

TOWN OF DERBY
REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING
MINUTES

Town of Derby public informational hearing is by electronic means March 1st, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. discussing the Australian Ballot Articles on the 2021 Town Meeting Warning.

To access the meeting:

By telephone: Dial 1-716-710-7739. When prompted enter the participant code: 699 348 505#.

By computer: Join through the Google Meet App: <https://meet.google.com/yzx-rero-zjw>

Grant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Grant thanked everyone who is online and by phone. He then introduced everyone from the town participating and turned it over to Nikole Brainard who then introduced everyone from the school participating.

Grant then stated that this is an informational meeting only and that everything mentioned here tonight is already on the ballot tomorrow and can't be changed. Grant then reviewed the following:

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

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

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

- (1) Select Board Member

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

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

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

- (1) Cemetery Commissioner

Nikole started the School portion of the meeting at 6:04 p.m. this was to be used as their Annual School Town Meeting, she then reviewed Articles 2 & 3.

Article 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Derby School District approve the School Board to expend **\$6,538,645.00**, 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 **\$13,718.00** per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **2% less** than spending for the current year.

The highlights in the budget

- Meet VT Education Quality Standards
- Maintain and improve program and services for children
- Maintain Low class size in lower grades
- Maintain and improve facilities
- Budget wisely and keep taxes as low as possible
- Stay debt free

Level funded budget, expenses = revenues, \$133,200 of funds balance turned back into budget as revenue. A 2% Decrease in spending per equalized pupil, the staff level stays the same, portion of taxes goes towards education increases by \$.0018

Article 3. Shall the voters of the Town of Derby School District authorize the Board of School Directors to place the 2019-20 fund balance into two reserved funds to be used over several years: **\$170,086.99** into Building and Grounds fund, **\$160,000.00** Technology fund?

The \$170,086.99 funds will go into maintenance projects:

New kitchen floor, a steam table, Ice machine, re-stripping the parking lot, bus maintenance, carpets for upstairs classrooms and halls, save for a multi-purpose activity room.

The \$160,000.00 funds will go into purchases of:

Replacing Ipad, replacing Chrome books, New Digital Software, Updating teachers computers, update the MarkerSpace, Sound Technology in Classrooms.

Gigi Gobeil-Judd made a motion to adjourn the School portion of the meeting Emily Micknak seconded.

- Article 4.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby vote to authorize the Select Board to purchase other land or real estate not to exceed a total purchase price of **\$20,000.00**?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 5** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby authorize payment of property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before **Monday, October 18th, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.?**
The taxes are usually on the 15th but that is a day the office is closed so it reverts to the following Monday.
- Article 6.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby vote the sum of **\$200,000.00** for the rebuilding of roads in the Town of Derby, said monies to be raised by taxes?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 7.** Shall the Town of Derby vote to appropriate the sum of **\$3,300.00** to assist the **Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging** in providing services to older Vermonters in the ensuing year?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 8.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby appropriate **\$12,000.00** to **Haskell Free Library & Opera House** to provide services to the residents of the Town?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 9.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby appropriate **\$40,000.00** to **Dailey Memorial Library** to provide services to residents of the Town?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 10.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby appropriate **\$2,000.00** to **Orleans County Citizen Advocacy** for the purpose of creating and supporting relationships between community volunteers and individuals with developmental disabilities?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 11.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed **\$15,000.00** to **Town of Derby/ Salem Lakes Preservation Association**, matching the Grant Funds from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, to continue monitoring and protecting the Lakes from Eurasian Water Milfoil and other Invasive Species?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 12.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby appropriate **\$10,000.00** for the removal of **Eurasian Milfoil** from **Lake Derby (Derby Pond)**?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 13.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby appropriate **\$13,600.00** to **Orleans Essex VNA & Hospice Inc.** for the services of Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Medical Social Work, Licensed Nurse Aide, Homemaker, Personal Care Attendant, Hospice, Maternal Child Health Programs, and other community health programs provided by the Agency?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 14.** Shall the Town of Derby appropriate **\$9,242.00** to **Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.** a not for profit 501(c)(3), to provide services to residents who cannot otherwise afford care?
This is the same amount as 2020. Carol Boucher was available for questions. Brian Smith asked if they opened for service with Covid Carol stated that they were open and ready to serve.
- Article 15.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby appropriate **\$6,150.00** to **Umbrella** to support services for victims of domestic assault, sexual violence, providing fresh, local food to area seniors and disabled adults through Meals on Wheels deliveries?
This article was two separate articles last year articles 22 and 23 this one takes over the two articles and equals the same amount of funds.
- Article 16.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby appropriate **\$46,871.16** for the care and up keep of the **Cemeteries** in the Town of Derby, of which **\$12,988.18** shall come from cemetery revenues and **\$33,882.98** shall be raised by taxes?
This article is less than 2020 year.

- Article 17.** Shall the Town of Derby appropriate **\$1,600.00** to **Orleans County Historical Society** to assist in maintaining the Old Stone House Museum and its educational programs, and direct the selectmen to assess a tax sufficient to meet the same?
This is the same amount as 2020.
- Article 18.** Shall the Town of Derby appropriate **\$2,500.00** to **Rural Community Transportation, Inc.** to provide services to residents of the Town of Derby?
This article was not in for 2020 but was in 2019. Lila Bennett was available for questions and to thank the town for their funds and support.
- Article 19.** Shall the Town of Derby appropriate **\$2,000.00** to **Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter** with its commitment to rescuing, providing care to and finding homes for unwanted pets?
This is the same amount as 2019 but was not in for 2020.
- Article 20.** Shall the Town of Derby appropriate **\$1,500.00** to **Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc. (NEKLS)** to provide services to residents of the Town?
This is the same amount as 2019 but was not in for 2020.
- Article 21.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby 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?
By choosing not to mail the Town Report to every voter in the Town the Town saves \$7,176.40.
- Article 22.** Shall the voters of the Town of Derby authorize the Select Board to expend **\$2,647,195.89** which is the amount the Select Board deems necessary for the ensuing years' budget; which does NOT include the above articles appropriations?
With the appropriations the budget is \$2,999,970.87 the total appropriations amount is \$352,774.98.
Grant stated that the proposed 2021 budget is \$143,669.65 lower than last year. The proposed amount to be raised by taxes is \$125,706.13 lower than last year. This will equate to an approximate 2 cent decrease in the Town portion of the tax rate. Questions on the Town budget:
Karen Jenne asked what amount of the Law Enforcement's budget came from services at Walmart. The increase is the hourly rates of the officers. The board decided to keep the same amount of hours of service. The percent of service is less this year at Walmart due to the Covid pandemic Jen Harlow met with the security personnel at Walmart and they are trying to put together to get assistance from the headquarters of Walmart. No further questions.

Karen Chitambar moved to adjourn the hearing at 6:30 p.m. Brian Smith seconded all in favor.

Dated at Derby, Vermont on March 4, 2021.

NIKOLE BRAINARD (Chair)
GIGI GOBEIL-JUDD
EMILY MICKNAK
ALISON PATENAUDE
LYNDSAY SYKES
(School Directors)

KAREN CHITAMBAR
STEPHEN GENDREAU
BRAD SHATTUCK
BRIAN SMITH
GRANT SPATES (CHAIR)
(Select Board)

Attest: FAYE C. MORIN
Town Clerk