

**Annual Town Meeting, Town of Sweden, Maine
March 20, 2010**

The annual Town Meeting was called to order by Clerk Jane Gibbons at 9:00 a.m. at the Sweden Town Meeting House. Forty-nine voting residents of the Town were present.

Alberta Ridlon, 1st Selectman, made several announcements. (1) She requested that DJ Curtis be contacted during business hours through phone or email as recorded in the Annual Report or that a message be left on the town answering machine. (2) She announced that the Plumbing Inspector's phone number is 583-1046. (3) She explained that citizens who are experiencing hardship in paying back taxes should contact the Selectmen before a property is taken in foreclosure. The Selectmen do not wish to possess homes of Sweden residents.

Article 1. Patrick Wood moved to elect Sawin Millett as Moderator to preside at said meeting. The vote was passed. Three written ballots were cast for Mr. Millett and he was sworn in.

Article 2. Ken Forde moved that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow monies in anticipation of taxes as may be required to operate the services of the Town. Vote passed.

Article 3. Wm. Parmelee moved that John P. Smith be elected Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of two years. Mr. Millett clarified the rules saying that Mr. Smith could resign at the end of one year, but that the term was to fill out a term ending in 2012. 3 written votes were cast.

Wm. Parmelee moved that C. Wayne Miller be elected Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of three years. 3 written votes were cast.

Patrick Wood moved that Jane Gibbons be Registrar of Voters for a period of 2 years. 3 written votes were cast.

Warren Noble moved that John Clifford be Road Commissioner for a period of 3 years. 3 written votes were cast.

Chris Chadbourne moved that David Johnson serve on the Planning Board for a period of 5 years. 3 written votes were cast.

Julie McQueen moved that Ron Kiesman be elected alternate Member of the Planning Board for 1 year. 3 written votes were cast.

There were no nominations for the 2nd alternate on the Planning Board.

Anne Diskin nominated Virginia Durr to serve 5 years on the Board of Appeals. 3 written votes were cast.

Anne Diskin nominated Shirley Crowe to serve as alternate on the Board of Appeals for 1 year. 3 written votes were cast.

There were no nominations for the 2nd alternate of the Board of Appeals.

Warren Noble nominated John P. Smith to the S.A.D. # 72 School Board. Mr. Smith declined.

Alberta Ridlon nominated Anne Diskin to serve on the S,A,D. # 72 School Board. 3 written votes were cast.

There were no nominations for the alternate position of School Board Member.

Patrick Wood nominated Sue Black to be Cemetery Sexton for a period of one year. 3 written votes were cast.

Article 4. Warren moved that the Town take \$1746.34 from Town's Surplus to cover Sweden Volunteer Fire Department's over expenditures for 2009. Mr. Carroll Murphy spoke to the issue of improper procedure. Mr. Millett suggested an article be added in another year to address procedure for overruns on specific accounts. The article was passed with one negative vote.

Article 5a. Mr. Noble moved that Town raise or appropriate \$11,085.00 for the compensation of the Town Treasurer. Vote passed with 2 no votes.

Article 5b. Mr. Noble moved that Town raise or appropriate \$7,284.00 for the compensation of the Town Clerk. Vote passed with 3 negative votes.

Article 5c. Mr. Noble moved that Town raise or appropriate a total of \$4,590.00 for the compensation of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Selectmen. Vote passed.

Article 5d. Jim Willey moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$1584.00 for compensation for the Fire Chief. Vote passed.

Article 5e. Warren Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$2,000.00 for the compensation of the Road Commissioner. Vote passed.

Article 5f. Paul Venza moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$500.00 for the compensation of a proposed Assistant Road Commissioner. This is a new position, to be appointed by the Selectmen in consultation with the Road Commissioner. The article was passed with 3 opposed.

Article 5g. Mr. Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$2,771.00 for the compensation of the Code Enforcement Office. Vote passed.

Article 5h. Mr. Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$264.00 for the compensation for the Cemetery Sextion. Vote passed.

Article 5i. Mr. Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$16,469.00 for the compensation of the Administrative Assistant. Vote passed.

Article 5j. Mr. Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$1,020.00 for the compensation for the Emergency Management Director. Vote passed.

Article 6. Mr. Noble moved that the Town approve moving all the funds in the Planning Board account with the exception of \$3,000.00 which will remain as a carryover balance, to the Town's Surplus/Undesignated account each year. Article approved by vote.

Article 7. Mr. Noble moved that the Town take from surplus up to \$1,200.00 for payment of interest on tax anticipation borrowing for the ensuing year. Vote passed.

The assembly voted by 2/3 majority to allow non-resident Diana Curtis to speak.

Article 8. Patrick Wood moved that the Town raise or appropriate for Town Charges for the ensuing year a total of \$45,850.00 and to take from Surplus \$8,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing Municipal Software. The purchase of the software would incur yearly update fees of \$1,800.00. An amendment to include Article 25 in these charges was defeated. Other amendments to partially fund it this year were defeated. Vote passed, appropriating \$45,850.00 and taking \$8000.00 from Surplus.

Article 9. Warren Noble moved that the sum of \$70,000.00 be appropriated for the maintenance of roads and road sides for the ensuing year. Vote passed. Mrs. Ridlon explained that a thorough inspection including specifications for roads would be done in April under the advice of Maine DOT representative Phil Curtis. The Selectmen would probably be coming back to the town to fund a bond issue in June.

Article 10. Mr. Noble moved that the sum of \$140,000.00 be appropriated and \$10,000.00 be taken from surplus if needed for snow removal and sanding for the ensuing year. Vote passed.

Article 11. Mr. Noble moved that the Town appropriate \$17,500.00 to pay for the Lovell Dump contract and to pay for any additional usage charges from surplus monies. Vote passed.

Article 12. Carroll Murphy moved that the Town authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to draw upon the Surplus Account not more than .0003 of the present State Valuation of the Town, \$87,050,000.00 for the care of the poor for the ensuing year. Vote passed.

Article 13. Mr. Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$3,300.00 for grounds maintenance, upkeep and repairs for town buildings and to allow the balance to carry over each year. Vote passed

Article 14. Chris Chadbourne moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$24,369.00 for support of the Sweden Volunteer Fire Department Association. Mr. Noble explained that increases in Scott pack inspection and the transfer of lights had caused over-runs in the previous year. Mr. Ken Forde stated that the Fire Department had used some fund in their line item budget for other items. The original suggestion by the Fire Chief of \$32,871.00 included his salary and that the amount ought to be \$31,219.00. Mr. Noble moved to amend the motion to raise or appropriate \$31,219.00 for support of the Sweden Volunteer Fire Department Association. The amendment failed. Patrick Wood amended the article to the Selectmen's recommendation of \$26,064.00. This amendment passed. The article was voted on as follows: The town will raise or appropriate \$26,064.00 for the support of the Sweden Volunteer Fire Department Association. Vote passed with 3 nos.

Article 15. Mr. Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$2,400.00 for the support of the Ambulance Service for the ensuing year. Vote passed.

Article 16. Ron Shorey moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$1,000.00 for the Lovell recreation programs. Vote passed.

Article 17. Patrick Wood moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$1500.00 for the support of the Charlotte E. Hobbs Memorial Library. Vote passed.

Article 18. Mr. Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$375.00 to the support of the Sweden Conservation Committee. Vote passed.

Article 19. Ron Shorey moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$350.00 for the support of Harvest Hills Animal Shelter. Vote passed.

Article 20 Mr. Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$400.00 for the support of the Lakes Environmental Association for the ensuing year. Vote passed.

Article 21. Mr. Noble moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$150.00 for the support of Seniors Plus. Vote passed.

Article 22. Patrick Wood moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$650.00 for the support of Community Concepts. Mr. Carroll Murphy stated that he opposed being taxed 3 times as Community Concepts is funded by Federal and State tax dollars. The motion was defeated. Wm. Parmelee moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$300 for the support of Community Concepts. Vote passed.

Article 23. Ron Shorey moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$1,800.00 for Cemetery maintenance. Jim Willey moved to amend the motion to allow the balance to carry over. 20 opposed and 16 voted yes on the amendment. The original motion was passed, with no carry over.

Article 24. Patrick Wood moved that \$5,000 be appropriated and \$5,000.00 be taken from surplus for the purpose of future Town Re-Evaluation and to allow the balance to carry over. Mrs. DJ Curtis stated that the projected evaluation might cost \$50,000. Vote passed.

Article 25. Wm. Parmelee moved that the Town raise or appropriate \$2,000.00 and allow the balance to carry over for the purpose of Legal Counsel. Vote passed.

Article 26. Ron Shorey moved to authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$45,000.00 of 2010 anticipated Excise monies collected in 2010 towards the amount appropriated in Articles 5a through 25. Vote passed.

Article 27. Ron Shorey moved that the Town authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$7,900.00 of the 2010 anticipated Tree Growth Refund monies collected in 2010 towards the amount appropriated in Article 5a through 25. Vote passed.

Article 28. Ken Forde moved to authorize the raising of the balance so appropriated, not covered in Article 26 and 27 through taxation. Vote passed.

Article 29. John Clifford moved that the Town take not more than \$300.00 from the Snowmobile account for the purpose of maintaining public snowmobile and cross-country ski trails within the Town of Sweden, and allow the Selectmen to spend for that purpose. Vote passed.

Article 30. Ron Shorey moved that the Town accept the highest interest rate set by the State of Maine Planning Office for delinquent taxes committed in the current year. (Rate cannot be greater than the State rate of 7% for 2010) Vote passed.

Article 31. Ron Shorey moved that the Town determine the date of September 15, 2010 from and after which interest shall accrue on delinquent taxes committed for the current year. Vote passed.

Article 32. Ron Shorey moved that the Town set the interest rate paid on abated taxes to 4 percentage points less than the rate used in Article 30 above by the State of Maine Planning Office. (The rate to be 3%.) Vote passed.

Article 33. Kathi Shorey moved that the Selectmen be authorized on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for the non-payment of taxes thereon; or by other judicial process; said real estate to be advertised in two separate issues of local paper within 30 days of sale. To be sold either at public auction or as the result of sealed bids called for and received by the Selectmen; provided, however, that the selectmen be authorized to sell at private sale property so acquired to the owner on record; of any such property; all conveyances there-under to be by release deed. Vote passed.

Article 34. Ken Forde moved that the Town authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2010 annual budget during the period of January 1, 2010 to the March Annual Town Meeting in 2011. Vote passed.

Article 35. Ken Forde moved that the Town take from surplus up to \$10,000.00 for the purpose of funding capital projects on State Aid roads and allow the balance to carry over each year. Vote passed.

Article 36. Paul Venza moved to take from surplus \$2,500.00 to replenish the contingency fund. Vote passed.

Article 37. Wolfgang Duve moved that the Town apply property tax payments to the oldest outstanding taxes before paying current year taxes. Vote passed.

Mrs. Terri Johnson asked to speak during the meeting about the Sowing Seeds for Life Food Pantry and was granted permission. She explained that she did not ask the town to support the food pantry through taxation as she believed it would be more advantageous for resident donors to claim their donations as tax exempt on their own income taxes. The pantry is a 501(C-3) organization. She said donations could be made to the Sowing Seeds for Life at 1131 Knights Hill Road, Sweden.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. Newly elected officers were sworn in.

Jane Gibbons, Clerk