired, including not being able to engage contractors. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 18: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$220,000 to be deposited in the Highway Improvement Reserve Fund. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 19: Shall the Town amend the Community Economic Improvement Reserve Fund to allow it to receive appropriations as voted by Town Meeting vote in addition to receiving funds from grants, gifts, or donations from any source and through accrued interest. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. There was discussion about why the change to the means of depositing money into this reserve fund needs to happen. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 20: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be deposited in the Community Economic Improvement Reserve Fund. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 21: Shall the Town vote to renew the exemption from property taxes for the following properties for the ensuing 5 years: Champion Fire Co. #5 Building – Main Street, South Londonderry, Champion Fire Co. #5 Building – VT Route 100/Crescent Street, South Londonderry, Phoenix Fire Co. #6 Building – VT Route 100, Londonderry; and Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad Building – VT Route 100, Londonderry. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

The assembly took a brief recess.

Article 22: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for engineering costs for the removal of the Williams Dam. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. There was discussion about wanting to have more time to learn about the engineering study and the options for the future of the dam mentioned in the study. There was discussion about the flood risk involved in the removal of the dam and a desire to explore various funding options for the repair of the dam. There was discussion about the dry

hydrant that is currently located at the Mill Pond and the impacts of losing that resource if the dam is removed. George Mora made a motion to pass over article 22. Vinnie seconded the motion. There was a question about whether the Select Board will let the voters decide on the future of the dam at a subsequent Town Meeting. The Select Board said they thought the issue was important enough to not do anything about the dam without the approval of the voters. The Select Board said their recommendation is to remove the dam with currently available funding to mitigate the liability the Town carries as the dam's owner. There was discussion about the Town needing more time and information before a vote is taken but that the issue should not be forgotten. There was assurance that the Select Board would not let the issue drop because eventually the State will mandate action be taken because of the condition of the dam. There was a question about the availability of funding for such projects in the future. Without objection, the assembly heard from Ron Rhodes about current funding and timeframes for some future funding options. There was a mention of the dam being used for hydropower. There was a mention of concern with what might happen if the dam failed. The Select Board said they would continue to bring up the dam at regular meetings. There was a question about whether the Town will be liable for future flooding if the dam is removed. Pete Cobb made a motion to call the question. Steve Twitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote. The motion to pass over article 22 passed with a voice vote.

Article 23: To transact any other business that may legally come before the Meeting. Dated at Londonderry this 24th day of March 2022. George Mora moved the article. Darcy Duval seconded the motion. Barry Randell talked about the public funds under management by the Trustees of Public Funds. Barry Randell made a motion that the Select Board investigate using more of the interest earned with public funds to reduce the municipal property tax rate by August 1, 2022. Melissa seconded the motion. There was discussion about the difference between restricted funds and the available interest that can be allocated for specific purposes. The motion failed by a voice vote. Tina Labeau made a statement about the passing of Jim Twitchell. Pete Cobb made a motion to adjourn. Marge Fish seconded motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

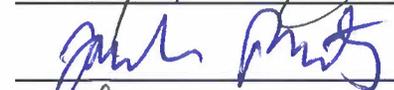
Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry



Thomas Cavanagh, Chair



Vincent Annunziata, Vice Chair



Taylor Prouty

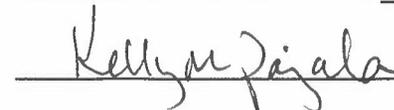


Melissa Brown



James Fleming

Received for the record this 15th day of August 2022



Kelly M. Pajala, Town Clerk

