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2018

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Somerville Maine June, 2018

Somerville, Me.

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SOMERVILLE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
Gymnasium at RSU 12 Offices 665 Patricktown Rd Somerville, Maine
June 12 & 23, 2018

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

Jeffrey Frankel was elected on June 12, 2018 as moderator to preside at said meeting.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m., June 23 by moderator Jeffrey Frankel.

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: First Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor (3 year term) RSU 12 School Board Director (3 year term).

Election results from June 12, 2018 were reviewed:

First Selectman: Chris Johnson was elected with 132 votes. Willard Pierpont received 112 votes. There were 4 blanks.

RSU 12 School Board Director: Frank Hample was elected with 194 votes, with 7 write-ins and 47 blanks.

ARTICLE 3: Somerville Comprehensive Plan

Comprehensive Plan Committee Member Roy Miller spoke explaining details of the comprehensive plan. There was discussion, and Kathryn Jennings made a motion to vote on the Somerville Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded. A written ballot was taken.

Vote on Article 3 – 64 Yes, 37 No. Motion Carried

ARTICLE 4: Administration Purposes

David Greer made a motion to raise and appropriate \$23,100 from property taxation for town administration. The motion was seconded. After discussion, a vote was taken. Article 4 passed.

ARTICLE 5: Town Office Operation

Mike Dostie made a motion to raise and appropriate \$2000 from property taxation for town office maintenance and construction. The motion was seconded. After discussion, a vote was taken.

Article 5 passed.

ARTICLE 6: Contract Services

Kathryn Jennings made a motion to raise and appropriate \$22,300 from property taxation for payment of contract services required by the Town. The motion was seconded. After discussion, there was a vote taken.

Article 6 amendment passes.

ARTICLE 7: Salaries and Stipends of Town Officers and Officials

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Roy Miller made a motion to raise and appropriate \$76,652 from property taxation for salaries, stipends, and personnel-related expenses of town officers and officials. The motion was seconded. Cathy Ladd made a motion to amend the amount to \$67,776. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken. The motion to amend failed. The amount went back to the recommended amount of \$76,652. Mary Throckmorton made a motion to amend the amount to \$68,776. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken. Motion failed. The amount went back to the recommended amount of \$76,652. A vote was taken for the original amount of \$76,652.

Article 7 passed.

ARTICLE 8: Capital Road Construction

Mike Dostie made a motion to expend the funds received through the Local Road Assistance Program to reconstruct town roads, per the Somerville Long Range Road Plan. His motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken.

Article 8 passed.

ARTICLE 9: Road Construction, Maintenance and Repair

Mike Dostie made a motion to raise and appropriate \$183,250 from property taxation for maintaining and repairing Somerville Roads. The motion was seconded. There was discussion, and Mary Throckmorton made a motion to amend the amount to \$169,000. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken. Motion on the amendment failed. Chris Johnson made a motion to amend the amount to \$181,250. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken.

Article 9 with the amended amount of \$181,250 passed.

ARTICLE 10: Capital Road Construction

Mike Dostie made a motion to authorize expenditure from the General Fund the sum of \$50,000 for the reconstruction of town roads in accordance with the Somerville Long Range Plan. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken.

Article 10 passed.

ARTICLE 11: Revenue Collection

Russell Gates made a motion to approve articles 11, 12, 13 and 14 simultaneously. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken to pass articles 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Articles 11 passed.

ARTICLE 12: Health and Safety

Russell Gates made a motion to raise and appropriate \$4,325 from property taxation for health and safety. The motion was seconded.

Article 12 passed.

ARTICLE 13: Grants to Not-For-Profit Community Organizations

Russell Gates made a motion to raise and appropriate \$2,955 from property taxation for grants to not-for-profit community organizations. The motion was seconded.

Article 13 passed.

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ARTICLE 14: Inter-Governmental Transfers

Russell Gates made a motion to raise and appropriate \$91,100 from property taxation for inter-governmental transfers. The motion was seconded.

Article 14 passed.

ARTICLE 15: Long Term Debt Service

Mike Dostie made a motion to raise and appropriate \$110,000 from property taxation for long term debt service. The motion was seconded. Mary Throckmorton made a motion to amend the amount to \$90,000. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken. The vote on the amendment failed. The amount went back to the original \$110,000. There was discussion and a vote was taken.

Article 15 passed.

ARTICLE 16: Fund Balances to be Carried Forward

Russell Gates made a motion to approve Articles 16, 17 and 18 simultaneously. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken to pass Articles 16, 17 and 18. The vote passed.

Article 16 passed.

ARTICLE 17: Unanticipated Expenses and Emergencies

Russell Gates made a motion to authorize the municipal officers to appropriate \$20,000 from surplus as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2019. The motion was seconded.

Article 17 passed.

ARTICLE 18: Surplus and overdraft accounts

Russell Gates made a motion to authorize that the surplus and overdraft accounts be lapsed to the General Fund. The motion was seconded.

Article 18 passed

ARTICLE 19: Non-Property Tax Revenue

Mike Dostie made a motion to appropriate \$125,835 received as of June 30, 2018, to be applied toward the 2019 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2019 tax commitment. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken.

Article 19 passed.

ARTICLE 20: Disposal of real estate acquired by the Town

Russell Gates made a motion to approve Articles 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 simultaneously. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken to pass all remaining articles. The vote passed.

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Article 20 passed.

ARTICLE 21: Waiver of Foreclosure

Russell Gates made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 MRSA subsection 944 upon finding by the Board of Selectmen that ownership of the property subject to lien would be contrary to the Town's best interest. The motion was seconded.

Article 21 passed.

ARTICLE 22: Funds to pay for sale of tax-acquired property

Russell Gates made a motion to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend money from the sale of any tax-acquired property to pay the costs of said sale. The motion was seconded.

Article 22 passed.

ARTICLE 23: Transfer of funds received from the sale of tax-acquired property

Russell Gates made a motion to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer funds received from the sale of tax-acquired property to the Capital Road Construction Reserve Account. The motion was seconded.

Article 23 passed.

ARTICLE 24: Prepayment of Taxes

Russell Gates made a motion to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 MRSA subsection 506. The motion was seconded.

Article 24 passed.

ARTICLE 25: Discount of Taxes

Russell Gates made a motion to allow taxpayers a discount on taxes paid in full no later than October 31, 2018, and to set the rate thereof at 2%. The motion was seconded.

Article 25 passed.

ARTICLE 26: Set the interest rate charged for late payment of taxes

Russell Gates made a motion to charge an interest rate of .583% per month or fraction thereof, on all taxes paid after November 14, 2018 and May 15, 2019. The motion was seconded.

Article 26 passed.

ARTICLE 27: Use of surplus funds for reduction of taxes

Cathy Ladd made a motion to amend the authorized amount of expenditure of up to \$50,000 from the General Fund, for the purpose of reduction of taxes. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken.

Article 27 passed with the amended amount of up to \$50,000.

ARTICLE 28: Authorize receipt of expenditure of grants and other receipts

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Mike Dostie made a motion to authorize the Board of Selectmen to receive and expend such other sums as may be received from federal, state or local grants or programs or other sources during the period July 2018 through June 2019 for town purpose, proved that such grant, programs or other sources require less than \$15,000 expenditure from other funds and matching funds which would be taken from surplus. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken.

Article 28 passed.

ARTICLE 29: Increase Property Tax Levy Limit

Susan explained the tax levy limit. Mike Dostie made a motion to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Somerville by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a written vote was taken.

Vote on Article 29 – Yes – 31, No – 36 Article 29 Failed.

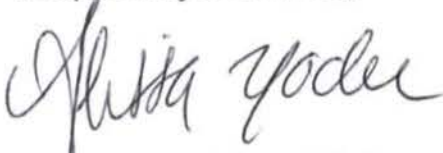
ARTICLE 30: Allow distribution of funds from snowmobile registrations.

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. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a vote was taken.

Article 30 passed.

Daivd Greer motioned to adjourn at 1:03 p.m. and Mike Dostie seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

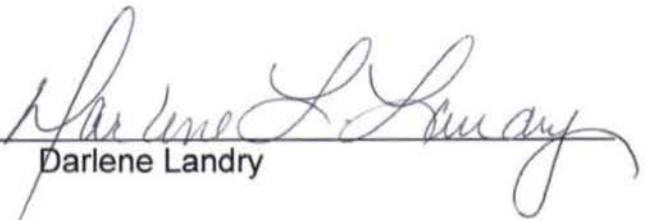


Alissa Yoder, Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Selectmen:



Don Chase



Darlene Landry