

MINUTES
CABOT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MARCH 3, 2009

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 221st Town Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Selectboard Chair, 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. William Walters moved to suspend the rules in order to allow a representative not residing in Cabot to address the assembly; seconded. Two-thirds vote required; motion adopted. District Representative Kitty Toll described the current activities of the Vermont Legislature. The Moderator then made opening remarks concerning the meeting.

Article 2 - Shall the town vote to approve the minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held March 2, 2008? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 2 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Vermont state law allows the discussion of Australian ballot items not pertaining to elected officials. Article 3 through 6 inclusive voted by Australian ballot:

Article 3 – To elect a Selectperson for a term of three years; no discussion. Australian ballot results: Edward Domey 222, scattered and blank votes 30. Edward Domey was declared elected.

Article 4 – Shall the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot School the sum of \$16,691.00 to purchase non-structural components for the Cabot School Performing Arts Center from \$57,813.86 of UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2009? Moderator read the Article and opened the floor for discussion. Jessica Miller asked if the Article was warned for the Town Meeting due to the two-vote school budget? The Moderator replied that no, all Australian ballot items are listed in the Town Meeting. Point of Information – Caleb Pitkin explained that UDAG grants are Town funds and should be included in the Town Meeting warning. Australian ballot results: Yes 156, No 96. Article passed.

Article 5 – Shall the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Coalition the sum of \$5,218.00 for the purchase of long-distance touring equipment for the Cabot Roamers bike program and for the purchase of computer equipment for the Cabot Chronicle from \$57,813.86 of UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2009? Moderator read the Article and opened the floor for discussion; no comment. Australian ballot results: Yes 154, No 98. Article passed.

Article 6 – Shall the Town of Cabot grant the Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service the sum of \$17, 841.85 for the purchase of a Life Pak 12-lead defibrillator/monitor from \$57,813.86 of UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2009? Moderator read the Article and opened the floor for discussion; no comment. Australian ballot results: Yes 204, No 49. Article passed.

Article 7 – Shall the Town vote to hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers? Moderator read the Article; RD Eno moved and was seconded. Moderator stated the question. Tara Rogerson noted the following changes to the 2008 Town Report:

Page 8 – Town Salaries – Koeller, Connie – Change to \$25,938.00

Page 8 – Town Salaries – Total – Change to \$281,869.71

Page 9 – Justice of the Peace – Change Wayne Martin to Bonnie Dannenberg

Page 26 – Cold Patch/Paving – Change 2008 Actual to \$2,408.58

Page 26 – Total – Change 2009 Actual to \$892,839.47

Page 27 – Fire Department New Equipment – Change 2008 Actual to \$145,000

Page 27 – Total – Change 2008 Actual to \$567,495.08

Page 28 – HF3030 – Misc. Income – Change to \$1,484.59

Page 28 – HF3039 – Highway Grants – Change to \$98,139.38

Page 58 – Audit Fee – Change Proposed 2009 to \$1,050.00

Page 58 – Total – Change Proposed 2009 \$152,253.79

Page 61 – Add Line Item - Masonic Hall \$262,264*

Caleb Pitkin noted that the Town has a 3-percent deficit for 2008 of \$36,668.89; the 2009 property tax rate will include an estimated 2.5-cent increase to retire the deficit. Caleb explained that the biggest single contributor of the deficit was the mandated contribution for the Sawmill bridge replacement; the total costs and construction schedule were unknown at the time of the 2008 Town Meeting. Susan Carpenter, 2008 Delinquent Tax Collector, provided an update on the Delinquent Taxes Report, indicating that she had collected \$19,574.49 since the beginning of the year. RD Eno asked whether the delinquent taxes collected since the first of the year could be applied to reduce the 2008 deficit? Caleb answered that delinquent taxes may not retire a deficit. Pat DiStefano asked why additional funds were not set aside for the anticipated bridge construction? Caleb answered that the project had been discussed for ten years with no result; when it seemed likely that preliminary planning was likely to occur in 2008, \$12,500 was set aside. The Town did not anticipate the work to be completed in 2008, and erred on the side of caution, not wanting to raise large sums for a project that might not happen. Pat then asked about the UNICEL designated legal expense; Caleb explained that the purpose of this fund is to offset Town legal expenses associated with the proposed UNICEL cell-silo. Jessica Miller asked for an explanation of the Veterans' Local Agreement and where the \$30,000 in erroneously collected money went? Caleb explained the purpose of the Local Agreement is to reduce property taxes for qualified Veterans; the money was received as current and delinquent taxes and used like all tax revenue – to pay our expenses, reduce our deficit, or increase our carry-forward. Jessica pointed out a mistake on page 19, under 2008 Statement of Taxes Raised, where the correct number should have been \$153,043,009.00, then asked if this was the number used to calculate the tax rate? Tara answered that it was. RD asked why delinquent taxes are not shown as a receivable on the Balance Sheet? Tara explained that it was indicated, but only shows the municipal portion of delinquent taxes due as of December 31, 2008. Jessica asked why there was such a discrepancy between the Highway Expense 2008 Proposed and 2008 Actual? Caleb explained that \$98,139.38 was received in grants and part was spent in the asphalt line item. The difference in the 2008 proposed and actual leaves the Town approximately \$70,000 over budget; about \$46,000 for the Sawmill Road bridge, \$9,000 on asphalt, \$19,000 for equipment repair; \$7,000 for fuel expense – all other items are roughly what we budgeted. Jessica asked for an explanation of the reimbursed fuel expense; Caleb replied that the Town purchases fuel and is reimbursed by the school for its portion; it is noted as income and an expense. RD asked where the 2007 deficit money is shown as income, and does the proposed 2009 property tax include the 2008 deficit? Caleb explained that it is show as taxes received in 2008, and the 2008 deficit is not included in the proposed 2009 figure. Pat asked for more information on the bike grant; Mark Bromley explained the current program purpose of the grant. Jessica asked for an itemization of the miscellaneous income, and if it could be itemized in the report; Tara responded with line item details, and it could be itemized. Jessica asked why the asphalt expense in the profit and loss differed from the asphalt expense in the highway budget; Caleb replied that local revenue was combined with most of the highway grant money to achieve the number on the profit and loss report. RD announced a UDAG scholarship meeting. Jessica asked what wastewater fixed assets are; Caleb explained that it is the real property owned by the Town stemming from construction of the wastewater system. Caleb announced the Gary Gulka is resigning from the Planning Commission and as Town Health Officer and thanked him for his service to the Town.

Article 8 – Shall the Town vote to pay its Real and Personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before November 12, 2009, 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; Caleb Pitkin moved and was seconded. No discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 8 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 9 – Shall the Town of Cabot elect its constables, whether full- or part-time, first or second constable, for a term of two years? Jackie Folsom moved and was seconded. Caleb moved that the meeting be allowed to discuss the merits of both Articles 9 and 10 as they are closely intertwined issues. Cathleen Higbee, Caleb Pitkin, William Cobb, Lee Blackwell, Susan Tobias, Ken Gokey, Roman Kokodyniak, Larry Thompson, Pat DiStefano, Sandra Schmitt, Chris Duff, Richard Hourihan, Libby Hale, Cerelia Spencer, and Judy Lewis, spoke regarding the Articles. Karen Williams-Fox called the question; requires 2/3 majority – approved by raise of hands. Moderator stated the question. Article 9 adopted by voice vote.

Article 10 – Shall the Town of Cabot vote to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority before they have successfully completed a course of training under Chapter 151 of Title 20, V.S.A.? Jackie Folsom moved and was seconded. Mark and Bridgette Codling and Mary Belenky spoke regarding the Article. Pat DiStefano moved to amend the article as follows: Shall the Town of Cabot vote to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority before they have successfully completed a course of training under Chapter 151 of Title 20 V.S.A., such training to be funded by the Town? Caleb moved to amend the amendment to as follows: Shall the Town of Cabot vote to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority before they have successfully completed a course of training under Chapter 151 of Title 20 V.S.A., such training to be funded by the Town at the request of the constables? Moderator stated the amendment as amended; amendment approved by voice vote. Cedric Alexander and Caleb made additional comments regarding the Town's obligation to elect one constable; no further discussion. Moderator stated the question as amended; Article 10 adopted by voice vote as amended.

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. Mike Hogan nominated and seconded. Stephen declined on behalf of Mike. Pat DiStefano asked about the job requirements; Carlton Domey explained. Richard Hourihan nominated and seconded. Pat DiStefano nominated and seconded. Pat DiStefano declined the position. No further nominations. Moderator requested motion for Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Richard Hourihan, so moved and seconded. Richard Hourihan elected for a 3 year term. LISTER – one Lister for 1 year term. John Christman nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested motion for Town Clerk to cast one ballot for John Christman, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. John Christman elected for 1 year term. Richard Hourihan moved to adjourn meeting until the conclusion of the School District Meeting; seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. Town Meeting resumed at 1:12 p.m. AUDITOR – one Auditor for a 3 year term. Susan Freeburn nominated and seconded. Cathleen Maine nominated and seconded; then withdrawn. Moderator declared nominations closed. Moderator requested motion for Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Sue Freeburn, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously Susan Freeburn elected for 3 year term. AUDITOR – one Auditor for a 2 year term. Cathleen Maine nominated and seconded. Moderator declared nominations closed. Moderator requested motion for Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Cathleen Maine, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously Cathleen Maine elected for 2 year term. AUDITOR – one Auditor for a 1 year term. Joanne Christman nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested motion for Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Joanne Christman, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously Joanne Christman elected for 1 year term. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR– Susan Carpenter nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator entertained motion for Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Susan Carpenter, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously Susan Carpenter elected Delinquent Tax Collector for 1 year term. FIRST CONSTABLE – Ken Gokey nominated and seconded. John Christman nominated and seconded. Ken Christman nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Meeting called for paper ballot; required seven people to stand. Results from paper ballot: Ken Gokey – 91, Ken Christman – 50. Ken Gokey elected First Constable for 2 year term. GRAND JUROR – Philip Pike Jr. nominated by Walter Bothfeld and seconded. No further nominations; Philip Pike Jr. elected Grand Juror for a 1 year term. LAW AGENT – Chip Taylor nominated by Walter Bothfeld and seconded. No further nominations; Chip Taylor elected Law Agent for a 1 year term. CEMETERY COMMISSIONER – Fred Pike nominated by Marvie Domey and seconded. No further nominations; Fred Pike elected Cemetery Commissioner for a 1 year term. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 3 year term. Karen Alexander nominated and seconded. No further

nominations; Karen Alexander elected Library Trustee for a 3 year term. UDAG COMMITTEE – one 1 year term. Anne Cookson nominated by RD Eno and seconded. No further nominations; Anne Cookson elected to the UDAG Committee for 1 year term. UDAG COMMITTEE – one 3 year term. Ron Lay-Sleeper nominated by RD Eno and seconded. No further nominations; Ron Lay-Sleeper elected to the UDAG Committee for 3 year term. WILLEY BUILDING COMMITTEE – one 3year term. RD Eno nominated and seconded. No further nominations; RD Eno elected to the Willey Building Committee for 3 year term. SECOND CONSTABLE – Ken Christman nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Ken Christman elected Second Constable for 2 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, blog grants and unrestricted gifts? Moderator read the article; moved by Eric Mueller-Harder and seconded. No 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 by RD Eno and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 13 adopted by voice vote.

Article 14 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$30,350 to defray the expenses of the Cabot Fire Department? Moderator read the article; moved by Richard Payne and seconded. Rusty Churchill asked whether the old rescue vehicle was sold and what the money will be used for? Walter Bothfeld answered that it had been sold for \$4,000 and proceeds would be used to repair the thermal imaging camera. 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 by RD Eno and seconded. Jill Alexander, Walter Bothfeld, RD Eno, Caleb Pitkin, Jessica Miller, Cecelia Gulka, Walter Churchill, and Cerelia Spencer spoke regarding the 2010 pumper truck purchase. Carlton Domey moved to amend the Article as follows: Shall the Town vote the sum of \$15,000 to a Fire Department equipment purchase sinking fund to cover the cost of a new pumper truck next year? Moderator stated the amendment; amendment approved by voice vote. Moderator stated the question as amended; Article 15 adopted by voice vote as amended.

Article 16 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$18,000 to help toward the maintenance of the Cabot Cemeteries? Moderator read the article; moved by RD Eno and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 16 adopted by voice vote.

Article 17 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$10,000 to support the Cabot Ambulance? Moderator read the article; moved by Chip Taylor and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 17 adopted by voice vote.

Article 18 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$53,668.32 to support the Cabot Library? Moderator read the article; moved by RD Eno and seconded. Charles Codling, John Vara, Jill Alexander, Diane Klingler, and Cecilia Gulka spoke regarding the article. Bonnie Dannenberg spoke against the proposed increase. Mary Carpenter called the question; requires 2/3 majority – approved by raise of hands. Moderator stated the question. Meeting called for paper ballot; required seven people to stand. Results from paper ballot: Yes – 73, No – 82. Article 18 defeated by paper ballot.

Article 19 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$500 to support the Cabot Senior Citizen group? Moderator read the article; moved by RD Eno and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 19 adopted by voice vote.

Article 20 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$4,000 to support the Cabot Mentoring program? Moderator read the article; moved by RD Eno and seconded. Pat DiStefano, Kathleen Hoyne, Jessica Miller, Theresa Lay-Sleeper, Charles Butterick, Cathleen Higbee, Susan Tobias, Jennie Gilbert, and Jill Alexander spoke regarding the Article. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 20 adopted by voice vote.

Article 21 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$650 to support the Cabot Recreational Committee? Moderator read the article; moved by Caleb Pitkin and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 21 adopted by voice vote.

Article 22 – Shall the Town appropriate the following sums for the following purposes:

A.	A.W.A.R.E.	\$750.
B.	Battered Womens Services and Shelter	600.
C.	Cabot TLC	500.
D.	Central VT. Adult Basic Education	1,200.
E.	Central VT. Community Action Council Inc	300.
F.	Central VT. Council on Aging	1,200.
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 Up Vermont	100.
L.	No. VT. Resource Conservation & Development Council	75.
M.	Onion River Food Shelf	600.
N.	Peoples Health and Wellness, Inc.	100.
O.	R.S.V.P. [Retired & Sr. Volunteer Program]	200.
P.	Sexual Assault Crisis Team	300.
Q.	Twin Valley Senior Center	500.
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 Youth Service Bureau	250.
V.	West Danville Area Community Club	500.
W.	Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District	500.
X.	Woodbury-Calais Food Shelf	600.
TOTAL:		\$ 12,303.00

Moderator read the article; moved by RD Eno and seconded. Jessica Miller, Chris Tormey, Melvin Churchill, Karen Meuller-Harder, Regina Quinn, Merlene Codling, Joanne Christman, Mark Codling, and Walter Churchill spoke regarding the proposed Cabot TLC appropriation of \$500. Jill Alexander moved to amend the Cabot TLC appropriation to \$0; seconded. Regina Quinn spoke for the appropriation; Cecilia Considine, Cerelia Spencer, Mark Codling, and Jill Alexander spoke against the appropriation. RD Eno called the question; requires 2/3 majority – approved by raise of hands. Moderator stated the amendment; amendment defeated by voice vote. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 22 adopted by voice vote.

Article 23 – Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$728,500 to repair and maintain the highways of the Town including summer, winter and special treatment, of which an estimated \$123,000.00 is to come from income and \$605,500.00 from local taxes? Moderator read the article; moved by Walter Bothfeld and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 23 adopted by voice vote.

Article 24 – Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$471,381.32 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$49,000 to come from income and \$442,381.32 from local taxes? Moderator read the article; moved by Walter Bothfeld and seconded. Caleb Pitkin moved to amend the article to reflect increase to Fire Department sinking fund and decrease to library appropriation as follows: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$419,713.00 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$49,000 to come from income and \$370,713.00 from local taxes? Caleb Pitkin, Theresa Lay-Sleeper, RD Eno, Melvin Churchill, and Pat DiStefano spoke regarding the amendment. Cerelia Spencer called the question; requires 2/3 majority – approved by raise of hands. Moderator stated the amendment; amendment approved by voice vote. Jessica Miller moved to amend the article to reduce the proposed 2009 General Fund budget by \$30,000; seconded. Caleb Pitkin commented on proposed amendment. Moderator stated the amendment; amendment denied by voice vote. No further discussion. Moderator stated the amended question; Article 24 adopted by voice vote as amended.

Article 25 – 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 which explains how funds are utilized for inclusion in the Town Report; seconded. Jennifer Miner moved that Cerelia’s motion be amended to include a count of Cabot residents benefitted by appropriation; seconded. Jackie Folsom and Pat DiStefano spoke regarding the amendments. RD Eno called the question; requires 2/3 majority – approved by raise of hands. Moderator stated the amendment; amendment approved by voice vote. Cedric Alexander, Lee Blackwell, Cerelia Spencer, Pat DiStefano, and Caleb Pitkin spoke regarding the amended motion. RD Eno called the question; requires 2/3 majority – approved by raise of hands. Moderator stated the question; motion passed by voice vote as amended.

Article 26 – To adjourn this meeting. Moderator read the article; RD Eno moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 26 adopted by voice vote; meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tara Rogerson, Town Clerk

Approved by:

Ed Smith, Moderator

Caleb Pitkin, Selectboard Chair