

MARCH 1, 2016 TOWN MEETING

10:08 Patrick Hayes, moderator asked for a veteran to lead us with the pledge of allegiance, Roger Parent volunteered.

Article 1 was for town officers by Australian ballot — no contested races and not enough required writeins for anyone to win a write in campaign. Pierre Letourneau — 3 year selectman seat

Larry Fiske — 2 year selectman seat

Patrick Hayes — moderator

Carol Guilmette — 5 year library trustee seat

Nancy Patch — forest committee one year

Dennis Williams — forest committee one year

Cynthia Scott — forest committee one year

Article 2 — To see if the voters will approve the purchase of a 2016 fire truck pumper/engine, total purchase price not to exceed \$450,000 with a loan of not more than \$330,000 to be financed over not more than 10 years.

Article passed with a vote of 386 yes and 57 no

Article 3 — To see if the voters will appropriate the following sums of money:

- a. \$ 500.00 to the American legion Post #42
- b. \$1,000.00 to the Enosburg Falls Town Band
- c. \$1,000.00 to the Enosburgh Conservation Committee
- d. \$2,500.00 to the Enosburgh Food Shelf
- e. \$ 500.00 to the Enosburgh Historical Society

Motion by Michael Manahan to accept, seconded by Linda Carpenter, discussion and motion to accept all as written together as a bundle. Motion by Roger Parent, seconded by Cindy Weed, all in favor, so moved.

Article 4 — To see if the voters will appropriate the following sums of money:

- a. \$2,500.00 to Champlain Valley Agency on Aging
- b. \$1,000.00 to CarePartners Adult Day Center
- c. \$1,000.00 to Franklin County Court Diversion & Community Justice Programs
- d. \$ 350.00 to Foster Grandparents Program
- e. \$1,000.00 to VT Association For the Blind & Visually Impaired
- f. \$5,562.00 to Franklin County Home Health
- g. \$2,827.00 to Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- h. \$1,000.00 to Northwest Unit for Special Investigations
- i. \$3,800.00 to Northwestern Counseling & Support Services

- j. \$1,000.00 to Highgate Arena
- k. \$1,000.00 to Franklin County Industrial Development Corp.
- l. \$ 500.00 to Missisquoi River Basin Association
- m. \$2,238.00 to Green Mountain Transit
- n. \$ 100.00 to Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force
- o. \$1,000.00 to American Red Cross
- p. \$ 270.00 to Vermont Center for Independent Living
- q. \$1,500.00 to Voices Against Violence (Laurie's House)

Motion by Linda Maloney, second by Michael Manahan, some discussion ensued, motion by Roger Parent and second by Claudia Rose to take as a bundle, discussion about Green Mountain Transit, Jeanne Viens worried about the older population and affordability, Steven Arthur Boal read a prepared statement on the cost of the appropriations compared to other towns. Dan Steiner did not want to give to Highgate Arena, and made the motion to amend the article to remove the arena, seconded by Steven Boat, much discussion. Nancy Patch called for the question removing the arena from the bundle, motion failed on the amendment, arena to stay in, all in favor of the appropriations of a-q passed.

Article 5 — To see if voters will exempt from taxation Lincoln Lodge (Masonic Temple) on Missisquoi St. for 5 years, beginning in 2016, 32 VSA 3840. Motion by Linda Carpenter, and seconded by Michael Manahan, Pierre Letourneau spoke on the building and it's uses, much discussion on this article ensued, Ward Heneveld asked what other buildings and or properties in the town are exempt, it was explained that this was the only one and combined with the veteran's exemption that is not covered by the state is the amount of the local agreement on the tax bill. Discussion ensued on the fact that they are wonderful to allow the food shelf to stay there and the iconic clock which Sandy Ferland says is a symbol of the down town. Rita St. Onge spoke to the mason's and the good work they do. Question called to vote by Roger Parent, all in favor, so moved.

Article 6 — The Enosburgh Conversation asks the voters of Enosburgh to approve a half-penny increase in the tax rate to be allotted to a separate fund for conservation. This tax rate will be for the next five years. The fund will be used to leverage additional monies to conserve land in the public interest. Priorities will be placed on community projects, and/or projects that are not traditionally funded by local, state and federal conservation organizations, or to assist landowners with the cost of stewardship and staff costs when donating a conservation easement. This money may be accumulated over a number of years before being used on a specific project. Public hearing will be held prior to the use of any Enosburgh Conservation Funds. Motion by Nancy Patch, seconded by Cindy Weed, Nancy Patch explained the fund and the additional wording and what it means, Larry Gervais spoke to the amount in the fund. Sarah Downes spoke about what the money had been used for in the past. All in favor, so moved.

Article 7 — Will the voters vote an amount on the grand list to cover the 2016 Grand List to cover the 2016 General Budget in the amount of \$568,122.68. Motion by Roger Parent, seconded Nancy Patch, questions about the computer expenses and the short falls of income were talked about, Andre Viens Jr, had questions about the delinquencies, Michael Manahan asked about the rent for the ambulance service, Micah Galland asked why the zoning fees were so low for the 2016 year, Larry explained that the fine from Stone/Shepard was done and so we no longer could take that in to consideration. All in favor of the budget, so moved.

Article 8 — To transact any non-binding business thought proper when met.

Suzanne Hull-Parent took this time to talk about Act 46, then Larry Gervais, spoke to the wonderful presentations that were presented at the information meeting the night before, and that it was unfortunate that more people did not attend. Mark LaRose spoke on the proposed purchase of a new fire truck and also Joey Clark spoke about possible purchase of new dump truck with plow equipment. Anne Bowers asked about selling ambulance.

A recess was called by the moderator to allow for the people within the village limits to leave the auditorium or to move seats to allow for only the people in the highway district to be able to participate in the Road District portion of the meeting.