

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 4, 2025

Kari Dolan called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Fred Messer led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town. Paul Hartshorn nominated Kari Dolan, and the nomination was seconded by Brian Shupe. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed, and Kari Dolan was elected by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Dolan explained general information about the conduct of the meeting and use of Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

Article 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. The moderator referred to the reports of the Town Officers of various Boards and Commissions.

Discussion ended on the Reports of the Town Officers, and the reports were accepted.

Article 3: Shall the voters approve a municipal budget of \$2,795,116 to pay the operating expenses and indebtedness of the Town, of which an estimated \$2,309,789 will be raised from property taxes? Brian Shupe made a motion to adopt Article 3, and the motion was seconded by Charlie Goodman. Selectboard members, Charles "Chach" Curtis provided a presentation regarding the Town's finances. Discussion ended, and the motion to adopt Article 3 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

State Representatives Dara Torre and Candice White gave legislative updates and answered questions.

Article 4: Shall the voters authorize the Town to collect taxes on real property by four (4) equal payments made to the Treasurer as follows: one quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday September 15, 2025; the second quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday November 17, 2025; the third quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Tuesday, February 17, 2026; with the remaining quarter (25%) to be paid without discount not later than Friday, May 15, 2026? Roberta "Bobbi" Rood made a motion to adopt Article 4, and the motion was seconded by Paul Hartshorn. There was no discussion, and the motion to adopt Article 4 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize the transfer of \$100,000 of the June 30, 2025 General Fund unassigned fund balance to the Paving Reserve Fund in Fiscal Year 2026? Charlie Goodman made a motion to adopt Article 5, and the motion was seconded by Beth Philips. Discussion ended, and the motion to adopt Article 5 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Article 6: Shall the voters authorize the Town to establish a reserve fund for improvements, expansion or replacement of the Town Garage and to authorize the transfer of \$100,000 of the June 30, 2025 General Fund unassigned fund balance to establish such a fund in Fiscal Year 2026? Bobbi Rood made a motion to adopt Article 6, and the motion was seconded by Paul Hartshorn. There was no discussion, and the motion to adopt Article 6 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the voters authorize the transfer of \$75,000 of the June 30, 2025 General Fund unassigned fund balance to the Wait House Capital Reserve Fund in Fiscal Year 2026? Beth Philips made a motion to adopt Article 7, and the motion was seconded by Fred Messer. AnnMarie Harmon made a motion to amend Article 7 by increasing the amount of the transfer from \$75,000 to \$100,000, and the motion to amend Article 7 was seconded by Fred Messer. Discussion ended, and the motion to amend Article 7 was approved by majority voice vote.

Shall the voters authorize the transfer of \$100,000 of the June 30, 2025 General Fund unassigned fund balance to the Wait House Capital Reserve Fund in Fiscal Year 2026? Discussion ended, and the motion to adopt Article 7 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Article 8: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$1,000 to the Waitsfield Historical Society, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691? Leslie “Mac” Rood made a motion to adopt Article 8, and the motion was seconded by Karen Rookwood. Discussion ended, and the motion to adopt Article 8 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Article 9: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$2,500 to the Mad River Valley Arts' pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691, contingent upon the voters of the Towns of Warren, Vermont, and Fayston, Vermont, each also authorizing additional appropriations to support the organization in a comparable amount? John Donaldson made a motion to adopt Article 9, and the motion was seconded by Freddie Mahlmann. John Donaldson made a motion to amend Article 9 adjusting the appropriation figure to \$2,000 and to remove the contingency language, and the motion was seconded by Mac Rood. Discussion ended, and the motion to amend Article 9 was approved by majority voice vote.

Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$2,000 to the Mad River Valley Arts' pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691. Discussion ended, and Chach Curtis made a motion to amend the amendment by decreasing the appropriation from \$2,000 to \$1,000, and the motion was seconded by Pam Barnard. Discussion ended, and the motion to amend the amendment of Article 9 was approved by majority voice vote.

Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$1,000 to the Mad River Valley Arts' pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2691. There was no discussion, and the motion to adopt Article 9, as amended a second time was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Article 10: Shall the voters authorize the Town to borrow money in anticipation of the receipt of taxes by issuing its notes or orders to meet current expenses and indebtedness of the Town of Waitsfield? Brian Shupe made a motion to adopt Article 10, and the motion was seconded by Paul Hartshorn. Discussion ended, and the motion to adopt Article 10 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Article 11: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Mac Rood alerted the assembly of a meeting being hosted by the Mad River Path on March 26 regarding the Mad River Valley Active Transportation Corridor. AnnMarie Harmon announced an historic house tour fund-raising event for the Waitsfield Historical Society on June 29. Michael Sharkey feels that there should be public displays highlighting the Valley’s recreational opportunities for visitors. AnnMarie Harmon reminded the assembly that the Planning Commission is hosting a public meeting on March 19 regarding the Irasville Village Master Plan. Bobbi Rood announced that, following Town Meeting Day, the HUUSD School Board would be seeking proposals for school consolidation. Phil Huffman announced the Conservation Commission’s plans to improve the former Tardy parcel, which will be transitioned to the Farley Riverside Park in memory of Virginia Farley and the work they’re doing to make sure there is balance between creating recreational trails while protecting wildlife habitat. Michael Sharkey expressed concern that the Town has spent/is spending money on infrastructure and businesses are closing.

Beth Philips made a motion to recess the meeting at 11:40 a.m. until the closing of the polls for Australian ballot items at 7:00 p.m., and the motion was seconded by Paul Hartshorn. The motion to recess was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The voter count at its maximum during the meeting was approximately 113 people.

Title 17: Elections
Chapter 051: Conduct of Elections
Subchapter 008: Count and Return of Votes
(17 V.S.A. § 2587)

“(f) When the same number of persons are nominated for the position of justice of the peace as there are positions to be filled, the presiding officer may declare the whole slate of candidates elected without making individual tallies, providing each person on the slate has more votes than the largest number of write-in votes for any one candidate. (Added 1977, No. 269 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; amended 1979, No. 200 (Adj. Sess.), §§ 83-85; 2003, No. 59, § 38; 2015, No. 30, § 17a, eff. May 26, 2015; 2017, No. 50, § 43.)”

I, declare the following candidates are elected for the positions and terms for which they were running on Town Meeting Day, March 4, 2025:

Candidate	Elected Position	Term
Larissa D. K. Ursprung	Selectboard Member	3 years
Dave Babbott-Klein	Selectboard Member	2 years
Ted Joslin	Lister	3 years
Jennifer Peterson	Delinquent Tax Collector	1 year
Jean Joslin	Library Trustee	5 years
Caitlin Ennis	Library Trustee	1 year to fill a 5-year unexpired term
Bobbi Rood	HUUSD Director	3 years
Nancy Coombs	Cemetery Commissioner	5 years
Robert L. Cook	Cemetery Trustee	3 years

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Peterson
Town Clerk

Approved by the Selectboard on _____