

*Town Meeting Minutes Cont'd*

Larry Martin made the motion to move Article 10. Clyde Blake seconded the motion. Article 10 was opened for discussion. Discussion ensued. Treasurer Melissa Gahagan made the motion for the Town to appropriate the sum of \$701,186.00. The motion was seconded. The question was called. Article 10 passed in the affirmative.

**Article 11.** To raise such sum of money as may appear necessary for Town Expenses and Indebtedness for the ensuing year and to authorize collection of same by the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA 4791. Property taxes shall be billed on or before September 1, 2011 and shall be due and payable on or before October 3, 2011. Interest shall be at a rate allowed by law and shall be payable on all past due taxes.

Misty-Anne Koloski made the motion to move Article 11. Larry Martin seconded the motion. Article 11 was opened for discussion. Treasurer Melissa Gahagan made the motion to raise by taxes the sum of \$542,729.00 for Town Expenses and Indebtedness. The motion was seconded. Article 11 passed in the affirmative.

**Article 12.** Shall the Town increase the veteran's exemption amount from \$20,000.00 of the appraisal value to \$30,000.00, or \$40,000.00 of appraisal value in accord with 32 V.S.A. 3802 (11) first effective for the April 1, 2011 tax year?

Sandra Smith-Ordway made the motion to move Article 12. Clyde Blake seconded the motion. Article 12 was opened for discussion. Discussion ensued. The question was called. Article 12 was defeated.

**Article 13.** Shall the voters of the Town of Fairlee authorize the Forestry board to use at their discretion, a private forester for timber sales and forest management rather than a state or county forester. This private forester is to be compensated with funds from each respective forest account.

Lawrence Gatto made the motion to move Article 13. Larry Martin seconded the motion. Article 13 was opened for discussion. Discussion ensued. The question was called. Article 13 passed in the affirmative.

See notes next page....

Notes:

- The 2011 Town Meeting was held on March 6, 2012.
- David Matthews joined the FB in 2012. SB members were Barrett, Colby and Daly.
- Each of 5 earlier Timber Sales in the Lange Forest, overseen by the Orange County Forester had earned a modest profit.

The Lange HCRS contract does not prohibit the use of a private forester. However it

- requires• the Orange County Forester and Vermont Fish and (sic) Game to oversee virtually all forestry and recreation management aspects of the Lange Forest, including logging and trail building, repair and maintenance.

By including the words "...rather than...", Article 13 creates an opportunity for the Forest Board not to seek approval from the Orange County Forester and from VT Fish and Wildlife for logging and recreational activities, as required by the HCRS contract. (See the May 23, 1979, HCRS Recreation and Forest Management Plan.)

?Why propose hiring a private consultant when everything the town needed for forest management oversight was being provided at no cost by VT FPR and F&G?

?And importantly, given the requirements of the Lange Contract and the oversight responsibility to which the State has agreed, why refuse the virtual insurance the Town has against HCRS violations and the extraordinary expense it now faces to make required repairs?