

2020 Annual Town Meeting, Thorndike

08/22/2020

Article 1. To choose a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Don Berry is nominated and chosen as Moderator, with no discussion.

Article 2. To choose by written ballot the following officers:

A. 1st Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor

Doreen Berry and Jeff Trafton are nominated. Doreen Berry receives 59 votes, Jeff Trafton 56.
Doreen Berry is the new First Selectman.

B. 2nd Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor

Greg Falzetta and Jeff Trafton are nominated. Greg Falzetta receives 44 votes, Trafton 65. Jeff Trafton is the new 2nd Selectman.

C. 3rd Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor

Joshua Ard and Bob Carter are nominated. Ard receives 53 votes, Carter, 61. Bob Carter is the new 3rd Selectman.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to change the Board of Select persons set terms in office. The first year all positions will be elected by year, one – two & three year terms. There after only one will be elected per year for a three year term when one's last year expires.

Discussion:

Nelson: stagger the years of term

First will be 1 yr, 2 yr, 3 yr, 1st years then all terms will last 3 years.

Citizen: That didn't work last time. We changed it to all 3 yr terms. We found that the first year, they did good work, then just skated.

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Article 4. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise/and or appropriate for Town Officials' Salaries.

Office	Budget Com. Recommends	Source of Funding	Amount Voted
1 st Selectman	\$6,120.00	Taxation	
2 nd Selectman	\$3,060.00	Taxation	
3 rd Selectman	\$3,060.00	Taxation	
Town Clerk	\$5,022.48	Taxation	
Tax Collector	\$6,777.90	Taxation	
Treasurer	\$8,955.60	Taxation	
Deputy Clerk	\$3,060.00	Taxation	
Assessors' Agent	\$1,836.00	Taxation	
Code Enforcement Officer	\$2,754.00	Taxation	
Addistant Code EnF. Officer	\$ 500.00	Taxation	
Sexton	\$ 255.00	Taxation	
Planning Board Chair	\$ 204.00	Taxation	
Fire Warden	\$ 51.00	Taxation	
Constable	\$ 51.00	Taxation	
Emergency Management	\$ 561.00	Taxation	
Fire Chief	\$3,000.00	Taxation	
Asst. Fire Chief	\$1,500.00	Taxation	
Volunteer Firemen	\$2,600.00	Taxation	
	TOTAL (\$49,367.98)	Taxation	Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 5. To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Payroll Taxes.

Recommend: Taxation: \$4,500 Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 6. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Town Audit of 2019/2020.

Recommend: Taxation: \$3,300 Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 7. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Town Office Operations & Equipment.

Recommend: Taxation: \$47,720

VOTE: \$

Budget Estimates Include:

Insurance (liability, property, bonding, worker's comp, inspections)	\$11,500
Municipal Bldg Maintenance (mowing, cleaning, security, repairs).....	\$4,285
IT/Software/Maintenance/Support (Trio, Web site, service contract, training fees).....	\$9,000
Supplies (office supplies & printing).....	\$2,500
Utilities (electric, heating, phone, Internet, street lights).....	\$6,500
Elections	\$ 800
Registry of Deeds Filing Fees	\$3,500
Postage.....	\$2,700
Tax & Zoning Map Updates	\$1,700
Dues, Training & Mileage (MMA dues, town official training).....	\$2,300
Petty Cash	\$ 500
Miscellaneous (advertising, bank charges, town report)	\$1,500
Equipment.....	\$935

Motion presented, seconded and passed.

Motion to move Article 39 ahead of Article 8, Seconded and passed

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to and authorize a general obligation bond borrowing of up to \$400,000 for the purpose of financing the costs of the construction of the salt and sand shed and other improvements. Thereby authorized, with the bonds to be issued with or without call provisions and with such dates, maturities, denominations, interest rate(s), redemption provisions and other details as the Municipal Officers shall determine. (Total estimated debt service of \$458,329, of which principal is \$400,000 and estimated interest at an interest rate of 2.65% over 10 years is \$58,329).

Financial Statement: The issuance of bonds by the Town of Thorndike is one of the ways in which the Town borrows money for certain purposes. The following is a summary of the bonded indebtedness of the Town of Thorndike as of the date of the Town Meeting.

Bonds Now Outstanding and Unpaid.....	\$275,599.66
Interest to be Repaid on Outstanding Bonds.....	\$9266.49
Total to be Paid on Bonds Outstanding.....	\$284,866.15

Additional Principal Amount of Bonds Authorized But Not Yet Issued.....	\$0
Total Additional Bonds to Be Issued If Approved By Voters.....	\$400,000.00
Estimate Potential New Interest on Such Additional Bonds.....	\$58,329.00
Total Additional Bonds to Be Issued and Estimated Interest If Approved By Voters.....	\$458,329.00

When money is borrowed by issuing bonds, the Town must repay not only the principal amount of the bonds but also interest on the bonds. The amount of interest to be paid will vary depending upon the rate of interest and the years to maturity at the time of issue. The validity of the bonds and of the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the estimates made of the costs involved, including varying interest rates, the estimated cost of interest on the bond amount to be issued and the total cost of principal and interest to be paid at maturity.

Recommend: Bond: \$400,000

Discussion:

Ard explained that the town had held a referendum on this issue due to the delay of this town meeting and it had been voted down. He then presented a pre fabricated building made by Iron Horse with a lower estimated cost, adding that if this amount is approved, the building could possibly be up by winter.

A citizen starts to motion, interrupted by another who states there are additional costs that are missing from the informational sheet. He adds there have been no comparison bids either.

M. Mayer reminded the town's people that this pass or fail vote was not on the presented building it was purely on the amount. Ard agrees and states that the building plans presented are an example.

Citizen moves to make a motion on the Article, seconded.

Show of hands vote, vote fails.

Article 8. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Professional, Notary and Legal fees.

Recommend: Taxation: \$8,000

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 9. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Welfare/General Assistance.

Recommend: Taxation: \$2,000

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 10. To see what sum the town will vote to raise and/or appropriate to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the 2020 fiscal year.

Recommend: Taxation: \$5000

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

CEMETERIES

Motion to consider Article 11 and 12 together. Seconded and passed

Article 11. To see if the Town will allow the Selectmen to accept monies dedicated for perpetual care of cemeteries.

Article 12. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Cemetery Care.

Recommend: Taxation: \$9,800

Discussion: Citizen expressed concern that the cemeteries are not being well taken care of. Another asked what the difference between maintenance and perpetual care.

Mayer explains mowing, sporadic road work, stone maintenance and this Article is to continue this work.

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Municipal Building Improvement.

Recommend: Taxation: \$2,500

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Discussion: Someone questioned if there are current plans for upgrades to the building and what the difference is between improvements and maintenance.

Ard confirmed there were no building improvements scheduled. Maintenance is to do upkeep and improvements are changes.

DONATIONS

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Donations for the ensuing year.

Organization	Request	Budget Rec. '20 Vote
American Red Cross	\$ 150	\$ 150
Knox Booster Club	\$ 500	\$ 500
Spectrum Generations	\$ 550	\$ 100
Dorothy Quimby Library	\$ Any	\$ 100
Vol. Regional Food Pantry	\$ 500	\$ 500
Maine Youth Alliance (The Game Loft)	\$ 300	\$ 300
New Hope for Women	\$ 500	\$ 500
Waldo Community Action Partners	\$ 4,210	\$ 650
The Life Flight Foundation	\$ 890	\$ 100
American Legion Flag Project	\$ 300	\$ 300
Timelines Community Inc/ Farwell Project	\$ 50	\$ 50
TOTAL:	\$ 7950	\$ 3,250

Recommend: Taxation: ~~\$3,250~~ **\$3,150**

Motioned, Seconded, Passed with the change

Discussion:

Quimby family would like the donation of \$100 to the library be removed due to the Collage closing. Motioned to withhold \$100, seconded.

PROTECTION

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Emergency Management.

Recommend: Taxation: \$200

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Animal Welfare.

Recommend: Up to all of the animal welfare fees collected plus \$3800 from Taxation.

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 17. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Fire Protection Services

Recommend: Taxation: \$28,513

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Discussion: some of this equipment is 30 years old. Is there a current plan to replace some of that equipment? Shawn Bristol states that all the equipment is functional and truck replacement is a reoccurring topic at firehouse meetings but there is currently no specific plan to purchase one.

SANITATION

Article 18. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Tipping Fees.

Recommend: All funds received from MRC rebates & sticker fees plus \$2,000 from Taxation.

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Discussion: Citizen stated that tipping fees would increase due to less recycling availability.

Article 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Trash Pickup.

Recommend: Taxation: \$42,900

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 20. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Regional Recycling Center.

Recommend: Taxation: \$9051.79

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

ROADS

Article 21. To see what wages the voters will authorize the Selectmen to pay on all town roadwork, laborers, trucks and tractors.

Recommend: Current State Wages

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Discussion: Citizen asked if the town has an ability to cap the current wages. The answer was unknown and presumed to be no.

Article 22. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Summer Town Road Maintenance.

Recommend: Taxation: \$65,000

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 23. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Winter Roads (2020-21).

Recommend: Taxation \$232,500 +\$40,000 from Surplus= \$272,500 Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Discussion: Have there been any new bids? Answered affirmative, they will be read on Sept 2 at the Selectman's meeting.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate \$181,220 for the annual payment toward the current indebtedness relating to road paving.

Recommend: Taxation from \$181,220

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Discussion: Someone asked how much longer the town pays on the current Bonds. Mayer stated they would be paid off next year.

HOUSEKEEPING ARTICLES

Motion to consider Articles 25-38 together minus Article 34. Seconded, passed.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen to spend up to \$5,000 (out of undesignated funds) for emergency purposes.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend grants and donations of money and/or equipment for specified municipal purposes including but not limited to support of firefighters and fire fighting operations.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute quit-claim deeds on such property. With the exemption, that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Article 28. To see what action the Town will take in regard to charging annual interest (8%) on all unpaid taxes 60 days after the tax commitment in 2020.

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the Worker's Compensation Act.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make the final decision regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 MRSA §2953.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 2/12th of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the FY 2019 Annual Budget during the period from Feb. 1, 2021 to the 2021 Annual Town Mtg.

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to designate the snowmobile tax refund to be used as a municipal grant for the Snow Dusters Snowmobile Club, through the Town of Thorndike, for grooming snowmobile trails in Thorndike.

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officials to transfer monies exceeding a year-end balance of \$15,000 from the Knox Fund to the Fire Truck/Equipment Replacement Account.

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to apply all revenues received in FY 2019 listed below toward the reduction of the 2020 tax commitment:

- a. Municipal Revenue Sharing
- b. State Aid to Education
- c. Excise taxes
- d. Farwell Dividends
- e. Other revenue

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any unused equipment.

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Thorndike by State law in the event the budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a Tax Commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

Article 38. To see if the town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A § 506
Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Article 34. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate \$6,800.74 from the Salt and Sand Shed Savings account for the preparation of construction of the salt and sand shed building.
Recommend: from Salt and Sand Shed Savings Account: up to \$6,800.74

Motioned, Seconded, Passed Over

Discussion: This has already been voted on and done. This is non- valid

Article 40. Shall the Town vote to authorize within the Municipality the operation of adult use marijuana establishments, provided they operate in compliance with all applicable state and local requirements?

Motioned, Seconded, Passed

Discussion: A citizen asked about a hearing this past winter. The attendees did not seem to support passing this and wondered why it was being brought up again. Mayer answered the meeting last winter was only a hearing and this is the vote for it. When asked about the delay he responded that the entire meeting had been delayed due to COVID-19.

This vote was by written ballot.

VOTE: YES 34 NO 25, Article passes.

Article 41. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned, Seconded, Passed