

## APPROVED MINUTES

### TOWN OF RYEGATE PO BOX 332 RYEGATE, VERMONT 05042

#### Annual Town Meeting March 7, 2017

Regina Hazel, Moderator, welcomed those gathered at 1:00 PM at the Ryegate Town Hall. She read a few announcements and mentioned that Senator Jane Kitchel had sent a list of Missing Money, some of which was for Ryegate to claim.

The flag was then presented by three Ryegate 4-H members: DJ Nelson, Aleah Nelson and Avery Nelson. They led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Susanna Nelson then played "Jefferson and Liberty" on her fiddle and Paxton Hosmer played "This Land is Your Land" and "Yellow Submarine" on his keyboard. The Moderator then welcomed the Blue Mountain Union School Seniors who were attending the meeting and went over Roberts' Rules of Order. She then called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator and Town Clerk Moderator: Paul Keenan took over the election. Jackie Sinclair nominated Regina Hazel. Cindy Fraser seconded the nomination and moved the Clerk cast one ballot for Regina. The motion carried, the Clerk cast one ballot and Regina Hazel was elected Moderator. Town Clerk: Klaus Stuecklen nominated Marsha Nelson. Louis Brugliera seconded the motion and it carried by a voice vote, electing Marsha Nelson Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 2: To review and act on the reports of the town officers. Cynthia Fraser reported the following people have paid their South Ryegate Village taxes since the Town Reports were printed: William & Christy Dickey, Michael & Marilyn Farris, Robert & Brenda Gelsleichter, Robert & Christine Hanaford, William & Loren Hosmer, John & Rosanne Knox, Troy Sanborn, Shane & Heidi Temple. Cynthia is the Village Tax Collector in South Ryegate. Carl Bayer questioned the \$75,000. line item in the Highway Budget. Chris Brimmer moved Article 2. Khristine Elder seconded it and it carried with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town authorize a total general and highway fund expenditure for 2017 operating expenses of \$988,957.00 Khristine Elder moved the article. Cynthia Fraser seconded it. Discussion followed Carl Bayer restated his question of why another \$75,000. He noticed low interest on \$325,000. Is there another way to invest town money? Paul Keenan, Chairman of the Select Board answered the \$75,000. was to go into the Highway Equipment Fund. The Board tries to be pro-active in not having to borrow to buy new equipment. He can't answer the question about better interest. Bill Nelson mentioned the budget figures for the road and

the transfer to the Highway Fund Balance. He saw where \$49,000 was moved and was puzzled by that. He wonders what the plan is for the \$49,000. He predicts next year the Committee will put in the same budget. The Town needs a plan for the money. He thinks the Committee should start out next year's budget with a lower amount to raise. Keenan feels it's good management and the money is used to offset the tax rate, or to help with unforeseen expenses. Bill said that's what Andy said last year. The Town can only have so much money for unforeseen expenses. Paul said the law says Highway money can only be used for highway expense. Richard Hodgson explained some years the town has to take money out of the budget to meet expenses. After discussion, Article 3 was carried by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town vote to raise money by taxation to meet the 2017 General fund and Road Budget, including a sum of money (not less than \$50.00 per mile) for the maintenance of its highways and for the payment of installments due and to become due on equipment purchased by the Select Board including such additional funds as may be appropriated under other articles at this meeting, and to authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same? Chris Brimmer moved the article. Kristine seconded the motion and it unanimously carried with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town authorize payment of real property taxes to the Town Treasurer in one installment, due September 10<sup>th</sup> and becoming delinquent on October 10<sup>th</sup> with interest assessed on unpaid taxes pursuant to 32 VSA 4873? Chris Brimmer moved the article. Susan Brimmer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes and take such action with respect to his/her fees and commissions as judged to be advantageous to the town. Paul Keenan moved the article. Chris Brimmer seconded the motion and it carried.

ARTICLE 7: To elect by ballot one School Director to serve on the Board of Union School District No. 21 for a term of three years. Bruce Nelson nominated Wade Parker. Louis Brugliera seconded the nomination. Wade Parker was elected unanimously by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: To elect all other necessary Town Officers and direct the Select Board to fix their compensation.

Treasurer: Pat Crocker nominated Cheryl Slayton. She was elected on a voice vote.

Select Board: Jacqueline Sinclair nominated Paul Keenan. Lou Brugliera seconded the nomination and it carried with a paper ballot.

Delinquent Tax Collector: Heather Alger nominated Dale Wright. He was elected by a voice vote.

First Constable and Animal Control Officer remained vacant.

Town Agent: Sally Wilson nominated John Zampieri, Cindy Fraser seconded the nomination and it carried.

First Grand Juror: Paul nominated Dean Rowden. Lou Brugliera seconded the nomination and it carried.

Lister: Paul Keenan took over the election. Sally Wilson nominated Regina Hazel. It was seconded. Chris Brimmer moved nominations cease and the Clerk cast one ballot for Regina Hazel. Leonard Targonski seconded the motion and Regina was elected on a paper ballot.

Auditor: Bertha Stevens nominated Tom Dole and asked the Clerk to cast one ballot for him. He was elected on a ballot vote.

Library Trustee: Jackie Sinclair nominated Richard Fraser. Cindy Fraser seconded the nomination and it carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Cemetery Commissioner: Jackie Sinclair nominated Bill Nelson. Lou Brugliera seconded the nomination and it carried on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: To transact any other nonbinding business that may properly come before this meeting. Representative Marcia Martel asked to speak and was given permission. She thanked the people for sending her back to Montpelier. The session is nine weeks out and 495 bills have been introduced in the House. Only three bills have passed both chambers. The Governor says no new taxes and no new fees. She discussed the 2015 Clean Water Act which is slated to need \$50 million for the next two years, with \$2.2 billion over the next 20 years. She talked about prisons and spending money in the most efficient way. Carl Bayer mentioned a lack of money to accomplish much in Vermont. The State has a lot of money in TD bank and there is 80 million dollars in interest we don't have control over. We need a state bank to increase our revenue. Marcia said that is in committee and to be worked on. Nelson Baker mentioned the Lets Grow Kids Campaign. The Governor has supported funding for early education and he hopes Marcia will. Dan Leonard mentioned the Committee for Peaceful Co-Existence with Coyotes. Chris Ross asked regarding the Clean Water Act and Lake Champlain if we are coordinating with New York. Marcia said yes and Canada, but Vermont has more farms along the Lake and New York has mountains. Kate Davie would like to have equal time for dancing boys as there are for dancing girls. Dean Rowden rose for personal privilege noticing in the Vital Statistics that we are losing three times as many citizens by death as gaining newborns. He noticed yet another cemetery picture on the cover and hopes to see a birthing center pictured there next year. Rod Brown mentioned his grandson's Wesley Brown's birth on September 4<sup>th</sup> was not printed in the report. Rachel Baker noticed Ron Shaw's death was not there either. Cindy Fraser asked if there is a fire somewhere on recycling day is there someone to unlock recycling. Carl Bayer has a key. Contact him.

Rob Marcotte moved to adjourn. Louis Brugliera seconded the motion and it carried at 1:55 PM. The Moderator mentioned the Ryegate Historical Society has forms for joining the organization if anyone is interested.