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Unity Maine Annual Town Meeting Minutes 2019

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Town Meeting Minutes

For the

Town of Unity

March 23, 2019

Friday, March 22, 2019, Kari read the greeting and opened the floor for nominations for moderator. Donald Newell was nominated and seconded. 1 (one) ballot cast for Donald Newell. Donald Newell appointed Patricia Clark as Deputy Moderator. Pat Clark appointed Diane Hull to act as Deputy Moderator.

Saturday, March 23, 2019, Donald Newell opens the meeting, swears in Tony Avila as town of Unity Selectman. 32 Ballots were cast for Tony Avila and 1 ballot cast for Jason Hunt.

Attendance: 60

Don goes over the rules and regulations of the meeting. Opens the floor to Erin Herbig.

Penny explains the status of the Town loans and a plan to have all loans paid off by 2026.

Penny took a straw poll to see if residents were interested in starting town meeting earlier next year. Residents agreed 9am would be a good start time. Selectmen will consider a time change for next year.

Articles 1 and 2 were held by secret ballot on March 22, 2019. Don brings the meeting with Article 3.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to approve the Maine Moderator's Manual 6th Edition as the rules of procedure for the meeting. Article 3 is moved and seconded. Article 3 passed by show of hands.

Article 4. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to appoint all necessary Town Officials. Article 4 is moved and seconded. Article 4 passed by show of hands.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the Snowmobile Registration Refund from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to be used for grooming trails, with matching funds, under the supervision of the Selectmen and the Project Director. Article 5 is moved and seconded. Article 5 passed by show of hands.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506. Article 6 is moved and seconded. Article 6 passed by show of hands.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to allow a 2% discount on all taxes if paid in full within 30 days from the original postmarked date. Article 7 is moved and seconded. Article 7 passed by show of hands.

- Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to charge interest at the rate of 9% per annum on all 2019 taxes which remain unpaid on December 1, 2019. Article 8 is moved and seconded. Article 8 passed by show of hands.
- Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell or otherwise dispose of real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon. The selectmen shall advertise the properties for sale by sealed bid and have the authority to accept or reject any or all bids, and to execute a Quitclaim deed for such property. Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.S.R.A. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s). The selectmen may attempt to sell the property back to the prior owner before advertising the properties for sale. Article 9 is moved and seconded. Article 9 passed by show of hands.
- Article 10. To see what sum the town will vote to raise and/or appropriate to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the 2019 fiscal year. Assessor Recommends, \$4,500 from surplus. Article 10 is moved and seconded. Article 10 passed by show of hands.
- Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to use up to \$5,000.00 from undesignated funds (surplus) as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the current fiscal year, 2019. Article 11 is moved and seconded. Article 11 passed by show of hands.
- Article 12. To see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 1/6 of the budget amount in each category of the annual budget during the period from February 1, 2020 to March 23, 2020. Article 12 is moved and seconded. Article 12 passed by show of hands.
- Article 13. To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. SS 2953. Article 13 is moved and seconded. Article 13 passed by show of hands.
- Article 14. To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to dispose of town-owned personal property, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable. Article 14 is moved and seconded. Article 14 passed by show of hands.
- Article 15. Shall the Town accept any and all gifts raised through various fund-raising activities and donations received by the Recreation Committee, and appropriate them for their intended purposes, as recommended by the municipal officers? Article 15 is moved and seconded. Article 15 passed by show of hands.
- Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$700.00 for Broadreach Family Services for the ensuing year. Article 16 is moved and seconded. Motion to amend the article to appropriate the Budget Committees recommendation of \$600. Motion to amend is seconded. Amendment passed. Motion to accept article as amended is moved, seconded and passed by show of hands.

- Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$871.00 for New Hope for Women for the ensuing year. Article 17 is moved and seconded. Motion to amend the article to appropriate the Selectmen's recommendation of \$300. Motion is seconded. Motion to amend is defeated. Motion to amend the article to go with the Budget Committee recommendation of \$500.00. Motion is moved and seconded. Motion to amend passed. Motion to accept article as amended, moved, second and passed by show of hands.
- Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$750.00 for Seabasticook Regional Land Trust for the ensuing year. Article 18 is moved and seconded. Article 18 passed by show of hands.
- Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for Spectrum Generations for the ensuing year. Article 19 is moved and seconded. Article 19 passed by show of hands.
- Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for Maine Youth Alliance/The Game Loft for the ensuing year. Article 20 is moved and seconded. Motion to amend article to raise \$250. Motion is moved, seconded and defeated. Motion to pass article 20 as written. Motion is moved and seconded. Article 20 passed by show of hands.
- Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,440.53 for Waldo Community Action Partners for the ensuing year. Article 21 is moved and seconded. Motion to amend article to appropriate the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendation of \$2,000. Motion to amend is moved and seconded. Motion to amend is passes. Motion to pass article 21 as amended. Motion is moved and seconded. Article 21 passed by show of hands.
- Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,200.00 for the Volunteer Regional Food Pantry for the ensuing year. Article 22 is moved and seconded. Article 22 passed by show of hands.
- Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000.00 for the Community Grant. Article 23 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Article 23 passed by show of hands.
- Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for the Park and Recreation Committee. Article 24 is moved and seconded. Article 24 passed by show of hands.
- Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$284,000.00 for Summer Roads for the ensuing year. (This includes \$250,000 for the 1st road loan. Article 25 is moved and seconded. Article 25 passed by show of hands.
- Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$212,000.00 for Winter Roads for the ensuing year. Article 26 is moved and seconded. Article 26 passed by show of hands.
- Article 27. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$84,360.80 for the Second Road Loan for the ensuing year. Article 27 is moved and seconded. Article 27 passed by show of hands.

- Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,600.00 for the Sand and Salt Shed Maintenance. Article 28 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Article 28 passed by show of hands.
- Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$23,396.00 for the Town's share of the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center for the ensuing year. Article 29 is moved and seconded. Article 29 passed by show of hands.
- Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$68,500.00 to pay the Rubbish Disposal Tipping Fee to whomever MRC (Municipal Review Committee) designates for the ensuing year. Article 30 is moved and seconded. Article 30 passed by show of hands.
- Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$77,400.00 for Solid Waste Pickup for the ensuing year. Article 31 is moved and seconded. Discussion Article 31 passed by show of hands.
- Article 32. To see what sum the Town will vote to charge for trash stickers. Article 32 is moved and seconded. Motion to amend article to increase stickers to \$1.50. Motion is moved seconded and defeated. Motion to amend article to increase stickers to 1.75. Motion is moved seconded and passes by show of hands. Motion to accept article 32 as amended. Motion is moved, seconded and passed by show of hands.
- Article 33. To see what sum the Town will vote to charge for dumpster tipping fee per cubic yard. Article 33 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Motion to limit debate, seconded and passes Motion to amend article 33 to provide the same percent of increase from trash sticker to the dumpster tipping fees, the rate would be \$5.25 per yard. Motion to amend is moved, seconded and passed. Motion to accept article 33 as amended. Motion is moved, seconded and passed by show of hands.
- Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,880.00 for Landfill Maintenance and Monitoring for the ensuing year. Article 34 is moved and seconded. Article 34 passed by show of hands.
- Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,100.00 for Kanokolus Beach for the ensuing year. Article 35 is moved and seconded. Article 35 passed by show of hands.
- Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to accept a gift of \$1,500 from Friends of Lake Winnecook and appropriate for the purpose of an attendant at Kanokolus Beach and Boat Launch. Article 36 is moved and seconded. Article 36 passed by show of hands.
- Article 37. To see if the Town will vote that the revenues derived from the Fire Department charges, refunds, grants and contract payments shall become a part of the Fire Department Maintenance & Operations and the Firemen's Compensation Accounts. Article 37 is moved and seconded. Article 37 passed by show of hands.

- Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500.00 for Fire Department Officers Salaries account for the ensuing year. Article 38 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Article 38 passed by show of hands.
- Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$73,161.70 for the Fire Department Maintenance and Operations account for the ensuing year. (*This includes 17,800 for FF wages and 1,361.70 for payroll expenses*). Article 39 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Article 39 passed by show of hands.
- Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the Fire Truck Fund for the ensuing year. Article 40 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Article 40 passed by show of hands.
- Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$40,115.50 for the Firehouse Loan Payment for the ensuing year. Article 41 is moved and seconded. Article 41 passed by show of hands.
- Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for E-911 for the ensuing year: Article 42 is moved and seconded. Article 42 passed by show of hands.
- Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Constable for the ensuing year. Article 43 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Article 43 passed by show of hands.
- Article 44. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the ensuing year. Article 44 is moved and seconded. Motion to amend to appropriate \$1,000 for the AED. Fire Department shared a program available to Maine Municipalities and Fire Departments that can get an AED at a reduced price. Motion is moved, seconded and passed. Motion to accept article 44 as amended. Motion is moved, seconded and passed by show of hands.
- Article 45. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$78,046.00 for Town Official's Salaries for the ensuing year. Article 45 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Article 45 passed by show of hands.
- Article 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,500.00 for Assessing Services for the ensuing year. Article 46 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Article 46 passed by show of hands.
- Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for the ACO/CEO/LPI/EMA Incidental Account for the ensuing year. Article 47 is moved and seconded. Article 47 passed by show of hands.
- Article 48. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$67,000.00 for the Administration Account for the ensuing year. Article 48 is moved and seconded. Article 48 passed by show of hands.
- Article 49. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for Legal Fees for the ensuing year. Article 49 is moved and seconded. Motion to amend to appropriate

\$3,200 for Legal Fees. Motion was moved, seconded and passes. Motion to accept article as amended. Motion is moved, seconded and passed by show of hands.

- Article 50. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$28,421.88 for the Town Office Loan Payment for the ensuing year. Article 50 is moved and seconded. Article 50 passed by show of hands.
- Article 51. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,200.00 for Electricity for Town Lights for the ensuing year. Article 51 is moved and seconded. Motion to amend to appropriate \$7,500. Motion to amend is moved, seconded and passed. Motion to accept article 51 as amended. Motion is moved, seconded and passed by show of hands.
- Article 52. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,400.00 for Cemeteries for the ensuing year. Article 52 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Article 52 passed by show of hands.
- Article 53. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,050.00 for the Septic Disposal Contract for the ensuing year. Article 53 is moved and seconded. Article 53 passed by show of hands.
- Article 54. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,769.00 for dues to Kennebec Valley Council of Governments for the ensuing year. Article 54 is moved and seconded. Article 54 passed by show of hands.
- Article 55. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,384.36 for the contract fee for the Humane Society of the Waterville Area for the ensuing year. Article 55 is moved and seconded. Article 55 passed by show of hands.
- Article 56. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000.00 for General Assistance for the ensuing year. Article 56 is moved and seconded. Article 56 passed by show of hands.
- Article 57. Shall an ordinance entitled “False Alarm Ordinance” be enacted? (A copy of the ordinance is posted together with this warrant and here by incorporated into this warrant by reference). Article 57 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Motion to move the questions, it is moved, seconded and passed. Article 53 is defeated by show of hands.
- Article 58. Shall an ordinance entitled “Balloon Release Ordinance” be enacted? (A copy of the ordinance is posted together with this warrant and here by incorporated into this warrant by reference). Article 58 is moved and seconded. Discussion. Motion to move the questions, it is moved, seconded and passed. Article 58 passed by show of hands.

Adjournment 2:15pm