

**ELMORE TOWN MEETING
MARCH 3, 2015**

9:00 A.M. Town Meeting was called to order by Jon Gailmor. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Elmore Boy Scouts. There was a moment of silence for members of the community who have passed away during the year. Recognition for the dedication of the Town Report was given to Brent Hosking. Brent was thankful for the honor and expressed his gratitude for living in a Town where there are so many people who donate their time to make Elmore such a great community to live in. New residents present introduced themselves. Town Meeting Civil Invocation and Robert's Rules were read by Jon Gailmor followed by the warning.

Art. 1 Moderator: Jon Gailmor, nominated, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Art. 2 Town Clerk: Sharon Draper, nominated, voted.

Treasurer: Sharon Draper, nominated, voted.

Selectperson 3 years: Robert Burley, nominated, voted.

Lister 3 year: Bernard Jensen, nominated, voted.

Auditor: Diane Cote nominated, voted.

Delinquent Tax Collector: Michel Weppler, nominated, voted.

Constable: Michel Weppler, nominated, voted.

Grand Juror: J.B. McKinley, nominated, voted.

Town Agent: Michel Lacasse, nominated, voted.

Trustee of Public Funds: Sharon Draper, nominated, voted.

Cemetery Commission: Ted Keith, nominated, voted.

School Director: Peggy Sprague, nominated, voted.

LRSWMD Supervisor: Jane Oliphant, nominated, voted.

Art. 3 Motion was made and seconded to accept the Town Report and Report of the School District Officers with correction on article 11 to read a budget of \$733,217.73 due to an addition error. Passed by voice vote.

Art. 4 Motion was made and seconded to pay a salary of \$3,500 per year to the Town Clerk/Treasurer, and \$1,000 per year to each of the three Select Board members. Passed by voice vote.

Art. 5 Motion was made and seconded to pay a salary of \$500 per year to each of the School Directors. Passed by voice vote.

Art. 6 Motion was made and seconded to appropriate \$37,850.00 to support the Elmore Volunteer Fire Dept./Fast Squad. Article passed by voice vote.

Art. 7 Motion was made and seconded to accept the list of appropriations as written. Article passed by voice vote.

Art. 11 Will the Town vote a budget of \$743,217.73 to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town for the fiscal Year 2015-2016, and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

Art. 12 Will the Town vote to raise money equal to those expenditures approved in Article #8 and Article #11 on its Grand List for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to pay debts and current expenditures of the Town, and if so, provide the time (Sept. 15th, 2015 and March 15th, 2016) and manner in which the same will be payable?

Art. 13 Will the Town vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year 2015-2016?

Art. 14 Will the Town vote to call the Annual Meeting of the Town of Elmore on the first Tuesday of March, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.?

Art. 15 To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting, including should the School Directors of the Elmore Town School District continue further merger study with Morristown School District?

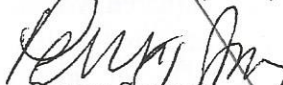

Robert Burley (chair)


Caroline DeVore


R. Whitaker Hartt


Select Board
Town of Elmore

Penny Jones (chair)


Peggy Sprague

Stuart Wepler


School Board
Elmore Town School District



Art. 8 A motion was made and seconded to approve a budget of \$2,442,700 to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town School District for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Stuart Wepler explained the reasons for the \$230,000 increase in school budget were due to an increase in both special education and in the number of students. Carla Blood questioned why Elmore pays more tuition than Morrisville per student. It was explained that Elmore's tuition rate was based on the State's allowable tuition rate and a formula that the State dictates. Article passed by voice vote.

Art. 9 A motion was made and seconded to authorize the School Directors to borrow money to pay current expenses and debts of the Town School District, in anticipation of the collection of taxes and returns from the State for such purposes and to issue notes to the School District. Article passed by voice vote.

Art. 10 A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Elmore School Board to establish a reserve fund for the purpose of defraying future educational expenses utilizing all carry forward exceeding the amount of \$90,000 budgeted in the revenue projection for carry forward in the 2015-16 school year budget. Article passed by voice vote.

Art. 11 A motion was made and seconded to approve a budget of \$733,217.73, to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016, and to authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same. Article passed by voice vote.

Art. 12 A motion was made and seconded to raise money equal to those expenditures approved in Art. #8 and #11 on its Grand List for the fiscal year 2015-2016 to pay debts and current expenditures of the Town to be paid to the Town Treasurer in equal installments on September 15, 2015 and March 15, 2016. Passed by voice vote.

Art. 13 Motion was made and seconded to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year 2015-2016. Passed by voice vote.

Art. 14 A motion was made and seconded to accept the article and to call the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Town of Elmore on the first Tuesday of March, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. Passed by voice vote.

Art. 15 Other Business: Stuart Wepler, zoning administrator, wanted residents to be aware that the State has taken over shoreland zoning, but the Town has applied to be allowed to take back the administration of shoreland zoning using State standards. Whit Hartt, Planning Commission chairman, informed that the Town will soon receive that approval. Whit also indicated that the Planning Commission could use more help if anyone were interested to attend their next meeting.


Warren Miller asked where the Town was at in looking into expanded police protection. Caroline Devore indicated that the Select Board had put out a survey to see how residents felt about increasing police patrol and only got about 35 responses. Out of those responses most did not want to do anything different or spend more money.


Robert Burley informed that the Select Board had looked into it at one time and the costs to increase our police protection could be around \$80,000 to \$160,000 depending on the level.

State Rep. Shap Smith and Avram Patt dropped in to inform residents what the State was up to and answer questions. Shap informed that the State was looking into ways to cover the budget gap. Expenses are greater than revenue and human services will probably get the brunt of the reductions. He also said that the State is in the middle of passing a bill which will require all school districts to look into merging to reduce the number of district and in doing so hopefully reduce spending. Patt noted that there were about 3% of Vermonters who still do not have health insurance and many of the ones that do have very high deductibles and still cannot afford to go to the doctor.

There was a lengthy discussion on whether the School Directors of the Elmore Town School District should continue further to study a merger with Morrystown School District. Stuart Wepler explained that we are not at this time voting to merge, only getting input on whether the town's people would like the school directors to further study a possible merge. He also noted that the Elmore School was not going to close. The only reason for the Elmore School to ever close would be if it were to at some point become inefficient. The State is going to require all schools School districts to do a study by 2017 and Elmore would be ahead of the game if it were to do it now. Some of the concerns of the residents were loss of control and loss of school choice. It was asked that when doing the study the board could look into other schools rather than just Morrystown. Superintendent Tracy Wrend was on hand to answer questions. She pointed out that Morrystown was the best option considering the bond that already exists and the close proximity. Stowe does not have the capacity to take the Elmore students. After much discussion, a non-binding paper ballot vote was taken. Results were 79 in favor of continuing the study and 19 against. P2

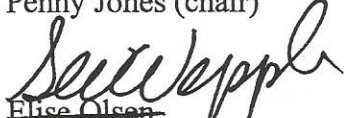

Meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.


Robert Burley (chair)

Robert (Whitt) Hartt

Caroline Devore Grohse-Holz

Select Board


Penny Jones (chair)


~~Elise Olsen~~
~~STUART WEPLER~~

Peggy Sprague

School Board