

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OF GLOVER TOWN**  
**MARCH 5, 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Glover are hereby notified to meet at the Glover Town Hall in Glover Village on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at Nine o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence was observed for two members of our community who passed away this year, Merle Young Sr who was involved in the West Glover Church and self appointed "Mayor of West Glover" and Robert "Ted" Young. Ted was a lister for the last 45 years. They were a big part of the community and their presence will be greatly missed.

**ARTICLE 1.** To elect a Moderator.

Dennis Gibson nominated Nick Ecker-Racz to be the moderator, seconded by Deb Clark. No other nominations were made. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Nick was declared elected.

**ARTICLE 2.** To elect a Town Clerk.

Andrea Carpentier nominated Cindy Epinette to be the Town Clerk, seconded by Deb Clark. No other nominations were made. Dan Clark made a motion, seconded by Deb Clark that nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Cindy Epinette. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Cindy was declared elected

**ARTICLE 3.** To receive the reports of the officers of last year.

Jack made a motion, seconded by Nella Coe to accept the Article. Andrea mentioned two errors in the town report: page 9 the fire warden was written twice and on page 46 the library received \$19,588.58 as a bequest and \$675 in donations to total \$20,263.58 in donations receipts. No other errors were noted. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 4.** To elect all officers required by law for the ensuing year and fill all vacancies caused by resignation or otherwise.

**To elect a Treasurer for a term of one (1) year.**

Darlene Young nominated Cindy Epinette, seconded by Dennis Gibson. No other nominations were made. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Cindy was declared elected.

**To elect a Select Board Member for the term of three (3) Years.**

Leanne Harple nominated Anne Eldridge. Hope Colburn nominated Nick Ecker-Racz. Jack Sumberg was requested to act as moderator while the vote was being conducted. A paper ballot was required. 79 voters cast a ballot. 47 in favor of Anne Eldridge, 31 in favor of Nick Ecker-Racz and 1 in favor of Leanne Harple. Anne Eldridge was declared elected.

9:29am Nick asked if there were any objections to suspending the Orders of the Day to allow Sheriff Jennifer Harlow from the Orleans County Sheriff's office to address the residents and answer any questions that may be presented. There were no objections.

The meeting resumed at 9:33am

**To elect an Auditor to complete the term of Sylvia Cannizzaro,  
two (2) years remaining.**

Darlene Young nominated Andrea Carpentier. John Rodgers made a motion that nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Andrea, seconded by Richard Epinette. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Andrea was declared elected.

**To elect an Auditor for the term of three (3) years.**

Dennis Gibson nominated Rebecca Young. Darlene Young mentioned that Rebecca has retired from the position. No other nominations were presented. Anyone interested in becoming an auditor should contact Darlene or Andrea to get more information. The Selectboard has the authority to appoint an auditor for the ensuing year. The Town expressed appreciation to Rebecca for all her years of service to the town.

**To elect a Lister for the term of three (3) Years.**

Dennis Gibson proposed postponing electing a Lister to replace Ted Young until the Listers have had an opportunity to find a suitable candidate. The Selectboard will have to appoint a Lister as no candidate was nominated.

**To elect a Library Trustee to complete the term of Linda Elbow, three (3) years remaining.**

Nancy Rodgers nominated Cindy Epinette. No other nominations were presented. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Cindy was declared elected. A special Thank You was expressed for all the years of service Linda gave to the Library.

**To elect a Library Trustee for a term of five (5) years.**

Nancy Rodgers nominated Becky Galloway. No other nominations were presented. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Becky was declared elected.

**To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for the term of three (3) years.**

Joan Alexander nominated Nick Ecker-Racz. No other nominations were presented. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Nick was declared elected.

**To elect a Cemetery Sexton for a term of one (1) year.**

Ned Andrews nominated Cindy Epinette. No other nominations were presented. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Cindy was declared elected.

**To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one (1) year.**

Darlene nominated Cindy Epinette. No other nominations were presented. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Cindy was declared elected.

**To elect a First Constable for the term of one (1) year.**

Phil Brooks nominated Job Breitmeyer. No other nominations were presented. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Job was declared elected.

**To elect a Second Constable for a term of one (1) year.**

Jack Sumberg nominated Cindy Epinette. No other nominations were presented. The motion was approved by the majority of the public. There was one objection. Cindy was declared elected.

**To elect an Agent to deed town owned property for a term of one (1) year.**

Jack Sumberg nominated Cindy Epinette. No other nominations were presented. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Cindy was declared elected.

Cindy made a motion to alter the Order of the Day and insert Article 11 before Article 5. The motion was seconded by Darlene Young. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 11.**

(a) To see if the Town will vote to increase the number of members serving as Cemetery Commissioners from 3 to 5 people.

(b) If voted in the affirmative, who will you elect for a term of two (2) years?  
Who will you elect for a term of three (3) years?

Nick made a motion, seconded by Dennis Gibson, to divide this compound Article. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

Joan Alexander expressed the hope for more people to be involved in the Cemetery Commission, in order to acquire new ideas and energetic participation.

(a) Deb Clark made a motion to approve the article, seconded by Richard Epinette. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Glover voted to have 5 Cemetery Commissioners.

(b) Cindy Epinette nominated Amy Wright for a term of two (2) years. There were no other nominations. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Amy Wright was declared elected. Theresa Perron nominated Deb McKay for a term of three (3) years. No other nominations were presented. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Deb McKay was declared elected.

9:56am Nick asked if there was any objection to suspending the meeting to allow Katherine Sims, Vermont Representative, an opportunity to provide a legislative update. There was no objection. Representative Sims engaged the electorate with a discussion on legislative progress and priorities.

10:27am the meeting resumed.

Nick identified all the tables set up around the room: Glover Historical Society, Trails Committee, Glover Ambulance, Glover Senior Meals, Glover Library, Girl Scout Cookies, Energy Committee and Presidential Primary Voting.

10:36am Nick asked if there were any objections to having the Planning Committee present an update on the Glover Green. There were no objections. James and Nella Coe led an audio-visual showing of the Glover Green project.

10:53 the meeting resumed.

**ARTICLE 5.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise \$977,543.83 by taxes to be assessed by the Select Board to pay incidental expenses and its several taxes required by law.

Dennis Gibson made a motion to approve the article, seconded by Topher Waring.

Nate Gordon inquired as to why the electricity expense for the village lights was so much higher than expected (page 18 line 121). Jack Sumberg, Energy Committee, shared the fact that we do not own the solar array in West Glover, we purchase the service on a monthly basis. We benefit from the solar array, which is reflected in the other electricity expenses being less than budgeted. The cost to purchase the service was temporarily posted to the street light account.

Phil Brooks, Glover Volunteer Fire Department Treasurer, made a motion, seconded by Tyler Scelza, to increase the fire department budget from \$35,000 to \$45,000. The Volunteer Fire Department is planning to create its own reserve account using these additional funds. Phil also stated the existing reserve fund that the town owns will be used this year to buy a new tanker truck. The motion was approved with a voice vote. **The amended budget amount is \$987,543.83.**

Dan Clark made a motion to approve the amended Article to \$987,543.83. Brian Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

Chris Braithwaite inquired as to how the multiple mud seasons this year will effect the road budget in the future. Both Mike Pray, Road Foreman, and Phil Young indicated it's conceivable that the road budget will increase in the future due to road upgrades.

**ARTICLE 6.**

To see if the Town will vote to collect property taxes on or before 5pm on November 16, 2024, as provided in T32, Section 4792 V.S.A. and postmarks are not accepted as proof of payment.

Darlene Young made a motion, seconded by Topher Waring, to approve this article. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 7.**

To see if the Town will vote to have taxes collected by the Treasurer as provided in T32, Section 4791-92 V.S.A.

Tabitha Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Richard Epinette, to approve this article. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 8.**

To see if the Town will vote \$300.00 per mile or more for Class 1, 2 and 3 Town Highways under Provisions of T19, Section 307 V.S.A.

Topher Waring made a motion, seconded by Dan Clark, to approve this article. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 9.**

To see if the Town will appropriate a total of \$26,200 to the individual agencies and services listed in the 2024 column of the 2023-2024 Appropriations Comparison list; and taxes to be assessed by the Select Board.

**APPROPRIATIONS COMPARISON**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
American Legion	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
American Red Cross of NH & VT	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Big Heavy World	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Craftsbury Community Care Center	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00
Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium		\$ 1,111.00
Glover Pioneer Camp	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00

Green Mountain Farm to School	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,200.00
Green Up Vermont	\$	100.00	\$	100.00
Hardwick Area Food Pantry			\$	500.00
N C Friends of the VT Symphony Orchestra	\$	100.00	\$	100.00
North Woods Stewardship Center	\$	250.00	\$	250.00
Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.	\$	2,244.00	\$	2,244.00
Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc.	\$	250.00	\$	250.00
Notheast Kingdom Council on Aging	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
Northern Chapter Great Dane Rescue of NE			\$	50.00
Orleans - Essex VNA & Hospice, Inc.	\$	2,200.00	\$	2,200.00
Orleans County Citizen Advocacy (dba: ConnectAbilities)	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
Orleans County Citizen Child Advocacy Center	\$	350.00	\$	350.00
Orleans County Fair Association	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
Orleans County Historical Society	\$	700.00	\$	700.00
Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc.	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
Rural Community Transportation, Inc.	\$	700.00	\$	700.00
Shadow Lake Association (Boat Wash)	\$	8,500.00	\$	8,500.00
Umbrella, Inc.	\$	700.00	\$	700.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$	245.00	\$	245.00
Vermont Family Network	\$	250.00	\$	250.00
VT Assoc. for the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$	750.00	\$	750.00
VT Rural Fire Protection (Dry Hydrant)	\$	100.00	\$	100.00
	\$	24,289.00	\$	26,200.00

Richard Epinette made a motion, seconded by Topher Waring, to approve this article. It was mentioned that the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium has undergone some upgrades. Carmella Young stated she supports giving money to the museum because it is the only one in the area and is well worth the cost to visit it.

Richard Epinette reminded folks that Green Up Day is the first Saturday in May (May 4th). The State of Vermont is trying to set a Guinness Book of World record for the number of people participating in Green Up Day in a 24 hour period. There will be an electronic sign up sheet on the State of Vermont website to track the number of people participating.

John Rodgers made a motion, seconded by Chris Braithwaite, to reduce the Northern Chapter Great Dane Rescue of NE to \$0.00. This motion was approved with a voice vote.

Chris Brathwaite made a motion, seconded by Topher Waring, to increase the amount to Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc from \$500 to \$550 to support great danes. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

The total change in the appropriation allocation is \$0.00.

#### **ARTICLE 10.**

To see if the Town will exempt from taxes for five years the small lot and building owned by the Glover Fire Department & Civil Defense parcel ID# VT16105 located on the Town Green in Glover Village, appraised for \$10,700.

Topher Waring made a motion, seconded by Marie Waring to approve this article. Phil Brooks, Glover Volunteer Fire Department Treasurer, spoke up requesting this article be defeated because the fire department may not use it in a capacity that allows it to be tax exemt. The motion to approve the artlice was defeated with a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 12.**

To see if the Town will vote to have the 2024 Annual Meeting start at 9:00 A.M. on March 4, 2025

Topher Waring made a motion, seconded by Noah Armstrong, to approve this article. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 13.**

To do and transact any other nonbinding business that may legally come before this meeting.

Randy moved to accept the article, seconded by Tabitha Armstrong.

Brian Carroll made a motion, seconded by Anne Carroll, to accept the following resolution: Given the political and cultural vitriol witnessed throughout our democratic institutions around the country, the town of Glover and its citizens resolve to resist the divisive nature and destructive practices that fracture communities by adopting counter measures that are proven to strengthen communities. Measures such as actively embracing diversity of thought, inclusion of all races and ethnicities, respecting those in our community who may have needs and disabilities to conquer their own personal, social, and financial challenges and practicing skills related to empathizing with others who are different from us.

Davi Bock, LRUEMSD representative, encouraged people to attend the school budget informational meeting on March 7th at 6pm at LRUHS, in preparation for the vote on March 11th at 7pm at LRUHS. The informational meeting for LRUHS is on March 7th at 5pm at LRUHS and the budget vote is on March 20th at 7pm at LRUHS. He encourages people to attend the LRUEMSD budget meeting because the proposed budget is increasing by 25%, or \$17.9 million, to learn more and make an educated decision. The major factors to the increase are for health insurance and salaries. Krista Mayer also mentioned some of the school buildings are in need of attention and the need for staffing in each building.

Noah Armstrong indicated broadband service will be coming to some homes in 2024, mostly in West Glover. About 200 miles of fiber optics has been installed, which means about 2300 addresses have better access to the internet. If you would like to pre-register for service when it comes to your area, you can go to [nekbroadband.org](http://nekbroadband.org). There is still about 2800 miles of work that needs to be done. If you would like to be a part of this please contact Noah. In the next few months NEKBroadBand is looking to offer telephone service as well. Please contact Noah Armstrong for more information on any of these topics.

Doug Safford inquired about an update on the tire recycling business on Route 16. The State is still in the process of dealing with this issue, it is in the enforcement division hands. John Rodgers also mentioned the issue of sewage going into the Barton River. Brian Carroll suggested the Health Officer investigate this side of the issue for the safety of the community. Davi Bock made a motion, seconded by Cheri Safford, to have the Selectboard investigate the environmental and regulatory aspects with all due speed. This motion was approved with a voice vote.

Betsy Day Gibson expressed thanks to all who donated quilts or textiles to help with the sound problem in the town hall. Also, Pioneer Day Camp is scheduled for June 24 - 28, 2024.

Randy announced that Glover Day will be held this year, July 27th. Farmers Market will begin June 9th to the end of September at the Glover Green. Also, thank were expressed to Bonnie Ingalls and company for painting the town hall ceiling and walls.

A special thanks was given to Theresa Perron, Town Administrator, who worked very hard to organize the repairs to the town hall after the July flooding.

Tabitha Armstrong suggested having a discussion about how increasing activity at the Glover Green and Glover Park is going to affect the town in the next 5-10 years. Concerns are roads, traffic, budget, etc.

Sarah Damsell, Orleans County Conservation District announced a virtual meeting on March 12th at 4:30pm to discuss the Shadow Lake Watershed Action Plan results.

A special thanks to Allen Mathews for all the work he put into the Glover Volunteer Fire Department.

There is no update regarding Glover purchasing a portion of the Greensboro gravel pit. Greensboro has not agreed to recommend a sale to Glover.

**ARTICLE 14.**

To Adjourn.

Dennis Gibson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brian Carroll. A meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.

March 6, 2024

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Phil Young, Selectboard

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Cynthia Epinette, Town Clerk

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Nicholas M.Ecker-Racz, Moderator