

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2011 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The meeting was called to order on Saturday, the 19th day of March AD 2011, at nine o'clock in the morning at the Sweden Town Meeting House by Clerk Jane Gibbons. The Pledge of Allegiance was given. Several corrections were made in the Warrant and Annual Report: (1) There were two births in Sweden in 2010, (2) the Registrar of Voter's term would be for one year until 2012 per schedule established by the State, (3) the Deputy Road Commissioner position is an appointed one, not elected. There were 59 registered Sweden voters at the meeting. Jane Forde served as registration clerk and Kathi Shorey served as ballot clerk.

**Article 1.** Patrick Wood nominated Ed Ryan as Moderator to preside at said meeting. Mr. Ryan was elected by show of hands, with four written ballots cast. He was sworn in by the Clerk.

**Article 2.** Ken Forde moved to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow monies in anticipation of taxes as may be required to operate the services of the Town. Article approved by show of hands.

**Article 3.** (1) Steve Bennett nominated Lori Bennett as Selectmen, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of one year (to complete a term); James Willey nominated Kristin Venza as Selectmen, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of one year (to complete a term). Written ballots were counted with 36 votes for Kristin Venza and 16 votes for Lori Bennett. Ms Venza was declared the winner.

(2) Ron Sislane nominated Alberta Ridlon to be Selectmen, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of three years. There being no further candidates, Mrs. Ridlon was elected with three written votes cast.

(3) Ron Shorey nominated Sarah Rose to be Town Treasurer and Tax Collector for a period of 3 years. The assembly approved allowing Mrs. Rose, a non-Sweden resident, to speak. Mrs. Rose was elected by show of hands to each office.

(4) Ron Sislane nominated Alberta Ridlon to be Town Clerk for a period of three years. Mrs. Ridlon was voted in by show of hands,

(5) Julie McQueen nominated Alberta Ridlon to be Registrar of Voters for a period of one year. Mrs. Ridlon was voted in by show of hands.

(6) David Johnson nominated Bob (Robert) Scott to be Planning Board Member for a period of five years. Mr. Scott was elected by show of hands.

(7) Patrick Wood nominated Jane Gibbons to be Alternate member of the Planning Board for a period of one year. There was discussion concerning possible conflict of interest between a spouse serving on the Appeals Board and one serving on the Planning Board. Although MMA has stated that there might be a conflict of interest, couples have so served in Sweden and other Towns in these situations. Ms Gibbons was elected by show of hands.

(8) David Johnson nominated Ronald Kiesman as Alternate Planning Board Member for a period of one year. He was elected by show of hands.

(9) David Sturtevant nominated Ardelle Foss as Appeals Board Member for a period of five years. She was elected by show of hands.

(10) Ann Diskin nominated Lori Bennett as Alternate Appeals Board Member for a period of one year. She was elected by show of hands. There were no nominations for the second Alternate Appeals Board position.

(11) Ron Shorey nominated Kathi Ann Shorey as Alternate member of the SAD #72 Board of Directors. She was elected by four written ballot cast.

John Clifford moved to allow Ms Diane J. Curtis, a non-Sweden resident who is Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen, Tax Collector, and Treasurer, to speak. This was approved by show of hands.

**Article 4.** Patrick Wood moved to have the Town increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Sweden by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. John P. Smith gave a detailed presentation on the necessity of increasing taxes to pay for road improvements especially on Hardscrabble Road and a culvert on Plummer School Road. A written ballot was called for. Thirty eight voted for the motion, eleven voted against it. Motion passed.

**Article 5a.** Chris Chadbourne moved to raise or appropriate \$11,306.00 for the compensation of the Town Treasurer and Tax Collector. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5b.** Chris Chadbourne moved to raise or appropriate \$7,430.00 for the compensation of the Town Clerk. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5c.** Chris Chadbourne moved to raise or appropriate \$4,682.00 for the compensation of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Selectmen. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5d.** Chris Chadbourne moved to raise or appropriate \$1616.00 for the compensation of the Fire Chief. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5e.** Patrick Wood moved to raise or appropriate \$2040.00 for the compensation of the Road Commissioner. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5f.** John Clifford moved to raise or appropriate \$750.00 for the compensation of the Assistant Road Commissioner. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5g.** David Sturtevant moved to raise or appropriate \$2826.00 for the compensation of the Code Enforcement Officer. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5h.** John Clifford moved to raise or appropriate \$269.00 for the compensation of the Cemetery Sexton. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5i.** Chris Chadbourne moved to raise or appropriate \$16,798.00 for the compensation of the Administrative Assistant. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5j.** Chris Chadbourne moved to raise or appropriate \$1,040.00 for the compensation of the Emergency Management Director. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 5k.** Chris Chadbourne moved to take from surplus for the one time supplemental compensation to the 2010 Town Clerk \$500.00 and to the 2010 Tax Collector/Treasurer \$500.00 for unusual job duties performed in 2010. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 6.** Ron Shorey moved to take from surplus up to \$1,200.00, for payment of interest on tax anticipation borrowing for the ensuing year. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 7.** Chris Chadbourne moved to raise or appropriate \$46,500.00 for Town Charges for the ensuing year. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 8.** Ken Forde moved to appropriate \$90,000 and take from surplus \$50,000 for the maintenance of roads and road sides for the ensuing year. Alberta Ridlon moved to amend the motion "to appropriate \$150,000". She later withdrew the motion and made a substitute motion to "appropriate \$100,000 and take \$50,000 from surplus". The second amendment was approved by show of hands. The motion passed as "appropriate \$100,000 and take \$50,000 from surplus for the maintenance of roads and road sides for the ensuing year."

**Article 9.** Ron Shorey moved to raise or appropriate \$125,000.00 and take \$25,000.00 from surplus if needed for snow removal and sanding for the ensuing year. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 10.** David Sturtevant moved to raise or appropriate \$34,671.00 to pay for the Lovell Dump contract and to pay for any additional usage charges from surplus monies. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 11.** Ron Shorey moved to authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to draw upon the Surplus Account not more than .0003 of the present State Valuation of the Town, \$87,300,000, for the care of the poor for the ensuing year. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 12.** Ron Shorey moved to raise or appropriate \$5,000.00 for grounds maintenance, upkeep and repairs for town buildings and to allow the balance to carry over each year. Ken Forde moved to amend the motion to delete the words "and to allow the balance to carry over each year." The amendment passed by show of hands. The motion passed by show of hands to read "to raise or appropriate \$5,000 for grounds maintenance, upkeep and repairs for town buildings."

**Article 13.** Ken Forde moved to raise or appropriate \$25,000.00 for support of the Sweden Volunteer Fire Department Association. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 14.** John Clifford moved to raise or appropriate \$2,400.00 for support of the Ambulance Service for the ensuing year. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 15.** Ron Shorey moved to raise or appropriate \$1,000.00 for the support of the Lovell recreation programs. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 16.** Sue Black moved to raise or appropriate \$1,500.00 for the support of Charlotte E. Hobbs Memorial Library. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 17.** Sue Black moved to raise or appropriate \$375.00 for the support of Sweden Conservation Committee. The motion passed by show of hands.

At this point John Smith moved that Article 38 be considered. The Assembly approved.

**Article 38.** Ann Diskin moved to instruct the Planning Board to amend the existing provision VIII, A, 3 of the March 21, 2009 Zoning and Land Use Ordinance (or develop a new Ordinance) to permit structure height in excess of fifty feet for the purpose of electricity generation by wind. Julie McQueen spoke against the motion stating that it was vague, that the applicant had not applied to the Planning Board, and the instructions did not follow the proper procedure for making amendments to the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance. The applicant had applied to the Code Enforcement Officer and to the Selectmen. The Selectmen had made a request for the Planning Board to write an amendment. The motion was defeated.

**Article 18.** Sue Black moved to raise or appropriate \$375.00 for the support of Harvest Hills Animal Shelter. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 19.** Patrick Wood moved to raise or appropriate \$400.00 for the support of the Lakes Environmental Association for the ensuing year. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 20.** Chris Chadbourne moved to raise or appropriate \$150.00 for the support of Seniors Plus. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 21.** Patrick Wood moved to raise or appropriate \$100.00 for the support of Community Concepts. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 22.** John Clifford moved to raise or appropriate \$2,500.00 for Cemetery maintenance. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 23.** Ken Forde moved to raise or appropriate \$5000.00 and or take from Surplus \$5000.00 for the purpose of future Town Re-Evaluation and to allow the balance to carryover. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 24.** Kathi Shorey moved to raise or appropriate and or take from Surplus \$4,000.00 for the purpose of Legal Counsel. This was the recommendation of the Budget Committee. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 25.** Sue Black moved to raise or appropriate \$100.00 for the purpose of **REACH**. Debby Dembski representing the Rape Education and Crisis Hotline was granted permission to speak by the assembly. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 26.** C. Wayne Miller moved to authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$45,000.00 of the 2011 anticipated Excise monies collected in 2011 towards the amount appropriated in Articles 5a through 25. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 27.** Ron Shorey moved to authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$7,900.00 of the 2011 anticipated Tree Growth Refund monies collected in 2011 towards the amount appropriated in Articles 5a through 25. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 28.** Ron Shorey moved to authorize the raising of the balance so appropriated, not covered in Article 26 and 27 through taxation. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 29.** John Clifford moved to 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. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 30.** Ron Shorey moved to 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 2011.) The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 31.** Sue Black moved to set September 15, 2011 as the date from and after which interest shall accrue on delinquent taxes committed for the current year. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 32.** Kathi Shorey moved to 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 motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 33.** Wayne Miller moved to authorize the Selectmen 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. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 34.** Ron Shorey moved to authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2011 annual budget during the period of January 1, 2012 to the March Annual Town Meeting in 2012. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 35.** Ron Sislane moved to 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. The motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 36.** Alberta Ridlon moved to take from surplus \$2,500.00 to replenish the contingency fund. Ken Forde amended the motion to reduce the figure to zero as recommended by the budget committee. The motion was defeated with 10 votes for and 25 opposed to the amendment. The original motion passed by show of hands.

**Article 37.** Sue Black moved to apply property tax payments to the oldest outstanding taxes before paying current year taxes. The motion passed by show of hands.

The following officers were sworn in by Jane Gibbons: Sarah Rose for each office as Tax Collector and Treasurer for a three year terms, Kristi+rd Member for a one year term and Alberta Ridlon as Clerk for a three year term and as Registrar of Voters for a one year term. Alberta Ridlon was sworn in for three year terms for each office as Selectmen, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor by Moderator Ed Ryan. The remaining officers are to be sworn in by the new clerk, Alberta Ridlon. Appointments are to be made by the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting.

The meeting was officially adjourned by Ed Ryan at 12:16 P.M.

Jane Gibbons, Clerk