

MINUTES 2024 NEWFANE TOWN MEETING
UNION HALL IN NEWFANE, VERMONT
MARCH 5, 2024

The Moderator, Deborah Luskin, called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

Town Clerk and Presiding Officer Carol Hesselbach opened the polls. She reminded everyone that they need to choose a specific party ballot in the Presidential Primary and they should not give the people at the entrance checklist a hard time. State law is involved.

The Moderator explained that Article 1 was being voted on by Australian ballot.

The Moderator asked the Selectboard to introduce themselves.

The Moderator asked if there was anyone present who was not registered to vote in Newfane. Sheriff Anderson is here and not a Newfane voter. She asked if there were any new voters. There were seven new voters: Walter Hagedorn, Sam Lockwood, Sam Dutton, Emmet Mahdavi, Ingrid Boedecker, Susan Ahl, and CE Hall.

The Moderator explained that Sheriff Mark Anderson was present and, if there were no objections, would like to address the meeting. There were no objections so he spoke briefly about his department's plans for the future.

The Moderator discussed that the Town follows Robert's Rules of Order because that is State law but we can change Robert's Rules. Everyone must be recognized by the Moderator in order to speak and they must give their name. She explained the need for a 2/3 vote to call the question.

The Moderator read the warning:

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 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to act upon the articles below.

ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane elect the following Newfane Town Officers as required by law for the ensuing year? This Article is acted upon by Australian Ballot.

Constable	1-year term
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1-year term
Lister	1-year term (until 2025)
Lister	2- year term (until 2065)
Lister	3-year term (until 2027)
Moderator – Town	1-year term
Selectboard Member	3-year term
Selectboard Member	1-year terms (Two Positions)
Town Clerk	1-year term
Town Treasurer	1-year term
WRMUED School Board Member	3-year term (One Position)

ARTICLE 2: 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; late charge for interest being at the rate of .50% per month for the current fiscal year and .75% per month for each month thereafter until paid?

Deborah read Article 2. And asked for a motion. Tom Bedell moved the Article and David Cotton seconded it. There was no discussion. Article passed

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize the Selectboard to sell or otherwise convey property acquired through tax sale proceedings?

Article 3 was read. Neil Pelsue moved the article and Joyce VanPamelen seconded it. There was no discussion and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize General Fund Expenditures for Town and Highway Operating Expenses of \$1,690,999.00 of which \$1,363,409.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$327,590.00 by non-tax revenues?

The Moderator read Article 4. A motion was made by Lindsey Bertram and seconded by Beckley Gaudette. It was discussed by David Cotton and Melissa Brown. No further discussion. Deb read the motion and asked us to vote. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize Highway Operating Expenses of \$98,000.00, of which \$98,000.00 shall be raised by taxes to hire a new employee (this figure includes Wages, Benefits, and Insurance) for the highway department?

The Moderator read Article 5. The Article was moved by Beckley Gaudette and seconded by Joyce VanPamelen. The article was questioned by CE Hall and explained by Michael Fitzpatrick. No further discussion. The Moderator read the Article and asked us to vote. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize Capital Fund Expenditures of \$420,000.00 of which \$413,500.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$6,500.00 by non-tax revenues?

The Moderator read the Article. There was a motion to move the article by Joyce VanPamelen which was seconded by Ken Estey. There was no discussion.

The Moderator read Article 6 and asked us to vote on it. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane authorize General Fund Expenditures for a Debt Services Fund in the amount of \$68,555.00 of which \$68,500.00 shall be raised by taxes?

The Moderator read the Article. Patty Johnson moved the Article. It was seconded by Neil Pelsue.

There was discussion by Patty Johnson, Melissa Brown, Ken Estey, Ann Golob, and Kim Friedman. No further discussion. Deborah read the Article and asked us to vote. The Article passed.

Deborah introduced our State Representative Emily Long and our State Senators Hashim and Harrison. They told us about the work they are doing in Montpelier and the bills that they are working on.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane raise by taxation the amount of \$25,467.00 for the annual Excavator lease payment for FY 2025?

The Moderator read the Article. There was a motion to move the article by Tom Bedell which was seconded by Ken Estey. No discussion.

The Moderator read Article 8 and asked us to vote on it. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane raise by taxation the amount of \$6,750.00 for the Reappraisal Fund FY 2025?

Deborah read the Article. Lindsey Bertram made a motion to consider the Article. It was seconded by Joyce VanPamelen.

There was discussion by CE Hall and Angela Litchfield.
No further discussion. The Moderator read the Article. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate \$10,000.00 for the Historical Society of Windham County to assist it in creating a free public museum at the 1825 Jail Building in Newfane's National Historic District?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Beckley Gaudette and seconded by Joyce VanPamelen.

There was discussion by Dick Marek, Ken Estey, Lindsey Bertram, Walter Hagedorn, and Melissa Brown.

No further discussion. The Article was read. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 11: Whereas, the U.S. Congress has the right to demand that the U.S. State Department certify that no U.S. arms and munitions are being used unlawfully to violate human rights, and whereas, Israel has been using U.S. arms and munitions to indiscriminately bomb and shell Gaza, killing over 21,000 civilians including over 10,000 children as of January 1, 2024. Therefore, shall we the voters of Newfane call for an immediate ceasefire by all parties and Vermont representatives in Congress to endorse and promote paragraph 502B(c) in the Foreign Assistance Act to force the State department to either certify or end arms sales to Israel?

The Moderator read the Article. Dan DeWalt moved Article 11 and Lynn Bedell seconded it. Marion Dowling made an Objection to considering Article 11. This is a privileged motion and requires a 2/3 majority to pass. Discussion of what the Objection means by Kim Friedman, Dan DeWalt, Lynn Bedell, Annie Landenberger, and Deborah Luskin.

A vote by raised hands was taken and the BCA counted 71 votes: 21 to sustain the objection and 50 to defeat it. The Objection failed.

Article 11 was now on the floor.

Dick Marek made a motion to have everyone who wanted to speak, speak once. Walter French seconded it. An amendment to the motion was made by Lynn Bedell and seconded by Ed Collins to limit everyone to speaking for 2 minutes.

The amendment to the motion was addressed by Dan DeWalt. No further discussion. The amendment to the motion to limit passed.

The Moderator then asked for discussion on the limit to speak only one time. There was no discussion. The motion to limit speaking to once passed by voice vote.

Then we were asked to vote on the amended motion: each person could speak once for 2 minutes. The motion passed by voice vote.

Therefore, everyone could speak on Article 11 one time for 2 minutes.

There was discussion of Article 11 by Emmet Mahdavi and Ken Estey.

Bruce Rosow made a motion to amend Article 11 which was seconded by Ed Collins. The motion to amend was to add the following to Article 11: Whereas Hamas continues to brutally represses the Palestinian people in Gaza including using the civilian population as a shield for their military operations, brutally attacked and massacred Israeli citizens on October 7, 2023, and unlawfully captured, brutalized, and continues to hold in captivity and torture Israeli hostages, we the voters of Newfane, Vermont, call for Hamas to immediately and unconditionally release all the hostages. We the voters of Newfane call for both sides in this conflict to acknowledge the pain and trauma they have inflicted on the other. We, the voters of Newfane, call on both sides, for the sake of all our children, to accept the right for both sides to exist, with freedom from repression, with freedom from the threat of annihilation from the other, and with self-determination, in peace.

Whether the amendment was proper was discussed by CE Hall and the Moderator. The Moderator explained that only the objection was privileged. Now that we were past the objection, privilege did not apply to Article 11.

Dan DeWalt made a motion to amend the motion to amend by removing the first part of the amendment from the "Whereas" to the "release all the hostages." It was seconded by Walter French.

Discussion of the Amendment to the Amendment by Erica Walsh, Cris White, Tom Bedell, and Jeryl Julian-Cisse. Phillip Schafer called the question. Lindsey Bertram seconded it. Debate was ended. The Amendment to the Amendment passed.

Discussion by Walter Phelps, Dan DeWalt, and Henriette Mantel. Henriette called the question. Seconded by Lindsey Bertram. Discussion was ended.

The Moderator read the Amended Article 11 and asked us to vote. The Article as Amended passed on voice vote.

Deborah announced a 7 minute recess.
The meeting resumed.

ARTICLES 12-40:

Special Appropriations, See Town Report for Details - Total \$41,640.00

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to the Aids Project of Southern Vermont?

Article 12 was read. It was moved by Meg Spicer and seconded by Annie Landenberger. Lynn Bedell wanted to make a motion to combine Articles 12-40 as one Article. Neil Pelsue discussed whether this was proper since there was a motion on the floor. The Moderator said that there was a motion on the floor that needed to be considered unless Meg withdrew the motion. Meg withdrew the motion. Lynn Bedell moved to combine all the Special Appropriations into one article totaling \$41,640.00. It was seconded by Bob Litchfield. Discussion by Erica Walch, Walter Phelps, Katy Johnson-Aplin, Tom Bedell, Ken Estey, and Dan DeWalt.

Lauri Miner called the question. Deborah asked us to vote on whether to end discussion. The vote was in favor of ending discussion. Deborah read the motion to combine the Articles and we voted. The motion failed.

The Moderator read Article 12. It was moved by Annie Landenberger and seconded by Meg Spicer. No discussion. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 to Grace Cottage Hospital?

Deborah read the Article. It was moved by Neil Pelsue and seconded by Lauri Minor.

There was discussion by Neil Pelsue. No further discussion. Deborah read the Article and we voted. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,300.00 to Senior Solutions?

The Moderator read Article 14. It was moved by Lynn Bedell and seconded by Lauri Minor. There was discussion by Gloria Cristelli. No further discussion. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$750.00 to the Southeastern VT Transit DBA: the Moover?

The Article was read. It was moved by Lauri Miner and seconded by Annie Landenberger. There was no discussion. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to the Historical Society of Windham County?

Deborah read the Article. It was moved by Beckley Gaudette and seconded by Gloria Cristelli. There was no discussion. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to the Groundworks Collaborative?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Brenda Siegel and seconded by Lauri Minor. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to the South Newfane Community Association?

Deborah read the Article. The Article was moved by Meg Spicer and seconded by Ann Landenberger. There was discussion by Susan Ahl and Ann Golob. No further discussion. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to the Brattleboro Area Hospice?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Gloria Cristelli and seconded by Tom Bedell. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to Leland & Gray Education Foundation?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Meg Spicer and seconded by Neil Pelsue. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 21: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,850.00 to Healthcare & Rehabilitative Services?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Meg Spicer and seconded by Joyce VanPamelen. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 22: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 to Incorporated Village of Newfane, Union Hall?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Bob Litchfield and seconded by Neil Pelsue. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 23: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$2,700.00 to Moore Free Library?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by CE Hall and seconded by Lauri Minor. There was discussion by Beckley Gaudette. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 24: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$4,935.00 to SeVEDS?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Gloria Cristelli and seconded by Meg Spicer. Mr. Beck was granted permission to address the meeting. Mr. Beck explained what SeVeds does generally and for Newfane residents in particular. There was discussion by Lindsey Bertram, Katy Johnson-Aplin, Walter Phelps, Annie Landenberger, Jodie French, CE Hall and Dan DeWalt. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 25: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to Restorative Community Practice of VT?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Susan Ahl and seconded by Meg Spicer. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 26: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,600.00 to SEVCA?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Ken Estey and seconded by Laurie Minor. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 27: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to The Timson Hill Preschool?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Annie Landenberger and seconded by Ken Estey. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 28: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$2,675.00 to Valley Cares?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Ken Estey and seconded by Neil Pelsue. There was discussion by Neil Pelsue. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 29: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$800.00 to Vermont Adult Learning?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Gloria Cristelli and seconded by Ken Estey. There was discussion by Jeryl Julian-Cisse. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 30: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$100.00 to VT Green Up?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by CE Hall and seconded by Bob Litchfield. There was discussion by Gloria Cristelli and Katy Johnson-Aplin. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 31: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to the Williamsville School Preservation Society?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Ken Estey and seconded by Meg Spicer. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 32: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$720.00 to the Windham County Human Society?

Deborah read the Article. It was moved by Ken Estey and seconded by Lauri Minor. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 33: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to the Women's Freedom Center?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Ken Estey and seconded by Tom Bedell. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 34: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to Youth Services?

Deborah read the Article. It was moved by Meg Spicer and seconded by Gloria Cristelli. There was discussion by Beckley Gaudette and David Brown. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 35: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to WinDart?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Ken Estey and seconded by Gloria Cristelli. There was discussion by Bob Litchfield and Melissa Brown. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 36: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 to Windham County Safe Place?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Ken Estey and seconded by Susan Ahl. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 37: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 to Newfane Anew Community Volunteer Inc?

Deborah read the Article. It was moved by Ken Estey and seconded by Jeryl Julian-Cisse. There was discussion by Walter French, Jane Douglas, Jodie French, and Walter Phelps. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 38: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to the Newbrook Parent Teachers Organization?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Ken Estey and seconded by Lindsey Bertram. There was no discussion, and the Article passed.

ARTICLE 39: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to the Newfane Cemetery Association?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Susan Ahl and seconded by Annie Landenberger. There was discussion by Henriette Mantel. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 40: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to the West River Valley Mutual Aid?

The Moderator read the Article. It was moved by Gloria Cristelli and seconded by Emmet Mahdavi. There was discussion by Gloria Cristelli. The Article passed.

ARTICLE 41: To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

Deborah read the Article. She reminded all of us that this is a non-binding article.

Walter Phelps spoke, thanking the Moderator for her years of service.

Walter French spoke.

Angela Litchfield spoke.

Neil Pelsue spoke about Grace Cottage Foundation doing fundraising to expand the clinic facility. They have a \$5 million challenge grant.

William Guenther spoke

Ken Estey thanked the Selectboard and Wannetta Powling for the work on the Town Report.

Ann Golob thanked Melissa Brown for her help with the Town Report.

Annie Landenberger spoke about the need to try to convince more young people to attend town meeting.

Angela Litchfield moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Bedell.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.



Deborah Luskin, Town Moderator



Carol Hesselbach, Town Clerk