

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF DANVILLE HELD MARCH 7, 2017**

The Annual Danville Town Meeting was called to order at 11:43 a.m. at the Danville School on Tuesday March 7, 2017.

The following Articles were voted on:

1. **To elect a Moderator.** - Selectboard Chair Michael K. Walsh invited nominations for Moderator. Dr. Thomas Ziobrowski was nominated by Jenness Ide. With no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one vote for Dr. Thomas Ziobrowski.

2. **To see if the Town will vote to accept the Town Report as printed for the year ending December 31, 2016.** – Elizabeth Ferraro moved to accept the Town Report as printed. The article was seconded and voted in the affirmative.

Michael K. Walsh then asked the Board members to introduce themselves.

3. **To elect a Selectboard member for a term of three years.** – Tim Ide nominated Ken Linsley for the term of three years. Hollis Prior nominated Bert Frye and spoke on his behalf. The moderator then requested a paper ballot for the race. On a vote of 176 for Ken Linsley and 20 for Bert Frye, Ken Linsley was elected to the Selectboard for a term of three years.

4. **To elect two Selectboard members for a term of one year each.** – Cheryl Linsley nominated Eric Bach for the term of one year. Walt Smith nominated Bob Briggs. Both candidates spoke on their behalf. With no other nominations, the Moderator requested a paper ballot for the race. On a vote of 135 for Eric Bach and 59 for Bob Briggs, Eric Bach was elected to the Selectboard for a term of one year.

Debra Bixby then nominated Kellie Merrell for the second term of one year. Walt Smith nominated Bob Briggs for a term of one year. Barbara Fontaine nominated Peggy Cochran for a term of one year. Kellie and Peggy both spoke to the audience on their background and their desire for the position. With no other nominations, a paper ballot was requested by the Moderator. On a vote of 111 for Kellie Merrell, 59 votes for Bob Briggs, and 27 votes for Peggy Cochran, Kellie Merrell was elected to the Selectboard for a term of one year.

Douglas Pastula then addressed the audience, thanking Michael K. Walsh for 19 years of service as a member of the Selectboard.

5. **To elect a Lister for a term of three years.** - Tim Ide nominated Marcia Pettigrew for Lister for the term of three years. With no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one vote in the name of Marcia Pettigrew for Lister for the term of three years.

6. **To elect a Lister for a term of one year,** (which is the remaining term of a three year term vacated by Gail Devereaux) – Tim Ide nominated John Blackmore to fulfill the remaining 3 year term. With no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one vote in the name of John Blackmore for Lister for the one year remaining term of three years.

7. **To elect a Tax Collector.** - E. Tobias Balivet nominated Edward Ledo as Delinquent Tax Collector. With no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for Edward Ledo for Delinquent Tax Collector.

8. **To elect one or more Town Grand Jurors.** – E. Tobias Balivet nominated William “Sandy” Hauserman. With no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one vote in the name of William “Sandy” Hauserman for Town Grand Juror.
9. **To elect a Town Agent.** - Wendy Somers nominated E. Tobias Balivet. With no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for E. Tobias Balivet for Town Agent.
10. **To elect a Town Agent for Real Estate.** - Wendy Somers nominated E. Tobias Balivet. With no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for E. Tobias Balivet for Town Agent for Real Estate.
11. **To elect any other Town Officers.** - With no other Town Officers to be elected, the article was passed over.

A motion was then made by Walt Smith to combine Articles 12-24, which was seconded by Alice Cruess. With no discussion the motion carried by voice vote. The Moderator then read the following articles in their entirety.

12. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,700.00 to assist the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont in providing services to senior citizens in the ensuing year?”**
13. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to Catamount Film and Arts?”**
14. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,600.00 to Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice to be used in providing health care services?”**
15. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$38,913.60 to Danville Rescue Squad to assist in providing services to residents of the Town of Danville?”**
16. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to support the Danville Senior Action Center, Inc.?”**
17. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,196.00 for the support of the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium to provide services to residents of the town?”**
18. **“Shall the Town of Danville vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$500.00 for the support of Kingdom Animal Shelter to provide services to residents of the Town? The funds will be used for the care of stray unwanted cats brought into the shelter including food/litter and veterinary care (including spay/neuter, vaccinations, and FeLV testing) to prepare them for adoption.”**
19. **“Shall the Town of Danville vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$2,306.00 for the support of Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, to support the provision of 24 hour, 7 days a week emergency/crisis services to residents of the Town?”**
20. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$750.00 to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services to support their work with youth and families in our community?”**
21. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$28,000.00 to assist the Pope Memorial Library in meeting its operational expenses?”**

22. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,400.00 for services provided by Rural Community Transportation (“RCT”) to residents who live in Danville?”**
23. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to assist the West Danville Community Club in maintaining Joe’s Pond Beach?”**
24. **“Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,200.00 to Umbrella, Inc. to be used in providing services to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children, and families seeking child care and child care providers?”**

The moderator then called the vote to combined Articles 12-24, which carried by voice vote.

25. **“Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed General Fund budget of \$549,811.00 for the ensuing year, and authorize the Selectboard to assess a general Town Tax in an amount sufficient to support the adopted budget?” (By Australian Ballot)** – The Moderator stated that the amount of \$549,811.00 was the correct amount that replaced the original Town Report amount warned of \$320,507.03. The Moderator then opened the floor for discussion. A question from the floor was asked how the budget compared to the prior year. Michael K. Walsh stated that there was no increase from the prior year. With no additional discussion, the Moderator moved to the next article.
26. **“Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed Town Highway budget of \$1,491,383.00 for the ensuing year, and authorize the Selectboard to assess a Town Highway Tax in an amount sufficient to support the adopted budget?” (By Australian Ballot)** – The moderator states that this was the corrected amount from the original \$933,827.00 warned in the Town Report. With no discussion, the Moderator moved to the next article.
27. **“Shall the Town appropriate \$250.00 to The Community Restorative Justice for restorative cases, free legal clinic cases, and / or mediation cases which are referred from the town to the CRJC in accordance with 24 V.S.A §2691?”** – Allison Lowe moved the article which was seconded by Alice Kitchel. Alice Kitchel then spoke on behalf of the Community Restorative Center. Bob Larose inquired as to how many Danville residents have been assisted by this program. Alice stated there were 8 individuals from the Town of Danville which included 2 from Danville School. The Moderator then called the vote, which carried by voice vote.
28. **“Shall the Town vote to authorize the purchase of the land and improvements located at 60 Route 2 West in the Town of Danville for a purchase price of not more than \$132,300.00, and to finance the purchase by borrowing no more than the purchase price for a period not to exceed 5 years”**

Scott Palmer objected to the consideration of the article, which was seconded by Ted Legendre. The Moderator then conferred with the Town’s attorney, E. Tobias Balivet, in regard to the motion of objection. The Moderator then called a voice vote for the consideration of objection to the article. The objection consideration required a two-thirds vote, which was defeated by voice vote. The Moderator then opened the floor for discussion on the original article.

Michael K. Walsh addressed the audience to the purpose of purchasing the property, which was to add needed parking to the center of town.

Eleanor Perry discussed her concerns over runoff from the property onto her property located at 53 Hill Street.

The Moderator then called to move the article as stated, as it was not formerly moved. The article was moved by Virginia Incerpi and seconded by David Towle.

Allison Lowe requested information on how many parking places could be obtained through the purchase of this property.

Douglas Pastula reiterated that the Town was in early stages and had not been able to determine parking capacity and what the total use of the property or layout of the property would be. Craig Vance asked if the Town had negotiated the purchased price. Michael K. Walsh stated that the Town offered the town appraisal value. Kim Larose asked if there were parking issues at the Town Hall. Ginnie Incerpi stated that anyone who attends Selectboard meetings can attest to the shortage of parking, especially in the winter, when no one wants to park near the building due to ice and snow sliding off the roof.

Bob Sargent asked that the board confer with the townspeople before spending any additional funds on the project. Michael stated that the voters needed to approve the budget, which would also include meetings for the proposed use of the property.

Scott Palmer asked if the Town was going to be a landlord. Michael K Walsh stated that the Town was not going to be a landlord of the property.

With no further discussion, a paper ballot was requested. On a vote of 93 in favor of the article and 51 opposed, the article carried.

29. **To see if the Town will vote to pay property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before October 25, 2017.** –The article was moved and seconded as warned. The article carried.
30. **To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money for the Town expenses and refund indebtedness not to exceed 90% of the anticipated taxes and to execute and deliver the note or notes of the Town therefore.** Sandy Hauserman moved the article as warned, which was seconded by Tim Ide. The article carried.
31. **“Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to apply for grants and to accept and expend grants or gifts for the use and benefit of the Town?”** – A motion was made by Virginia Incerpi, which was seconded. The article was carried.
32. **To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.**

Angelo Incerpi recognized the Highway Department for their service.

Douglas Pastula thanked Josephine Guertin for her 20 years of service as the Animal Control Officer.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was voted to adjourn at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest: Wendy M. Somers, Clerk

**Approved: Dr. Thomas F. Ziobrowski
Moderator**

**Michael K. Walsh
Chairman of the Board**