

**2018 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
HELD MARCH 5TH 2018**

The Annual Town & Town School Meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Moderator Richard Nelson on March 5, 2018. The meeting was held at the Derby Elementary School, Elm Street, Derby, Vermont. There was a salute to the American Flag. Moderator Richard Nelson asked that all comments be directed to the Moderator. Brian Smith announced that John Joly a long time friend had passed away. John worked for the Town of Derby for several years maintaining the Town's landscaping, mowing and even cleaning our Town Offices. John touched a lot of lives in the Town of Derby and will sadly be missed. A celebration of his life will be celebrated at the end of May.

A moment of silence was given for citizens no longer with us and for those who are serving and protecting us and their families and friends. Moderator Nelson introduced Senator, John Rodgers, Legislators Brian Smith and Lynn Batchelor, States Attorney Jennifer Barrett, and Sheriff Kirk Martin. Moderator Nelson asked that anyone wishing to speak, approach the microphone and state your name. Direct the questions to the Moderator and we will go from there. He then explained that articles would be moved in the affirmative and he also mentioned where voting is held on March 6, 2018 at Derby Municipal Building from 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at which time Article 1 thru 3 would be voted on.

Article 1. To elect by the Australian Ballot System the following town and town school district officers for **one year**:

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| (1) Town Agent | (1) Town & School Moderator |
| (1) Delinquent Tax Collector | (1) First Constable |
| (1) Second Constable | (1) Town School Board Director |
| (1) Town Auditor | (1) Town Grand Juror |

To elect by the Australian Ballot System the following town and town school district officers for **two years**:

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| (1) Select Board Member | (1) Town School Board Director |
| (1) Town Auditor | |

To elect by the Australian Ballot System the following town and town school district officers for **three years**:

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| (1) Lister | (1) Town School Board Director |
| (1) Select Board Member | (1) Union School Board Member |
| (1) Town Auditor | |

To elect by the Australian Ballot System the following town and town school district officers for **five years**:

- (1) Cemetery Commissioner

Article 2. Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of **\$760,519.00**?

Article 3. Shall the voters of the Town of Derby School District approve the School Board to expend **\$5,384,438.00**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of **\$12,502.00** per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.13% greater than spending for the current year.

VOTING: The polls for voting on the above said **ARTICLES 1, 2, and 3** will open at **8:00 A.M. and will close at 7:00 P.M. on TUESDAY, MARCH 6th, 2018 IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE DERBY MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 124 MAIN STREET, DERBY CENTER.** The polls shall be under the supervision of the Town of Derby Board of Civil Authority.

Article 4. To hear and dispose of the reports of the Town of Derby School Director. Lori Before asked why the School is asking for a \$95,000 Contingency Fund this year when they have never asked for one in the past and how come they don't use the 2016-2017 fund balance. Bryan Davis stated that the fund balance is already spoken for and will be discussed in Article 6. Lori also wanted to know why there was a line item in the budget for Head Lice under the Health Department. Bryan stated that the board will take it under advisement that they have a tight budget and welcome any question that the voters have. Bryan also mentioned that Craig Ellam has retired and would like to thank him for over 14 years with the school. Marguerite Cross also retired as secretary of the Principal. The Board would like to recognize her as well for over 30 years with the school. No other questions were asked. The moderator said that it's important to ask questions, it's the Town's meeting and we need to take care of the business of the Town.

- Article 5.** Frank Davis made a motion for the Town of Derby School District to authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money in the anticipation of revenues for the purpose of paying current expenses. Louise Gosselin seconded. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 6.** Bryan Davis made a motion to authorize the Board of School Directors to place **\$203,471.34** of the 2016-17 fund balance into the building and grounds reserve fund to be used over several years; Frank Davis seconded. Questions – Lori Before said that only \$100,000 was moved over to the reserve fund last year and feels that it is irresponsible to move over \$200,000 into the reserve account, she would like to amend that motion to only \$100,000 to the fund balance account to cover the contingency fund that is needed. There was no second to the amendment – motion dies. Frank Davis - my question is to the Board - Is it correct that the reserve fund can only be use on improvements? Bryan Davis said that is correct. Frank then stated that if we already have money in the account then we won't have to get a loan for the funds and can save money instead of paying interest for a new loan. Richard Nelson then mentioned the possible things the School could use the funds for like a new roof, windows, heating systems, computer upgrades, etc. or they could send the money to the State of VT. Bryan stated that this year most of the fund balance will be used to replace the windows in the school. The school is kept in great condition and they are very proud of the way it looks. Karen Jenne asked how much is in the account presently Bryan said that there is a Bus Fund which will pay for the leases next year, \$74,000 in the Technology fund, and there is \$35,000 in the Building Fund but those funds can only be used on those individual things unless it is voted on. Brian Smith thanked the School board for the time and effort. We are lucky to have such a good board. Richard Nelson would like the rank of the schools, of the cost per pupil in the town report. We educate our kids as well as anywhere in the state with less money. We need to keep looking for more ways to keep our costs and spending down. Bryan then explained the reserve funds and how it is to be used over several years as needed and doesn't have to be spend in the one year. The cost of repairs on the roof over the last 2 years was for re-flashing and repairs not a new roof. No further questions. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 7.** To hear and dispose of the reports of the Town of Derby Select Board. Lori Before was concerned that the board didn't put in the synopsis about the discussion that they had about the accuracy of the Town Tax Maps and how they don't line up with the property tax assessment cards at a previous select board meeting. Grant explained that Bob Kelley does the minutes for the meetings and that there was no action taken. No further discussion.
- Article 8.** Allen Yale made a motion for the Town of Derby to authorize and empower the Select Board to hire money from time to time for the purpose of paying the current expenses and appropriations of the town for the ensuring year. Motion was seconded by Frank Davis. Lori Before wanted to know the difference between hiring money and borrowing money. Richard explained that it was just a term that is used. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 9.** Brian Smith made a motion for the Town of Derby to authorize the Select Board to purchase other land or real estate not to exceed a total purchase price of **\$20,000.00** Louise Gosselin seconded the motion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 10.** Lori Before made a motion for the Town of Derby to vote to have the taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before **Monday, October 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.** Lynn Batchelor seconded. No discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 11.** Frank Davis made a motion for the Town of Derby to vote the sum of **\$200,000.00** for the rebuilding of roads in the Town of Derby, said monies to be raised by taxes. Harvey McDonald seconded, any discussion, Scott Warthin wanted a quick rundown on what the plans were for the \$200,000.00. W. Perry Hunt explained the Town has 3900 feet on North Derby Rd to do and they also have 5-6 little jobs that need to be done. With the water quality act in effect it will be very costly for the town. New water run-off regulations that have to be maintained and kept up throughout the town. Frank Davis asked who was paying for the new bridge on I91 that will be built. Grant said that it's a separate contract and it will be paid for by the Federal Govt, Grant spoke to Jackie from VTTrans and she explained how the bypass will be build. Allen Yale questioned the cost of maintaining roads due to the damage from the rain. Perry explained. Some State funding will help with the cost of the culverts that will be replaced. No further questions. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 12.** Lori Before made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$3,300.00** to the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging for providing services to senior citizens. Louise Gosselin seconded. No discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.
- Article 13.** Gigi Gobeil-Judd made a motion for the Town of Derby to appropriate the sum of **\$2,500.00** to Rural Community Transportation, Inc. for providing transportation to the elderly and disabled residents of the Town. Lori Before seconded. No discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

- Article 14 – 23.** Dave Labelle made a motion to approve all appropriations **Article 14 –Article 23** as presented
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| Article 14 | \$8,500.00 to Haskell Free Library |
| Article 15 | \$30,000.00 to Dailey Memorial Library |
| Article 16 | \$2,000.00 to Orleans County Citizen Advocacy |
| Article 17 | \$15,000.00 to Town of Derby/ Salem Lakes Association |
| Article 18 | \$10,000.00 the removal of Eurasian Milfoil Lake Derby (Derby Pond) |
| Article 19 | \$2,000.00 to Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter |
| Article 20 | \$13,600.00 to Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice Inc. |
| Article 21 | \$4,852.00 to Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc. |
| Article 22 | \$3,100.00 to Umbrella, Inc. |
| Article 23 | \$3,050.00 to Cornucopia |

Brian Smith Seconded the motion. Any discussions, Andy Major explained the process taken with the Milfoil situation and how it will be resolved. The State will share the cost of the milfoil project with the town. Peter Alexander expressed his concerns on merging all appropriations together and not being able to voice your opinion on separate articles. Paul Prue agrees with Peter Alexander. Frank said that it does not prevent people from asking question on any of the above articles. At any time if someone wants to discuss any of the appropriations they are welcomed to do so. No further discussion. Motion to approve all appropriations **Article 14 –Article 23** as presented all in favor
Vote on motion: “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 24. Gigi Gobeil-Judd made a motion for the Town of Derby to authorize **\$43,130.00** for the care and upkeep of the Cemeteries in the Town of Derby, of which **\$13,545.55** shall come from Cemetery revenues and **\$29,584.45** shall be raised by taxes. Beula-Jean Shattuck seconded. Lori Before expressed her concerns with the Darling Hill Cemetery not being kept up the way it should be, fence needs to be repaired and some of the stones are broken also the grass is only mowed once a year. She thinks that the town should increase the amount. Lori made an amendment to increase that amount to \$45,000.00 Karen Jenne seconded. Both Lori and Karen with drew the amendments and Albert Stringer amended that the budget should remain at \$43,130.00 and just earmark \$2000.00 from the budget set for the Darling Hill Cemetery. Tom Cyr thinks the crew just needs to be reminded that they need to work on all the Cemeteries. Frank Davis suggests that we should not micromanage the Cemetery budget and budget more funds next year for the maintenance of Darling Hill Cemetery. Peter Alexander agrees with Frank to leave the Cemetery budget as is. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 25. Dave Labelle made a motion for the voters of the Town of Derby to provide notice of annual town report availability to residents by publishing notice in the newspaper and on the town website at least 10 days before the annual meeting along with designated pick up locations for said report in lieu of mailing. Frank Davis seconded. Christine Cotnoir asked why we no longer mail the town report and where the pick-up spots are. Faye Morin gave quick rundown of the places the town reports are provided and gave the savings by not mailing the report and ordering fewer reports. Frank asked if we could put a note in with the tax bills on where they can be picked up. Ruth Duckless mentioned that maybe sending out a post card when they are ready to pick up. In the past the town had 6 boxes returned when they were mailed out with incorrect addresses. There is a huge savings by not mailing them out. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 26. Bill Gardyne made a motion to authorize the elimination of the office of Town Auditors, with future audits to be provided by a public accountant licensed in the State in accordance with 17 V.S.A§2651b(a). Joe Profera seconded. Mrs. Moseley asked if this was necessary. Lori Before asked if we would get a report from the auditor with the results. Frank Davis stated that all town records are public information you can go into the office sit at the table look through the auditor’s reports at your own convenience. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 27. Frank Davis moved to waive property taxes for the land and buildings of the Derby Fish and Game Club for a period of 10 years from 2018 – 2028. Perry Hunt seconded. Lori Before wanted to know if the Town owned the land or property. Richard Nelson explained that the town does not own the property the Club owns the property and it is a not for profit organization. It’s a safe place for the community to go learn how to use a riffle, take the hunters safety course, archery and a fishing derby for kids and seniors at the pond. Jessica Judd stated that there is a membership of \$10 per adult and a \$1 child fee to use the club for the purpose of paying the insurance but they do not get paid. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Article 28. Grant Spates made a motion to approve a Town Budget of \$ 2,897,567.58 which includes \$ 327,486.45 of previously voted appropriations. Beula-Jean Shattuck seconded. No further discussion. **Vote on motion:** “Ayes” have it; motion passed.

Allen Yale asked how the town handles the Auditors position on the ballot if there are write-ins. Faye stated that they will have a job for 45 days then it ends.

Bill Gardyne moved to adjourn the meeting. All in favor!
Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Dated at Derby, Vermont this March 6, 2018

BRYAN DAVIS
GIGI GOBEIL-JUDD
EMILY MICKNAK
ABIGAIL PROVOST
NIKOLE BRAINARD
(School Directors)

W. PERRY HUNT
JOSHUA PROVOST
BEULA-JEAN SHATTUCK
BRIAN SMITH
GRANT SPATES
(Select Board)

Attest: FAYE C. MORIN
Town Clerk