**MINUTES FROM 2016 TOWN MEETING – 02/29/2016**

ALBURGH TOWN MEETING MINUTES FROM Feb. 29th , 2016

Town and School District Meeting

⮳ Results of Australian Ballot Vote, March 1st , 2016 ⮲

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Steve Aubin, Robert Creller Jr., Alton Bruso, Lee Kimball,

Clerk Donna L. Bohannon, Moderator, Terry A. Tatro

**AUDIENCE MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Amy Erno Mashtare, Scott Mashtare, Anna Mashtare, Joseph Deyo, Kelly Deyo, Chuck Pease, Julie Pease, Edward J. Bousquet, Herbie Durham, Joanne Durham, Darwin Cameron, Mo Theoret, Peg Theoret, Jan Tatro, Lisa Newman, Jacob Newman, Lance Newman, Loren Palmer, Adam Vincelette, Brian Markwell, Bill Karstens, Jamie Russin, Corinne Russin, Kathryn Essinger, Jason Essinger, Mallory Ovitt, Traci Osterhoudt, Troy Lund, Jennie Lund, Paul Fortin, Michael Savage, Trevor Creller, Jim Ross, Douglas DiSabito, Heidi, Gotshall, James Gotshall, James (Bubby) Irick, Steve Deyo, Rebekah Curtin, Gina Lewis, Lorraine Bruso, John Goodrich, Richard Higgins, Carol Behrman, Laura Limoge, Joan Whitesell, Ester Parrott, Cheryl Dunn, Dick Ernst, Toni Lynn Soule, Betty A. Poissant, Tyler Gotshall, Linda Gotshall, Beth Savage, Geoff Pretty, Allyson Sweeney, Rene Prairie, Guyer McCracken, Kim McCracken, Danielle James Choiniere, Ray Allen,

The legal voters and residents of the Town of Alburgh met at the Alburgh Community Educational Center in said Town on Monday evening, February 29th, 2016. The meeting opened at 7:00pm with the reading of the Warnings by Moderator, Terry Tatro. The following business was transacted:

NOTE: All money issues were voted by printed ballot on Tuesday, March 1st, 2016 from 7:00am to 7:00pm at the Municipal Building.

* *Results of ballot votes will appear at the end of the minutes.*

After the Town warnings were read, Moderator Terry A. Tatro opened the Town portion of the meeting.

**Article #1** – Election of Officers – this is a ballot item -There was no discussion on this matter – results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

**Article #2** – To consider and act upon the reports of the Town Officers –

* The article was read – Moderator Tatro opened the floor for questions and discussion - No discussion took place
* *Jan Tatro motioned to accept the reports of the Town officers as written – seconded by Peg Theoret – the ayes have it – motion carried – reports of the Town officers accepted as written.*

***Article #3*** *–* Shall the voters vote to approve a budget of $635,350 with the amount of $411,850 to be raised by taxation to be used for general Town purposes for the fiscal year 2016/2017 – this is a ballot item - results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

* The article was read – Moderator Tatro opened the floor for questions and discussion –
* No discussion took place

**Article #4 –** Shall the voters of the Town vote to approve a budget of $614,704 with the amount of $523,354 to be raised by taxation, to be used for year around maintenance of Town Highways for the fiscal year 2016/2017 – this is a ballot item - - results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

* The article was read – Moderator Tatro opened the floor for questions and discussion –
* Carol Behrman asked if that amount was part of last year’s surplus – Terry explained that part of the surplus was used to bring down the amount to be raised last year.
* Alton Bruso explained the budget numbers to the audience.
* Terry asked if some of the surplus is being used in the current year Alton informed the group that yes it is. He also explained that there is still four months in this fiscal year that funds need to be available for.
* Terry pointed out that it is actually three fiscal years that are being considered Last year, the year we are in and next year.
* Toni Lynn Soule asked if West Shore Road is going to be repaired since it has gotten really bad since the work that was done on the water line.
* Alton answered that it will be repaired but not sure what year. They will do the general upkeep but it will be a several years before they completely repave West Shore Rd.
* Steve Aubin stated that it could be within the next two – three years as Alburgh is one of the top Towns on the list to receive grants from the State which will make funds available should we receive a grant.
* Heidi Gotshall asked why the company that performed the waterline work wasn’t held responsible for the repairs of the road.
* Alton explained that it was an agreement between the company and the Town to accept the work as it was.
* James Irick asked if it was in the contract that the company pave the road when the work was finished.
* Alton explained that the contract stated if they went into the traveled portion of the road, they would have to pave to the center line. He explained how they installed the waterline and that they paved the edges of the road.
* Paul Civetti stated that instead of relying on grants, Alburgh could bond for the paving funds. He mentioned that there are other ways that the people of the Town are paying for the repairs not being taken care of, such as wear and tear on vehicles. He explained that as a contractor he felt that the road should have been paved from the centerline.
* Steve Deyo wanted to know why one highway employee gets more overtime than the other two. He expressed that they should all be getting called out to take care of drifts as it would take less time to clear the drifts if the all went out.
* Alton explained that the general rule is that they all do get called out. This has been discussed with the Highway department and they all get called out when needed.
* Mr. Irick asked why one man would be working on a Sunday with the backhoe at the school.
* Alton responded that if they are called in, the highway crew get paid for a minimum of 4 hours regardless of how long it takes to complete the work they were called in for. the crewman was using the additional time after being called in for a short job to clean up the sand in the parking lot of the school so that it didn’t get tracked in to the school. He felt that it was better to use the extra time to work instead of getting paid to go home.
* No more discussion.
* Results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

**Article #5 –** Shall the voters of the Town vote the sum of $60,000.00 to be used to blacktop town highways for fiscal year 2016/2017 – this is a ballot item - - results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

* The article was read – Moderator Tatro opened the floor for questions and discussion –
* The group was informed that there is also an additional $60,000 built into the budget for blacktopping this year on top of this $60,000.
* Poor Farm Road is being considered for one of the first roads that will be blacktopped within the next year or two.
* The Board was asked how it is determined what road gets attention first.
* Steve explained that it is based on need. Whichever roads need the most attention are the ones that will be blacktopped first.
* Steve Aubin explained that Poor Farm Road was just chip sealed and the chip seal is breaking up. That is how they determined that Poor Farm Road should be considered ahead of other roads.
* No more discussion.
* Results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

**Article #6 –** Shall the voters of the Town vote the sum of $55,000.00 to the Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department Incorporated for general purposes for fiscal year 2016/2017 – this is a ballot item - - results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

* The article was read – Moderator Tatro opened the floor for questions and discussion – No discussion took place.
* Results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

**Article #7 -** Shall the voters of the Town vote the sum of $15,000.00 to the Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department Incorporated for a reserve fund to be used to purchase equipment for the fiscal year 2016/2017 – this is a ballot item - - results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

* The article was read – Moderator Tatro opened the floor for questions and discussion.
* Carol asked if this money was in addition to the money that is being asked for to purchase a new ambulance and the money for general purposes.
* She was informed that yes, this money is separate from both of those. This money is to be used just to purchase new equipment.
* There was some discussion about what equipment was needed and the audience was informed that the Fire Department asks for this money so that as equipment is needed they have it. All of the equipment that is used is very expensive.
* No more discussion.
* Results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

**Article #8, -** Shall the voters of the Town of Alburgh vote, to raise by taxation, a sum not to exceed $250,000, to be used to purchase a new ambulance/rescue vehicle, which would be owned by the Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department Incorporated? Funds would be raised over a period of 5 consecutive years ($50,000 or less each year), with the first $50,000 raised in the fiscal year 2016/2017 – this is a ballot item - - results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

* The article was read – Moderator Tatro opened the floor for questions and discussion.
* Toni Lynn Soule asked if Isle LaMotte gives Alburgh any money for the fire and rescue department.
* She was informed that yes, they give Alburgh $6,500 per year and their patients get billed for the service as do Alburgh’s.
* Tyler also emphasized that the percentage of calls that come from Isle LaMotte is very small therefor they shouldn’t have to contribute very much.
* Carol Behrman asked if the department is going to do any fund raisers.
* Fire Chief, Tyler Gotshall responded that the volunteers already donate 10,000 hours of time and doesn’t feel it would be fair to ask them to donate more time, especially on weekends.
* No more discussion.
* Results of 03/01/2016 voting will appear at the end of the minutes.

**Article #9, -** Shall the voters of the Town vote to pay the current taxes to the Town Treasurer in four installments for fiscal year 2016-2017 with due dates as follows: September 10, 2016; November 10, 2016; January 10, 2017; and April 10, 2017.

* The article was read – Moderator Tatro opened the floor for questions and discussion.
* No discussion took place.
* *James Irick motioned to pay the current taxes to the Town Treasurer in four installments as described – seconded by Dick Ernst – the ayes have it – motion carried.*

**Article #10, -** Shall the voters of the Town authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, to pay the current expenses of the Town and to sign notes for that purpose for the fiscal year 2016/2017.

* The article was read – Terry opened the floor for questions and discussion.
* No discussion took place.
* *Tyler Gotshall motioned to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, to pay the current expenses of the Town and to sign notes for that purpose – seconded by Laura Limoge - – the ayes have it – motion carried.*

**Article #11 -** To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

* The article was read – Moderator Tatro opened the floor for questions and discussion.
* Carol Behrman asked if there was separate money allocated for cemeteries. She is concerned about the condition of the fence at Bush Cemetery on the North end of Town.
* It was explained that there is money allocated to the cemetery’s each year but that most of the funds are used for the general upkeep of the cemeteries, such as lawn care.
* Laura Limoge asked why the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) budget number for FY 2015 more than doubled. In the Town Report on page 9, the amount budgeted shows as $12,000 yet the amount spent shows as $36,788.17. She asked why that happened. She was concerned that there had been a lawsuit r accident.
* She was assured that it was not because of either a lawsuit or accident.
* Alton Bruso informed her that he believed it was due to a payment for the current fiscal year being applied early. She was informed that this would be confirmed and the information made available.
* Scott Mashtare asked about the schedule of the highway department. He wanted to know why they work four – ten hour days instead of five – eight hour days.
* Alton informed him that it was due in part to the school schedule.
* There was little discussion on this matter.
* Darwin Cameron asked what is happening at the Transfer Station.
* Steve Aubin explained that there was a five-member committee formed to explore alternative methods of disposing of garbage. He explained that the job of the committee was going to be to get information on options other than what is taking place currently.
* There was concern that changes would be made without the public being made aware. Steve assured the public that any proposed changes would be brought to the attention of the Town before they happened and that depending on what those changes involved, it might even need a vote of the Town.
* The public was informed that the trash hauling bid is going to be opened up to New York haulers as well to see if the hauling cost can be lowered.
* There were several suggestions of ways that the Transfer Station could be handled. Lee Kimball invited residents to join the committee at their meetings to add their input at that time. The meetings will be posted so that residents are aware of when they will take place.
* No more discussion.

Moderator Terry A. Tatro stated that if there was no more business, he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

* *At 8:15 pm Cheryl Dunn motioned to adjourn – seconded by Joan Whitesell – the ayes have it – motion carried –Town portion of meeting adjourned.*

RESULTS OF AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING

FROM 03/01/2016

Article #1 – To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers:

Moderator Auditor for one year

Town Clerk Town Treasurer

Delinquent Tax Collector Constable

Selectman for three (3) years Selectman for two (2) years

Selectman for three (3) years with two (2) years remaining

Selectman for three (3) years with one (1) year remaining

Deed Agent

Grand Juror Town Agent

Lister for three (3) years

The following were elected:

Moderator*, Terry A. Tatro with 524 votes*

Auditor for one year, *Write in – no majority*

Town Clerk, *Donna Bohannon with 568 votes,*

Town Treasurer, *Donna Bohannon with 426 votes, Linda Poissant Gotshall with 152 votes.*

Delinquent Tax Collector, *Terry A. Tatro with 506 votes*.

Constable, *George McGrath – 211* votes, *Terry A. Tatro with 345 votes.*

Selectman for two (2) years – *Chuck Pease with 295 votes, Jan Tatro with 234 votes.*

Selectman for three (3) years - *Robert Creller Jr. with 509 votes.*

Selectman for three (3) years with two (2) years remaining – *Tyler Gotshall with 336 votes, Leeann Porto with 217 votes.*

Selectman for three (3) years with one (1) year remaining – *Lee Kimball with 483 votes.*

Deed Agent, *Terry Tatro with 508 votes.*

Grand Juror, *Ralph Tatro with 497 votes.*

Town Agent, *Terry Tatro with 505 votes*.

***Article #3*** *–* Shall the voters of the Town vote to approve a budget of $635,350 with the amount of $411,850 to be raised by taxation to be used for general Town purposed for the fiscal year 2016/2017 *–*

***Article #3 passed with 361 YES votes and 212 NO votes.***

**Article #4 –** Shall the voters of the Town vote to approve a budget of $614,704 with the amount of $523,354 to be raised by taxation, to be used for year around maintenance of Town Highways for the fiscal year 2016/2017. *–*

***Article #4 passed with 388 YES votes and 186 NO votes.***

**Article #5 –** Shall the voters of the Town vote the sum of $60,000.00 to be used to blacktop town highways for fiscal year 2016/2017.

***Article #5 passed with 424 YES votes and 151 NO votes.***

**Article #6 –** Shall the voters of the Town vote the sum of $55,000.00 to the Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department Incorporated for general purposed for fiscal year 2016/2017.

***Article #6 passed with 415 YES votes and 173 NO votes.***

**Article #7, -** Shall the voters of the Town vote the sum of $15,000.00 to the Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department Incorporated for a reserved fund to be used to purchase equipment for the fiscal year 2016/2017.

***Article #7 passed with 388 YES votes and 201 NO votes.***

**Article #8, -** Shall the voters of the Town of Alburgh vote, to raise by taxation, a sum not to exceed $250,000, to be used to purchase a new ambulance/rescue vehicle, which would be owned by the Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department Incorporated? Funds would be raised over a period of 5 consecutive years ($50,000 or less each year), with the first $50,000 raised in the fiscal year 2016/2017.

***Article #8 passed with 344 YES votes and 231 NO votes.***

**RESULTS OF SCHOOL VOTES**

School District Moderator – *Terry A. Tatro with 507 votes.*

School Director – for two (2) years – *Mallory Ovitt with 476 votes.*

School Director for three (3) years – *Trevor Creller with 534 votes*

School Director for three (3) years with one (1) year remaining – *Michael Savage with 498 votes.*

Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend $6,010,248 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 $14,991.49 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.66% higher than spending for the current year. –

***This was voted down with 274 YES votes – 282 NO votes.***

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Bohannon

Alburgh Town Clerk

Please note the above minutes HAVE NOT been approved. Approval or changes to the minutes will be addressed at the next meeting, currently scheduled for March 8th, 2016.