

MINUTES
CABOT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MARCH 2, 2010

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 222nd Cabot Town Meeting was called to order at 10:07 p.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. Ed asked to suspend the rules in order to allow a representative not residing in Cabot to address the assembly; no objections. 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 of March 3, 2009?

Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 2 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 3 – To elect a Selectperson for a term of three years? Moderator read the Article and opened the floor for discussion.

Caleb Pitkin moved to suspend the rules to postpone discussion of Articles 4 through 11 until after Article 29. Requires 2/3 majority – motion approved by standing vote.

Article 12 – 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. Tara Rogerson noted the following changes to the 2010 Town Report:

Inside cover – Dog Registration Fees – Change \$7.00 to \$8.00 and \$11.00 to \$12.00

Page 17 – 2010 Proposed Balance Forward – Change \$130,214.59 to \$165,238.56

Page 17 – 2010 Proposed Property Taxes – Change \$938,564.14 to \$903,540.17

Page 17 – 2009 Actual UNICEL Legal Reimbursement – Change \$791.00 to \$791.67

Page 17 – Town Budget & Income Report Notes #2 – Change \$391.00 to \$391.70

Page 19 – Notes to Balance Sheet- FD Sinking Fund – Change \$167,599.40 to \$167,599.44

Page 19 – Notes to Balance Sheet – Total Designated Fund Balance – Change \$281,525.08 to \$281,656.08

Page 19 – Notes to Balance Sheet #2 - “The net ‘carry forward income...’ – Change 2009 to 2010

Page 19 – Notes to Balance Sheet #2 – Less Designated Carry Forward – Change \$281,525.08 to \$281,656.08

Page 19 – Notes to Balance Sheet – Net Carry Forward – Change \$165,278.56 to \$165,238.56

Caleb noted the following changes to the 2010 Town Report:

Page 42 – New Truck – Change \$122,000 to \$110,000

Page 42 – Highway Fund Expense Total – Change \$777,400 to \$765,400

Susan Carpenter, 2009 Delinquent Tax Collector, provided an update on the Delinquent Taxes Report, indicating that she had collected \$19,384.88 since the beginning of the year. Gary Gulka, Planning Commission Chair, described recent activities of the commission, the upcoming Town Plan revisions and the desire for community involvement in implementing this plan. Skip Bothfeld removed the 2009 550 GMC Rescue Vehicle, which occurred twice in the inventory report. Jessica Miller asked for the balance forward amount? Tara responded that it was \$165,238.56. Jessica asked why that would not affect the total budget income? Tara responded that the increased balance forward decreased the amount of proposed property taxes, resulting in the same total income. Jessica asked if the property taxes were already decided prior to the additional \$35,023.97 balance forward? Caleb responded that the total income needed in 2010 to cover our expected expenses is \$1,281,284.33; in addition to our originally anticipated revenue this would have required \$938,564.14 in property taxes, but with the additional carry forward property taxes could be reduced to \$903,540.17 and result in the same total funding amount. Jessica asked if we knew of the extra money before coming up with a property tax amount? Caleb responded that a disagreement whether the income should be counted in 2009 or 2010 led to agreement after printing of the Town Report. RD asked for an explanation of the decrease between the 2009 proposed and actual property taxes and the increase in highway fund miscellaneous income? Caleb responded that the actual property tax collected does not include delinquent taxes and the highway funds received was a culvert reimbursement. RD asked for the tax comparison and whether a tax rate was set for this year? Caleb responded that we don't have enough information to set the tax rate. No further discussion.

Article 13 – Shall the Town vote to pay its Real and Personal Property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before November 12, 2010, 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. No discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 13 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 14 – 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. John Christman nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for John Christman, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. John Christman elected for a 3 year term. LISTER – one Lister for a 2 year term. No nominations; position will be appointed by Selectboard. AUDITOR – one Auditor for a 3 year term. Joanna Christman nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Joanna Christman, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Joanna Christman elected for a 3 year term. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR – Susan Carpenter nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Susan Carpenter elected for 1 year term by voice vote. GRAND JUROR – David Pike nominated and seconded. No further nominations; David Pike elected Grand Juror for a 1 year term by voice vote. LAW AGENT – Chip Taylor nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Chip Taylor elected Law Agent for a 1 year term by voice vote. CEMETERY COMMISSIONER – Ruth Goodrich nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Ruth Goodrich elected for a 5 year term by voice vote. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – four Library Trustees for a 1 year term. Jon Vara nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Jon Vara elected for 1 year term by voice vote. Margaret Trautz nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Margaret Trautz elected for 1 year term by voice vote. Paula Davidson nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Paula Davidson elected for 1 year term by voice vote. Cathleen Higbee nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Cathleen Higbee elected for 1 year term by voice vote. UDAG COMMITTEE – one 3 year term. Jeannie Johnson nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Jeannie Johnson elected for 3 year term by voice vote. WILLEY BUILDING COMMITTEE – one 3 year term. Fred Ducharme nominated and seconded. Walter Ackerman nominated and seconded; then withdrawn. No further nominations; Fred Ducharme elected for 3 year term by voice vote.

Article 15 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot 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. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 15 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Article 16 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot 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 16 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Article 17 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot elect two additional Select Board members for two-year terms pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2650? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Mark Bromley asked for an explanation of what the State requires? Caleb responded that a five member board is not required, this is a petitioned article. Sandy Schmitt asked why we needed more selectmen? RD Eno spoke in favor of the article, stating that the burdens of the office have increased since the creation of the Town and more members would share the load. Samuel Lewis asked if the Selectboard was in favor of the change? Caleb responded, No, that he felt it would make a top heavy government when most help would be useful in Town subcommittees. Russ Brown stated that he had the sense the Selectboard works well, but asked if there were instances where more members would be helpful? Caleb responded, No, he could only recall five instances in the past 12 years where one member has missed a meeting. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Meeting called for paper ballot; required even people to stand. Results of paper ballot: Yes – 80, No – 85. Article 17 defeated by paper ballot.

Article 18 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the town auditors to, in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the auditor's report, provide notice of the report's availability by postcard? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Caleb stated that he was not in favor of the article and felt people who should read it might not be inclined to read it if it is not delivered to them. Karen Mueller-Harder asked if this was to receive the Town Report or the audit report? Caleb responded that it was for the Town Report. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 18 defeated by voice vote.

Article 19 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$30,350 to defray the expenses of the Cabot Fire Department? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 19 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Article 20 – 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? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Stephen Cox asked if the new pumper truck would fit in the current building? Walter Bothfeld, Jr. responded that it would. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 20 adopted by voice vote.

Article 21 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$49,816.33 to support the Cabot Library? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Paula Davidson described library services. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 21 adopted by voice vote.

Article 22 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$18,000 to help toward the maintenance of the Cabot Cemeteries? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 22 adopted by voice vote.

Article 23 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$10,000 to support the Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Susan Carpenter encouraged volunteers for the Ambulance Service, stating that it is only available if there are enough volunteers in town when an emergency arises. Ken Christman stated that there are currently 18 members who meet monthly and encouraged people to volunteer. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 23 adopted by voice vote.

Article 24 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$500 to support the Cabot Senior Citizens group? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 24 adopted by voice vote.

Article 25 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$3,500 to support the Cabot Coalition Mentoring Program? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Mark Bromley made a report of the Cabot Roamers. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 25 adopted by voice vote.

Article 26 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$1,000 to support the Cabot Recreation Committee? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Rebecca Nally described the activities of the Recreation Committee in supplementing the needs of the school sports program. Ellen Voit moved to amend the amount to \$4,000; seconded. Steve Stahl asked what were the needs of the Rec Committee? Rebecca responded that background checks for coaches, equipment, uniforms, etc., might be needed. Moderator stated the article as amended. Meeting called for a paper ballot; required seven people to stand. Results of paper ballot: Yes – 88, No – 63. Amendment adopted by paper ballot. Karen Alexander spoke in support of the article. No further discussion. Moderator stated the amended question. Article 26 adopted by voice vote.

Article 27 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the following sums for the following purposes:

A.	Aquatic Nuisance Control Project at Joe’s Pond	\$	300.00
B.	A.W.A.R.E.		750.00
C.	Battered Women’s Services and Shelter		600.00
D.	Cabot TLC		600.00
E.	Central VT Adult Basic Education		1,200.00
F.	Central VT Community Action Council Inc		300.00
G.	Central VT Council on Aging		1,300.00
H.	Central VT Economic Development Corp		300.00
I.	Central VT Home Health and Hospice		2,000.00
J.	Family Center of Washington County		500.00
K.	Friends of the Winooski River		400.00
L.	Green Mountain Transit Agency		733.00
M.	Green Up Vermont		100.00
N.	Northern VT Resource Conservation & Dev. Council		75.00
O.	Onion River Food Shelf		700.00
P.	Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic		100.00
Q.	R.S.V.P. (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program)		200.00
R.	Sexual Assault Crisis Team		300.00
S.	Twin Valley Senior Center		700.00
T.	VT Assoc. for Blind & Visually Impaired		300.00
U.	VT Center for Independent Living		165.00
V.	Washington County Court Diversion & Alcohol Safety		150.00
W.	Washington County Youth Service Bureau		250.00
X.	West Danville Community Club		500.00
Y.	Woodbury-Calais Food Shelf		200.00

Total Appropriation \$ 12,723.00

Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Jessica Miller asked how funding was used by the Friends of the Winooski River? Gary Gulka described the purpose of the organization was for the protection of the Winooski River. Jessica stated that the Cabot Creamery was the cause of the cleanup and voters shouldn't have to pay. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 27 adopted by voice vote.

Article 28 – Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$777,400 to repair and maintain the highways of the Town including summer, winter and special treatment, of which an estimated \$179,500 is to come from income and \$597,900 from local taxes? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Caleb moved to amend the article to reflect the decrease in highway expenses as follows: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$765,400 to repair and maintain the highways of the Town including summer, winter and special treatment, of which an estimated \$179,500 is to come from income and \$585,900 from local taxes?; seconded. No further discussion. Moderator stated the article as amended. Amendment adopted by voice vote. No further discussion. Moderator stated the amended question. Article 28 adopted by voice vote.

Article 29 – Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$504,584.33 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$193,920.19 to come from income and \$310,664.14 from local taxes? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Caleb moved to amend the article to reflect the increase in appropriation funding and carry forward as follows: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$507,584.33 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$228,944.16 to come from income and \$278,640.17 from local taxes?; seconded. No further discussion. Moderator stated the article as amended. Amendment adopted by voice vote. RD Eno pointed out an error in the 2010 Property Taxes to be raised. No further discussion. Moderator stated the amended question. Article 29 adopted by voice vote.

Moderator requested a motion to adjourn the meeting until 1:00 pm.; moved and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:01pm. Town Meeting resumed at 1:00 pm.

Article 4 - Shall voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot School the sum of \$400.00 toward the purchase of supplies and equipment for an after-school art program from \$59,018 of UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2010? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No further discussion.

Article 5 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Fire Department the sum of \$12,000 toward purchase of a Thermal Imaging Camera that would enable Cabot firefighters to detect fire, hot spots and the presence of bodies inside buildings and locate them before entering, from \$59,018 of UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2010? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. described the imaging camera and its use. No further discussion.

Article 6 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot School the sum of \$25,000 toward retirement of a debt of \$72,219 still owed on the Cabot School Performing Arts Center, an eligible capital project, from \$59,018 of UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2010? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No further discussion.

Article 7 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to Faith in Action Northern Partnership, Inc., a non-profit corporation, the sum of \$3,829 toward the purchase of kitchen equipment and furniture for an office to be opened in the Masonic Hall, from \$59,018 of UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2010? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No further discussion.

Article 8 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve and adopt the revision of the UDAG Plan published in the February edition of the Cabot Chronicle and available for inspection at the Town Office? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No further discussion.

Article 9 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Selectboard to withdraw from the Union Municipal District known as the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Lee Blackwell asked for a description of the current situation. RD Eno responded describing Articles 9 and 10. No further discussion.

Article 10 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Selectboard to enter into an agreement to join the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No further discussion.

Article 11 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the Plan of Merger providing for the merger of the Village of Cabot into the Town of Cabot, effective at midnight December 31, 2010, as provided under 24 V.S.A., Chapter 49? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Linda Savoca asked what the proposed Plan of Merger would entail? Caleb responded that the village expenses and services were minimal and benefitted by all Town residents; the operation of these services could be easily combined; the Town also had greater access to outside funding. Jessica Miller asked if Town money would be used to fund the water facility and if a company would continue to operate the system or a Town employee? Caleb responded that the water system has proprietary funding and is currently under an operations contracted; options would be discussed at the end of that contract. Fred Ducharme stated that the water system would not impact local taxes as it is paid for by user fees. Bonnie Dannenberg spoke against the merger. Caleb spoke in support of

the merger. Richard Hourihan asked whether Village accounts were separate from Town accounts, and whether the village accounts are audited? Tara responded that books are maintained separately and are not currently audited; if the merger is adopted there would be an increased audit fee for the water system. Leonard Spencer stated that the reasons for village government have disappeared and supported the merger. No further discussion.

Article 30 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot request the Vermont legislature to: 1) Deny approval for the operation of Vermont Yankee after March of 2012, which marks the end of its 40 year design life; 2) require that the Entergy Corporation of Louisiana fulfill its pledge to fully fund the cleanup and decommission costs of closing Vermont Yankee; and 3) seek safe, renewable, regional sources of electricity combined with efficient and conservation measures to replace the power presently provided by Vermont Yankee? Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Amy Hornblas moved to amend the article to add “safe, non-nuclear, renewable...”; seconded. Caleb responded that nuclear power is not renewable, therefore covered by the current article. RD Eno stated that the reprocessing of spent fuel is considered renewable. No further discussion. Moderator stated the article as amended. Amendment adopted by standing vote. Caleb requested that “efficient” change to “efficiency”; no objections. Karen Mueller-Harder asked if this were moot since the Senate voted not to extend the contract? Caleb responded that the next Senate may reverse the current denial and feels it appropriate to send a message to the legislature. RD stated that the vote is not redundant and our health is not worth cheap energy. Lee Blackwell stated that a Vermont research team has a publication on Vermont Yankee. No further discussion. Moderator stated the amended article. Article 30 adopted by voice vote.

Article 31 – To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting. Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. Amy Hornblas discussed the farm to school program surveys. Ed thanked the Cabot Fire Department volunteers, Carlton Domey and the Cabot listers. Caleb asked that anyone interested in being appointed to a lister position contact the Cabot Selectboard. Ed took a moment to remember Phil Pike. No further discussion.

Article 32 – To adjourn this meeting. Moderator read the article; moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question; Article 32 adopted by voice vote; meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tara Rogerson, Town Clerk

Approved by:

Ed Smith, Moderator

Caleb Pitkin, Selectboard Chair