

**Town of Benson
Town Meeting
March 1, 2011
Minutes***

John Hill, Moderator, called Town Meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

John Hill made announcements and read the rules of Town Meeting.

Article 1: to elect all Town Officers and fill vacancies except those required by law to be appointed by the Select Board. (Note: The vote under Article 1 will be by Australian ballot. Polls will open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.)

Town Moderator

John Hill	182
Blank	8

Delinquent Tax Collector

Daryl Burlett	174
Robert Bowen	1
John Noble	1
Lois Trenn	1
Blank	13

Select Board-3 years

Lynn Bowen	162
Richard LaRock	1
Jeff Noble	1
Gary Perkins	1
Ed Peltier	1
Wes Bowen	1
Bob Ambrozaitis	1
Tonyia Bowen	1
Blank	21

Select Board-1 year

Regina Cull	165
Sue Janssen	127
Tanyia Bowen	1
Donny Ladd	1
Martha Noble	1
Frank Heibler	1
Ted Kellogg	1
Gary Perkins	1
Meghan Hill	1
Bob Ambrozaitis	1
Craig Munger	1
Amy Hults	1

Neal Bartholomew	1
Jeff Noble	1
Spoiled	1
Blank	75

Lister

Lois Trenn	165
Derek Corbett	1
Bill Dunne	1
Daryl Burlett	1
Spoiled	1
Blank	21

Constable

Daryl Burlett	27
Dean Hanson	23
Tory Tyminski	16
Nick Daigle	6
Peter Bartholomew	1
Chris Bean	1
Mike Ellis	1
Steve Kelly	1
Jake Brown	2
Nick Naigle	1
Howard Bowen	1
Morgan Phillips	1
Rachel Collett	1
Justin Bartholomew	1
Tom Walker	1
Spoiled	3
Blank	103

Trustee of Public Funds-3 Years

Fran Bowen	178
Blank	12

Trustee of Public Funds-1 Year

Norma Phillips	172
William Dunn	1
Wesley Bowen	1
Jan Ladd	1
Blank	15

Library Commissioner

Rachel Collett	102
Dale Sweet	60
Alicia Fallon	1
Jaci Lussier	1
Spoiled	5
Blank	21

Cemetery Commissioner

Janet Ladd	168
Daryl Burlett	1
Holly Boyce	1
Don Parker	1
Wes Bowen	1
Bill Dunne	1
Kelli Hennessy	1
Blank	16

Grand Juror

Daniel Jason Britton	159
Lisa Chalidze	1
Morris Silver	1
Don Ladd	1
Doaner	1
Spoiled	1
Blank	26

Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits

Daniel Jason Britton	155
Lisa Chalidze	1
Morris Silver	2
Jan Ladd	1
Doaner	1
Blank	30

Auditor – 3 years

Jayne VanNoordt	158
Daniel Lussier	1
Blank	31

Auditor – 2 years

Thomas Bartholomew	181
Blank	9

Sue Janssen moved Article 2: to hear and act upon the reports of Town Officials. Lynn Bowen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Rachel Collett moved Article 3 shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$730.00 for the support of Rutland Mental Health Services (formerly Rutland Area Community Services) so that these services can be maintained. Judy D’Amico seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Rachel Collett moved Article 4: shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,400.00 to support the Rutland Area Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice in fiscal year 2010 (\$250.00 to

support Rutland Area Hospice and \$1,150.00 to support RAVNAH Home and Community Health Services). Daniel Britton seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Deanna Britton moved Article 5: shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$900.00 requested by the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging to help support the Senior Meals Program Meals on Wheels and other services provided by the agency to elder residents of Benson. Lillian Smith seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Guy Charlton moved Article 6: shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to support the programs and services of BROCC—Community Action in Southwestern Vermont in 2011-2012. Daniel Britton seconded the motion.

Daniel Britton moved to suspend the rules to allow a Representative from BROCC, a non resident, to speak. Guy Charlton seconded the motion and it was so voted.

The rep spoke to the assembly and answered questions.

Town voted and passed Article 6 as stated.

Rachel Collett moved Article 7: shall the Town vote to appropriate, for the fiscal year 2011-2012, the sum of \$1,000.00 to support Fair Haven Concerned, INC. a program which organizes and coordinates services necessary to meet the needs of the citizens of the Town of Benson. Sue Janssen seconded the motion.

Rachel Collett moved to allow Julie Austin a non resident to speak. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Julie Austin spoke about Fair Haven Concerned and the services they had provided for Benson residents.

Town voted and passed Article 7 as stated.

Sue Janssen moved Article 8: shall the Town appropriate \$3,000.00 for the Benson First Response for the fiscal year 2011-2012 to help defray the cost of major expenses. Tom Neumann seconded the motion.

Lynn LaRock moved Article 9: to appropriate the sum of \$10,390.00 as its share of the FY 2011-2012 Fair Haven Rescue Squad operating budget. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Judy D'Amico stated that she was grateful for both the Benson First Response and Fair Haven Rescue Squad as she had need of both of their services last year and it was excellent.

Rachel Collett moved Article 10: shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$4,800.00 for the maintenance, care and increase of books for the Town Library. Daniel Britton seconded the motion.

Jackie Lussier and Jean Butman both spoke as representatives of the Library Board.

Sue Janssen moved Article 11: shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$5,500.00 for the maintenance and care of the Town cemeteries. Rachel Collett seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Daniel Britton moved Article 12: shall the Town appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Benson Youth League for the support of their program. Eric Hults seconded the motion.

Daniel Britton moved Article 13: shall the Town vote to appropriate \$1,000.00 for the Community Scholarship Fund. Gina Cull seconded the motion.

Sue Janssen moved Article 14: shall the Town of Benson increase property tax exemption for qualifying disabled veterans from \$20,000 to \$40,000 of assessed value pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 3802(11)? Lynn Bowen seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor concerning what the matter was and how necessary it was.

Guy Charlton moved to amend the article to raise the exemption from \$20,000 to \$40,000 on the Municipal Grand List only. Sue Janssen seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about the matter.

Motion to amend Article 14 was defeated.

Original Article 14 was restated.

Town voted and defeated Article 14.

Sue Janssen moved Article 15: shall the Town of Benson vote to prohibit the First Constable from exercising law enforcement without having completed a course of training under 20 V.S.A. Chapter 51, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 1936a(a)(2)? Lynn Bowen seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor concerning the Article.

Mike Andronico called the question. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Town voted and passed Article 15.

Sue Janssen moved Article 16: shall the Town of Benson vote to replenish the Grant Match Fund in the amount of \$10,000? Guy Charlton seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about this Article.

Peter Jensen moved to amend Article 16 to read as: shall the Town of Benson vote to replenish the Grant Match Fund in the amount of \$7,000? Karen Barber seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about the amendment to the article.

The motion to amend Article 16 was defeated.

Jackie Lussier called the question. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted

Town voted and passed Article 16.

Sue Janssen moved Article 17: shall the Town of Benson vote to approve the expenditure of up to \$50,000 to side the Community Hall. Lynn Bowen seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about this Article.

Pam Stenphanek moved to amend Article 17 to spend up to \$5,000 to paint the south Side of the Community Hall. Chuck Kellogg seconded the motion.

The motion to amend Article 17 was defeated.

Russ Symons moved to amend the amendment to spend up to \$15,000 to finish painting the Community Hall. Janet Tate seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor.

Town voted and passed the amended amendment on Article 17.

Chuck Kellogg moved to adjourn at 11:45pm until 1pm. Jake Brown seconded the motion and it was so voted.

John Hill called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. John spoke about the cake in the shape of the Community Hall that had been made by Jan Grenier for the celebration of Benson's 225th Town Meeting.

John asked for unanimous approval to allow Will Stevens to speak.

Will Stevens spoke about problems that have been occurring in his district and possible solutions to them. He answered questions on various topics including the Rte. 22A corridor problem, school taxes, and VT Yankee.

Sue Janssen moved Article 18: shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$316,959 for the Select Board budget of which \$216,434 shall be raised by taxes? Daniel Britton seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about this Article.

Town voted and passed Article 18.

Sue Janssen moved Article 19: shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$455,228 for the layout, repair and maintenance of Town highways of which \$338,723 shall be raised by taxes? Lynn Bowen seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about this Article.

Lynn Bowen moved to cease debate on the question. Sue Janssen seconded the motion. Less than 2/3 of the majority was in favor of calling the question so debate continued.

Town voted and passed Article 19 by a vote of 31 yes to 17 no.

Jan Ladd moved Article 20: shall the Town of Benson vote to collect taxes on real property in two installments: the first to be paid by the Treasurer on or before September 15 and the final payment to be paid to the Treasurer on or before March 15. Missy Twitchell seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Sue Janssen moved Article 21: shall the Town of Benson vote delinquent taxes and delinquent sewer rents to have an 8% penalty charged against them and a 1% interest per month for the first three(3) months and 1 ½% per month thereafter added from the due date? Daniel Britton seconded the motion.

Guy Charlton moved to amend Article 21 to read: shall the Town of Benson vote delinquent taxes and delinquent sewer rents to have an 8% penalty charged against them and a 1% interest per month for the first three(3) months and 1 ½% per month thereafter until the end of the 2012 fiscal year? Rachel Collett seconded the motion.

Town voted and defeated the amendment to Article 21.

Town voted and passed Article 21 as originally stated.

In regards to Article 22: To transact any other business proper to be done at the Annual Town Meeting.

Sue Janssen spoke about heating assistance available to everyone regardless of income.

Sue Janssen spoke about the committee that is looking into what should be done to the Creamery, Upper Fire House and Town Garage. She invited anyone interested in helping to come to the committee meetings.

Charles Kellogg asked about the phosphorus run-off. The Board answered his questions.

Norma Phillips stated that she would like to see the Library become accredited. Several people stated that they would like to form a committee to look into this.

Daphne Bartholomew announced the new hours for the Town Clerk.

Daniel Britton moved to adjourn Town Meeting at 3:10pm. Rachel Collett seconded the motion and it was so voted.

_____ Select Board Member

_____ Select Board Member

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel S. Collett

*Minutes posted on the web are abridged. Complete copies of all referenced documents are on file with the Minutes in the Town Office.