

Minutes
Town of Starksboro
Annual Town and Town School District Meeting
Saturday, March 3, 2018
Robinson Elementary School Multipurpose Room

The Town of Starksboro met for their yearly Town Meeting on Saturday, March 3, 2018 with 135 voters in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Dan Dubenetsky, Moderator, at 9:05. Child Care was provided by Shaina Block and Charlotte Doyle, a special Thank You to the service they provided on such an important day.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator, Dan asked for a show of hands in how many years they have been attending. First timers received a \$25.00 GC to Moes, which were 7, and 12 that have been attending 45 plus years, received a pint of maple syrup. Dan went over Robert's Rule's and other Town procedures before commencing the start of Town Meeting. Frank Bryant was not able to attend Town Meeting to share his wisdom, but sent a UVM colleague instead - Richard Watts.

Jenna McArdle, Ruby Ball and Justice Greene from Mt. Abe Varsity Softball were present for a fundraiser for their Florida Spring Training Trip. They were Division 2 State Champions in 2017 and hope to have a repeat performance.

Four Winds Nature was providing excellent food for the attendees and all proceeds go to the program for future use.

Project Read was also on hand to sell VT Folk Rocker rocking chair Tickets, only 200 are sold each year, the price per ticket is \$10.

Ryan Cochran-Siegle was awarded a round of applause for his Olympic Team debut on the ski team. There will be an announcement later on for a homecoming party that the entire town is invited to, to welcome Ryan home. Congratulations Ryan!!

Our new Town Fire Truck, that was driven from Minnesota by Tom and Matt Estey, was available for the townsfolk to see. Thank you Tom and Matt!

Representatives present were Dave Sharpe, Chris Bray and Fred Baser. They each spoke in reference to Natural Resource Energy, Special Education, Clean Water Act, and Tax Education Fund. Dave Sharpe gave a heartfelt goodbye to the attending towns folks as he has decided not to run for re-election. We Thank you for your service Dave and best of luck with your next adventure.

Polls were open from 7am to 7pm on March 6, 2018 at the Robinson Elementary School to elect town and school district officers, also to vote on the Mount Abraham Unified District Budget, Mount Abraham Bond Renovation, Hannaford Career Center Budget.

At 9:39 the Starksboro Town Articles were called to vote:

A special Thank You for Susan Jefferies and her dedication to the Town of Starksboro. This will be Susan's last Town Meeting as a Selectboard member. She was first elected to the board 12 yrs ago and has served as SB Chair for 11 of those years. For most of her years on the Board, she has also acted as scribe taking notes and writing up minutes of all meetings she attended. Her knowledge of the intricacies of public, non-profit finances has been invaluable to the Board when formulating budgets, borrowing for the purchase of equipment, financing the construction of the Town Garage. Her common sense, patient diplomacy and general good cheer has made the SB both enjoyable to serve on and effective as well. She will be truly missed! She was presented with a beautiful vase with roses and irises. Thank you Susan!!

Article 1 -Mary O'Brien made a motion to bring Article 1 to the floor , seconded by Jeff Keeney.

Results of the Australian Ballot voting held on March 6, were as follows:

Moderator 1yr -
Selectman 3yrs -
Selectman 2 yrs -
Town Clerk 3yrs -
Town Treasurer 3yrs -
Auditor 3yrs -
Cemetery Commissioner 3yrs -
Cemetery Commissioner 2yrs -
Cemetery Commissioner 1yr -
Lister 3yrs -
Tax Collector 1yr -
Library Trustee 3yrs -
Town Planning Commission 3yrs -
Town Planning Commission 3 yrs -
First Grand Juror 1yr -
First Constable 1yr -
Second Constable 1yr -
Town Agent to Prosecute/Defend Suits 1yr -

The total number of voters that turned out this day was

Nancy Boss introduced herself to the Town and her intention to run for a selectboard term of 2 yrs. She has lived in Starksboro for 6 yrs, currently works for a local school. She is one of five

kids. She describes herself as loyal, honest, fair and approachable to discuss anything. She has raised 3 daughters here in VT. Welcome Nancy!

Stephen Rooney also introduced himself - in running for the MT. Abe Unified School District Director - He has lived in Starksboro with his significant other Alice Weston since 2004. He is an architect with Breadloaf that is located in Middlebury and wanted to share his expertise. Welcome Stephen!

Article 2 - Colin O'Brien-Lucas made a motion to accept the auditor's report for the year ending June 30, 2017. Seconded by Chris Runcie. Voice vote called Article 2 passes.

Article 3 - Peter Ryersbach made a motion to vote the following sum of money for the proposed FY 18-19 General Fund Budget, seconded by Susan Jefferies.

Susan Jefferies made a motion to amend Article 3 to "Shall the voters of the Town of Starksboro vote the following sum of money for the proposed FY 18-19 General Fund Budget, being expenses of \$1,125,385 less receipts of \$404,650 and FY 16-17 surplus of \$34,031 for an amount of \$686,704?" seconded by Jeff Keeney.

The Town is looking to change systems for accounting from Quickbooks to NEMRC. Which this system is already in place at the town for Grandlist and Tax information. Amendment passes.

Article 3 Amendment - Mary O'Brien made a motion to vote the following sum of money for the General Budget FY 18-19, being being expenses of \$1,125,385 less receipts of \$404,650 and FY 16-17 surplus of \$34,031 for an amount of \$686,704?" seconded by Rob Liotard. Voice vote called. Article 3 with proposed amendment passes.

Article 4 - Dan Nugent made a motion to vote for the following sum of money for the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund, seconded Norman Cota. Voice vote called. Article 4 passes.

Article 5 - Ben Campbell made a motion to vote for the following sum of money for the Road Equipment Reserve Fund, seconded by Norman Cota. Voice vote called. Article 5 passes.

Article 6 - Larry Jones made a motion to vote the following sum of money for the Paving Reserve Fund, seconded by Peter Ryersbach.

Alice Weston asked which roads were on the list to be paved this year. Tom Estey replied right now, States Prison Hollow Rd. Voice vote called. Article 6 passes.

Article 7 - Mary O'Brien made a motion to vote the following sum of money for the Starksboro Public Library for FY 18-19, seconded by Judith Kessler.

Thank you to Marc Lucas for his 22 years of service on the Board. His dedication toward the library was invaluable. Also a Thank You to Nancy Kerwin for her service as Asst Librarian, has decided to retire and start her next adventure. Lynn Stewart-Parker has fulfilled her place. The

library holds many different activities throughout the year for people of all ages, from paint tutorials to craft shows, art shows and sugar on snow parties.

Voice vote called. Article 7 passes.

Article 8 - Susan Jefferies made a motion to authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$167,000 for the purchase of a replacement utility truck for FY 18-19. Loan will be paid within 5 yrs from Road Equip Fund starting FY 19-20, seconded by Tony Porter.

Discussion was in hopes to extend the life of the utility truck. Voice vote called. Article 8 passes.

Article 9 - Dennis Casey made a motion to authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$45,000 for the purchase of up to a 1 ton pickup truck with plow and sander, seconded by Cecilia Elwert.

Discussion involved was the use of the 1 ton that was being used for small jobs that made it harder and inefficient to do their jobs, such as hauling around road signage, cones and regular road maintenance. The road crew currently use their own personal vehicles to do road inspections during the year. No new personnel will be added and only 4 trucks are currently working for the road crew. Municipalities do get a special discount, tax exempt and have programs out there to help purchase equipment for towns that are necessary for their job. This will include a sander and plow. Voice vote called Article 9 passes.

Article 10 - Koran Cousino made a motion for the voters of the town to agree to exchange parcels of land between the Town of Starksboro and Robinson Elementary School? Robinson School is currently located on a parcel of land owned by the Town of Starksboro. Robinson School owns the land located west of Robinson School - a proposal to exchange these properties so that the land Robinson School is located on, is entirely owned by the school district and the land located west of it will be owned by the Town of Starksboro. The agreement can be reviewed by the public at the Starksboro Town Office, seconded by Chris Runcie. Discussion on the land exchange - school still needs an easement for the backup septic - the easement will be a permanent easement, and their solar trackers. These are tax exempt parcels, so there will be no taxes incurred. Voice vote called. Article 10 passes.

Article 11 - Keegan Tierney made a motion to vote for the sum of \$25,000 for surveying , developing of architectural plans, preparation for permitting for the purposes of constructing a replacement Fire Station #2 and renovating the Historic Jerusalem Schoolhouse, seconded by Susan Klaiber.

Discussion on the major renovations that are needed to upgrade the building , such as handicap accessibility, to be used for emergency shelter, #2 Fire Station (eliminate out of code station), park and ride and to preserve the building. Voice vote called. Article 11 passes.

Article 12 - Laurie Webber made a motion to vote for the following sum of money \$2000.00 for the purchase of food for the Starksboro Food Shelf, seconded by Jan McCleery.

Discussion on article- this will be in conjunction with all the donations, not in place of. Especially during the holiday months. Article 12 passes.

Article 13 - Norman Cota made a motion vote the following sum of money for the listed In-Town request of \$40,925, seconded by Jeff Keeney.

Starksboro Cooperative Preschool - \$4500

Robinson Mentoring Program - \$2000

Starksboro First Response - \$9500

Starksboro Sports Program - \$2500

Starksboro School Age Program - \$425

Starksboro Volunteer Fire Dept - \$22000

Voice vote called - Article 13 passes.

Mary O'Brien made a motion to take a short recess before addressing the School District Meeting at 10:42. Seconded by Jim Runcie

Started School District Meeting at 11:06 - this is for discussion only, no voting will be taking place on these articles until March 6, 2018 by Australian Ballot only.

Article 1 - Louis DuPont made a motion to elect Town School District Officers as follows, each for a term that will expire on the date the District ceases to exist pursuant to the Merger Study Report and Articles of Agreement as approved by the VT State Board of Education on September 20, 2016 by Australian Ballot on Tuesday March 6, 2018. Seconded by Rob Liotard. Official informational meeting took place February 27, 2018. The last time for their authority to sign off on business issues is June 30, 2018. All informational meetings will now be held at the district level and all discussion must be done there at that time, not at the Starksboro Town Meeting.

Article 2 - Jen Turner made a motion to elect Town Unified School District Directors for the coming year by Australian Ballot on Tuesday March 6, 2018, seconded by Dan Nugent. Discussion only - Caleb Elder and Stephen Rooney will be our new representatives for our Unified Board.

Article 3 - Jeff Dunham made a motion to act upon reports of the Town School District Officers and Directors, seconded by Judith Kessler.
A special Thank You to Louis DuPont for his years of service and dedication to the board. He has gone above and beyond for the school service. His pride and loyalty shown through with his countless meetings and goals he strived for to better the education for all involved. Our community still needs to be involved with mentoring, community activities and being informed at the State Level.

Article 4 - Susan Jefferies made a motion to consider any further business that may legally come before this meeting seconded by Louis DuPont.
Edorah Frazier spoke on behalf of Robinson School and the commitment behind the staff and parents of the education for the children involved.

Edorah would like us to recognize Frank Spina on his retirement this coming school year ending in 2018, his 25 years of education service will be irreplaceable. He teaches from the heart and has a profound respect for the kids and their abilities as children on what they can do. He recognizes each and everyone of them as human beings and encourages all to explore and expand their knowledge no matter it takes them. He will be greatly missed by the staff, children and parents here at Robinson School.

Braeden Pudvah won the Geo Bee Contest and will be participating at the one at Castleton University along with Aidan Harris from Mount Abraham Union High School. Congratulations and Good Luck to both!!

Joanna Toy and Morgan Barnard recently competed in a Middle School District Chorus Concert against kids from across west central VT. They were chosen to participate in an all day rehearsal and evening performance at St. Joseph's College in Rutland. Congratulations Joanna and Morgan!

Congratulations to the 5/8 Girls Basketball team that won the Championship of 2018. I had the pleasure of watching them and they played like a well oiled machine. The coaching in this town is amazing with the dedication and skill level that is brought forth. The 3/4 Girls Basketball also had an amazing year. Congratulations to all!

Mentoring at Robinson School is still going strong with over 30 participants that spend an average of 1 hr per week (usually more) with their mentees during and after school. The love and time they share with these individuals is priceless. Thank you!!

Bites in a Bag Volunteers - Koran Cousino, Peg Casey, Erin Bent - a special thank you to these ladies for all the extra effort they give.

Community support for the school is amazing and make the school a special place. By consolidating the school districts we will not lose that feeling or dedication from the community. We are too strong of a community to allow that and know the needs of the school come first at all costs. Thank you for being a part of Robinson School.

Louis DuPont asked for a straw pole to see if the Town still wanted the School District Meeting and Reports to still be on agenda. All in favor - yes.

Starksboro School District meeting motion to adjourn by Judith Kessler, seconded by Rebecca Elder. Meeting adjourned at 11:38

Town Meeting resumed at 11:38.

Article 14 - Peter Ryersbach made a motion to vote the following sums of money for the listed out of town requests, seconded by Heather Ragsdale.

AC Restorative Justice Services - \$600

AC Home Health & Hospice - \$1964

AC Parent/Child Center - \$1600

AC Readers - \$350

AC Transit Resources - \$1708

American Red Cross - \$500

Bristol Family Center - \$500
Bristol Rec Center - \$2500
Bristol Rescue Squad - \$7500
Age Well - \$1300
Counseling Service of Addison Cnty - \$2000
Elderly Services - \$900
Green Up VT - 100
Homeward Bound - \$500
HOPE - \$1750
Hospice Volunteer Service - \$500
John Graham Emergency Shelter Services - \$970
Lewis Creek Association - \$550
Open Door Clinic - \$250
Otter Creek Natural Res. Conser. Dist - \$176
RSVP - \$370
VT Adult Learning - \$700
VT Assoc for the Blind/Visually Impaired - \$500
VT Center for Independent Living - \$250
VT Rural Protection Task Force - \$100
WomenSafe - \$1250
Total out of town requests - \$29,588
Voice vote called Article 14 passes.

Article 15 - Susan Jefferies made a motion to vote that property owned by the Starksboro Volunteer Fire Dept be exempt from property taxes, seconded by Norman Cota. This is a State Statute and must be voted on every 5 years. They are exempt status and have not been taxed in the past. Voice vote called Article 15 passes.

Article 16 - Mary O'Brien made a motion to vote the Real Estate Taxes to be paid, without discount, to the Treasurer on or before Thursday November 1, 2018, at 5 pm, becoming delinquent after November 1, 2018 at 5pm. Taxes must be received by this time, postmarks are not considered receipt, seconded by Susan Jefferies. Voice vote called, Article 16 passes.

Article 17 - Ben Campbell made a motion to transact, vote and act upon any further non-binding business which may legally come before this meeting, seconded by Sherry Pachman. Voice vote called - Article 17 passes.

Susan Jefferies asked a request from the attending voters in reference to the gazette mailing. Do the townspeople want to continue to receive the gazette as a mailing or prefer to receive it emailed, or read on the web. Census seemed to be people wanted it emailed or can read it on the web.

Rebecca Elder extended a Thank you to the all the Boards for the Town of Starksboro - Development Review, Planning Commission and the Selectboard. The hard work and

dedication that each board puts forth is invaluable and most towns people don't realize the time and effort it takes for these boards to work properly.

Bob Hall made a comment in reference to the Vital Records Info for the Town Report. He was disappointed that they have been left out and hope we can incorporate them next year.

Susan Jefferies made a motion to adjourn the town meeting, seconded by Mary O'Brien, so voted. **Meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.**

Town Clerk

Cheryl Estey

Moderator

Dan Dubenetsky