

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF WATERVILLE VALLEY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 10, 2009**

PRESENT: Moderator Bruce Saenger, Selectman Joan Sweeney, Selectman Margaret Turner, Selectman William Larsen, Town Manager, Mark Decoteau, Town Office/Town Clerk Assistant, Holly Burbank, Community Members

Moderator Saenger called the Town Meeting to order at 3:05pm.

Ian McKinnon from Boy Scout Troop 56 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Saenger next reviewed a handout on Town Meeting Rules of Order.

Mark Decoteau made a motion to dispense with the reading of each article by Moderator for the remainder of the meeting. Joan Sweeney seconded the motion. The motion carried by majority vote.

Town Manager Mark Decoteau next referred to page 50 of the Annual Report, and explained the budget summary. He also noted that for every \$38,500 raised by taxes will affect the tax rate by .10 cents per thousand. The total budget requested is an increase of 6.64% over last year.

Article 1 – To elect for the ensuing year the following Town Officers which appear on the official ballot: Selectman (Three-year term), Selectman (One-year term), Library Trustee (Three-year Term) and Trustee of the Trust Funds (Three-year Term).

The results of Article 1 will follow later in these minutes.

Article 2 – Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1, as proposed by the Planning Board, for the Waterville Valley Zoning Ordinance, as follows: Changing the reference to snowmobiles in Article V, Section L, to Off Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV) as defined in NH RSA 259:69?

Yes

No

The results of Article 2 will follow later in these minutes.

Article 3 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000) for the improvement of town buildings and property and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$325,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest

**thereon. The Selectmen Recommend Approval. (2/3 Ballot Vote Required)
(Amount NOT Included in Article 11)**

Chairman Sweeney moved to accept the article as read; Margaret Turner seconded the motion.

Mark Decoteau noted that this project has been in the Capital Improvements Plan for several years. This would be a three phase project. Phase one would include a new salt and sand shed and also a garage for the garbage truck and to prepare the area around Town Hall for future building of Town works garage. Mark also noted that with the existing salt shed, there are high levels of chlorine in the ground water as a lot of salt is going into the ground. Currently, the garbage truck is being stored in the maintenance bay for the winter to keep it from freezing, making it difficult to perform maintenance work in the garage. In the summer, the truck is kept outside, where it collects rain water, and we have to pay for the weight of the trash in addition to any rainwater that it collects.

Paula Miles questioned the Board of Selectmen as to whether the gas station garage could be used. Mark Decoteau stated that it is currently being used for cold storage and recycling. The current gas station garage is not big enough for the highway vehicles.

There was no further discussion.

With no further discussion, Moderator Saenger noted that Articles 3 & 4 would be voted on at the same time.

Article 4 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$230,000) for the purpose of extending water and sewer lines and making road improvements along West Branch Road and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$230,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The Selectmen Recommend Approval. (2/3 Ballot Vote Required) (Amount NOT Included in Article 11)

Selectman Turner moved to accept the article as read; William Larsen seconded the motion.

Mark Decoteau spoke briefly about proposed warrant article 4. He noted that this is a continuation of the water/sewer line extensions on the North End of Town.

There was a brief discussion regarding the next two phases of the water/sewer line extension project.

With no further questions, Moderator Saenger not that articles 3 & 4 required a 2/3 majority vote to pass. Polls for opened at 3:30pm and will remain open for one hour.

At this time, Moderator Saenger read the results from Articles 1 & 2. They were as follows:

Selectman – three-year term - Bill Larsen
Selectman – one-year term – Joan Sweeney
Library Trustee – three-year term – Maureen Fish
Trustee of the Trust Fund – three-year term – Cheryl Saenger

Article #2 – Passes

School District Results were as follows:

School Board Member – three-year term – Mike Furgal
School Board Member – one-year term – Mark Decoteau
Clerk/Treasurer – Jackie Schwartz
School Board Moderator – Bruce Saenger

The complete results will be listed at the end of these minutes.

Article 5 – To see if the municipality will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve the commitment of the Town to a multi-year participation in a regional single stream recycling facility for managing the Town’s recyclable materials pursuant to the Recycling Facility Associate Member Agreement (RFAM) with the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative (CRSW/RRC). (Majority Vote Required)

Bill Larsen moved to accept article as read; Joan Sweeney seconded the motion.

Bill Larsen gave a brief explanation about this warrant article and stated that this article is seeking permission from the Town for the Board of Selectmen to enter the associate member agreement if the Concord cooperative group moves forward with plans to build a regional recycling facility.

The cooperative plans to bear all of the infrastructure costs of building the facility in Concord with potential Town costs being the construction of a recycling collection area in the Town Complex area as well as other costs such as new recycling dumpsters, etc. The additional costs have not been determined and they are not mandated by approval of this warrant article.

Bill also noted that single stream recycling will work well for this resort community, and would reduce trash going to the current recycling center by 40%. No money will need to

be spent at this point. The cooperative is just looking for a commitment from the Town to get the process going.

There was no discussion regarding this article. Moderator Saenger re-stated the motion.

The motion passes by majority vote.

Article 6 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) for the support of the Waterville Valley Resort Association in marketing and public relations efforts for town businesses. (Majority Vote Required) (Amount NOT Included in Article 11)

Joan Sweeney made a motion to accept the article as read. Margaret Turner seconded the motion.

Bill Cantlin presented information regarding the Waterville Valley Resort Association, and its accomplishments over the past year. After his presentation was complete, Bill also noted that the Board of Selectmen will hold \$15,000 of the \$75,000 requested to be used only if WVRA has a short fall during the year.

Larry Young next questioned why part of their plan was not including Public Transportation. Bill noted that most of the business coming to Waterville Valley came from the I-93 corridor, and most are driving themselves into Town.

John Monteiro questioned how WVRA will benefit the taxpayers. Bill Cantlin explained that by getting visitors into Town and they are using the services and businesses in Town, it keeps all of these establishments open and running. Without visitors, these places of business would have a hard time staying open.

Charles Sayegh next made a motion to extend the discussion for five minutes. Russ Miles seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.

Charles Sayegh suggested to Bill Cantlin that he add a dollar amount to the spreadsheets that he presented to the Town.

Russ Miles asked Bill if this was the last year that WVRA would be asking for \$75,000. He noted that WVRA was on track to do that.

Mike Furgal asked what the Waterville Valley Resort was doing to contribute to WVRA. Bill noted that they give cash contributions, Ski Passes, Packaging and help from their marketing department.

With no further questions, the motion passed by majority vote.

Article 7 – To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long term lease agreement with the Hans and Margaret Rey Center for the operation and maintenance of the Curious George Cottage and the use of associated Town owned property under terms and conditions the Selectmen deem in the best interests of the Town. (Majority Vote Required)

Selectman Larsen made a motion to accept the article as read. Chairman Sweeney seconded the motion.

Mark Decoteau made a motion **“to change the name Hans and Margaret Rey Center to the Margret and H.A. Rey Center, Inc”**. Margaret Turner seconded the motion. The motion passes by majority vote.

Moderator Saenger next stated that the Selectmen are not authorized to enter into lease agreements in excess of one year unless Town Meeting has given them express authority to do so.

This article does not affect the funding of the Rey Center either through the Operations Budget or the Special Warrant Article to be taken up next.

Although related, this article is exclusive of Article 8, and it can be defeated and not affect the viability of Article 8 and it can pass and not force the approval of Article 8.

Vicki Goldberg next spoke and asked the Board how long the lease was, and what the conditions will be. Mark Decoteau noted that there have been no discussions regarding the lease at this point.

Ray Kucharski asked if a public hearing would be held prior to the signing of the lease. Mark Decoteau noted that there would be.

Russ Miles asked if there are any fees associated with the Lease. Mark Decoteau noted that nothing has be negotiated as of yet.

Bruce Saenger re-stated the motion as amended.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long term lease agreement with the Margret and H.A. Rey Center, Inc. for the operation and maintenance of the Curious George Cottage and the use of associated Town owned property under terms and conditions the Selectmen deem in the best interests of the Town.

The motion passes by majority vote.

Article 8 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the support, maintenance and operation of the Hans and Margaret Rey Center. (Majority Vote Required) (Amount NOT Included in Article 11)

Selectman Larsen made a motion to accept the article as read. Chairman Sweeney seconded the motion.

Mark Decoteau made a motion **“to amend the article to read for the improvements and renovations of the Curious George Cottage and associated town owned property”**. Margaret Turner seconded the motion.

Mark Decoteau explained the amendment to the motion, that the money will be used for the use of the cottage and the property, not for the maintenance or operation of the Rey Center.

Moderator Saenger re-stated the amendment. The motion passes by majority vote.

Moderator Saenger noted that polls for voting on Articles 3 & 4 have closed at 4:30pm.

Al Larsen gave a presentation on the Rey Center. The presentation included proposed renovations to the Curious George Cottage and adjacent land, including moving the cottage on the property to make better use of the property.

Several questions were raised from the floor regarding how the money will be spent, whether or not they needed to upgrade the Cottage as the programs currently running seem to be doing well.

Al Larsen also noted that when visitors come to see the Cottage, they were not impressed with it. He also mentioned that the offices for staff are very small, and makes working extremely tough.

A question was raised as to whether the Rey Center must come before the Planning Board prior to renovations. Because this is a Town owned building, they are not required to, but the Town will encourage them to do so.

A request by three registered voters was presented to Moderator Saenger, to vote on this article by secret ballot.

With no further questions, Moderator Saenger re-stated the motion as amended:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the improvements and renovations of the Curious George Cottage and associated town owned property.

The results of this article will follow later in the minutes.

Moderator Saenger next read the results of articles 3 & 4.

Article 3 – 46 votes Yes, 18 Votes No - This motion passes by majority vote.

Article 4 – 67 votes Yes, 7 Votes No – This motion passes by majority vote.

Article 9 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$67,400) for the funding of increased Public Safety Services coverage for the Town. (Majority Vote Required) (Amount NOT Included in Article 11)

Joan Sweeney made a motion to accept the article as read. Margaret Turner seconded the motion.

The results of voting on Article 8 were next read. 50 votes Yes, 19 votes No. Motion Passes.

Director Hodges spoke to the community regarding the need for additional coverage in Town. Director Hodges also noted that currently three residents were taking EMT Training, and will be able to help with calls as soon as they are certified.

There was a brief discussion from the floor as to what the money will be used for.

With no further questions, Bruce Saenger re-stated the motion. This motion passes by majority vote.

Article 10 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$15,700) for the funding of the Town Gas Station from April 1, 2009 to December 1, 2009. (Majority Vote Required) (Amount NOT Included in Article 11)

Selectman Turner made a motion to accept the article as read. Selectman Larsen seconded the motion.

Town Manager Decoteau made a motion “**to amend the article to read December 31, 2009**”. Margaret Turner seconded the motion. This motion passes by majority vote.

John Monteiro asked why it costs \$20,000 to run a credit card machine. Mark Decoteau noted that the money is used to pay the company for monitoring of the credit card system, report usage of gas to the State, and handle bad credit cards.

Patricia Kucharski asked if running the gas station was cost effective to the Town. Chairman Sweeney noted that there is a \$20,000 loss to the Town.

Marilyn O’Connell & Mary Wright asked if the Town votes no on this article, what happens to Town vehicle gas. Mark Decoteau noted there is an above ground tank that could be brought back into service.

With no further questions, Moderator Saenger re-stated the motion as amended.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$15,700) for the funding of the Town Gas Station from April 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. (Majority Vote Required) (Amount NOT Included in Article 11)

The motion does not pass by majority vote. The motion is defeated.

Article 11 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Seven Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Three Dollars (\$3,779,693) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations from any of the preceding articles. The Selectmen Recommend Approval. (Majority Vote Required)

General Government	\$ 712,990
Public Safety	\$ 676,456
Highways & Streets	\$ 193,815
Sanitation	\$ 499,704
Water Distribution & Treatment	\$ 134,294
Health & Welfare	\$ 5,700
Culture & Recreation	\$ 322,330
Arena	\$ 324,386
Debt Service	\$ 604,518
Capital Outlays	<u>\$ 305,500</u>
Total	\$ 3,779,693

William Larsen made a motion to accept the motion as read. Joan Sweeney seconded the motion.

Mark Decoteau noted that this is the general operating budget for 2009.

Pat Kucharski asked if any changes have been made since the budget hearings. Mark Decoteau noted that there have been no changes.

Paula Miles asked what the percentage was for employee raises this year. Bill Larsen noted that 1.5% Cost of Living (COLA) has been added into the budget for this year. He also noted that personnel costs are up 5% this year, because of insurance and pensions.

With no further discussion, Moderator Saenger re-stated the motion. The motion passes by majority vote.

Mark Decoteau made a motion to limit reconsideration of all votes taken at this point. Bill Larsen seconded the motion. The motion passes.

Article 12 – To hear the report of agents, auditors and committees of officers chosen and to pass any vote relative thereto.

There was no business to be brought forward under this article.

Article 13 – To transact any other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Alex Lash, a delegate for the Waterville Valley School Coalition was present to get a sense of the meeting on an important issue to the Students of Waterville Valley Elementary School.

Mr. Lash made a motion **“that the Town of Waterville Valley raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to fund a playground on the school site for use by the school and Waterville Valley Recreation Department”**. Aggie Guilbert seconded the motion.

Cindy Roberts asked Alex where the playground would be placed. Alex noted that it could possibly be placed in the area between the school and the Curious George Cottage.

Vicki Goldberg asked if the cost of the playground had been researched. Alex noted that it had been, and the price would include purchase and installation.

Aggie Guilbert asked if citizens would be able to use the playground. Mr. Lash noted that yes, it could be used when the school was not using it.

Sue Boulter suggested a way to save on the price of the playground would be to have community members help in the installation.

With no further questions, the motion passes.

Ellen Fine was next to speak. She wanted to get a sense of the community, as to a motion that was made last year. This motion is on page 39 of the 2008 Annual Report. Ellen fine then made a motion **“to put into ordinance, a ban on lawn pesticides and herbicides on all private property in an effort to cut down on environmental damages to the community and protect surrounding rivers, groundwater and soil, and to carefully consider the agents and herbicides and pesticides used”**.

Moderator Saenger noted that this was a non-binding vote.

After a brief discussion regarding organic and non-organic pesticides, Charles Sayegh made a motion to amend the article to read **to put into ordinance, a ban on non-organic lawn pesticides and herbicides on all private and town owned property in an effort to cut down on environmental damages to the community and protect surrounding rivers, groundwater and soil, and to carefully consider the agents and herbicides**

and pesticides used”. Ellen Fine seconded the motion. The motion passes by majority vote.

Dick Guilbert called the question. All were in favor.

With no further discussion, Moderator re-stated the motion as amended. **to put into ordinance, a ban on non-organic lawn pesticides and herbicides on all private and town owned property in an effort to cut down on environmental damages to the community and protect surrounding rivers, groundwater and soil, and to carefully consider the agents and herbicides and pesticides used”**.

The motion passed by majority vote.

Paula miles next made a motion. **“We urge the select-people to investigate the cost effectiveness of running the ice arena year round and look into cost saving measures”**. Mark Decoteau seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Moderator Saenger re-stated the motion. The motion passes by majority vote.

With no further discussion, Russ Miles made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion passes by majority vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.

The following are the complete results from the elections:

Selectman (3yr term)	William Larsen	74
	Donald Jasinski	1
	Lenny Emery	1
	Blank	1
Selectman (1 yr term)	Joan Sweeney	75
	John Kelly	1
	Blank	1
Library Trustee	Maureen Fish	73
	Diane Kelly	1
	Paula Miles	1
	Blank	2
Trustee of the Trust Funds	Cheryl Saenger	7
	John Kelly	3
	Brenda Conklin	2
	Blank	52

Article 2	Yes	67
	No	7
	Blank	3
School Board Member (3 yr term)		
	Michael Furgal	75
	John Kelly	1
	Blank	1
School Board Member (1yr term)		
	Mark Decoteau	72
	John Kelly	1
	Blank	4
School Board Clerk/Treasurer		
	Jackie Schwartz	21
	Nancy Decoteau	6
	Missy Lash	2
	Marcia Leavitt	2
	Natalie Thompson	1
	Deb Sullivan	1
	Paula Miles	1
	Patty Furgal	1
	Dan O'Connell	1
	Pat Kucharski	1
	Diane Kelly	1
	Lenny Emery	1
	Blank	38
School Board Moderator		
	Bruce Saenger	13
	Marilyn O'Connell	7
	Donald Jasinski	2
	Sandy Larsen	1
	Ray Kucharski	1
	Russ Miles	1
	Rene Schwartz	1
	Danielle Morse	1

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Kucharski
Town Clerk