

ABSTRACT OF TOWN MEETING
March 5 & March 6, 2012

Town Moderator Tom Little called the 224th Town Meeting to order on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shelburne Community School Gymnasium. Reverend Craig Smith of Trinity Episcopal Church in Shelburne gave the invocation.

Moderator Little introduced the Boy Scout Troop #602 leaders; Jim Kay, John Kerr, Rene Gagnon, Jim Brangan, Brian Mick and Mike Major. Also introduced were the Scout members who presented the colors: Will Kay, David Kerr, Robert Brangan, Nate Brangan, Ethan Gagnon, Drew Major, Ethan Oglesby, Nate Mick and Andrew Slauterbeck, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Moderator Little stated the meeting was being broadcast on VCAM Channel 17 TV. Moderator Little recognized Brad Ingalls and John Wagner for bringing televised services to other citizens not present at this meeting.

Moderator Little recognized William Wisell of Cucina Antina for catering the Community dinner this year in place of Peg Meunier who provided the Community dinner for years and retired within the last year.

Moderator Little recognized Town Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Haag.

Moderator Little stated the meeting would be run according to Roberts Rules of Order, and explained what the general procedures would be. He announced that speakers should wait for Cullen Bullard who would bring them the microphone and they should then state their name before speaking. If there should be any close paper ballot votes he authorized David Webster and Judy Raven as tellers to count the votes.

The Town's portion of the Meeting was called to order at 8:22 p.m. by Moderator Little.

Moderator Little introduced Robert Roesler, Chair of the Selectboard the other Board members; Bill Smith, Gary von Stange, Al Gobeille and Tim Pudvar. Mr. Roesler then introduced Town Manager Paul Bohne. Mr. Bohne introduced Highway Superintendent Paul Goodrich, Rescue Chief Linda Goodrich, Fire Chief Jerry Ouimet and Finance Director Peter Frankenburg. He also spoke of Craig Wooster who had served as Fire Chief and recently stepped down and thanked him for his years of service as Chief. Mr. Bohne then asked for those in the audience who were volunteers in any capacity for the Town to stand up and be recognized.

Moderator Little then referred to the separate reports in the Town report which were distributed to those present.

ARTICLE I: Voted to hear and act on the report of Town Officers and the Auditor's report for the budgetary period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 [FY2011]. Passed by show of salmon ballots.

ARTICLE II: Will the voters determine the compensation to be paid to the Selectboard for Fiscal Year 2012-2013? [Note: Current salaries are Chair \$1500.00, all others are \$1200.00]. Continuing current salaries passed by show of salmon ballots.

Selectboard Chairman Robert Roesler presented the Town budget (Article V). He stated the 2012-2013 proposed budget expenses are \$7,076,608 up 3.6% from FY 2012. The \$4,836,000 raised by taxes is up 2.4% from FY 12. The estimated tax rate before separate articles are approved would be \$0.3338 (1.5% or plus \$0.005 from FY 12). The estimated tax rate including all voted articles would be \$0.3379 (plus 2.7% or plus \$0.009 from FY 12). The FY 2012-2013 expenditure changes include an increase of salaries of \$108,400, a decrease of employee benefits of \$44,000, an increase of property and casualty insurance of \$12,500, an increase of street lights of \$20,000, an increase for Fire Department air packs of \$139,800, an increase for emergency dispatch equipment of \$39,000, an increase for county taxes of \$12,600, an increase of CCTA assessment of \$19,000 and an increase to the elections budget of \$9,700. The fiscal year 2012-2013 revenue changes are a decrease of the Federal COPS police grant of \$31,000, an increase in police and dispatch charges for services of \$31,500, and an increase from the State current use program payment of \$16,000.

Chairman Roesler referred to Articles VI, VII, VIII, IX and X which are allocations for the Open Space Fund, the Social Service Agencies, the Visiting Nurses Association, the purchase of one replacement highway department truck and a bond for various infrastructure improvements to the Shelburne water distribution system.

Sally Martel asked about the water bond. Even though every resident votes on the bond will the rate payers be paying for it? The Selectboard stated she was correct. It would be those who use municipal water that would be paying for it.

Sally Wadhams, a member of the Social Services committee stated that the committee had urged the Selectboard to fully fund their recommended total of \$17,000 but the Board did not. Several people spoke in support of the funding and asked why it was not being voted on as a separate article and is no longer a line item in the overall town budget. Maria Horn asked the Selectboard if they did this budget in a vacuum and told them she hoped they were listening to their constituents.

A motion was made by George Voland and seconded by Dick Walters that stated:

Whereas attendees at Shelburne Town Meeting request that social services not become a separate ballot item but becomes an integral part of the Town budget because that is what people do for one another. The Moderator ruled that the Motion could only be voted on in a non-binding way as it was not warned. Lee Suskin made an amendment to the motion which was seconded to include a favorable presumption that the Board take the recommendations of the Social Services Committee. The amendment to the motion passed by majority vote. The nonbinding motion, as amended, passed by a vote of 64 yea to 16 nay.

Rad Romeym made a motion which was seconded that the Selectboard establish a Community Fund to fund social programs. The motion was defeated by a majority voting nay.

Moderator Little stated that any motions or resolutions not on the Town Warning that are voted on this night are nonbinding and is about the fundamental issue of fairness from the standpoint of those people who are not present at this meeting. He stated that such motions or resolutions were not warned.

ARTICLE III: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

There was discussion about the proposed Constitutional amendment which the Selectboard chose not to put on the town ballot.

David Hedden made the following motion which was seconded:

Whereas the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission enables U.S. corporations, including subsidiaries of foreign countries, to spend unlimited, unidentified funds to influence U.S. elections,

We voters in Shelburne, Vermont urge the Vermont legislature to pass a resolution urging our Vermont congressional delegation to support a constitutional amendment to establish that the right of free speech, and hence the right to spend funds to influence elections, is assigned to individual persons and not to corporations.

We voters recognize and acknowledge that this vote is non-binding on any local, state or national entity.

Moderator Little reiterated that any motions or resolutions not on the Town warning that are voted on this night are nonbinding. It is about the fundamental issue of fairness from the standpoint of those people who are not present at this meeting.

The above motion passed by a vote of 61 aye to 18 nay.

There was no other business to transact.

The meeting was recessed at 10:08 p.m. until Tuesday, March 6, 2012 to reconvene in the Shelburne Town Center at 7:00 a.m. for voting by Australian ballot. There were 4700 registered voters on the checklist at the time of this meeting. 126 voters from the Town of Shelburne appeared at this March 5, 2012 meeting.

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 the Town Meeting reconvened at the Town Center gymnasium at 7:00 a.m. Town Constable Tom Bessette swore in the ballot clerks at 7:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 3:00 p.m.

VOTED IN THE BOOTH

Moderator for one year: Thomas A. Little
School Moderator for one year: Thomas A. Little
Town Clerk for three years: Colleen Thomas Haag
Town Treasurer for three years: Colleen Thomas Haag
Selectman for three years: Gary von Stange
Selectman for two years: Timothy Pudvar
Town Constable for two years: Thomas T. Bessette
Champlain Water District Commissioner for three years: Thomas T. Bessette

ARTICLE V: Shall the Town adopt the Selectboard's proposed budget of \$7,076,608 of which \$4,835,998 is to be raised by taxes?
Yes 1094 No 520

ARTICLE XI: Shall the bonds of the Town of Shelburne, in the amount not to exceed \$150,000, be issued for the purpose of purchasing one replacement Highway Department truck?
Yes 1139 No 490

ARTICLE VII: Shall the bonds of the Town of Shelburne, in the amount not to exceed \$500,000, be issued for the purpose of completing various infrastructure improvements to the Town of Shelburne's water distribution system?
Yes 1240 No 396

ARTICLE VIII: Shall the Town raise by taxes the amount of \$20,000 for the purpose of obtaining options and/or the acquisition of lands, or the rights in land, which would preserve open space and natural resources; any unexpended portion of such sum to be placed in the Open Space Fund?
{The Fund balance is \$177,168.96 of which \$169,468.96 is currently available.}
Yes 1055 No 581

ARTICLE IX: Shall the Town raise by taxes the amount of \$12,000 for the purpose of providing funds to various social service agencies in an amount to each as customarily determined by a Selectboard appointed Social Service Committee?

Yes 1121 No 517

ARTICLE X: Shall the Town raise by taxes the amount of \$20,600 for the purpose of providing funds to the VNA (Visiting Nurses Association)?

Yes 1236 No 410

A total of 1733 out of 4700 registered voters (36%) appeared Tuesday, March 6, 2012 to cast their ballot in this Town Meeting. Of this total 606 were absentee ballots.

Respectfully submitted: Colleen T. Haag, Town Clerk

