

MINUTES
FOR THE 2019 ANNUAL NEWFANE TOWN MEETING
UNION HALL
MARCH 3, 2020

Called to order by the Moderator, Deborah Luskin at 9:00 AM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Shelly Hüber.

The Town Clerk, Carol Hesselbach, declared the polls open for the Australian Ballot and the Presidential Primary.

The Warning calling the meeting was read by the Moderator.

The legal voters of the Town of Newfane, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned that pursuant to Title 17 V.S.A. Section 2655, they are to meet at the Union Hall in Newfane, Vermont on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to act upon the articles below.

ARTICLE 1:

To elect one (1) West River Modified Union Education District school director who is a resident of Newfane for a three year term.

(Voting on this article to be by Australian ballot from 9 AM to 7 PM)

School Director 3-year term (One Position)

ARTICLE 2:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane elect all Newfane Town Officers as required by law for the ensuing year?

(Voting on this article to be by Australian ballot from 9:00 AM until 7:00 PM)

Constable	1 year term
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year term

Lister	3 year term
Moderator-Town	1 year term
Selectboard Member	3 year term
Selectboard Member	1 year term (Three Positions)
Town Agent	1 year term
Town Clerk	1 year term
Town Treasurer	1 year term

The Moderator explained that Articles 1 and 2 were being voted on by Australian ballot and she explained some of the laws regarding voting by Australian ballot and political campaigning during the meeting.

The Moderator made several announcements. The school meeting and budget vote are now held with the West River Modified Union Education District and the meeting is on March 24 with the voting on March 25. She asked anyone who is not a legal voter of the Town of Newfane to make themselves known. She asked if there were any new Newfane voters present and had them introduce themselves. There were 8 new voters.

The Moderator invited those who fill a position in Town to stand and then invited anyone interested to consider filling the open positions. Lynn Forrest advised that there are 2 open positions on the Planning Commission.

The Moderator noted that the Town Report is dedicated to Larry Robinson. She also referred to the Vital Statistics pages and that Newfane had 2 more births than deaths in 2019.

State Senator Jeannette White was allowed by the assembly to address the Town to explain some of the things going on in Montpelier.

The Moderator discussed that we follow Robert's Rules of Order because that is State law but we can change Robert's Rules. She is looking for a Parliamentarian to assist her.

ARTICLE 3:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane pay taxes for the ensuing year on a quarterly basis, due on the 15th of August, October, January and April; the late charge for Interest being at the maximum legal rate of .50% per month for the current fiscal year and .75% per month for each month thereafter until paid?

Motion was made by Melissa Brown. Seconded by Myra Fassler. Melissa Brown then made a motion to Amend the Article to change the interest rates to 1% and 1.5%. This was seconded by Wannetta Powling.

The motion to amend was discussed by Lynn Forrest, Melissa Brown, Ingrid Longo, Dan Dewalt, Neil Pelsue, and Gloria Cristelli.

Amendment failed.

The Moderator then asked if there was any discussion on the Article as originally written. Michael Granger spoke. Article passed.

Emily Long, our State Representative, addressed the meeting.

ARTICLE 4:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize the Treasurer to collect current taxes, pursuant to 32 VSA §4791?

Motion moved by Lynn Forrest. Seconded by Tom Bedell.
No discussion. Article passed.

ARTICLE 5:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize the

Selectboard to sell or otherwise convey property acquired through tax sale proceedings?

Article moved by Ken McFadden. Seconded by Myra Fassler. No discussion. Article passed.

ARTICLE 6:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize general fund expenditures for Town and Highway operating expenses of \$1,523,911.73, of which \$1,216,264.73 shall be raised by taxes and 307,647.00 by non tax revenues?

Article moved by Tom Bedell. Seconded by Meg Spicer.

Tom Bedell then moved to amend the article to increase the amount budgeted for the Moore Free Library to \$964, the amount requested by the Library in their funding request. Seconded by Myra Fassler. Wannetta Powling spoke.

The Amendment passed.

Brenda Siegel then moved to amend the Amended Article to increase the amount budgeted for Groundworks by \$500, bringing the Article to \$1,524,525.73. Seconded by Fiona Chevalier. Meg Spicer, Dan DeWalt, Tim Shafer, Piet Van Loon, Erica Walch, Patty Johnson, Norbert Benaiche, Sandy Stark, Gloria Cristelli, and Shelly Huber spoke. Neil Pelsue moved to call the amendment. Myra Fassler seconded. Debate was ended by 2/3 vote.

Amendment to the Amended Article passed.

Fiona Chevalier then moved to amend the Article to increase the amount of general fund expenditures to increase all the Special Appropriations to the prior year amounts except for L&G Educational Foundation, Groundworks, and the Moore Free Library. Seconded by Brenda Siegel.

This would add \$10,658.00 to the budget. Lynn Forrest made a motion to amend the amendment to remove the \$2,000 for Newfane Anew. Chris Company seconded. This would change the article to general fund expenditures of \$1,533,283.73 with \$1,225,636.73 to be raised by taxes. Sandy Stark, Patty Johnson, Dan DeWalt, Shelly Huber, Brenda Siegel, Gunther Garbe, and Thomas Abbotts spoke. Tom Bedell moved to call the question. Myra Fassler seconded. Move to call passed. Amendment to the Amendment passed. Now consider Amendment to Article 6. No discussion. Amendment passed.

Article 6 as Amended now considered. Ann Landenberger, Shelly Huber, Gloria Cristelli, Hendrik Van Loon, Emily Thibault, Mike Fitzpatrick, Tim Shafer, and Norbert Benaiche spoke.

Article 6 as Amended passed.

ARTICLE 7:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize Capital fund expenditures of \$268,895.00, of which \$265,895.00 shall be raised

by taxes and \$3,000 by non tax revenues?

Article moved by Myra Fassler. Seconded by Tom Bedell. Norbert Benaiche made a motion to decrease the amount to be raised by taxes by \$100,000 and take \$100,000 from the reserve. Seconded by Ken McFadden. Amendment spoken to by Norbert Benaiche, Erica Walch, Hendrik Van Loon, Shelly Huber, Tim Shafer, Chris Company, Jay Wilson, Michael Mayor, and Melissa Brown.

Amendment failed.

Discussion of Article 7 as written. Michael Granger and Melissa Brown spoke to the Article.

Article passed.

ARTICLE 8:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane vote to raise the amount of \$123,500, of which \$123,500 shall be raised by taxes, to be added to Capital Reserves Fund?

Article moved by Gloria Cristelli. Seconded by Gunther Garbe. Gloria Cristelli spoke to the article.

Article passed.

ARTICLE 9:

Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane raise and appropriate the sum of \$250.00

for Windham Disaster Animal Response Team (WinDART.)

[New allocation request - Not In the budget]

Article moved by Lynn Forrest. Seconded by Ken McFadden. Article addressed by Lynn Forrest, Chris Company, Lindsay Bertram, Shelly Huber, Jay Wilson, Carol Hesselbach, Neil Pelsue and Brenda Siegel.

Article passed.


ARTICLE 10:

To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

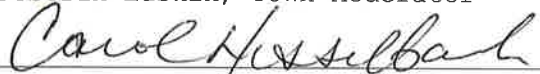
Spoken to by Christopher Groetke, Ann Landenberger, Lynn Forrest, Marty Cohn, Chris Company, Gloria Cristelli, Thomas Abbotts, Steve Levine, Shelly Huber, Lindsay Bertram, Brenda Siegel, and Elizabeth Erickson.

Motion to adjourn made by Tom Bedell. Seconded by Myra Fassler

Meeting adjourned at 12.33 PM.



Deborah Luskin, Town Moderator



Carol Hesselbach, Town Clerk