# MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING
## March 1, 2016

The legal voters of the Town of Fayston are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Fayston Elementary School on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 9:30 A.M. to transact the following business.

David Jones brought the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m. A request was made by the moderator to turn off cell phones and made notice that Fayston Voters would be recognized (by the yellow card) to speak on the floor. At this point Adam Greshin was present to address the body, with their permission. Adam spoke briefly on the following topics: a flattening in the growth of school spending, a bill addressing Independent Contractors and the legalization of marijuana. Allen Tinker asked if it was an appropriate time to give Adam a sense of how those present felt about the legalization of marijuana, the Moderator felt that it could not be addressed. Question was asked about how legalizing marijuana in Vermont would be affected by Federal Law. Adam stated that basically the Federal Government would agree to disagree with State Government and would not prosecute.

Jared read Article 1:

**Article 1. To elect a Moderator for the year ensuing. David Jones' term expires.**
Ed Read nominated David Jones, Mike Quenneville seconded. No other nominations. Vote: All in favor, motion carried. David Jones elected as Moderator

**Article 2. To elect a Town Clerk for the year ensuing. Patti Lewis' term expires.**
Liz Levey nominated Patti Lewis, Judi DiMario seconded. No other nominations. Vote: All in favor, motion carried. Patti Lewis elected as Town Clerk

**Article 3. To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers for the year 2015.**
Karl Klein made a motion to hear the reports, Marian Petrides seconded.

Jared asked for a moment of silence to honor Fayston Residents that had passed away in the past year.

Jared then spoke to the highlights of the Selectboard report for 2015. The Regan-Chapin-Town of Fayston lawsuit has entered its final decision phase with an appeal to the Vermont Supreme Court having been entered by the Regans. The Town expects a final decision sometime in April or May. The Town proactively opposed a petition from VTel for a cell tower to be located in the town; this resulted in VTel withdrawing their application. Jared spoke to the Capital Funds line items and noted some increases in Equipment Reserve – for a bucket loader and for the Waitsfield Fire Department who will be looking to replace their 20 year old Pumper Truck in the next 3-5 years. The goal in raising the funds is to prevent a need to borrow money to fund these purchases. Jared then took the time to acknowledge and thank several residents that have dedicated their time to working for the Town – Ken Felderman (Library Trustee), Tom Bisbee (Cemetery Commission), David Olenick (Town Agent) and Tony Egan (Lister).

Polly McMurtry spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission with an update. The Planning Commission has completed two surveys over the last 10 years and reports that Fayston Residents feel that our Town's natural resources are very important. The Town Plan has be updated and approved as of December 2014. Currently the Planning Commission is addressing revisions on the plan with regards to steep slopes, accessory dwellings, telecom towers, wind, solar, and set-backs to streams and wetlands.

Ken Amann spoke on behalf of the Cemetery Commission. Financially they are in good shape. Ken Took the time to acknowledge Tom Bisbee for his dedicated time to the Cemetery Commission – the body gave a round of applause.

**Article 4. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of general revenue and with short term notes fund the Capital Budget.**
Carol Chamberlin made the motion, Casey Murphy seconded. Discussion ensued. Jared Cadwell noted that both he and Ed had been taught well be Robert. When Robert first became a Selectman the Town had a debt of $10K, within 3 to 5 years that debt was gone. The message Robert taught Jared and Ed is that the town doesn't borrow money they don't have; they raise it and spend it wisely. So this motion is meant to give the Town latitude in an emergency situation, and that they haven't borrowed funds in the last 20 years. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 5. Shall the Town pay the Board of Selectmen's expenses, and if so, how much?**
Tony Egan made the motion to pay the Selectmen $750.00 each "if it's enough". Sue Jeffreys seconded. Discussion ensued. Al Coccagna asked if it was enough; Ed said it was. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 6. To assess a time of payment of education and municipal taxes. Property taxes are due 30 days from generation of the bills. Taxes not paid by November 1, 2016 (postmarks (not metered mail) accepted), a one-time penalty of 8% and interest of 1% for the first three months and 1.5% thereafter shall be applied.**
Rick Rayfield made the motion to accept the article as written, Mike Quenneville seconded. No discussion. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 7. To elect a Treasurer for the year ensuing. Patti Lewis' term expires.**
Tom Jeffreys' nominated Patti Lewis. No other nominations. Vote: all in favor, motion carried. Patti Lewis elected as Treasurer.

**Article 8. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for a one-year term. Patti Lewis' term expires.**
Marian Petrides nominated Patti Lewis. No other nominations. Vote: all in favor, motion carried. Patti Lewis elected as Delinquent Tax Collector.

10:11 a.m. Jared made a motion for the assembly to recess for a celebration for Robert Vasseur until such time there is a call to order by the Moderator. Ed seconded. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

11:01 a.m. Meeting called back to order.

**Article 9. To elect a Selectman for a three-year term. Robert Vasseur's term expires.**
Rick Rayfield nominated Chuck Martel. Casey Murphy nominated Chris Griffin (who was not present due to illness). It was requested that the candidate present speak to the body.

Vote went to paper ballot per Vermont State Law. After counting by the BCA it was determined that 91 votes were cast: 2 spoiled, 1 for Viens, 15 for Chris Griffin, 73 for Chuck Martel. Chuck Martel elected to serve a 3 year term as Selectman. Chuck spoke to the body thanking Bob for his years with the town and said he would strive to offer the same quality, but maybe not the same quantity.

**Article 10. To elect a Lister for a three-year term. Tony Egan's term expires.**
Tony Egan nominated Sarah Stavraky. No other nominations. Vote: all in favor, motion carried. Sarah Stavraky elected as Lister.

**Article 11. To elect a Second Constable for a one-year term. Allen Tinker's term expires.**
Sue Jeffreys nominated Allen Tinker. No other nominations. Vote: all in favor, motion carried. Allen Tinker elected as Second Constable.

**Article 12. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a three-year term. Tom Bisbee's term expires.**
Ken Amann nominated David Koepele. No other nominations. Vote: all in favor, motion carried. David Koepele elected as Cemetery Commissioner. Ken Amann thanked Tom Bisbee for his time on the Cemetery Commission.

**Article 13. To elect a Grand Juror for a one-year term. David Jones' term expires.**
Freddie Graves nominated David Jones. No other nominations. Vote: all in favor, motion carried. David Jones elected as Grand Juror.

**Article 14. To elect a Town Agent for a one-year term. David Olenick's term expires.**
Freddie Graves nominated David Olenick. No other nominations. David accepted nomination for one more year. Vote: all in favor, motion carried. David Olenick elected as Town Agent.

**Article 15. To elect a Harwood Union School District Representative for a three-year term. Susan Daley's term expires.**
Heidi Spear nominated Susan Daley, who could not attend but has accepted nomination. No other nominations. Vote: all in favor, motion carried. Susan Daley elected as Harwood Union School District Representative.

**Article 16. Shall the voters authorize a sum of money ($1,159,368.49) to pay debts and expenses of the Town of Fayston for the year ending December 31, 2016?**
Carol Bauer made the motion Marian Petrides seconded. Discussion ensued. Matt Howes suggested that there be a 50% reduction in the Request for Funds line and that the town move those funds to be spent on road maintenance. Ed spoke to the body stating that the board looks at 5 areas with respect to the budget: revenue, operating expense, wages, contributions and capital reserves. Ed stated that there is a healthy reserve fund for road maintenance (which is about 25% of the total capital budget) and that he feels that part of governing is looking after those in need. Liz Levey spoke to how the money is used by MRVTV stating they use those funds to ensure public has access to all meetings – thus serving the community. Don Simonini felt that moving the funds was nickel and diming our town when most of the taxes we pay to the State. Ed Read noted that generally they keep the fund balance in the range of $30-$50K, currently it is around $140K and the town plans to use some of that to lower the Municipal taxes. Moderator asked Matt Howes to clarify – would he like to amend the motion? Matt did not want to amend the motion. No further discussion. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 17. Shall the voters authorize the Selectmen to set the necessary tax rate after the Grand List has been completed and lodged in the Office of the Town Clerk?**
Sue Jeffreys made the motion, Marian Petrides seconded. No discussion. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 18. Shall the Town vote to start next year's Town Meeting at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon at the Fayston Elementary School?**
Matt Howes made the motion, Al Coccagna seconded. It was clarified that Town Meeting always falls on the first Tuesday in March. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

**Article 19. To transact any other business which may properly come before the meeting?**
Steve Zonies requested signatures on a petition against Dental provider tax, a tax that was defeated 5 years ago. It was asked who was being taxed: patient or provider. No answer could be given, but ultimately the cost would end up on the patient.

Matt Howes announced that MRVAS now has a search and rescue team and that they are always looking for members to join.

Allen Tinker thanked the road crew for all the work they do which makes his job as bus driver easier.

Jennifer Howard made a plug for the Valley Players.

12:02 p.m. Freddie Graves made a motion to adjourn, Casey Murphy seconded. No discussion. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Stavraky

Selectboard;

Jared Cadwell, Chair

Edward Read

Charles Martel

David Jones, Moderator

Dated this 15 day of March, 2016, at Fayston, Vermont

Patti Lewis

Patti Lewis, Fayston Town Clerk

Received and recorded this 16 day of March 2016.