

## ABSTRACT OF TOWN MEETING

March 4 & March 5, 2019

Town Moderator Tom Little called the 231st Town Meeting to order on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:35 p.m. at the Shelburne Community School Gymnasium.

Moderator Little introduced Boy Scout Troop #602 members Drew Buley, Matt Ireland, John Curley, Gerrit Pottmeyer, Garret Greundling, Matthew Connor, Dan Knight, Will Kallock, Fisher Irwin, Anders Erickson, Nicholas Russell, Alden Looft, Ethan Garrison, Charlie Schramm, Aden Curley; and their leaders - Brian Irwin, Mike Major Jane Pottmeyer and Ginger Williamson. They presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Dave Connery played the National Anthem on the flute as the residents sang along.

Town Poet Laureate Rick Bessette is serving his third year and the program is alive and well. He volunteers at Shelburne Community School and works with a new group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders every month. Each group goes to Shelburne Farms. Some of their poems are being submitted to State of Vermont. Poet Laureate Bessette thanked Kevin Unrath, Shelburne Librarian, and the Shelburne Library staff for their partnership. Shelburne Police Lt. Mike Thomas started a poetry board in the Police Department to build relationships with the students and display their work. Rick is giving a presentation at a Library Conference being held at UVM to share with them the success of his mentorship program. His goal is to spread the news across the State of VT. Poet Laureate Bessette also reads at the Arbors twice a year. It is truly rewarding to give something back. And will host an event in April to celebrate national poetry month. He then read this poem, written in 2019:

### *“The Heart of Shelburne: The Parade”*

*I*

*In seventeen eight four  
A sailor moved to town.  
“An unbroken wilderness”,  
“Swamp and frog pond year round”.*

*True pioneer and settler  
With future vision he planned.  
He gave our town “THE PARADE”,  
Where together we now stand.*

*Here militia once gathered,  
School children on this green played.  
Multi-purpose gatherings,  
Our common ground still today.*

*Our veteran's memorial  
Farmers market, our scouts too,  
Gift from a man with a dream,  
Captain Harrington, we thank you.*

"The Parade" was gifted to the Town by Captain Benjamin Harrington on April 18, 1807. The information was gathered by Mr. Truman Webster (1910-1994), a native of Shelburne, and his work was published in a volume titled, "Shelburne, Pieces of History". Published in 1994. Mr. David Webster is working on getting more of those volumes reprinted. Poet Laureate Bessette thanked everyone for their time and for this position

Moderator Little invited Jim Brangan, Chair of the Colleen Haag Public Service award committee and Colleen Haag, name sake of the award, to the podium to present this year's recipient of the Colleen Haag Public Service Award. Chair Brangan thanked the Selectboard, Moderator Tom Little, Town Clerk Diana Vachon, Town Manager Lee Krohn and the custodians of Shelburne Community School. Jim commented that Shelburne is an inspiring place, with a community that is invested in itself and cares. This award is given to someone who rolls up their sleeves and gets things done in our community. Ms. Haag retired in 2016, after 35 years of continuous, professional, and faithful service. In that spirit, the Shelburne Selectboard created the Colleen Haag Public Service award to honor her and those who by their actions exemplify the spirit of public service. Someone who has shared time, talent, and energy for the betterment of our community. Someone who inspires purpose, drives solutions, and makes a difference. Also on the committee are Bud Ockert and Lisa Merrill. Thank you for your invaluable input. This year there are seven nominees. First, Chair Brangan recognized the more than 20 Committees Boards and Commissions, Shelburne Rescue, Fire Department, hundreds of volunteers, Town employees, Selectboard, friends, neighbors, relatives, working to make Shelburne a better place. This year's nominees are Gail Albert, Rick Bessette, Peggy Coutu, Roz Graham, Joan Lenes, Cathy Townsend and Cullen Bullard. Thank you all for all you do to make Shelburne a better place. The winner of Colleen Haag Public Service Award had many nominations. He can be seen around town mowing grass, shoveling snow, always helping neighbors in need. Born in 1938. Worked on the families 38-head dairy farm for 20 years. Served in the United States Army for 14 years. A life long Red Sox fan. Moved to Shelburne back in 1967. Graduated from LaSalle University in 1974. Worked for 42 years at Hulbert Supply and never once called in sick. Member of St. Catherine's Church where he has been, "an unstinting volunteer in every way. Assistance and attention to keeping the Church trim and safe" and has been doing that since 1967. The same year he joined the fire department. He is the longest serving member on our Fire Department. Tonight is the 51<sup>st</sup> year he has carried the microphone at Town Meeting. Married to his beloved wife Edith for 50 years before her death in 2016. They raised three children, Cullen, Rosemary, and Linda. This award goes to someone who absolutely rolls up his sleeves to get things done. Colleen Haag announced this year's winner: Cullen Bullard, who came to the podium and accepted the award to a standing ovation.

The Annual Town Report is dedicated to the Library Fundraisers who raised one million dollars for the project.

Moderator Little introduced Town Clerk Diana Vachon, Champlain Valley School District Board member Dave Connery, and Selectboard Chair Jerry Storey. Moderator Little also introduced Town Manager Lee Krohn, Director of Finance Peter Frankenberg, Constable Bob Lake, and Mike Ralston & Chelsea Palin of Cucina Antica for a great dinner. Thanks to our two House members: Jessica Brumsted and Kate Webb who, along with Senator Chris Pearson, participated in successful round-table discussions at the Town Meeting supper this evening.

The Moderator announced the rules and procedures for tonight's presentations and debate: when Moderator calls a vote please use green colored paper for yes and the salmon color for no. This is the second annual Town meeting since the school consolidated and has their own meeting. Dave Connery is here and will present the proposed school budget under other business. Robert's Rules of Order apply this evening. One person has the floor at a time. Each person will have two minutes. Any objections? Seeing none, that is how we will proceed.

The Chair of the Selectboard, Jerry Storey, introduced the Board: Vice Chair Jaime Heins, Colleen Parker, Josh Dein, and Mary Kehoe. We are honored to serve you.

The Moderator then went through each of the warned Articles.

In the Shelburne Town report on page 11 is the Town Meeting Warning. Are there any questions on the reports filed by the Town Officers (Article I)?

**ARTICLE I:** Voted to hear and act on the report of Town officers and the Auditor's report for Fiscal Year 2018. (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018). Moderator Little asked for questions. Seeing none. He read the article and asked if everyone was ready for the question? All in favor in adopt Article I as written. Passed unanimously by green card vote.

**ARTICLE II:** Will the voters determine the compensation to be paid to the Selectboard for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) in the amount of \$0? In the past the Chair's stipend has been \$1500 and the stipend of the other members of the board, \$1200. The amount has been the same for many years. Jerry Storey clarified the language in Article II. Seconded. Questions on the Motion? Doug Merrill states that Article II is correct. The Article is correct. Motion is withdrawn. Question from the floor why are the salaries being set at \$0? Colleen Parker responded that this was accepted by all the Selectboard members. They asked Town Departments to make some dramatic cuts. The Selectboard felt they needed to make the same cuts. No one on the board does it for the pay. We do it for the love of Shelburne. Peg Rosenau spoke up from the floor – 10 years ago thought it should be raised, after researching other Towns. Recognize that it is a lot of work and recommends we keep it to what it is now. Gail Albert, if body were to vote 'no,' is there a provision for the current salaries to remain the same? Moderator Little, no this needs to be voted on annually. As a matter of parliamentary procedure, one way would be to amend the amount of the salaries and vote on the amendment. And then to vote on Article II as amended. Gail Albert moved to amend Article II to retain the current FY 2019 salaries of the Selectboard for FY 2020. The Motion was seconded. Any questions? Hearing none, the question was called: All those in favor to amend the article please raise your green cards. Opposed to the amendment please raised salmon card. The motion to amend Article II has

been amended. Shall we adopt Article II as amended? All in favor raise green cards. Opposed, salmon. Article II has been adopted as amended.

**ARTICLE III** To transact any other business proper to come before Town Meeting. We will take this up after the presentations.

**ARTICLE IV:** Election of Town Officers as per the ballot. Moderator Little read the open offices up for election and the candidates for each, Selectboard for a two year term, Jaime Heins. Selectboard for a three year term, Michael Ashooh. CVSD School Director for a three year term, Russell Caffry. Under Vermont's Town Meeting Law questions and debate are not allowed on this article.

**ARTICLE V:** Shall the Town adopt the Selectboard's proposed budget of \$9,548,668, of which \$6,788,734 is to be raised by taxes? We vote on this by Australian ballot tomorrow. Starts around page 13 in the Town Report. The Selectboard will make the presentation. Chair Jerry Storey welcomed everyone. In a quiet moment in the next day or two, he asked that we all take a moment to recognize those who have passed on. He thanked Lee Krohn and Peter Frankenburg for their hard work. Please ask any and all questions you may have. Town Manager Lee Krohn went through summary of the budget. They worked very hard to keep the tax increase under 5%. He covered cell tower revenue and fixed long term debt. He showed the property tax rates in Chittenden County - Shelburne is 3rd lowest. In the Town Budget overview, the Town Budget's proposed increase is 0.4381. He showed the add-ons of the open spaces and Fire/Rescue stations land investigation, which will increase the tax rate a bit. These last two items will be voted on tomorrow by Australian ballot. Any questions or comments from the floor? Gail Albert spoke on how the Town uses open space fund to keep the tax rate low, because this fund lowers the long-term debt. We put in money incrementally every year and we earn interest on it.

**ARTICLE VI:** Shall the Town raise by taxes the amount of \$35,000 for the purpose of obtaining options and/or acquiring land, or the rights in land, to preserve natural resources and open space; any unspent portion of that amount to be put in the Open Space fund? Any questions? Paul Reese asked why \$35,000? Why not \$32,000 or \$40,000. Gail Albert thanked him for the question. We all know the price of land in Shelburne. When we have opportunity, work only with land owners so we're not taking land from them. Then work with a third party such as the Nature Conservancy. They produce bulk of the money. Then the purchase is protected. It gives us assurance that we are investing money well and forever. The \$35,000 amount is a generous figure picked by the Selectboard. Negotiations can take a long time and prices change usually go up during that time. We usually ask for more and then take what the Selectboard puts to a vote.

**ARTICLE VII:** Shall the Town of Shelburne establish a reverse fund to be called the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund to be used for purchasing new or replacement fire department equipment and/or vehicles, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. section 2804? Town Manager Lee Krohn explained, we are asking to create a savings account, which can only be done by the voters. Budget cuts in the fire department budget went from \$100,000 to \$50,000. The equipment is expensive. So, it makes sense to start a savings account for the necessities and capital purchases. If passed, we would take the \$50,000 that is in budget and put it in this new account. Not creating an add-on. Any questions or comments from the floor? Seeing none, the Moderator moved on to the next Article.

**Article VIII:** Shall the voters of the Town of Shelburne appropriate \$25,000, subject to receipt of grants-in-aid, coupled with a \$25,000 contribution from the Town Ambulance Fund for the same purpose, to (1) enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for a portion of Lot 6 of the Rice Lumber property on the southwest corner of the intersection of Shelburne Road and Longmeadow Drive, and (2) determine the suitability of the site for a future fire and rescue station, with the work being undertaken jointly with Road to Hanna, Inc. d/b/a Healthy Living Market & Café which currently holds an option to purchase the property and intends to use a portion of the property for its own facility?

NOTE: The total of up to \$50,000 is a maximum dollar share of the first \$100,000 in joint costs (with the other \$50,000 to be paid by Road to Hana, Inc. d/b/a Healthy Living Market & Café) over the next twelve months to analyze, subdivide, and otherwise permit development of the property as steps in determining its suitability for both Healthy Living and a fire and rescue station. Should the site be determined to be suitable, this activity contemplates a Town vote at next year's Annual Town Meeting to consider purchasing the lot at a cost not to exceed \$650,000 and pay additional site related costs, subject to terms and conditions of a Letter of Intent between the Town and Healthy Living, which has been made available for public review.

Chair Storey clarified that this is a three-stage process: 1. Determine to go ahead to see if the site is suitable to be permitted, environmentally sound, etc., which needs to be accomplished for any piece of land for purchase or investment. We would be sharing the cost with Road to Hana, Inc. d/b/a Healthy Living Market & Café, Inc. 2. Should the town approve #1 and the lot prove suitable, then the next Town Meeting there will be an item on the ballot to authorize a purchase and sale agreement. 3. If the town approves the acquisition, then the Town would plan and build a new facility. This is a multi-year process. Moderator Little asked for clarification on the NOTE explaining the context of the Article. Is the \$650,000 for the Town portion only? Chair Storey replied, 'yes.' Any questions or does anyone wish to speak to Article VIII? Chris Boyajian explained that he is a new resident and inclined to defer to those who have lived here for lifetime. He supports Fire and Rescue but is concerned about the impact of Healthy Living on local businesses. He is worried that Shelburne will look like So. Burlington. And he also has concerns about increased traffic. Andrew Cate: \$650,000 is the amount the Town would pay and what is the total package price to Healthy Living? Has due diligence been done? And is this a fair price? If the vote is No on this question tomorrow is there another plan? Town Manager Lee Krohn replied that Healthy Living has an option on the entire lot for 1.6 million dollars, which is a fixed price. The nearby Yankee Doodle motel property is on market for \$750,000 without demolition. So yes, it is a fair price. Plan B is for Fire/Rescue to work with the Selectboard on other options. In 2007 there was a site analysis done to give some historical reference. Dick Branda asked if the town or school district owned any land in that general area. Is that still the case? Dave Connery responded, he was a past Chair of the Shelburne School Board and just north of the self-storage facility the school owns property. There are two problems: one, it is set far back after the trees and before the cliffs. There are a lot of wetlands back there that are hard to develop. And the second problem is when it was purchased the deed stated the land use is to be used for only educational purposes. Chair Storey clarified the Plan B response is not the Selectboard advocating or promoting the Article. This issue arose very unexpectedly in the last month of the budget process. Road to Hana, Inc is very anxious to get started. They gave us year to determine if Town wants it. If the Town bows

out, Road to Hana, Inc. is going forward. And will sell part of the property to someone else. Healthy Living is going in.

Kyle Karlhuber asked if fire house moves there, will it be closer to more houses and how is it an ideal location? Fire Chief Ouimet replied the reason to choose this plot is based on getting to all parts of Shelburne in reasonable amount of time. It actually is in the middle of the Town. They will be able to set the traffic light to change when the alarm sounds. Cate Cross asked, are the calls equal in number to the more dense part of the village or outside the dense part? Chief Ouimet replied it's more about access and difficult issues getting in and out of the village safely and quickly. This site is less congested with pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Rescue is called mostly to the North/South Route 7 corridor. This site would help with timing and access.

**Article III** – Any other Business. Ken Albert acknowledged and thanked Josh Dein for his service on the Selectboard and expressed appreciation for the willingness of Jaime Heins to throw his hat into ring again. He also thanked Mike Ashooh for stepping up to serve Shelburne. He encouraged others to throw their hats in the ring.

Town Manager Lee Krohn gave an update on the stormwater utility ordinance, which was not adopted last year and more work needs to be done this year. The library has made significant and dramatic progress. The frame is enclosed, and concrete has been poured inside. The Town Hall is updated with drainage work and new heating and cooling systems. We will be installing solar panels on the roof of the library. And we have made a power purchase agreement. We use enormous amount of energy with two waste water facilities. This option is predicted to save 12% on energy for the next 25 years on power bills. There will be a late summer grand opening.

**Champlain Valley School Board Presentation.** David Connery thanked the Town for the opportunity to speak. Scott Sivo, Principal of grades 6-8 at Shelburne Community School (SCS) and Cate Cross were budget buddies. It's great to have citizen input from parent and non-parents. He spoke about the Points of Pride for SCS: Middle School Girls Cross Country, work for COTs, Global Goals, and how to be good digital citizens to use tools for good. Fit Kids morning movement gets them breakfast and moving. So much research shows how this improves learning. Champlain Valley Union High School (CVU) points of pride: diversity inclusion, Special Olympics. CVU raises the most in the state \$50,000 at the Penguin Plunge. Girls Cross Country won New England and State titles and earned a trip to the nationals. Took a look at where students go after graduation: 75% go to higher education. SCS enrollment next year projected to go down by 12 students. He showed enrollment projections for SCS and then district as a whole. This number is coming down at a lower rate because we are in Chittenden County which is a different demographic. Enrollment is tied to class sizes. Fewer than 20 students in K3 and fewer than 25 students for 4-8 for CVSD all numbers are below targets. Academic performance: Shelburne is at or above state average. Middle School Graduation is June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Then the next day is CVU graduation.

Dave then covered the budget process. The consolidation of school districts gives better ways to leverage resources across the board and ways to get our resources in line. He reviewed the Board Budget goals. Managing \$77 million is a new process for many of the members. The budget increase this year is 2.7% over last year. This is below the projected 3.4% predicted increase by State.

Voting on tomorrow: Article VII and Article VIII: fund balance is used to avoid bond money to address maintenance for all schools. Article IX: new school bus. The district keeps a bus, on average, for 8 years and purchases single digit buses per year. We do have buses that are 20 years old. He encouraged voting tomorrow. Any questions on the CVSD Budget presentation? Gail Albert: The ridership on buses is low with so many parents dropping off and picking up kids. Are you looking at smaller more efficient vehicles? Mr. Connery replied it's not an option at this time. Routes are looked at to maximizing the number of kids on the bus. It's difficult to find bus drivers in the state. And it's a complex topic. They've done involved transportation studies. We are doing the best we can. Doug Merrill asked about equalized percentage and please clarify high school students cost more. The answer is yes. Joan Lenas is here and we thank her for all of her service to Shelburne.

Motion to recess the Town Meeting until 7 AM tomorrow, 3/5/19. Moved and seconded. Moderator Little thanked Diana Vachon and all of the volunteers who have been working hard getting us ready to vote and processing the early voting ballots. All in favor of recessing say Aye. The Aye's have it. Meeting recessed.

Recessed at 9:43 PM

Respectfully submitted: Diana Vachon, Town Clerk