
Town of Haynesville

Annual Town Meeting Minutes

March 28–29, 2025

Friday, March 28, 2025

Time: 3:45 p.m.

Attendance

- Annette Watrous
- Craig Clifford
- Paul Rouse
- Aaron Zufelt

Town Clerk Aaron Zufelt called the meeting to order at **3:45 p.m.**

Election of Moderator (Article 1)

Annette Watrous nominated Paul Rouse to serve as Moderator. The nomination was seconded by Craig Clifford.

Vote: Unanimous. Paul Rouse was elected Moderator.

Aaron Zufelt administered the oath of office to Moderator Paul Rouse. Moderator Rouse then administered the oath of Ballot Clerk to Craig Clifford and Annette Watrous.

The meeting recessed and voting continued. Polls opened at **4:00 p.m.**

Election of Selectboard Member (Article 2)

Brenda McLaughlin was elected Selectboard Member.

Vote Tally:

- Brenda McLaughlin – 7
- Will Smith – 1
- Blank ballots – 1

The Annual Town Meeting was adjourned until **Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Voters Present at Start: 14

Moderator

Paul Rouse

Selectboard Election Result

Brenda McLaughlin (elected March 28, 2025)

Attendance

Ron Tuck

Doug Williams

Lynn Tuck

Annette ("Netty") Watrous

Will Smith

Jen Smith

Luis Laureano

Dave Ireland

Brenda McLaughlin

Craig Clifford

Paul Rouse

Lisa Rouse

Sarah Malone

Aaron Zufelt

Articles Acted Upon

Article Subject		Vote
3	Taxes Due Upon Receipt	Passed 14–0
4	Accept Prepayments	Passed 14–0
5	Disposal of Real Estate	Passed 14–0
6	Transfer of Unexpended Balances	Passed 14–0
7	Emergency Funds	Passed 14–0
8	Spending 3/12 Budget (Jan.–Mar.)	Passed 14–0

Article Subject	Vote
9 Overlay for Discounts	Passed 14–0
10 School Board Member (2-Year Term)	No candidate elected
11 General Government Salaries, Wages, Payroll Taxes & Insurance	Passed 14–0
12 General Government Operations & Utilities	Passed 14–0
13 Brush Hogging – Old Dump Site	Passed 14–0
14 General Government Donations & Food Bank	Passed 14–0
15 Fire Department	Passed 14–0
16 Roads	Passed 14–0
17 Account Merger	Passed 14–0
18 Cemetery & Septic	Passed 14–0
19 Emergency Services	Passed 14–0
20 Waste Removal	Passed 14–0
21 Property Tax Levy Limit	Passed 12–2

Discussion Highlights

Article 10 – School Board Member

No nominations were received during the initial ballot.

Discussion centered on:

- Responsibilities of School Board members.
- Compensation for the position.
- Comparison of the stipend with other town-paid positions.
- Attendance expectations, including the use of Zoom for meetings.
- Budget responsibilities and time commitment.
- Whether compensation should be reviewed.
- Whether an interim appointment until the June election would be appropriate.

Following discussion, Lynn Tuck volunteered to serve for the interim period.

Article 11

Questions were asked regarding the proposed part-time position. The Selectboard explained the purpose of the position.

Article 12

Questions were asked regarding General Government operating expenses.

Article 13

Discussion included maintenance of the former dump site and the requirement for annual mowing. The Selectboard explained that the work would be competitively bid this year, and then rolled into the Annual Mowing Contract.

Article 14

Discussion included the Food Bank appropriation and budget explanation.

Article 19

Residents discussed rumors regarding emergency ambulance service and what would occur if the current provider ceased operations.

Article 20

Discussion noted the continuing increase in waste disposal costs.

Article 21

The Moderator and Selectboard explained that the Property Tax Levy Limit article is a standard annual article allowing flexibility when county and school assessments are not finalized before Town Meeting.

A question was also raised regarding an error in the previous year's financial report concerning outstanding checks. (Not called out of order).

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Rouse and seconded by Brenda McLaughlin.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.
