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Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Somerville Maine June, 2014

Somerville, Me.

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SOMERVILLE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Gymnasium at RSU 12 Offices
665 Patricktown Rd
Somerville, Maine
June 21, 2014

MINUTES

Article 1: To choose, by written ballot, a moderator to preside at the town meeting.

Chris Johnson was elected as moderator to preside at said meeting

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. by moderator Chris Johnson.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator followed the Maine Moderator's Manual to conduct the meeting.

Article 2: To choose, by secret ballot, in accordance with the vote of the Town, the following officers and officials: Three Selectmen, Assessor and Overseers of the Poor (First Selectman, 1 year term; Second Selectman, 2 year term; Third Selectman, 3 year term); one Town Clerk / Registrar of Voters, 1 year term; one Tax Collector, 1 year term; one Treasurer, 1 year term; one School Board Director, 3 year term.

Election results from June 20, 2014 were reviewed:

First Selectman: Susan Greer received 66 votes, unopposed

Second Selectman: Don Chase received 75 votes, unopposed

Third Selectman: Darlene Landry received 50 votes (against Martin Hisler with 33 votes)

Treasurer: Geraldine Kimball received 80 votes, unopposed

Tax Collector: Sandra Dunlap received 78 votes, unopposed

Town Clerk: Kelly Payson-Roopchand received 24 write-in votes

RSU 12 School Board of Directors: Frank Hample received 73 votes, unopposed

Moderator swore in the Town Clerk and the Selectmen.

Moderator recognized non-voting attendees, Les Fossel, Chris Johnson, Jim Murphy and Jessica Tyson.

Article 3: Cause the Town Clerk / Registrar of Voters to be Appointed.

Andrew Morse made a motion to pass the article, and Martha Staples seconded. Jim Grenier made a motion to allow his wife, resident alien Kelly Grenier, to speak. Twenty-nine voted yes, versus 3 no, and the motion passed. Kelly argued to maintain the position as elected. Kelly

Payson-Roopchand urged voters to consider the various positions held by the town clerk, and whether the admin. assistant position might be better served by appointment, and the town clerk/registrar of voters as elected. Delta Chase supported appointment as a way to ensure a qualified person will be in the office. Darlene Landry also supported appointment, referencing the high turnover in the position. In that vein, there was a suggestion that the position should remain elected, but become a three-year position, allowing the person to receive the necessary training. Prolonged discussion followed, both for and against, until there was a motion, and a second, to call the question. Further discussion was closed with a vote of 30 yes, 1 no. Vote on Article 3: 20 yes, 14 no. Motion carried; Town Clerk will become an appointed position.

Article 4: Cause the Town Treasurer to be Appointed.

Andrew Morse made a motion to pass the article, and Peggy Dostie seconded. Vote on Article 4: 20 yes, 13 no. Motion carried; Town Treasurer will become an appointed position.

Article 5: Cause the Tax Collector to be Appointed.

Andrew Morse made a motion to pass the article, and David Greer seconded. Vote on Article 5: 20 yes, 13 no. Motion carried; Tax Collector will become an appointed position.

Article 6: Administration Purposes.

Motion made by Mike Dostie to raise and appropriate from property taxation for the town administration the sum of \$31,920.00, as recommended by the Budget Committee. Valerie Johnson seconded. Vote on Article 6: 33 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 7: Town Office Loan.

Motion made by Mike Dostie to appropriate and expend \$31,320.33 from the General Fund to pay off the current town office loan, as recommended by the Budget Committee. Andrew Morse seconded. Vote on Article 7: 31 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 8: Town Office Operation.

Tim Dostie moved to raise and/or appropriate \$3,000 from property taxation for Town Office operation, as recommended by the Budget Committee. Martha Staples seconded. Vote on Article 8: 30 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 9: Contract Services.

Mike Dostie moved to raise and/or appropriate \$24,020.00 from property taxation for payment of contract services required by the town, as recommended by the Budget Committee. Roy Miller seconded. Vote on Article 9: 29 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 10: Salaries and Stipends of Town Officers and Officials.

Roy Miller moved to raise and/or appropriate \$69,723.00 from property taxation for salaries, stipends, and personnel-related expenses of Town Officers and Officials, as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Vote on Article 10: 29 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 11: Capital Road Construction.

Mike Dostie moved to expend the funds received through the Local Road Improvement Program (projected to be \$25,000 for the state fiscal year 2015), per the Somerville 5-year Long Range Road Plan. Roy Miller seconded.

Vote on Article 11: 29 yes, 0 no.

Article 12: Road Construction, Maintenance and Repair.

Mike Dostie moved to raise and/or appropriate \$219,420.00 from property taxation for maintaining and repairing Somerville road, as recommended by the Budget Committee. Valerie Johnson seconded.

Vote on Article 12: 29 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 13: Revenue Collection.

Mike Dostie moved to raise and/or appropriate \$12,800.00 from property taxation for the Collection of Revenue, as recommended by the Budget Committee. Peggy Dostie seconded.

Vote on Article 13: 30 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 14: Health and Safety.

Mike Dostie moved to raise and/or appropriate \$2,478.00 from property taxation for Health and Safety, as recommended by the Budget Committee. Claudia Fujinaga seconded.

Vote on Article 14: 30 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 15: Grants to Not-For-Profit Community Organizations.

Frank Hample moved to raise and/or appropriate \$3,000.00 from property taxation for grants to not-for-profit community organizations, as recommended by the Budget Committee. Mike Dostie seconded.

Vote on Article 15: 29 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 16: Inter-Governmental Transfers.

Mike Dostie moved to raise and/or appropriate \$54,972.00 from property taxation for inter-governmental transfers, as recommended by the Budget Committee. David Greer seconded.

Vote on Article 16: 32 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 17: Fund Balances to be Carried Forward.

Mike Dostie moved to carry balances forward to the coming year on certain accounts. Lynne Talberg seconded.

Vote on Article 17: 29 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 18: Unanticipated Expenses and Emergencies.

Mike Dostie moved to appropriate \$20,000.00 from surplus to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies as they deem advisable. Martha Staples seconded.

Vote on Article 18: 30 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 19: Surplus and Overdraft Accounts

Mike Dostie moved to authorize that the surplus and overdraft accounts be lapsed to the General Fund. Alice Rafuse seconded.

Vote on Article 19: 29 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 20: Disposal of Real Estate Acquired by the Town.

Frank Hample moved to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for the non-payment of taxes thereon, and to execute quit claim deeds for such property. Mike Dostie seconded.

Vote on Article 20: 28 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 21: Funds to Pay for Sale of Town-Acquired Property.

Roy Miller moved to appropriate the money from the sale of any Town acquired property to pay the costs of said sale. Mike Dostie seconded.

Vote on Article 21: 29 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 22: Transfer of Funds Received from the Sale of Tax-Acquired Property.

Mike Dostie moved to transfer up to \$10,000 of funds received from the sale of tax-acquired property to the revaluation reserve account and up to \$50,000 to the capital roads construction reserve account. Peggy Dostie seconded.

Vote on Article 22: 27 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 23: Prepayment of Taxes.

Mike Dostie moved to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. 506. Claudie Fujinaga seconded.

Vote on Article 23: 27 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 24: Discount on Taxes.

Mike Dostie moved to allow taxpayers a discount on taxes paid within 30 days after the postmark date on the bill and to set the rate thereof at 2%. Claudia Fujinaga seconded.

Vote on Article 24: 27 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 25: Set the Interest Rate Charged for Late Payment of Taxes.

Mike Dostie moved to charge an interest rate of 0.583% per month (7% per annum) on all taxes paid after November 30, 2014 and May 31, 2015. Peggy Dostie seconded.

Vote on Article 25: 25 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

Article 26: Use of Surplus Funds for Reduction of Taxes.

Mike Dostie moved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$60,000 from the General Fund, for the purpose of reduction of taxes. Roy Miller seconded.

Vote on Article 26: 27 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 27: Authorize Receipt and Expenditure of Grants and Other Receipts.

Point of Order: The article was written with incorrect dates (January 2013 to July 2014).

Jim Grenier made a motion to pass over the article as written. Mike Dostie seconded. 28 voted to pass over the article; none opposed; motion passed.

Frank Hample recommended that a special town meeting be held to vote on this article, with the correct dates.

Article 28: Allow Distribution of Funds from Snowmobile Registrations.

Mike Dostie moved to appropriate the funds received from the State of Maine from snowmobile registrations, to the Backwoods Bouncers Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails. Bobby Creamer seconded.

Vote on Article 28: 24 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Article 29: Subdivision Ordinance.

Jim Grenier Sr. moved that the "Somerville Subdivision Ordinance" be enacted. Peggy Dostie seconded. Mike Dostie noted that there were some errors regarding property numbering.

Given these errors, Jim Grenier Sr., planning board chair, recommended that it be rejected for later review.

Vote on Article 29: 0 yes, 28 no. Motion failed.

Tim Dostie motioned to adjourn at 3:45 and Valerie Johnson seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Payson-Roopchand
Town Clerk