

MINUTES  
CABOT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 4, 2008

Pursuant to the Warning as recorded and legally posted, the legal voters did meet at the time and place indicated and the following business was transacted:

The 220<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Selectboard Chairperson Caleb Pitkin.

Article 1 - Motion made and seconded to elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Ed Smith nominated, seconded. Declared nominations closed; Ed Smith elected Moderator unanimously by voice vote. Moderator began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence and then opening remarks concerning the meeting.

Article 2 - Shall the town vote to approve the minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting of March 6, 2007? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Moderator stated the question; Article 2 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Articles 3 through 8 inclusive voted by Australian ballot:

Article 3 - To elect a Town Clerk for a term of three years; Australian ballot results: R.D. Eno 181, Tara Rogerson 387. Tara Rogerson was declared elected.

Article 4 - To elect a Town Treasurer for a term of three years; Australian ballot results: R.D. Eno 183, Tara Rogerson 380. Tara Rogerson was declared elected.

Article 5 - To elect a Selectperson for a term of three years; Australian ballot results: Larry Gochey 294, John Cookson 261. Larry Gochey was declared elected.

Article 6 - Shall the Town of Cabot issue bonds in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the purpose of acquiring a new Fire Department rescue vehicle? Australian ballot results: Yes 331, No 239. This article passed.

Article 7 - Shall the Town of Cabot grant to Faith In Action Partnership the sum of \$5,000 to help defray the start-up costs of a "Senior Citizen Computer Literacy Program" for Cabot residents from the \$52,149.32 of UDAG Funds available for Town Meeting Grants in 2008? Australian ballot results: Yes 293, No 275. This article passed.

Article 8 - Shall the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Commons the sum of \$8,500 to help defray the cost of constructing a solar hot water system for Cabot Commons Seniors' Residences from the \$52,149.32 of UDAG Funds available for Town Meeting Grants in 2008? Australian ballot results: Yes 399, No 170. This article passed.

Article 9 - Shall the Town vote to hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers?  
Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Moderator stated the question. Doug Harvey noted the following changes to the 2007 Town Report:

Pg 9 - Caleb Pitkin Salary - Chg \$600.00 to \$00.00  
Pg 10 - Marvie Domey - Chg 2008 to 2012  
Pg 10 - Law Agent - Chg Mary Carpenter to Chip Taylor (noted by Moderator)  
Pg 17 - HS 122 Rebates - Chg \$313,399.00 to \$315,399.00  
Pg 24 - Current Tax Refund - Chg \$2519.35 to \$00.00  
Pg 24 - General Expense - Chg \$9849.12 to \$7670.56  
Pg 24 - Willey Bldg Exp - Chg \$38157.50 to \$38470.03  
Pg 24 - Total 2007 Actual- Chg \$373,508.07 to \$369,122.29  
Pg 25 - 4000 Clerk Fee - Chg \$18,213.54 to \$23,963.54  
Pg 25 - 4850 Current Taxes - Chg \$2,442,915.27 to \$2,438,004.64  
Pg 25 - Total Income - Chg \$2,788,805.49 to \$2,789,644.86  
Pg 25 - 4045 Current Tax Expense - Chg \$2519.35 to \$00.00  
Pg 25 - 4250 General Expense - Chg \$9,849.52 to \$7,670.56  
Pg 26 - Total Expense - Chg \$2,864,027.15 to \$2,859,328.84  
Pg 26 - Net Ordinary Inc. - Chg (\$75,221.66) to (\$69,683.98)  
Pg 26 - 8005 In Out Checks - Chg (\$212.32) to \$00.00  
Pg 26 - Total Other Income - Chg \$8,943.97 to \$9,156.29  
Pg 26 - Net Other Income - Chg \$7,920.85 to \$8,133.17  
Pg 26 - Net Income - Chg (\$67,300.81) to (\$61,550.81)  
Pg 27 - Property Taxes - Chg \$714,739.27 to \$709,828.64  
Pg 27 - Clerk Fees - Chg \$18,213.54 to \$23,963.54  
Pg 27 - Total- Chg \$1,147,518.53 to \$1,148,357.87  
Pg 28 - Under Other Current Assets - Add 1213 Due from UDAG \$5750.00  
Pg 28 - Total Other Current Assets - Chg \$500.00 to \$6,250.00  
Pg 28 - Total Current Assets - Chg \$209,108.41 to \$214,858.41  
Pg 28 - Net Income - Chg (\$67,300.81) to (\$61,550.81)  
Pg 28 - Total Equity - Chg \$145,738.82 to \$151,488.82  
Pg 28 - Total Liability & Equity - Chg \$209,108.41 to \$214,858.41  
Pg 31 - Opening Balance Equity - Chg \$70,956.46 to \$70,165.85  
Pg 31 - Net Income - Chg (\$4,167.28) to (\$3,376.67)  
Pg 32 - 8085 Interest - Chg \$1,689.72 to \$2,480.33  
Pg 32 - Total Income - Chg \$27,082.91 to \$27,873.52  
Pg 32 - Net Ordinary Income - Chg \$6,285.98 to \$7076.59  
Pg 32 - Net Income - Chg (\$4,167.28) to (\$3,376.67)  
Pg 34 - FD Budget - Subtract \$10,000 from Bond Vote Interest, Sub Total and Total for 2006 Budget, 2006 Actual and 2007 Budget columns.

Caleb noted that the town realized a \$10,000 deficit for 2007 and that this year's tax rate would include a ¾ cent increase to close out the deficit. Susan Carpenter, 2007 Delinquent Tax Collector, provided an update for the Delinquent Taxes Report (pages 18 & 19) indicating that she had collected \$36,045.64 in January and February 2008, leaving a total of \$22,528.11 in delinquent taxes to be collected.

Article 10 - Shall the Town vote to pay its Real and Personal Property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before November 12, 2008, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months and one and one-half percent per month thereafter and an eight percent penalty charged from the due date? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Jody Stahlman asked what happens to the interest and penalty money received; Susan Carpenter explained the process, indicating the interest is provided as income to the General Fund and the 8% penalty pays the delinquent tax collectors salary. Jessica Miller questioned if the delinquent taxes collected since the first of the year, \$36,045.64, could be used to reduce this year's budget; Caleb answered no. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 10 adopted by voice vote.

Article 11- To elect all Town Officers required by law, according to law? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Moderator called for nominations for the following offices: LISTER – one Lister for a 3 year term. Carlton Domey nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator entertained motion for Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Carlton Domey; so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Carlton Domey elected for a 3 year term. LISTER – one Lister for 1 year term. No nominations; Selectboard will appoint a Lister to fill the position. AUDITOR – one auditor for a 3 year term. Diane Rossi nominated and seconded. Diane Rossi declined the position. No other nominations; Selectboard will appoint an Auditor to fill the position. AUDITOR – one auditor for a 1 year term. Susan Freeburn nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator entertained motion for Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Susan Freeburn, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Susan Freeburn elected for a 1 year term. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR – Susan Carpenter nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Susan Carpenter elected Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1 year term. FIRST CONSTABLE – Ken Gokey nominated and seconded. Ken Christman nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Meeting called for a paper ballot; seven required people stood for paper ballot. Results of paper ballot: Ken Gokey – 91, Ken Christman – 63. Ken Gokey elected First Constable for 1 year term. SECOND CONSTABLE - Ken Christman nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Ken Christman elected Second Constable for 1 year term. GRAND JUROR – Philip Pike Jr. nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Philip Pike Jr. elected Grand Juror for 1 year term. LAW AGENT – Chip Taylor nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Chip Taylor elected Law Agent for 1 year term. CEMETERY COMMISSIONER – One 5 year term. Melvin Churchill nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Melvin Churchill elected Cemetery Commissioner for 5 year term. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 3 year term. Amy Cooke nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Amy Cooke elected to Library Committee for 3 year term. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 3 year term. Steve Gregg nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Steve Gregg elected to Library Committee for 3 year term. UDAG COMMITTEE – one 3 year term. Gary Katz nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Gary Katz elected to UDAG Committee for 3 year term. WILLEY BUILDING COMMITTEE – one 3 year term. Larry Thompson nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Larry Thompson elected to Willey Building Committee for 3 year term. No further discussion.

Article 12 - Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to apply for and receive grants and gifts and to spend any grants and gifts received in the current fiscal year, excluding UDAG funds,

block grants and unrestricted gifts? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Jessica Miller questioned a statement by Larry Gochey, in a newspaper article, concerning a 1.5 million dollar grant. Larry responded indicating that grant money was received 6 or 7 years earlier for the Waste Water project. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 12 adopted by voice vote.

Article 13 - Shall the Town authorize the Library Trustees to apply for and receive grants and gifts and to spend any grants and gifts received? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 13 adopted by voice vote.

Article 14 - Shall the Town vote the sum of \$37,900 to defray the expenses of the Cabot Fire Department? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Dale Newton asked what the bottom line on taxes is if all items are approved? Caleb responded they were requesting a 16% increase on municipal taxes collected. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 14 adopted by voice vote.

Article 15 - Shall the Town vote the sum of \$13,000 to a Fire Department equipment purchase sinking fund to cover the cost of a new pumper truck next year? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Walter Bothfeld Jr. moved to amend the article to change "next year" to 2010; seconded. Moderator read amendment; amendment passed by voice vote. Sandy Schmitt asked if this article could be postponed. Walter Bothfeld Jr. responded that this is a pay me now or pay me later issue. Jessica Miller queried if the Fire Department had evaluated purchasing a used vehicle versus a new one. Walter Bothfeld responded that insurance certification is affected and increased once a vehicle reaches 20 years of age. Thus, if they purchased a used vehicle the life span of the vehicle would be decreased and they would be back asking for more money to replace that vehicle sooner than if they buy new. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question as amended; Article 15 adopted by voice vote.

Article 16 - Shall the Town vote the sum of \$150 to purchase flags for Memorial Day? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Pat Distefano questioned what these flags were for and why we needed them each year? Melvin Churchill indicated that flags are purchased and placed at the grave sites of all Cabot Veterans. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 16 adopted by voice vote.

Article 17 - Shall the Town vote the sum of \$20,000 to help toward the maintenance of the Cabot Cemeteries? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 17 adopted by voice vote.

Article 18 - Shall the Town vote the sum of \$7,000 to support the Cabot Ambulance? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 18 adopted by voice vote.

Article 19 - Shall the Town vote the sum of \$46,802.53 to support the Cabot Library? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Paula Davidson moved to amend the article to change the sum to \$50,048.93; seconded. Moderator stated the question as amended; amendment defeated by voice vote. Jessica Miller moved to amend the article to change the sum to \$36,802.53.

Moderator stated the question as amended; amendment defeated by voice vote. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 19 adopted by voice vote.

Article 20 - Shall the Town vote the sum of \$500 to support the Cabot Senior Citizens group? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 20 adopted by voice vote.

Article 21 - Shall the Town vote the sum of \$4,000 to support the Cabot Coalition Mentor program? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Rusty Churchill asked what the Mentor program is. Kathleen Hoyne provided an overview of the program and how it benefits the youth and town itself. Jeannie Johnson and Lars Torres spoke in favor of the article. No additional discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 21 adopted by voice vote

Article 22 - Shall the Town vote the sum of \$4,500 to support the Cabot Recreation Committee? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 22 adopted by voice vote.

Article 23 - Shall the Town appropriate the following sums for the following purposes:

A.	A.W.A.R.E.	\$750
B.	Battered Women's Services and Shelter	\$600
C.	Central VT. Adult Basic Education	\$1,200
D.	Central VT. Community Action Council Inc	\$300
E.	Central VT. Council on Aging	\$1,200
F.	Central VT. Crime Stoppers	\$ 500
G.	Central VT. Economic Development Corp	\$300
H.	Central VT. Home Health and Hospice Inc	\$2,000
I.	Family Center of Washington County	\$500
J.	Green Mountain Transit Agency	\$733
K.	Green Mountain Youth Symphony	\$200
L.	Green Up Vermont	\$100
M.	No. VT. Resource Conserv. & Devel. Council	\$75
N.	Onion River Food Shelf	\$500
O.	Peoples Health and Wellness, Inc.	\$100
P.	R.S.V.P. [Retired & Sr Volunteer Program]	\$200
Q.	Sexual Assault Crisis Team	\$300
R.	VT. Assoc for Blind & Visually Impaired	\$300
S.	VT. Center for Independent Living	\$165
T.	VT. Trails and Greenways Council	\$30
U.	Washington County Diversion Program	\$150
V.	Washington County Youth Service Bureau	\$250
W.	West Danville Area Community Club	\$500
X.	Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District	\$500
Y.	Woodbury-Calais Food Shelf	\$300
TOTAL:		\$11,753.00

Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Brian Rossell moved to amend the article by removing items B, F, and Q, as they are federally funded; no second. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 23 adopted by voice vote.

Article 24 - Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$732,500.00 to repair and maintain the highways of the Town including summer, winter and special treatment, of which an estimated \$170,000.00 is to come from income and an estimated \$562,500.00 from local taxes? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Jessica Miller questioned a statement by Larry Gochey, in a newspaper article, that stated the Cabot Creamery pays enough taxes to pay for the total highway budget. Caleb Pitkin – Point of Order – the question refers to a campaign article about candidates for election by Australian ballot and should not be discussed at the polling place. Moderator overruled point of order allowing Jessica to continue. Caleb Pitkin requested appeal of the Moderator ruling. Moderator called for a voice vote to sustain ruling of the chair; voice vote to close to call. Moderator called for standing vote to sustain ruling of the chair; Yes 63, No 53 – Moderator ruling sustained. Jessica Miller continued her question indicating that last year the Cabot Creamery taxes were just over \$200,000 a far reach from the \$700,000 budget. Larry Gochey indicated that he was not aware there was such a large difference. Steve Gregg, Leonard Spencer, Mary Carpenter, Cedric Alexander, Nathan Smith and Pat Distefano all commented on the article. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 24 adopted by voice vote.

Article 25 - Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$600,826.00 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$206,500.00 to come from income and an estimated \$394,326.00 from local taxes? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 25 adopted by voice vote.

Article 26 - To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting. Moderator read the article; moved and seconded.

- a. Cerelia Spencer moved to have all organizations receiving money from the Town, provide a report, to include how funding was utilized, for inclusion into the Town Report, seconded. Moderator read the motion; passed by voice vote.
- b. Janet Newton moved to limit the appropriations amount to \$10,000 for distribution to organizations outside of the community and to have the Selectboard appoint a committee to determine the distribution amounts. Jack Daniels and Susan Tobias spoke against limiting the appropriations money to a dollar amount. No further discussion. Moderator read the motion; defeated by voice vote.

Article 27 – To adjourn this meeting. Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 27 adopted by voice vote, meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Douglas Harvey, Town Clerk

Approved by: /s/Ed Smith, Moderator  
/s/Caleb Pitkin, SB Chair