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Town of Greenwood Maine Annual Meeting Minutes 2018

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Warrant for Annual Town Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2018

For Year 2018/2019

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Oxford, ss

State of Maine

To: Albert Curtis Jr., a resident and Fire Chief of the Town of Greenwood in said County of Oxford, State of Maine.

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Greenwood, qualified by law to vote in said town, to meet at the American Legion, Jackson Silver Post, 595 Gore Road, Greenwood on May 19, 2018 at 9 o'clock in the morning to act on the following articles to wit:

Article 1: To elect a **Moderator** by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

It was moved and seconded to appoint Dian Rainey as moderator. Town Clerk, Kim Sparks counted three ballots that were cast for Dian Rainey. Clerk Sparks declared Dian Moderator for the Annual Town Meeting. Dian was then given the Oath and sworn in as Moderator.

Article 2: To elect a **Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor** by written ballot for a **three year term** starting July 1, 2018.

Moderator Rainey asked if there were any nominations for Selectmen. There was a nomination and second for Amy Chapman. Moderator Rainey asked if there were any other nominations. Having none, it was moved and seconded to close nomination. Moderator Rainey asked everyone to cast their ballots for Selectman.

Clerk Kim Sparks and Deputy Clerk Angela Lovejoy counted the ballots.

Tally: 43 Votes cast for Amy Chapman. 1 Ballot left blank.

Moderator Rainey announced the tally and declared Amy Chapman the winner and our Selectmen, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for another three years.

Stipend Article

Article 3: Shall the Town vote to accept the following stipend for the Board of Selectmen for the ensuing year?

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor

\$ 150.00 per month for each Selectman

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 3 as written. Vote taken: Article passes.

LD 1 Tax Cap Article

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of **\$ 932,103.00** established for Greenwood by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the proceeding Articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

STATEMENT OF FACTS: Every effort has been made to hold the budget increases to a minimum, if adopted as presented the budget will result in a tax commitment that is above the property tax levy limit. If the preceding Articles are approved by the voters, we have exceeded the property tax levy limit by **\$ 14,930.00**. State law requires voter action to authorize an increase in the limit. A vote on this Article requires a written ballot.

It was moved and seconded to move Article 4 further down to be reviewed after we had reviewed all of the expense Articles that way we would know if we were over tax cap or not. Vote by a show of hands: Moderator Rainey stated that it was approved to change Article 4 to Article 22B.

Expense Budget Articles

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Administrative **Budget**.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 274,580.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 5 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 6: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Codes/Planning/Assessing Budget**.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 42,500.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 6 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 7: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Community Safety Budget**.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 13,200.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 7 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **General Services Budget**.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 14,037.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 8 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 9: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Current Debt Service Budget**.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 156,870.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 9 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 10: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Facility Maintenance and Repair**.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 20,500.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 10 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 11: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Facility Utilities**.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 25,000.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 11 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 12: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Park Maintenance.**

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 3,500.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 12 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 13: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Recreation Budget.**

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 2,500.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 13 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 14: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Fire & Rescue Department Budget.**

2 Selectmen recommend a total of: **\$ 120,000.00 (Vote needed to increase tax cap)**

1 Selectman and the Budget Committee recommend a total of: **\$ 105,000.00 (Within tax cap)**

It was moved and seconded to accept Article 14 with a total budget of \$ 120,000.00.

Discussion:

Fire Chief Albert Curtis explained that he was asking for a flat budget of \$ 120,000 and this has been the amount he has asked for the last three years. He explained that the Budget Committee and one Selectmen thought he should be able to reduce his budget to \$ 105,000 due to the fact that the Town of Woodstock would be doing station manning in Woodstock Monday thru Friday. Fran Piccirillo of the Budget Committee stated that this had nothing to do with his support of the Fire Department that it was strictly a budget decision. Fran explained that if Woodstock was manning their station 5 days per week instead of two or three days per week then Greenwood could afford one man for 4 days at our station or 2 men for 2 days...or Fran suggested that we cut another \$ 15,000 and remove Station Manning completely and use our mutual aid agreement with Woodstock. Chief Curtis stated that he did not feel it was right to

have Woodstock cover Greenwood five days per week. Chief Curtis stated that they have responded to Woodstock EMS calls in the last two weeks...three times. Chief Curtis explained that Greenwood has more certified EMT's and EMR's than Woodstock presently and by law a certified person must respond to an EMS call not just firemen. Deputy Chief Goodwin stated that he know that there was some interest from Woodstock employees to take the required courses to become certified but that would take 6 months or so. Someone from the audience stated that it sounded like Woodstock had a gap presently and could not give Greenwood the same coverage that we are qualified for. Chief Curtis agreed. Selectman Chapman stated that she supported the Station Manning program in Greenwood as we had an aging community and no longer had the work force in Town during the day to respond to a fire or ems call. Selectman Chapman also said that she felt peace of mind knowing there were EMT's in Town and asked that voters approve a flat budget for the Fire Department. Selectman Jordan stated that he didn't agree with everything that the Fire Department had purchased over the year and felt that they could operate the department on \$ 105,000. Voter, Peter Musso asked if the Town was still responding to EMS calls in Woodstock. Chief Curtis said Greenwood Fire and EMS would respond when asked and they had been asked the past two weeks to respond to three calls for EMS services. Peter Musso stated that he thought it was well worth the investment of \$ 15,000 to keep our Station Manning in operation as it has been for the last three years. Voter, Tony Chapman stated that he would have to schedule his heart attack to occur on the two days that there was Station Manning with the budget cut or he could schedule it during the four days and he would prefer 4 days.

It was moved and seconded to end discussion and vote on Article 14. Moderator Rainey asked for a show of hands to cease discussion. Vote taken and discussions ceased.

Moderator Rainey asked for a vote on Article 14 that there was a motion on the floor to accept Article 14 for \$ 120,000. Vote taken. Clerk Sparks counted 45 for and 7 against. Article 14 approved at \$ 120,000.

Article 15: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **G & W Transfer Station Budget.**

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 75,000.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 15 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 16: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Highway Department Budget.**

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 407,000.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 16 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 17: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for minimum maintenance and for liability insurance for the **East Twitchell Pond Road**.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 5,000.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 17 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 18: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Capital Improvements** to replace Howe Hill Road culvert.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 14,016.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 5 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Article 19: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Abatements**.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 2,500.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 5 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Reserve Account Articles

Article 20: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Reserve/Savings Accounts.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend a total of:

\$ 20,000.00 – Highway Dept. Reserve

\$ 72,500.00– Capital Improvement Reserve

\$ 92,500.00 Total to reserve accounts

It was moved and seconded to reduce the Capital Improvement Reserve amount to \$ 57,500.00 and to keep the Highway Dept. Reserve at \$ 20,000.

Discussion: This \$ 15,000 was deducted to meet the LD 1 tax cap requirement.

Moderator Rainey called for the vote. Vote taken and Article 20 passes as amended.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to approve the purchase of **eight (8) sets of new Turnout Gear and ten (10) SCBA Bottles at a cost not to exceed \$ 28,000.00** to be paid out of the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Account.

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend not to exceed \$ 28,000.00

Fire Dept. Equipment Reserve Account balance as of April 30, 2018 was \$ 81,846.00

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 21 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Revenue Budget Article

Article 22: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from the Non- Property Tax Revenue Budget for the articles approved in Article 5 through Article 19 inclusive and the remainder to be raised by property taxation.

Recommendation: Amount recommended to pass.

\$ 289,861.00 to be appropriated from Non- Property Tax Revenue Budget; and the remainder to be raised by property taxation.

It was moved and seconded to approve Article 22 as presented. Vote taken and Article passes.

Business Articles

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to set dates when taxes on Real Estate and Personal Property shall be due and payable and after which interest shall accrue.

Recommendation: Two Installments/Payments

First installment due, Monday, October 1, 2018,
with interest starting on November 2, 2018.
Second installment due, Monday, April 1, 2019,
with interest starting on May 1, 2019.

**It was moved and seconded to approve Article 23 thru Article 32 as written. Vote taken.
Moderator Rainey said all Articles passed as presented.**

Article 24: To see if the Town will set a rate of interest to be paid after the due dates on delinquent taxes.

Recommendation: Interest rate: 7% - The maximum allowed by Terry Hayes, Treasurer of State (Title 36, M.R.S.A. Section 505.4)

Article 25: To see if the Town will set a rate of interest to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 7% pursuant to (Title 36, M.R.S.A. Section 505.4)

Recommendation: Selectmen recommend the article to pass.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept tax payments prior to the commitment of taxes.

Recommendation: Selectmen recommend the article to pass.

Article 27: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell by bid/bidding real estate acquired for non-payment as they deem advisable for the best interest of the town. Sale to be advertised once per week for two consecutive weeks in the two newspapers of local circulation. The Selectmen may without auction or advertisement sell to the person or persons to whom a property was taxed at the time the property was acquired by the town, or to their heirs or assigns, such property for the amount of the accrued taxes, interest and costs within twelve months after foreclosure and shall deliver a municipal quit claim deed for such properties. Also, to authorize the Selectmen to keep any part or parcel thereof for municipal purposes and use.

Recommendation: Selectmen recommend the article to pass.

Article 28: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town to sell or dispose of Town property, obsolete Town equipment and material on such terms as they deem proper.

Recommendation: Selectmen recommend the article to pass.

Article 29: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer to enter into multi-year contracts necessary to provide services to the Town.

Recommendation: Selectmen recommend the article to pass. Services for the Town include but are not limited to assessing, ambulance service, banking, and rubbish removal.

Article 30: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to accept on behalf of the Town, monetary gifts, and to appropriate said gifts to supplement the accounts specified by the benefactor.

Recommendation: Selectmen recommend the article to pass.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to Title 23 M.R.S.A Section 2953.

Recommendation: Selectmen recommend the article to pass.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make applications for, accept and expend on behalf of the Town of Greenwood all gifts, grants, or other funds as may now hereafter be available or forthcoming.

Recommendation: Selectmen recommend the article to pass.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:25am. Vote taken. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.