

**WESTON, VERMONT  
TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 25, 2021**

**Moderator Wayne Granquist** spoke prior to the beginning of the meeting regarding the process for and rules of Town Meeting. Rudolph Johnson Scholarship awards for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders were read aloud for Joseph Bury, Lily LaRue, Roman Okie, and Daniel Spencer. Moderator read the names of those who passed away in the prior year.

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by Moderator who read the beginning of the warning. The legal voters of the Town of Weston, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, met outside at the Weston Playhouse and the Village Green in Weston, Vermont on Tuesday, the 25th day of May, 2021, at nine o'clock in the forenoon (9:00 AM) to act on the following Articles:

- ARTICLE 1:** To elect a Moderator for a 1-year term Nominated by Marguerite Mason, **Wayne Granquist was elected to a 1-year term by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 2:** To elect a Town Clerk for a 1-year term Nominated by Marguerite Mason, **Kim Seymour was elected to a 1-year term by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 3:** To elect a Town Treasurer for a 1-year term Nominated by Marguerite Mason, **Kim Seymour was elected to a 1-year term by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 4:** To elect the following Town Officers as required by law:
- One Selectboard member to a 3-year term Jim Linville was nominated by Barbara Lloyd. No further nominations. Moderator directed Town Clerk to cast 1 paper ballot for **Jim Linville who was elected for a 3-year term.** Jim spoke briefly.
  - One Selectboard member to a 2-year term Bruce Downer was nominated by Deb Granquist; Jeff Yrsha was nominated by Donald Hart. No further nominations. Bruce spoke briefly; Jeff was not present to do the same. Question from Susan Morris if Bruce would be able to serve his term and he advised he would be able to do so. A vote was held by paper ballot with 52 votes for Bruce Downer, 14 votes for Jeff Yrsha. **Bruce Downer was elected to a 2-year term.**
  - One Lister to a 3-year term Greg Carroll was nominated by Deb Granquist. No further nominations. Moderator directed Town Clerk to cast 1 paper ballot for **Greg Carroll who was elected for a 3-year term.**
  - One Lister to a 1-year term No nominations were offered; the **position remains vacant.**
  - One Library Trustee to a 5-year term Nominated by Deb Granquist, **Carrie Chalmers was elected to a 5-year term by voice vote.**
  - One Library Trustee to a 5-year term Nominated by Marguerite Mason, **Linda Saarnijoki was elected to a 5-year term by voice vote.**
  - One Trustee of Public Funds to a 3-year term Nominated by Barbara Lloyd, **Nicole Pfister was elected to a 3-year term by voice vote.**
  - One Trustee of Public Funds to a 1-year term No nominations were offered; the **position remains vacant.**
  - One Town Constable to a 1-year term Almon Crandall was nominated by Marguerite Mason, but declined the nomination. No further nominations. The **position remains vacant.**

- One Collector of Delinquent Taxes to a 1-year term Nominated by Deb Granquist, **Sandra Goodwin was elected to a 1-year term by voice vote.**
- One Town Grand Juror to a 1-year term Nominated by Marguerite Mason, **Wayne Granquist was elected to a 1-year term by voice vote.**
- One Town Agent to a 1-year term Nominated by Shirley Knowlton, **James Young was elected to a 1-year term.**
- One Cemetery Commissioner for a 5-year term Nominated by Bill Hoyt, **Richard Lechthaler was elected to a 5-year term by voice vote.**
- One Cemetery Commissioner for a 4-year term Nominated by Bill Hoyt, **Duane Hart was elected to a 4-year term by voice vote.**
- One Cemetery Commissioner for a 3-year term Nominated by Bill Hoyt, **Doris Ingram was elected to a 3-year term by voice vote.**

- ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the number of Wilder Memorial Library trustees from the current number of seven (7) to a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of fifteen (15), with the number of trustees from time to time to be determined by the trustees then in office. Trustees will continue to be elected by a vote of Town Meeting and vacancies will be filled in accordance with law. Moved by Deb Granquist, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marguerite Mason. **Article 5 passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$4,000 for the Town Annex Paint Reserve Fund. (Included in Town General budget) Moved by Bill Hoyt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Granquist. **Article 6 passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$4,000 for the Town Annex Building Maintenance Fund. (Included in Town General budget) Moved by Barbara Lloyd, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howard Brosseau. **Article 7 passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$85,000 for the Highway Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund. (Included in Town Highway budget) Moved by Shirley Knowlton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Granquist. **Article 8 passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$50,000 for the Highway Maintenance Fund. (Included in Town Highway Budget) Moved by Marguerite Mason, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Granquist. Jim Linville spoke briefly about the negative balance of the fund. Road paving in 2020 was more than in the fund balance. Negative balance will be offset as more funds are appropriated in the next few years. Marguerite Mason asked if there were specific funds for unpaved roads. Jim stated that there isn't a specific fund for those, but annual road maintenance for unpaved roads is covered by the annual Highway budget. Linda Saarnijoki asked how the amounts to put into each fund were determined? Denis Benson stated that there is specific plan for funding the reserves to pay for future needs such as for the Equipment Reserve Fund developed by Jim Linville. **Article 9 passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$35,000 for the Fire Apparatus Fund. (Included in Town General Budget) Moved by Marguerite Mason, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Isabella Bolognese. **Article 10 passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 11:** To see if the town will appropriate \$3,000 to the Space Planning Management and Maintenance Fund. (Included in Town General Budget) Moved by Isabella Bolognese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Granquist. **Article 11 passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$90,000 for the Bridge Repair Fund. (Included in Highway Budget) Moved by Barbara Lloyd, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Isabella Bolognese. Shirley Knowlton asked if there was a specific bridge that these funds were going to be used for. Denis Benson stated this year the box culvert was being replaced on Trout Club Road. The funds would be used for other bridges in the future. **Article 12 passed by voice vote.**
- ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$20,000 for the Wilder Memorial Library Capital Fund. (Included in Town General Budget) Moved by Marguerite Mason, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will Freeman. Deb Granquist thanked the voters for the appropriation funds as it paid for the ADA compliant ramp in 2020 and this

year it would be used for outdoor repairs of bricks and shoring up the foundation of the 200-year old building. **Article 13 passed by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will appropriate an amount not to exceed \$13,450 for the headstone repairs in the Forefathers Cemetery and the Island Cemetery. (Not included in the Town General Budget) Moved by Marguerite Mason, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Isabella Bolognese. Bill Hoyt spoke about the headstones in the Maple Grove Cemetery that were repaired last year. This year the Cemetery Commission has contracted to repair the headstones in the Forefathers and Island Cemeteries with this allocation. **Article 14 passed by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will appropriate an amount of \$2,500 to the My Community Nurse Project. (Not included in the Town General Budget) Moved by Deb Granquist, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Isabella Bolognese. Regina Downer, the Community Nurse, stated in 2020 she made 740 visits in the six towns she covers. 224 were in Weston. Part of her activities included assessing safety and patient advocacy. She especially advocated for getting the State of Vermont to set up a vaccination site here in Weston (Walker Farm). 275 people were vaccinated there along with 18 in-home vaccinations for those who were home-bound. **Article 10 passed by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will appropriate the following sums totaling \$115,463 to the following organizations that included financial information with their request (Included in Town General Budget) Moved by Marguerite Mason, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will Freeman. **Article 16 passed by voice vote.**

<b>Organizations</b>	<b>2020 Actual Request</b>	<b>2020 Voter Approved</b>	<b>2021 Actual Request</b>	<b>2021 Budget Request</b>
Weston - Cemetery Commission	\$18,466	\$18,466	\$11,000	\$11,000
Weston - Cold Spring Park (WCA)	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$7,000	\$7,000
Weston - Farrar Park Association	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500
Weston - Recreation Club	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
Weston - Volunteer Fire Department	\$33,900	\$33,900	\$33,075	\$33,075
Weston - Wilder Memorial Library	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500
<b>TOTAL WESTON ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>\$100,866</b>	<b>\$100,866</b>	<b>\$90,075</b>	<b>\$90,075</b>
Flood Brook Athletic Association	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
GNAT-TV	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Green Up Vermont	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)	\$630	\$630	\$630	\$630
Londonderry Rescue Squad	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Mountain Valley Health Council	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Neighborhood Connections	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
Senior Solutions	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600
SEVCA-Southeastern VT Community Assoc.	\$630	\$630	\$630	\$630
SEVEDS	\$1,698	\$1,698	\$1,698	\$1,698
Southeast VT Transit (formerly The Current)	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250

The Collaborative	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750
VT Assoc. for the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
VT Center for Independent Living	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230
Visiting Nurse Hospice for VT & NH	\$2,350	\$2,350	\$2,350	\$2,350
Windsor County Youth Services	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
Women's Freedom Center	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
<b>TOTAL NON-WESTON</b>	<b>\$25,388</b>	<b>\$25,388</b>	<b>\$25,388</b>	<b>\$25,388</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>\$126,254</b>	<b>\$126,254</b>	<b>\$115,463</b>	<b>\$115,463</b>

**ARTICLE 17:** Unintentionally left blank

**ARTICLE 18:** Unintentionally left blank

**ARTICLE 19:** Unintentionally left blank

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will set the annual salary for the Town Treasurer at \$25,023 for the calendar year January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. (Included in Town General Budget) Moved by Deb Granquist, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marguerite Mason. **Article 20 passed by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will set the annual salary for the Town Clerk at \$19,170 for the calendar year January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. (Included in Town General Budget) Moved by Bill Hoyt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marguerite Mason. **Article 21 passed by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will set the annual compensation for the Selectboard at \$2,500 each for the calendar year January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. (Included in Town General Budget) Moved Deb Granquist, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marguerite Mason. **Article 22 passed by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will pay its taxes to the Town Treasurer as provided by law, due date to be on or before Tuesday, October 5, 2021. Moved by Marguerite Mason, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will Freeman. **Article 23 passed by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of ~~\$555,997~~ **\$571,947** of which ~~\$403,360~~ **\$419,310** shall be raised by taxes, \$130,290 by non-tax revenues, and offset by a prior year surplus of \$22,347. Moved by Marguerite Mason, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will Freeman. Town Clerk offered amendment to include approved additions to the budget. Marguerite Mason moved to approve amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Granquist. **Article 24 passed as amended by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will authorize a total Highway Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,046,890 of which \$639,871 shall be raised by taxes, \$320,290 by non-tax revenues, and offset by a prior year surplus of \$86,729. Moved by Marguerite Mason, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shirley Knowlton. **Article 25 passed by voice vote.**

**ARTICLE 26:** To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles. Moderator opened the floor for questions or discussion of any non-binding topics.

- **Marguerite Mason** asked to have the duties of the various Trustees, Town Agent and Grand Juror listed in the next town report. Moderator agreed that would be helpful and it could be put in the report.
- **Deb Granquist** thanked Kiernan McKenna, who recently resigned as Library Trustees for his several years of service to the Wilder Memorial Library. Also, the visioning process for the library will begin this summer and anyone interested can contact her or the Library Director, Jessica Clapp.
- **Linda Saarnijoki** thanked the volunteers and elected officials for their work in the extraordinary year of 2020. She also thanked the Library Directors keeping it relevant and available in this turbulent time.

- **Annie Fuji'i** thanked the town for supporting the village green. Especially thanks to Almon Crandall and Ron Prouty for continuing to keep the fence repaired. A new foundry will make the replacement cast iron posts paid for by insurance money from the last several accidents.
- **Natalie Boston**, new administrative assistant to the Selectboard advised that Weston is now part of VT Alert. Notifications can be received by phone, email, etc. of emergencies as they occur when you sign up for the service. Forms available at the Post Office, Library and Town Clerks office.
- **Will Freeman** offered his thanks for the work to beautify Cold Spring Park. He also thanked Regina Downer for her work with residents so that we didn't have more names to add to the list of those that passed last year. New Thought Vermont is now located in the former Todd Gallery at south end of the village. He raised the speed issue for the safety of residents with speeds clocked between 40-60 MPH [in a 30 MPH zone]. **Betty Currie** asked about the status of the traffic study that was supposed to be presented to the town at the 2021 Town Meeting as speed is concerning. **Jim Linville** spoke about the Scoping Study that was delayed due to COVID. Jim stated with repaving in town by VTrans, the road will be widened slightly to meet standard widths. Grants available for safety programs will be looked into this year. **Nicki Pfister**, spearheading the Scoping Study, spoke briefly about the safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Engineers are now working on the drawings for the various alternatives. Scoping Study doesn't pay for the cost of implementing the various alternatives. Another grant may be needed for any changes approved by the voters. **Andrew Harper** also stated there are speeding issues during certain times of the days especially in ski season. **Marissa Bolognese** asked if a lighted speed sign similar to those in Chester and elsewhere could be installed that might help with the speed issue. **Jim Linville** advised that is being looked into though there has been pushback about lighted signs. **Betty Currie** asked when and how the speed study was conducted. **Denis Benson** advised it was conducted by the State over a 2-week period before the Antique Show. **Jim Linville** offered to provide copies of the Speed Survey to anyone who wanted it. **Charles "Tim" Goodwin** stated that no topic has come up [before the Selectboard] more often than speeding in the village; more data will be collected, engineering company still working on a presentation that will be given to the town when complete. **Bob Johnston** spoke stating that speeds on Route 155 are also a problem and that a stop sign should be put at the intersection of Route 100 and Route 155. **Jim Linville** advised that those are State Highways and the best option would be to direct a letter to VTrans. **Christine Mix** stated that the speeds on Greendale Road are also an issue especially at night.
- **Heidi Benson** asked if the office hours for the Town Clerk could be expanded to include one evening a week or a month for more access. Kim Seymour stated that she has offered evening hours in the past for some of the busier seasons, but it hasn't been used well enough to continue doing so on a regular basis.
- **Will Freeman** again thanked everyone for all that is being done to address the speeding issues.
- **Bruce Downer** stated that there are numerous speed signs, but often overlooked due to them being so numerous. He would prefer to see the warning speed sign that flashes because it gets more attention than a static sign.
- **Marguerite Mason** asked if hiring a state trooper to police the speeds had been considered. **Denis Benson** advised that it had been discussed, but based on the experience of a neighboring town it wasn't pursued.

**Moderator adjourned the meeting at 11:03 am.**

Respectfully submitted this   2<sup>nd</sup>   day of June, 2021:

ss:\ Kim Seymour  
Kim Seymour, Town Clerk

ss:\ Wayne Granquist  
Wayne Granquist, Moderator

**Town of Weston Selectboard:**

Dated at Weston, Vermont this   8th   day of June, 2021:

ss:\ Denis Benson  
Denis Benson, Chair

ss:\ Jim Linville  
Jim Linville, Vice Chair

ss:\ Ann Fuji'i  
Ann Fuji'i, Secretary

ss:\ Charles "Tim" Goodwin  
Charles (Tim) Goodwin

ss:\ Bruce Downer  
Bruce Downer