

Brookline Town Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2020

Moderator Parker calls the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. At this point he comments on this being our first evening town meeting in hopes of getting more participation. Explains the procedures of the meeting and that there are handouts on the table in the back. Explains that an attendance sheet is being circulated around the room, and request signing it as required for the record.

Article 1. To Elect a Moderator

Guy Tanza nominates David Y. Parker, Jr. No other nominations. David Y. Parker, Jr. elected Moderator.

Article 2. To elect a Town Clerk.

David Jones nominates Guy Tanza. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called. All in favor. Guy Tanza elected Town Clerk

Article 3. To elect a Town Treasurer.

Bruce Mello nominates Sara Wiswall. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called. All in favor. Sara Wiswall is elected Town Treasurer.

Article 4. To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Dorothy Maggio nominates Guy Tanza. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called. All in favor. Guy Tanza elected Collector of Delinquent Taxes. It was mentioned that there was zero delinquent taxes for two years, and Guy spoke and said that it was actually the last four years. He indicated that one year the amount was paid after December 31st, therefore it was another zero year. Guy indicated it was due to the fact that our residents realize the importance and responsibilities of paying their taxes and thanks them for doing so.

Article 5. To elect all other officers required by law

There are two Selectboard seats available

Selectboard – 3 year term

Currently held by Bruce Mello. Dorothy Maggio nominates Bruce Mello. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called for. All in favor. Bruce Mello elected to a three year term.

Selectboard – One year term currently held by Shelby Brimmer. Bruce Mello nominated Shelby Brimmer. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called. All in favor Shelby Brimmer elected to a one year term.

Listers

A three year term currently held by Marsha Omand. Guy Tanza nominates Marsha Omand. There are no further

Auditors

Three year term currently held by Kendra Brooks. Guy Tanza nominates Kendra Brooks. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called for. All in favor. Kendra Brooks elected to a three year term.

Cemetery Commissioners

A five year term currently held by Cynthia Nau. Bruce Mello nominates Cynthia Nau. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called for. All in favor. Cynthia Nau elected to a five year term.

First Constable & Second Constable

In the past the selectboard has been responsible for these positions and it was asked that the audience show support for this decision. There was discussion about how special training is required to hold these positions and that is the reason we elected to have the positions filled by the Selectboard. A motion is made by Doug Wellman and seconded by Guy Tanza to have the Selectboard maintain the responsibility of the Constable positions. A floor vote is called for. All in favor. The Constables' positions will remain the responsibility of the Selectboard.

Trustee of Public Funds

Lee Anne Parker nominates Guy Tanza. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called for. All in favor. Guy Tanza elected.

Town Agent

Dot Maggio nominates Guy Tanza. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called for. All in favor. Guy Tanza elected as Town Agent.

Town Grand Juror

Marsha Omand nominates David Y. Parker, Jr. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called for. All in favor. David Y. Parker, Jr. elected as Town Grand Juror.

Article 6. Shall the Town accept the Auditor's Report?

Guy Tanza makes a motion to accept the Auditor's Report and seconded by Joseph Dutton. No discussion. A Floor vote to accept the Auditors Report is called for. All in favor. Auditor's Report accepted.

Article 7. Shall the Town vote to approve the General and Highway Fund expenditures, net of non-tax budgeted revenues, for the town as follows:

Amount to be raised by taxes for General Fund:	\$125,047
Amount to be raised by taxes for Highway Fund:	\$157,679
Amount of Fiscal Year 2019 General Fund Surplus:	\$(23,484)
Total Municipal Taxes to be raised:	\$259,242

Motion made by Dot Maggio to accept Article 7, seconded by Guy Tanza. Discussion, Moderator Parker requests Selectboard Chair David Jones to comment on the budget. Mr. Jones pointed out and explains that all supporting documentation can be found in the town report booklet. Sally Fegley questioned surplus. Mr. Jones replied that this was the result of less payroll and legal expenses, which again are all explained in the town report. No further questions. Article 7 brought to a vote, all in favor, Article 7 passed.

Article 8. To see what dates the town will vote to collect taxes?

Moderator Parker reminds folks that the current dates are February 15th, May 15th, August 15th, and November 15th. Motion was made by Doug Wellman to amend the dates to Feb. 15, May 17, August 17 and Nov 15, seconded by Joseph Dutton. Discussion followed regarding any due dates that fall on a Saturday. John Swing made a motion to amend the amendment that indicates if the date falls on a Saturday or Sunday that it automatically goes to the next Tuesday to a normal town office scheduled open date, seconded by Stan Noga. No further discussion. A vote is called for. All in favor to keep current dates for the collection of town taxes, except if it falls on a Saturday or Sunday then it moves to the following Tuesday.

Article 9. Shall the town voters appropriate \$5,906.00 to be raised by taxes in continuing support of the following organizations?

<u>Organization</u>	<u>FY 2019 Approved</u>	<u>FY 2020 Requested</u>
American Red Cross.....	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
CRT-The Current Ct River Transit.....	125.00	125.00
Grace Cottage Foundation.....	300.00.....	300.00
Green-Up Vermont	50.00.....	50.00
Groundworks Collaborative	300.00.....	300.00
Historical Society of Windham County.....	250.00.....	250.00
Leland & Gray Education Foundation.....	250.00.....	-
Moore Free Library.....	280.50.....	300.00
Senior Solutions.....	500.00.....	500.00
SEVCA.....	465.00.....	465.00
VABVI-VT Assoc. for the Blind	100.00.....	100.00
Valley Cares, Inc.....	821.00.....	821.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living.....	80.00.....	80.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance.....	1,000.00.....	1,000.00
West River Watershed Alliance (now Southeastern Watershed Alliance)...	110.00.....	110.00
Windham County Humane Society.....	500.00.....	500.00
Women's Freedom Center.....	500.00.....	500.00
Youth Services.....	255.00.....	255.00
Total All Appropriations Requests to Be Voted.....	\$6,136.50.....	\$5,906.00

The motion is moved by Guy Tanza and seconded by Jean Albee & David Jones. Guy indicated that the reason the Leland & Gray Education Foundation was not approved is that we received a thank you for our donation last year, but no request for a new donation. No further discussion
Article 9 approved in the amount of \$5,906.00.

Article 10. Shall the voters appropriate \$500.00 to be raised by taxes in support of Southern Vermont Therapeutic Riding Center?

The motion is moved by Lyndall Boal and seconded by Betty Horton
There was discussion as to what exactly this program is and does it provide benefits to the town. Margaret Carusona indicated she has on good authority that this program benefits a number of people and is a benefit to the town. There was no further discussion. All in favor Article 10 passed

Article 11. Shall the voters appropriate \$250.00 to be raised by taxes in support of Winston Prouty?

The motion is moved by Guy Tanza and seconded by Betty Horton.

There was discussion as to whether or not this program benefits the town. Margaret Carusona again commented that she has dealt with this program in the past and it helps a tremendous amount of children and adults. A few other comments were made. No further discussion. All in favor

Article 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Brookline vote to collect its current taxes by its Town Treasurer pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791?

The motion is moved by Guy Tanza and seconded by Bruce Mello

No discussion. All in favor Article 12 passed

Article 13. Shall the voters approve the appropriation of up to \$22,000 for recycling costs for fiscal year 2020?

Motion moved by Dorothy Maggio and seconded Mariam Allbee

Discussion: Selectboard Chair David Jones gives a brief history of WSWD and its associated cost to the town. A few residents point out pros and cons of having a recycle bin in our town.

A vote is called for by voice of Yea or Nay. It was too close to call, so another vote of Yea to stand: 24 and then Nay to stand: 21. Because of the closeness of the vote Doug Wellman asked for a paper vote.

At this point of the meeting Moderator Parker mentions that Representative Caroline Partridge has arrived and Jean Horton motioned to suspend meeting so Caroline Partridge could speak, seconded by Betty Horton.

TOWN MEETING SUSPENDED

Representative Caroline Partridge introduces herself and mentions she has a prepared information sheet on the back table for those interested in what she is involved in as Chairperson of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee. She also encourages that those who may be concerned in regard to education financing, especially for small towns, attend a public hearing in Montpelier scheduled for March 11th at the statehouse.

Representative Partridge addresses the concerns of the ash tree borer insect infestation and the town's right of way maintenance responsibilities for trees.

Archie Clark addresses the concerns of the recycling program and lack of funding from the state and the cost to towns. Caroline mentions part of the challenge is due to the fact that China is no longer accepting recyclables. Mariam Allbee wonders if some sort of carbon tax could be applied to those using non-recyclable packaging. Caroline says the legislature is working on trying to solve some of these issues. There being no more questions, Representative Partridge thanks the audience for their time and the ability to speak to everyone.

TOWN MEETING RESUMED

Article 13. Shall the voters approve the appropriation of up to \$22,000 for recycling costs for fiscal year 2020? Continued.

A paper vote was taken and the result was: Yes 26, No 25

Article 13 is approved and passed by paper vote

Article 14. To elect one (1) West River Modified Union Education District school director who is a resident of Brookline for a three-year term.

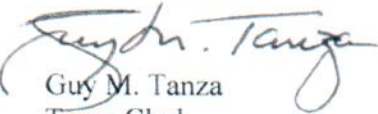
LeeAnn Jillson nominated by Gwen Tanza. There are no further nominations. A floor vote is called for. All in favor. LeeAnn Jillson nominated as School Director.

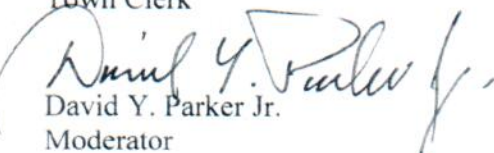
Article 15. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Guy Tanza ask for feedback in regard to having town meeting in the evening verses daytime. A report on the road equipment purchase committee is requested and addressed by Joseph Dutton. Bruce Mello gives an update and history as to what has been accomplished to our former school building in regard to maintenance. Bruce goes on to ask what the town expects to be done going forward.

Moderator Parker entertains a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn by Margaret Carusona and seconded by Betty Horton. A vote is called for and is unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Guy M. Tanza
Town Clerk


David Y. Parker Jr.
Moderator