

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE TOWN OF ATHENS
MARCH 3, 2020

The Town Meeting was held at the Athens Elementary School in Athens, Vermont. Selectman David Bemis called the meeting to order at 10:06am.

The moderator read the warning and asked that all issues be directed to the moderator. He stated the meeting would follow Roberts Rule of Order. The moderator then asked for a pledge to the flag.

The clerk took a roll call of the checklist. A total of 59 registered voters answered the roll call of 259 on the checklist.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator.

Denise Randall nominated David Bemis, seconded by Stephen Oakes. Don Capponcelli moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for David Bemis, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. David Bemis was elected Moderator.

The moderator called for a break in the meeting to allow Mark Trieber to speak. Mark stated that he had resigned as representative and Carolyn Patridge would try to attend the meeting later.

ARTICLE 2: To act on Town Report.

Don Capponcelli made the motion to accept the Town Report. Lynn Morgan seconded. Don commended Dick Sippel for all the years he served the Town. The motion was put to a vote. The motion carried.

Article 3: To see if the Town will elect a road commissioner.

Stephen Oakes made the motion to elect a Road commissioner, seconded by Denise Randall. After discussion the motion was put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 4: To elect all Town Officers required by law.

TOWN CLERK: Stephen Oakes nominated Darlene Wyman, seconded by Denise Randall. Lynn Morgan moved the nominations cease and the moderator cast one ballot for Darlene Wyman, seconded by Denise Randall. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Darlene Wyman elected Town Clerk for a one-year term.

TREASURER: Denise Randall nominated Darlene Wyman, seconded by Dolly F H Stevens. Lynn Morgan moved the nominations cease and the moderator cast one ballot for Darlene Wyman, seconded by Dolly F H Stevens. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Darlene Wyman elected Treasurer for a one-year term.

ROAD COMMISSIONER: Stephen Oakes nominated Matt Perry, seconded by Denise Randall. Lynn Morgan moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Matt Perry, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Matt Perry elected Road Commissioner.

SELECTMAN: Sandi Capponcelli nominated Denise Randall, seconded by Carol Bingham. Don Capponcelli move the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Denise Randall, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Denise Randall elected Selectman for a three-year term.

Sandi Capponcelli nominated James Trimble, seconded by Dolly F H Stevens. Raymond Hitchcock nominated Dennis Mirante, seconded by Dolly F H Stevens. Hannah Regier nominated Janet Perry, seconded by Carol Bingham. Janet Perry declined. The motion was put to paper ballot. The results of the vote were James Trimble 31, Dennis Mirante 20. James Trimble was elected Selectman for a one-year term.

LISTER: Denise Randall nominated Sandi Capponcelli, seconded by Lynn Morgan. Lynn Morgan moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Sandi Capponcelli, seconded by Denise Randall. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Sandi Capponcell elected Lister for a three-year term.

AUDITOR: Stephen Oakes nominated Janet Perry, seconded by Lynn Morgan. Don Capponcelli moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Janet Perry, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Janet Perry elected Auditor for a three-year term.

Hannah Regier nominated Linda Tripoldi, seconded by Carol Bingham. Don Capponcelli moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Linda Tripoldi, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Linda Tripoldi elected Auditor for a one-year term.

CAMPBELL FUND TRUSTEE: Stephen Oakes nominated Carol Bingham, seconded by Denise Randall. Don Capponcelli moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Carol Bingham, seconded by Denise Randall. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Carol Bingham elected Campbell Fund Trustee for a three-year term.

MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE: Sheryl Maher nominated Ginger Maciejowski, seconded by Tim Stevenson. Sheryl thanked Jon Lindblad for his years of service on the committee. Don Capponcelli moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Ginger Maciejowski, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Ginger Maciejowski elected to the Meetinghouse Committee for a five-year term.

CEMETERY COMMISSION: Stephen Oakes nominated Harold Noyes, seconded by Don Capponcelli. Lynn Morgan moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Harold Noyes, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Harold Noyes elected to the Cemetery Commission for a five-year term.

CONSTABLE: Denise Randall nominated Stephen Oakes, seconded by Bud Randall. Lynn Morgan moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one vote for Stephen Oakes, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Stephen Oakes elected Constable for a two-year term.

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR: Denise Randall nominated Darlene Wyman, seconded by Amanda Alsvig. Lynn Morgan moved the nominations cease and the Moderator cast one vote for Darlene Wyman, seconded by Dolly F H Stevens. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Darlene Wyman elected Delinquent Tax Collector for a one-year term.

TOWN GRAND JUROR: Denise Randall nominated Stephen Fine, seconded by Carol Bingham. Lois Sippel moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Stephen Fine, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Stephen Fine elected Town Grand Juror.

TOWN AGENT: Denise Randall nominated Stephen Fine, seconded by Amanda Alsvig. Lynn Morgan moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Stephen Fine, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried. Stephen Fine elected Town Agent.

ARTICLE 5: To authorize the Select board to borrow money, respectively, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes.

Denise Randall made the motion to authorize the Select board to borrow money, respectively, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes, seconded by Stephen Oakes. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes on the 10th of September, 2020.

Denise Randall made the motion to collect taxes on the 10th of September, 2020, seconded by Amanda Alsvig. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to publish a list of Delinquent taxpayers in the Town Report.

Denise Randall made the motion to publish a list of Delinquent taxpayers in the Town Report, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the voters of the Town of Athens will approve formation of an Athens School Advisory Commission consisting of 3 members to be appointed by the Athens Select board to be called the Athens Advisory Commission to advise the WNESUSD on budget, facilities and other matters of interest.

Lynn Morgan made the motion the Town of Athens approve formation of an Athens School Advisory Commission consisting of 3 members to be appointed by the Athens Select board to be called the Athens Advisory Commission to advise the WNESUSD on budget, facilities and other matters of interest, seconded by Charles Chase, Jr. Discussion followed. Anyone interested in being on the commission, please contact the Select board. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Athens approve the construction of a septic system and bathroom at the Town garage at a cost of \$32,000.00.

Sandi Capponcelli made the motion the voters of the Town of Athens approve the construction of a septic system and bathroom at the Town garage at a cost of \$32,000.00, seconded by Charles Chase, Jr. Discussion followed. Ellice Amana made the motion to amend the motion to read the Select board put the project out to bid and select the lowest bid, seconded by Carol Bingham. Tom Taylor moved to vote on the article, seconded by Tina White. The amended motion was put to a vote. The motion carried. The motion as amended was put to a vote. A paper ballot was called. The results of the vote were 40 yes, 14 no. The motion as amended carried.

ARTICLE 10: To see how many dollars the Town will vote to raise to defray Town expenses.

Denise Randall made the motion \$408,746.00 be raised by taxes for a total budget expenditure of \$561,244.00, seconded by Hannah Regier. Discussion followed. The motion was put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$356.00 to Health Care and Rehabilitation Services Inc. to help support outpatient mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. in accordance with 24 VSA Section 2691.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town appropriate the sum of \$356.00 to Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc to help support outpatient mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation services, Inc in accordance with 24VSA Section 2691, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town of Athens will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to support Women's Freedom Center to provide quality advocacy and support to women and children of Athens.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town of Athens vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to support Women's Freedom Center to provide quality advocacy and support to women and children of Athens, seconded by Sheryl Maher. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town of Athens will vote to appropriate the sum of \$330.00 to support Youth Services to serve the needs of youth and families in and around Windham County.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town of Athens vote to appropriate the sum of \$330.00 to support Youth Services to serve the needs of youth and families in and around Windham County, seconded by Bob Anderson. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town of Athens will raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Athens in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town of Athens raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Athens in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services, seconded by Bob Anderson. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 for the Bellows Falls Senior Center.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 for the Bellows Falls Senior Center, seconded by Carol Bingham. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,350.00 to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in the patient's homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,350.00 to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in the patient's homes and in community setting by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH, seconded by Sheryl Maher. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town of Athens will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to assist Grafton Cares in providing a variety of assistance to the people of Athens.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town of Athens raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to assist Grafton Cares in providing a variety of assistance to the people of Athens, seconded by Amanda Alsvig. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to assist Senior Solutions.

Denise Randall made the motion the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to assist Senior Solutions, seconded by Sheryl Maher. Put to a vote. The motion carried.

ARTICLE 19: To set the time of future Town Meetings.

Stephen Oakes made the motion that future Town Meeting shall be held on the first Tuesday in March at 10:00am, seconded by Denise Randall. Discussion about holding the meeting on Saturday followed. Put to a vote. The meeting will be held on the first Tuesday in March at 10:00am.

ARTICLE 20: To transact any further business proper to come before said meeting.

Carol Bingham announced the Chili cookoff sponsored by the PTG of Athens/Grafton.

Lynn Morgan reported the school meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Bellows Falls Union High School.

Sheryl Maher mentioned the annual plant and bake sale at the Meetinghouse is scheduled for May 23, 2020 and the quilt show is scheduled for June 20, 2020. The committee is also looking to schedule concerts throughout the summer and a BBQ in September.

Ellice Amana wished to thank all the volunteers and workers who help setting up for Town Meeting.

Kate Bova asked why the Brattleboro Reformer is the Town's paper of record. It is because it is a daily paper.

Darlene Wyman reminded everyone about the rabies clinic to be held March 7, 2020 at the Town office from 10:30am to 12:00pm.

The Select board will be forming a committee to look into the possibilities for the use of the Elementary school.

There being no further business, Crystal Trimble moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sandi Capponcelli. Put to a vote. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.

Approved this day of March, 2020.

Athens Board of Selectmen

David Bemis

Denise Randall

James Trimble

