# TOWN of LANDGROVE

**Minutes 2023 Annual Town Meeting**

**Call to order at 6:04 PM**

John Ogden opened the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lynn Eckhardt

Chrystal Cleary read the voter checklist and performed roll-call

All were welcomed by Selectboard Chair John Ogden who welcomed State Rep Mike Rice for comments:

* Discussed agriculture initiatives and food reserve registry.
  + Subsidized food for all school age children in Vermont will become permanent.
* Discussed CUD effort to provide internet to Landgrove and timeline for deployment.
* Provided contact information and email address to receive communications from his office.

John Ogden references Article 8 and Article 9 - Nicole Wengerd from Neighborhood Connections

* Jonathan Bigelow asks if this is a one time for annual appropriations, or if it needs to be addressed each year.
* Chrystal asks about if the rides from Neighborhood Connections are free- answer is yes transport is all free
* John questions the amount in Article 9 as far as the dollar amount is concerned, Cameron Chalmers states that $1000 is not enough for the number of rides that could be needed. Greg Eckhardt agrees with Cameron’s assessment. Sarah Reed questions dollars for prioritizing children and patrons of Neighborhood Connections

The legal voters of the Town of Landgrove are hereby warned and notified to gather to  
transact the following business by floor vote on March 6th, 2023, at Town Hall, 88 Landgrove  
Road, Landgrove, Vermont.

John Ogden open Article 1 for discussion

• Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

* Jonathan Bigelow nominates Claudia Harris for a term of 1 year
* The Clerk casts 1 ballot for Claudia Harris
* Claudia Harris welcomes new residents and reminds that only Landgrove residents may speak and vote, and reviews rules for Town Meeting

• Article 2: To elect the following officers as required by law:

Clerk casts one ballot for Chrystal Cleary, One ballot for Andrea Ogden, (fill all in below)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Officer | Term length | Candidate | Nominated by |
| Town Clerk | 1 | Chrystal Cleary | Andrea Ogden |
| Treasurer | 1 | Andrea Ogden | Michael Jeffery |
| Selectboard | 3 | Michael Jeffery | John Ogden |
| Lister | 3 | Jonathan Bigelow | Chuck Sweetman |
| Auditor | 3 | Tovis Digum | Andrea Ogden |
| Cemetery 1 2026 | 5 | Jonathan Bigelow | Lynn Eckhardt |
| Cemetery 2 2027 | 4 | Matt Degan | Greg Eckhardt |
| Cemetery 3 2028 | 3 | Greg Eckhardt | Johnathan Bigelow |
| Collector of Delinquent Taxes | 1 | Susan Lenox | Andrea Ogden |
| Grand Juror | 1 | Claudia Harris | John Ogden |
| Constable | 1 | John Wiley, Jr | John Ogden |
| Trustee of Public funds | 3 | Andrea Ogden | Tovis Digum |

• Article 3: To hear the reports of Town Officers and take proper action on the Auditors’  
Report.

* Motion to move Article 3 - Michael Jefferey makes motion to move.
* John Ogden comments on Select Board report. May Bigelow questions about the Sand Shed project. John states that there will be a special meeting on the Sand Shed budget in the spring.
* Jonathan Bigelow asks the question of combining collective resources with other towns to save funds. John Ogden comments that there have been thoughts, and further discussion occurs as needed, points out that some positions are collective between towns like the Zoning and Listers administrators.
* Greg Eckhardt asks about the purchase of a used plow truck to replace the current plow truck. Steve Hall comments on reasoning for purchase of a used truck
* Greg Eckhardt talks about the Cemetery Commission report and discusses the idea for what to do with the any new cemetery space. Cameron Chalmers mentions the idea of a “Green Burial” option.
* Chrystal Cleary speaks about dog licenses, the need for School District Election volunteers.
* Ben Freeman mentions his re-election and School Choice option issue regarding article 15 on supporting School Choice
* Claudia Harris requests motion to approve Article 3: Ayes have it.

• Article 4 : To see if the Town shall authorize its Select Board to apply any surplus or  
unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget?

* Claudia Harris requests motion to move Article 4. John Ogden makes motion to move Article 4
* Claudia requests motion to Approve Article 4, ayes have it.

• Article 5: Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes on  
October 1, 2023, by delivery to town hall postmarked on or before that date?

* Claudia requests motion to move Article 5, May Bigelow makes motion to move Article 5.
* Ben Freeman made motion to approve Article 5- ayes have it.

• Article 6: Shall the Town raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses  
and obligations detailed in the Town Report for the 2023 year

* Claudia requests a motion to move Article 6, Will Reed makes motion to move Article 6.
* Greg Eckhardt questions the purchase of the proposed fire truck fund for Londonderry.
* Discussion of resource response for Fire Alarms in the shared resource towns
* General discussion of escalating costs of fire trucks
* Mary Licatta makes a motion to approve Article 6- ayes have it.

• Article 7: Shall the Town of Landgrove raise and appropriate a yearly sum not to exceed  
$3,900.00 for the purpose of funding, in part, a full-time position of Mountain Towns  
Recreation Director to be hired by the Town of Londonderry, pursuant to an inter-local  
agreement as established in 24 VSA 4901?

* Claudia requests motion to move Article 7, Will Reed makes motion to move Article 7
* Peter Thomson requests clarity on the request. Will Reed provides commentary and reasoning. Andrea Ogden makes commentary on the addition of this resource relieves pressure on current volunteers. Chuck Sweetman requests clarity on who the towns are that would benefit from the position. Discussion of Landgrove share of the position compensation.
* Johnathan Bigelow make motion to approve Article 7- ayes have it

• Article 8: Shall the voters of Landgrove approve and increase in the annual community  
appropriation to Neighborhood Connections from $500 to $1000, annually?

* Claudia requests motion to move Article 8, Mary Licatta makes a motion to move Article 8.
* Ben Freeman makes a motion to approve Article 8- ayes have it.

• Article 9: Shall the voters of Landgrove approve a new annual appropriation of $1,000  
to Neighborhood Connections for the Mountain Town Connector van transport service?

* Claudia requests motion to move Article 9, Greg Eckhardt makes motion to move Article 9.
* Michael Jeffery makes a comment that Landgrove’s contribution should be collective and not requests for one off funding. He questions whether the initiative is actually successful and being used by the residents of Landgrove.
* Discussion of combining the dollar amount for a vote next year
* Greg Eckhardt makes motion to approve Article 9- ayes have it.

• Article 10: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said  
meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles?

* Claudia requests motion to move Article 10, John Ogden makes motion to move Article 10.
* Blair McCaw mentions the US State Department, Homeland Security initiative to supporting pre-approved refugees, requests interest in the program.
* Hiring of an animal control officer, need for Dog Ordinance to assign responsibilities, then next step is to submit the ordinance for review.
* Mary Licatta makes a motion to approve Article 10- ayes have it.

• Article 11: Shall the Town agree to meet in 2024 on the first Monday before the first  
Tuesday in March (March 4, 2024 at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting?

* Claudia requests motion to move Article 11, John Ogden makes motion to move Article 11.
* Lynn Eckhardt questions the time of day.
* Mary Licatta make motion to approve Article 11- ayes have it

Claudia thanks all volunteers, Lynn thanks the Road Commission

Motion to Adjourn- Claudia Harris, ayes have it. Meeting is adjourned at 8:00 pm Respectfully Submitted by

Susan Lenox, Asst Town Clerk