

# **ABSTRACTS OF MINUTES**

## **TOWN OF WHITINGHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

### **March 3, 2026**

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 10am at the Twin Valley Middle High School Gymnasium in the Town of Whitingham, Vermont agreeable to the warning.

At 10:04am, Moderator Seth Boyd led the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk, Rachel Littlehale declared the polls open. He asked the members of the Board of Civil Authority to introduce themselves: Selectboard members; Scott Reed, James Weber, Lyman "Skip" Tefft Jr., Craig Hammer, Rick Gramlin, Justices of the Peace; Terry Morse, Julie Muller, Abbie Corse, and Town Clerk Rachel Littlehale.

#### **Announcements:**

The Moderator noted that it was his first year presiding and the Town Clerk's first year overseeing Town Meeting, and he requested the Assembly's patience as proper procedures were followed. He further stated that, without objection, he would welcome guidance on procedural matters from the retired moderator, Leon Corse, and expressed appreciation for Mr. Corse's 40 years of service and continued participation.

Attendees were reminded to wear name tags to assist the Board of Civil Authority in confirming voter status. The Moderator also thanked those who assisted with room setup and acknowledged Twin Valley for sharing the gym during playoff season.

Additional announcements included: the Jacksonville Church quilt raffle located in the entry and available during lunch; the Old Home Week Committee's need for volunteers and fireworks donations for the July 24–26 event; and the availability of materials from the Pipelines and Pathways Program which seeks participation from local businesses to connect students with community opportunities.

#### **Article 1**

Voted to authorize payment of real estate taxes on or before November 1, 2026, with ninety-days' notice; to be made by physical delivery to the tax collector before 2pm on that date or with a first-class postmark on or before that date.

#### **Article 2**

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 3**

Voted to authorize **\$106,900.00** for the operation of the Whitingham Free Public Library for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, with **\$87,350.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be offset by **\$19,550.00** in anticipated grants and donations.

#### **Article 4**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$6,000.00** to support economic development in Whitingham for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

#### **Article 5**

Voted to raise and 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 6**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000.00** for Deerfield Valley Food Pantry for the purpose of providing supplemental food assistance to area families in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 7**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** for the continuing support of ambulance operations by Deerfield Valley Rescue for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

#### **Article 8**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$305.00** for Green Mountain RSVP for support of senior volunteer program with training and support for the volunteers who teach Bone Builder classes and who deliver meals in Whitingham in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 9**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,203.00** for Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. to help support outpatient mental health and substance abuse services, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 10**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000.00** for the support of The MOOver/Southeast Vermont Transit to provide transportation services to residents of the town.

#### **Article 11**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,200.00** for Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) to assist in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services, including crisis intervention, housing, fuel assistance, weatherization, tax preparation, financial coaching, Head Start services, thrift stores, and micro business development, to families and individuals in need in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 12**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,032.00** to Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS/BDCC) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region.

#### **Article 13**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,000.00** to offset the cost of providing Senior Meals, to Coordinator of Senior Meals, who provides the meals to the senior citizens in the valley.

#### **Article 14**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$750.00** for Senior Solutions-The Council on Aging for Southeastern VT, Inc. to serve elders and assist with funding the senior meals, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

#### **Article 15**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,000.00** for Twin Valley Youth Sports, an organization that provides all students in Whitingham with grades pre-k through 6<sup>th</sup>, the opportunity to play the organized sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball.

#### **Article 16**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$250.00** for the Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team ("VDART") to assist in the care and sheltering of pets in the event of a local emergency.

#### **Article 17**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$11,000.00** for Wings Community Programs that provide after school programs for Whitingham students Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Article 18**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,795.00** for Wings Community Program's summer programming providing four weeks of academic, enrichment, and physical activity for students entering grades K-8 in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691.

#### **Article 19**

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$850.00** for the Women's Freedom Center for general operating support to provide services to survivors and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of Whitingham, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691.

#### **Article 20**

Voted to authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, of **\$822,562.00** of which **\$538,493.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$268,272.00** in anticipated revenues and **\$15,797.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance.

#### **Article 21**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$152,451.00** for the operation of the Town Fire Department for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

#### **Article 22**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$80,000.00** to the Fire Department Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

#### **Article 23**

Voted to authorize **\$1,715,081.00** for the maintenance and repair of town highways for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, of which **\$1,448,478.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$146,235.00** in anticipated revenues and **\$120,368.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance.

#### **Article 24**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$125,000.00** to the Highway Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.

#### **Article 25**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$50,000.00** to the Town Highway Garage Renovation and/or Replacement Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

State Representative Emily Carris Duncan was recognized and provided a legislative update. She addressed ongoing work in the Legislature related to education funding and implementation of Act 73; consumer protection updates, including revisions to the data broker registry and secondary ticketing marketplace; land use issues and the progression of Act 181; healthcare cost reduction measures; and housing initiatives. She also informed the Assembly of an upcoming virtual town hall hosted by the Windham Regional Commission regarding Act 181 and Tier 3 regulations. Representative Duncan responded to questions from attendees regarding proposed tax legislation, data breach enforcement authority, and efforts to support local economic development.

**Article 26**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$21,000.00** for the upkeep and maintenance of town parks (Parks Committee budget) for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

**Article 27**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$30,000.00** to the Municipal Facilities Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, for continued maintenance.

**Article 28**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$26,750.00** for the operation of town cemeteries for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, with **\$20,940.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be offset by **\$1,150.00** in anticipated revenue and **\$4,660.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance.

**Article 29**

Voted to raise and appropriate **\$5,000.00** for support of Old Home Week activities for 2036.

**Article 30**

**To discuss any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting.**

Hometown Heroes Banner Program:

An announcement was made regarding the launch of Whitingham's Hometown Heroes Banner Program, intended to honor past and present members of the Armed Forces. Applications are available on the Economic Development table and on the town website. Limited scholarships may cover up to half the cost of a banner. Application deadlines are March 27, 2026 (for Memorial Day display) and May 8, 2026 (for Old Home Week).

Housing Rehabilitation Program:

Julie Muller, representative of the regional Housing Rehabilitation Committee, reported that low-interest loans remain available for eligible residents for septic and well work, heating, roofing, plumbing, electrical repairs, and other qualified projects. Informational brochures were made available.

Town Garage Project:

A resident requested an update on the town garage renovation/new construction project. The Selectboard reported that plans have been received and that accurate cost estimates are being developed. A special town meeting may be required once pricing is finalized.

Requests for Agency Participation:

A suggestion was made that organizations requesting town appropriations send a representative to Town Meeting to explain their funding needs, as this may impact on voter support.

Commendation to Moderator:

A member of the Assembly expressed appreciation to the Moderator for a smooth first meeting. The Moderator reminded voters that elections for all town offices (Article 31) were taking place by Australian ballot in the rear of the room, with polls open until 7:00 p.m.

**Article 31**

To elect all Town Officers is required by law. Polls were open from 10am to 7pm at the Twin Valley Middle High School Gymnasium, 4299 VT Route 100, Whitingham, VT with the following results:

**Town Moderator, 1 year**  
**Town Clerk, 2yrs remaining on 3-year term**  
**Selectboard, 2 years**  
**Selectboard, 3 years**  
**Library Trustee, 3 years**  
**Road Commissioner, 3 years**  
**Cemetery Commissioner, 2yrs remaining on 3-year term**  
**Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years**  
**School Director (TVUUSD), 3 years**

**Seth Boyd**  
**Rachel Littlehale**  
**Craig Hammer**  
**Rick Gramlin**  
**Wendy Sergeant**  
**Stanley Janovsky Jr**  
**Katherine MacLean**

**Bradford Lackey**  
**Jared Kingsley**

The floor meeting adjourned at 11:41am.  
Dated at Whitingham, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

Attest:   
Rachel Littlehale, Town Clerk

**NUMBER OF VOTERS ON THE CHECKLIST – 1062**  
**NUMBER WHO VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT – 156**  
**HIGHEST NUMBER VOTED FROM THE FLOOR – N/A**