WARNING/MINUTES

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 February 29th 2016 at 6:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. And began with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Charles Woods Introduced Larry Labor to read a note from NFI thanking the Town‘s People for their Hospitality. The letter mentioned that the doors were left unlocked to the classrooms for those who would like to see what they had done with the building and those who could not make the open house they had.

Charles Woods mentioned the Circle of Friends was raffling off their yearly quilt and that tickets were available for anyone to purchase.

Charles Woods asked Lynn Batchelder if she would like to speak before the meeting began. Mrs. Batchelder spoke a bit on the Forestry Bill, Education (Act 46) did not do what it was supposed to do, it took out school choice. The new Annette Bill and Marijuana bill. Legislator Batchelder was not happy on any of these subjects and said that they were trying their best.

Charles Woods mentioned that this would be the 225th Birthday of Vermont.

There were a couple corrections in the Town report noted before the meeting. In the Listers Report the website for the Town of Morgan was incorrect and to be changed from town.morgan-vt.org to [www.townofmorgan.com](http://www.townofmorgan.com).

Tax collector should be (Delinquent) Tax collector.

Charles Woods mentioned and spoke a little on each person that has passed on from the Town of Morgan.

Mr. Woods explained Roberts Rules of Order and how he will run the meeting.

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

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Charles Woods. (Clerk cast one ballot)

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

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Charles Woods. (Clerk cast one Ballot)

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

A question of why no expenses for the School were in the Town report and the reason for this was that the Town did not have any expenses until after July 1st of 2015 in which will show in next year’s Town Report.

 Larry mentioned that to date the Town has spent $39,000.00 for renovation for HVAC and upgrading of the exit lights and upgrading wiring for the thermostats that use to be pneumatic, that all got upgraded. We know there are more bills coming from Nadeau’s but have not got them finalized yet but it will be less than ½ of the budget that we had originally voted.

The Select Board explained that the Town was receiving $ 4,000.00 per month for leasing the building and that NFI was responsible all maintenance such as lawn care, snow plowing, rubbish removal, heat, electric internet, etc.…

Robert Kern asked how we had a budget that is not balanced? The revenues being $2,851,651.08 (page 10) and the expenditures being $2,956,029.58. (page 19) After a few minutes of reviewing Larry Labor took advantage of the 5 day leeway to answer a question that can not be answered at the time of the meeting. An answer would be available to Mr. Kern within the 5 day grace period.

Moderator Charles woods request to suspend the rules and move to Article #18 to allow the Sheriff to speak and to vote: A motion was made and seconded to vote: Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote the sum of $11,871.60 to the Orleans County Sheriff’s Department for law enforcement services and to direct the Select Persons to assess a tax over and above the budget sufficient to meet the same?

Hearing no discussion. The question was called. “AYES” have it.

Roger Stoddard was concerned about the lines of his property and the lines of the school and wondered if one of the Select Board members could show NFI the property lines/boundaries, it would be very much appreciated. Robert Guyer spoke that he would do that.

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

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Sean Selby for a 1 year term as Town School Treasurer. (Clerk cast one ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Robert Guyer for 3 year term as Selectman. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Kriston Mason for a 3 year term as North Country School Director. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Kelly Paul for a 3 year term as Local School Director. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Joseph Malgeri for a 3 year term as Town Lister. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Robert Cain for a 1 year term as First Constable. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Eric Pare for a 1 year term as Second Constable. ( Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate James Judd for a 1 year term as Delinquent tax collector. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Cyrus Benson for a 1 year term as First Grand Juror. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Jane Malgeri for a 1 year term as Second Grand Juror. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Jane Malgeri for a 1 year term as Town Agent. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Marilyn Gray for a 5 year term as Cemetery Commissioner. (Clerk cast 1 ballot)

Robert Guyer mentioned that Doug Garon would like one of the Select Board members sit on the Cemetery Board, Robert Guyer offered to do so. Robert Guyer was nominated and seconded to be added to the Cemetery Board. (clerk cast 1 ballot)

Community House Committee: Jane Malgeri (Chair) Robert Cain (Treasurer) Laurie Cain, Ruby Jenness, Deanna Keenan, Rick Pare, Tammy Pare,

ARTICLE 5, 6, 7, & 8 TO BE VOTED ON FROM 8:00 AM TO 7:00 PM ON MARCH 1st 2016 AT THE MORGAN TOWN CLERK”S OFFICE.

Discussion is available if wanted. Hearing none move to article #9.

1. (Australian Ballot) To cast ballots on the North Country Senior High School Budget and Career Center Article #III. Shall the voter of the School District approve the school board to expend $15,429,210.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is Estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of $13,972.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.76% higher than spending for the current year.

In Favor 105

Opposed 74

Blanks 07

1. (Australian Ballot) To cast ballots on the North Country Junior High School Article #IV. Shall the voters of the district approve the school board to expend $5,117,624.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of $14,375.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.69% lower than spending for the current year.

In Favor 117

Opposed 61

Blanks 09

1. (Australian Ballot) To cast ballots on the North Country Union High School Article #V. Shall the voters of the school district authorize the Board of School Directors to place $190,000.00 of undesignated FY2015 fund balance from the general fund operations in the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund?

In favor 113

Opposed 64

Blanks 10

1. (Australian Ballot) To cast ballots on the NEKWMD Budget. Article #1. Shall the voters of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to authorize and expend a budget of $716,673.00?

YES 117

NO 68

1. Shall the voters approve school director salaries of $900.00 for Board members and $1,000.00 for the chair? (16 VSA 562(5)

Allan Wooley asked what they were receiving now? The Board replied Directors were $400.00 and the Chair was $600.00.

Kathy Austin commented that she thought the School Board represented the school very well and the consolidating with Derby was positive.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Article #9. (SO VOTED)

1. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to borrow money for the current expenses in

Anticipation of the taxes?

Moved to the floor and hearing no discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to approve. (SO VOTED)

1. 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?

Moved to the floor and so moved. Hearing no discussion. “AYES” have it (SO VOTED)

1. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote to have property taxes paid into the treasury as provided by law, and if so, will the date be October 27th, 2016 no later than 4:00 p.m.?

Moved to the floor and seconded. No discussion. “AYES” have it (SO VOTED)

James Judd asked the Select Board to look into having the ability to have electronic payments to the town for Taxes. The Board will check into it.

1. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote to have the Town Treasurer accept and collect regular taxes each year?

Moved to the floor and seconded. Hearing no discussion. “AYES” have it (SO VOTED)

1. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend $554,000.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in projected spending of $12,417.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.20% lower than spending for the current year.

Moved for discussion. Robert Guyer asked if the number of students had gone up? The School board answered yes we are up to 39 students K – 6. With no further discussion. “AYES” have it (SO VOTED)

1. Shall the voters authorize the school board to transfer $ 110,000.00 of FY2015 fund balance to the Tuition Reserve Fund?

Moved to the floor and seconded. Discussion.

A question of what the Extra reserve tuition fund was, Tammy LaCourse answered it was in case next year we had more kids move into Town they would be covered without going into a deficit and that it was just kind of a “Security Blanket”

“AYES” have it (SO VOTED)

1. Shall the voters authorize the school board to transfer $6,798.00 from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund to the Tuition Reserve Fund?

Moved to the floor and seconded. Discussion.

“AYES” have it (SO VOTED)

1. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote to eliminate Town Auditors and have a Certified Public Accountant each year?

Moved to the floor and seconded. Discussion.

All 3 local Auditors stood up to share stood up to share their experience of Town Auditor and how much work it actually is, not knowing how to read the reports and having to take so much time of the Town Clerk/Treasurer to answer questions or get reports. They felt it would be more efficient for the Town to have a CPA and gladly stepped down from Town Auditors.

Prior Auditor Donna Young did not agree with getting rid of Town Auditors.

Moderator Charles Woods asked if there was anyone who would want to volunteer for the position? There were no volunteers.

A motion was made and seconded to accept Article #17.

“AYES” have it (SO VOTED)

1. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote the sum of $11,871.60 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).

Moved to the floor and seconded. Discussion.

“AYES” have it (SO VOTED)

1. Shall the voters of the Town of Morgan vote to appropriate the sum of $ 8,636.00 to be raised by taxes to the following organizations as shown?

Old Stone House Museum $ 450.00

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

Northeast Kingdom Human Services $ 786.00

Morgan Historical Society $ 1,000.00

Orleans Court Diversion $ 1,000.00

Island Pond Public Library $ 400.00

Northeast Kingdom Learning Services $ 200.00

1. 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. 2016?

Moved to the floor and seconded. Discussion.

“AYES” have it. (SO VOTED)

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

Moved to the floor and seconded. Discussion.

Penny Thomas questioned the Delinquent Tax Collector on one of the delinquent tax names. BLS Investments LLC, she wanted to know who they were and if it might be Blittersdorf? Delinquent Tax Collector James Judd could not answer who it was but would find out and get back to her and assured her that indeed it was not Blittersdorf.

A question to how long does a parcel have to be delinquent before it goes to tax sale. The answer is that it is up to the Del. Tax Collectors discrepancy as to when he/she feels they should do a tax sale.

Candy Moot talked about industrial Wind, and would like to see the Town have a legally warned meeting on setting monies aside for anticipated legal battles the Town may endure if Industrial Wind tries to come into Town.

Candy Moot asked just for curiosity a show of hands to those who would like to have a Legally warned meeting in the summer month’s when the seasonal people are here, where there would be a formal vote so we would know, the Select Board would know, the Town’s people and seasonal people, (It would have to be 2 separate votes) support Industrial Wind on Beechnut Ridge on Seymour. We could have someone like Annette Smith, Mr. Blittersdorf could also be invited back.

Candy Moot was asking for an indication of interest in having a meeting sometime this summer, to discuss the pros and cons of possible wind development on Beechnut Ridge so that if and when an application comes in the Select Board is not caught flat footed?

This is non-binding, informational only show of hands indicating the interest in this meeting. A 54 for and 1 against.

Sean Selby asked why the hours were the way they were and that summer people were complaining of the hours because of only being open 4 days a week and wondered if the hours the Town has is just winter hours and if there were different summer hours? Town Clerk answered that as of July 1, 2016 the hour have been changed to be a little more accommodating. Monday 9-5, Tuesday and Wednesday 7:30-3:30 and Thursday 7:30 to 2:30. Town Clerk’s set their own hours.

1. To swear in newly elected officers.

Newly elected officers are to see the Town Clerk to be sworn into office.

1. To adjourn the meeting, except the Australian Balloting to begin on Tuesday March 1st, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Select Board School Board

Larry Labor, Chair Kelly Paul

Robert Guyer Danielle Blake

Thomas Bonneville Tammy LaCourse