

**Agenda Summary**  
**January 8, 2025**

**Agenda Item B-3**  
**Public Questions**

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**Summary:** Per the Selectboard's request, this time has been set aside to discuss if the Selectboard desires to hold a floor vote at Annual Meeting to ask the voters the following question: **Shall the Town of Stowe vote on all public questions by Australian ballot?**

Enclosed are the minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting when this question was previously considered.

**Town Plan Impact:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Recommendation:** Discuss and advise.

**MINUTES FOR  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
STOWE VERMONT  
MARCH 5, 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Stowe are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Stowe High School Auditorium on TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024, at 8:00 AM to act upon any of the following articles not involving Australian Ballot:

**NOTE: The Town of Stowe Annual Town Meeting will begin immediately following the Stowe School District Annual Meeting.**

**TOWN MEETING:**

Moderator Leighton Detora called the Town Meeting to order at 10:30 AM. In attendance were 320 voters of the Town of Stowe.

Heidi Scheuerman moved to suspend the rules to allow the debate and the vote for Article 4 to be the first on the agenda, with the agenda remaining the same afterwards. Second received.

Charlie Lusk asked for clarification as to whether the article would take effect immediately. Mr. Detora clarified that it would take effect for the 2025 Town Meeting. A voter asked for clarification on why the motion is being made to move the article up in the agenda. Ms. Scheuerman said she wants to vote on the article before she needs to leave for work. A voter asked for clarification on why the Article was fourth in the agenda. Mr. Detora said the order is determined by the Selectboard, and the budget is typically first.

Peter Anderson moved to amend the motion to suspend the rules to allow the debate and the vote for Article 4 to be the first on the agenda, with the agenda remaining the same afterwards, to a motion to suspend the rules to allow the debate and the vote for Article 4 to be the first on the agenda, with the agenda remaining the same afterwards, and for Article 4 to take effect for Town Meeting in 2025. Second received. The motion to amend the motion passes unanimously.

Emily Lev called the question on the motion to suspend the rules to allow the debate and the vote for Article 4 to be the first on the agenda, with the agenda remaining the same afterwards, and for Article 4 to take effect for Town Meeting in 2025. Second received. The motion passed with a voice vote. A division of the floor was called. The motion passed the division of the floor.

Leo Clark moved to suspend the rules to allow the debate and the vote for Article 5 to be the second on the agenda, with the agenda remaining the same afterwards, and for Article 5 to take effect for Town Meeting in 2025. Leigh Pelletier seconded.

Emily Merrill requested clarification on the difference between the two articles. Leighton Detora explained the difference between budget questions and public questions. Mila Lonetto noted that the voters could end up in a situation where they approve one article and not the other. Sara Opel requested clarification on whether Town Meeting would be eliminated if both articles pass.

Harold Stevens called the question on the motion to suspend the rules to allow the debate and the vote for Article 5 to be the second on the agenda, with the agenda remaining the same afterwards, and for Article 5 to take effect for Town Meeting in 2025. Second was received. Motion to call the question passed.

On the motion to suspend the rules to allow the debate and the vote for Article 5 to be the second on the agenda, with the agenda remaining the same afterwards, and for Article 5 to take effect for Town Meeting in 2025. The motion passed.

Billy Adams presented Lisa Hagerty with a plaque commemorating her service to the Town of Stowe. Jaquie Mauer presented the Conservationist of the Year Award to Kristen Sharpless. Scott Reeves presented the Cliff Thompson Public Service Award to Leigh Pelletier.

**Article 1 (4): Shall the Town of Stowe adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot, the same to begin Town Meeting 2025?**

A motion and a second was received for the article.

Charlie Lusk noted that the voters cannot amend the budget at a Town Meeting with a budget voted on by Australian Ballot. Todd Roling said that you can still have Town Meeting with a budget voted on by Australian Ballot. Heidi Scheuerman said it can be called an informational meeting, but everyone should have opportunity to vote even if they can't make it to the meeting. Other voters commenting on the Article included Chris Burnham, Allen Oulette, David Geschling, Barb Puddicombe, George Gay, Brian Leven, Christina McGowen, and Marina Meerburg.

Peter Anderson moved to call the question before the Town Meeting recesses for lunch. Second was received. The motion to call the question passed. The motion passed with a voice vote. A division of the floor was called. The motion passed the division of the floor.

The motion to approve Article 1 as amended passed. A division of the floor was called. The motion to approve Article 1 passed the division of the floor by a vote of 95 to 75.

Leighton Detora recessed the meeting at 12:20 PM.

**Article 2 (5): Shall the Town of Stowe vote on all public questions by Australian ballot, to take effect on and after town meeting 2025?**

Leighton Detora called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

A motion and a second was received for the article.

Lisa Hagerty moved to amend the article to read, "Shall the Town of Stowe vote on all public questions by Australian ballot, to take effect immediately on the conclusion of this meeting." Second was received. The motion to amend the article passed.

**Shall the Town of Stowe vote on all public questions by Australian ballot, to take effect immediately on the conclusion of this meeting?**

Jaquie Mauer moved to call the question. A second was received. The motion to move the question passed.

The motion to approve Article 2 as amended did not pass.

**Article 3 (1): Shall the voters approve the Selectboard's proposed General Fund Budget of sixteen million seven hundred sixty-seven thousand six hundred twelve dollars (\$16,767,612) of which twelve million thirty-eight thousand and nine hundred ninety-three dollars (\$12,038,993) is to be raised by property taxes and four million seven hundred twenty-eight thousand six hundred nineteen dollars (\$4,728,619) is to be funded by non-property tax revenues?**

Billy Adams moved Article 3. Jo Sabel Courtney seconded.

Willie Noyes said that more money should be added to the paving budget. Brett Loomis noted the equipment fund and questioned the need for electric mowers.

The motion to approve Article 3 passed.

**Article 4 (2): Shall the voters approve the Selectboard allocating one million three hundred five thousand dollars (\$1,305,000) of the accumulated Capital Fund for the following capital projects?**

Billy Adams moved Article 4. Jo Sabel Courtney seconded.

Tiffany Donza asked if funds can be moved from the capital fund to the general fund to lower taxes. Leighton Detora said it would need to be on next year's ballot. Ryan Heraty said a future consideration could be flashing speed signs on Stagecoach Road, improvements to the Stowe Library parking lot, and a crosswalk at the intersection of School Street and Pond Street.

The motion to approve Article 4 passed.

**Article 5 (3): Shall the voters approve compensating each of its five (5) Selectboard members three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for their service in the ensuing year, each of the three (3) Listers two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for their service in the ensuing year, and the Moderator one hundred dollars (\$100) for each annual or special town meeting over which the moderator presides?**

Nick Donza moved Article 5. A second was received.

Beth Gadbois moved to amend Article 5 to compensate Development Review Board Members \$2,000, and to increase the Selectboard compensation to \$4,000. Leighton Detora said the DRB compensation cannot be included because it was not warned. Beth Gadbois modified the motion to increase the Selectboard Compensation to \$4,000. Marina Meerburg seconded the motion. Beth Gadbois modified the motion to increase the compensation for the Board of Listers to \$500. Marina Meerburg seconded. The motion to amend the Article passed.

**Shall the voters approve compensating each of its five (5) Selectboard members three thousand dollars (\$4,000) for their service in the ensuing year, each of the three (3) Listers two hundred fifty dollars (\$500) for their service in the ensuing year, and the Moderator one hundred dollars (\$100) for each annual or special town meeting over which the moderator presides?**

The motion to approve Article 5 as amended passed.

**Article 6: To hear and to act on the report of the Town officers and the Auditor's report for the budget period July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.**

Billy Adams moved Article 6. A second was received.

There was no discussion.

The motion to approve Article 6 passed.

**Public Discussion of Non-Binding Town Business.**

Leighton Detora adjourned the Town Meeting at 3:59 PM.

Received, filed and recorded this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

Attest: Penny A Davis  
Town Clerk