

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
2012 TOWN MEETING
MARCH 6, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM by Winston Chambers, Moderator. Barbara Graham, Town Clerk read the warning.

The Selectboard presented retired Fire Chief, Ed Eaton a granite clock for his many years of dedicated service.

ART. 1: To elect all necessary Town and Town School District Officers for ensuing year by Australian Ballot. For the purpose of Articles 1-3, the polls will open at 10:00 A.M. to act upon the following articles, viz:

Moderator, 1 yr	
Winston Chambers	443
Write In	
Basil McCullough	1
Spoiled	1
Blank	<u>54</u>
TOTAL	499

Selectman, 2 yrs	
William Ashe	439
Write In	
Chris Peloquin	2
Others	7
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>51</u>
TOTAL	499

Town Clerk, until 2013	
Barbara C. Graham	459
Write In	
Will Knight Jr.	1
John Taylor	1
Bob Cleaves	3
Others	1
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>34</u>
TOTAL	499

Lister, 3 yrs.	
William Peabody	427
Write In	
Will Knight Sr.	2
Karla Perkins	1
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>69</u>
TOTAL	499

Selectman, 3 yrs	
Rodney Graham	432
Write In	
Chris Peloquin	2
Mike Sprano	3
Others	5
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>57</u>
TOTAL	499

Trustee of Public Funds, 3 yrs	
Walter Lacillade	438
Write In	
Milo Winters	1
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>60</u>
TOTAL	499

Cemetery Commissioner, 5 yrs

John Taylor	442
Write In	
Mike Sprano	1
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>56</u>
TOTAL	499

Cemetery Commissioner, until 2016

Milo Winters	460
Write In	
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>39</u>
TOTAL	499

Library Trustee, 5 yrs

Beth C. Warrell	441
Write In	
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>58</u>
TOTAL	499

Town Grand Juror, 1 yr

Richard C. Powell	442
Write In	
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>57</u>
TOTAL	499

Town Agent, 1 yr

Annie Alexander-Kramer	417
Write In	
Will Knight Jr.	2
Will Knight Sr.	1
Matt Couillard	1
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>78</u>
TOTAL	499

ART. 2: To elect a Trustee for the Henry S. Baker fund for a three year term, by Australian Ballot.

Karla Perkins	439
Write In	2
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>58</u>
TOTAL	499

ART. 3: To act upon the Proposed Williamstown Governance Charter by Australian Ballot.

YES	265
NO	220
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>14</u>
TOTAL	499

ART. 4: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.

The motion was made to approve the article as written by John Taylor and seconded by Heather Powell. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART. 5: To see if the Town will pay it's Real and Personal Property taxes to the Treasurer on or before November 15, 2012, with delinquent taxes and assessments having charged against them an eight percent penalty and interest charges of percent thereof, per month, from the due date, as provided for in 32 V.S.A. Section 4773 and 5136.

Conrad Beattie made the motion to reconsider to add the 1% interest and seconded by John Taylor. There was no further discussion and the motion was passed by voice vote.

ART. 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to take advantage of any State or Federal monies available.

The motion was made by Matthew Powell and seconded by John Perkins to approve the article as written. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART. 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money to pay the current expenses of the Town in anticipation of money to be received from taxes and from the State of Vermont.

The motion was made by Freda Hollyer and seconded by Henry Dufresne to approve the article as written. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART. 8: To see what amount the Town will vote to pay its elected Officers, except the Clerk and Treasurer.

The motion was made by Matthew Powell to pay the officers \$9.00/hr and the Chair persons at \$10.00/hr and the Selectboard \$750 for the year and the Chair \$1000. The motion was seconded by John Perkins. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART. 9: To see if the Town will vote to have the names of all delinquent taxpayers, including water and sewer users, with amounts and years of their delinquencies printed in the Town Report as of December 31, 2012?

The motion was made by Henry Dufresne and seconded by Barbara Mitchell to approve the article as written. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

ART. 10: To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$710, 249.73 or some other amount to support the General Fund of which includes Fire Department, Ambulance and Library Budgets.

The motion was made by Henry Dufresne and seconded by Matthew Powell to approve the article as written. Bill Ashe made the motion to amend the article to include the cemetery seconded by Henry Dufresne. Motion passed by voice vote. Eugene LaPerle made the motion to amend the budget to raise \$650,000.00 in taxes, remainder to be collected in delinquent taxes and seconded by Barbara Mitchell. The Moderator ruled that motion was made out of order. The motion was made to suspend the rules by Conrad Beattie and seconded by Eugene LaPerle. Motion failed by voice vote. The amended motion to include the cemetery then passed by voice vote.

ART. 11: To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$753,801.58 or some other amount to support the Highway Fund.

The motion was made by John Perkins and seconded by Henry Dufresne to approve the article as written. Mike Sprano made the motion and seconded by Larry Ellison to amend the sum to \$700,801.58 and to use the 2011 surplus of \$53,000.00 to reduce taxes raised. The amendment failed by voice vote. The original motion passed by voice vote.

Motion was made by John Taylor and seconded by Henry Dufresne to suspend the rules and pass over Article 12. Motion failed by voice vote.

ART. 12: Shall the Town vote to increase the Orange County Sheriff line from \$50,000 to 70,000 to include a part-time deputy?

Motion was made by Rodney Graham and seconded by Larry Hebert to approve the article as written. Kim Sinner made the motion and seconded by Heather Powell to suspend the rules. Motion passed by voice vote. Monique Hayden amended the motion to read the same as last year's town report, page 8, Article 15, to approve \$20,000 for a part-time deputy for the next year seconded by Matthew Powell. Motion passed by voice vote.

ART. 13: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the purchase of a new grader, for an amount not to exceed \$300,000, to be paid for over a 5 year period, with money from the equipment reserve fund?

The motion was made by Larry Hebert and seconded by Matthew Powell to approve the article as written. Motion passed by voice vote.

The motion was made by Conrad Beattie seconded by John Perkins to recess at 11:40 for lunch and reconvene at 12:40. The motion passed by voice vote.

At 12:40 when the meeting reconvened, Representative Phil Winters was asked to speak about what was going on in the Legislature.

ART. 14: Shall the Town vote to appropriate any surplus from the Fiscal Year 2011 General Fund to the Public Safety Building Reserve?

Motion was made by Rodney Graham and seconded by Francis Covey to approve the article as written. Motion passed by voice vote.

ART. 15: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to the Williamstown Historical Society?

Motion was made by Matthew Powell and seconded by Heather Powell to approve the article as written. Motion passed by voice vote.

The motion was made by Rodney Graham to suspend the rules and vote articles 16 through 32 together seconded by Matthew Powell. Rama Schneider amended the motion to vote articles 16 through 32 with no \$ amount as warned seconded by John Taylor. Motion passed by voice vote.

ART. 16: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500 to the Central Vermont Economic Division?

ART. 17: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500 to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program?

ART. 18: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to Safeline, Inc?

ART. 19: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,968 to the Clara Martin Center?

ART. 20: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$225 to the Orange County Diversion Program?

ART. 21: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,500 to the Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice?

ART. 22: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,004 to the Green Mountain Transit Agency?

ART. 23: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to the People's Health & Wellness Clinic?

ART. 24: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500 to Kids Place (Orange County Parent Child Center)?

ART. 25: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$300 to Good Beginnings of Central Vermont?

ART. 26: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$750 to the Central Vermont Community Action Council?

ART. 27: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to the Central Vermont Adult Basic Education?

ART. 28: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$900 to the Central Vermont Council on Aging?

ART. 29: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500 to the Family Center of Washington County?

ART. 30: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$250 to the Washington County Youth Service Bureau?

ART. 31: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to Project Independence?

ART. 32: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500 to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont?

ART. 33: In light of the United States Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the Town instruct the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U.S. Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, and also instruct the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure?

The motion was made by Wally Roberts and seconded by Heather Powell to approve the article as written. Motion passed by voice vote.

ART. 34: To transact any other business deemed necessary and proper.

Rodney Graham spoke about having a parade in July like we did last year or to go with the traditional Memorial Day Parade. Memorial Day Parade won by hand vote. Larry Hebert spoke on omitting the Audit out of future Town Reports and having copies of the Audit made available at Town Hall. Becky Watson spoke of the theater curtain that is being restored in the school's auditorium. Matthew Powell spoke of having the Town Report made available online and if voting could start and 9:00 AM and having the school budget voted back on the floor.

The motion was made by Matthew Powell and seconded by Heather Powell to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote and adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Winston Chambers, Moderator

Barbara Graham, Town Clerk

Larry Hebert, Chair

William Ashe

Rodney Graham

Arthur Stone

Francis Covey

