

MINUTES
CABOT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MARCH 6, 2012

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 224th Cabot Town Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by the Selectboard Chair, Caleb Pitkin.

Article 1 – Selectboard Chair read the Article; moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. 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 and, on behalf of the Vermont Secretary of State, present Blanche Lamore with a Certificate of Recognition for her commitment to public service to the Town of Cabot. 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 1, 2011? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. 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 two years? Discussion not allowed.

Article 4 – To elect a Selectperson for a term of three years? Discussion not allowed.

Article 5 – Shall the Town vote to hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. Caleb Pitkin discussed the article to approve \$65,000 for a project to install an additional culvert on Main Street. Tara Rogerson reported no changes to the Town Report. Sue Carpenter made corrections to the Delinquent Tax List, indicating that she has collected \$33,858.21 as of March 6, 2012.

Article 6 – Shall the Town vote to pay its Real and Personal Property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before November 12, 2012, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months and on an one-half per month thereafter and an eight percent penalty charged from the due date? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. No discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 6 adopted by voice vote.

Article 7 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot elect all Town officers required by law, according to law? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. Moderator called for nominations for the following offices: LISTER – one 3 year term. Tara Rogerson nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for Selectboard Chair Caleb Pitkin to cast one ballot for Tara Rogerson, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Tara Rogerson elected for a 3 year term. LISTER – one 2 year term. Jeff Gabrielson nominated and seconded. Jeanne Johnson nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Vote to be conducted by paper ballot. Results of paper ballot – Jeanne Johnson, 48; Jeff Gabrielson 24. Jeanne Johnson elected for 2 year term. AUDITOR – one 3 year term. Jack Daniels nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jack Daniels, so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jack Daniels elected for a 3 year term. AUDITOR – one 1 year term. Sue Freeburn nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Sue Freeburn, so moved and seconded. Sue Freeburn elected for 1 year term. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR – Susan Carpenter nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Susan Carpenter elected for 1 year term by voice vote. FIRST CONSTABLE – Ken Christman nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Ken Christman elected for 1 year term by standing vote. SECOND CONSTABLE – No nominations. Position will be appointed by Selectboard. 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. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 3 year term. Karen Alexander nominated and seconded; Karen declined nomination. Beth Wade nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Beth Wade elected for 3 year term. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 2 year term. Judith Boucher nominated and seconded; Judith declined nomination. Amber Bothfeld nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Amber Bothfeld elected for 2 year term. CEMETERY COMMISSIONER – one 5 year term. Melvin Churchill nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Melvin Churchill elected Cemetery Commissioner for a 5 year term by voice vote. UDAG COMMITTEE – one 3 year term. Jacky Folsom nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Jacky Folsom elected to the UDAG Committee for a 3

year term. WILLEY BUILDING COMMITTEE – RD Eno nominated and seconded. No further nominations; RD Eno elected to the Willey Building Committee for a term of 3 years. Caleb announced that appointments are going to be made tonight for the positions listed on page 6 and any interested persons should contact a Selectboard member. A Selectboard member has resigned and the position will be appointed by the Selectboard for the remainder of the term; interested persons should contact a Selectboard member.

Article 8 – 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; Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. RD Eno asked why the similar Selectboard article was omitted from the 2012 Warning. Caleb responded that statute implies the duties of the Selectboard, no longer necessitating the inclusion of that article. No further discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 8 adopted by voice vote.

Article 9 – Shall the Town vote to increase the Veteran’s Tax Exemption amount from \$20,000 of appraised value to \$40,000 of appraised value in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 3802(11) first effective for the January 1, 2012 Grand List? Moderator read the Article; Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. Caleb explained the purpose of the exemption and the effect on property taxes. No further discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 9 adopted by voice vote.

Article 10 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$259,000 for the purpose of installing a supplemental culvert across Main Street between the Cabot Garage and Cabot Village Store with \$194,000 to come from Federal and State grants and gifts and the balance to come from local taxes? Moderator read the Article; Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. Lee Blackwell asked for a description of the work to be done. Caleb described the water study conducted after the 2011 flooding and he recommendation of additional culvert to be placed across Main Street. The Town has applied for a Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$194,000 to offset the total expense. Brigitte Codling asked if the Town had applied for all permits and easements? Caleb responded that he believes that only one right of way was necessary. Brigitte asked what would become of the money if the project is not completed. Caleb responded that any money collected and not spent would be treated as any other surplus or deficit. Steve Stahl stated that it was very expensive. Caleb responded that the installation of the culvert and formed concrete abutment would require special equipment and that the Town will consider submitted bids for the project. No further discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 10 passed by voice vote.

Article 11 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$39,250 to defray the expenses of the Cabot Fire Department? Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. Caleb spoke in support of the Fire Department budget. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 11 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 12 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$50,420 to support the Cabot Library? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 12 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 13 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$20,000 to help toward the maintenance of the Cabot Cemeteries? Moderator read the Article. Moved by RD Eno and seconded. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 13 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 14 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$10,000 to support the Cabot Ambulance? Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. move and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 14 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 15 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$500 to support the Cabot Senior Citizens group? Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 15 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 16 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to support *The Cabot Chronicle*? Moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator state the question. Article 16 adopted by voice vote.

Article 17 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$4,000 to support the Cabot Recreation Committee? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 17 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 18 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriation the following sums for the following purposes:

A.	American Red Cross	\$ 500.00
B.	Aquatic Nuisance Control Project at Joe’s Pond	750.00
C.	A.W.A.R.E.	750.00
D.	Battered Women’s Services and Shelter	600.00
E.	Cabot TLC	500.00
F.	Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	1,200.00
G.	Central Vermont Center for Independent Living	165.00
H.	Central Vermont Community Action Council	350.00
I.	Central Vermont Council on Aging	1,300.00
J.	Central Vermont Economic Development Corp	300.00
K.	Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice	2,500.00
L.	Family Center of Washington County	500.00
M.	Friends of the Winooski River	400.00
N.	Green Mountain Transit Agency	733.00
O.	Green Up Vermont	100.00
P.	Northern VT Resource Conservation & Development Council	100.00
Q.	Onion River Food Shelf	800.00
R.	Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic	100.00
S.	Retired & Senior Volunteer Program and Center	200.00
T.	Sexual Assault Crisis Team	300.00
U.	Twin Valley Senior Center	1,000.00
V.	Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	300.00
W.	Washington County Youth Service Bureau	250.00
X.	West Danville Area Community Club	500.00
Y.	Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District	500.00
Z.	Woodbury-Calais Food Shelf	50.00
	TOTAL	\$ 14,748.00

Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. Caleb asked whether the Twin Valley Senior Center and the Central Vermont Council on Aging benefit Cabot residents. Carla Payne responded that both agencies serve Cabot residents. Caleb described the process of including petitions for an appropriation. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 18 adopted by voice vote.

Article 19 - Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,335,653.44 to repair and maintain the highways of the Town including summer, winter and special treatment, of which an estimated \$670,500.00 is to come from income and \$665,153.44 from local taxes? Moderator read the Article. RD Eno moved and seconded. Jack Lague asked why the local tax was higher than last year. Caleb responded that this year has no surplus to reduce taxes and there is an increased highway budget for anticipated road repairs. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 19 adopted by voice vote.

Article 20 - Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$514,438.02 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$81,001.60 to come from income and \$433,436.42 from local taxes? Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. RD Eno asked why the local tax was higher than last year. Caleb restated that this year has no surplus to reduce taxes and there is an increased highway budget for anticipated road repairs. Karen Mueller-Harder asked if anticipated FEMA reimbursements are received whether taxes would be reduced. Caleb responded that we are hopeful that amounts received by July will be enough reduce the 2011 deficit, which must be retired this year. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 20 adopted by voice vote.

Article 21 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot School the sum of \$600.00 toward the purchase of supplies and equipment for an after-school art program from UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2012? Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 172 No - 79

Article 22 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the *Cabot Chronicle* the sum of \$1,200 toward the purchase of a portable public address system for use at public events for forty-plus Cabot organizations conducting community

activities and fundraising efforts and a Maple Fest banner from UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2012? Moderator read the Article. Jeanne Johnson spoke in support of the Article and described the need for a public address system for Town events. RD Eno stated that he did not feel this was an appropriate to come from The Chronicle or the use of UDAG funds. No discussion. Article approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 154 No - 96

Article 23 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$642,750.00? Moderator read the Article. RD Eno emphasized that this Article is not for a Town appropriation of that amount. No further discussion. Article approved by Australian Ballot; YES- 178 No- 63

Article 24 - To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting. Moderator read the Article. Ed Smith offers his appreciation to the Cabot Fire Department and Cabot Ambulance Service. Susan Carpenter announced the expected retirement of Charlie Pilbin in April and Caleb offered his thanks on behalf of the Town for 30 years of service. Mark Christensen asked that parents please be aware of their children playing amongst the traffic on Main Street and the vehicles please slow down and use caution on our roads. Caleb described discussions to slow traffic in the downtown area. Leonard Spencer offered thanks to Linda Walbridge for keeping children safe as the school crossing guard. Jenny Gilbert offered thanks to Ken Gokey for his many years of service as Constable. RD Eno suggested a 20mph speed limit within the village area; majority of hands supports a 20mph school zone. Gary Gulka promoted the use of Front Porch Forum for Cabot residents. Brigitte Codling suggested flashing lights for the school zone.

Article 25 - To adjourn this meeting. Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 25 adopted by voice vote; meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Tara Rogerson, Town Clerk

Approved by:

Ed Smith, Moderator

Caleb Pitkin, Selectboard Chair