

Town of Isle La Motte  
Town Meeting  
March 4, 2017  
Isle La Motte Elementary School/10:00 AM

Legal voters present: Steve Stata-Selectman/Chair, Rustam Spaulding-Selectman & Town & School Moderator, Selby Turner-Selectman, Michele Murray-Clerk/Treasurer, Peter Murray, Terrance Tuck, Joyce Tuck, Marjorie Bertram, Ann McKay, Betty Lockerby-Justice of the Peace, Art Larvey-Trustee of Public Funds, John Yartz, Dale Patnode, Jane Zera-School Director, Paul Zera-Justice of the Peace, Debbie Spaulding-Lister/Chair, Louise Koss-School Director-Chair & Lister, Bill Howland, Charles Gurney, Patty Lockerby, Shelly Walters, Cathy Tudhope-Justice of the Peace & Auditor, Sylvia Jensen-Auditor, Barbara Callahan-Trustee of Public Funds, Jennifer Rafferty-School Director, Toby Peacock, Allen Hall, Mark Zera, Mary LaBrecque-Delinquent Tax Collector & Lister, Robert Dean, Bruce LaBombard, Alma Patnode, Carol Michaels, Bertha Reed, Mr. & Mrs. Brennon, Carol Stata, Keri Johnson, Bill Johnson, Maureen Turner, Jackie Jarvis, Lucinda Varga, Robert Varga, Elizabeth Lee, Alexandra Montagne, David Ratta, Kathleen Balutansky, Peter Brzozowy

Other: Brenda Delude, Ray Allen-Grand Isle Sheriff, 22 News, Doug DiSabito-Grand Isle County States Attorney, Mitzi Johnson-Vermont State Representative, Ben Joseph-Vermont State Representative, students/reporters from St. Michaels College, Tonya Poultly-Islander Newspaper

Rustam Spaulding-Town Moderator called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

The assemblage pledged allegiance to the flag.

Moderator asked to see a show of hands of those who are not legal voters of the town. **Debbie Spaulding made a motion to allow those not registered to vote to speak, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby, all in favor.**

Moderator Spaulding read from the Official Warning: The legal voters of the Town of Isle La Motte are hereby warned to meet at the Isle La Motte Elementary School on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 10:00 AM to transact the following articles of business.

Moderator Spaulding requested that, all articles read will be motioned to move and 2<sup>nd</sup> by the same persons (Debbie Spaulding & Betty Lockerby) as to allow the process to move through smoothly.

Ray Allen-Grand Isle Sheriff had discussion; activity on the island the day before was due to vehicle traveling 30 miles over the speed limit through town. The driver abandoned his car and pursuit of the driver took place. A dozen border patrols, helicopters and several state and county police were involved. The driver of the car was found in the woods near School Street and Main Street. The person was not a resident of Isle La Motte and did admit to having cocaine on his person.

Doug DiSabito-Grand Isle County States Attorney had discussion; we are not tolerating this behavior.

Maureen Turner had discussion; this person was on her property.

Ray Allen thanked the residents; the residents thanked Ray Allen with a round of applause.

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers as published in the Town Report?  
**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Marjorie Bertram had discussion; the library has arranged for free internet service through Surf Global for the Library, Town office and the School. Why has the Town not taken advantage of?

Stata had discussion; it was tested, not a lot of signal there. This will be looked into again.

Sylvia Jensen had discussion; thanked Mike Daly for his years of service as auditor and his patience and guidance over the past months.

ARTICLE 2: Will the legal voters of the Town vote to apply any general fund surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Motion to approve by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 3: Will the legal voters of the Town authorize the Select Board to borrow in anticipation of Taxes:

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby**

No discussion.

**Motion to approve by Louise Koss, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie Spaulding, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804(a), authorize the establishment of a reserve fund in the total amount of \$5,200.00 to be expended for the purpose of employing a certified public accountant to audit the Town financial records every three (3) years commencing in 2017?.

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Motion to approve by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 5: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$42,800.00 to the Isle La Motte Volunteer Fire Co., Inc. to provide fire and emergency medical services to the Town?

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Moderator told the crowd that the Fire Dept. budget was available to look at.

Bill Johnson had discussion; thanked the town's people. Small grant monies are going away. The budget is down this year by a few hundred dollars. A new tanker truck was purchased. The new truck is able to pump back to the engine.

No further discussion.

**Motion to approve by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 6: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$2,020.00 to the Visiting Nurses Association?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Motion to approve by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Louise Koss, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 7: Will the legal voters of the Town approve the sum of \$700.00 to the Northwestern Counseling & Support Services?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Motion made by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 8: Will the legal voters of the Town approve the sum of \$700.00 to the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Motion to approve by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 9: Will the legal voters of the Town approve the sum of \$493.00 to the Northwest Regional Planning Commission?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Motion to approve by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 10: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$500.00 to the Lake Champlain Islands Economic Development Corp.?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Stata had discussion; offers small business grants and provides trainings.

Allen Hall had discussion; this agency has helped me with grant monies.

Carol Stata had discussion; this organization is here to help small businesses and economic growth.

No further discussion.

**Maureen Turner made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 11: Will the legal voters of the Town approve the sum of \$50.00 for Green Up Vermont?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Motion made by Louise Koss, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie Spaulding, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 12: Will the legal voters of the Town approve the sum of \$14,500.00 to the Isle La Motte School for community use of the school building?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Charles Gurney had discussion; how does this work, what does the money pay for?

Louise Koss had discussion; Act 60 provided an opportunity to save approx., 50 cents per dollar that was sent to the state for education expense. This amount was shifted to the town through this appropriation to save the money. \$14,500.00 is spread over the entire tax base. If this amount was kept in the school budget it would cost the tax payers the 50 cents more per dollar spent.

The school use consists of use of the building operating costs and nothing more. If the trash generated by any group goes over and above what the school pays for trash removal then any group would be charge for the extra.

Sylvia Jensen had discussion; question on procedure and percentage of use of the school, Louise states that this discussion should be had with the School Board.

Shelly Waters had discussion; others use plates and such. Louise Koss had discussion; groups have to have permission to store supplies.

Maureen Turner had discussion; Zumba is a non-profit and should pay for the use of school.

Steve Stata had discussion; it is not the Select Boards position to recommend any charges to the School Board.

No further discussion.

**Maureen Turner made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie Spaulding, all in favor of Article # 12, article passed, (four opposed)**

ARTICLE 13: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$1,000.00 to Friends of Northern Lake Champlain?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion moved by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Sylvia Jensen had discussion; Terry Anderson is a member of this board.

No further discussion.

**Debbie Spaulding made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 14: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$250.00 to the Franklin Grand Isle Restorative Justice Center?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion moved by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Charles Gurney had discussion; the District Attorney refers people to the center.

Doug DiSabito had discussion; oversees this program.

No further discussion.

**Maureen Turner made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Louise Koss, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 15: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$100.00 to Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion moved by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Bill Johnson had discussion; this past year the Fire Company spent \$3,000 for dry hydrants.

No other discussion

**Debbie Spaulding made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 16: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$5,000.00 to the Cemetery Commission for restoration of graves?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion moved by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Sylvia Jensen had discussion; the commissioners reinstate back \$300.00 each to the restoration fund.

Barbara Callahan had discussion; questions the commissioners on how the monies are used that are in the Vanguard account.

No Cemetery Commissioner was present to provide an answer.

No other discussion.

**Debbie Spaulding made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 17: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$1,000.00 to Island Arts?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion moved by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Louise Koss made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Howland, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 18: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$1,000.00 to Voices Against Violence-Laurie's House?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion moved by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Bill Howland made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie Spaulding, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 19: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$250.00 for Big Heavy World?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion moved by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Bill Howland had discussion; this group has a long track record and knows this agency to be legitimate.

Louise Koss had discussion; is anyone from here involved with this agency.

No other discussion.

**Bill Howland made a motion to reduce the amount to \$100.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Callahan, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 20: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$295.00 to Vermont Center for Independent Living?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion moved by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

No discussion.

**Louise Koss made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Howland, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 21: Will the legal voters of the Town approve a sum of \$200.00 for Green Up Day?

Moderator Spaulding explained the basis for the appropriation.

**Motion to move by Debbie Spaulding, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby.**

Sylvia Jensen had discussion on Green Up Day; the monies will be used for gloves, supplies and community food. Tony Fowler and Terry Anderson are coordinators. ILMCO is looking for appropriation of up to \$200.00.

**Louise Koss made a motion to amend the article to; for food, food supplies and other clean up supplies for Green UP, up to a maximum reimbursement of up to \$200.00.**

**Debbie Spaulding made a motion to approve the amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Zera, all in favor.**

ARTICLE 22: To transact any other business proper to come before this meeting and to discuss any article to be voted upon by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

The legal voters of the Town of Isle La Motte are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Isle La Motte Town Hall on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM at which time the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot.

Article 1. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers:

Town Moderator, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Select Board (3yrs) Delinquent Tax Collector, Lister 2 yrs & 3 yrs), Constable, Town Agent, Cemetery Commission (3 yrs), Grand Juror, Trustee of Public Funds (3 yrs), Auditor (3 Yrs).

Article 2. Shall the legal voters of the Town approve a budget of \$438,053.00 as approved by the Select Board to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town for 2017: \$318,033.00 to be raised by taxes, \$23,393.00 to be covered by General Fund Surplus, and \$96,627.00 by non-tax revenue?

Sylvia Jensen had discussion; town report sticker, general fund report, 2016 statement of taxes, highway fund, 2017 process made better.

Rustam Spaulding had discussion and read from an article on Lyme Disease. 50% of ticks in our area carry Lyme Disease.

Ben Joseph had discussion; 8 weeks on the job. On the education committee. Mindful of the tax burden to all. Do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Discussion with Representatives:

Assessment, town wide appraisal, mandated outside appraisal companies, financial burden on the taxpayers, current use, trailer appraisals, campground trailers, value on travel trailers, property tax is most regressive form of taxation, large tracks of land without buildings, Shrine contribution, homestead act, retired tax payers, teachers paying higher medical fees, storm water, farms and communities dealing with runoff, penalties to address the runoff problems, millions of dollars have been spent dealing/targeting these runoff areas, emergency calls taxed by the state, tax non-profit and not churches.

Mitzi Johnson had discussion; is speaker of the house. Convened a working group on Education finance.

Conversations; Sylvia Jensen, Debbie Spaulding, Rustam Spaulding, Selby Turner, Louise Koss, Steve Stata, Maureen Turner, Bill Howland, Bill Johnson

Rustam Spaulding had discussion; Class of 6<sup>th</sup> graders are having a benefit for a school trip.  
Charles Gurney had discussion; hot dogs are free.

Barbara Callahan had discussion; question, is the appraisal monies included in the General Fund total expenses.

Stata explained that the lister expenses are included in the total expenses.

Michele Murray explained that the lister expenses are included in the general fund total expenses.

Joyce Tuck had discussion; would like to thank all that came to the Halloween event. The library thanks all who donated to the event. Thanksgiving time there will be an event planned for all.

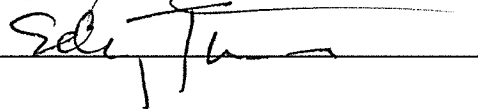
John Yartz had discussion; wondering why the Auditors report/findings is located in the back.  
Spaulding had a discussion; this report is not to be discussed and as an FYI this report should not even be in the building. The town is not recognizing the document.

John Yartz had discussion; feeling singled out as a contractor in town that has to follow a certain set of rules while other contractors do not, who to talk to about this information that appears in this report.  
Many answered; the auditors.

**Debbie Spaulding made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Lockerby, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted: Michele Murray-Town Clerk

Rustam Spaulding-Moderator  Date: 3-15-17

Selby Turner-Selectman  Date: 3/15/17