

WARNING

TOWN OF WHITINGHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Whitingham, Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Twin Valley Middle High School Gymnasium at 4299 VT Route 100, in said Town, on March 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. to act on the following business from the floor:

Article 1

Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, of **\$821,444.00** of which **\$425,246.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$257,371.00** in anticipated revenues and **\$138,827.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance?

Article 2

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$161,986.00** for the operation of the Town Fire Department for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026?

Article 3

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$21,000.00** for the upkeep and maintenance of town parks (Parks Committee budget) for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026?

Article 4

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$60,000.00** to the Fire Department Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026?

Article 5

Shall the voters authorize **\$1,681,613.00** for the maintenance and repair of town highways for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, of which **\$1,470,503.00** to be raised in taxes, the balance to be offset by **\$138,676.00** in anticipated revenues and **\$72,434.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance?

Article 6

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$125,000.00** to the Highway Equipment Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026?

Article 7

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$50,000.00** to fund the Town Highway Garage Renovation and/or Replacement Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026?

Article 8

Shall the voters authorize **\$103,290.00** for the operation of the Whitingham Free Public Library for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, with **\$85,265.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be offset by **\$18,025.00** in anticipated grants and donations?

Article 9

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$20,000.00** to the Municipal Facilities Fund for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, for continued maintenance?

Article 10

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$40,000.00** for improvements to the Historical Society buildings for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026?

Article 11

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$23,350.00** for the operation of town cemeteries for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, with **\$18,682.00** to be raised in taxes, and the balance to be offset by **\$1,100.00** in anticipated revenue and **\$3,568.00** appropriated from prior year's fund balance?

Article 12

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$6,000.00** to support economic development in Whitingham for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026?

Article 13

Shall the voters raise and appropriate **\$25,000.00** for support of Old Home Week activities for 2026?

Article 14

Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000.00** for the continuing support of ambulance operations by Deerfield Valley Rescue for fiscal year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026?

Article 15

Shall the voters 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 16

Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of **\$500.00** 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 17

Shall the voters 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 18

Shall the voters 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 19

Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500.00** to offset the cost of providing Senior Meals, to Terrie Dumaine, who provides the meals to the senior citizens in the valley?

Article 20

Shall the voters 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 community meal, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Article 21

Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,200.00** for Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) to assist Whitingham 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 22

Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,071.00** to Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region?

Article 23

Shall the Town of Whitingham vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$1,000.00** for the support of Southeast Vermont Transit/The MOOver to provide transportation services to residents of the town?

Article 23

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

Article 23

Shall the voters raise and appropriate the sum of **\$250.00** for the Windham County Disaster Animal Response Team ("WinDART") to assist in the care and sheltering of pets in the event of a local emergency?

Article 26

Shall the voters 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 27

Shall the voters 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?

Article 28

Shall the voters 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 29

Shall the voters authorize payment of real estate taxes on or before November 1, 2025, 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 30

Shall the voters 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 31

Shall the voters approve and access a 1% local options tax on rooms, meals & alcoholic beverages, and sales pursuant to 24 Vermont Statutes Annotated, section 138?

Article 32

Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Beautification and Improvements Fund to be funded by the 1% Options Tax in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

Article 33

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

The following article will be voted by Australian ballot:

Article 34

To elect all Town Officers required by law, e.g.:

- o Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years
- o Library Trustee for a term of three years (2)
- o Library Trustee for a term of two years (1)
- o Selectboard member for a term of one year
- o Selectboard member for a term of two years
- o Selectboard member for a term of three years
- o Town Clerk for a term of three years
- o Town Moderator for a term of one year
- o School Director (TVUUSD) for a term of three years
- o School Moderator (TVUUSD) for a term of one year
- o School Clerk (TVUUSD) for a term of one year
- o School Treasurer (TVUUSD) for a term of one year

WHITINGHAM, VERMONT
 TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
 RECEIVED FOR RECORD
 This 23 day of JAN A.D. 2025 at
 09 o'clock 40 minutes 41 M. and
 Recorded in Vol. 13 at Page 29
 of TOWN RECORDS
 Attest *Almira Aekus* Town Clerk

Polls open from 10am to 7pm at the Twin Valley Middle High School Gymnasium, 4299 VT Route 100, Whitingham, VT.

Dated at Whitingham, Vermont this 22nd day of January 2025 by the Selectboard, Town of Whitingham, Vermont.

Scott M. Reed, Chair

[Signature]

James Weber, Vice Chair

[Signature]

Lyman Tefft, Jr., Member

[Signature]

Travis Wheeler, Member

Vacant, Member

Attest: *Almira Aekus, Town Clerk*

[Signature]