

# TOWN OF HIGHGATE

## Approved Town Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

### A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Kyle Lothian, Town Moderator.

**Highgate Selectboard Members:** Sharon Bousquet; Joshua LaRocque; Randall Connelly; Bruce Butler; Richard Flint

**Highgate Staff:** Wendi Dusablon - Town Clerk; Shelley Laroche - Town Treasurer; Heidi Britch-Valenta – Town Administrator; Kyle Lothian – Moderator

### B. Pledge of Allegiance

Kyle Lothian asked everyone to stand. Highgate resident and Veteran Phil Ladue led the Pledge of Allegiance – thank you, Phil, for your service!

### C. Miscellaneous Information from the Moderator

- There will be no formal lunch this year. HVFD has refreshments available to purchase here in the gymnasium throughout the floor meeting.
- There will be three questions, per person, per article allowed, unless otherwise modified from the floor.
- If you are not a Highgate registered voter, same day voter registration is available at the check in table. Please make sure you are a registered voter prior to any paper ballots being called for. There will not be any voter registrations taking place in the middle of a paper ballot vote.
- Please remain respectful throughout the entire meeting. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Please wait for the microphone before speaking. State your name for the record and direct all questions to the moderator.
- This is a campaign free zone. No campaigning of any kind is allowed inside the polling location. This includes campaign materials of any kind and articles of clothing.
- Visit the Highgate Vol. Fire Department table for information on free smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors for your home.

### D. Town Report Dedication – Richard J. Noel

- Sharon Bousquet, Selectboard Chair, read aloud from the 2019 Town Report Dedication to Mr. Richard J. Noel. Richard stepped forward to be recognized and was presented with a plaque. Thank you, Richard, for all you do and have done!
- Sharon also presented Mrs. Georgette Roddy with flowers. Her husband, David, passed in December. We lost a valued member of our community and he is greatly missed.



**Richard J. Noel**

**2019**  
**TOWN**  
**REPORT**  
**DEDICATION**

Richard J. Noel is the first born of nine children, originally brought up in Connecticut. He moved to Vermont in the 1960's and worked on farms in the Highgate/Swanton area and as a parts man for a couple of businesses before purchasing a farm of his own. He and his wife, Maggie, farmed the Noel Dairy Farm on the Gore Road for over thirty years. They have three children, Eric, who passed on 12/18/2018, Sarah and Norbert, as well as six grandchildren. Richard enjoys tinkering in his shop and working on a variety of different projects. He has a great love for old cars/trucks, antique tractors, horses, history and genealogy.

Over the years, Richard has served the Highgate Community in a multitude of ways, and we are so grateful! He has served on the Selectboard, Planning Commission, Village Core Master Plan Committee, North West Regional Planning & Transportation Advisory Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment, as Town Service Officer, Solid Waste Management Committee, Justice of the Peace, Lister and Grand Juror. Richard was instrumental in keeping the Machia Road Bridge (B25) project moving forward to completion in the fall of 2019. Richard has spent countless hours researching information, equipment, the feasibility of projects and the history of the Town of Highgate.

Richard takes a common-sense approach and has a great passion for improving the community. He always seems to rise to any of the challenges he is presented with and nothing keeps him down, no matter the obstacle he is faced with. His knowledge and wisdom on a plethora of subjects have been greatly appreciated by the Town. Thank you, Richard!



**E. Legislative Updates (FRA-5) – Lisa Hango & Charen Fegard**

Motion by Chris Yates to allow Lisa and Charen to speak, as they are not Highgate residents. The motion was seconded by Chris Shepard – by voice vote - **PASSED**.

- Lisa Hango – FRA-5 Representative gave an update on what her committee has been working on: An omnibus alcohol bill – not numbered; A homeless bill of rights – H.401; A bill defining recovery residences (formerly known as sober houses) - H.783; A joint resolution apologizing for the eugenics movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup>

century – JRH.7; A rental housing safety and rehabilitation bill – H.739. She also gave an update on bills that have been addressed by the General Assembly: Paid family leave – H.107; ACT250 reform – H.926; Global warming solutions act – H.688; Raising the minimum wage – S.23; Taxation and regulation of recreational cannabis – S.54. She is also working on other issues on our behalf that include Lyme disease statutes; military pension tax exemptions; safety in work zones with regard to speeding and texting; and the condition of our roads. Specific to Highgate she has had conversations with the Secretary of the Agency of Transportation about the viability of a Highgate Welcome Center on I-89, the airport expansion and with VTrans about the Machia Road slide.

- Charen Fegard – FRA-5 Representative also gave an update on what her committee has been working on: Taxation and regulation of recreational cannabis – S.54. Surveys are available here today, please complete one for her data on this bill; Changes to current use – H.417; Regarding solar arrays on current use property – H.562; Regarding limited liability protection for agricultural tourism – H.269; Regarding clarification for adequate livestock shelter – H.254; Tree warden bill – H.673. Please contact Lisa or Charen with any questions or concerns. A clipboard is circulating if you wish to be added to their email lists for regular updates.

#### **F. Review of Articles**

Kyle Lothian, Moderator, read aloud through the warned articles of the 2020 Highgate Town Meeting Warning.

**The legal voters of the Town of Highgate Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Highgate Elementary School in the Town of Highgate on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 between the hours of seven o'clock in the forenoon (7am), at which times the polls will open, and seven o'clock in the evening (7pm), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Articles of business:**

**Article #1: To elect the following town officers: (on Australian ballot)**

- 1) A Moderator for the ensuing year;**
- 2) One Selectboard Member for the term of two (2) years;**
- 3) One Selectboard Member for the term of three (3) years;**
- 4) One Lister for the term of three (3) years;**
- 5) One Trustee of Trust Funds for the term of three (3) years;**
- 6) One Library Trustee for the term of five (5) years;**
- 7) One Cemetery Commissioner for the term of five (5) years;**

Motion by Chris Yates, seconded by Ryan Maskell.

There were no questions or discussion on this article. Article #1 by voice vote – **PASSED.**

**The legally qualified voters of the Town of Highgate Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Highgate Elementary School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10am to transact the following business:**

**Article #2 – To receive and act on the reports of the town officers for the past year.**

Motion by Scott Martin, seconded by Claude Chevalier.

There were no questions or discussion on this article. Article #2 by voice vote – **PASSED.**

**Article #3: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate set the final date of payment for FY2020/2021 property taxes to be Friday, October 30, 2020 with payments to be received in the town office by 4:30pm?**

Motion by Chris Yates, seconded by Scott Martin.

There were no questions or discussion on this article. Article #3 by voice vote – **PASSED.**

**Article #4: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$7,424 for home health services provided by Franklin County Home Health Agency, Inc.?**

Motion by Henry Rainville, seconded by Brandi Maskell.

Liza Comiskey, Highgate resident and FCHH employee, was present to answer any questions about this appropriation request. Because the request is over \$1,000.00 it had to be petitioned and warned, per the town's policy. FCHH has been serving the community since 1969 and they depend on funding sources, like municipalities, to help with the cost of care. Their request is based on census numbers and is the same dollar amount requested as in the last few years. A yes vote on this article is a yes vote for the health and wellness of those who live here. Last year, FCHH provided 2,377 home visits to 90 members of the Highgate community. There were no further questions or comments on this article. Article #4 by voice vote – **PASSED.**

**Article #5: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate amend the start time for Town Meeting beginning in March 2021 to 9:00am?**

Motion by Chris Yates, seconded by Brandi Maskell.

This article was tabled last year at Town Meeting. Richard Noel asked why this is being requested. Sharon explained that the topic has been brought up by residents to start earlier and be finished by the lunch hour. This way, residents would only need to take a half day off from work, as opposed to a full day off to attend the floor meeting. Henry Rainville asked if the school vote being moved to the ballot affected this. Yes, it does make a difference in our floor meeting, and typically it should be much shorter. Lynn Calderwood asked how this change would affect the farming community. The question was posed to the farmers present in the room. Amber Machia stated that the earlier start would affect her and she would be late. Rebecca Howrigan and Scott Bessette feel it will make it more difficult. David Rouse feels this change is a good idea and long overdue. There were no other questions or discussion on this article. Article #5 by voice vote – **INCONCLUSIVE.** Article #5 by show of hands 51 YES – 27 NO – **PASSED.**

**Article #6: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate authorize the adoption of a Tax Stabilization Plan?**

Motion by Chris Yates, seconded by Claude Chevalier.

Sharon read from state statute and explained what a tax stabilization plan is and why this article was warned. The Planning Commission worked on this over several meetings, which were warned to the public. The PC then brought it to the Selectboard, but ultimately, by statute, it needs to be approved by the voters. The main purpose it to help and encourage commercial development in our town and to increase our grand list. Copies of the plan were available for review. Norm McAllister asked about the cost to taxpayers. There was discussion on incrementally increasing the percentage of taxes due over a five-year period of time. It was noted that this plan only applies to the municipal portion of taxes, not the educational taxes. Henry Rainville asked about the

criteria within the policy. He agrees we need more businesses and that would be a benefit to all, his issue is that he is being asked to vote on something and he doesn't know what he is voting on. He feels there needs to be more info given to the voters and be given the opportunity to tweak it if felt to be necessary. The crowd was asked for a show of hands to indicate who would like to see more information – there were many hands raised. Sharon understands this, and suggested the article be tabled if people need more information. Ty Choiniere inquired if there were currently any businesses looking to come to town that this would affect if we put this off. Currently there are none. With the airport expansion project, we have been approached by an individual who would like to develop his former sand pit into warehouse lots. We are not in any legal agreements, nor have we offered anything. This proposal is an incentive for commercial development. The same individual mentioned above has interest in the Jedware property and is pursuing the clean up of that property. Chris Yates asked if we table this today and come back to it in twelve months, are we affecting any future businesses during that time? It is certainly possible, but we could arrange to hold a special town meeting if that were the case and a timing issue arose. Ryan Maskell asked about the airport expansion completion timeline. The state has promised a completion time several times now and it keeps changing due to money. The possibility of bringing water and sewer to the airport is also currently being seriously explored. David Rouse had questions about taxes. Sharon spoke to the tax increases projected by the town based on this year's warned articles and budgets. Josh LaRocque also spoke to incentives to bringing businesses here. Motion by Chris Yates to table this article until next town meeting (12 months) unless a business approaches the town and it would benefit the town to hold a special town wide vote. The motion was seconded by Chris Shepard. The discussion continued with Henry Rainville asking to have this motion modified to include three informal sessions at regular Selectboard meetings. Richard Noel wants to establish this plan to entice people to come in. You entice people with facts and figures. Richard feels it is costly to hold another vote and would like to see this voted through today and enact the tax stabilization plan. Tim Gingras motioned to move the question. Kyle reread the motion as it currently stands on the floor. Article #6 by voice vote – **FAILED as amended**. We are back to the original article. Claude Chevalier asked for clarification on the article. Sharon read from the state statute. Claude's concern is we would be giving tax favored status to new businesses coming in over existing businesses in town. It was clarified that this only applies to the municipal portion of taxes, not the educational taxes. Henry Rainville asked each of the Selectboard members to indicate if they are in support of this article and the tax stabilization plan and if they were well versed and in agreement with it. All five Selectboard members answered yes. The Selectboard accepted the proposal from the Planning Commission in order to present it here at Town Meeting. Ty Choiniere asked about the steps to amend the plan if needed in the future. Bruce Butler responded that, at the very least, another article would be brought before the voters at Town Meeting or at a Special Town Meeting. Community members can also reach out to Planning Commission members with comments and suggestions. Scott Martin asked about other towns that have adopted a plan such as this one. The Planning Commission looked at plans in Georgia, St. Albans and Winooski as part of the process. Luc Dupuis, Chair of the Planning Commission, spoke with regard to the tax stabilization plan and the process they took in which to get here today. Keith Machia spoke about the t-shirts some residents are wearing here today from the Village Core Master Plan Committee "from the past to the future". He feels we can't keep putting the burden on the taxpayers and we need to move forward. Keith agrees with Mr. Noel that we need to entice businesses to want to come here to build our tax base and create jobs. Henry

Rainville asked about agriculture based businesses and if they qualify for this plan. Sharon referred to the state statute again, reading aloud from it. The current use program is already in place to address tax relief for ag based businesses. Ryan Maskell asked when the informational meetings were held on this plan. There were several warned Planning Commission meetings held, as well as one Selectboard meeting. There were no further questions or discussion on this article. Article #6, as originally presented, by voice vote – **PASSED**.

**Article #7: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate authorize the elimination of the office(s) of Trustee of Trust Funds, with future tasks to be absorbed by the office of the Town Treasurer or as directed by the Selectboard?**

Motion by Henry Rainville, seconded by David Rouse.

Henry Rainville asked for an explanation of this article. Clarence Miller and Evangeline LaRocque are here, they are our current trustees. David Roddy was the third trustee. Clarence explained that they feel it is best for the town if the job is done by the treasurer and have the money where it belongs. Volunteers are running thin and it is hard to find people to run for the positions. Shelley Laroche, treasurer, added that the auditors would also like to see this change. It will not be a ton of extra work for Shelley and she has the support of the trustees and former trustees if she has questions. There were no other questions or discussion on this article. Article #7 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

**Article #8: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate authorize a one-time, four-year term for the office of Town Clerk in 2022 in an effort to stagger the terms of the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer?**

Motion by Ryan Maskell, seconded by Chris Yates.

There were no questions or discussion on this article. Article #8 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

**Article #9 : Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate strongly support the completion of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and urge the Governor and Legislature to jointly develop a plan that will ensure the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is completed by 2025?**

Motion by Claude Chevalier, seconded by Chad Carr.

Ty Choiniere stated he knows the Governor put the funding in the budget to complete the LVRT but money can be moved around and this motion may help ensure completion. Sharon explained that the town, and many others, were asked to include this warned article to show solid support for the project. There is opportunity for economic growth in the area around the LVRT. Mr. Ken Brown, Trails Manager for the LVRT project, was present to answer questions. Motion by Chris Yates to allow Mr. Brown to speak, as he is not a Highgate resident. The motion was seconded by Ryan Maskell – **PASSED**. Mr. Brown noted that if this passes and the funding stays in place the section in town to be constructed would connect our village to Swanton as soon as this coming summer. Butch Brosseau asked about funding that was allocated twice for this project already. Mr. Brown answered that the original funding came in 2006 with federal support and VAST had the matching funds for it. The project was held up by ACT250 for ten years and everything was much more expensive. Tim Gingras asked if there is any dollar amount attached to this article. No, it is just a show of support in favor of the completion of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. There were no other questions or discussion on this article. Article #9 by voice vote – **PASSED**.



The department column totals are as follows: Parks & Recreation \$20,000.00; Highgate Library & Community Center \$25,000.00; Highgate Vol. Fire Department \$25,000.00; Public Works \$205,000.00; In & Around Town Capital Projects \$100,000.00. Total = \$375,000.00 request before the voters today. The Selectboard is trying to be mindful of the tax rate by keeping the CIP budget as low as possible and still meet our needs. This years CIP is down from last year. Last years approved CIP was \$450,000.00. David Rouse asked about leasing trucks and equipment vs. purchasing and if that would save us money. That is something the board would need to look at. Richard Noel agrees with David Rouse – it's a good point that needs to be explored. Henry Rainville has concerns about the excavator. Our public works department is maxed out work-wise and we have hired some work out already. He feels our excavator is under used for the most part. Henry brought up the road shoulders and mowing that needs to be done. The crew needs the tools to get this work done. If we were proactive about mowing the road sides and dealing with road shoulders it would save money on pavement and upkeep. We could talk to landowners about being on their land to mow and maintain ditches also. Butch Brosseau, Public Works Director, responded that their time is limited and special projects have added to their work load. The high shoulders have been an issue the entire 18 years he has worked here. There are only three members on the crew to get everything done. This leads us back to the question – is it more prudent to hire work out? Last year we set aside funds for extra crew time. We had a hard time finding someone who wants to work for us. David Rouse wanted to give his additional two questions to Henry Rainville. Henry fully supports the public works department. He wonders where the funds will come from for any shortfall on the mower. We can move funds around if that is what the voters decide to do. Chris Yates asked about the side arm mower and what are we using the tractor for if we don't have the arm. Richard Flint added that the board members have talked about going out to bid to do the road sides. Henry asked for figures on this so the voters can make an educated decision. Richard Flint wants the board to address it and discuss it again about subbing things out or adding a fourth person to the crew full time. Henry, personally, would like to see us sub out what needs to be. There were no other questions or discussion on this article. Article #10 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

**Article #11: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$817,129.00 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Fund, with an estimated \$665,879 to be raised by taxes?**

Motion by Henry Rainville, seconded by Chris Yates.

Henry Rainville asked what is scheduled to be paved this year. Sharon and Butch answered: Frontage Road where the new culvert was installed; Gore Road from Cassidy to the north end of Tarte Road; A short section of Morey Road; Hanna Road from Rt. 78 less than 1 mile. And they will be looking at a short section of Machia Road at the Sheldon town line. Butch requested an additional \$25,000.00 for paving expenses in his budget. Chris Yates asked about crew wages, noting that they are out there doing a heck of a job while the rest of us are asleep. Chris also asked about insurance rates hikes and performance reviews. Sharon noted that they met with the crew a few times. Luke Choiniere is the newest employee. All PWD employees received a raise, and it was requested that Luke receive a larger increase then the others. On the recommendation of Butch that request was granted. Chris asked if the raises given were enough to cover the insurance hikes. It was stated that our insurance premiums went up 12% this year. There were no other questions or discussion on this article. Article #11 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

**Article #12: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$1,051,862.00 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund, with an estimated \$449,804.00 to be raised by taxes?**

Motion by Chris Yates, seconded by Ty Choiniere.

Ty asked why there were no reports in the 2019 Town Report from St. Albans Police Department and Missisquoi Valley Rescue. He would like to see some numbers from them on what we are getting for what we are spending. Neither SAPD or MVR submitted anything to the town by the deadline for printing of the town report. Henry Rainville asked for an explanation on page 51 of the town report with regard to the budget change for St. Albans Police Department. SAPD raised their hourly rate substantially. The board talked about whether or not they wanted to stay in that direction and unanimously they felt that SAPD had done a much better job than the service prior. The board did not feel a change was necessary or that the previous service came close with regard to services and effectiveness that we have experienced since 7/1/19 when we switched to SAPD for policing services. Shelley Laroche noted that the revenue the town receives from tickets was already double what we had received in the prior year. Shelley can get more firm numbers to present at a Selectboard meeting. Ty noted that the ticket revenue is coming out of taxpayer's pockets. He has heard of incidents where people are pulled over for speeding and receive four or five additional tickets. He referred to it as a "bull in a china shop". Sharon answered that SAPD is actually trying to do quite the opposite. They are trying to be community centered. Yes, residents have been ticketed and we all know we are going to get ours eventually. SAPD offers a drug task force and a canine unit. They are very active in the community and in our schools. We want our children to know that you can go to a police officer and feel safe. Little by little we are achieving these goals. Josh LaRocque added that SAPD has responded to our town even when they were not scheduled to be covering. They have been very good to us. SAPD provides regular updates for us and they attend meetings where residents can ask Chief Taylor questions. Bruce Butler chimed in that we are starting to get what we are paying for as opposed to our previous situation. Chris Yates asked to clarify if SAPD coverage hours are being increased, or just their hourly rate. We are going from 24 hours per week of coverage to 26 hours per week of coverage based on what was budgeted for after their rate increase. Bruce also commented that the community is seeing SAPD out on our roads a lot and if folks are getting fines they are probably deserved. There were no other questions or discussion on this article. Article #12 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

**Article #13: To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted, considered proper and necessary when met.**

Motion by Chris Yates, seconded by Ryan Maskell.

- Richard Noel found an edit from the Town Meeting 2019 minutes on page 14 of this year's town report, the word "not" should be added so the sentence reads "It was also noted that if the roads are *not* plowed, the fire trucks can't get there". Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk, will make sure that is edited.
- David Rouse asked if in future town reports that page numbers could be added next to warned articles. Shelley Laroche stated that the town report includes a table of contents for reference purposes.
- Chris Yates circled back to the beginning of this meeting when we honored Mr. Richard Noel. Richard was a huge influence on Chris and a wealth of knowledge to him when he served on the Selectboard. His years on the Transportation Advisory Committee pushing the new Machia Road bridge (Bridge 25) through design phase after design phase and working with property owners to see the bridge to completion

do not go unnoticed. Richard is also working on many other things in town with regard to the safety of our roads. Motion by Chris Yates to dedicate the newly constructed bridge on Machia Road (Bridge 25) to Richard Noel. The motion was seconded by Sharon Bousquet. Mr. Noel added that the bridge in Highgate Falls is dedicated to a former Selectboard member, Mr. Sanderson. The motion to dedicate the newly constructed bridge on Machia Road (Bridge 25) to Richard Noel – by voice vote – **PASSED** followed by a round of applause.

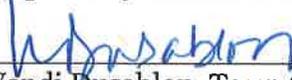
- Sue Cota let the crowd know that there will be another bake sale this year on Memorial Day to benefit the Veterans Memorial in the town park. She also noted there will be a public presentation on the VCMP wastewater study on March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. Lastly, Sue added that she enjoyed the holiday light contest “Deck The Homes” sponsored through the Parks & Recreation Department during the holidays and hopes they do it again this year.
- Ty Choiniere spoke on behalf of the Memorial Day Committee. Along with the Parks & Recreation Commission they are working to upgrade the Veterans Memorial in the town park. The intent is to add two wing walls to the current monument to extend the names, which currently only go up to the Vietnam War era. They are working with Camp Precast on this project and hope to add electrical upgrades as well so the flag will be lit from the monument. The paver bricks will need to be replaced and the shrubs have already been removed. A new flagpole will be needed also. Sharon Bousquet added that the Memorial Day committee is looking for a \$5,000.00 appropriation from the voters to help redo the monument. There was a motion made by Gerard LaBrie, seconded by Brandi Maskell to ask the voters for \$5,000.00 to be used to upgrade the monument as discussed above. Henry Rainville feels we can't do this because it was not warned. There was further discussion on this and it was decided that this should have taken place and adjusted during the General Fund discussion. Mr. LaBrie amended his motion to approve the \$5,000.00 if it were available from the General Fund. The discussion continued, noting it is still money we are spending and it was not warned – this should have happened under article #12. Sharon asked that we *table* this request until we can get correct info and an idea of where the funding would be coming from.
- Liza Comiskey reminded everyone that HVFD has smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors available, free of charge. Smoke detectors have a 10-year life and they are dated on the back. Carbon monoxide detectors need replacing every 5-7 years. HVFD also offers car seat installation, contact the department for more information.
- Ryan Maskell spoke on behalf of Parks & Recreation. A table is set up here in the gym today with lots of information about programming and a survey is available as well. Dan Beauregard is our director and he is here today and available for questions. The department wants to serve people of all ages.
- Scott Martin thanked the Highgate Elementary facilities staff for their great work setting up for today.
- Ty Choiniere asked about the Nadeau property trustees and if they are still in place. Clarence Miller, Lisa Wells and David Roddy were appointed to be the trustees. We lost David tragically in December, Lisa is not here today, but Clarence was present. He would like to know what his assignments are with regard to this. No information has been shared with him with regard to this.
- David Rouse asked about the sound system. We are using the school's system today, but the town does have their own. It was brought over today but there were

issues with set up and the knowledge of those present to do so. In the essence of time, Scott Martin offered to set up their system for today's meeting.

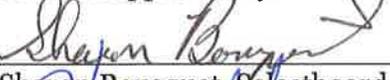
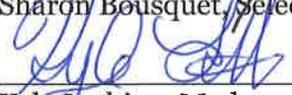
- Sharon Bousquet, Highgate Selectboard Chair, ended the meeting on an inspirational note, pointing out many of the wonderful things happening in our town. Today has been very positive and she feels blessed to be a member of this community. Sharon highlighted the following: Clarence Miller was honored as a Veteran in 2019 with an honor flight to Washington D.C. for his military service. Thank you, Clarence, for your service! Christine Depatie was nationally recognized with the Presidential Award in Science and Mathematics. She is a wonderful teacher – thank you, Christine! Liza Comiskey received state recognition with regard to child safety seat installation. Thank you for your service and looking after our children, Liza! As always, our Public Works Department does a wonderful job year-round, we are very grateful for the crew. Thank you Butch, Nick and Luke for all you do! Highgate Vol. Fire Department – they go when nobody else wants to. They protect us and keep our property safe. Thank you HVFD for all you do! The ladies at the Town Office – Wendi (Town Clerk), Shelley (Town Treasurer) and Heidi (Town Administrator) – we couldn't do it without you, thank you ladies! Josh LaRocque is leaving the Selectboard after serving two terms. Thank you, Josh, for your service and for helping Butch and the crew as Road Commissioner! Lastly, if you have a chance, stop by OC McCuin & Sons as they celebrate 100 years in business in 2020. McCuins has been a staple in this community for 100 years and they deserve our respect and our thanks.

Motion by Chris Yates to adjourn Town Meeting 2020 @ 12:12pm. The motion was seconded by Claude Chevalier – by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk  
3/19/2020

Minutes approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Bousquet, Selectboard Chair  
  
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Kyle Lothian, Moderator

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**Highgate results at the polls 3/3/2020**      check list total 2,270 / 688 Highgate voters on 3/3/2020

Republican Presidential Primary Ballot: De La Fuente – 3; Trump - 304; Weld – 12

Democratic Presidential Primary Ballot: Biden – 105; Bloomberg – 42; Buttigieg – 11; Castro – 1; Gabbard – 3; Klobuchar – 6; Patrick – 1; Sanders – 165; Stewart – 2; Steyer – 0; Warren – 11; Williamson – 1; Yang – 4

Town Ballot: Board of Listers Samantha Derosia – 609; Cemetery Commissioner Dennis Nolan 641; Moderator Kyle Lothian 634; Selectboard Member 2 year term Kyle Lothian 624; Selectboard Member 3 year term Bruce Butler 571; Trustee of Trust Funds – these positions were eliminated from the floor; Library Trustee – no one received enough write in votes (22 needed).

Missisquoi Valley School District Ballot: School District Moderator Timothy Magnant – 2,224; School District Clerk Nola Gilbert - 2,162; School District Treasurer Georgette Roddy – 2,195; School Director from Franklin Joanne Johnson (received enough write in votes); School Director from Highgate Steven Scott – 2,033; School Director from Swanton Terri O'Shea – 2,084; MVSD Budget \$37,906,229.00 passed 1,225 YES / 1,049 NO.

Respectfully submitted , Wendi Dusablon, Highgate Town Clerk

