

Warning
Waterford Annual Town Meeting
Waterford School
March 5, 2024

The Inhabitants of the Town of Waterford who are legal voters in said town are hereby notified and warned to meet in the auditorium of the Waterford School on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at which time the meeting will be conducted to vote the following Articles of business:

Maurice Chaloux opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

Bobby Farlice-Rubio was invited to speak about what is going on in Montpelier. Bobby is our House Representative for Barnet, Waterford, and Ryegate.

Bobby spoke about property tax impacts on communities, his committee work, a bill to support EMS funding for rural communities, accessibility to health care, and health insurance reform. Bobby answered several questions from the floor regarding the EMS funding and how to find equity in property tax payments.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the year ensuing: Howard Remick nominated Maurice Chaloux. There were no further nominations. David Morrison seconded. Maurice Chaloux was elected by a unanimous voice vote in the affirmative.

Maurice Chaloux reviewed the process and procedure of Town Meeting. He will follow Roberts's Rules of Order.

Article 2: To elect the following Town Officers:

A Selectboard member for a term of three years. By ballot. Laura Remick nominated Marcia Martel for Selectboard member for a term of 3 years. Kathy Hodgdon nominated Warner Hodgdon for Selectboard member for a term of 3 years. Jen D'Agostino nominated Hatcher D'Agostino for a term of 3 years. The moderator declared the nominations closed and asked for a vote by paper ballot. Ballot results were 72 votes for Warner Hodgdon, 51 votes for Marcia Martel and 19 votes for Hatcher D'Agostino. Warner Hodgdon was declared the winner by the moderator.

A Selectboard member for a term of one year. By ballot. Kathy Hodgdon nominated Ron Gray for Selectboard member for a term of one year. Laura Remick nominated Marcia Martel for Selectboard member for a term of one year. Ryan Aremburg nominated Hatcher D'Agostino for Selectboard member for a term of one year. The moderator declared the nominations closed and asked for a vote by paper ballot. Ballot results were 85 votes for Ron Gray, 49 votes for Marcia Martel and 10 votes for Hatcher D'Agostino. Ron Gray was declared the winner by the moderator.

A Selectboard member for a term of one year. By ballot. Laura Remick nominated Marcia Martel for Selectboard for a term of one year. Kathy Hodgdon nominated Kevin Gillander for Selectboard member for a term of one year. Fred Saar nominated Hatcher D'Agostino for Selectboard member for a term of one year. Ryan Aremburg nominated Adam Aremburg for Selectboard member for a term of one year. The moderator declared the nominations closed and asked for a vote by paper ballot. Ballot results were 38 for Marcia Martel, 53 votes for Kevin Gillander, 8 votes for Hatcher D'Agostino, and 40 votes for Adam Aremburg. No candidate having received a majority of the vote, there was no winner, so the moderator called for a second ballot. The second ballot results were 27 for votes Marcia Martel, 66 votes for Kevin Gillander, 2 votes for Hatcher D'Agostino and 41 votes for Adam Aremburg. Kevin Gillander was declared the winner by the moderator.

A Lister for a term of three years. By ballot. Howard Remick nominated Richard Kozlowski for Lister for a term of three years. David Morrison made a motion to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Richard Kozlowski. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

An Auditor for a term of three years. By ballot. Sally Lewis nominated Erin Dimick for Auditor for a term of three years. David Morrison made the motion to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Erin Dimick. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

A Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year. Howard Remick nominated Marcel Lapierre for Delinquent Tax collector for a term of one year. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

A First Constable for a term of one year. Tom Thomas nominated Tom Lawrence for First Constable for a term of one year. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

A Second Constable for a term of one year. Gwenn Chisholm nominated Tom Thomas for Second Constable for a term of one year. A unanimous affirmative vote passed the motion.

A Library Trustee for a term of three years. Colleen Kozlowski nominated Mary Jo O'Neil for a term of three years. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

A Library Trustee for a term of three years. Robin Migdelany nominated Jen D'Agostino for a term of three years. Kathy Hodgdon nominated Sue Ann Watson for a term of three years. The moderator declared the nominations closed and asked for a vote by paper ballot. Ballot results were 56 votes for Jen D'Agostino and 55 votes for Sue Ann Watson. Jen D'Agostino was declared the winner by the moderator.

An Agent to Convey Real Estate owned by the Town for a term of one year. Fred Saar nominated Rosemary Gingue for Agent to Convey Real Estate owned by the Town for a term of one year. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

Article 3: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money to defray expenses until taxes are collected? Howard Remick made the motion to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money to defray expenses until taxes are collected as warned. David Morrison seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

Article 4: Will the Town vote to have the Town and Caledonia Cooperative School District taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before **October 15, 2024**, with an 8% collector's fee to be added thereafter? **Taxes must be paid on or before the due date. Title 32. Postmarks will be honored as timely payment.** Howard Remick made the motion as warned. David Morrison seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote in the affirmative passed the motion.

Article 5: Will the Town levy an interest charge on all delinquent taxes on real and personal property of 1% per month or fraction thereof, as provided in 32 VSA Section 5136? David Morrison made the motion as warned. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

Article 6: Shall the Town of Waterford vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year general fund to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year? Howard Remick made the motion as warned. David Morrison seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

Article 7: Shall the town of Waterford adopt the Revised Zoning Bylaws? David Morrison made the motion as warned. Fred Saar seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 8: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$ 33,600.00 to the Davies Memorial Library for the maintenance and operation of the library? Jen D'Agostino made the motion as warned. David Morrison seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

Article 9: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$ 400.00 to Rural Community Transportation? Howard Remick made the motion as warned. David Morrison seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

Article 10: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$ 500.00 to Catamount Arts? Mike Barrett made the motion as warned. David Morrison seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 11: Shall the Town vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$ 1000.00 for the support of Umbrella to provide services to residents of the Town? Howard Remick made the motion as warned. Tim Yarrow seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

Article 12: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$ 1250.00 to Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice to be used in providing health care services? Howard Remick made the motion as warned. David Morrison seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 13: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$ 1104.00 for the operation of Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium during the ensuing year, in exchange for free unlimited general admission to the Museum for all Waterford residents? Mike Barrett made the motion as warned. Colleen Kozlowski seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 14: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ 500.00 to assist the NEK Council on Aging in providing services to senior citizens in the ensuing year? David Morrison made the motion as warned. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 15: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$ 750.00 to support the programs of Northeast Kingdom Youth Services? Howard Remick made the motion as warned. Colleen Kozlowski seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 16: Shall the Town vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$ 1159.00 for the support of Northeast Kingdom Human Services Inc. to support community members who cannot otherwise afford care? Howard Remick made the motion as warned. Tim Yarrow seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 17: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$ 250.00 to the Northeast Kingdom Learning Services Inc.? David Morrison made the motion as warned. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 18: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$ 500.00 to the Kingdom Animal Shelter to assist in maintaining services for the animals in their care? Fred Saar made a motion as warned. Jen D'Agostino seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 19: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$ 1000.00 to the Waterford Historical Society to expand our outreach with the production and mailing of a new six-page, hard-copy, and image-filled newsletter to property owners in Waterford. Sue Ann Watson made a motion as warned. Ryan Lowell seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion.

Article 20: Shall Waterford honor an original settler and rename the graveyard where he was buried the Carr Cemetery? David Morrison made a motion as warned. Mike Barrett seconded the motion. A voice vote passed the motion.

Article 21: Shall the town revise its current ATV ordinance to include comprehensive State and local regulations, increase enforcement, and identification of all costs and funding requirements?

Howard Remick made a motion as warned. David Morrison seconded the motion.

Public questions:

- Mary Em Saar asked for clarification regarding the new ordinance and whether it would be brought back to the taxpayers for a vote. Mike Barrett answered: Revisions would be approved by the Select Board however they could decide to turn it back over to the citizens for a vote.
- Roberta Gillott questioned the language of the article wondering if it is a yes or no question. Dave Morrison agreed that the article appeared to be a yes or no question. There was a conversation about revising the article language.
- Gerard Jones, who served on the ATV sub-committee, stated that the article was not written by the committee but rather written by the Select Board using the survey results that were collected. The article that is written has a limited scope. He referenced the STATE statute, specifically section 2, section 4, and section 6 as items that should be included in the ordinance.
- Eydie Aremburg asked for more information to be presented as there is confusion about whether the town is being asked to vote to open all roads or open some roads.
- Eydie Aremburg and others expressed frustration that the article that was tabled last year was not back for a vote and that the current warned article did not contemplate allowing ATV use on town maintained roads. They felt the Selectboard had failed in their task of reviewing the matter and bringing it back for a vote this year. Many wanted to vote on whether or not to allow ATV travel on town maintained roads which was not part of this years article.
- Mary Jo O'Neill clarified that the current town ordinance does not allow any travel on town maintained roads. She supported enforcement of the current ordinance and supported a vote on the revised ordinance.
- Steve McDonald pointed out that towns around us allow ATV's on their public roads and advocated that roads in Waterford should be open to taxpayers.
- Daphne Bullock stated that the taxpayers wanted a clear yes or no question that they could vote on.
- Luke O'Neill expressed frustration regarding the ATV issue. The issue was tabled last year so that research and information could be gathered, and it was said it would be voted on at this town meeting. He advocated voting on the original petition article from last year.
- Sue Hayes was asked to provide the survey results to the audience, which she did.
- Several members of the public expressed frustration over the lack of forward movement on this issue.
- There was a conversation about the roads being open to residents vs. non-residents and what type of oversight and enforcement might be needed. Audience members expressed concern about additional riders and traffic on the roads.
- Kevin Aremburg moved to amend the motion by striking everything after ordinance and inserting, to allow use of ATV/UTV's on all town maintained roads. The motion was seconded. Luke O'Neill questioned whether the amendment was germane to the original motion, and the moderator ruled it was because it is still dealing with ATV/UTV on town roads.
- After some discussion Roberta Gillott moved to amend the amendment by adding, to include comprehensive state and local regulation, increase enforcement, and identification of all cost and funding requirements of the enforcement, and limiting use to Waterford resident and property owners.

- Roberta Gillott said the current ordinance is not enforced and at times over 100 ATV's go by her property on Old County Road North causing noise and other problems.
- After a little more discussion Jerry Jones moved to table the entire matter until next year. His motion was seconded. After some brief discussion the motion passed on a voice vote with several citizens voting nay. The article and the motions to amend will be brought back to the 2025 town meeting.

Article 22: To suggest members to the Development Review Board for four years. None were suggested.

Article 23: To suggest members to the Planning Board for three years. Maria Dantos.

Article 24: To hear reports of Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

Article 25: Will the Town accept the proposed Town Budget of **\$1,417,525.87** of which **\$ 1,165,176.00.** is to be raised by taxes? David Morrison made a motion as warned. Howard Remick seconded. Howard Remick moved to amend the motion by changing the budget number to \$1,314,186.90 which is the figure of last year's budget. Daphne Bullock seconded the motion. After some discussion the motion to amend was defeated by a voice vote. Then the original motion was adopted by voice vote.

Article 26: Will the Town accept the Town Report for the year 2023? David Morrison made a motion as warned. Howard Remick seconded the motion. Ron Gray asked to amend the motion to correct the mistake in which it was stated that the motion for town treasure was to cast one vote for Debra Benoit. It should say Heather Gonyaw. This correction can be made on the town meeting minutes but can not be changed within the PDF copy of the town report that will be posted on the website.

Article 27: At what hour next year do the voters of the Town wish to start the annual meeting? William Jones made a motion to meet at 6:00 pm next year. Rosemary Gingue seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

Article 28: To transact any other non-binding business proper and necessary that may come before said Meeting?

David Morrison made the motion to adjourn. Nancy Brochu seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Gary Allard
Selectboard Chair

Warner Hodgdon
Selectboard Vice Chair

Susan Hayes
Selectboard

Ron Gray
Selectboard

Kevin Gillander
Selectboard

Maurice Chaloux,
Moderator

Debra Benoit, Town Clerk
April 15, 2024

