MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING
MARCH 3, 2015

The legal voters of the Town of Fayston are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Fayston Elementary School on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 9:30 A.M. to transact the following business.

David Jones (David) called the meeting to order at 9:30a.m.

Announcements were made as follows:
Maxine Grad (Maxine) and Adam Greshin (Adam) would be attending and with the permission of the body would be allowed to speak between articles.
Lunch would be provided by the PTO.
Please turn cell phones off.
David explained that we were trying a new system for recognizing and voting either by division of the house or should a paper ballot be called for by using the orange tickets that you received at check in.
He then turned Article 1, over to Jared Cadwell (Jared).

Jared read Article 1:

Article 1. To elect a Moderator for the year ensuing. David Jones' term expires.

Reed Henry nominated David Jones. Ken Amann seconded.
No other nominations, 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.

Dinsmore Fulton nominated Patti Lewis. Ann Day seconded.
No other nominations, all in favor, motion carried.
Patti Lewis elected at Town Clerk.

Article 3. To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers for the year 2014.

Reed Henry made a motion to hear the reports, Jeannie Elias seconded.

Jared thanked and complimented Patti Lewis and Sarah Stavraky for their work and courtesy to all those that come in to the Town Clerk's office.

He noted the Town involvement and support of the Fayston Town Plan in relation to the proposed Vtel broadband tower at the top of Bragg Hill Road. The Town Plan does not allow towers above 1700 feet; this one is proposed at 2000 feet. The Town has contacted an attorney to support the Town Plan.

He spoke of Robert's involvement with the Mad River Resource Management Board and the new mandates to trash disposal and recycling. Fayston currently pays $4.00/capita to belong to the alliance. If Northfield pulls out of the alliance that number may become significantly higher.

He mentioned the election audit Fayston went through this past November and the high marks Fayston received.

Ken Amann then spoke briefly on behalf of the Cemetery Commission. He took a straw poll as to if there is support for a cremation niche wall at the Bragg Hill Cemetery. There was support. He also acknowledged Zelda Lavanway's (Zelda) invaluable years on the Cemetery Commission and his learning at her feet.

At this point Maxine and Adam, with permission from the body, spoke. Maxine spoke on the education bill, agricultural enforcement, homeowner fraud, sex offender laws and a license restoration program. Adam spoke of education reform, water quality issues and the State budget. Matt Howes commented on the amount of taxes middle class pay vs. the higher income people with Adam responding that that might be true for Federal taxes but that Vermont was consistent across the board at an average of 5.5% of wages. Allen Tinker noted he had a hard time understanding how education funding happens and encourages the legislators to make it more understandable.

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.

Tony Egan made the motion, Liz Levey seconded.
Robert Vasseur (Robert) noted the Town has rarely had to borrow money.
All in favor, motion carried.

Article 5. Shall the Town pay the Board of Selectmen's expenses, and if so, how much?

Dinsmore Fulton made the motion to pay the Board's expenses in the amount of $750.00.
Darlene McCormick seconded.
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, 2015 (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 a motion to accept the motion as printed in the warning.
Sue Jeffreys seconded.
All in favor, motion carried.

Article 7. To elect a Treasurer for the year ensuing. Patti Lewis' term expires.

Ann Day nominated Patti Lewis. William Jeffreys seconded.
No further nominations, all in favor, motion carried.
Patti Lewis elected Treasurer.

Article 8. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for a one-year term. Patti Lewis' term expires.

Darlene McCormick nominated Patti Lewis, Liz Levey seconded.
No further no nominations, all in favor, motion carried.
Patti Lewis elected as Delinquent Tax Collector.

Article 9. To elect a Selectman for a three-year term. Jared Cadwell's term expires.

Sue Jefferys nominated Jared Cadwell, Judi Dimario seconded.

No further nominations, all in favor, motion carried.
Jared Cadwell elected as Selectman for a three-year term.

Article 10. To elect a Lister for a three-year term. Fred Spencer's term expires.

Tony Egan nominated Fred Spencer (Fred). Fred declined the nomination.
Discussion followed about how this article relates to Article 18, and the lack of volunteers for the position. Gussie Graves (Gussie) described the position and number of hours and training required.
Ed Read nominated Doug Mosle (Doug). Doug was not present.
Question asked if there was a conflict of interest as Doug is a School Board Member. David Jones answered there was no conflict.
No second needed, all in favor of motion, motion carried.
Doug Mosle was elected for a three-year term.

Article 11. To elect a Second Constable for a one-year term. Allen Tinker's term expires.

Reed Henry nominated Allen Tinker, Rick Rayfield seconded.
No further nominations, all in favor, motion carried.
Allen Tinker elected as Second Constable for a one-year term.

Article 12. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a three-year term. Ken Amann's term expires.

Dinsmore Fulton nominated Ken Amann, Gussie Graves seconded.
No further nominations, all in favor, motion carried.
Ken Amann elected Cemetery Commissioner for a three-year term.
Ken publicly acknowledged Zelda's for her expertise, training and help to him learning the job.

Article 13. To elect a Grand Juror for a one-year term. David Jones' term expires.

Matt Howes nominated David Jones.
No second needed.
No further nominations, 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.

Ann Day nominated David Olenick, Judi Dimario seconded.
No further nomination, all in favor, motion carried.
David Olenick elected at Town Agent.

Article 15. Shall the votes authorize the sum of $40,000.00 (vs the current $20,000.00) to be paid to the Fayston Elementary School as a usage fee?

Dinsmore Fulton made the motion to approve, Heidi Spear seconded.

Question was asked why we would do this and it was explained that by doing this the tax dollars raised in Town are a 1 to 1 ratio rather than raising it on the education tax side which amounts to a 1 to 1.7 ($34,000.00 vs. the $20,000.00) ratio as the education funding system currently works. It was also explained that this would not cut the school budget by $20,000.00 but rather reduce

the tax rate. Ed Read (Ed) noted that that fee, based on community use, was between $40-$45.00/hour.

Question was asked what some of the other uses (besides town meeting) were for the school. Heidi Spear (Heidi) answered for community meetings and athletics but admitted it could be better utilized.

Question was asked if the school had budgeted $20 000.00 or the $40 000.00 and answered it had budgeted with the $20 000.00. Heidi clarified that the school bottom line will not change in their budget article.

It was noted that in all likelihood the small school grants would be going away.

The Selectboard's opinions were asked for and Ed explained reasons he was against the article while Jared explained his reason for support of the article.

There was question if this could be seen as tax avoidance, using the town as a vehicle to transfer money into the school, and questioning at what amount does it become problematic? A response was that as long as it is reasonable and customary that that would be the justified.

It was recalled that after Act 68 passed, private people tried to collect money for the school and it was ruled unlawful.

Comment was made that Fayston is disadvantaged by the legislature and a feeling was that the Town should add more funding for the school each year and see how far it could go.

Gussie requested a paper ballot and by a show of more than seven hands a paper ballot vote proceed.

After counting by the BCA it was determined that 39 people voted yes to pass the article, 23 voted no. Article 15 passes.

Article 16. Shall the voters authorize a sum of money ($1,117.498/79 to pay debts and expenses of the Town of Fayston for the year ending December 31, 2015?

Jared made a motion to authorize the sum of 1,137,498.79. Ann Day seconded.
Sue Jeffreys asked what the transfer line items were and Ed answered those are our capital reserves.
No further discussion, 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?

Matt Howes made the motion. Reed Henry seconded.
No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 18. Shall the Town vote to move from using Listers to assess Fayston properties to instead hiring outside Assessors beginning in 2016.

Matt Howes made the motion. Reed Henry seconded.
Discussion followed about the lack of willing and able people to step into the role, and the possibility of having to go outside of the Town because of it, the roles and responsibilities of a

Lister, that it is a paid position, how the article was written and could it be amended now that someone had stepped up to be a Lister.

Matt Howes made a motion to amend the article by adding "if necessary" at the end. Before the amendment was seconded he accepted a friendly amendment from Dinsmore Fulton to read "if deemed necessary by the Selectboard".
Reed Henry seconded.
No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article as passed: Shall the Town vote to move from using Listers to assess Fayston properties to instead hiring outside Assessors beginning in 2016, if deemed necessary by the Selectboard.

Article 19. Will the Town authorize the Joslin Memorial Library Board of Trustees to increase its size from five up to a number not to exceed seven members?

Jared made a motion to so authorize. Dinsmore Fulton seconded.
A short discussion followed about the necessity of expanding the Board.
No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 20. Shall the Town vote to start next year's Town Meeting at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon at the Fayston Elementary School?

Sue Jeffreys so moved. Gussie Graves seconded.
Discussion followed about changing the date and time of the meetings to engage more people.
No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 21. To transact any other business which may properly come before the meeting?

Jared Cadwell drew attention to the town report dedication. Dick and Nicole Migneault could not be at the meeting this year but they had wanted to thank the townspeople for the acknowledgement in the town report. Likewise Jared noted the Town was grateful for their years of service to the Town.

Ned Kelley updated the body on Fred Gilbert's medical condition.

Darlene McCormick asked if there could be more clarification of articles within the town report next year. Patti Lewis cautioned that explanations would have to be written in such a way as to not influence a vote in any way.

Gail Bresslauer thanked the road crew, town officers and the numerous town board members for their efforts.

12:10 p.m – Dinsmore Fulton made a motion to adjourn. Sue Jefferys seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted: Patti Lewis & Sarah Stavraky

Selectboard;

Jared Cadwell, Chair

Robert Vasseur

Edward Read

David Jones

Dated this 9 day of March, 2015, at Fayston, Vermont

Patti Lewis

Patti Lewis, Fayston Town Clerk

Received and recorded this 10 day of March 2014.