



Town of Thetford Vermont

3910 Vermont Route 113 • P.O. Box 126 • Thetford Center, VT 05075
802-785-2922 • thetfordvermont.us

1 **Selectboard Special Meeting *Draft* Minutes**
2 **Candidate Forum and Pre-Town Meeting Informational Hearing**
3 **Thetford Town Offices**
4 (w/Virtual Attendance Option)
5 Monday, February 27th, 2023 6:30 PM
6

7 Selectboard members present: Sharon Harkay (Chair), Li Shen (Vice-Chair), Mary Bryant,
8 David Goodrich, Steve Tofel
9 Others present: Town Manager Bryan Gazda, Town Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Borst, DPW Foreman
10 Dale Lewis
11

12 Sharon Harkay called the meeting to order at 6:30.
13

14 **1. Agenda Review**

15 No changes to the agenda.
16

17 **2. Notes from the Selectboard Chair**

18 Sharon Harkay recognized the passing of Roberta Howard, a previous, long-time Town Clerk
19 and Treasurer, former Town Service Officer, and dedicated public servant. Sharon extended
20 condolences to the family.
21

22 **3. Town Manager Report**

23 UV Bridge hit again.
24 LS – insurance premiums.
25 BG: Chief Scruggs does have some video.
26

27 **4. Public Comment**

28 No public comment.
29

30 **5. Anticipated Adoption of the Interim Municipal Bylaw Amendments**

31 **Motion** by Li Shen that the Selectboard adopt the amendment to Section 5 of the Zoning bylaw,
32 which deals with accessory dwelling units. VOTE: All in favor (5-0-0). **Motion passed.**
33

34 **6. Posting of Roads – Town Highway Road List for Weight Limits Effective March 1st,**
35 **2023, through May 15th, 2023**

36 **Motion** by David Goodrich to accept the listing of the 2023 Posting of Roads, requesting that the
37 DPW Foreman check into posting Tucker Hill Road. VOTE: All in favor (5-0-0). **Motion**
38 **passed.**
39

40 **7. Warrants and Minutes**

41 #7.1 \$307.84
42 #3.3 \$275.00
43 #3.4 \$23,262.59
44 #4.2 \$10,728.07



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1 #4.4 \$22,419.39

2 #6.1 \$20,551.33

3 #8.1 \$3,692.83

4 **Motion** by Mary Bryant that we accept the warrants as presented. VOTE: All in favor (5-0-0).

5 **Motion passed.**

6 **Motion** by Sharon Harkay to accept the Selectboard meeting minutes of February 6th, February
7 13th, and February 20th, as edited. VOTE: All in favor (5-0-0). **Motion passed.**

8

9 **8. Adjourn the Special Selectboard Meeting**

10 **Motion** by Steve Tofel to adjourn the special Selectboard meeting at 6:50 PM. VOTE: All in
11 favor (5-0-0). **Motion passed.**

12

13 **7:00 PM – Call to Order of Candidate Forum and Pre-Town Meeting Informational** 14 **Hearing**

15

16 Sharon Harkay called the forum and informational hearing to order at 7:00 PM and turned the
17 meeting over to Town Moderator Deecie Denison.

18 Deecie gave opening remarks that echoed her musings about duty and responsibility in the Town
19 Report.

20 Mary Chin, school board candidate, was the first candidate to speak, giving an overview of her
21 experience as an educator.

22 Mary Bryant asked Mary Chin what her best and worst experiences were during that time.

23 Mary Chin described a school in New Jersey that did not offer vocational training as a worst
24 experience, and her time at Oxbow with a really good principal as a positive experience.

25 Deecie reminded those present that the candidates will not be speaking at Town Meeting, so this
26 was the opportunity to ask questions.

27 Current Lister Barb Harrington is on the ballot to complete the last 2 years of a 3 year term. Barb
28 described her work over the past year, including the process of earning a level 2 assessor's
29 certification. Barb said she appreciates the importance of having a good working relationship
30 with her team and the other town employees, and she also enjoys the technical aspect of the
31 work. She is committed to growing in this role and hopes people will vote for her.

32 Barr read a statement from Sue Howard, also a current Lister who is running for a 3-year term.

33 Sue has lived in town for 35-years, built a home and raised a child here and finds it very
34 satisfying to serve the town. Sue is dedicated to serving the town to the best of her abilities.

35 Sharon Harkay noted that this will be the 3rd time she is running for election, this time for the 3-
36 year term. Sharon said the current board has a good working relationship, even though they don't
37 always agree. Having gone through the process of finding and hiring a town manager, Sharon
38 thinks it is important to help find the next person. Sharon believes that it is important to listen to
39 what residents are saying and what they are asking of us.

40 Curtis Richardson asked Sharon she thought were her biggest success and her biggest frustration.
41 Sharon said her frustration is sometimes the slow pace of moving projects forward. She thinks
42 her biggest success was working to bring Bryan in as town manager.

43 Steve Tofel, who is running for the 2-year Selectboard seat, said he is interested in helping the
44 town determine the use of the ARPA money. He believes the money should be used for one-time



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1 projects. He is also interested in making the Treasure Island Exploratory Committee a permanent
2 committee. Asked the same question by Curtis Richardson, Steve shared the frustration that
3 Sharon has about how long it takes to get things done. He is also frustrated with the Open
4 Meeting Law, stating that while it is good in theory, it creates inefficiencies in moving things
5 forward. As for his greatest success, Steve agreed with Sharon again, saying it was the hiring of
6 Bryan as the town manager.

7 Curtis – same question.

8 Tracy Borst said she has just wrapped up her 20th year as Town Clerk, noting that it has become
9 quite a career for her. She enjoys opportunities to support the town and her profession across not
10 only the state, but also New England and across the country.

11 Deecie Denison thinks being the moderator has been a great way for her to serve the town, and
12 she would encourage people to run in the future.

13 Pril Hall is up for reelection for the Trustees of Trust Funds. There are 3 trustees who administer
14 the Farm Trust, which was established in the middle of last century. The trust has a substantial
15 amount of money and is designed to help residents of Thetford in short term financial need. They
16 also oversee the Library Trust, which awards scholarships to high school students, and the
17 Cemetery Trust which helps the town maintain their cemeteries. Pril said she hopes that people
18 will give her their vote.

19

20 **7:30 PM – Pre-Town Meeting Informational Hearing**

21 Deecie reminded people that Saturday's meeting is an in-person only Town Meeting. It will
22 begin with the School Board portion at 9:00 AM.

23 Deecie read each article.

24 Bryan shared information about the budget using a slide show presentation.

25 Curtis Richard asked why Senior Solutions, in Article 11, was a 100% increase over last year.

26 Steve Tofel explained that they were losing a lot of federal funding.

27 Joe Tofel asked Deecie if she would entertain an amendment to combine Articles 8 through 20
28 into one article. Deecie said she would entertain that motion during the meeting on Saturday.

29 Curtis Richardson asked Steve Tofel for specifics on the one-time projects for ARPA funds.

30 Steve said he did not want the money to fund something that would then require ongoing
31 funding. Sharon Harkay gave an example of upgrades to the Town Garage or essential
32 maintenance of Timothy Frost building.

33 Deecie noted that there will not be coffee or food at Town Meeting this year.

34 **Motion** by Steve Tofel to adjourn the Candidate's Forum and Pre-Town Meeting Informational
35 Hearing at 8:06 PM. VOTE: All in favor (5-0-0). **Motion passed**. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting ID	Topic	Pre-Town Meeting Hearing	2/27/2023
89080661986	Selectboard Regular Meeting	25 8 Town 17 attended	

Martie - Selectboard mbetts@thetfordvt.gov
Selectboard-Town mbetts@thetfordvt.gov
Tracy Borst Clerk/Treasurer
Brian Ricker
Dale Lewis
Sherry Merrick
Sue Ricker
Bryan Gazda
A/B Guttmacher
Latham Library
Barbara DeFelice (Latham Library)
joseph's iPad
Angela McCanna
Marshall Blair
DC Forbes
Steven's iPad
Barb Harrington
hediparafina
a jones
Ginger Wallis
Pril Hall
Tom Ward
Upper Valley Early Childhood Educator Network
Tammie Hazlett (Upper Valley Early Childhood Educator Network)
Tim Taylor