

**ABSTRACTS OF MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 7, 2017**

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. e.s.t. at the Twin Valley Middle/High School in the Town of Whitingham, Vermont, agreeable to warning.

**Article 1**

Voted to accept reports of the Town Officers and act thereon.

**Article 2**

Voted to authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses for fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 of **\$569,681.00**, of which **\$242,031.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$191,079.00** in anticipated revenues, and **\$136,571.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance.

**Article 3**

Voted to authorize payment of **\$110,000.00** for the Town Use of School Property for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.

**Article 4**

Voted to authorize **\$7,754.00** for the upkeep and improvement of the Town Hill Common for fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

**Article 5**

Voted to authorize **\$72,126.00** for the operation of the Town Fire Department for fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

**Article 6**

Voted to authorize payment of **\$20,000.00** to the Fire Department Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

**Article 7**

Voted to authorize **\$1,262,952.00** for the maintenance and repair of Town Highways for fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 of which **\$1,045,430.00** to be raised in taxes, offset by **\$119,146.00** in anticipated revenues and previous year balance of **\$98,376.00**.

**Article 8**

Voted to authorize payment of **\$85,000.00** to the Highway Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.

**Article 9**

Voted to authorize **\$77,750.00** for the operation of the Whitingham Free Public Library for fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 with **\$64,975.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be

offset by **\$12,775.00** in anticipated donations.

**Article 10**

Voted to authorize payment of **\$10,000.00** to the Municipal Facilities Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 for continued maintenance.

**Article 11**

Voted to appropriate **\$10,000.00** for the continuing support of Deerfield Valley Rescue for fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018?

**Article 12**

Voted to make taxes due and payable on or before November 1, 2017 with ninety-days' notice?

**Article 13**

Voted to make overdue taxes bear interest at a rate of one percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof for the first three (3) months and thereafter one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5136.

**Article 14**

Voted to appropriate **\$16,900.00** for the operation of Town Cemeteries for fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

**Article 15**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$250.00** for Brattleboro Area Hospice for general budget support.

**Article 16**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$1,000.00** for Deerfield Valley Community Cares, an organization that provides fuel assistance for those not on state aid.

**Article 17**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$2,500.00** for Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, an organization that provides programming and activities for youth and families that promote healthy behaviors and prevent youth drug and alcohol use.

**Article 18**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$500.00** for Deerfield Valley Food Pantry, an organization that provides supplemental food assistance to area families.

**Article 19**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$1,203.00** for Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. (HCRS) an organization that supports outpatient, mental health, and substance abuse services.

**Article 20**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$3,000.00** for the support of Pool Learning Center an organization that provides services to residents of the Town.

**Article 21**

Voted to appropriate **\$750.00** for Senior Solutions-The Council on Aging for Southeastern VT, Inc. to serve elders and assist with funding the Community Meal and **\$305.00** for Green Mountain RSVP to train and support senior volunteers in meals delivery and leading Bonebuilders classes?

**Article 22**

Voted to appropriate **\$1,200.00** for Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Whitingham in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need.

**Article 23**

Voted to appropriate **\$4,700.00** to Twin Valley Youth Sports Program, an organization that provides all students in Whitingham, grades pre-k through 6<sup>th</sup>, the opportunity to play the organized sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball? All players will benefit from competitive play, skill development, as well as social interaction and sportsmanship while in the program.

**Article 24**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$4,000.00** for Visiting Nurse and Hospice of VT and NH to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings.

**Article 25**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$1,795.00** for Wings Community Program's 2017 Celebrate Summer program that provides 4 weeks of summer programming, arts and physical activities for youth, entering Kindergarten through those entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Article 26**

Voted to appropriate **\$850.00** for the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town.

**Article 27**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$250.00** for the Windham County Disaster Animal Recover Team ("WinDART") in order to assist in the care and sheltering of pets in the event of a local emergency.

**Article 28**

Voted to appropriate **\$2,100.00** to support Economic Development in Whitingham for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

**Article 29**

Voted to appropriate the sum of **\$2,000.00** for support of Old Home Week activities for 2026?

**Article 30**

Voted to raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 to Dave and Terrie Dumaine for Senior Meals.

**Article 31**

Voted to allow the Whitingham Free Public Library to spend grant monies and donations at the discretion of the Board of Trustees and Library Director.

**Article 32**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$100,000.00** to be added to the litigation fund in the event we need to litigate and or lobby with the State because of the inequality of the school tax.

**Article 33**

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

Voted to suggest the selectboard to take action to litigate and or lobby to address the inequality of the education funding.

**Article 34**

Elected the following town officers by Australian ballot:

Leon L. Corse, Moderator, 1 year  
Keith Bronson, Selectboard, 3 years  
Sherrie Fox, Lister 3 years  
Tanya Bernard, Town Agent, 1 year  
Stanley Janovsky, Jr. Road Commissioner, 3 years  
Lackey, Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years

Almira L. Aekus, Treasurer, 1 year  
Karl Twitchell, Selectboard, 2 years  
Susan Cooke Johnson, Grand Juror, 1 year  
Almira L. Aekus, Collector of Del. Taxes, 1 year  
Maryann Cheveralls, Library Trustee, 3 years  
Bradford S. No winner - Cemetery Commissioner, 2 years

Meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Dated at Whitingham, Vermont, 8th day of March 2017.

*Almira L. Aekus*

Almira L. Aekus, Town Clerk

**NUMBER OF VOTERS ON THE CHECKLIST - 886**  
**NUMBER WHO VOTED - AUSTRALIAN BALLOT - 247**  
**HIGHEST NUMBER VOTED FROM THE FLOOR - 103**