

ABSTRACT OF THE 2015 TOWN MEETING

The 2015 Annual Town Meeting was called to order at the Elementary Auditorium at Bellows Free Academy, Fairfax, Vermont by Moderator Roberta K (Robby) Rodimer at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2015. Robby read Robert's Rules as modified by VT State Law. She stated that without objection, that the Town would change the length of time each person may speak from 10 minutes to 4 minutes. There was no objection.

ARTICLE 1 through ARTICLE 4 were voted upon by the use of the official Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at the Elementary Auditorium at Bellows Free Academy, Fairfax, Vermont. The polls opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m.

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

Town Moderator	One Year Term	Roberta K Rodimer	674 votes
Selectperson	Three Year Term	Thomas Fontaine	677 votes
Selectperson	Two Year Term	Leebeth Ann Lemieux	654 votes
Selectperson	Two Years remaining of a Three Year Term	Lauri Bellows Fisher	680 votes
Lister	Three Year Term	Robin Chapman	674 votes
Town Agent	One Year Term	to be appointed	
Town Grand Juror	One Year Term	to be appointed	
Community Library Trustee	Three Year Term	to be appointed	
Community Library Trustee	Two Year remaining of a Three Year Term	Patricia King Reaves	644 votes
First Constable	Three Year Term	to be appointed	
Cemetery Commissioner	Five Year Term	Alfred V Daniels	715 votes
Delinquent Tax Collector	Three Year Term	Johanna R Blake	671 votes

Robby read Article 1 that was voted by Australian ballot. There was no discussion from the floor.

ARTICLE 2 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax approve the proposed 2015 Town Budget of \$2,287,233 of which \$1,841,761 is to be raised by taxes?

Thomas Fontaine, Select Board Chair, welcomed everyone that came and thanked John Schraven for serving the Town as our past Moderator. He and Lauri Bellows Fisher presented a slide show: highlights of 2014 and visions for 2015 which included speaking about the Municipal Planning Grant. Fairfax received this grant of \$12,623 in 2014 from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development. Pete King spoke about the Town Constable, Article 4 with the powers enumerated by 24 V.S.A. Sect. 1936(a). The Vermont Criminal Justice Training council adopted rules and regulation for Law Enforcement Authority. Fairfax currently utilizes two highly trained and dedicated law enforcement agencies: Vermont State Police and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office; both operate with only certified officers. There has been new policies in late 2014 that advertised for a Constable with certification requirements where our Town has no candidates and the position is currently vacant declared for Tuesday's vote. The Select Board determined it to be more cost effective to maintain the current agencies

and strip the Fairfax Constable from all non-statutory duties that would require certification and the expense of outfitting an officer. The Select Board also spoke about the Proposed Budget Overview: Raises to town employee wages due to being paid considerably less compared to comparable Towns of the same size, making an adjustment to increase the wages. Highway rollover funds were put into the paving account budget. There were modest Highway budget increases, and increased social services contribution. The 2014-2015 Budget Comparison with a difference of 5.25% on the Budget was explained. Goals for 2015 beyond were mentioned: Fiscal Year change; Town Meeting day change; infrastructure improvement/sidewalks; update of Hazard Mitigation Plan; Recreation Department Growth-new Director; continued policy ordinance review; Grant research; also with vendor contracts. Catherine Duffy spoke on behalf of Duffy's Trash & Recycling and the upcoming VT148 Recycling Law which will make recycling mandatory starting July 1, 2015. The law will ban disposal from landfills of certain recyclables including leaf and yard debris to food scraps by 2020. The Town has saved thousands of dollars per year switching to Duffy's. The floor was opened to discussion with a question and answer session. Some floor discussion consisted of recreation field maintenance; the upcoming VT148 Recycling law; the settlement money with some being given to the Fire Department and loan repayment to the Recreation Department. The remainder was put into a special fund account. Other discussion consisted of paving Town roads and transportation projects.

In Favor: 515

Opposed: 271

ARTICLE 3 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax approve the sum of \$60,000 to reconstruct the parking lot at the Fairfax Fire Department to include all preparation and paving?

Tom Snider, Fire Chief and David Raymond, Battalion Chief was introduced. They presented a slide show explaining the need for the paving at the Fire Department parking lot which includes Goodall Street. The floor was opened to discussion and there was a question and answer session. Some discussion consisted of how long the paving would last; if the reconstruction would be put up for bid; along with recommending a qualified engineer to make sure they know what is underneath the road so that we do not have an issue with the paving down the road.

In Favor: 476

Opposed: 307

ARTICLE 4 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax eliminate the Law Enforcement powers of the Town Constable?

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

In Favor: 391

Opposed: 345

ARTICLE 5 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$21,299.00 for the support of social contributions to provide services to the residents of the Town?

A.	American Red Cross -----	500
B.	Champlain Valley Agency on Aging -----	1,400
C.	Franklin County Home Health Agency -----	8,570
D.	Franklin Grand Isle Court Division -----	300
E.	Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation -----	500
F.	Friends of Northern Lake Champlain -----	500
G.	Green Up Vermont -----	300
H.	Green Mountain Transit (GMTA/CCTA) -----	2,229
I.	Northwestern Counseling & Support Services -----	4,200
J.	Samaritan House/Tim's House -----	100
K.	Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired -----	300
L.	Vermont Center for Independent Living -----	2,300
M.	Vermont Council on Rural Development -----	<u>100</u>
		21,299

It was stated that under D. Franklin Grand Isle Court Division that Division, be changed to Diversion due to a typo.

A motion was made by Catherine Dimitruk and seconded by Barbara Murphy. The floor was opened to discussion. Some floor discussion consisted of what Franklin County Home Health Agency provides for our community, with more information in the Town Report; explanation that Franklin Grand Isle Court Diversion is a program helping first time offenders; and how the American Red Cross set up a shelter in Fairfax during our ice storm. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 6 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 2016?

A motion was made by David Shea and seconded by Mike Cain. 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 majority by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 7 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax approve the sum of \$55,169 in support of the Fairfax Rescue toward operation expense?

Mike Spaulding from the Rescue Squad introduced Bambi Dane, who is replacing him on the Squad. Some areas she spoke about were the need for volunteers, why there is an increase in this article from last year due to budget increases, and that they are available 365 days a year 24/7. A motion was made by Mike Cain and seconded by Mike Theoret. The floor was opened to discussion and there was a question and answer session. Mike Spaulding was thanked for his past years of service and for a job well done. A motion was passed by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 8 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax act on the reports of the several town officers?

A motion was made by Mike Theoret and seconded by Mary Kay Raymond. The floor was opened to discussion. There was none. This motion was passed by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 9 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax authorize the Selectboard to place the tax bills in the hands of the Treasurer as heretofore?

A motion was made by Robert Horr and seconded by Mary Kay Raymond . The floor was opened to discussion. This motion was passed by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 10 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 Barb Duval and seconded by Mike Cain. The floor was opened to discussion. There was none. This motion was passed by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 11 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 Barb Duval and seconded by Mike Theoret. The floor was opened to discussion. This motion was passed by a show of cards.

ARTICLE 12 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax adopt the Town Report?

A motion was made by Amber Soter and seconded by Mike Cain. The floor was opened to discussion. Some discussion consisted of: the Water and Sewer Budget; assets; and fund accounts. The vote was called by Mike Cain. This 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 Robert Horr and seconded by Tom Traber. The floor was opened to discussion. Some discussion consisted of: the Lamoille River Paddlers Trail; grants; identity protection; the Baptist Building; and Franklin County Sheriff access into the Town Office. This motion was passed by a show of cards.

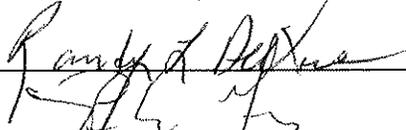
ARTICLE 14 Shall the registered voters of the Town of Fairfax recess Town Meeting until March 3, 2015 at 7:00 A.M.?

A motion was made by Marlene Karr and seconded by Mary Kay Raymond. The floor was opened to discussion and there was none. This motion was passed by a show of cards at 3:10 p.m. There was an attendance of 72 people.

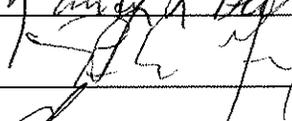
There are 3399 registered voters with 793 voting by Australian ballot making a 23% voter turnout.

Dated at Fairfax, County of Franklin, State of Vermont, this 6th day of March 2015

Randy DeVine, Selectperson



Peter King, Selectperson



Attest:

March 5, 2015



Deborah Woodward, Town Clerk/Treasurer