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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Town Meeting Day is Tuesday

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 A summary of what's on the agenda at Annual Town
3 Meeting for voters in Windham County towns

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 Most voters throughout Windham County will assemble
6 on Town Meeting Day on Tuesday, March 3. Voters in Athens,
7 Brattleboro, Brookline, Rockingham, Vernon, Westminster,
8 Windham, and several other towns will convene on their own
9 respective timetables, and Marlboro voters will make all
10 decisions by Australian ballot.

11 According to the Vermont Secretary of State's office,
12 Vermont law makes Town Meeting Day a holiday for employees
13 of state government. State law also gives an employee the right to
14 take unpaid leave from work to attend his or her Annual Town
15 Meeting, subject to the essential operation of the business or
16 government. An employee must give the employer at least seven
17 days' notice to take advantage of this right.

18 Windham County towns are listed here with election
19 information and highlights of warrant articles that were available
20 by press time.

21 Athens

22 *Town Meeting takes place Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at*
23 *the Athens Community Center. Voting by Australian ballot is*
24 *Tuesday, March 3, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., at the Town Office, 25*
25 *Brookline Road.*

- 26 • **Town budget:** The proposed town budget totals
27 \$734,355.49, with \$633,380.49 to be raised by taxes.
- 28 • **Selectboard size:** Voters will consider reducing the
29 Selectboard from five members to three.
- 30 • **Fiscal year change:** Voters will consider adopting a July
31 1–June 30 fiscal year.
- 32 • **Appointed offices:** Voters will consider allowing the
33 Selectboard to appoint the town clerk and treasurer.
- 34 • **Human services:** Voters will consider \$6,726 for six
35 nonprofit and human services organizations, including SeVEDS,
36 Grace Cottage, Women's Freedom Center, Youth Services, SEVCA,
37 and Bellows Falls Area Senior Center.

38 Brattleboro

39 *Should voters reject a ballot measure to discontinue it,*
40 *Annual Representative Town Meeting begins Saturday, March 21*
41 *at 8:30 a.m. at Brattleboro Union High School, 131 Fairground*
42 *Road, with continuation on Sunday, March 22 if necessary.*

43 *Elections take place Tuesday, March 3, from 7 a.m. to 7*
44 *p.m. at American Legion Post 5, 32 Linden St.*

45 • **Operating budget:** Representatives will consider the
46 municipal operating budget for the coming fiscal year.

47 • **Mountain Home and Deepwood water and sewer**
48 **lines:** Voters will consider funding capital improvements serving
49 Mountain Home and Deepwood mobile home parks.

50 • **Human services:** Voters will consider \$1 for allocation
51 to social service programs through the Human Services
52 Committee.

53 • **Tax exemptions:** Representatives will vote on
54 exemptions from the municipal portion of property taxes for
55 Brattleboro Post 5 American Legion's Little League Field, The
56 Family Garden, Inc., and New England Center for Circus Arts.

57 • **More information:** <https://brattleboro.org>

58 **Brookline**

59 *Town Meeting takes place Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at*
60 *the former Brookline school building, 733 Grassy Brook Road.*

61 • **Town officials:** Voters will elect a town clerk, three
62 Selectboard members, three listers, and an auditor on the Town
63 Meeting floor.

64 • **Finances:** Voters will consider the General Fund
65 budget (\$219,111, with \$160,459 to be raised by taxes) and the
66 Highway Fund budget (\$438,031, with \$287,831 to be raised by
67 taxes). Other agenda items include the School Building Fund
68 (\$15,000) and a town plan for buildings (\$15,000).

69 • **Human services:** Voters will consider \$11,202 for 10
70 nonprofit and human services organizations including
71 Groundworks, Women's Freedom Center, Senior Solutions, and
72 SEVCA.

73 • **More information:** brooklinevt.com.

Dover

Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at
Dover Town Hall. Polls are open 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

- **Finances:** Voters will consider a \$2.96 million General Fund budget and \$2.19 million for the Highway Fund.

- **Capital funds:** Voters will be asked to establish a Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund with \$100,000 from a surplus in the General Fund.

Voters will consider adding a total of \$2.05 million to the Capital Paving Fund, Capital Equipment Fund, and Capital Building Improvement Fund.

- **Human services:** Voters will consider raising and appropriating \$400,241 for eight nonprofit and community organizations, including The Dover Free Library (\$306,605), Deerfield Valley Rescue Inc. (\$30,000), Support and Services at Home (SASH) (\$25,000), Dover Historical Society (\$20,000), Southeast Vermont Transit/The MOOver (\$10,000), Loose Knit Group Food4Kids (\$5,000), and Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) (\$3,636).

- **West Dover Cemetery:** Voters will consider authorizing the Selectboard to accept the West Dover Cemetery as a town cemetery.

As reported by *The Deerfield Valley News*, “The article comes after Cathy Kaufmann asked the Selectboard to consider the town taking over the cemetery, which abuts Kaufmann’s property. Kaufmann told the board in October that she is the last surviving member of the cemetery’s existing association.”

- **More information:** doververmont.com.

Dummerston

Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at
Dummerston School, 52 School House Road. Polls are open 8
a.m.–7 p.m.

107 • **Elections:** Voters will elect town officials by Australian
108 ballot, including three Selectboard members. All municipal races
109 are uncontested.

110 Two races are contested for directors of the Windham
111 Southeast School District races for representatives from
112 Brattleboro (Richard “Rich” Leavy and Kimberly Price) and
113 Dummerston (Daniel Everlith and Paul Smith). Voters in all four
114 district towns vote for the single town’s representative.

115 • **Finances:** Voters will consider a General Fund budget
116 of \$768,037, with \$600,624 to be raised by taxes, and a
117 \$719,575 Highway Fund budget, with \$567,240 to be raised by
118 taxes.

119 As described by Selectboard Chair Todd Davidson in the
120 current issue of *The Views of Dummerston*, the budget includes
121 an increase in funds for the town clerk, the treasurer, and the
122 assistant town clerk. Proposed funding includes part-time clerical
123 help for the Selectboard, and \$5,000 toward an upcoming
124 reappraisal.

125 Public safety expenses include \$4,500 for the Windham
126 County Sheriff’s Office. Davidson notes that the town will soon
127 hold a forum to discuss “options for reducing speed on our
128 roads.”

129 • **Capital purchases:** Voters will consider a \$192,000
130 backhoe purchase and the first of five payments on a fire truck
131 (not to exceed \$108,000).

132 • **Reserve funds:** Voters will consider adding
133 approximately \$104,000 for reserve funds for the Highway
134 Blasting and Crushing fund and the Highway Structures fund,
135 while using \$25,000 from the latter.

136 The Highway Blasting and Crushing fund is used to
137 provide sand and gravel from the Dummerston/Putney pit as
138 well as its future operational needs.

139 • **New name?** Voters will be asked to approve the Lydia
140 Taft Pratt Library Trustees’ changing the name of the library to the

141 "Dummerston Community Center and Library," reflecting the
142 merger of the two entities.

143 • **More information:** dummerston.org.

144 Grafton

145 *Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at*
146 *Grafton Elementary School, 58 School St. Voting by Australian*
147 *ballot takes place from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.*

148
149 • **Financial:** The Selectboard budget totals \$420,072.
150 Voters will consider \$725,840 for highway and bridge work.

151 • **Public safety funding:** Voters will consider raising and
152 appropriating \$62,500 for four public safety purposes, including
153 Grafton Rescue Squad operating expenses (\$5,050), ambulance
154 service (\$9,000), Grafton Firefighters Association operating
155 expenses (\$29,950), and the Grafton Fire Truck Fund (\$18,500).

156 • **Capital budget:** Voters will consider raising and
157 appropriating \$200,000 for the town's Capital Budget, including
158 \$139,500 for the Highway Road & Structures Program, \$3,500
159 for the Computer Software Program, \$42,000 for the Town Hall
160 Requirements Fund, and \$15,000 for the Fire Hydrant Fund.

161 • **Humanitarian expenses:** Voters will consider \$12,231
162 for 11 nonprofit and community organizations including HCRS,
163 Senior Solutions, SEVCA, Valley Cares, and others.

164 • **More information:** grafonvt.org.

165 Guilford

166 *Annual Town Meeting will begin Saturday, Feb. 28, at 10*
167 *a.m. at the gymnasium of the Guilford Central School, School*
168 *Road.*

169 *The election of town officers via Australian ballot takes*
170 *place at the Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford*
171 *Center Rd., from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. "Australian Ballots for the*
172 *March 3 election will not be available at the Saturday Town*
173 *Meeting," warns Town Administrator Erika Elder.*

174 • **Election:** Two Selectboard seats are contested this year.
175 Kimberly M. Frost and Tammy Sargent are competing for a three-
176 year term, while Michael (Mike) Szostak (incumbent) is
177 challenged by Paul Beebe. Remaining offices — for lister, town
178 clerk, and town auditor — are uncontested.

179 Two races are contested for directors of the Windham
180 Southeast School District races for representatives from
181 Brattleboro (Richard “Rich” Leavy and Kimberly Price) and
182 Dummerston (Daniel Everlith and Paul Smith). Voters in all four
183 district towns vote for the single town’s representative.

184 • **Financial:** Voters will consider the General Fund
185 budget of \$1.41 million, a highway budget of \$1.41 million, and
186 \$339,550 for the Guilford Volunteer Fire Department.

187 • **Human services:** Voters will consider \$17,730 for eight
188 nonprofit organizations: Health Care and Rehabilitation Services
189 of Southeastern Vermont (HCRS); Interaction (formerly Youth
190 Services); Women’s Freedom Center; Groundworks Collaborative;
191 Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP); Senior Solutions;
192 Brattleboro Area Hospice; The Gathering Place; Brattleboro
193 Senior Meals; AIDS Project of Southern Vermont; The MOOver
194 (formerly Connecticut River Transit); SEVCA; and Guilford Cares.

195 • **More information:** guilfordvt.gov.

196 **Halifax**

197 *Town Meeting will take place in the Multipurpose Room*
198 *of the Halifax Elementary School, 246 Branch Rd., at 10 a.m. on*
199 *Tuesday, March 3.*

200 *Town officers will be elected by Australian ballot. Other*
201 *than a contest between Paul G. Blais and Sean Youmell for Halifax*
202 *School director, all positions are uncontested. No candidates are*
203 *listed on the ballot for two auditors and school moderator.*

204 • **Town operations:** Voters will consider a \$2.5 million
205 budget for town operations, plus \$28,000 for recycling bin drop-
206 off and pick-up services.

207 • **Town auditor:** Voters will also decide by paper ballot
208 whether to eliminate the position of town auditor.

209 • **Highway Equipment Purchase Reserve Fund:** Voters
210 will decide whether to establish a capital fund for highway
211 equipment and, if so, whether to fund it with \$20,000 this year.

212 • **Human services:** Voters will consider raising and
213 appropriating \$20,465 for 17 nonprofit and community
214 organizations: American Red Cross; Center for Solace (formerly
215 Brattleboro Area Hospice); Deerfield Valley Community
216 Partnership; Deerfield Valley Food Pantry; The Gathering Place
217 Adult Day Program; Green Up Vermont; Health Care and
218 Rehabilitation Services (HCRS); Interaction (formerly Youth
219 Services); Senior Solutions; Southeast Vermont Transit/The
220 MOOver; Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA);
221 Southern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS);
222 VDART Southeast (Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team);
223 Whitingham Fireman's Association; Whitingham Free Public
224 Library; Wings Community Programs; and Women's Freedom
225 Center.

226 • **More information:** halifaxvt.com.

227 **Jamaica**

228 *Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at*
229 *the Town Hall, 3735 VT-30.*

230 • **Town budget:** Voters will consider the town budget and
231 borrowing authority. The total proposed FY2027 budget is
232 \$996,358 for the General Fund and \$1.22 million for the
233 Highway Fund.

234 • **Elections:** Voters will elect a slate of town officials
235 from the floor, including three Selectboard members and three
236 library trustees.

237 • **More information:** jamaicavermont.org.

Londonderry

238

239 *Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m.*
240 *at Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry.*

241 • **Elections:** Town officials will be elected from the floor.
242 Offices include two Selectboard members, town clerk, treasurer,
243 lister, cemetery commissioner, and trustee of public funds.

244 • **Human services:** Voters will consider raising and
245 appropriating \$37,000 for eight nonprofit and community
246 organizations, including Friends of the West River Trail (\$1,000),
247 Grace Cottage Foundation (\$1,500), My Community Nurse
248 program (\$3,500), Neighborhood Connections (\$20,000), Senior
249 Solutions (\$3,000), SEVCA (\$2,000), The Collaborative (\$3,000),
250 and West River Montessori School (\$3,000).

251 • **Reserve funds:** Voters will consider raising and
252 appropriating \$758,000 for reserve funds, including \$3,000 for
253 the Emerald Ash Borer Infestation Reserve Fund, \$100,000 for the
254 Highway Equipment Reserve Fund, \$200,000 for the Town
255 Buildings Reserve Fund, \$410,000 for the Highway Improvement
256 Reserve Fund, \$20,000 for the Pingree Park Reserve Fund, and
257 \$25,000 for the Community Economic Improvement Reserve
258 Fund.

259 • **General office manager funding:** Voters will consider
260 raising and appropriating up to \$81,000 to fund, in part, the
261 salary and benefits of the general office manager, with costs
262 shared across all town departments.

263 • **Local option sales tax:** Voters will consider authorizing
264 a 1% local option sales tax on sales, with proceeds earmarked to
265 reduce the municipal property tax rate.

266 • **More information:** londonderryvt.org.

Marlboro

267

268 *Annual Town Meeting and the Town School District*
269 *Meeting take place entirely by Australian ballot.*

270 *An informational meeting will be held Saturday, Feb. 28*
271 *at the Town House, 13 Town Hill Rd. Polls open for Australian*
272 *ballot voting Tuesday, March 3, 9 a.m.–7 p.m., at the Town*
273 *House. The meeting will also be livestreamed via [Zoom](#).*

274 **• Marlboro School closure:** Voters of the Marlboro
275 School District will consider authorizing the Board of School
276 Directors to close Marlboro Elementary School effective June 30,
277 cease using the building for instructing students, and provide for
278 students' education by paying tuition to one or more public
279 elementary schools in accordance with Vermont law.

280 **• School budget:** Voters will consider approving
281 \$3,374,499 for the ensuing fiscal year. If approved, the proposed
282 budget would result in per-pupil education spending of \$15,224,
283 which is 7.06% lower than the current year's per-pupil spending.

284 **• Finances:** Voters will decide on a \$838,275 General
285 Fund budget and a \$1.11 million Highway Fund budget.

286 **• Fire Company expenses:** Voters will consider \$42,000
287 for the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray
288 operating expenses and \$48,000 for protective wear, breathing
289 apparatus (SCBA), equipment, and firehouse upgrades.

290 **• EMS services:** Voters will consider \$21,525 to Rescue,
291 Inc. and \$7,000 to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. in two separate
292 ballot questions.

293 **• Human services and nonprofits:** Voters will consider
294 raising and appropriating \$17,162 in separate ballot questions for
295 eight organizations, including Southeastern Vermont Economic
296 Development Strategies (SeVEDS) (\$3,234), The Animal Resource
297 Fund (\$408), The Marlboro Meeting House (\$5,000), The
298 Marlboro Community Center (\$5,000), Windham County Natural
299 Resources Conservation District (\$1,000), The MOOver (\$500),
300 SE Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) (\$970), and Health Care
301 and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont (HCRS)
302 (\$1,050).

303 Voters will vote on one \$6,780 ballot question for
304 funding seven local and regional organizations, including

305 Deerfield Valley Food Pantry (\$500), Green Mountain RSVP &
306 Volunteer Center (\$230), The Gathering Place for Adult Day
307 Services (\$500), Brattleboro Area Hospice (\$250), Marlboro Cares
308 (\$1,800), The Marlboro Library (\$500), and The Marlboro Mixer
309 (\$3,000).

310 Voters will consider another ballot question, this one
311 appropriating \$5,700 for seven nonprofit and community
312 organizations, including Groundworks Collaborative (\$1,500),
313 Youth Services (\$1,000), Women’s Freedom Center (\$1,200),
314 American Red Cross – Green Mountain Chapter (\$500), Senior
315 Solutions (\$400), Green Up Vermont (\$100), and Grace Cottage
316 Hospital (\$1,000).

317 • **More information:** marlborovt.us.

318 Newfane

319 *Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 9 a.m. at*
320 *Union Hall, 5 Church St.*

321 • **Elections:** Polls are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. No
322 sample ballot was available at press time.

323 • **Finances:** Proposed spending for general and highway
324 operations totals \$1.9 million. Voters will be asked to consider
325 \$25,467 for annual payments on the town’s excavator, make a
326 variety of transactions with the Capital Reserve Fund, and set
327 aside \$6,750 for the Reappraisal Reserve Fund.

328 • **Human services:** Voters will consider raising and
329 appropriating \$42,435 for 30 nonprofit and community
330 organizations, including Grace Cottage Hospital (\$4,500); Senior
331 Solutions (\$1,400); Southeastern Vermont Transit (\$1,000); The
332 Gathering Place (\$1,000); Historical Society of Windham County
333 (\$1,000); Groundworks Collaborative (\$1,500); South Newfane
334 Community Association (\$500); Center for Solace (\$300); Leland
335 & Gray Education Foundation (\$1,000).

336 Also, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)
337 (\$2,000); Incorporated Village of Newfane (\$3,500); Moore Free
338 Library (\$2,700); Neighborhood Connections (\$1,500); SeVEDS

339 (\$250); Restorative Community Practice of Vermont (\$1,000);
340 SEVCA (\$1,600); Timson Hill Preschool (\$1,300); Valley Cares
341 (\$2,675); Vermont Adult Learning (\$800); Vermont Green Up
342 (\$100).

343 Also, Williamsville School Preservation Society (\$1,500);
344 Windham County Humane Society (\$900); Women’s Freedom
345 Center (\$1,000); Interaction Inc. (formerly Youth Services)
346 (\$1,660); West River Valley Thrives (\$500); VDart (\$250);
347 Windham County Safe Place (\$1,500); Newfane Anew (\$3,000);
348 NewBrook Elementary PTO (\$1,000); and Newfane Cemetery
349 (\$1,500).

350 • **More information:** newfanevt.com.

351 Putney

352 *Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at Putney*
353 *Central School, Westminster Road. Polls are open 10 a.m.–7 p.m.*
354 *at the school.*

355 • **Elections:** Voters will vote by Australian ballot on a
356 slate of public officials. The only contested town election is for
357 Selectboard, with incumbent Fletcher Proctor and Logan Sears
358 competing for the two-year seat. Remaining municipal races are
359 uncontested.

360 Two races are contested for directors of the Windham
361 Southeast School District races for representatives from
362 Brattleboro (Richard “Rich” Leavy and Kimberly Price) and
363 Dummerston (Daniel Everlith and Paul Smith). Voters in all four
364 district towns vote for the single town’s representative.

365 • **Financial:** Voters will be asked to consider a General
366 Fund budget of \$2.02 million and a Highway Fund budget totals
367 \$1.2 million.

368 • **Food security:** Voters will consider raising
369 approximately \$20,219, equal to 1% of the General Fund, for
370 food security initiatives.

371 • **Municipal tax exemptions:** Voters will be asked to
372 consider exemptions for Putney Gun Club and Yellow Barn.

373 • **Universal health care:** Voters will discuss whether to
374 urge the Legislature to discuss, take testimony, and vote on a bill
375 (“Act Relating to Incremental Implementation of Green Mountain
376 Care,” H.433) that would “establish publicly financed universal
377 primary care, mental health services, and substance abuse
378 treatment as a first step in phasing in universal healthcare for all
379 Vermont residents.”

380 • **Nonbinding questions for discussion:** Putney voters
381 will consider several advisory articles addressing capital
382 planning, land ownership, and election policy.

383 Residents will be asked whether the Selectboard should
384 continue seeking funding and pursuing capital fundraising for
385 design development and full renovation of the Putney Town Hall
386 building, and whether it should seek funding to complete the
387 second floor of the Fire Station, including interior improvements,
388 utilities, and construction of an exterior staircase.

389 Voters will also consider whether to authorize the sale or
390 transfer of the 49-acre Putney Town Forest and an 85-acre
391 Brookline parcel to the Putney Mountain Association, a nonprofit
392 organization.

393 In addition, voters will consider a resolution supporting
394 Vermont’s Secretary of State in refusing a federal request to turn
395 over the state’s complete voter checklist. The resolution affirms
396 that Vermont elections are conducted securely under state
397 authority, cites state and federal constitutional provisions
398 governing election oversight, and expresses support for the
399 Secretary of State’s decision to withhold protected voter
400 information in response to a federal lawsuit.

401 • **More information:** putneyvt.org.

402 **Rockingham**

403 *Meeting begins Saturday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. at at Town*
404 *Hall Main Theater (Bellows Falls Opera House, 7 Square), with*
405 *voting Tuesday, March 3, 8 a.m.–7 p.m, at the Masonic Temple*
406 *(61 Westminster St.).*

407 *Saturday's meeting will be streamed via Zoom, but voting*
408 *remotely will not be permitted.*

409

410 • **Financial:** Voters will consider a town and highway
411 budget totalling \$7.4 million, funding the Rockingham Free
412 Public Library with \$436,780.

413 Voters will be asked to consider \$130,564 to maintain
414 town cemeteries and \$22,000 for the Meeting House Capital
415 Reserve Fund.

416 • **Human services:** Voters will consider \$4,500 each for
417 the Springfield Area Parent Child Center and Senior Solutions.

418 • **Real estate tax exemption:** Voters will consider
419 granting five-year exemptions from all real estate property taxes
420 for Bartonsville Grange #481 (130 Upper Bartonsville Road);
421 Saxtons River Village Land & Trout Ponds (201 Pleasant Valley
422 Road); Bellows Falls Village Corp. Watershed Land (125 Darby
423 Hill Road); Bellows Falls Village Corp. Water Tower (706
424 Rockingham Road); Saxtons River Village Recreation Area (75
425 Pleasant Valley Road); Saxtons River Village Horan Forest (698
426 Saxtons River Road); and the Bellows Falls Senior Center (3 Hyde
427 Street).

428 • **More information:** rockinghamvt.org.

429 **Stratton**

430 *Annual Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at*
431 *the Town Hall, 688 Stratton-Arlington Rd., at 10 a.m. Annual*
432 *School District Meeting takes place at 11 a.m.*

433 • **Elections:** Voters will fill town offices, including two
434 Selectboard seats and three school director seats, from the Town
435 Meeting floor.

436 • **Financial:** Voters will be asked whether to approve
437 \$1.28 million for the General Fund budget, along with \$1.62
438 million for the Highway Fund.

439 • **Fire company:** Voters will consider \$85,500 for the
440 Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company's operating budget

441 and authorizing the Selectboard to enter into a lease-to-own
442 agreement for a new fire engine for up to \$750,000, with a
443 seven-year term and annual payments not to exceed \$150,000,
444 beginning in FY2028.

445 • **Community and public safety appropriations:** Voters
446 will consider raising and appropriating \$51,885 for 25 nonprofit,
447 emergency service, and community organizations.

448 • **School district tuition:** Voters will set tuition rates for
449 various schools for town students and approve a proposed
450 \$23,050-per-student rate for Burr & Burton Academy in
451 Manchester.

452 Voters will be asked to approve \$1.05 million for
453 education spending, or \$11,627 per pupil.

454 • **More information:** townofstrattonvt.com.

455 **Townshend**

456 *Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 9 a.m. at*
457 *Dutton Gymnasium, 2030 VT Route 30.*

458 • **Elections:** Voters will fill a number of public offices,
459 including two Selectboard seats, three Cemetery Commission
460 seats, and two Planning Board seats.

461 • **Financial:** Voters will be asked to consider a General
462 Fund budget of \$635,526, a Highway Fund budget of \$1.11
463 million, and a library budget of \$104,382, as well as \$2,100 for
464 the Old Cemetery Fund and \$65,000 to purchase a trash
465 compacting system.

466 • **Reserve and capital funding articles:** Voters will
467 consider creating a Highway Surplus Fund to carry forward
468 excess highway funds for major projects and future expenses, and
469 raising \$400,000 for the Highway Reserve Fund, including
470 \$200,000 for highway infrastructure and \$200,000 for future
471 highway equipment purchases, leasing, and repairs.

472 They will also consider raising \$15,000 for a Fire
473 Department Reserve Fund for vehicle repairs, \$20,000 for the Fire

474 Truck Capital Fund toward a future pumper, and \$4,000 for the
475 Fire Pond Reserve for hydrant projects and repairs.

476 In addition, voters will consider raising \$25,000 for a
477 Town Hall & Opera House Capital Preservation Fund to support
478 structural, mechanical, and historic preservation work, with
479 expenditures approved by the Selectboard.

480 • **More information:** townshendvt.gov.

481 **Vernon**

482 *Town Meeting begins Monday, March 2 at Vernon*
483 *Elementary School. Australian ballot voting is Tuesday, March 3, 7*
484 *a.m.–7 p.m., at the Town Office.*

485 • **Election:** Voters will cast votes for town and school
486 officials. None of the races are contested.

487 Voters will be asked on the ballot to approve school
488 district spending of \$7.9 million, or \$15,762 per student.

489 • **Town budget:** Voters will consider a \$2,478,027
490 General Fund budget, with \$2,309,878 raised by taxes and
491 \$168,149 by estimated income. The proposal represents a 3%
492 increase, largely reflecting the Windham Solid Waste assessment
493 now included in the General Fund. Voters will also consider
494 \$169,612 for the Vernon Free Library.

495 • **Capital and reserve funding:** Articles propose funding
496 multiple established accounts, including \$614,554 for items in
497 the approved Capital Plan (with \$469,758 raised by taxes), along
498 with appropriations for road upgrades (\$150,000), culverts
499 (\$40,000), emergency repairs (\$10,000), parking lot maintenance
500 (\$10,000), elderly assistance (\$50,000), scholarships (\$20,000),
501 and fire pond dredging (\$10,000).

502 Voters will discuss establishing a Community Harvest
503 Festival Reserve Fund, transferring the remaining Town Picnic
504 funds into the new account, and dissolving the former picnic
505 reserve.

506 Voters will also discuss creation and funding of a Fire
507 Dredging Reserve Fund.

508 • **Professional Services Fund:** Voters will consider
509 \$200,000 to continue funding litigation related to utility property
510 tax assessments.

511 • **Community and human services:** Articles total
512 \$13,911 for regional organizations, including The Gathering
513 Place, Women’s Freedom Center, SEVCA, SeVEDS, HCRS, and
514 Senior Solutions.

515 • **Tax Collector change:** Voters will consider authorizing
516 the Selectboard to appoint the Town Treasurer and a collector of
517 delinquent taxes, rather than electing those positions.

518 • **More information:** vernonvt.org.

519 **Wardsboro**

520 *Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 9 a.m. at*
521 *Town Hall, 99 Main St.*

522 • **Election:** Town officials, including two Selectboard
523 members and two library trustees, will be elected from the Town
524 Meeting floor.

525 • **Budget:** Voters will be asked to consider “the
526 Selectboard budget as published.” No information was available
527 at press time.

528 • **Human services:** Voters will consider \$92,951 (level
529 funded) for nine nonprofit and community organizations
530 including Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Department, Grace Cottage
531 Foundation, Senior Solutions, and others.

532 • **More information:** wardsborovt.gov.

533 **Westminster**

534 *Town Meeting begins Saturday, Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. at*
535 *Bellows Falls Union High School, Union High School Road,*
536 *North Westminster. Australian ballot voting is Tuesday, March 3, 8*
537 *a.m.–7 p.m., at the Westminster Institute, 3534 US-5.*

538 • **Elections:** Voters will elect town officers in an election
539 with no contested races.

540 • **Town manager role:** Voters will consider whether to
541 rescind the town manager form of government.

542 • **School district:** Voters will hear school reports and
543 consider applying \$262,279 in projected FY25 surplus to create a
544 reserve fund. They will also consider school board compensation
545 of \$800 per director and an additional \$200 for the board chair.
546 The proposed school budget totals \$5.15 million, which would
547 result in per-pupil spending of \$15,317, a 2% increase.

548 • **Fire District #3:** Voters will hear district reports and
549 consider authorizing borrowing in anticipation of revenue. They
550 will also consider a \$371,800 operating budget for FY27.

551 • **Financial:** Voters will consider a \$1.42 million General
552 Fund budget, and a \$1.8 million Highway Fund budget.

553 • **Tax exemptions:** Voters will consider five-year property
554 tax exemptions for the Westminster Aqueduct Society, Fire
555 District #3, Westminster Recreational Club, and Sojourns
556 Community Health Clinic.

557 • **Property sale:** Voters will consider authorizing the sale
558 of the North Westminster Community House for residential use.
559 [[“Westminster will decide whether to keep dormant community](#)
560 [house](#),” *News*, Feb. 3].

561 • **Community support:** Articles include continued
562 support for the *Westminster Gazette* (\$8,000); increased funding
563 for the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library (from \$7,500
564 to \$20,000); additional funding for the Westminster West Public
565 Library; \$2,000 for the Bellows Falls Community Bike Project;
566 and \$5,000 for the Putney Foodshelf.

567 • **Non-binding resolution:** Voters will consider a non-
568 binding article calling for the removal of the president and vice
569 president of the United States for alleged constitutional
570 violations.

571 • **More information:** westminstervt.org.

Whitingham

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Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. in the gymnasium of Twin Valley Middle High School, 4299 Vermont Rte 100.

• **Elections:** Voters will elect town officers in an election with no contested races.

• **Financial:** Voters will consider a \$822,562 General Fund budget, along with \$1,715,081 for highway maintenance and repair. Articles also propose \$172,451 for Fire Department operations and \$106,900 for the Whitingham Free Public Library.

• **Capital and reserve funding:** Voters will consider appropriations to several established funds, including \$80,000 for the Fire Department Equipment Fund, \$125,000 for the Highway Equipment Fund, \$50,000 for the Highway Garage Renovation/Replacement Fund, \$30,000 for the Municipal Facilities Fund, \$26,750 for cemetery operations, \$21,000 for town parks, and \$5,000 for Old Home Week 2036.

• **Economic and community development:** Articles include \$6,000 for local economic development and \$4,032 for Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS).

• **Public safety and emergency services:** Voters will consider \$30,000 to support Deerfield Valley Rescue ambulance services and \$250 for Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team (VDART).

• **Human services and nonprofits:** Voters will consider a combined \$30,885 for 14 nonprofit and community organizations, including Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, Deerfield Valley Food Pantry, Green Mountain RSVP, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services, The MOOver, SEVCA, Senior Meals, Senior Solutions, Twin Valley Youth Sports, Wings Community Programs (after-school and summer programs), and the Women's Freedom Center.

• **More information:** whitinghamvt.org.

Wilmington

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Town Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at the Old School Community Center, 1 School St.. Australian ballot voting is 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

• **Elections:** Voters will elect town and school officers, with all races uncontested, other than Twin Valley Unified Union school director, where John Haeckel and Chad Bullock are facing off for the three-year term.

Voters will also be decided by ballot a proposed general obligation bond to construct a solar array on the Public Safety Facility rooftop. According to the Wilmington Energy Committee in the Annual Town Report, the project would install 148 solar panels, which “will cover the entire electricity demand for the building; it would cost of about \$200,000, after a 30% cost rebate is applied. The project would have a seven-year payback and an electricity cost savings of almost \$900,000 over the 20-year life expectancy. In addition, the solar project would reduce carbon emissions by over 102 metric tons per year.”

• **Financial:** Voters will consider a \$3.53 million General Fund budget and a \$2.05 million Town Road Fund budget for FY2027.

• **Public safety and emergency services:** Articles include establishing a Public Safety Facility Capital Fund for building maintenance and raising \$40,000 for Deerfield Valley Rescue. Voters will also consider capital appropriations of \$220,000 for Fire Department equipment, \$65,000 for Police equipment, and \$5,000 for the Old Fire House Capital Fund.

• **Highway and infrastructure funding:** Voters will consider \$200,000 for the Highway Town Road Equipment Capital Fund, \$160,000 for the Bridge Capital Fund, \$20,000 for the Highway Building Capital Fund, and allocating the estimated \$26,962 state per-parcel payment to the Reappraisal Reserve Fund.

639 • **Town facilities and capital reserves:** Articles propose
640 \$100,000 for the Memorial Hall Capital Fund, \$75,000 for the
641 Town Hall Capital Fund, \$12,000 for the Library Capital Reserve
642 Fund, \$5,000 for the Transfer Station Capital Fund, and \$150,000
643 for the Public Lands Fences Capital Fund, including work on Lake
644 Raponda Dam.

645 • **Human services:** Voters will consider additional
646 appropriations totaling \$3,800, including \$1,000 for the Vermont
647 Bar Foundation and \$2,400 for Windham County SafePlace.

648 • **More information:** wilmingtonvermont.us.

649 **Windham**

650 *Town Meeting and School District Meeting take place*
651 *Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at the Windham Meeting House, 26*
652 *Harrington Rd. Election of town officers by Australian ballot takes*
653 *place concurrently.*

654 • **Financial:** Voters will consider a \$457,374 General
655 Fund budget, and a \$570,901 Roads budget.

656 Articles propose \$173,000 for the Road Machinery Fund,
657 \$100,000 for repaving, and \$10,000 for the Town Garage
658 Maintenance & Improvement Fund, largely supported by prior-
659 year surplus.

660 • **Facilities and capital reserves:** Voters will consider
661 \$10,000 each for Town Office and Meeting House maintenance
662 funds, \$3,000 for town-wide reappraisal, \$100,000 for the
663 Emergency Reserve Fund, and \$5,000 for the Audit Fund.

664 • **Nonprofits and community support:** An article
665 proposes \$10,000 for local nonprofit organizations as
666 recommended by the Windham Social Services Committee.

667 • **New funds and transfers:** Articles would create and
668 fund several new accounts, including a Schoolhouse
669 Maintenance and Improvement Fund (\$15,000), a Grant Match
670 Fund (including transfer of \$160,639.90 from the Bridges and
671 Large Structures Fund and an additional \$100,000), and an
672 Investment Fund (\$275,000) to be managed by the Selectboard.

673 A Talc Mine Maintenance and Improvement Fund
674 (\$100,000) would be applied to the No. Windham (Hamm) Talc
675 Mine, an 84-acre property now owned by the town.

676 • **School district budget:** Voters will be asked to approve
677 \$598,130 for education spending, or \$14,473 per pupil (a 2%
678 increase).

679 • **Declaration:** Voters will weigh in on whether the town
680 shall declare “that the current statewide education funding
681 system has failed the people of Windham and is no longer
682 capable of providing the equitable and convenient education
683 guaranteed under the Vermont Constitution, and that repeated
684 legislative inaction, including the flawed implementation of Act
685 73, has produced unsustainable property tax burdens that
686 disproportionately harm small rural towns.”

687 In the next article, voters will decide whether the town
688 shall “direct the Schoolboard to formally communicate this
689 position to the Vermont Legislature and to notify state officials
690 that Windham is prepared to explore all available legal and
691 political avenues to protect its taxpayers and students unless
692 meaningful, structural reform is enacted during the current
693 legislative session.”

694 • **More information:** townofwindhamvt.com.

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