

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

The legal voters of the Town of Whiting, Vermont meet at the Town Hall, in said Whiting on Tuesday March 5th, 2024 at 7:15pm to transact the following business:

Meeting called to order @ 7:18pm

ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Stacey Freeguard made a motion to elect Pat Mattison. Elizabeth Curran seconded the motion. No other motions or discussion. All voted in favor.

ARTICLE II: The receive and act upon the report of the Town Officers.

Carolyn Schmidt made a motion to receive and act upon the report of the Town Officers. Elizabeth Curran seconded the motion.

Stacey Freeguard requested two corrections be made to reports she submitted:

2023 Town Meeting minutes should say Ruth Harding instead of Elizabeth Harding

On the Lister's report the date should be April 1, 2024 not April 1, 2023.

Other comments:

What does the fee the town pays to Middlebury Ambulance cover. The fee the town pays is to have the Middlebury Ambulance come to Whiting.

What roads are going to be paved this year? The selectboard said they are planning on paving part of Shoreham-Whiting RD and part of Leicester-Whiting RD.

In the future could the selectboard include this information in their report in the town report.

The selectboard said they could try to include information about what they are planning for road work that year.

There was a question about the Water Corp, but that is not town owned.

No more discussion

All voted in Favor.

Rep. Joe Andriano (Addison-Rutland District) asked if he could speak to the townspeople, about what is being discussed and voted on in the House. Permission was granted. Joe talked about the different projects he has been working on: Public Safety, illegal to go sit in someone's car and reinstating work crew.

Joe was asked about the drug overdose problem and what they were doing to help with this.

He said they are working on education, treatment, law enforcement and more social services.

ARTICLE III: Will the Town elect the Officers as required by law in the following order:

- A. Select Board Member for 3 years -incumbent Bob Wood. Stacey Freeguard made a motion for Bob Wood. Rani Fallon seconded. Jennifer Erwin Made a Motion for herself and asked to speak about herself. She told everyone the different committees she is on and the items she has been working on. Carol Brigham seconded the motion. Elizabeth Curran requested a paper ballot. Rani Fallon seconded the motion. Voting results were Bob Wood: 32, Jennifer Erwin: 19. Bob Wood will be the Selectboard member for 3 years.
- B. Lister for 3 years - incumbent Rani Fallon. Stacey Freeguard nominated Rani Fallon. Carolyn Schmidt seconded the motion. No other nominations. Stacey made a motion for one ballot to be cast by the Town Clerk. Gwen Cattell seconded the motion. One ballot was cast for Rani Fallon.
- C. Auditor for 3 years -incumbent Pat Mattison. Alison Remy nominated Pat Mattison. Suzanne Denis seconded. Stacey made a motion for one ballot to be cast by the Town Clerk. Alison Remy seconded the motion. One ballot was cast for Pat Mattison.
- D. First Constable for 1 year -incumbent Rusty Brigham. Gary Freeguard nominated Rusty Brigham. Heather Bouchard (Town Clerk) had received an email from Rusty Brigham stating that he will not be seeking to continue being the town constable for the new year. Stacey Freeguard nominated Mike Dame. Rani Fallon seconded. All voted in favor.
- E. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1 year -incumbent Rani Fallon. Stacey Freeguard nominated Rani Fallon. Gwen Cattell seconded. All voted in favor.

ARTICLE IV: Shall the Town authorize the Treasurer to collect real property taxes to the Treasurer on or before Sunday, December 1, 2024? (In Hand or Secure Box by 5:00pm, Postmarks not accepted). Elizabeth Curran made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to collect real property taxes, Stacey Freeguard seconded the motion. Could we move the date to December 2nd since the 1st was a Sunday. If we moved the date, we would have to warn of the change and have a meeting to vote on it. They decided to leave it the way it is. All voted in favor.

ARTICLE V: Will the Town give the Delinquent Tax Collector the power to collect delinquent taxes? Elizabeth Curran made a motion to give the Delinquent Tax Collector the power to collect delinquent taxes. Carolyn Schmidt seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

ARTICLE VI: Will the Town appropriate \$487,675.00 expenses and indebtedness of the town of which \$315,250.00 will come from taxes? Elizabeth Curran made a motion to appropriate \$487,675.00 expenses and indebtedness for the town of which \$315,250.00 will come from taxes. Carolyn Schmidt seconded the motion.

There was a question about the proposed total income being a lot lower than the actual income for last year. It was explained that you do not put in the anticipated taxes, only the actual after they are collected.

Why was the food shelf amount lowered from \$1,000.00 to \$500.00. The food shelf had said they did not need the \$1,000.00.

Why is the capital budget line so high? Last year the paving was not able to be done because of all the rain. The paving will be done this year if the weather permits it.

It was asked about the book repair account. The plan is to try and get some of the older books restored.

Who does the lawn care for the town? Donald Scarborough does the lawn care. It will come up for bid again this year.

All voted in favor of Article VI.

ARTICLE VII: To transact any other nonbinding business deemed necessary and proper when met.

The Whiting First Response is looking for members. You must be 16 years of age to join.

The library wanted to thank the town for the money they received. They did a lot of work with computer programs. The people that use the library are now able to get books online.

The rabies clinic is on March 11, 2024 from 5pm-6pm @ the Fire State. Dog registration is due April 1, 2024. By registering your dog, it helps the Animal Control Officer if the dog is separated from its owner. Dog registration is also a law.

There are buildings in town that do not look attractive. One building is owned by an individual. The other buildings the town does not have the money to fix them.

Does the town own the old library. It was explained that the town does own the old library. The question was because in the deed there are stipulations, and the town was not sure if it would have to go back to the church. We found out that it does not revert to the church, but the stipulations need to be removed to use the building for anything other than a library/reading room.

Bruce Fowler is restoring the old cupola that goes on top of the old schoolhouse.

There was a discussion about adopting an ordinance to allow ATVs to use the dirt roads in town. Steve Quinn is going to form a committee to write a draft for an ordinance. When a draft of a proposed ordinance is presented, the select board will move forward with the process. The town will have a vote on this during the process.

Elizabeth Curran made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Curran seconded the motion.

All in favor @ 8:35pm.



Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The top signature reads "Dan Mattison" and the bottom signature reads "Steve Quinn".