

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY TOWN MEETING – 2026
Annual Meeting Minutes

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 on Tuesday, the 3rd day of March 2026 AD, at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business to wit. Jacob Racusin called the meeting to order at 9:00am

1. **Elect a Moderator for the ensuing year (Jacob Racusin, expires).** Charlie Fichman nominated Jacob Racusin, hearing no other nominations, Jacob was elected to Town Moderator by unanimous voice vote. Jacob briefly outlined meeting procedures following Robert's Rules of Order for the benefit of those in attendance. Charlie motioned to suspend the rules to allow for State Representative Allen "Penny" Demar to address the body and be allowed to speak regarding the legislative updates, seconded by Cliff Loos, motion passed by voice vote. Discussion took place. Jacob directed to close the discussion after fifteen minutes citing the need to continue with the agenda items warned and thanked Penny for speaking.

2. **Elect the remaining Town Officers as required by law:**
 - a. **Selectperson- two (2) year term to expire in 2028 by ballot (Leanne Barnard, expires).** Cindy Gilchrist nominated Christopher Dixson-Boles. Rob Barnard nominated Dennis Himes. Candidates were each given an opportunity to address the body. Jacob then directed the voters to assemble in line to conduct the ballot vote. After closing the voting the Clerk and Justices of the Peace counted the ballots cast. Christopher Dixson-Boles received 62 votes, Dennis Himes received 50 votes, and 4 ballots were defective. Christopher Dixson-Boles was elected to the two-year term.

 - b. **Selectperson- three (3) year term to expire in 2029 by ballot (Suzanne Dollois, expires).** Marijke Dollois nominated Dennis Himes. Everett McGinley nominated Suzanne, she declined the nomination. Alissa Hardy nominated Teresa Almy. Jacob directed the voters to assemble in line to conduct the ballot vote. After the close of voting for the two nominees all ballots were counted by the Clerk and Justices of the Peace. Dennis Himes received 92 votes, Teresa Almy received 23, 1 blank ballot. Dennis Himes was elected to the three-year term.

 - c. **Lister- three (3) year term to expire in 2029 by ballot (vacant).** Sarah Cushing nominated Marlene Hambleton. Hearing no other nominations Jacob directed the Selectboard chair to cast a single ballot to elect the candidate, motion passed by unanimous voice vote, and Marlene Hambleton was elected to the three-year term.

 - d. **Collector of Delinquent Taxes- (3) year term to expire in 2029 (Kat Barnard, expires).** Tosca Smith nominated Katherine Barnard. Hearing no other nominations, Katherine was re-elected to the three-year term by unanimous voice vote.

- e. **Village Cemetery Commissioner- five (5) year term to expire 2031 (Lois Lumbra, expires).** Marijke Dollois nominated Lois Lumbra. Hearing no other nominations, Lois Lumbra was elected by unanimous voice vote to serve the five-year term.
 - f. **Center Cemetery Commissioner- five (5) year term to expire in 2031 (Charlie Purrier, expires).** Charlie Hancock nominated Charlie Purrier. Hearing no other nominations, Charlie Purrier was elected by unanimous voice vote to serve the five-year term.
 - g. **Library Trustee- three (3) year term to expire in 2029 (Patty Hathaway, expires).** Mark Brouillette nominated Patty Hathaway, hearing no other nominations, Patty Hathaway was elected to serve the three-year term by unanimous voice vote.
 - h. **Library Trustee- three (3) year term to expire in 2029 (Christina Suarez-Pratt, expires).** Marijke Dollois nominated Cindy Gilchrist. Christina Suarez-Pratt was nominated but declined. No other nominations were presented; Cindy Gilchrist was elected to serve the three-year term by unanimous voice vote.
 - i. **Library Trustee- three (3) year term to expire in 2029 (Daniel Khan, expires).** Caroline Loos nominated Daniel Khan, no other nominations were heard, Daniel Khan was elected to serve the three-year term by unanimous voice vote.
 - j. **Fire Commissioner- two (2) year term to expire in 2028 (Doug Kopacz, expires).** Mark Brouillette nominated Doug Kopacz, hearing no other nominations, Doug Kopacz was elected to serve the two-year term by unanimous voice vote.
 - k. **Planning Commission- three (3) year term to expire in 2029 (George 'Joe' Sherman, expires).** Joe declined nomination, Diane Sherman nominated Amy Sekol, Kim Morrill nominated Peter Locher, Peter declined nomination. Hearing no other nominations Amy Sekol was elected to serve the three-year term by unanimous voice vote.
3. **Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer, pursuant to 32 VSA 4791, to collect Current Taxes?** Mark Brouillette made the motion to accept the article, seconded by Sarah Cushing. Article passed by unanimous voice vote.
 4. **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.** Suzanne Dollois made the motion to accept the article, seconded by Cindy Gilchrist, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
 5. **Shall the voters accept a fiscal year 2027 Budget of expenditures not to exceed \$1,515,240 of which an estimated \$1,072,946 shall be raised by taxes and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?** Mark Brouillette made the motion to accept the article, seconded by Gabrielle Lumbra, article passed by unanimous voice vote.
 6. **Shall the town of Montgomery Vermont vote to discontinue the use of floor voting by voice and show hands for all binding articles, the annual budget, and the election of officers, instead conduct such votes by Australian ballot (paper ballot)? 17 V.S.A. § 2680 (added by petition).** Josh Howard so moved, seconded by Karie Quintin. Josh Howard offered a friendly amendment to the article, to strike

the language “annual budget” from the article, seconded by Joe DeMatos. Motion to amend passed by voice vote. Further discussion took place, Marijke Dollois read a statement from Pat Farmer. Christina Suarez-Pratt offered another amendment to also remove the language “all binding articles” ; this was seconded by Will Moses. Kim Morrill called the question, Jacob read again the amended proposed article. Jacob clarified for the body that the next vote was to cease debate, motion to cease debate carried by voice vote. Division was called for hand count. Motion to pass the amendment to strike “all binding articles” was passed by hand count 61 yes to 39 no. The amended article was read by Jacob “*Shall the town of Montgomery Vermont vote to discontinue the use of floor voting by voice and show hands for the election of officers, instead conduct such votes by Australian ballot (paper ballot)? 17 V.S.A. § 2680 (added by petition)*”. Discussion of the current motion took place. Mark Brouillette called the question after debate, before ceasing debate, clarification on petition measures to include a name on a ballot was given. Motion to cease debate was conducted by voice vote, division by hand was requested. Motion to cease debate was passed by hand count 69 yes and 26 no. Motion to pass the amended article was first conducted by voice vote, division was called, Jacob read the amended article once more to ensure clarity while voting. In favor of passing article six as amended 32 yes and 70 no. Article six as amended failed by hand count.

7. **To do any other business proper to be done at said meeting:**

(Advisory - added by petition) Whereas: While holding the office of president of the United States, Donald J Trump has brought disgrace to that office by unauthorized acts of war; piracy on the high seas; sent person to be imprisoned and tortured in a country to which they have no affiliation; engaged in censorship and bullying of individuals, corporations, educational institutions and not for profit corporations; used his office for personal aggrandizement of wealth and power; refused to perform ministerial acts of spending money allocated by the Congress; and more; and whereas many of those acts individually, and certainly all of them collectively, constitute “High Crimes and Misdemeanors”, as contemplated by the Impeachment clause of the United States Constitution; Therefore, the Voters of the Town of Montgomery, Vermont assembled at Town Meeting on March 3rd, 2026, request that Becca Balint, our Congressional Representative, joins with other Congresspersons to vote Articles of Impeachment against President Donald J Trump; and that Senators Bernie Sanders and Peter Welch vote for Impeachment if the matter comes before the Senate and the evidence brought forward justifies same. Nothing herein is meant to imply that previous administrations have not engaged in similar actions, but to much less grievous extent. Barry Kade moved the motion, seconded by Christina Suarez-Pratt Cliff Loos called to pass over article 7, Jacob stated the move to pass over cannot be accepted until debate has started, but noted that he could move to object to consideration. Cliff Loos then requested a point of order citing the need to pass over article seven due to the nature of the article not being pertinent to Town business and exceeds the Towns jurisdiction and therefore should not be considered by the body. Jacob noted it was included in the warning by petition and decision of the Selectboard to remain in the Warning, Jacob stated his decision would be to not remove the authority of the board and sustain consideration of the article; Jacob explained that the body can however appeal the decision of the Moderator, Cliff Loos clarified his intent to then appeal the decision of the Moderator seconded by Josh Howard. Discussion took place on the appeal, Jacob clarified that the next vote is to consider the motion in favor or opposition of appealing the Moderator’s decision to continue considering Article 7. Cindy Gilchrist called the question, voting for ceasing debate on the appeal passed by unanimous voice vote. Voting on the appeal of the moderator’s decision took place first by voice vote, division by hand was called. Those in favor of the appeal 27 those against the appeal were 57 by hand vote, the appeal was rejected. The moderator’s decision was upheld, and the body took up article 7 for discussion. The question was then called to postpone the article indefinitely by Cliff Loos and was seconded by Joe DeMatos. Tim Murphy called the question, the body passed the voice vote to cease debate and go straight to voting on whether to pass over the

article indefinitely. Voice vote proceeded and was inconclusive, division by hand was called. Those in favor of passing over Article 7 were 28, those opposed 52, the motion failed, thereby continuing the debate of article 7. Discussion ensued. The question was called for a third time to cease debate by Charlie Hancock, seconded by Mark Brouillette; this passed by majority voice vote. Jacob read the article once more for the benefit of those in attendance and to keep to procedural clarity. The article was voted first by voice, division was called for hand count, those in favor of article 7 were 55, those opposed 18, the non-binding advisory article was passed by hand count.

Jacob made an announcement reminding folks that the polls for the School District Election would remain open until 7pm for voters to cast their ballots on the school budget and articles. Mark Brouillette thanked the selectboard and road crew members, as well as town volunteers for helping in the community. Charlie clarified information is available about NEK communication district regarding their movement into Montgomery as it relates to fiber/broadband expansion down Route 242.

Mark Brouillette made a motion to end the meeting, seconded by Cliff Loos, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08pm.

Selectboard Chair _____

Moderator _____

Dated this 13th day of March 2026

Attest: Elizabeth Reighley, Municipal Clerk _____

