

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF MONTGOMERY TOWN MEETING – 2025**

The legal voters of the town of Montgomery in the County of Franklin were hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town Hall in said Town to act on the following business to wit. Jacob Racusin called the meeting to order at 9:00am on Tuesday, the 4th day of March 2025.

1. Jacob began with Article 1, to elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Pat Farmer nominated Jacob Racusin, hearing no other nominations, Jacob was elected to Town Moderator.

Jacob made announcements for the benefit of those present as well as voters attending the Town Meeting for the first time. Charlie moved to suspend the rules to allow a non-voting member to address the body, seconded and passed by voice vote, to allow for our Representative Allen “Penny” Demar to speak. Penny addressed the body to give an update and take questions regarding the legislative session in Montpelier. Jacob recognized Merle VanGieson, who made an inquiry about Article 2 in years past relating to “Accepting Reports of Town Officers”, Charlie Hancock stated the board will make a note on this for next year

2. **Elect the remaining Town Officers as required by law:**

- a. **Selectperson- two (2) year term to expire in 2027 by ballot (Emily Kimball, expires).** Emily declined the nomination. Claudia Stauber nominated Charlie Snedcor. Charlie Hancock nominated Daniel Khan. Jeffrey Altrui rescinded acceptance of his nomination. Candidates were each given an opportunity to speak. Jacob then directed the voters to assemble in a line to conduct the vote by ballot. Jacob called voting to close. Ballots were counted. Daniel Khan received 104 votes & Charlie Snedcor received 53 votes. Daniel Khan was elected to a two-year term by ballot.
- b. **Selectperson- three (3) year term to expire in 2028 by ballot (Charlie Hancock, expires).** Marijke Dollois nominated Charlie Hancock. Merle Van Gieson nominated Cliff Loos. Charlie Snedcor was nominated. Candidates were afforded time to speak. Jacob directed voters to assemble and vote by ballot. Jacob called voting to a close and ballots were counted. Charlie Hancock received 115 votes, Cliff Loos received 17 votes, and Charlie Snedcor received 31 votes. Charlie Hancock was elected to a three-year term by ballot.
- c. **Lister- three (3) year term to expire in 2028 by ballot (Kenny Miller, appointed).** Merle VanGieson nominated Kenny Miller. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, Jacob directed the Selectboard Chair to cast one ballot to elect Kenny Miller to serve a three-year term.
- d. **Collector of Delinquent Taxes- remainder three (3) year term to expire in 2026 (Kat Barnard, appointed).** Sue Wilson nominated Katherine Barnard. Hearing no other nominations Katherine Barnard was elected by unanimous voice vote to serve the remainder three-year term to expire in 2026.
- e. **First Constable- two (2) year term to expire in 2027 (Brent Godin, expires).** Patrick Farmer nominated Brent Godin. Hearing no other nominations, Brent Godin was elected by unanimous voice vote to serve a two-year term.

- f. **Village Cemetery Commissioner- five (5) year term to expire 2030 (JoAnne Lanphear, expires).** Sue Wilson nominated JoAnne Lanphear. Hearing no other nominations JoAnne Lanphear was elected by a unanimous voice vote to serve a five-year term.
 - g. **Village Cemetery Commissioner- remainder four (4) year term expiring in 2028 (Vacant).** Brent Godin nominated Tim Murphy. Lois Lumbra nominated Emily Altrui, her nomination was removed as she is not a citizen of the United States and is therefore not eligible to be on the voter checklist. Hearing no other nominations Tim Murphy was elected to serve the remainder four-year term to expire in 2028 by unanimous voice vote.
 - h. **Center Cemetery Commissioner- five (5) year term to expire in 2030 (Jade Dixson-Boles, expires).** Carol Farmer nominated Jade Dixson-Boles. Allan Kalsmith nominated Annie Purrier. Jade Dixson-Boles was elected by two-thirds majority voice vote to serve a five-year term.
 - i. **Library Trustee- three (3) year term to expire in 2028 (Jane Presler, expires).** Marlene Hambleton nominated Christopher Dixson-Boles. Hearing no other nominations, Christopher Dixson-Boles was elected by a unanimous voice vote to serve a three-year term.
 - j. **Library Trustee- three (3) year term to expire in 2028 (Cheryl Wisell, expires).** Daniel Khan nominated Deanna Robitaille. Hearing no other nominations, Deanna Robitaille was elected by a unanimous voice vote to serve a three-year term.
 - k. **Library Trustee- three (3) year term to expire in 2028 (Marijke Dollois, expires).** Marijke Dollois nominated Shana Schaberg. Hearing no other nominations, Shana Schaberg was elected by a unanimous voice vote to serve a three-year term.
 - l. **Fire Commissioner- two (2) year term to expire in 2027 (Joseph Zartarian, expires).** Joseph Zartarian was nominated, hearing no other nominations, Joseph Zartarian was elected by a unanimous voice vote to serve a two-year term.
 - m. **Planning Commission- three (3) year term to expire in 2028 (Alissa Hardy, expires).** Teresa Almy nominated Claudia Stauber. Carol Farmer nominated Alissa Hardy. Alissa Hardy was elected to a three-year term by two-thirds majority voice vote.
 - n. **Planning Commission- three (3) year term to expire in 2028 (Peter Locher, expires).** Brent Godin nominated Peter Locher. Charlie Hancock nominated Diane Sherman. Candidates were afforded a moment to speak. An initial voice vote was conducted, and a division was called for ballot vote by seven voters. Jacob directed voters to assemble and vote by ballot. Jacob called voting to a close and ballots were counted. Peter Locher received 57 votes and Diane Sherman received 103 votes. Diane Sherman was elected by ballot to serve a three-year term.
3. **Shall the voters approve a one-time term adjustment for Library Trustee Seats 7 & 8 correcting the current term expiration from 2025 to 2026 to ensure the Trustee term lengths are staggered per 22 V.S.A. § 143b?** Sue Wilson motioned to approve and was seconded. Marijke explained the need to make corrections to the term seats due to the original terms being decreased several years ago from five to three-year terms which resulted

in the expiration becoming out of sync. This correction puts the terms back in a staggered order. This article was passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. **Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer, pursuant to 32 VSA 4791, to collect Current Taxes?** Mark motioned to approve the article and was seconded; this was approved by a unanimous voice vote.
5. **Shall the town vote to approve a half cent increase in the tax rate to be allotted to the Conservation Reserve Fund (established by the voters in 2018) in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804.** Patrick Famer motioned to approve and was seconded. Discussion took place, Charlie explained what the established reserve fund is and how it is funded through a request put before the voters each year asking to raise the tax rate by a half-cent allotment for this specific reserve which supports Land Conservation efforts in Town. This allows the electorate to decide each year whether to continue funding this reserve. Mark Brouillette called the question. The article was passed by two-thirds voice vote.
6. **Shall the voters accept a fiscal year 2026 Budget of expenditures not to exceed \$1,441,377.91 of which an estimated \$1,008,735.91 shall be raised by taxes and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?** Mark motioned to approve and was seconded. Discussion ensued. Question was raised by Merle regarding the Public Works Building remaining bond amount and whether the Town could re-allocate surplus funds from the Recreation, Library, and Fire Department budgets to pay off that balance; Merle offered an amendment to the motion to transfer \$40,000 from the Library and Fire Dept budget(s) and \$45,000 from the Recreation budget to the General Fund to pay the \$125,000 owed to the Public Works Building Bond. Amendment was seconded; Barry Kade offered a friendly amendment to add “if consistent with the terms of the existing bond” discussion on the topic took place as to whether the terms of the Bond can be accelerated. Question on the amendment was called. Amendment failed by voice vote. Mark motioned to approve article six as written and was seconded. Article six was passed by unanimous voice vote.
7. **Shall the voters of Montgomery authorize the suspension of section 3 of the Town of Montgomery Charter from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2028, pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2645a, and instead authorize the assessment of local option taxes as follows: one percent meals and alcoholic beverages and one percent rooms tax, pursuant and according to 24 V.S.A. §138, in lieu of section 3 of the Town of Montgomery charter, beginning April 1, 2025?** Teresa Almy motioned to pass-over article seven. Motioning to pass over an article requires no second and removes the ability to debate or amend and must be passed by a two-thirds majority. The question was called to pass-over and Brent Godin called for division by ballot, seven hands showed in support of division. Jacob directed the body to assemble to vote by ballot. Jacob called voting to a close and ballots were counted. The motion to Pass-Over failed by ballot vote 66-Yes to 97-No. The article was brought forth as written, so moved by Mark Brouillette, and discussion took place. Peter Larkin called the question to cease debate and proceed to a vote to end discussion. Voice vote was taken. There was a call for division by ballot by Chris Pattullo. Jacob directed voters to cast their ballot on the motion of whether to cease debate on article seven. Jacob called voting to a close and ballots were counted. Motion to cease debate passed by ballot vote of 102-Yes and 38-No which passed the two-thirds requirement. Motion to approve article by voice vote, division was called by Teresa Almy to vote the article by ballot, seven hands were counted in support. Voting took place and ballots were counted. Article seven was approved as written by ballot vote of 89-Yes to 45-No.
8. **Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Wastewater Reserve Fund to be used for payment of financial obligations related to the Municipal Wastewater System in Montgomery Center, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804?** Mark Brouillette made a motion to approve and was seconded. Discussion took place. Joe Dematos offered an amendment, to change language to “solely from monies raised by the Local Options

Tax"; debate took place over the amendment and whether other funding sources would be hindered from being added to this reserve fund if other sources or fundraising efforts in the future were made. Mark Brouillette called the question on the amendment; two-thirds majority voice vote passed to cease debate and consider the article amendment. The amendment failed by two-thirds majority voice vote. Chris Pattullo called the question to vote on article eight and proceed, debate ceased by majority voice vote. Article eight was approved as written by two-thirds majority voice vote.

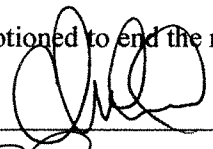
9. **Shall the Town appropriate the revenue generated from all local option taxes to fund the Wastewater Reserve Fund for the purpose of repaying debt obligations related to the Municipal Wastewater System in Montgomery Center?** Pat Farmer motioned to approve as written and was seconded. Discussion took place. Mark called the question, article nine was passed as written by two-thirds majority voice vote.

10. **Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to \$300,000 for a term of five years to purchase a new 2026 or 2027 Western Star tandem truck with snowplow, wing, and sander; to replace the 2017 International Truck.** Carol Farmer motioned to approve and was seconded. Mark Brouillette explained the timing of ordering new trucks now takes several years to fulfill versus a few months so he is working proactively to begin the steps of updating our fleet in advance of when our older trucks will come due for replacement. Truck payments on a new purchase will not begin until the purchase occurs in the next year or two. The plans for the 2017 truck, once replaced, will be to sell it. The newer truck will also have longer warranty dates of 7 years, which will help with the future upgrade processes. Rob Barnard called the question, article ten passed as written by two-thirds majority voice vote.

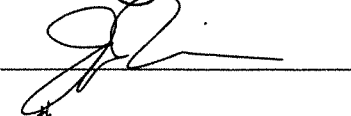
11. **To do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.** Cliff Loos asked the board what will happen if the Local Option Tax revenue falls short of the bond/operating costs in any given year; Charlie stated the board would have to assess how to cover that scenario which includes potentially raising user fees, or looking at property tax but the goal has been to not opt to cover any of the bond costs via property tax as that has already been voted down by the electorate. Charlie noted that again the numbers are an estimate, final numbers will not be in until they receive the bids back, but using the conservative numbers they have they are confident that the rooms/meals LOT would be sufficient to meet those needs, but as the project moves forward and they have more concrete numbers they will continue to assess the viability of those changes. Mark Brouillette thanked everyone for attending the town meeting and acknowledged our hard-working road crew. Motion was made by Merle to request the selectboard transfer monies from the Library, Fire, and Recreation budgets to pay the outstanding Public Works Building Bond. There was not a second given, the motion was not considered. Melissa Haberman acknowledged that today is the day our State of Vermont was born on March 4th, 1791.

Scott Perry motioned to end the meeting and was seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 1:19pm.

Selectboard Chair



Moderator



Dated this 10th day of March 2025

Attest: Elizabeth Reighley, Municipal Clerk

