

**VILLAGE OF DERBY LINE, VT  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES 2020**

**Agreeable to the foregoing Warning, the legal voters of the Village of Derby Line met at the Derby Line Fire Department on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 6:30 pm, to transact the following:**

Present were Trustees Richard Creaser and Keith Beadle, Moderator Frank Davis, Clerk/Treasurer Laurie Moss, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Madeleine Roy, 17 residents and 3 non-residents.

ARTICLE 1: TO OPEN MEETING. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Moderator Frank Davis, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then explained that any non-residents wanting to speak would have to received permission from the voters.

ARTICLE 2: TO ELECT A MODERATOR. Frank asked Trustee Richard Creaser to conduct this part of the elections. Nancy Olney nominated Frank Davis for the position of Moderator. Seconded by Melody Ricard. Richard instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Frank Davis as Moderator.

ARTICLE 3: TO APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING. Frank explained that the previously scheduled annual meeting for April 7, 2020 was postponed because of the coronavirus and the need to not gather in large groups at that time. That meeting was postponed to August 18, 2020, although an abbreviated meeting was held on April 7, 2020 to satisfy statutes. Because the minutes for that abbreviated meeting had not been printed in the annual report, Frank read them for the benefit of those present.

A motion was made by Diane Beadle to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019 annual meeting. Richard Creaser seconded. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Keith Beadle to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2020 meeting. Diane Beadle seconded. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 4: TO HEAR AND DISPOSE OF THE REPORTS OF THE VILLAGE OFFICERS. Richard Creaser indicated to all that the reports can be found in the annual report, and asked for any questions from those in attendance. There were none.

ARTICLE 5: TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS.

*One Trustee for a Two-Year Term:* Before electing this officer, Frank pointed out an error that this should have shown for a "one-year term". Richard Creaser nominated Sarah Webster. Scott Webster seconded. Frank Davis moved that nominations cease and asked the Clerk to cast one ballot for Sarah Webster.

*One Trustee for a Three-Year Term:* Richard Creaser nominated Keith Beadle. Seconded by Charles Gross. Frank moved that nominations cease and instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Keith Beadle.

*One Water Commissioner for a One-Year Term:* Keith Beadle nominated Karen Jenne. Seconded by Diane Beadle. Frank moved that nominations cease and instructed the Clerk to cast one ballot for Karen Jenne.

*One Auditor for a Three-Year Term:* Keith Beadle nominated Rachel Ducharme. However, Rachel did not accept the nomination. No other nominations were voiced. Frank informed all that this position remains open for the Trustees to appoint someone at a future meeting.

ARTICLE 6: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL VOTE TO COLLECT TAXES THROUGH THE TREASURER AS PROVIDED IN TITLE 32, V.S.A. SECTIONS 4791, 4792 AND 4793. Richard Creaser made a motion for the village to collect taxes according to the state statute. Seconded by Burton Jacobs, Jr. Karen Jenne moved for an amendment to this motion to reduce the amount of penalty imposed on late tax payers from 8% to 5% for the first three (3) months after the due date and then revert back to 8% after those first three (3) months for any unpaid balance. Seconded by Andre Ricard. During discussion, Treasurer Laurie Moss pointed out that this year there are only \$778.84 of unpaid taxes as shown in the annual report and that, in her opinion, this is too small an amount to consider making a change in penalty percentage. There are only about twenty (20) taxpayers involved and they are most often the same ones year to year. There are

now only six (6) accounts past due. Keith Beadle asked Laurie how much she had collected in the last year from penalties. Laurie referred to Page 11 of the annual report that shows \$591.92 as Collected Delinquent Fees.

Frank called for a vote on this amendment. The amendment did not pass. He then called for a vote on the original article. All in favor except one. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 7: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL VOTE TO COLLECT WATER AND SEWER PAYMENTS THROUGH THE TREASURER AS PROVIDED IN TITLE 32, V.S.A. SECTIONS 5136, 1674 AND V.S.A. 24 SECTION 5151. Richard Creaser made a motion to collect water and sewer payments as per State statutes. Andre Ricard seconded. Karen Jenne proposed the same amendment to this article as discussed in Article 6 to reduce penalties from 8% to 5% for the first three (3) months. Seconded by Nancy Olney. Laurie indicated that there is now only a little over \$15,500 of uncollected water and sewer payments that is over 121 days. The amendment did not pass. The article, as originally stated in the warning was then voted on. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 8: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE TRUSTEES TO BORROW MONEY TO MEET THE CURRENT EXPENSES IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES. Richard Creaser made a motion to allow the Trustees to borrow such monies. Seconded by Rachel Ducharme. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 9: TO AUTHORIZE THE TRUSTEES TO DESIGNATE ANY UNUSED BALANCE OF THE ENDING FISCAL YEAR'S SAND/GRAVEL/SALT BUDGET TO THE ROAD REPAIR CAPITAL FUND. Richard Creaser made a motion to authorize the Trustees to designate any unused balance of the ending fiscal year's Sand/Gravel/Salt budget to the Road Repair Capital Fund that was established last year. Seconded by Burton Jacobs, Jr. Karen Jenne asked what the balance was for this item from last year's budget. Laurie indicated that it was a little over \$5,000. Frank called for a vote on the motion. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 10: TO AUTHORIZE THE TRUSTEES TO BORROW ADDITIONAL MONIES TO IMPLEMENT A ROADS PAVING PLAN OVER A SET NUMBER OF YEARS. Keith Beadle made a motion to establish a Roads Paving Plan and to allow the Trustees to borrow a certain amount of money each year for this Plan. Seconded by Charles Gross. Keith explained that village streets are in bad shape and the patching and shimming that has been done each year is really money spent for nothing as at least one third of this patch work is peeled up by the snowplow each winter. The village needs a plan to do a more thorough job of grinding, putting in a solid base and repaving that would last much longer. The chart shown on Page 15 of the annual report shows three examples of how borrowing \$25,000.00, \$50,000.00, or \$75,000.00 each year would affect property taxes. It would take approximately eight (8) years to properly repave all village streets. Karen Jenne asked if the money borrowed would be invested until needed so that the return would be higher than the interest charged by the lending institution. It was noted that an average of 2% has been the interest charged on recent borrowing and that money borrowed for this Plan would be invested with Community Financial Services Group, which has traditionally brought the village significantly higher returns than this 2%. However, the monies for this Paving Plan might not be borrowed until actually needed each year. Keith suggested that \$50,000 per year would be a suitable amount to raise and to actually put it aside each year for three years and then repave several streets all at once, which would be more cost efficient. Craig Ellam suggested the village look into reclaiming asphalt from other local projects.

Frank indicated that the word "borrow" might be incorrect to use in this article and suggested an amendment to read: To authorize the Trustees to raise the sum of \$50,000 to implement a Roads Paving Plan over a set number of years. This was moved by Keith Beadle and seconded by Sarah Webster. Karen questioned the legality of raising so much money over a long period of time, since it might not be right to decide such an issue in place of future Boards.

Richard proposed an amendment to this amendment to read: To authorize the Trustees to raise the sum of \$50,000 toward implementation of a Roads Paving Plan. Seconded by Sarah Webster. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 11: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL MAKE A DONATION OF \$400 TO THE DERBY LINE FIRE DEPT. FOR USE OF ITS EQUIPMENT. A motion was made by Diane Beadle to approve the donation of \$400 to the Derby Line Fire Dept. Seconded by Charles Gross. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 12: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL MAKE A DONATION OF \$2,500 TO ASSIST IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE HASKELL FREE LIBRARY. A motion was made by Richard Creaser to approve the donation of \$2,500 for the Haskell Free Library. Seconded by Karen Jenne. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 13: TO AUTHORIZE THE TRUSTEES TO SELL THE OLD VILLAGE GARAGE LOCATED ON DUCHARME DRIVE. A motion was made by Richard Creaser to sell the old village garage on Ducharme Drive. Seconded by Andre Ricard. Craig Ellam asked what the value of the garage is. The annual report shows \$5,000. He suggested that, if the garage is sold, the proceeds, whatever amount, be placed in the new Road Paving Fund. Jaret Judd, a non-resident and employee of the village, asked for permission to speak, to which the voters gave that permission. He noted that the village now uses that old garage for storage of picnic tables, maintenance items, etc. and, if the garage is sold, an alternative storage facility would have to be found, such as a container placed at the present garage on Baxter Ave. This would mean an expense from the proceeds of the sale. Karen Jenne asked about a recent development about an old gas tank that had been removed from Ducharme Dr. years ago and the State of VT now wanting more soil contamination tests done. Keith explained that the old tank was removed 25 years ago as well as the soil in that area. It was all removed as per the law with the soil being wrapped in black plastic and stored on Baxter Ave. When the new garage was built, the soil was disposed of and no one knows what happened to it. The State has been apprised of this, but they still insist on testing the old Ducharme Drive site for a cost of at least \$1,500.

Craig made a motion to amend this article to read: To authorize the Trustees to sell the old village garage located on Ducharme Drive with proceeds to be placed in the Road Paving Fund discussed in Article 10 above. Seconded by Burton Jacobs, Jr. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 14: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL AUTHORIZE THE TRUSTEES TO SELL REAL ESTATE AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREUPON. Richard Creaser moved to authorize the Trustees to sell real estate and improvements. Seconded by Jacinta Jones. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 15: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL VOTE TO PAY THE TRUSTEES THE SUM OF \$1,500.00. Charles Gross moved to pay the Trustees each the sum of \$1,500.00. Seconded by Rachel Ducharme. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 16: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL VOTE TO PAY THE TREASURER THE SUM OF \$9,700.00. Keith Beadle moved to pay the Treasurer \$9,700.00. Seconded by Kim Jacobs. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 17: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL VOTE TO PAY THE CLERK THE SUM OF \$450.00. Richard Creaser moved to pay the Clerk the sum of \$450.00. Seconded by Charles Gross. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 18: TO SEE IF THE VILLAGE WILL VOTE TO RAISE A SUM OF MONEY BY THE LEVY OF A TAX ON THE GRAND LIST TO DEFRAY THE CURRENT EXPENSES, AND IF SO, HOW MUCH. Keith Beadle moved to raise \$198,472.49, which includes the voted-in amount of \$50,000 for the new Roads Paving Plan, in the form of taxes to defray current expenses. Seconded by Jacinta Jones. Karen Jenne pointed out a typographical error on Page 14 of the annual report for the Total Public Safety budget, which should be \$16,000.00 and not \$1,600.00. Motion Carried.

ARTICLE 19: TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING. Richard Creaser explained to those present that the local Borderline Ridge Runners ATV Club recently asked permission of Derby Line to open Elm St. to Breakneck Hill and Baxter Ave. for ATV traffic. The Trustees gave them provisional approval for these three streets for this year only with the understanding that if they want all streets open next year, it would have to go before the voters at the next annual meeting.

Frank Davis mentioned he has been seeing several trees in the village turning brown and appearing diseased. Jaret Judd noted that this is brown scale disease that is widespread in VT. Concerned residents should contact the county forester for advice.

ARTICLE 20: TO ADJOURN. Karen Jenne moved to adjourn at 7:50 pm.  
Dated at the Village of Derby Line, VT on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August A.D. 2020.