

Town of Calais, Vermont

CHARTERED 1781

Town Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 9:30 am at the Calais Elementary School

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year:

The Town Clerk presided over the election of a moderator. Denise Wheeler motioned to nominate Gus Seelig. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 2. To ask questions about the reports of town boards and officers:

The body discussed a number of questions.

ARTICLE 3. To elect the following Town officers from the floor:

Town Agent: Denise Wheeler nominated Tina Bielenberg for a 1-year term. Clif Emmons seconded. A motion was made to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Tina Bielenberg; the motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee of Public Funds: Rodney Buck nominated Steve Killoran for a 3-year term and Donna Fitch seconded. Barry Bernstein moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Steve Killoran. The motion was seconded by Rodney Buck and carried unanimously.

Cemetery Commissioner: A nomination was made for John Simanskas for a 5-year term; the motion was seconded. Tina Bielenberg motioned to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for John Simanskas. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters approve total highway and general fund expenditures of \$1,606,264 of which \$1,305,229 shall be raised by taxes and \$301,035 by non-tax revenue?

Denise Wheeler moved to approve this article, and the motion was seconded.

Carolyn Morton made a motion to increase the total highway and general funds expenditures by \$49,280.

Paul Hannan offered an amendment to the amendment to authorize the Selectboard to take up to \$30,000 out of an already existing fund (the Highway Equipment Fund), without raising new taxes, in accord with original amendment, to be used at the Selectboard's discretion for winter roads. The amendment to the amendment was seconded.

Following discussion, **Paul Hannan asked to withdraw his motion and urged the body defeat the original amendment.**

A motion was made to call the question and end debate, which was seconded and passed. The Moderator called for a vote on the amendment. The motion appeared to fail, and a division of the house was requested. Paper hand ballots were voted, counted and the proposed amendment was defeated.

A motion was made to call the question, which was seconded and passed. The Moderator called for a vote on the article and the article passed.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters appropriate \$27,132 for the Kellogg Hubbard Library for its operating expenses?

The article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called for a vote on the article. The article passed.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters appropriate \$39,000 for the operation and maintenance of the Town cemeteries?

The article was moved and seconded. **Jennifer Whitman made an amendment to raise the amount to \$40,500 and pass over Article 7.** Denise Wheeler seconded the amendment. The amendment to the article was voted on and passed; the article was voted on and passed.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters appropriate \$1,500 to assist in the operation and maintenance of Poplar Hill Cemetery a private cemetery?

It was moved and seconded to pass over this article; the motion passed.

State Representative Janet Ancel addressed the meeting.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters appropriate the indicated sums as requested by the following organizations in Calais and the Central Vermont area, as follows:

Calais Community Connections	\$1,000
Central Vermont Basic Education	\$1,000
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$1,400
Central Vermont Development Corp	\$500
Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice	\$3,600
Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center	\$800
Circle (Formerly Battered Women's Services & Shelter)	\$700
Family Center of Washington County	\$500
Friends of Winooski River	\$300
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$300
Green Mountain Transit	\$859
Greenup Vermont	\$100
Home Share Now	\$600
Montpelier Senior Center	\$4,300
Old West Church	\$100
Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic	\$1,500
Sexual Assault Crisis Team	\$200
Twin Valley Senior Center	\$3,000
Vermont Association for the Blind	\$650
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$800
Washington County Diversion Program	\$300
Washington County Youth Service Bureau	\$500
Woodbury/Calais Foodshelf	\$380
Washington County Mental Health Services	\$1,400
TOTAL	\$24,789

The article was moved and seconded, and discussion ensued. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes in two equal installments, with the due date of the first installment on or before 4:00 p.m. on a date that falls not less than 30 days after the tax bills are mailed, but not earlier than August 1, 2019, and the due date of the second installment shall be on or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 15, 2019?

The article was moved and seconded, and discussion ensued. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 10. Shall each property tax installment payment be made via one of the following three options:

- 1) by delivery to the Treasurer by 4:00 p.m. on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 9;
- 2) by U.S. Postal Service, with postmark on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 9; or
- 3) by credit card payment via www.calaisvermont.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 9?

The article was moved and seconded, and discussion ensued. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 11. Shall interest in the amount of 0.5% per month or any part of a month, be charged on unpaid taxes?

The article was moved and seconded, and discussion ensued. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town allow an interest-free grace period of fourteen (14) calendar days following each due date as set forth in Article 9 during which no interest shall be charged?

The article was moved and seconded. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 13. Shall a delinquent tax penalty be set at 4.5% of the total amount of the 2019 delinquent tax?

The article was moved and seconded and discussion ensued. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town allow a penalty-free grace period of 14 calendar days after November 15, 2019, during which no delinquent tax penalty shall be charged?

The article was moved and seconded. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$31,000 to the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department for creation of a Capital Equipment Replacement Fund?

The article was moved and seconded and discussion ensued.

Jeff Fannon made a motion to table this article; the motion was seconded. The motion to table the article was voted on and failed, and discussion continued. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 16. To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the meeting.

The following Articles will be voted by Australian Ballot:

ARTICLE 17. To elect the following Town Officers by Australian ballot:

Selectboard member	3-year term
Selectboard member	2-year term
Elementary School Director	3-year term
Elementary School Director	2-year term
Lister	3-year term

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Lane-Karnas, Recording Secretary
Approved by the Selectboard at the 3/25/2019 meeting