

Minutes for Town Election Friday, March 17, 2023

. Rose opened the meeting with a town greeting (see below) and put out nominations for meeting moderator. A motion was made for Rose Hill to preside as moderator, motion was 2nd. A paper vote was taken. Rose Hill won the position of moderator 5-0.

Polls opened at 10 a.m. There were no complications during polling hours. The election warden closed the polls at 6:00 p.m.. Ballots were sorted and counted. Election clerks handed the results to the registrar: 85 votes were cast. Jeff Trafton got 75 Votes, making him the winning candidate for the next 3 year term to the Select Board. Other votes went to: Clyde Rolerson - 1, David Fowler -1, George Ward -1, Mike Berry -1, Jeff Fowler - 2, Bob Carter-2 and blanks 2. Moderator ended the meeting for the day to continue over into the Town Meeting on Saturday March 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

(GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, in said County, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Thorndike, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Community Hall in said Town on Friday the 17th day of March 2023 at ten o'clock (10:00 AM) in the forenoon, then and there to act upon Article 1 (one) by secret ballot and on Article 2 (two) as set out below. The polling hours therefore will be from ten o'clock (10:00 AM) in the forenoon until six o'clock (6:00 PM) in the evening)

Minutes of Annual Town Meeting Saturday March 18, 2023

The meeting room opened at 8:00 a.m. The ballot clerk, Sherry Vashon was sworn in and given her duties. Sherry continued with checking in all the Registered Voters, giving them their assigned number, pencil and voting paper. Jeff Trafton was sworn in for his new elected position of Select Board 3 year term.

Rose Hill moderator, voted in the previous day, opened the meeting with Town Greeting (see below), then moved on to letting the town body know that a new moderator would need to be elected for this meeting. A motion was made to nominate Don Berry in as moderator, motion was seconded, no other nominations were made and no discussion was heard. Rose called for a paper vote. Votes were counted. Don Berry elected moderator 5- 0.

Don Berry opened the meeting with the reading of the results from the Annual Town Election and the Pledge of Allegiance. Reading of the articles 3 - 45 began.

(Greeting And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Thorndike Community Hall in said Town on Saturday, the 18th day of March 2023, at nine o'clock (9:00 AM) in the morning, then and there to act on articles 3 through 45).

March 18, 2023

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will raise and/or appropriate \$83,799, from taxation and the sum of \$2,000 from Surplus, for Town Officials' Salaries.

Office

Budget Committee Recommends	Total Amt Passed	
Select Board Member 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$
Select Board Member	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Select Board Member	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Chair of the Select Board	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 1,740.00
Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer (32 hours/week)	\$ 33,280.00	\$33,280.00
Deputy Clerk (up to 12 hrs a week)	\$ 9,360.00	\$ 9,360.00
Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 3,754.00	\$ 3,740.00
Assistant CEO/Marijuana Inspector	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Recommend: \$10,500 taxation/\$1,500 surplus

Motion Made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL_____ \$ 11,500.00

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for Municipal building improvements and final payment of \$6,200.87 to Ideal Electric for the new generator.

Recommend: \$8,700.87 taxation

Motion Made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL_____ \$ 8,700.87

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will appropriate FY2023 Cable Franchise revenue fees of \$713 to be used towards a Veteran's Memorial at the Thorndike Town Office.

Recommend: \$713 Cable Franchise Fees

Motion made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL_____ \$ 713.00

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$4,800 for Donations for the ensuing year.

Recommend: \$4,800 (Farwell Worthy Poor account)

Organization	Request	Budget Committee Recommends		
American Red Cross	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Knox Booster Club	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Spectrum Generations	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Volunteer Regional Food Pantry	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Maine Youth Alliance (The Game Loft)	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
New Hope for Women	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Waldo Community Action Partners	\$ 5,453.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00
Life Flight Foundation	\$ 890.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Town of Thorndike Flag Project	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Timelines Community Inc/Farewell Project	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Belfast YMCA	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Maine Public Broadcasting	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Hospice (Northern Lights)	\$ 400.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00

Waldo County Woodshed	\$	500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Mount View Bum League	\$	100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Waldo County Pet Food Pantry	\$	250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Unity Community Library	\$	500.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL	\$	10,693	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800.00

Motion Made, 2nd, discussion

There was discussion from the Legislative Body starting with we are giving money to the Waldo County Pet Food Pantry. The discussion went from how long this has been to if you can't afford pets you shouldn't have them. Tim Veazie, the Asst. Fire Chief made a final point. You never know when you may lose everything in a fire and can't afford food for your pet even for just a bit. Motion was made to move the question along, motion 2nd. A show of hands to vote, majority yes. Motion passes

PASS X FAIL____ \$ 4,800.00

PROTECTION

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$200 for Emergency Management & EMA Funds.

Recommend: \$200.00 taxation Motion made, 2nd, No discussion PASS X FAIL__ \$ 200.00

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,200 for Animal Welfare, (shelter, veterinary & Supplies) plus fees collected.

Recommend: \$2,200 taxation (plus fees collected)

Motion Made, 2nd, No discussion PASS X FAIL__ \$ 2,200.00

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,300 for Fire Protection Services. (Utilities, building maintenance, training, gear & truck maintenance)

Recommend: \$39,300 taxation Motion made, 2nd, No discussion PASS X FAIL__ \$ 39,300.00

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will appropriate \$10,000 from surplus for Fire Department SCBA Equipment. (Self-contained breathing apparatus)

Recommend: \$10,000 surplus Motion made, 2nd, No discussion PASS X FAIL__ \$10,000.00

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will appropriate \$50,000 from surplus to be deposited into the Fire Truck Replacement savings account.

Recommend: \$50,000 surplus Motion made, 2nd, No discussion PASS X FAIL__ \$ 50,000.00

SANITATION

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 and appropriate the MRC rebate funds & trash sticker revenue, for Tipping Fees **Recommend: All funds received from MRC rebates & sticker fees plus \$5,000.00 taxation**

Motion made, 2nd,

Discussion in this area consisted of: What is the tipping fee, cost of trash stickers and possibly raising price in the future. Tax collector brought to the town body's attention that it cost around \$1.31 per bag and the present sticker price per bag is still \$1.00. **PASS X FAIL____ \$5,000.00**

ARTICLE 23:o see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,900 for Trash Pickup.

Discussion: How is this different from tipping fees? Answer: this fee is the contract fee for Sullivan's waste to do the roadside pick up .

Recommend: \$42,900 taxation Motion Made, 2nd PASS X FAIL____ \$42,900

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,781 for Regional Recycling Centers annual contract.

Recommend: \$10,781 taxation

Motion made, 2nd, No discussion PASS X FAIL__ \$10,781.00

ROADS

Jeff Trafton took this time during the meeting to let the town body know that the Select Board has been looking into organizing a Public Works Dept for the Town of Thorndike. He shared how they hope the process will go, including looking into Grants, organizing a committee and talking with area local towns and see how their Public works dept are faring. There was lots of discussion from the town body, about cost, equipment and what monies will be saved with this. Jeff reminded the audience that is where a committee would be a good start. The meeting and reading of articles continued.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$90,000 for Town Road Maintenance. (I.E. grading, potholes,ditching).

Recommend: \$65,000 taxation/\$25,000 LRAP

Motion made, 2nd, No discussion PASS X FAIL____ \$90,000.00

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$37,400 for Brush and Tree roadside trimming/cutting in FY 2023

Discussion from the audience: What does the cost include, how many miles does this cover, what roads? The Select Board answered questions accordingly. It was brought to Legislative body that this is a good deal at the current price as he works in this area and cost can/could be much higher

Recommend: \$37,400 taxation Motion Made, 2nd PASS X FAIL__ \$37,400.00

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$350,000 for salt, sand and plowing.

Recommend: \$350,000 taxation

Motion made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL__ \$350,000.00

HOUSEKEEPING

A motion was made to combine articles 28 - 36 in one vote. Moderator looked for a 2nd, motioned was 2nd. Articles were voted on in a clump vote. All passed with YES vote

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to appropriate up to \$5,000 from surplus for unexpected expenses and emergency purposes.

Recommend YES

PASS X FAIL___ \$5,000.00

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to apply for and/or 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 (in consultation with the Fire Chief).

Recommend YES

PASS X FAIL___

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, 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, the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s). If the Select Board chooses to place property up for bid, they shall have the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Recommend YES

PASS X FAIL___

ARTICLE 31: To see what action the Town will take in regard to charging annual interest (6%) on all unpaid taxes 60 days after the tax commitment in 2023. (maximum you can charge is 8%)

Recommend YES

PASS X FAIL___

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will accept the provisions of the Worker's Compensation Act.

Recommend YES

PASS X FAIL___

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to make the final decision regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 MRSA §2953.

Recommend YES

Motion Made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL___

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 2/12th of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the FY 2023 Annual Budget during the period from Feb. 1, 2024 to the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Recommend YES

Motion Made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL___

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will 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. If no trails are groomed for the winter of 2023, the funds will go to the local ATV Club: Thorndike Trail Blazers.

Recommend YES (\$291 received in FY2022)

Motion Made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL_____

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to place any monies received from what is commonly referred to as the “Knox Municipal Mutual Aid Fire Contract” into the Fire Truck Replacement savings account, for FY 2023.

Recommend YES Motion Made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL _____

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will appropriate from surplus \$16,284.83 for previous commitment amounts from FY 2022 to the accounts below:

Mapping	\$2,500.00
Auditor Pay	\$3,700.00
Park & Rec. Dept	\$8,636.00
Fire Dept	\$706.83 + \$500.00 donations
Unity Snowdusters	\$242.00

Motion made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL_____

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will apply all revenues received in FY 2022 listed below toward the reduction of the FY 2023 tax commitment.

A. Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$ 283,641.08
B. State Aid to Education	\$ TBA
C. Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	\$ TBA
D. Excise Taxes	\$ 135,387.99
E. Veteran's Exemption Reimbursement	\$ 527.00
F. Tree Growth Exemption Reimbursement	\$ 2630.06

Motion made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL_____

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any unused equipment.

Motion made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL_____

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506.

Motion Made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL_____

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will raise and/or appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 (**\$17,000.00 from the Farwell Civic Fund and \$43,000.00 from Taxation**) to be put toward a Solar Panel Project. This project is to provide power for the Municipal Buildings (Town Office, Fire Dept. Sand & Salt Shed) and the street lights in Town. With the added contingency that the money be rolled over next year in the event the Project does not get off the ground due to researching best options.

DISCUSSION; There was much discussion on this article with lots of questions. A representative from revision energy was granted permission from the town body to take the floor. Many questions were directed to her. A motion was made to move the question, motion 2nd. Another motion was made to table the article until a later date so that the town body and select board could look into some of the unanswered questions, this motion was 2nd. Motion passes with show of hands vote with majority voting yes.

Motion made, 2nd, No discussion

Articled is TABLED

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will approve to have the Farwell Worthy Poor account rolled over yearly. This account must be used to help the worthy poor.

Definition of Worthy: are the people who have worked, but no longer can because they are “aged or disabled” or of situations out of their control.

Worthy poor includes those dependent persons who are poor through no fault of their own- principally, orphans, widows, the handicapped, and older adults were considered the worthy poor.

In the event there are any funds left in the account, the Town will yearly give to the **Rebecca Lewis Fund** (a fund set up for Battered Women) up to \$2000 or the remaining balance, whichever is less, in the form of a donation. **Discussion:** The discussion from the Town Body was that they did not see why the Town should take money from one account that has been willed to the town and put into another account. After much discussion, a motion was made to move the article, motions was 2nd. Article moved. **Not passed**

PASS _____ FAIL X

ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town will approve up to the amount of \$24,000 for the purchase, installation, and associated labor involved, in the placing of an electronic marquee outside the town office.

Discussion: Pro sign town folks think the sign is needed to help folks be more aware of what's going on in the town (meeting, events, elections), especially those that do not have access to the internet/emails. Also with the announcement it might help get more folks involved in the Town. Anit-Sign- think it would be a waste of taxpayer's money, not necessary, the road is not busy enough, the town should be sending out newsletters/postcards for events. Buy a cheaper manual sign that you can change manually. This topic got a little heated. Moderator needed to intervene a few times and get back on track. Motion made to move the article, 2nd motion passes. Motion made to take the \$17,000.00 from Farewell Civic Improvement and 7,000.00 form surplus to purchase the sign. Discussion again that the money is set for another article and could this be done, after much discussion the motion was 2nd motion, town body voted by show of hand. Motion passes.

\$17,000 from Farewell civic improvement & \$7,000.00 surplus sum of \$24,000.00 Pass X Fail _____

ARTICLE 44: To see if the Town will allow the increase of 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. (This vote must be by secret written ballot) (Select Board recommends a Yes vote)

Motion made, 2nd, No discussion

PASS X FAIL _____

ARTICLE 45: ADJOURNMENT

PASS X FAIL _____

Adjourned: 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rosemarie Hill

Town Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector