

MINUTES FOR THE LONDONDERRY TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont met at the Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry in Londonderry, on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, to act on the following Articles, namely:

BUSINESS TRANACTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT:

Polls were open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Article 1: Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to appoint a first constable and if needed, a second constable, in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2651a?

Final Vote totals Yes 177, No 32, Blank 6, Over Vote 0

BUSINESS TRANACTED FROM THE FLOOR:

Tom Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 9:31am and led the body in the pledge of allegiance.

Article 2: To elect a Moderator to preside over Town Meeting. Tom Cavanagh called for nominations for Moderator. Pete Cobb nominated Doug Friant. Dick Dale seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. Doug Friant was elected moderator by a voice vote.

The Moderator spoke about the rules and procedures of the meeting.

Article 3: To act on the report of the Town Officers. Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 4: To elect all Town Officials required by law:

Selectboard member for a term of two years: Tina Labeau nominated Melissa Brown. Danny Cobb made a motion to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Melissa Brown. Esther Fishman seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Selectboard member for a term of three years: Esther Fishman nominated Martha Dale. Bob Wells seconded the nomination. Randy Szkola nominated Steve Twitchell. The vote went to a paper ballot. Final vote count Martha Dale 107, Steve Twitchell 42. Martha Dale spoke briefly after the vote.

Town Clerk for a term of three years: Tina Labeau nominated Kelly Pajala. Steve Bergleitner seconded the nomination. Danny Cobb made a motion to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Kelly Pajala. Dick Dale seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Town Treasurer for a term of three years: Kelly Pajala nominated Tina Labeau. Steve Bergleitner seconded the nomination. Danny Cobb made a motion to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Tina Labeau. Dick Dale seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Lister for a term of three years: Debbie Hazelton nominated Pat Delgiorno. Danny Cobb made a motion to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Pat Delgiorno. Dick Dale seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

First Constable for a term of one year: Bob Wells nominated Kevin Beattie. Kathy Mosenthal seconded the nomination. Danny Cobb made a motion to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Kevin Beattie. Dick Dale seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Second Constable for a term of one year: Kathy Mosenthal nominated Steve Twitchell. Danny Cobb made a motion to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Steve Twitchell. Dick Dale seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years: Danny Cobb nominated Andy Fusco. Dick Dale made a motion to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Andy Fusco. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote. Andy Fusco spoke briefly.

Trustee of Public Funds for a term of three years: Mike Goodbody nominated Kathy Mosenthal. Jim Wilbur seconded the motion. Danny Cobb made a motion to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Kathy Mosenthal. Dick Dale seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Without objection from the assembly, the Windham County Sheriff spoke to the assembly. There was discussion about the services provided to the Town of Londonderry.

Article 5: To see how much the Town will vote for a General Fund. Pete Cobb made a motion to move the article in the amount of \$2,217,359.67. Cindy Gubb seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 6: 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 2, 2023? Esther Fishman made a motion to move the article. Dick Dale seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,500 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 \$15,000. Kathy Mosenthal made a motion to move the article. Marge Fish seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,962 for the following organizations? American Red Cross \$500, Flood Brook Athletic Association \$2,500, Grace Cottage Foundation \$1,000, Greater Northshire Access TV \$2,000, Green Mountain RSVP \$415, Green Up Vermont \$100, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services \$1,513, Londonderry 4th of July \$1,500, Mountain Valley Health Council \$5,000, My Community Nurse program \$2,500, Neighborhood Connections \$6,000, Senior Solutions \$970, SVEDS \$5,307, SEVCA \$1,700, 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. Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Marge Fish seconded the article. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 9: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Cindy Gubb seconded the article. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 10: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the Londonderry Transport services of Neighborhood Connections? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Bob Wells seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 11: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to support the Windham County Humane Society? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Marge Fish seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 12: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500 to fund the hiring of a part-time minute-taker for the Selectboard and other public bodies as determined by the Selectboard? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Cindy Gubb seconded the motion. Sharon Crossman made a motion to amend the article to increase the amount to \$5,500. Cindy Gubb seconded the motion. There was discussion on the need for a minute taker. The motion failed by a division of the House. Rachel Febbie made a motion to amend the article by removing "the selectboard and". Cameron Sydney seconded the motion. Georgianne Mora called a point of order questioning the germaneness of the amendment because it is such a substantive change. The Moderator found the point of order to be unfavorable. There was discussion about the meaning of the amendment and what the task of minute taking encompasses. Dwight Johnson called the question on the amendment. Mike Goodbody seconded the calling of the question. The vote to call the question passed by voice vote. The vote on the amendment failed by a voice vote. Discussion on the main article continued. Bob Forbes made a motion to amend the article by removing the words "the selectboard and other". Marlene Boyaner seconded the motion to amend. The moderator ruled the amendment out of order. Dick Dale objected to the moderator's ruling. The amendment was allowed and discussed. The vote to amend the article passed by a voice vote. The vote on the article as amended passed by a voice vote.

Article 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to fund contracting with the Windham County Sheriff's Office for policing the town of Londonderry? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Marge Fish seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion about town revenue from tickets issued by the Sheriff. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 14: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be deposited into the Emerald Ash Borer Infestation Reserve Fund? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Marge Fish seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 15: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be deposited into the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Marge Fish seconded the motion. The article 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 Town Buildings Reserve Fund? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Marge Fish seconded the motion. There was discussion about how the money in the fund is used for Town buildings. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 17: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$260,000 to be deposited in the Highway Improvement Reserve Fund? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Cindy Gubb seconded the motion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 18: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be deposited in the Community Economic Improvement Reserve Fund? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Cindy Gubb seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion about the purpose of the fund. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 19: Shall the Town authorize the purchase of the following capital asset: A new pumper fire truck at an estimated cost of \$500,000; and to finance the purchase of the truck as follows and conditioned upon the following funds all being available for the purchase of the truck: 1) to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 toward the purchase through current taxes, 2) to authorize the Selectboard to finance the sum of \$280,000 through debt instruments over a period of five years or less, and 3) to accept the balance of the purchase price from the Phoenix Fire Company #6 to which the truck is intended to be leased? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Danny Cobb seconded the motion. Jim Ameden, Chief of Phoenix Fire company spoke about the need for and process of buying a new truck. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 20: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for engineering costs related to the Williams Dam. Danny Cobb made a motion to move the article. Cindy Gubb seconded the motion. There was discussion about how this money could potentially be spent by a Town Committee. There was also discussion about forming a Town committee for the Williams Dam. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 21: Shall the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$95,386 for the purpose of funding, in part, the salary and benefits of the Mountain Towns Recreation Director, a portion of which salary and benefits will be paid from participating regional Towns pursuant to an interlocal agreement? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Marge Fish seconded the motion. There was discussion about the need for this proposed position and how a group of Towns would create, pay for, and manage the position. There was also discussion about the advisory committee in the proposal. There was discussion about insurance, program costs, registration fees and continued volunteer needs. Dwight Johnson made a motion to amend the article by reducing the dollar amount to \$61,000. Bob Forbes called a point of order to ask if the amendment had been seconded. The amendment had not been seconded yet. Al Marino seconded the motion. There was discussion about best accounting practices and why it is important to keep the full dollar amount in the article. Dick Dale made a motion to call the question on the amendment. Michael Goodbody seconded the motion. The vote to call the

question on the amendment passed by a voice vote. The vote on the amendment failed by a voice vote. The article as introduced passed by a voice vote.

Article 22: Shall the town authorize the assessment of a one percent (1%) local option tax on rooms, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138, the proceeds of which shall be applied as General Fund revenue to reduce the municipal property tax rate? Dick Dale made a motion to move the article. Marge Fish seconded the motion. There was discussion about whether short-term rentals are included in the rooms tax and how much potential revenue this could bring in. There was discussion about the Town's plans for a short-term rental registry. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 23: To transact any other business that may legally come before the Meeting. Representative Kelly Pajala spoke about pending legislation concerning school choice and independent schools. Dick Dale made a motion to adjourn. Bob Forbes seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn passed at 12:45.

Respectfully Submitted,



Town Clerk


Dated at Londonderry this 3rd day of April 2023.

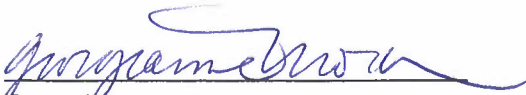
Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry


Thomas Cavanagh, Chair


James Fleming, Vice Chair


Taylor Prouty


Melissa Brown


Georgianne Mora

Moderator


Doug Friant

Received for the record this _____ day of _____ 2023.

_____ Kelly M. Pajala, Town Clerk