

**Minutes to Annual Sweden Town Meeting
March 24, 2012**

The Town Clerk, Alberta Ridlon called for the Pledge of Allegiance at 9 A.M.

There were two requests for announcements:

- Julie McQueen has been in contact with Connect Maine to try and get high speed internet into Sweden through FairPoint Communications. They have applied for a grant to do this and Sweden is in the top four choices of towns to receive this. She is asking everyone to write a note/e-mail to her so she can pass on our response as to how important this is to us.
- Richard Lyman, president of the Historical Society, wanted to let the town's people know that the historical society is in the process of purchasing the brick Center School House from the Sweden Community Church. They will then apply for a grant to restore it. Also, he brought to our attention that next year, 02-26-2013, will be Sweden's 200th birthday. He is interested in getting ideas from the citizens for the celebration and working with the town to make this happen.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. and the following articles were acted on:

WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING

To Sarah Rose, Constable of the Town of Sweden, County of Oxford, State of Maine,

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sweden in said county, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at Sweden Town Meeting House, in said Town, **on Saturday, the 24th day of March AD 2012, at nine o'clock in the morning,** then and there to act on the following Articles, to wit:

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Wayne Miller nominated Ed Ryan for moderator. There were no other nominations. There were 3 votes cast all for Ed Ryan. Alberta Ridlon, Town Clerk, administered the oath and Ed Ryan took over the meeting.

Article 2. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow monies in anticipation of taxes as may be required to operate the services of the Town.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Louis Clark made the motion to accept the article as read. It was passed with a show of hands.

Article 3. To elect all Town Officers: (1) Selectmen, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of three years; (1) Registrar of Voters, 2 years (1) Planning Board member, 5 years; (2) Planning Board alternates, 1 year; (1) Appeals Board member, 5 years; (2) Appeals Board alternates; (1) S.A.D. member, 3 years; (1) S.A.D. #72 alternate, 1 year; and any other necessary officers.

- *Selectmen, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for 3 years: James Willey nominated Kristin Venza. No other nominations. 4 votes cast for Kristin.*
- *Registrar of Voters, 2 years: Jane Gibbons nominated Alberta Ridlon. No other nominations. Alberta was elected by show of hands.*

- *Planning Board member for 5 years: David Johnson nominated Gail Bartlett. No other nominations. Gail was elected by show of hands.*
- *2 Planning Board Alternates, 1 year. David Johnson nominated Ronald Kiesman. No other nominations. Ronald was elected by a show of hands there were no nominations for the other position. This will need to be filled by Selectmen appointment.*
- *Appeals Board member, 5 years: Ron Shorey nominated Ronald Sislane. No other nominations. Ronald was elected by show of hands.*
- *Appeals Board member, 3 years to finish a term: There were no nominations. This will need to be filled by Selectmen appointment.*
- *2 Appeals board alternates, 1 year: There were no nominations. This will need to be filled by Selectmen appointment.*
- *SAD 72 Member, 3 year: Ron Shorey nominated Kathiann Shorey. 3 votes were cast, all for Kathiann.*
- *SAD 72 Alternate, 1 year: Jane Gibbons nominated Kathleen Dunn-Lyman. 4 votes were cast all for Kathleen.*

Article 4. To see if the town will increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Sweden by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to pass this article. It was passed by a show of hands. It requires a written vote. 3 votes were cast, all in favor. The article passed.

Article 5a. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of the **Town Treasurer and Tax Collector.**

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
\$11,085.00	\$11,306.00	

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

\$11,645.00

Budget Committee recommend (2-0)

\$11,645.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 5b. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of the **Town Clerk.**

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
\$7,284.00	\$7,430.00	

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

\$7,653.00

Budget Committee recommend (2-0)

\$7653.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 5c. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of the **1st, 2nd and 3rd Selectmen.**

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
\$4,590.00	\$4,682.00	

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

\$4,822.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

\$4822.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 5d. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of the **Fire Chief.**

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
\$1,584.00	\$1,616.00	

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$1,664.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$1,664.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 5e. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of the **Road Commissioner.**

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
\$2,000.00	\$2,040.00	

Selectmen recommend (includes mileage for routine duties) \$2,101.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$2,101.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 5f. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of a proposed **Assistant Road Commissioner.**

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
\$500.00	\$750.00	

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$773.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$773.00

Wayne Miller made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

It was voted by a show of hands to allow Diana J Curtis, Selectmen's Assistant, to answer questions during the course of the meeting.

Article 5g. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of the **Code Enforcement Officer.**

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
\$2,771.00	\$2,826.00	

Selectmen recommend (3-0) \$2,911.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$2,911.00

Laura Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 5h. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of the **Cemetery Sexton.**

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
\$264.00	\$269.00	

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$277.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$277.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 5i. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of the **Administrative Assistant.**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Selectmen recommend (2-0)	\$16,469.00	\$16,798.00	\$15,298.00
Budget Committee recommends ((2-0)			\$15,298.00

Ron Shorey asked why this salary went down. Diana explained that the office is becoming more efficient and less of her time is required.

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 5j. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the compensation of the **Emergency Management Director.**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Selectmen recommend (2-0)	\$1,020.00	\$1,040.00	\$1,071.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0)			\$1,071.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 6. To see if the Town will take from surplus up to \$1,200.00, for payment of interest on tax anticipation borrowing for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)	\$1,200.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0)	\$1,200.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 7. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for **Town Charges** for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend appropriate (2-0)	\$47,000.00
Budget Committee recommends appropriate (2-0)	\$47,000.00

Richard Lyman made a motion to accept this article as recommended, it was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 8. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate and take from surplus for the **maintenance of roads and road sides** for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend if Art. 4 Property Tax Levy Limit has passed, appropriate (2-0)	\$150,000.00 or
Selectmen recommend if Art. 4 Property Tax Levy Limit has NOT passed, appropriate	\$105,000.00 and
Selectmen recommend take from surplus (2-0)	\$45,000.00
Budget Committee recommends if Art 4 Property Levy Limit has passed, appropriate (2-0)	\$150,000.00 or
Budget Committee recommends if Art 4 Property Levy Limit has NOT passed, appropriate	\$105,000.00 and
Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (2-0)	\$ 45,000.00

Rebecca Thompson made a motion to raise or appropriate \$150,000.00. This was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 9. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate and take from surplus for snow removal and sanding for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend Appropriate (2-0)	\$ 125,000.00 and
Selectmen recommend take from surplus if needed (2-0)	\$ 25,000.00
Budget Committee recommends appropriate (2-0)	\$125,000.00 and
take from surplus if needed (2-0)	\$25,000.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to raise \$125,000.00 and take from surplus \$25,000.00 if needed. This was voted by a show of hands and passed.

Article 10. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate to pay for Lovell Dump contract and to pay for any additional usage charges from surplus monies.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)	\$37,238.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0)	\$37,238.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 11. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to draw upon the Surplus Account not more than .0003 of the present State Valuation of the Town, \$85,900,000 for the care of the poor for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)
Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Wayne Miller made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 12. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for grounds maintenance, upkeep and repairs for town buildings.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)	\$4,000.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0)	\$4,000.00

Louis Clark made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 13. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for support of the Sweden Volunteer Fire Department Association.

SVFD requested (2-0)	\$23,000.00
Selectmen recommend (2-0)	\$23,000.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0)	\$23,000.00

Warren Noble made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 14. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for support of the Ambulance Service for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)	\$2,400.00
Budget Committee recommends (2-0)	\$2,400.00

Warren Noble made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 15. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the support of the **Lovell recreation programs.**

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$1,000.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$1,000.00

Kathleen Lyman made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 16. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the support of **Charlotte E. Hobbs Memorial Library.**

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$1,500.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$1,500.00

Susan Black made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 17. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the support of **Sweden Conservation Committee.**

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$375.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$375.00

Warren Noble made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 18. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the support of **Harvest Hills Animal Shelter.**

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$400.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$400.00

Louis Clark made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 19. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the support of the **Lakes Environmental Association** for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$400.00

Budget Committee recommends ((2-0) \$400.00

Warren Noble made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Ron Shorey spoke at this time about his appreciation for the Selectmen dedicating the Town Report to Kenneth Forde. He was involved in many things helpful to the town.

Article 20. To see what sum the Town will raise or appropriate for the support of **Seniors Plus.**

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$100.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$100.00

Question was asked 'What is Seniors Plus'? Laura Chadbourne explained that they work with the disabled and help seniors with medicare and other insurance questions.

Kathiann Shorey made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 21. To see what sum the Town will raise or appropriate for the support of **Community Concepts.**

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$300.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$300.00

Louis Clark made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 22. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for **Cemetery maintenance.**

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$2,500.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$2,500.00

Wayne Miller made a motion to accept this article as recommended. Kathleen Dunn-Lyman asked about the yellow/black warning posts as they are an eyesore. Wayne explained about the problem of stones next to the road that were damaged a few years back. Wayne said he would check on some other type of sign that could be put up in fall and removed in spring. The article was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 23. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate and or take from Surplus for the purpose of future **Town Re-Evaluation** and to allow the balance to carryover.

Selectmen recommend appropriate (2-0) \$4,000.00 and

Selectmen recommend taking from surplus (2-0) \$5,000.00

Budget Committee recommends appropriate (2-0) \$4,000.00 and

take from surplus (2-0) \$5,000.00

Chris Chadbourne made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 24. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate and or take from Surplus for the purpose of **Legal Counsel** and to allow the balance to carryover.

Selectmen recommend Appropriate (2-0) \$3,000.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$3,000.00

Wayne Miller made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 25. To see what sum the town will raise or appropriate for the purpose of **REACH.**

Selectmen recommend Appropriate (2-0) \$100.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$100.00

Kathiann Shorey made a motion to accept this article as recommended. The citizens voted to allow Debbie Demski from REACH to speak. She explained the money is used in Oxford County. They are committed to keep children safe and make awareness to adults. They are speaking at all elementary schools. Every consultation is free and confidential. They have a 24 hour helpline, professional training and some pro bono attorneys. The article was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 26. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$45,000.00 of the 2012 anticipated Excise monies collected in 2012 towards the amount appropriated in Articles 5a through 25.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Wayne Miller made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 27. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$7,900.00 of the 2012 anticipated Tree Growth Refund monies collected in 2012 towards the amount appropriated in Articles 5a through 25.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Louis Clark made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 28. To see if the voters will authorize the raising of the balance so appropriated, not covered in Article 26 and 27 through taxation.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

Budget Committee recommends(2-0)

Wayne Miller made a motion to accept this article as printed. It was voted and passed by a show of hands

Article 29. To see if the Town will take not more than \$300.00 from the Snowmobile account for the purpose of maintaining public snowmobile and cross-country ski trails within the Town of Sweden, and allow the Selectmen to spend for that purpose.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

\$300.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

\$300.00

Louis Clark made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 30. To see if the Town will accept the highest interest rate set by the State of Maine Planning Office for delinquent taxes committed in the current year. (Rate cannot be greater than the State rate of 7% for 2012.)

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Louis Clark made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 31. To see if the Town will determine the date from and after which interest shall accrue on delinquent taxes committed for the current year.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

September 15, 2012

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

September 15, 2012

Warren Noble made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 32. To see if the Town will set the interest rate paid on abated taxes to 4 percentage points less than the rate used in Article 30 above by the State of Maine Planning Office.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Louis Clark made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 33. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for the non-payment of taxes thereon; or by other judicial process; said real estate to be advertised in two separate issues of local paper within 30 days of sale. To be sold either at public auction or as the result of sealed bids called for and received by the Selectmen; provided, however, that the selectmen be authorized to sell at private sale property so acquired to the owner on record of any such property; all conveyances there-under to be by release deed.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Wayne Miller made a motion to accept this article as printed. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 34. To see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2012 annual budget during the period of January 1, 2013 to the March Annual Town Meeting in 2013.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Louis Clark made a motion to accept this article as printed. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 35. To see if the Town will **take from surplus** up to \$10,000.00 for the purpose of funding **capital projects on State Aid roads** and allow the balance to carry over each year.

Selectmen recommend taking from surplus (2-0) \$10,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking from surplus (2-0) \$10,000.00

Wayne Miller made a motion to accept this article as recommended. Discussion- Warren Noble asked if any projects in site. Jane Gibbons had contacted the state about rebuilding the section by Ron Sislane house. They sent her a letter about resurfacing the road in the future, which she passed on to the Selectmen. John Clifford stated that it was a waste of money to resurface without substantial repairs. Alberta Ridlon explained that if we request the state to work on a road the town must put up a certain portion of the funds. Letters and phone calls might help to get the problem fixed. The article was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Article 36. To see if the Town will take from **surplus** \$2,500.00 to replenish the **contingency fund**.

Selectmen recommend (2-0) \$2,500.00

Budget Committee recommends (2-0) \$2,500.00

Warren Noble made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands

Article 37. To see if the Town will apply property tax payments to the oldest outstanding taxes before paying current year taxes.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (2-0)

Warren Noble made a motion to accept this article as recommended. It was voted and passed by a show of hands.

Jane Gibbons commended the Selectmen because there was no contention at town meeting. She also thanked the selectmen for the work done on Plummer School Road.

Kay Lyman requested the papers back for the centennial recommendations.

Chris Chadbourne asked everyone to send in letters to support high speed internet access.

Dick Lyman thanked the moderator for a good job.

John Clifford reported upcoming road jobs: another section on Plummer School Road, Perry Hill road, guard rails to be put up at the culvert on Hardscrabble Road and Plummer School Road. Road Grading will be done on all dirt roads.

Wolfgang Duve would like to town to get the lines changed at the town office to include the original lines that had been planned when the land was purchased. The owner next door is willing to make the adjustments and trade land so this can happen. It will require resurveying the property. This will cost the town money. The owner is going to sell the property and is willing to do this before he sells.

The moderator called for a motion to adjourn by standing vote. Everyone got up and left.

10:30 A.M.

Alberta Ridlon
Town Clerk