

**TOWN OF BELVIDERE, VERMONT**  
**Town Meeting Minutes**  
**March 5, 2024**

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Belvidere was held on March 5, 2024, at the Belvidere Central School.

Pamela McKenna, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 10:06. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Article 1: To elect a Moderator for Town Meeting.** Pamela McKenna was nominated by Brent Jones and seconded by Jon Hysick. Pamela McKenna was elected by voice vote.

**Article 2: To elect all other Town Officers required by law: terms are for 1 year unless stated otherwise.**

- **Town Clerk:** Cathy Mander-Adams was nominated by Josephine (Josie) McLean and seconded by Brent Jones. There were no further nominations and Cathy Mander-Adams was elected by voice vote.
- **Town Treasurer:** Cathy Mander-Adams was nominated by Earl Domina, Jr. and seconded by Charlene Spaulding. There were no further nominations and Cathy Mander-Adams was elected by voice vote.
- **By Ballot, a Selectboard member for a term of 3 years:** Ken Adams, Jr. was nominated by Brent Jones and seconded by William (Bill) McLean. There were no further nominations. Charlene Spaulding made a motion and was seconded by Bill McLean that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Ken Adams, Jr. to the Selectboard for a term of 3 years. Motion carried. Ken Adams, Jr. was elected for a term of three years.
- **By Ballot, a Lister for a term of 3 years:** Stephanie Domina was nominated by Richard (Rick) Schoon and seconded by Stacey Chase. There were no further nominations. Bill McLean made a motion that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Stephanie Domina as a Lister for a term of 3 years. Motion carried. Stephanie Domina was elected for a term of 3 years.
- **By ballot, an Auditor for a term of 3 years:** Bill McLean was nominated by Josie McLean and seconded by Brent Jones. There were no further nominations. Earl Domina, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Stacey Chase, that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Bill McLean as Auditor for a term of 3 years. Motion carried. Bill McLean was elected for a term of 3 years.
- **Road Commissioner:** Kevin Leavitt was nominated by Steve Osgood and seconded by Bill McLean. There were no further nominations and Kevin Leavitt was elected by voice vote.
- **First Constable:** Charlene Spaulding was nominated by Brent Jones and seconded by Bill McLean. There were no further nominations and Charlene Spaulding was elected by voice vote.
- **Second Constable:** Stacey Chase was nominated by Brent Jones and seconded by Steve Osgood. There were no further nominations and Stacey Chase was elected by voice vote.
- **Collector of Delinquent Taxes:** Mary Hysick was nominated by Jon Hysick and seconded by Josie McLean. There were no further nominations and Mary Hysick was elected by voice vote.
- **Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District Supervisor for a term of 2 years:** Cathy Mander-Adams was nominated by Mary Hysick and seconded by Brent Jones. There were no further nominations and Cathy Mander-Adams was elected by voice vote.

**Article 3: To hear the reports of the Town Officers.** Susan Scholl moved the article and Earl Domina, Jr. seconded. Ken Adams explained and corrected some know typographical errors in the report. Carol Caldwell-Edmonds corrected an error on page 17 under the ARPA Fund Payouts stating the amount the ARPA committee pledged, and the Selectboard supported, was corrected to be \$10,910.80.

Cathy Mander-Adams pointed out that the Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer hourly rate is \$20.00 per hour and not \$20.50 as incorrectly stated in the 2024 Proposed Town Officer Compensation Summary. At the conclusion of the discussion, Mary Hysick made the motion to accept the reports of the Town Officers as stated and Brent Jones seconded. The motion was moved by voice vote.

**Article 4: To see what action the town will take regarding the collection of taxes. Will the town vote to pay education taxes to the Treasurer on or before September 18, 2024, and pay town taxes to the Treasurer on or before November 13, 2024, and a rate of interest of 1% per month be charged on all overdue taxes beginning December 1, 2024?** Susan Scholl moved the motion to discussion and Charlene Spaulding seconded. Cathy Mander-Adams reminded the body that the two due dates fall on Wednesday, not Thursday as in past years. It was also clarified that postmarks are accepted as long as the postmark is no later than the due date. The article was approved by voice vote.

**Article 5: To fix the rate of compensation for elected and appointed Town Officers, if any.** Brent moved the motion, seconded by Bill McLean. Mary Hysick made the motion to fix all the town salaries at the rates for 2023. The motion was seconded by Steve Osgood. There was an amendment to the motion made by Melissa Manka and seconded by Kathy Marchant to increase the hourly rate of compensation for Town Clerk & Treasurer, Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer, Listers, Auditors and QuickBooks assistant by 3%. After discussion, Earl Domina, Jr. made the motion to vote by paper ballot. The motion was supported by 7 or more voters. There were 34 ballots cast. 24 voted NO to the increase. 10 voted Yes. The motion to amend was defeated. The original motion was approved by voice vote.

**Article 6: Will the Town vote to expend the current revenues as proposed in the Selectboard's Budget to pay the debts and current expenses of the Town?** Ken Adams moved to expend the current revenues as proposed in the amount of \$244,270.00, with \$179,352.00 to be raised by 2024 property taxes, and \$32,101.00 to be applied from the existing general fund. The motion was seconded by Brent Jones. Following discussion, the motion was approved by voice vote.

**Article 7: To do any other business that may legally come before the Town Meeting.**

- Jodi Tallman asked for more classification concerning the collection of delinquent taxes and how they are reported by the Auditors.
- David Muir addressed a concern related to ATV permits and drivers that do not have permits from the town to drive on town roads.
- Charlene Spaulding suggested the town create a logo for Belvidere.
- Joseph Konrad recommended, as a follow up to Carol Caldwell-Edmond's earlier address, the Selectboard consider and provide compensation for the appointed positions that currently are not paid in an effort to incentivize local persons to sign up.
- Joseph Konrad also asked if there is any way the town can control the use and abuse of the town roads caused by the people driving the sap trucks on dirt roads. Kevin Leavitt, Road Commissioner, addressed these concerns by asking people to contact their local legislators. This problem cannot be solved by the town alone. All towns are suffering from this problem.
- Jack Schill inquired about the use of the land surrounding Belvidere Central School. Ken Adams explained that there is discussion right now about declaring the land as a Town Forest. Melissa Manka, LCPC representative, is currently providing assistance with this project. Further information will be forthcoming.
- Jack Schill inquired about the existence of Town Maps and what lands are posted. Cathy Mander-Adams responded to both questions. For lands to be posted and enforced the land owner must record the information in the Town Clerk's Office. The town maps are being updated and digitized as we speak. It will be several weeks before the known errors to be corrected. The town has contracted Christine Chamberlain Mapping, in Middlebury, is performing the work.

Earl Domina, Jr. made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mary Hysick.

*Thad Tallman JOP*

Thad Tallman, Justice of the Peace

*3/11/24*

Date

*Earl Domina Jr. selectboard chair*

Earl Domina, Jr., Selectboard Chair

*3/11/24*

Date