

Town of Woodbury, Vermont
PRE-TOWN MEETING FORUM
February 27, 2025
Minutes

The Pre-Town Meeting Forum was called to order by Moderator Stephen Murphy at 6:10 PM.

He explained that the purpose of the Forum is to review the Articles in the Town Meeting Warning and answer questions in a less formal setting prior to the actual Town Meeting. The Forum has historically been informal, but recently the Vermont League of Cities and Towns has informed him that the meeting must be considered as a Select Board meeting and subject to the Open Meeting Law. Thus, these minutes.

Article 2 – To consider the written Town Report. Steve explains that if any errors are noted in the report, they must be corrected by a motion to be voted on at the meeting.

Article 3 – Election of Officers –

Steve Murphy explained a change in the voting system that he has learned about in a webinar with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. During ballot voting, which is required for the positions of Select Board, Lister and Auditor, they must make a record of who voted, if there is a need to count ballots in a contested election. VLCT advises that when people bring up their little white ballots to the ballot box, each person must state their name to be checked off on a copy of the voter checklist. If the election is not contested, no ballots are needed and the clerk can cast one ballot for the candidate.

He believes this process is necessary to insure that no person who is not a registered voter, attempts to cast a vote. Retta Dunlap asked whether this process, which seems extremely cumbersome, is required by a statute, or a rule, or what. Steve will research an answer.

Elections -

Robin Durkee will run for another 3-year term as Town Clerk

Lilly Baron will run for the one-year Treasurer position

Diana Peduzzi will run for another 3-year term on the Select Board

John Reid will run for another 3-year term as Auditor

Brandy Smith will run for another one-year term as Delinquent Tax Collector.

There is no announced candidate for the 3-year Lister term
There is no announced candidate for the 5-year Cemetery Commissioner term but it is rumored that Patti Garbeck will run for another term.
There are three open seats for the Library Board and no announced candidates were at this meeting.
Laura Murphy intends to run for the open seat on the Hazen Union High School board.

There were no comments on Article 4 regarding the collection of taxes
There were no comments on Article 5, the Library budget or Article 6, the Cemetery budget.

Articles 7, 8 and 9 were about the Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department budgets, for equipment, operations, and the new fire station. Paul Cerutti and Retta Dunlap explained that the amount requested is only about 1% more than last year. The call volume is down a little from last year but they are having more calls for elderly needing transport to a hospital, and fewer drug-related rescues. The new building is almost ready but there are a number of small punch-list items to be dealt with. There will be an open house in the spring.

There were no comments on Articles 10-30 regarding small appropriations to area non-profit service organizations.

There were no comments or questions regarding Article 31, the town's General Fund budget, or Article 32, the town's Highway budget.

The group discussed the best way to arrange Town Meeting, whether to allow for presentations from school board members and our State Representatives. It was decided that the legislators should be invited to come at around noon, to speak just before lunch and then be available for individuals to ask questions before or during the lunch break. Lunch will be provided by the Friends of WES, and offered by donation.

The meeting ended at about 7:00.

Chris Casey, Select Board Member _____ Dated _____

Diana Peduzzi, Select Board Member _____