

Minutes to Sweden's Annual Town Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9am by the Town Clerk, Alberta Ridlon with a salute to the flag. The notification of the warrant was read and then Town Clerk asked for nominations for a moderator, Article 1.

WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING

To Kim Ashley, 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 25th day of March AD 2017, 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.

Lori Bennett nominated Walter Riseman. There were no other nominations. 3 votes were cast, all for Walter. The oath was administered by the Town Clerk and the meeting was turned over to the Moderator.

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 (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to accept the article as written and 2nd by Dell Foss. Motion passed.

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

Susan Black made a motion to change the number of years for the S.A.D. #72 alternate from 1 year to 3 years as allowed by law, 2nd by Doug Porter. A vote was taken and passed.

Wayne Miller nominated Lori Bennett for Select, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of 3 years. 4 votes were cast for Lori.

Nominations for Treasurer/Tax collector: Ardelle Foss nominated Lynn Hurd, Laura Chadbourne nominated Kim Ashley. 22 votes were cast, 18 for Kim and 4 for Lynn.

Nominations for Town Clerk: Janet Mahannah nominated Alberta Ridlon, voted by show of hands and passed.

The moderator called for approval to change the number of Planning Board Members shown to be elected from 2 to 1. Voted and approved.

Nomination of Planning Board Member: David Johnson nominated Morris Gibely, voted by show of hands and passed.

Nomination of Planning Board Alternate: David Johnson nominated Ronald Kiesman, voted by show of hands and passed.

There were no nominations for Appeals Board Member or Alternate. Selectmen will have to appoint.

Nomination of SAD#72 Alternate: Christopher Chadbourne nominated Kathleen Lyman. 3 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 (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to approve the article, 2nd by Wayne Miller.

3 votes cast all to yes.

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

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
\$12,358.00	\$12,605.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$12,857.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$12,857.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$12,857.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey.

Voted and passed.

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

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
\$8,121.00	\$8,284.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$8,450.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$8,450.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$8,450.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey.

Voted and passed.

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

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
\$5,117.00	\$5,220.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$7,500.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$7,500.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$7,500.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey. Warren Noble requested an explanation for the increase. Lori explained the increase of work the selectmen were putting in and the cost to attend all meetings required to fulfill their duties. Chris, budget committee member, strongly supported the increase. Ronald Kiesman made a motion to increase to \$8500.00, 2nd by Doug Porter. Voted on the amendment of article change and passed. Voted on the new article \$8500.00 and passed.

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

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
	\$1,766.00	\$1,801.00	
Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)			\$1,837.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)			\$1,837.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$1,837.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey. Voted and passed.

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

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
	\$2,230.00	\$2,274.00	
Selectmen recommend raise (2-0)			\$2,319.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)			\$2,319.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$2,319.00, 2nd by Wayne Miller. Voted and passed.

Article 5f. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the Code Enforcement Officer.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
	\$3,089.00	\$4,429.00	
Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)			\$7,500.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)			\$7,500.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$7,500.00, 2nd by Wayne Miller. Melanie Ridlon requested why such an increase. Warren Noble made motion to amend the amount to \$5800.00, 2nd by William Jones III. Much discussion regarding the decrease. Christopher made further explanation for the needed raise which was increased originally at a special town meeting in September 2017. Moderator called for a vote on the amendment, amendment failed. Then a vote was taken on the original motion, and passed.

Article 5g. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the Cemetery Sexton.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
	\$294.00	\$300.00	
Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)			\$306.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)			\$306.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$306.00, 2nd by Doug Porter.

Voted and passed.

Article 5h. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the Administrative

<u>Assistant.</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$15,916.00	\$15,234.00	\$15,539.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (2-1)			\$15,539.00

Warren Noble made a motion to appropriate \$15,539.00, 2nd by Ardelle Foss.

William Jones III made a motion to amend it to \$16,000.00, 2nd by Warren Noble.

Reason being she had taken a cut in pay in a previous year per her request.

A vote was taken on the amendment and failed. A vote was taken on the original motion and passed.

Article 5i. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the Emergency Management Director.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Selectmen recommend raise (2-0)	\$1,137.00	\$1,159.00	\$1,182.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)			\$1,182.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$1,182.00, 2nd by Ronald Kiesman.

Voted and passed.

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 take from surplus (3-0)			\$1,200.00
Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0)			\$1,200.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$1,200.00, 2nd by Wayne Miller.

Voted and passed.

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

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)			\$63,725.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)			\$63,725.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$63,725.00, 2nd by Wayne Miller.

Voted and passed

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

Selectmen recommend raise (2-0)			\$175,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)			\$175,000.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$175,000.00, 2nd by Wayne Miller.

Voted and passed

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

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)			\$195,000.00 and
Selectmen recommend take from Surplus if needed (3-0)			\$ 20,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)			\$195,000.00 and

Budget Committee recommends take from surplus if needed (3-0) \$ 20,000.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$195,000.00 and take from surplus \$20,000.00, if needed, 2nd by Ronald Shorey.

Voted and passed

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

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$42,745.72

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$42,745.72

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$42,745.00 and pay any additional usage charges from surplus, 2nd by Ronald Shorey.

Voted and passed

Article 11. To see what sum the Town will authorize the Selectmen to draw upon the surplus account for the care of the poor for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend (3-0) \$1,250.00

Budget Committee recommends (3-0) \$1,250.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$1,250.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey.

Voted and passed

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

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$5,500.00

Budget Committee recommend raise (3-0) \$5,500.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$5,500.00, 2nd by Wayne Miller.

Voted and passed

Article 13. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for support of the Sweden Volunteer Fire Department Association and allow the balance to carry forward.

SVFD requested \$29,885.00

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$29,885.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$29,885.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$29,885.00, 2nd by Wayne Miller.

Voted and passed

Article 13A. To see what sum the town will take from surplus for the purpose of Sweden Volunteer Fire Department capital improvements for fire apparatus and allow the balance to carry forward.

SVFD requested \$20,000.00

Selectmen recommend take from surplus (3-0) \$20,000.00

Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0) \$20,000.00

Wayne Miller made a motion to appropriate \$20,000.00, 2nd by Lori Bennett.

Fire Chief, Tim Cook explained this article. Voted and passed

Article 14. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for support of the ambulance service for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$2,400.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$2,400.00

**Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$2,400.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey.
Voted and passed**

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

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$2,500.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$2,500.00

Warren Noble made a motion to appropriate \$2,500.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey.

Voted and passed. Meg Ryan, from Lovell Rec spoke, with permission. This equals about 3% of the budget and has about 10% usage from Sweden. Further development projects in progress for playground and baseball field.

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

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$1,685.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$1,685.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$1,685.00, 2nd by Warren Noble.

Voted and passed. There are four board members from Sweden and lots of participation from the town.

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

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$100.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$100.00

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

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$400.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$400.00

Article 19. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the support of Seniors Plus.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$100.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$100.00

Article 20. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of Maine Public Radio.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$100.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (2-1)	\$100.00

Article 21. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of LEA.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$400.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$400.00

Article 17 thru 21 was voted to be lumped together and voted at same time.

**Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate as listed, 2nd by Melanie Ridlon.
Voted and passed.**

Article 22. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **Sweden Food Pantry.**
Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$250.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$250.00

**Wayne Miller made a motion to appropriate \$250.00, 2nd by Melanie Ridlon. Kathy Reilly
Amended the motion to raise \$525.00, 2nd Linda Bradley. A vote on the amendment was
passed. A vote on the amended article for \$525.00 was passed.**

Article 23. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for **Cemetery maintenance.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$3,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$3,000.00

**Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$3,000.00, 2nd by Ronald Kiesman.
Voted and passed**

Article 24. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **legal counsel.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$10,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$10,000.00

**Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$10,000.00, 2nd by Lori Bennett.
Voted and passed**

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to take from surplus up to \$8,250.00 for the renovation of the
Sweden's Center Schoolhouse. Proposed work to include removal of asbestos from the structure and removal
of the deteriorated wooden structure attached to the back of the building.

Selectmen taking from surplus (3-0) \$8,250.00
Budget Committee recommends (3-0) \$8,250.00

**Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to appropriate \$8,250.00, 2nd by Julia McQueen.
Voted and passed**

Article 26. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$50,000.00 of
the 2017 anticipated Excise monies collected in 2017 towards the amount appropriated in Articles 5a through
25.

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

**Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to use not more than \$50,000.00, 2nd by Wayne
Miller. Voted and passed.**

Article 27. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$20,000.00 of
the 2017 anticipated Tree Growth Refund monies collected in 2017 towards the amount appropriated in
Articles 5a through 25.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to use not more than \$20,000.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey. Voted and passed.

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 (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to pass the article as written, 2nd by Ronald Shorey. Voted and passed.

Article 29. 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 2017.)

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to pass the article as written, 2nd by Wayne Miller. Voted and passed.

Article 30. 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 (3-0)

September 15, 2017

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

September 15, 2017

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to set September 15, 2017 as the date interest will accrue on delinquent taxes, 2nd by Wayne Miller. Voted and passed.

Article 31. 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 (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Ronald Shorey made a motion to pass the article as written, 2nd by Christopher Chadbourne. Voted and passed.

Article 32. 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 (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to pass the article as written, 2nd by Ronald Shorey. Voted and passed.

Article 33. 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 2017 annual budget during the period of January 1, 2018 to the March Annual Town Meeting in 2018.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to pass the article as written, 2nd by Ronald Shorey. Voted and passed.

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to 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 take from surplus (3-0) \$10,000.00

Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0) \$10,000.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to take from Surplus up to \$10,000.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey. Voted and passed.

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to take from surplus \$2,500.00 for the Contingency Fund.

Selectmen recommend take from surplus (3-0) \$2,500.00

Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0) \$2,500.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to take from Surplus up to \$2,500.00, 2nd by Ronald Shorey. Voted and passed.

Article 36. 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 (3-0)

Wayne Miller made a motion to pass the article as written, 2nd by Christopher Chadbourne. Voted and passed.

Article 37. To see if the Town will authorize or direct the Board of Selectmen to use LRAP funds if needed.

Selectmen recommend (2-0) up to \$50,000.00

Budget Committee recommends (3-0) up to \$50,000.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to use up to \$50,000.00 if needed, 2nd by Wayne Miller. Voted and passed.

Article 38. To see if the Town will authorize the continuance of the following carry forward accounts.

Selectmen recommend the following (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Capital Improvements	\$533.21
Comprehensive Plan	\$2,060.61
Contra Fiduciary Ridlon Cemetery	\$5,241.93

DOT Road Grants	\$134,416.19
Dry Hydrant	\$1,757.94
Emergency Road Fund	\$8,876.50
Heritage Fund CD	\$1,854.77
LRAP Fund	\$68,864.86
Planning Board	\$3,000.00
Ridlon Cemetery	\$5,791.58
State Aid Road Fund	\$118,000.00
SVFD Building Committee	\$800.00
SVFD Capital	\$20,000.00
Improvements/Apparatus	
Town Line Marking	\$1,000.00
Town Reevaluation	\$56,000.00

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to continue the carry forward accounts as listed, 2nd by Lori Bennett. Voted and passed.

Article 39. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to use **FEMA** money where appropriate.
Selectmen recommend (2-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to move the article as written, 2nd by Melanie Ridlon. Voted and passed.

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to take from surplus \$2,011.25 for **2016 Summer Roads** over expenditures.

Selectmen recommend (2-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to move the article as written, 2nd by Melanie Ridlon. Voted and passed.

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen to use up to \$56,000.00 from the Town Reevaluation account for the purpose of the **Town's Reevaluation**.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion to use up to \$56,000.00, 2nd by Ronald Kiesman. Voted and passed.

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to use up to \$5,791.00 from the **Ridlon Cemetery** account for the purpose of repairing, maintaining and upgrading the Ridlon Cemetery and allow the balance to carry forward.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Christopher Chadbourne made a motion use up to \$5,791.00, 2nd by Perri Black. Voted and passed.

Wayne Miller made a motion to adjourn at 11:03 am, 2nd by Melanie Ridlon. Voted and passed..

**Respectfully,
Alberta Ridlon
Town Clerk**