

## ABSTRACT OF THE 2016 TOWN MEETING

The 2016 Annual Town Meeting was called to order at the Elementary Auditorium at Bellows Free Academy, Fairfax, Vermont by Moderator Roberta (Robby) Rodimer at 10:05 a.m. on Saturday, February 27, 2016. Robby read Robert's Rules as modified by VT State Law.

ARTICLES 1 through ARTICLE 3 were voted upon by the use of the official Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the Middle School Gymnasium of Bellows Free Academy, Fairfax, Vermont. The polls opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 1 To following officials were elected by the legal voters of the Town:

Town Clerk	Three Year Term	Deborah Woodward	1343 votes
Town Treasurer	Three Year Term	Deborah Woodward	1309 votes
Town Moderator	One Year Term	Roberta Rodimer	1285 votes
Selectperson	Three Year Term	Randy DeVine	1284 votes
Selectperson	Two Year Term	Duane Leach	1289 votes
Lister	Three Year Term	Patricia McNall	1326 votes
Town Agent	One Year Term	Thomas K Fontaine	1283 votes
Town Grand Juror	One Year Term	Peter King	1270 votes
Community Library Trustee	Three Year Term	Rev Elizabeth Griffin	1343 votes
Community Library Trustee	Two Years remaining Of a Three Year Term	Patricia Gallant	1265 votes
Community Library Trustee	One Year remaining Of a Five Year Term	Kyle Metayer	1253 votes
First Constable	Two Years remaining Of a Three Year Term	Peter King	1276 votes
Cemetery Commissioner	Five Year Term	Lucien J Hayes	1349 votes

The floor was opened to discussion and there was none.

ARTICLE 2 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax approve the proposed 2016 Town Budget of \$2,251,289.00 of which \$1,796,796.00 is to be raised by taxes?

Thomas Fontaine, Select Board Chair, welcomed everyone that came and thanked Skip Taylor for all his years working for the Town as Zoning Administrator. He presented a slide show: highlights of 2015 in review which included Fairfax's first Farmer's Market; the Town Office did a computer server upgrade and installation of security cameras; implementation of Act 148 SWIP plan, road paving on Toof Road and the Fire Station parking lot; acceptance of the donation for the Baptist Building from the First United Church of Fairfax; the completion of the Pavilion at the Recreation Fields; right of way easements attained to start sidewalk construction phase 1; also with approval of a reappraisal to be scheduled for the 2017/2018 tax years. The Town is looking for volunteers to serve on a New Fairfax Energy Committee. The vision for 2016 consists of paving projects on nine of the Town's roads. Tom informed the Town about the Article 3 trash debate that is non-binding due to multiple year contracts which required to be addressed due to Act 148. The total cost of \$2,553,354 for 2016 (partial) to 2020. The current pricing is around \$18 per household, per month compared to the same service

for around \$32 per month, per household with weekly curbside service. Advantages of Article 4 – Fiscal year were given. This change would help the Town to coincide with the State of Vermont and the School fiscal year. An 18 month estimated comparison was shown. Barbara Murphy, State Representative spoke about the Doyle Poll along with a list of unclaimed property listing in the lobby. She is serving on the Transportation Committee for Vermont Right of Ways. Patricia McNall, Lister was recognized for her 20 years of service. She spoke about the upcoming Fairfax reappraisal that will start this fall with the assistance of Ted Nelson and the Vermont Appraisal Company. Colin Santee, our new Recreation Director presented the acceptance of the Baptist Building; the pavilion and bathroom project at the recreation park; and about the mile trails at the 100 Acre Woods in North Fairfax. The floor was opened to discussion with a question and answer session. Some floor discussion consisted of the Town going to a tax rate or a flat fee on Article 3-Trash. It is still undecided at this point. What are we currently paying per month for trash and what will be the flat rate if the article is voted in. Another question was whether or not we were going to become a member of the Solid Waste District. We will become a member only if Article 3 is defeated. How the 18 month transition to the fiscal year affects State payments from the property tax comparison given. The state payment is going to still be deducted off the total tax on the property tax bill. The state payment was not part of the comparison.

In Favor: 1053

Opposed: 473

ARTICLE 3 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax authorize the Selectboard to enter into a forty-eight month contract with Casella for curbside trash and recycling pick-up? (This is a non-binding article.)

Year 2016: \$410,000.00 (8 months May through December).

Year 2017: \$633,450.00

Year 2018: \$652,454.00

Year 2019: \$652,450.00

Year 2020: \$205,000.00 (4 months January through April).

The total contract: \$2,553,354.00

The floor was opened to discussion and there was a question and answer session.

In Favor: 1069

Opposed: 472

ARTICLE 4 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax vote to adopt a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 as provided by 24 V.S.A. § 1683?

A motion was made by Randy DeVine and seconded by Lauri Fisher. The floor was opened to discussion and there was a question and answer session. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 5 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax be provided notice of the availability of the annual town report by postcard at least 30 days before the annual meeting in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the report to the voters of the town pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1682?

A motion was made by Leebeth Ann Lemieux and seconded by Lauri Fisher. The floor was opened to discussion and there was a question and answer session. Some discussion consisted of what a wonderful process and that not mailing the Town Reports would be a big financial savings to the Town. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 6 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$21,674.00 for the support of social contributions to provide services to the residents of the Town?

A. American Red Cross-----	\$1,000.00
B. Animal Hospital of Vermont-----	\$500.00
C. Champlain Valley Agency on Aging-----	\$1,400.00
D. Fairfax Success by Six-----	\$2,000.00
E. Franklin County Animal Rescue-----	\$200.00
F. Franklin County Home Health Agency-----	\$8,570.00
G. Franklin County Industrial Development-----	\$500.00
H. Franklin Grand Isle Restorative Justice Center-----	\$350.00
I. Friends of Northern Lake Champlain-----	\$300.00
J. Green Mountain Transit/CCTA-----	\$2,229.00
K. Green Up Vermont-----	\$300.00
L. Northwestern Counseling-----	\$1,800.00
M. Vermont Association of Conservation District-----	\$100.00
N. Vermont Center for Independent Living-----	\$500.00
O. Voices Against Violence Laurie's House-----	\$1,500.00
P. Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired-----	\$300.00
Q. Vermont Council on Rural Development-----	\$125.00

TOTAL: ----- \$21,674.00

A motion was made by Randy DeVine and seconded by Lauri Fisher. The floor was opened to discussion and there was a question and answer session. One question consisted of who the Animal Hospital of Vermont is. They have done the Town's Rabies Clinic and served the Town when we had an animal issue. This motion was passed by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 7 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax approve the sum of \$58,918 in support of the Fairfax Rescue toward operation expense?

Daniel Vanslette, Fairfax Rescue President presented achievements. Some consisted of 18,558 volunteer hours logged, valued at 260,000. They had \$4,600 worth of grants in 2015 and \$13,000 in 2016 and responded to 235 calls in Fairfax in 2015. They cover 365 days 24/7 and are standby for local events and host the boy and girl scouts. They are challenged with their volunteers being down; insurance reimbursements being down;

and with cost of meds, and equipment cost on the increase. They encourage the purchase of the 911 signs and donations.

A motion was made by Duane Leach and seconded by Randy DeVine. The floor was opened to discussion and there was a question and answer session. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

**ARTICLE 8** Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax authorize all the Town current and contingent expenses be voted upon by the use of the Australian ballot beginning in the year 2017?

A motion was made by Leebeth Ann Lemieux and seconded by Thomas Fontaine. The floor was opened to discussion and there was a question and answer session. Some floor discussion consisted of people feeling that they would not have a voice in Town decisions if the article passed. Other people felt that we would still have an informational meeting; this article would be the best for our Town. A motion was defeated by a show of cards with 40 voters in favor and 62 voters not in favor.

**ARTICLE 9** Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax act on the reports of the town officers?

A motion was made by Jason Boyd and seconded by Barbara Murphy. The floor was opened to discussion and there was none. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

**ARTICLE 10** Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax authorize the Selectboard to place the tax bills in the hands of the Town Treasurer as heretofore?

A motion was made by Tom Fontaine and seconded by Randy DeVine. The floor was opened to discussion and there was none. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

**ARTICLE 11** Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax authorize the Town Treasurer to collect taxes until otherwise voted at a subsequent annual or special meeting?

A motion was made by Tom Fontaine and seconded by Duane Leach. The floor was opened to discussion and there was a question and answer session. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

**ARTICLE 12** Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of property taxes for the current year expenses?

A motion was made by Lauri Fisher and seconded by Tom Fontaine. The floor was opened to discussion and there was none. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

**ARTICLE 13** Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax act on any other business?

A motion was made by Barbara Murphy and seconded by Sheri Rainville. The floor was opened to discussion and there was none. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

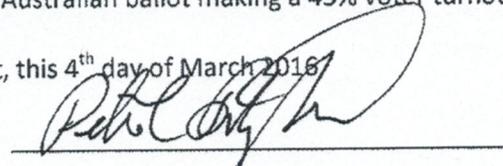
ARTICLE 14 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax recess Town Meeting until March 1, 2016 at 7:00 A.M.?

A motion was made by Mitchell Clark and seconded by Terry Briant. The floor was opened to discussion and there was none. A motion was passed by a show of cards at 12:45 p.m.

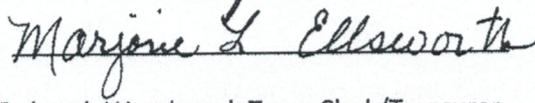
There are 3401 registered voters with 1563 voting by Australian ballot making a 45% voter turnout.

Dated at Fairfax, County of Franklin, State of Vermont, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016

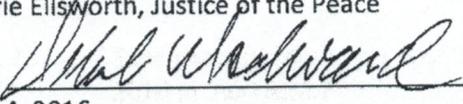
Peter Fitzgerald, Justice of the Peace



Marjorie Ellsworth, Justice of the Peace



Attest:  
March 4, 2016



Deborah Woodward, Town Clerk/Treasurer