

**Warning**  
**Waterford Annual Town Meeting**  
**Waterford School**  
**March 7, 2023**

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 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at which time the meeting will be conducted to vote the following Articles of business:

Deb Benoit 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 the elected House representative for Barnet, Waterford, Ryegate. He took Marcia Martel's place. Bobby spoke on bills that effect school choice, an interstate compact for medical professional/EMS services, Medicaid, housing, and the Affordable Heat Act.

**Article 1:** To elect a Moderator for the year ensuing David Morrison nominated Maurice Chaloux. There were no further nominations. Howard Remick seconded. A unanimous voice voted in the affirmative and elected Maurice Chaloux as Moderator for the ensuing year.

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

**Article 2:** To elect the following Town Officers:

A Town Clerk for a term of three years. By ballot.

Howard Remick nominated Debra Benoit as Town Clerk for a term of three years. David Morrison made the motion to have Gary Allard, Selectboard Chair, cast one ballot for Debra Benoit. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

A Town Treasurer for a term of three years. By ballot.

Howard Remick nominated Heather Gonyaw as Treasurer for a term of three years. David Morrison made the motion to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Heather Gonyaw. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion

A Selectboard member for a term of three years. By ballot

Robert Begin nominated Susan Hayes as Selectboard member for three years. David Morrison made the motion to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Susan Hayes. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion

A Selectboard member for a term of one year. By ballot

Howard Remick nominated Marcia Martel as Selectboard member for a term of one year. Ron Gray nominated Warner Hodgdon as 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 62 votes for Warner Hodgdon and 60 votes for Marcia Martel

A Selectboard member for a term of one year. By ballot

Mike Keach nominated Robert Begin as Selectboard member for a term of one year. David Morrison made the motion to have the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Robert Begin. Tim Yarrow seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

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

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

A First Constable for a term of one year  
Warner Hodgdon nominated Thomas 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.  
David Morrison nominated Anthony Galloto for Second Constable for a term of one year. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

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

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

A Library Trustee for a term of three years  
Colleen Kozlowski nominated Kassi Oakley for a term of three years. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

An Agent to Convey Real Estate owned by the Town for a term of one year  
Mike Keach nominated Rosemary Gingue as 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?

David Morrison made the motion to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money to defray expenses until taxes are collected. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

**Article 4:** Shall the voters rescind the Selectboard's authority to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes pursuant to 17 V.S.A 2651d(a), making the collector of delinquent taxes an elected position with a term of one year pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2646(9)?

Tim Yarrow asked what the next step was if this article was rescinded. Answer: Article 5 will elect and Collector of Delinquent Taxes. Gib Trenholme asked for permission to speak. There was no objection from the audience. Gib spoke about the current state of delinquent taxes in Waterford and the fact that this was tried two-years ago (to take the position in-house) and it was not successful. Gib stated that the process and office is not broke and does not need fixing.

Howard Remick made the motion. Mike Keach asked for a vote by paper ballot. David Morrison seconded the motion. Ballot results were 67 yes and 58 no. The motion passed.

**Article 5:** Elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year.

Kathleen Hodgdon nominated Marcel Lapierre for a term of one year. A unanimous affirmative voice vote elected Marcel Lapierre.

**Article 6:** Will the Town vote to have the Town and Caledonia Cooperative School District taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before **October 16, 2023**, 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. David Morrison seconded the motion. Heather Gonyaw made a motion to amended to add 3:30 pm. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote in the affirmative passed the motion and Article 6 was amended and adopted.

Andre Gingue asked why 3:30 pm should be added. Heather Gonyaw answered that those were the normal business hours for the town office. Andre Gingue indicated that was unfair to those who work until 5:00PM. Deb Benoit stated that the town office is open every Wednesday until 6:00PM and that this year the office was open all day on the Friday before the tax deadline.

**Article 7:** 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. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 7 was adopted.

**Article 8:** 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. Clem Gray seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 8 was adopted.

**Article 9:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$13,860 to the Davies Memorial Library for the maintenance and operation of the library?

David Morrison made the motion. Kevin Gillander seconded the motion. Gary Allard made a motion to amended the article to read \$ 30,580.00. Howard Remick seconded the amendment. A unanimous voice vote in the affirmative passed the motion and Article 9 was amended and adopted.

**Article 10:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$400.00 to Rural Community Transportation?

David Morrison made the motion. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 10 was adopted.

**Article 11:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$500.00 to Catamount Arts?

Luke O'Neal commented that due to Catamount Arts COVID policies that went on longer than the CDC recommended that the town should not support this appropriation due to their discrimination practices. Tim Yarrow countered by stating that Catamount Arts adds cultural diversity and adds to the economy of the area.

Tim Yarrow made the motion. Barb Connelly seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 11 was adopted.

**Article 12:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$1,000.00 for the support of Umbrella to provide services to residents of the Town?

Howard Remick made the motion. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 12 was adopted.

**Article 13:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$1,250.00 to Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice to be used in providing health care services?

Clem Gray made the motion. Barb Connelly seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 13 was adopted.

**Article 14:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,104.00 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?

Coleen Kozlowski made the motion. Edie Aremburg seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 14 was adopted.

**Article 15:** 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. Barb Connelly seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 15 was adopted.

**Article 16:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$750.00 to support the programs of Northeast Kingdom Youth Services?

Alice Merrill made the motion. Barb Connelly seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 16 was adopted.

**Article 17:** Shall the Town vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$1,159.00 for the support of Northeast Kingdom Human Services Inc. to support community members who cannot otherwise afford care.

Jim O'Malley made the motion. Clem Gray seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 17 was adopted.

**Article 18:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to the Northeast Kingdom Learning Services Inc.?

Mike Barrett made the motion. Kathleen Hodgdon seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 18 was adopted.

**Article 19:** 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?

Warner Hodgdon made the motion. Tim Yarrow seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 19 was adopted.

**Article 20:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1000.00 to the Waterford Historical Society to continue work that was started in 2022 to celebrate the historic name change from Littleton to Waterford 225 years ago.

Gary Allard made the motion. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion and Article 20 was adopted.

**Article 21:** Shall the Town establish an ordinance in accordance with 23 V.S.A. 3506 to allow all-terrain vehicles and/or any wheeled vehicle that are registered with the State of Vermont to operate on any town highway or town property/land with restrictions regarding the time and manner set forth by the VLCT Model ATV Ordinance and Guidance.

Howard Remick made the motion. Clem Gray seconded the motion. Mike Keach asked for a written ballot and was sustained by 6 other voters. There was a lot of public comment, questions, and discussion on this article. Commenters and those asking questions included Tim Yarrow, Andre Gingue, Gerald Jones, Ryan Aremburg, Adam Aremburg, Jim O'Malley, Rico Kozlowski, Howard Remick, and Steve MacDonald. Jerry Jones asked for an amendment that reads, "That a vote on this article be tabled, until next year's town meeting, and that the Selectboard establish committees to research the impact of expanding the current ordinance, and present their findings in public forums for input, discussion and debate so that an informed vote can be held at a later time on which to amend the current ordinance". Tim Yarrow seconded. A voice vote was taken. The moderator announced that the No's appear to have it, Jerry Jones asked for a division. A standing count was done and the vote was 54 yes, 45 no. The article was tabled until Town Meeting 2024.

**Article 22:** To suggest members to the Development Review Board for four years. Susan Hayes is resigning. Tom Thomas was suggested.

**Article 23:** To suggest members to the Planning Board for three years. Kim Willey, Maria Santos, and Bob Cushing.

**Article 24:** To hear reports of Town Boards, Commissions, and Committee

Colin Fucci, Waterford Fire Chief presented a report. Currently, the fire department has 30 active members. At the end of this report please find a copy of the Waterford Fire Department report as presented.

**Article 25:** Will the Town accept the proposed Town Budget of **\$1,314,186.90** of which **\$990,000** is to be raised by taxes?

David Morrison made the motion. Howard Remick seconded the motion. Mike Barrett made the motion to amend the budget to \$1,314,236.90. Kathleen Hodgdon seconded the amendment. Motion to amend passed by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**Article 26:** Will the Town accept the Town Report for the year 2022?

David Morrison made the motion. Howard Remick seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion.

**Article 27:** At what hour next year do the voters of the Town wish to start the annual meeting?

Clem Gray made the 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?

Rob Begin spoke about the CCSD budget (the school district that includes Waterford) and encouraged everyone to attend the informational budget meeting being held on March 29, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Waterford School. He also encouraged everyone in attendance to reach out to their legislators regarding

the two bills in Montpelier that would eliminate public tax dollars supporting independent high schools (St. Johnsbury Academy and Lyndon Institute).

Warner Hodgdon thanked Charles Lawrence for his 46 years of service to the town.

David Morrison made the motion to adjourn. Jim O'Malley seconded the motion. A unanimous affirmative voice vote passed the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm