

MINUTES

Town of Whitingham

2026 Annual Town Meeting

March 3, 2026

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

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

A motion was made by Scott Reed and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 2

A motion was made by Rick Gramlin and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 3

A motion was made by Kristine Sweeter and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 4

A motion was made by James Weber and seconded by the floor to raise and appropriate **\$6,000.00** to support economic development in Whitingham for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 5

A motion was made by Justin Laselva and seconded by the floor 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 prevents youth drug and alcohol use. **Discussion:** Justin commented that instead of making that motion, since the process of community funding occurs each year, he would like to make an alternative motion that the voters raise and appropriate the sums specified in Articles 5 through 19 of the warning.

Moderator Seth Boyd informed Justin of the proper procedure, stating that a motion must first be made as written in the article before any amendments can be considered. Justin agreed, proceeded with the original motion, and it was seconded from the floor. No further discussion, the motion was called and carried by voice vote

Article 6

A motion was made by Maryann Chevaralls and seconded by the floor to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$500.00** for the Deerfield Valley Food Pantry for the purpose of providing supplemental food assistance to area families in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691. A motion to amend was made by Linda Corse and seconded by Maryann Cheveralls to amend to increase the sum from **\$500.00** to **\$1,000.00** for the Deerfield Valley Food Pantry for the purpose of providing supplemental food assistance to area families in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691. **Discussion:** Linda Corse expressed strong support for the amendment, noting that the \$500 contribution has remained unchanged over the past several years. She suggested that the level of need in the community may have increased during that time and that the amount contributed could be adjusted to reflect those changing needs. Maryann Cheveralls emphasized the importance of supporting community members accordingly and thanked the body for its consideration. There being no further discussion, the motion to amend carried. The motion, as amended, was carried by voice vote.

Article 7

A motion was made by Dennis Pike and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 8

A motion was made by Julie Muller and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** John Robohm asked what "RSVP" stands for. Linda Corse stated it stands for Retired Senior Volunteer Program. There being no further discussion, the motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 9

A motion was made by Abbie Corse and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** James Weber asked if anyone from HCRS was present. Abbie Corse stated that staffing shortages make it difficult to have representation. No further discussion. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 10

A motion was made by James Weber and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 11

A motion was made by James Weber and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** James Weber stated that funds come back into the town. No further discussion. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 12

A motion was made by John Doty and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** Craig Hammer asked for further explanation. John Doty referred to page 7 and explained that it helps businesses get started. Abbie Corse added that it supports business owners. No further discussion. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 13

A motion was made by Sara Martin and seconded by the floor to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500.00** to offset the cost of providing Senior Meals, to Coordinator of Senior Meals, who provides the meals to the senior citizens in the valley. A motion to amend was made by Aimee Reed and seconded by Kristy Corey to amend to increase the sum from **\$1,500.00** to **\$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. **Discussion:** Sherry Adams stated that the Senior Meals group has had to pay out of pocket to keep the program running and questioned why they are required to pay rent when not every group in town does. James Weber added that the Selectboard is discussing eliminating rent for Senior Meals. Gig Zboray questioned whether the funds should be directed to an agency rather than a specific individual. Sara Martin stated that if the funds were directed to Senior Solutions, the town would not receive the benefit. Rick Gramlin informed everyone that the Selectboard will not be charging rent for Senior Meals. Joanne Robohm asked why rent had been charged, and James Weber stated that it was intended to help cover equipment maintenance. There being no further discussion, the motion to amend carried. The motion, as amended, was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 14

A motion was made by Claudia Greene and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 15

A motion was made by Justin Corey and seconded by the floor 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 6th, the opportunity to play the organized sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball. **Discussion:** Leon Corse expressed support for the motion and noted that he appreciated the information provided on pages 71 and 72 but questioned why the seven board members were not mentioned. There being no further discussion, the motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 16

A motion was made by Julie Muller and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** A member of the audience asked what the organization does and who it shelters. Kristine Sweeter explained that she utilized the service once during COVID while working at the library, when a patron who was hospitalized had pets and no one else was available to care for them. She noted that it is not a role typically handled by the town's dog officer. Bill Sellman added that the organization is run by Joanne, who leads the Humane Society serving Vermont and New Hampshire, and shared that his wife volunteers there. He noted that the organization has stepped in on numerous occasions, including during recent flooding events, where they housed and cared for dozens of animals for several days. He stated that it is a very worthy organization and that the

requested amount is \$250. There being no further discussion, the motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 17

A motion was made by Abbie Corse and seconded by the floor to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$11,000.00** for Wings Community Programs that provide after school programs for Whitingham students Kindergarten through 12th grade. **Discussion:** Elaine Foster asked if the service is free to residents. Abbie Corse responded that it is. Being no further discussion, the motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 18

A motion was made by Linda Corse and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 19

A motion was made by Julie Muller and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 20

A motion was made by James Weber and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** Sherry Adams asked for clarification regarding "assignment operation" on page 26. James Weber explained that it relates to the sewer system. Sherry Adams then asked whether the issue had been fixed, and James Weber responded that an operational fix was in place. John Robohm asked about the allocation for rent on page 12. James Weber stated that Marylee would follow up with him, as he did not have the information readily available. Sherry Adams also asked about the FEMA entry on page 12, and Gig Zboray noted that it refers to a FEMA grant.

Article 21

A motion was made by Stanley Janovsky, Jr. and seconded by the floor to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$172,451.00** for the operation of the Town Fire Department for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. A motion to amend was made by Stanley Janovsky, Jr. and seconded by the floor to amend to decrease the appropriation from **\$172,451.00** to **\$152,451.00** for the operation of the Town Fire Department for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. **Discussion:** None. The motion to amend carried. The motion, as amended, was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 22

A motion was made by Stanley Janovsky, Jr. and seconded by the floor to raise and appropriate **\$80,000.00** to the Fire Department Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 23

A motion was made by Stanley Janovsky, Jr. and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 24

A motion was made by Stanley Janovsky, Jr. and seconded by the floor to raise and appropriate **\$125,000.00** to the Highway Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 25

A motion was made by Stanley Janovsky, Jr. and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

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

A motion was made by Lyman “Skip” Tefft, Jr. and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** Aysha Wahlstrom expressed appreciation for the motion. No further discussion. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 27

A motion was made by Rick Gramlin and seconded by the floor to raise and appropriate **\$30,000.00** to the Municipal Facilities Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, for continued maintenance. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 28

A motion was made by James Weber and seconded by the floor 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. **Discussion:** Angel Colford asked whether funds are allocated for upgrading stones. James Weber confirmed that there are. No further discussion. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

Article 29

A motion was made by Amy Myers-Delaney and seconded by the floor to raise and appropriate **\$5,000.00** for support of Old Home Week activities for 2036. **Discussion:** None. The motion was called and carried by voice vote.

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:

Leon Corse 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 as 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	Seth Boyd
Town Clerk, 2 yrs remaining on 3-year term	Rachel Littlehale
Selectboard, 2 years	Craig Hammer
Selectboard, 3 years	Rick Gramlin
Library Trustee, 3 years	Wendy Sergeant
Road Commissioner, 3 years	Stanley Janovsky Jr
Cemetery Commissioner, 2 yrs remaining on 3-year term	Katherine MacLean
Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years	Bradford Lackey
School Director (TVUUSD), 3 years	Jared Kingsley

A motion was made by Seth Boyd to adjourn and seconded from the floor. The Town Meeting adjourned at 11:41am.

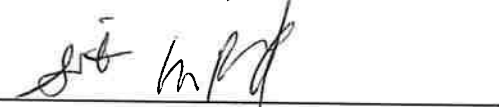
TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE AND OFFICIAL RECORD OF ALL ACTION TAKEN AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD, MARCH 3, 2026

Respectfully submitted: 
Rachel Littlehale, Town Clerk

Dated at Whitingham, this 22nd day of May, 2026.


Seth Boyd, Moderator


Abbie Corse, BCA Chair


Scott Reed, SB Chair

NUMBER OF VOTERS ON THE CHECKLIST – 1062
NUMBER WHO VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT – 156
HIGHEST NUMBER VOTED FROM THE FLOOR – 70