

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting Of the Town of Fairfield, Vermont

The inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield met at Veteran's Hall, Fairfield Center School, on March 3, 2020. Representative James Gregoire presented a resolution honoring former Representative Richard (Dick) Howrigan's many years of dedicated service to the community. Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator, made the announcements. The Robert's Rules of Order were explained. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. A moment of silence was held.

1. MODERATOR: Bridget Howrigan Rivet was nominated by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Bet Howrigan. Nominations ceased. The Clerk was asked to cast one ballot for Bridget Rivet.
2. TO RECEIVE THE VARIOUS REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TOWN AS CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT TOWN ANNUAL REPORT:

Gavin Ryan talked about the creation of the Town Administrator position three years ago. Amanda Forbes served as Town Administrator along with Town Clerk and Treasurer. The decision to separate the jobs was made to provide more transparency in the office. Jonathan DeLaBruere has been hired as Town Administrator. The duties of Administrator, Clerk, Treasurer were briefly outlined.

3. TO ELECT FROM THE LEGAL VOTERS OF SAID TOWN THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:
 - a. ONE TOWN CLERK FOR 3 YEARS: Linda Hodet was nominated by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Linda Hodet.
 - b. ONE TREASURER FOR 3 YEARS: Amanda Forbes was nominated by Tom Howrigan and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Amanda Forbes.
 - c. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 3 YEARS: Gavin Ryan was nominated by Charles Thomas and seconded by Tom Howrigan. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Gavin Ryan.
 - d. ONE SELECTPERSON FOR 2 YEARS: David Persons was nominated by Damien Boomhower and seconded by James Consentino. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for David Persons.

- e. ONE AUDITOR 3 YEAR TERM: Jeanne Persons was nominated by Joy Kane and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Jeanne Persons.
- f. ONE LISTER 3 YEAR TERM: Linda Hodet was nominated by James Gregoire and seconded by Melissa Manson. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Linda Hodet.
- g. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE 3 YEAR TERM: Laura Fulwiler was nominated by Peter Burns and seconded by Charles Thomas. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Laura Fulwiler.
- h. ONE LIBRARY TRUSTEE 2 YEAR TERM: Kristina Bolduc was nominated by Laura Fulwiler and seconded by Laura Bellstrom. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Kristina Bolduc.
- i. A FIRST CONSTABLE 1 YEAR TERM: David Persons was nominated by Charles Thomas. David Persons declined the nomination. Dick Howrigan was nominated by Gavin Ryan and seconded by Charles Thomas. Dick Howrigan declined the nomination. James Consentino was nominated by Damien Boomhower and seconded by James Gregoire. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for James Consentino.
- j. A GRAND JUROR 1 YEAR TERM: Kevin Moser was nominated by Jamie Partlow and seconded by Jazmyn Sylvester-Cross. Charles Thomas was nominated by Mary Schreindorfer and seconded by Charles Mudgett. Nominations ceased. Candidates were asked to speak. Kevin Moser spoke. Charles Thomas withdrew his name. Moved to cast one ballot for Kevin Moser.
- k. A TOWN AGENT 1 YEAR TERM: Vanessa Kittell was nominated by Charles Thomas and seconded by James Gregoire. Nominations ceased, moved to cast one ballot for Vanessa Kittell.

Gene Archambault recognized Norm Menard and Amanda Forbes for their years of service.

- 4. SHALL PROPERTY TAXES BE DUE AND PAYABLE ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER: Motion made by Jazmyn Sylvester-Cross and seconded by Damien Boomhower. Motion passed by voice vote.

5. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD APPROVE THE 2020 TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES OF \$1,496,393, OF WHICH \$979,173 SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$ 517,220 BY NON-TAX REVENUES?: Motion made by Toby Fulwiler and seconded by Jazmyn Sylvester-Cross. Motion made by Craig Aylward to amend the budget to \$986,673, an increase of \$7,500 to cover the cost of Fairfield residents to participate in St Albans Recreation Programs at a reduced rate. Motion to amend was seconded by Juana Berry. Discussion ensued. Charlie Thomas spoke about how the cost for the St Albans Rec Programs that only 79 families out of 676 families in Fairfield participate, leaves little funds left available for Fairfield Programs which are provided with no cost for residents. Amendment failed by voice vote. Motion passed by voice vote.
6. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD APPROVE THE 2020 EXPENDITURES OF \$148,040 FOR THE BENT NORTHROP MEMORIAL LIBRARY, \$112,600 OF WHICH SHALL BE RAISED BY TAXES AND \$35,440 BY NON-TAX REVENUES?: Motion made by Joanna Jerose and seconded by Mary Schreindorfer. Laura Fulwiler spoke about the Library handouts which detail all the usage and value of programs and events offered by the Library in 2019, and detailed information of how the Northrop sisters' endowment has benefited Fairfield. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. SHALL THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD APPROVE \$92,225 FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, SAID APPROPRIATION TO BE PAID UPON CONDITION THAT THE FAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBMIT TO THE TOWN, BY NOVEMBER 1, 2020, A COPY OF ITS MOST RECENT BALANCE SHEET AND BANK STATEMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE TOWN AUDITORS: Motion made by Charles Thomas and seconded by John Gorton. Motion passed by voice vote.
8. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$15,000 FOR THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION: Motion made by Mary Schreindorfer and seconded by Joanna Jerose. Jane Williams made a motion to amend the request to \$18,000 and was seconded by Jazmyn Sylvester-Cross. Jane Williams discussed the role the Community Center plays in housing our local food shelf, providing community meals, Thanksgiving baskets, youth in the kitchen, vacation camps, and after school programs primarily run by volunteers. Michele Bessett summarized numerous fundraising activities. Motion to amend passed by voice vote. Amended motion passed by voice vote.
9. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS APPROVE A DONATION OF \$3,971 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME HEALTH AGENCY: Motion made by Bet Howrigan and seconded by Gene Archambault. Motion passed by voice vote.

10. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$3,000 FOR THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: Motion made by Bet Howrigan and seconded by John Gorton. Motion passed by voice vote.
11. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL APPROVE A DONATION OF \$1,000 FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL RESCUE: Motion made by Erik Bushey and seconded by Julie Wolcott. Motion passed by voice vote.
12. TO SEE IF THE VOTERS WILL MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. WE, THE CITIZENS OF FAIRFIELD, STRONGLY SUPPORT THE COMPLETION OF THE LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL. WE URGE THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO JOINTLY DEVELOP A PLAN THAT WILL ENSURE THE LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL IS COMPLETED BY 2025: Motion made by Harry Goldhagen and seconded by John Gorton. The importance of having the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail for a safe place to walk and bike was discussed. Motion passed by voice vote.
13. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THIS MEETING:

John Gorton informed everyone about the new food shelf and community building in Sheldon, which is available for events.

Julie Wolcott asked if the rules could be suspended for Sean O'Dell to discuss the School addition. Suspension of rules approved. Sean O'Dell explained the addition will add an art, a music and intervention rooms. There would also be a storage room added behind the gym. The project is funded by Capital Reserve Funds.

Charles Thomas invited Jonathan DeLaBruere the new Town Administrator to introduce himself.

Melissa Manson spoke about the new Town Plan to be completed by end of summer.

Joyce Mitchell requested the names of the Road Crew to be able to thank them for the good job they do. Gene Archambault provided the names: Maurice Jettie, Jim Paradee, James Monette, Jacob Campbell and John Howrigan.

Jauna Berry spoke about a new board that supports Foster Familys that she is a member of.

Rebecca Chomyn announced the Recreation Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Town Office in the Chester Arthur Room at 6:30. Everyone is welcome.

Tina Churchill said she is unable to get internet at her home. She was told the Town needs to request addition service for the Town.


14. TO ADJOURN. A motion to adjourn was made at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Y Hodet, Clerk

To the best of my recollection, I attest that these minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the events of Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2020.


Bridget Howrigan Rivet, Moderator


Tom Howrigan, Select Board Chair