

**Town of Montgomery**  
**Annual Town Meeting Minutes – 2017**

Moderator, Timothy Murphy, called the meeting to order at 9:00AM on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 2017.

**1) Elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.**

Patrick Farmer nominated Timothy Murphy. No other nominations were made. Timothy was elected by voice vote.

The Moderator, hearing no objections, recognized Cindy Weed, State Representative. Cindy gave a short summary of her focus in Montpelier.

**2) Accept the reports of the Town Officers.**

Scott Perry made a motion to accept the reports and was seconded. Jacob Racusin, member of the Hectorville Bridge Committee, made a brief statement regarding the progress of the committee and the future of the project. Hearing no question, the reports were accepted by voice vote.

**3) Shall the town vote to appoint a Road Commissioner as provided in 17 V.S.A. §2651, if not, shall the Town elect a Road Commissioner as provided in 17 V.S.A. §2646(16)?**

Suzanne Wilson made a motion to appoint and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

**4) Shall the Town authorize the elimination of the elected office of Town Auditor, with future audits to be provided by a certified public accountant in accordance with 17 V.S.A. §2651b (by ballot)?**

Wendy Howard made a motion, as written, and was seconded. Charles Hancock, Selectboard Chairman, made a brief statement regarding the logic of eliminating this office. The Town already receives a commercial audit by a certified public accountant and the Selectboard has created an appointed position, Financial Controls Officer, for regular monitoring of finances. Erin Kopacz, Auditor, made a statement in support of elimination. Suzanne Wilson requested that the moderator direct the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot for this article. Hearing objection, the Moderator directed the voters to the ballot box. The article, as written, was approved by written ballot 77 – 9.

**5) Elect the remaining town officers as required by law.**

**a. A Selectman for the remainder of a two year term expiring in 2017 by ballot. (Sarah Silva, elected to fill the remainder of two year term – term expires)**

The Moderator recognized Charles Hancock, Selectboard Chair. Charles gave a brief speech to honor and thank outgoing Selectperson, Scott Perry, for his years of service and contributions to the Town as Mr. Perry did not intend to seek re-election. Scott was presented with the traditional gift, an engraved trunnel, and he made a brief statement thanking the community.

Patrick Farmer nominated Jacob Racusin, Paul Nichols nominated Sarah Silva, and Brendan O’Shea nominated Darren Drevik. Hearing no other nominations, each nominee was given the opportunity to make a statement. Jacob Racusin was elected by a majority vote.

**b. A Selectman for a term of three years by ballot. (Scott Perry – term expires)**

Patrick Farmer nominated Darren Drevik, Hannah Sorenson nominated Abram Barnard, Suzanne Wilson nominated Wendy Howard, and Paul Nichols nominated Sarah Silva. Hearing no other nominations, those who had not already addressed the voters were given the opportunity to make a statement. Wendy Howard declined the nomination. Darren Drevik was elected by a majority vote.

**c. A Lister for a term of three years by ballot. (Parma Jewett – term expires)**

Suzanne Wilson nominated Parma Jewett. Hearing no other nominations, the Moderator, without objection, instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot re-electing Parma Jewett.

- d. An Auditor for a term of three years by ballot. (Stacy St. Onge – term expires)**  
Hearing no objection, this sub-article was passed over due to the passage of Article 4.
- e. A Delinquent Tax Collector for a term of three years (Anita Woodward – term expires)**  
Paul Nichols nominated Anita Woodward. Hearing no other nominations, Anita Woodward was re-elected by voice vote.
- f. A First Constable for a term of one year. (Brent Godin – term expires)**  
Darren Drevik nominated Brent Godin. Hearing no other nominations, Brent Godin was re-elected by voice vote.
- g. An Agent to prosecute and defend suits in which the Town is interested for a term of one year. (Barry Kade – term expires)**  
Alissa Hardy nominated Barry Kade. Hearing no other nominations, Barry Kade was re-elected by voice vote.
- h. One or more Grand Jurors for a term of one year. (Selectboard – term expires)**  
Suzanne Wilson nominated the Selectboard. Hearing no other nominations, the Selectboard was re-elected by voice vote.
- i. A Cemetery Commissioner for the Center Cemetery Association for a five year term. (Earl Lumbra – term expires)**  
Wendy Howard nominated Earl Lumbra. Hearing no other nominations, Earl Lumbra was re-elected by voice vote.
- j. A Cemetery Commissioner for the Village Cemetery Association for a five year term. (Penny Lumbra – term expires)**  
Merle VanGieson nominated Penny Lumbra. Hearing no other nominations, Penny Lumbra was re-elected by voice vote.
- k. A Library Trustee for a term of five years. (Patricia Hathaway – term expires)**  
Wendy Howard nominated Patricia Hathaway. Hearing no other nominations, Patricia Hathaway was re-elected by voice vote.
- l. A Library Trustee for a term of five years (Cheryl Wisell – term expires)**  
Merle VanGeison nominated Cheryl Wisell . Hearing no other nominations, Patricia Hathaway was re-elected by voice vote.
- m. A Fire Commissioner for a term of two years. (Joseph Zartarian – term expires)**  
William Baker Sr. nominated Joseph Zartarian. Hearing no other nominations, Joseph was re-elected by voice vote.

The Moderator recognized Charles Hancock, Selectboard Chair. Charles stated there was an error in the Warning that excluded a third Planning Commission seat. Abram Barnard had been appointed by the Selectboard to fulfill a three-year term, resigned by Charles Hancock, and the position should have been listed for election. The options to correct this failure to elect were to either schedule a special election for the position or to allow Abram to serve another year. Charles requested a vote by show of hands to determine the will of the voters. Without objection, the Moderator proceeded with the remaining elections before addressing this matter.

- n. A Planning Commission member for a term of three years. (Joe Sherman – term expires)**  
Roberta Baker nominated Joe Sherman. Hearing no other nominations, Joe was re-elected by voice vote.
- o. A Planning Commission member for a term of three years. (Roberta Baker – term expires)**  
Suzanne Wilson nominated Roberta Baker. Hearing no other nominations, Roberta was re-elected by voice vote.

Barry Kade made a motion to suspend the rules and take up the question posed by Charles Hancock and was seconded. The motion to suspend passed by a two-thirds voice vote.

Richard Morgan Daybell made a motion to advise the Selectboard to not hold a special election, allowing Abram Barnard to retain his seat on the Planning Commission until next year, and was seconded. Hearing no additional discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

**6) Shall the Town vote the following sums of money to defray expenses in the ensuing year for:**

**a. Fire Department: 2016 - \$28,000; 2017 - same**

Suzanne Wilson made a motion for \$28,000 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

**b. Rescue Department: 2016 - \$29,600; 2017 - same**

Suzanne Wilson made a motion for \$29,600 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

The Moderator recognized Merle VanGieson. Merle made a brief statement of recognition a “Thank you” to the Rescue Department for their service.

**c. Machinery Replacement Fund: 2016 - \$20,000; 2017 - \$10,000**

Mark Brouillette made a motion for \$10,000 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote following discussion of 2016 vehicle purchases and the unlikeliness that we would need to purchase additional machinery in 2017.

**d. Infrastructure Replacement (Bridges): 2016 - \$25,000; 2017 - \$87,000**

Wendy Howard made a motion for \$87,000 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote following discussion of projects to be completed.

**e. Library Operating Expenses & Payroll: 2016 - \$18,917; 2017 - same**

Marijke Dollois made a motion for \$18,917 and was seconded. After discussion, motion passed by voice vote.

The Moderator recognized Manuel Sebastian Araujo. Sebastian made a brief statement offering recognition of the Library Trustees and volunteers for their work and progress.

**f. Building Capital Improvement & Maintenance: 2016 - \$50,000; 2017 - \$25,000**

Marijke Dollois made a motion for \$25,000 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote following discussion of expenses for further pursuit of a new/additional town office space and records storage.

**g. Recreation Department: 2016 - \$20,000; 2017 - same**

Suzanne Wilson made a motion for \$20,000 and was seconded. Eamon O’Shea made a motion to amend to \$22,000 with the additional \$2000 to be earmarked for the Summer Sessions events and was seconded. Motion to amend passed by voice vote following discussion. Motion, as amended, passed by voice vote.

**h. Reappraisal Fund: 2016 - \$4,000; 2017 - \$6,000**

Wendy Howard made a motion for \$6,000 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

**i. Conservation Commission: 2016 - \$750; 2017 - same**

Wendy Howard made a motion for \$750 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

**j. Emergency Management: 2016 - \$0; 2017 - \$1,200**

Scott Perry made a motion for \$1,200 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote following discussion.

**k. Restoration of Records: 2016 - \$0; 2017 - \$2,500**

Marijke Dollois made a motion for \$2,500 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote following discussion.

**l. Police/Constable Operating: 2016 - \$0; 2017 - \$500**

Wendy Howard made a motion for \$500 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote following discussion.

**7) Shall the Town vote for the following sums of money for the Town Officers as requested?**

**a. Town Clerk: 2016 - \$16,000; 2017 - \$16,500**

Suzanne Wilson made a motion for \$16,500 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

**b. Town Treasurer: 2016 - \$14,000; 2017 - \$14,500**

Suzanne Wilson made a motion for \$14,500 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

The Moderator recognized Sharon Perry. Sharon made a statement of recognition and thanks to the current Town Clerk & Treasurer Deanna-Dee Robitaille, as well as her predecessor Renee Patterson, for the level of skill and dedication to continued education to serve the Town to the highest standard possible. Sharon expressed regret that the Town could not pay a salary that would adequately reflect the responsibilities and importance of the positions.

**c. Each Selectboard Member: 2016 - \$1,000 and thanks; 2017 – same**

Suzanne Wilson made a motion for \$1,000 and our thanks and was seconded. Barry Kade made a motion to amend to \$1,000 and many thanks and was seconded. Motion to amend passed by voice vote. Motion, as amended, passed by voice vote.

**d. Listers: 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> year members \$15.00/hr, 2<sup>nd</sup> year members \$18.00/hr; 2017 – same**

Scott Perry made a motion for \$15/hour for first year members and \$18/hour for second year members and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

**e. Auditors: 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> year members \$9.60/hr, 2<sup>nd</sup> year members \$10.60/hr; 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> year members \$10.00/hr, 2<sup>nd</sup> year members \$11.00/hr**

Hearing no objection, this sub-article was passed over due to the passage of Article 4.

**f. Board of Civil Authority: 2016 - \$9.60; 2017 - \$10.00**

Suzanne Wilson made a motion for \$10/hour and was seconded. Deanna-Dee Robitaille made a motion to amend to State of Vermont minimum wage and was seconded. Motion to amend passed by voice vote. Motion, as amended, passed by voice vote.

**g. Board of Abatement: 2016 - \$9.60; 2017 - \$10.00**

Barry Kade made a motion for State of Vermont minimum wage and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

**h. All duly elected or appointed Town Officers the IRS allowance for mileage for travel as part of official duties and reimbursement of expenses related to those duties if approved in advance by the appropriate governing body or duly appointed board?**

Scott Perry made a motion to reimburse all duly elected or appointed Town Officers the IRS allowance for mileage for travel as part of official duties and reimbursement of expenses related to those duties if approved in advance by the appropriate governing body or duly appointed board. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**8) Shall the Town of Montgomery appropriate the following sums of money as requested by the specified agencies? *Budget Committee and Selectboard recommend \$0.00 for 2017, requested amounts included for voter consideration.***

The Moderator recognized Charles Hancock, Selectboard and Budget Committee Chairman. Charles made a brief statement clarifying the amounts listed reflect the requests that were made but also that both the Budget Committee and Selectboard recommend that the voters consider not funding these agencies in 2017 due to the already increased tax rate.

Patrick Farmer made a motion to suspend the rules and approve Article 8, in its entirety, and to fund each agency at the level requested. The motion to suspend the rules passed by two-thirds voice vote.

**a. Age Well (formerly Champlain Valley Agency on Aging): 2016 - \$1,800; 2017 – requested \$1,800**

**b. Franklin County Home Health Agency, Inc.: 2016 - \$2,402; 2017 – requested \$2,522**

**c. Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation: 2016 - \$500; 2017 – requested \$500**

**d. Hazen’s Notch Association: 2016 - \$1,000; 2017 – requested \$1,000**

**e. Mississquoi River Basin Association: 2016 - \$500; 2017 – requested \$500**

**f. Green Up Day Vermont: 2016 - \$100; 2017 – requested \$0**

**g. Green Mountain Transit Authority: 2016 - \$568; 2017 – requested \$568**

**h. Franklin County Humane Society: 2016 - \$0; 2017 – requested \$0**

**i. Montgomery Town Association; 2016 \$0; 2017 – requested \$1,000**

Motion to approve Article 8 in its entirety and to fund each agency at the level requested passed by voice vote following discussion.

**9) Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$460,043 for Contingent Selectboard? 2016 - \$428,548**

Scott Perry made a motion for \$460,043 and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote following discussion.

**10) Shall the Town direct the Selectboard to investigate the consolidation of all Cemetery Commissions into one general Commission with oversight of all town owned cemeteries?**

Patrick Farmer made a motion to have the Selectboard investigate consolidation of all Cemetery Commissions and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote following discussion.

**11) To do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.**

Barry Kade made a motion that the Town make the following resolution: May it be it resolved that the Town of Montgomery urges all of its residents to zealously defend the State's sovereignty and the Constitutions of the State of Vermont and the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Sueann Bennett asked if the Town has heard about a potential wind project within the town and, if anything had been heard, what the details might be. Roberta Baker and Barry Kade, Planning Commissioners, stated that the Commission is currently working on the Town Plan and language that would address future proposed projects.

Colin Wood made a motion to adjourn at 11:41am and was seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

A true record this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna-Dee Robitaille, Town Clerk

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Murphy, Moderator

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Hancock, Selectboard Chair