

MINUTES
CABOT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MARCH 4, 2014

Pursuant to the Warning as recorded and legally posted, the legal voters did meet at the time and place indicated and the following business was transacted:

The 226th Cabot Town Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by the Selectboard Chair, Jack Daniels.

Article 1 – Selectboard Chair read the Article; moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and by Grant Taylor to elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Ed Smith nominated; seconded. No further nominations. Declared nominations closed; Ed Smith elected Moderator unanimously by voice vote. Moderator began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Boy Scouts Daniel and Matthew Durgin, followed by a moment of silence. The Moderator then made opening remarks concerning the meeting. The Moderator recognized Blanche Lamore for attending 80 consecutive Town Meetings; Blanche received a standing ovation.

Article 2 – Shall the Town vote to approve the minutes of the previous Annual town Meeting of March 5, 2013? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. Tara stated changes to the minutes of 2012. Jessica Miller asked whether there were changes to Proposed 2014 numbers. Tara responded that there were none. Moderator stated the question. Article 2 adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 3 – To elect a Selectperson for a term of three years? Australian Ballot issue; discussion not allowed.

Article 4 – To elect a Selectperson for a term of two years? Australian Ballot issue; discussion not allowed.

Article 5 – To elect a Town Clerk for a term of three years? Australian Ballot issue; discussion not allowed.

Article 6 – To elect a Town Treasurer for a term of three years? Australian Ballot issue; discussion not allowed.

Article 7 – Shall the Town vote to hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. Jack Daniels discussed the Selectboard Report and gave a presentation on the proposed project to move the Town Garage. Tara Rogerson indicated changes to the Town Report. Jessica Miller asked about the significance of the Auditor's report, stating that prior years deserve further review, and whether we have moved to the accrual basis of accounting. Tara responded that the 2012, 2013, and 2014 accounts have been changed from a modified cash to an accrual method of accounting for presentation in this Town Report. Caleb Pitkin responded that the accounts have been reviewed by the auditors yearly and found to be accurate, and most of the criticisms in the auditor report is not about the accounting itself, but the method of accounting. No further discussion.

Article 8 – Shall the Town vote to pay its Real and Personal Property taxes to the Town Treasurer on or before November 20, 2014, with delinquent taxes having interest charges of one percent per month for the first three months and on an one-half per month thereafter and an eight percent penalty charged from the due date? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. No discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 7 adopted by voice vote.

Article 9 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot elect all Town officers required by law, according to law? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. Moderator called for nominations for the following offices: LISTER – one 3 year term. Carlton Domey nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for Tara Rogerson to cast one ballot for Carlton Domey; so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Carlton Domey elected for a 3 year term. AUDITOR – one 3 year term. Lynn Jones nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Lynn Jones; so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Lynn Jones elected for a 3 year term. AUDITOR – one 2 year term. Cecilia Gulka nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Cecilia Gulka; so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Cecilia Gulka elected for a 2 year term. AUDITOR – one 1 year term. Cathleen Maine nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Moderator requested a motion for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Cathleen Maine; so moved and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Cathleen Maine elected for a 1 year term. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR – Susan Carpenter nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Susan Carpenter elected for a 1 year term by voice vote. GRAND JUROR – David Pike nominated and seconded. No further nominations; David Pike elected Grand Juror for a 1 year term by voice vote. LAW AGENT – Chip Taylor nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Chip Taylor elected Law Agent for a 1 year term by voice vote. CEMETERY COMMISSIONER – one 5 year term. Fred Pike nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Fred Pike elected Cemetery Commissioner for a 5 year term by voice vote.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 3 year term. Amber Bothfeld nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Amber Bothfeld elected for a 3 year term by voice vote. LIBRARY TRUSTEE – one 3 year term. Kathleen Higbee nominated and seconded. No further nominations. Kathleen Higbee elected for a 3 year term by voice vote. UDAG COMMITTEE – one 3 year term. Chuck Talbert nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Chuck Talbert elected to the UDAG Committee for a 3 year term by voice vote. WILLEY BUILDING COMMITTEE – Niels Larsen nominated and seconded. No further nominations; Niels Larsen elected to the Willey Building Committee for a term of 3 years by voice vote. Caleb announced that appointments are going to be made tonight for the positions listed on page 6 and any interested persons should contact a Selectboard member.

Article 10 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Library Trustees to apply for and receive grants and gifts and to spend any grants and gifts received? Moderator read the Article; moved and seconded. No further discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 10 adopted by voice vote.

Article 11 – Shall the Town vote to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) for the purpose of resurfacing Town Highways? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article 11 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 218 No - 60.

Article 12 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$1,300,000 to construct a new Town Garage, salt shed, and additional infrastructure; demolish the existing Town Garage; landscape and construct a storm water filtration system at the present garage site, of which an estimated \$1,000,000 is to come from federal and state, an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to come from a local bond and an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to come from UDAG grants? Moderator read the Article; moved and seconded. Jessica Miller would like to have the grant approved prior to voting; doesn't agree with the wording of the Articles 12-15 as presented. Jack Daniels responded that approval of the grant is dependent upon the approval of the voters; separate Articles were necessary for approval from the voters. Caleb responded that the land purchase is included in the \$1.3million budget; the Town would like to purchase it for the new location of the Town Garage. Sue Rathbone asked whether we need to demolish the garage prior to receiving the grant and what happens if we don't get the grant? Jack responded that no demolition will occur until the new Garage is built; if the grant is not approved the Committee will draft a new plan. Caleb added that if the grant is not received, future grant sources may not require remediation at the existing site. Judy Pransky thanked the Garage Committee and supports this project. Mark Christensen asked if the project would continue if Article 15 UDAG funding was not approved; Caleb responded that the loss of those funds would likely not deter the Town from moving forward with the project. Jan Westervelt would like the SB to consider receiving a loan from the UDAG grant under other business. Jessica asked whether the grant was approved and all articles denied, would the Town go forward with the project. Caleb responded that if the grant is received, the rest of the project would be paid for from Town revenue; voter approval is required for the grant to be awarded. Bruce Westcott thanked Jack and Karen for their work on this project and clarified the vote. Mary Carpenter, Richard Hourihan, Walter Bothfeld, Jr., spoke regarding this Article. No further discussion. The Moderator stated the question. Article 12 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 206 No - 78.

Article 13 – Shall the Town vote the sum of \$60,000 from local taxes to purchase eight acres of land at 2691 South Walden Road as a site for the new Town Garage, and to authorize the Selectboard to seek reimbursement for all or part of this sum through federal and state grants? [Australian Ballot]. Moved and seconded. Jessica asked where the grant income would go? Caleb responded that all income received by the Town is used to offset expenses. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 13 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 207 No - 77.

Article 14 – Shall the Town vote to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of financing the construction of a new Town Garage as authorized and described by Article 12? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article 14 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 209 No - 74.

Article 15 – Shall the Town vote the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) from existing UDAG funds to help defray the cost of constructing a new Town Garage as authorized and described by Article 12? [Australian Ballot]. Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article 15 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 189 No - 93.

Article 16 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Community Association (CCA) the sum of \$6,500 from UDAG funds in 2014 for the purpose of helping to hire a part-time Economic and Community Development Coordinator to coordinate volunteer activities in support of economic, educational, and community development in Cabot,

write grants seeking funding in support of local economic, educational and community development activities, and undertake such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of the CCA? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Bruce Westcott stated the purpose and activities of the CCA, and the desired hired position for the CCA. Jessica Miller feels that money should not be appropriated and not spent and does not support this request. Caleb stated that the hiring last year was based on the support of the Creamery, which was withdrawn, so we waited to fill the position. Frank Kampf, Michelle Delaney spoke regarding the CCA. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 15 denied by Australian Ballot; Yes -139 NO - 142.

Article 17 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Community Association (CCA) the sum of \$6,500 from Town funds in 2014 for the purpose of helping to hire a part-time Economic and Community Development Coordinator to coordinate volunteer activities in support of economic, educational, and community development in Cabot, write grants seeking funding in support of local economic, educational and community development activities, and undertake such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of the CCA? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. Move and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 17 denied by Australian Ballot; Yes - 119 NO - 154.

Article 18 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Town of Cabot the sum of \$77,000 from UDAG funds for the purposes of making energy efficiency improvements to the Willey Memorial Building? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. Mary Carpenter asked the purpose of the funding. Fred Ducharme responded that it is to replace the rest of the windows, dense pack the walls and close out the unused chimney. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 18 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 186 No - 93.

Article 19 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot exempt the so-called Cabot Historical Society buildings owned by the Cabot Historical Society, Inc., a non-profit organization, for real property taxes for a period of five (5) years, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3840? Moderator read the Article. Moved and seconded. RD Eno asked if it is currently exempted. Tara responded that it was; Caleb added that the exemption expired in 2006, but were not assessed. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 19 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Moved to recess the meeting until 1pm. Moved and seconded. Approved by voice vote. The 2014 Town Meeting recessed at 11:58am. The Moderator brought the Meeting back from recess at 1:00pm.

Article 20 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$44,000 to defray the expenses of the Cabot Fire Department? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. Skip Bothfeld asked voters to consider volunteering at the Cabot VFD for various services. Caleb Pitkin stated that the average age of the Marshfield FD is 80. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 20 adopted by voice vote.

Article 21 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$54,648 to support the Cabot Library? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Caleb Pitkin and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 21 adopted by voice vote.

Article 22 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$20,000 to support the maintenance of the Cabot Cemeteries? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 22 adopted by voice vote.

Article 23 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$15,000 to support the Cabot Ambulance? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 23 adopted by voice vote.

Article 24 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$500 to support the Cabot Senior Citizens group? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Caleb Pitkin and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 24 adopted by voice vote.

Article 25 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$6,000 to support *The Cabot Chronicle*? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 25 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Article 26 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$12,000 to support the Cabot Recreation Committee? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Helen Morrison and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 26 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Article 27 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the sum of \$350 to purchase flags for Memorial Day? Moderator read the Article. Moved by Walter Bothfeld, Jr. and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 27 adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Article 28 – Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriation the following sums for the following purposes:

A.	American Red Cross	\$	500.00
B.	A.W.A.R.E.		750.00
C.	Aquatic Nuisance Control Project at Joe's Pond		750.00
D.	Circle (Battered Women's Services & Shelter)		600.00
E.	Central Vermont Adult Basic Education		1,200.00
F.	Central Vermont Community Action Council		300.00
G.	Central Vermont Council on Aging		1,300.00
H.	Central Vermont Economic Development		300.00
I.	Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice		2,700.00
J.	Family Center of Washington County		500.00
K.	Friends of the Winooski River		400.00
L.	Green Mountain Transit Agency		733.00
M.	Green Up Vermont		100.00
N.	Home Share Now		150.00
O.	Kingdom Animal Shelter of St. Johnsbury		500.00
P.	Onion River Food Shelf		1,000.00
Q.	People's Health & Wellness Clinic		100.00
R.	Retired & Senior Volunteer Program and Center		200.00
S.	Sexual Assault Crisis Team		350.00
T.	Twin Valley Senior Center		1,300.00
U.	Vermont Association for the Blind		300.00
V.	Vermont Center for Independent Living		165.00
W.	Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force		100.00
X.	Washington County Youth Service Bureau		250.00
Y.	West Danville Community Club		500.00
Z.	Winooski Natural Resources Conservation Dist.		250.00
AA.	Woodbury/Calais Food Shelf & Elder Care		400.00
	TOTAL	\$	15,698.00

Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. Frank Kampf moved to strike item “N. Home Share Now” from the appropriation request; seconded. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question and asked voters to stand to be counted. Motional failed by standing vote. No further discussion. Caleb moved to suspend the Rules of Order to reread the Article as written; seconded. Approved by voice vote. Article 28 adopted by voice vote.

Article 29 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$2,350,700.00 to repair and maintain the highways of the Town including summer, winter and special treatment, of which an estimated \$1,869,000.00 is to come from income and \$481,700.00 from local taxes? Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. Jessica Miller asked whether Article 36 was included in the proposed Highway budget. Tara responded that it was not and would have to be added if the work is performed this year. Caleb stated that the Selectboard did not put this in the budget because there is 18-months to complete the project, and if Article 36 is passed we can start the project this year, the expense and income can be added to the budget next year. Bruce Westcott asked for more information about the

proposed budget. Jack Daniels discussed the proposed 2014 budget comparison over the past six years. No further discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 29 adopted by voice vote.

Article 30 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$757,046.00 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$286,080.47 to come from income and \$470,965.53 from local taxes? Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 30 adopted by voice vote.

Article 31 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot School Arts Program the sum of \$600 for materials and supplies in connection with its guest artist program from the UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2014? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article 31 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 200 No – 85

Article 32 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Community Association the sum of \$3,750 for computers for the Cabot Connects Mentoring Program and the Cabot Chronicle from UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2014? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article 31 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 180 No – 99

Article 33 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Fire Department the sum of \$14,160 for 3 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) from UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2014? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article 31 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 201 No – 83

Article 34 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot grant to the Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service, Inc. the sum of \$15,004 for a power stretcher from the UDAG funds available for Town Meeting grants in 2014? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article 31 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 192 No – 89

Article 35 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$694,978.00 at no cost to the taxpayers? [Australian Ballot] Moderator read the Article. No discussion. Article 31 approved by Australian Ballot; YES - 253 No – 27

Article 36 - Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve an amount not to exceed \$343,804 to construct a new sidewalk along Main Street, beginning at the bridge at the North end of the Village and extending to the existing sidewalk that begins across the street from Common Road (across from the Church) with \$275,000 to come from federal and state grants and an amount not to exceed \$68,804 to come from local taxes? [Australian Ballot] Jessica Miller asked why this grant is not broken down like Article 12. Caleb responded that no special circumstances require a separate vote for the grant. Mary Carpenter state that she cannot understand how a sidewalk could cost so much and cannot support this project. Bruce Westcott stated that the total project would cost less than the grant application amount. Caleb stated that the grant was put before the voters to seek approval to continue. Tammie Marian stated that she does not support the project. Carrie Harvey stated that as a student it is not a safe place for students to walk. Jessica Miller stated that narrowing the roadway may slow down traffic but would likely make it more dangerous. Bruce Westcott stated that he believes the grant application necessitates the signing of the contracts by a certain date, which is the reason for the vote; the schematic road widths are standard. No further discussion. Article 31 denied by Australian Ballot; Yes - 114 NO – 166

Article 37 – To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. Moderator read the Article. Jack Daniels presented a plaque for Roland “Slim” Payne, Sr., for his years of service as Tree Stewart for the Town of Cabot. Tara Rogerson presented a plaque for Carlton Domey for his years of service as Zoning Administrator and Lister for the Town of Cabot. The Cabot Selectboard will hold its meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month until May, 2014. Ed Smith thanked the Cabot Fire Department and Ambulance Service for their service and dedication to the Town; they received a standing ovation. Jessica Miller asked whether we could hold the informational meeting more than two weeks before the Town Meeting. Caleb responded that we are required by Vermont Statute to hold the meeting within ten days. Amy Hornblas asked that individuals read the proposed Zoning Regulations currently being prepared by the Planning Commission, and requested that a petition be submitted to move the ordinance approval process from the Selectboard to the voters through Australian Ballot. Caleb Pitkin, point of information – petition process cannot begin until the adoption of an ordinance by the Selectboard, so the correct time to

submit a petition regarding an ordinance is after it is passed. Ed Smith thanked the younger people who serve on committees and volunteer their time in our Town.

Article 39 - To adjourn this meeting. Moderator read the Article. Walter Bothfeld, Jr. moved and seconded. No discussion. Moderator stated the question. Article 39 adopted by voice vote; 2014 Cabot Town Meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tara Rogerson
Cabot Town Clerk

Approved by:

Ed Smith, Moderator

Jack Daniels, Selectboard Board Chair