

WARNING/MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Morgan and School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Morgan Elementary School in said Town on Monday, evening March 3rd, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

Without having to suspend the rules, Charles Woods let the Representatives Lynn Batcheder and Lauren Shaw speak. They very briefly spoke on a couple programs they were working on and thanked the people for their support.

The meeting started with Moderator Charles Woods giving a little history of the Town and recognizing those who have left us.

Charles explained Roberts Rules of Order and called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

1. To elect a moderator for the ensuing year for the Town.

Charles Woods was nominated. A motion was made and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

2. To elect a moderator for the ensuing year for the School District

Charles Woods was nominated. A motion was made and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot**

3. To hear and dispose of the reports of the Town & School District Officials as required by Law.

A motion was made and seconded to except as written. **So moved. “Ayes have it”**

4. To elect all Town Officers as required by law. (Newly elected Officers will be sworn in at the close of the meeting).

Town Clerk (3year term) TammyLee Morin was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Town Treasurer (3year term) TammyLee Morin was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Town School Treasurer (1 year term) Sean Selby was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Selectman (3 year term) Incumbent Allan Wooley stepped down from the Board after a 3 year term for personal reasons. A big round of applause was given to Allan for his hard work and dedication to the Town, he will be missed.

Thomas Bonneville was nominated and seconded. Greg Woods was also nominated but declined the nomination.

A motion was made and seconded to cease discussion. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot. For Thomas Bonneville.**

School Board Director: (3 year term) Tammy LaCourse was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Lister: (3 year term) Diane Moore was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Auditor: (3 year term) Susan Maginniss was nominated. Incumbent Donna Young was also nominated and declined nomination. A Thank you to Donna for her hard work and dedication as Auditor since 2002. Thank you Donna.

A motion was made and seconded for Susan Maginniss. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Road Commissioner: (3 year term) Shawn Austin was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

1st Constable: (1 year term) Robert Cain was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

2nd Constable: (1 year term) Rick Pare was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Delinquent Tax Collector: (1 year term) James Judd was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

1st Grand Juror: (1 year term) Cyrus Benson was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

2nd Grand Juror: (1 year term) Jane Malgeri was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Town Agent: (1 year term) Jane Malgeri was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Cemetery Commissioner: (5 year term) Doug Garon was nominated and seconded. **“Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.**

Community House Committee: (Voted as a slate) Brian Gray asked to step down. The slate was then made up of Rosemary Miller (Chair) Robert Cain (treasurer) Kenneth Jenness, Richard Miller, Jane Malgeri, Laurie Cain.

A motion was made and seconded to approve as a slate and seconded. “Ayes have it” Clerk cast 1 ballot.

ARTICLE 5, 6, 7, & 8 TO BE VOTED ON FROM 8:00 AM TO 7:00 PM ON MARCH 4th, 2014 AT THE MORGAN TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE.

5. (Australian Ballot) To cast ballots on the North Country Senior High School Budget.
6. (Australian Ballot) To cast ballots on the North Country Junior High School Budget
7. (Australian Ballot) To cast ballots on the North Country Career Center Budget.
8. (Australian Ballot) To cast ballots on the NEKWMD Budget.
9. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to borrow money for the current expenses in Anticipation of the taxes?

So moved. A motion was made and seconded to approve. “Ayes have it”

10. To see if the Town of Morgan will vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Selectmen to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

So moved. A motion was made and seconded to approve. "Ayes have it"

11. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote to have taxes paid into the treasury as provided by law, and if so, will the date be October 30th 2014 by 4:00 p.m.?

So moved. A motion was made and seconded. "Ayes have it"

12. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote to have VEC change the Sodium Street Lights to LED lights at a cost of \$475.00 and remove 8 of the current street lights as proposed at the informational meeting dated July 18, 2013?

So moved. A motion was made to amend the article to read: Shall the voter of the Town of Morgan vote to have VEC change the Sodium Lights to LED lights at a cost of 575.00 and remove 7 of the current street lights leaving 20 watt LED light on pole 108-108, as proposed at the informational meeting dated July 18, 2013 and amended at the Annual Town & School meeting?

A motion was made and seconded to approve as amended. "Ayes have it"

13. Shall the voters of the Morgan Town School District appropriate the sum of \$682,400.00 Necessary for the support of its town school district for the year beginning July 1, 2014?

The school Board Kelly Paul gave a presentation. Kelly noted that the budget being voted on is based on approximately 35 students and does include building maintenance and transportation costs. Kelly noted that transportation is going well but did note as you can see in the reports that it is expensive. They are working on a inter local agreement with the Derby Elementary School, which basically lays out the terms that have been in place since 2012 when they started it. It will remain in effect unless rescinded by electoral action; notification of such should be given one year prior to termination. It does not require an annual vote, it will renew annually without further action on July first of the succeeding year. The portion that does require a vote every year is what you see in Article #13 which designates the amount of money that is needed to support the school district each year. That will not change.

Kelly mentioned that the superintendent worked very hard with the Legislature to ask for forgiveness of repayment of school construction aide (funds that the school has received for various things since 1970 through now. What they were able to get passed, was that the governor signed an act that the Morgan School District was authorized to sell the property to the Town to use for community purposes without repayment of the school construction aide. Thereafter, if the Town sold the property, then the town would repay the construction aide. (Meaning if it were to go to anyone else or even back to the school district at that time).

There was then a special school district meeting back in August of 2013. There was a recommendation from the school committee at that time and there was a vote. That vote was to authorize the school district to sell the property to the town for community purposes. Since then and in many conversations with legal counsel and expenses later, the Town declined the acceptance of the property stating that the vagueness of the words "for community use" in special legislation created too much risk to allow the Town to except the property. So since the Select Board has refused acceptance of the property, there is an article in your warning, having to do with the school and asking for authorization to sell the property. This requires hiring a realtor and the process that goes along with that, and would also include repayment of the state construction aide.

Kelly explained that if you vote "no" to that article it will require a special meeting of the town and the school district.

Kelly then turned to Carroll Cargill for a brief slide show of the students and some of the projects and things our students are participating in at the Derby Elementary School.

Daniel Blake then gave a quick explanation of the budget of \$ 682,400.00, an increase of 16.45%. Some of that increase is a major factor is tuition in the amount of \$ 53,200.00 increase, also in addition to the tuition to the Derby Elementary School there will be one child attending Turning Points which is an increase of \$36,000.00 and will also attend summer services at Turning Points in the amount/increase of \$7,000.00. Danielle talked about the tax rate and currently residential is at \$1.3521 with the increase it will bring it to \$1.568, a total increase of almost .22 cents. Danielle explained if you look at a \$100,000.00 homestead value, Morgan school would be an increase of \$74.24, Legislature would be \$70.00 and the North Country Jr./High School would be \$72.22 for a total tax increase of \$216.43 on a \$100,000.00 homestead.

Question came out and Mariam Benson asked if they would continue with 2 buses and board replied "Yes" because they are trying to keep that transportation time under an hour and the door to door pick up. With one bus it is impossible.

Motion was made and seconded to move to the floor.

A motion was made to close discussion and seconded. "Ayes have it" Article #13 passes.

14. Shall the voters of the Morgan town School District authorize the Board of School Directors to sell the Morgan Elementary School building (E. Taylor Hatton School) and property?

A motion was made and seconded.

Moved to the floor.

Sean Selby asked the Select Board why they took it into their own hands to say "no" not to except the school, and wanted to know what their plan was?

Chairman Larry Labor replied that their plan is to follow counsel, and that we hired a lawyer as did the school. Larry explained that as he understood it as did the rest of the board, The School Board was empowered to sell, and the Select Board was not equipped to accept something with conditions, and the conditions that were thrown at them literally handcuffed the Board on what they could do with the school. There were 2 Factions in town. One faction pressuring the board to go with Turning Points Alternative Educational School, another faction in town that wanted a community use building. Larry explained that if they went one way that organization was a 503C, non- tax paying for real estate taxes. "Money out, not money in" and have to make it on the pro-sale and would have to pay the 30% back to the state for the grant replacement. Then on the Community Use building, so with 2 factions in town left the board with no flexibility. The Select Board then engaged in council and spent \$150.00 to find out what they could do with the school if they accepted it. Our lawyer is considered to be the most qualified council under municipal law, advised the Select Board not to do it, which was in the Select Board minutes, all explained and on the web site, and that nothing was held back it was all public.

There were concerns by Emily Nyman if selling the school was going to go through a realtor? The School Board assured everyone that they wanted no part in the sale and that it would most definitely go through a realtor and its process. After many other questions and concerns, a motion was made and seconded to amend the article to read and add through due process of sale of a realtor.

A motion was made to move the question and seconded.

The vote would be on the amendment. "Nays have it" Amendment turned down.

A motion was made and seconded to have a paper ballot and with 7 hands a paper ballot was approved.

The vote would be a "Yes" vote would be to sell the property and a "No" vote would be to keep the school in the School boards hands.

Results of the vote: YES – 19

NO – 46

The School Board cannot sell the School.

15. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote the sum of \$ 11,521.80 to the Orleans County Sheriff's Dept. for law enforcement services and to direct the Select Persons to assess a tax over and above the budget sufficient to meet the same? **(This will be used for routine patrols, answering complaints, and investigating incidents. It will also cover administrative expenses, including salaries, vehicle, benefits, liability insurance, maintenance, gasoline, supplies, telephone costs, and crime prevention programs).**

A motion was made and seconded. So moved. "Ayes have it"

16. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,911.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown?

Old Stone House Museum	\$ 375.00
Northwood's Stewardship Center	\$ 500.00
Area Agency on Aging	\$ 300.00
Daily Memorial Library	\$1,000.00
Orleans County Citizens Advocacy	\$ 500.00
Orleans Essex VNA and Hospice, Inc.	\$ 3,000.00
Rural Community Transportation (RCT)	\$ 50.00
Northeast Kingdom Human Services	\$ 786.00
Morgan Historical Society	\$ 1,000.00
Island Pond Public Library	\$ 400.00

So moved. A motion was made and seconded. "Ayes have it"

17. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote to start its Annual Meeting on the Monday evening proceeding the 1st Tuesday of March at 6:00 p.m. 2015?

So moved. A motion was made and seconded. "Ayes have it"

18. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Janet Selby on behalf of the Seymour Lake Association thanked the Town for support on the Milfoil project.

She expressed through the SLA that even if you are not a Lake front property owner you are still welcome to join the organization, no matter where you live you are effected by the water shed in which keeps our lake healthy and invites everyone and anyone to their outings or annual meeting.

Ilene Douglas was asked by the Vermont Horse Council to remind people when you are driving down the road and you meet anyone riding horseback that they have the right of way.

Kriston Mason on behalf of the North Country Jr. High School Board, she wanted to remind everyone that there bond vote on some very much needed repairs on March 4, 2015, Australian ballot.

Diane Moore on behalf of the Listers office and the Town, Thank Allan Wooley for serving as Selectman and thanked him for all the help he has given them when needed.

19. To swear in newly elected officers.

20. To adjourn the meeting, except the Australian Balloting to begin on Tuesday March 4th 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M.

Select Board

School Board

Larry Labor, Chair

Kelly Paul

Robert Guyer

Danielle Blake

Allan Wooley

Tammy LaCourse

Attest: _____ January __, 2014 at _____ P.M.