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## MINUTES FOR THE WESTON TOWN MEETING MARCH 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Weston, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, were notified and warned to meet at the Walker Farm in Weston, Vermont on Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024 at nine o'clock in the forenoon (9:00 AM) to act on the warned articles. Meeting called to order at 9:04 am.

**Speakers:** Debra Lyneis regarding the Rudolph Johnson awards for 8 students, Liam Elio (Mountaintownsrecreation.org – recreation survey OR code), Mtn Towns Rec Director regarding the newly formed position and an update; Wayne Granquist regarding the Wilder Library expansion on display.

Moderator, Wayne Granquist reviewed the meeting process; nominations do not require a second; read names of those who passed last year and Tim Goodwin this year. At 9:14 am read the warning; one article at a time:

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect a Moderator for a 1-year term Kim Seymour nominated Wayne Granquist; with no further nominations Wayne Granquist elected to a 1-year term.

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect a Town Clerk for a 1-year term Deb Granquist nominated Kim Seymour; with no further nominations, Kim Seymour elected to a 1-year term.

**ARTICLE 3:** To elect a Town Treasurer for a 1-year term Marguerite nominated Kim Seymour; with no further nominations, Kim Seymour elected to a 1-year term.

**ARTICLE 4:** To elect the following Town Officers as required by law: WG asks candidates to speak

- **One Selectboard member to a 3-year term** Barbara Lloyd nominated Jim Linville moved Marguerite; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Granquist, and with no further nomination, the moderator directed clerk to cast 1 paper ballot to elect Jim Linville to a 3-year term.
- **One Selectboard member to a 2-year term** Joanne Prouty nominated Annie Fuji'I who declined to nomination. Deb Granquist nominated Chris Morrow and there were no further nominations; with no objection from the voters, Deb read Chris' introduction and reasons for running. Moderator directed clerk to cast 1 paper ballot to elect Chris Morrow to a 2-year term.
- **One Selectboard to finish 1-year term of Charles "Tim" Goodwin** Gene Palmer nominated Howie Brosseau; Jeff Yrsha nominated Susan Morris. Paper ballot; 70 votes for Howard Brosseau and 40 votes for Susan Morris. Howie Brosseau elected to a 1-year term.
- One Lister to a 3-year term – Greg Carroll nominated by Deb Granquist; elected to a 3-year term by voice vote. One additional position remains vacant.
- One Library Trustee to a 5-year term Dick Lechthaler nominated by Linda Saarnijoki; elected to a 5-year term by voice vote..
- One Library Trustee to a 5-year term Linda nominated Olivia Korsun; elected to a 5-year term by voice vote.
- One Trustee of Public Funds to a 3-year term Ron Prouty nominated Nicole Pfister; elected to a 3-year term by voice vote.
- One Town Constable to a 1-year term Sid Straw by Marguerite; Marissa Bolognese by Isabell Bolognese; Marissa Bolognese elected by voice vote.

- One Collector of Delinquent Taxes to a 1-year term Deb Granquist nominated Morgan Hart; elected to 1-year term by voice vote.
- One Cemetery Commissioner for a 5-year term Dick Lechthaler nominated Doris Ingram; elected by voice vote.

- ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to approve a 4-year loan up to \$375,000 for the addition of two bays at the Town Garage. (Not Included in the Town Budget) moved by Deb Granquist; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howie Denis spoke – apply for grants, etc. to offset the costs; latest estimate close to \$500,000 Andrew Harper would be easier if we knew the impact of the July Flooding; Lisa Yrsha spoke to that regarding what we are submitting to FEMA. Voice vote; article passed.
- ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$4,000 for the Town Annex Paint Reserve Fund. (Included in the Town Budget) Barbara Lloyd moved the article with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Granquist. Voice vote; article passed.
- ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$4,000 for the Town Annex Building Maintenance Fund. (Included in the Town Budget) Moved by Linda Saarnijoki; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christine Falango. Voice vote; article passed.
- ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$140,000 for the Highway Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund. (Included in the Highway budget) Moved by Deb Granquist; 2<sup>nd</sup> Doris Ingram. Voice vote; article passed.
- ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$75,000 for the Highway Maintenance Fund. (Included in the Highway Budget) Moved by Marguerite Mason; 2<sup>nd</sup> Joanne Prouty. Voice vote; article passed.
- ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$35,000 for the Fire Apparatus Fund. (Included in the Town Budget) Moved by Marguerite Mason; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nicole Pfister. Josh Allison spoke about the use of the fund; next vehicle is the mini pumper that can be used to on limited weight bridges, etc. Voice vote; article passed
- ARTICLE 11:** To see if the town will appropriate \$3,000 to the Space Planning, Management and Maintenance Fund. (Included in the Town Budget) Moved by Barbara Lloyd 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Granquist; Question from Deb Twombly regarding the purpose of the fund; Denis Benson advise it would be used for maintenance of town office. Voice vote; article passed.
- ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$10,000 for the Bridge Repair Fund. (Included in the Highway Budget) Moved by Marguerite Mason; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howie Brosseau. Voice vote; article passed.
- ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000 for the Wilder Memorial Library Capital Fund. (Included in the Town Budget) Moved by Linda Saarnijoki; Will Freeman 2<sup>nd</sup>; Deb Granquist spoke about the library expansion, upcoming information meetings; no further comments. Voice vote; article passed.
- ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to exempt from taxation for a period of five (5) years the real estate belonging to the Farrar Park Association. Moved by Marguerite Mason; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Saarnijoki. Voice vote; article passed.
- ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will appropriate the following sums totaling \$156,484 to the following organizations that included financial information with their request (Included in Town General Budget) Moved by Shirley Knowlton and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Granquist.

Organizations	2023 Actual Request	2023 Voter Approved	2024 Actual Request	2024 Budget Request
Weston - Cemetery Commission	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Weston - Cold Spring Park (WCA)	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$15,000
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	\$37,675	\$37,675	\$46,375	\$46,375
Weston - Wilder Memorial Library	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
<b>TOTAL WESTON ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>\$107,675</b>	<b>\$107,675</b>	<b>\$128,875</b>	<b>\$128,875</b>
Flood Brook Athletic Association	\$2,000	\$2,000	0	0
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	\$5,250	\$5,250
Moover, The (formerly SE Transit & The Current)	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Mountain Valley Health Council	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
My Community Nurse Project	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Neighborhood Connections	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Senior Solutions	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$1,750	\$1,750
SEVCA-Southeastern VT Community Assoc.	\$630	\$630	\$630	\$630
SEVEDS	\$1,698	\$1,698	\$1,869	\$1,869
The Collaborative	\$750	\$750	\$1,250	\$1,250
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	\$1,500
Windsor County Youth Services	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
Women's Freedom Center	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
<b>TOTAL NON-WESTON</b>	<b>\$29,438</b>	<b>\$29,438</b>	<b>\$28,459</b>	<b>\$27,609</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>\$137,113</b>	<b>\$137,113</b>	<b>\$157,334</b>	<b>\$156,484</b>

Barbara Lloyd asked that in the future would someone come explain the difference between the Mountain Valley Health Council and the Clinic due to it being complicated and she wondered what is done with the donation. Lisa Yrsha stated that it was intended to cover the lab services which was just disbanded. Annie Fuji'l stated the Council owns the building, LAB services discontinued. Jim Linville directed voters to page \_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> to last paragraph; "ear marked for funding those who cannot pay ....." Deb Granquist reiterated that next year it would be helpful to have someone come explain what they do as they have \$3 million. Mark Reffner input total assets could include the value of the actual building. Geoff Brown

asked for input on what services were being provided. Carol Lechthaler spoke with an update. Hospice services, Long-term health service, internal child health – no longer providing home nurse visits. John Skinner asked about the difference between VNH request and budget. Lisa Yrsha spoke to the reduction being due to fewer services in 2024. Voice vote; article passed

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will set the annual salary for the Town Treasurer at \$29,598 for the calendar year January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. (Included in Town General Budget) Marguerite Mason moved; Howie Brosseau 2<sup>nd</sup> Voice vote; article passed

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will set the annual salary for the Town Clerk at \$22,653 for the calendar year January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. (Included in Town General Budget) Moved by Barbara Lloyd; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Geof Brown. Voice vote; article passed

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will set the annual compensation for the Selectboard at \$2,500 each for the calendar year January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. (Included in Town General Budget) Moved by Shirly Knowlton; 2<sup>nd</sup> Geof Brown, Linda Saarnijoki thanked SB for their work during the flooding. Voice vote; article passed

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will pay its taxes to the Town Treasurer as provided by law, due date to be on or before the first Thursday of October (October 3, 2024). Moved by David Raymond; 2<sup>nd</sup> Isabell Bolognese. Voice vote; article passed

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$720,089 of which \$466,611 shall be raised by taxes, \$169,630 by non-tax revenues, and offset by a surplus of \$83,848. Moved by David Raymond; 2<sup>nd</sup> Deb Granquist. Voice vote; article passed

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will authorize a total Highway Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$955,688 of which \$830,122 shall be raised by taxes, \$105,290 by non-tax revenues, and offset by a surplus of \$20,276. Moved by \_\_\_\_\_; 2<sup>nd</sup> by \_\_\_\_\_. Voice vote; article passed

**ARTICLE 22:** To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding article

**Deborah Twombly** what is status of the little grocery store and how can it be cleaned up immediately. Jim Linville spoke to the question. Building is caught in a predicament due to July 100 year storm and the December 50 year storm. No one can predict what the storms will be in the future. Town is getting a hydraulic survey completed that will give information on how to proceed: removed dam and/or increase the capacity of the Lawrence Hill Rd Bridge. Some people are doing better than others on handling recovery and for this particular business has a difficult decision –

**Doris Ingram** – it's the debris that is the issue

**Marguerite Mason** can the town move the "stuff" and move it somewhere else?

**Vicky Linville**

**Andrew Harper** Mike had applied for a FEMA Buyout but SB denied it; Jim stated it's important to the town to have the convenience store and gas station

**Stacey Fedele** home was damaged in the July flood; fastest dam removal was 5 years--it takes a very long time to resolve

**Jeff Yrsha** is it the SB decision or Jim's personal decision; Jim said it was the SB

**Dick Lecchthaler** remove trash; Jim stated it is private property

**Denis Benson** recent article regarding Shaw's in Ludlow about the technology being used so that store can reopen

**Josh Allison** Fire Chief – presentation about the damage done by the flood 58 3/8" of water. Need to move the building due to the numerous floods since 1973. Need new land, private donations, town support. Reaching out to let us know what they are doing. Question from Marguerite about the safety of the gas tanks at the store in town. Josh addressed; Annie spoke

**Josh** dry hydrants

**Will Freeman** who is EMD; Josh spoke; Lisa Y spoke

**Linda Saarnijoki** can we change the subject; all in favor

**Nicole Pfister** communications in emergencies

**Carol Maclaury** how can people be helped now instead of in 5 years?

**Wayne Granquist** \$50K grant for a professional;

**Andrew Thompson** thanked the SB for the immediate assistance after the flood especially Denny and Lisa

**Jim Linville** thanked the Road Crew

**Jeff Yrsha** thanked the nameless who brought lunches and gave support so they could do the necessary work

**Vicky Linville** spoke regarding the Weston Playhouse building – 13' of water and we lost . . .

**Annie Fuji'i – introduced Shawna**

**Andrew Harper** ARPA fund disbursement of \$100K and the Highway Contingency Fund with -\$400K defunct?

**Jim Linville** macro

**Question** Mtn Towns Rec Director – Lisa Yrsha ; page 19 approved line item

**Linda Crandall** – voted last year for an article; this year amount went up and not presented with it separately to voters

**Lisa Yrsha** addressed - \$7,500 was based on ½ year; \$10K is based on the actual budget for the position now

Adjourned at 11:41

Respectfully submitted at Weston, Vermont this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kim Seymour**  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Wayne Granquist**  
Town Moderator

Accepted at Weston, Vermont this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024:

**WESTON SELECTBOARD:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Denis Benson, Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jim Linville, Vice Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Howard Brosseau**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Christopher Morrow**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Lisa Yrsha**