



Town Meeting 2026 Bristol, Vermont

Floor Voting: March 2, 2026, 6:00 PM

Paper Ballot Voting: March 3, 2026, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Article 1: Reports of the Town Officers

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

2025 Town of Bristol Annual Report

- The 2025 Town Report is available on the [Town website](#), and printed copies can be obtained at the Town Offices, Lawrence Memorial Library, and Bristol Beverage.
- This comprehensive document provides an in-depth look at the progress and developments over the past year.
- It also provides extensive budget information for the 2027 fiscal year.
- All residents should take a moment to review this report, as it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our town's employees, elected officials, and volunteers.

Article 1: Reports of the Town Officers cont.

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

Town-Wide Police Discussion and Vote

- A plan was committed to but not delivered on due to several factors.
 - Major staffing changes in 2025 were a primary contributor.
- The issue is more complex and nuanced than initially understood.
- Voters deserve more than a binary choice; there's a real appetite for deeper community engagement on what the Police Department should be and how tax dollars are spent.
- Rushing to a vote without fully understanding the consequences could cause more harm than good; an informed, community-driven process is the right approach.
- **More information on this topic will be forthcoming in 2026.**

Article 2: Officers to be Elected

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 | Paper ballot

- **One Selectboard member, three-year term**
 - Michelle S. Perlee
- **One Selectboard member, two-year term**
 - Jessica Teets
- **One First Constable, one-year term**
- **One Second Constable, one-year term**
- **One Town Moderator, one-year term**
 - Jennifer L. Wagner
- **One Town Lister, three-year term**
 - Patricia King (write-in)
- **Two Lawrence Memorial Library Trustees, three-year terms**
 - Scott Kluever
 - Sophie Bristol Pickens
- **One Mount Abraham USD School Board member, three-year term**
 - Michael Dash

Article 3: Local Option Tax

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 | Paper ballot

- Approve a 1% Local Option Tax on sales, meals, rooms, and alcohol?
- How will LOT Funds be used?
 - Capital Infrastructure: minimum 40%
 - Climate Resilience & Emergency Preparedness: minimum 20%
 - Economic Development: minimum 20%
- Rather than drain our capital reserves or take on debt that burdens property taxpayers for decades, LOT gives us a dedicated, sustainable funding stream.
- More info: bristolvt.org/lot

Article 4: Payment of Property Taxes for FY2027

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- **NEW - Three installments, instead of two.**
 - August 15, 2026
 - November 15, 2026
 - March 15, 2027
- **Late payments interest for each installment:**
 - 0.75% per month for the first 3 months
 - 1.25% per month starting after 3 months
- **The interest is only applied to what's owed after each payment for the tax year**
- **The Town of Bristol now accepts credit cards for property taxes**

Article 5: Late Property Tax Penalty

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Set the late payment penalty to 8% of the amount owed (maximum authorized by the State)

Information on Late Payment Penalties

- This is a one-time fee applied to what is not paid by the final tax year payment.
- Any payment made throughout the year, large or small, **will help reduce this one-time fee**, just as with the interest.
- The Town keeps these figures low and is mindful that some of our residents can find it difficult to pay their taxes on time.
- The Town accepts cash, check, credit card, and payment plans to collect delinquent taxes.

Article 6: Selectboard Salaries

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Members: \$1,000 plus \$25 per meeting
- Chair: \$1,000 plus \$35 per meeting

Bang For Your Buck

- The average amount paid to a Selectboard Member is **\$1,700 per year.**
- Selectboard Members attend around 30 meetings per year, most of which are 2-3 hours long.
- Also, remember to consider the time they dedicate to preparing for meetings, participating in project-related discussions, speaking with Town Staff, and engaging in public outreach and conversations.

Article 7: FY2027 General Fund Budget

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Total: \$1,407,887.11
- Raised by taxes: \$1,215,907.11
- Capital funds: Building & Maintenance, Sidewalk, Technology, Cemetery Reserve, Conservation Reserve, Reappraisal
- A 13.74% increase from FY2026

Personnel Costs Increase:

- Well-deserved salary increases for AZ Larsen (Planning & Zoning Administrator), Freeda Powers (Grant Administrator), reflecting hours increases to 40/week, and Amy Smith (Community Resource Specialist), for the completion of partial ARPA funding.
- Health insurance costs decreased 38.26% to \$100,849, providing some relief, as staff members took advantage of the health insurance subsidy program by enrolling in their spouses'/partners' health insurance plans.

Article 7: FY2027 General Fund Budget cont.

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

Personnel Costs Increase cont.

- FICA/MEDI up 15.80% to \$61,541.21
- Workers' Compensation up 26.53% to \$22,500
- VMERS retirement contributions up 18.19% to \$72,892 based on employee salaries

Insurance and Professional Services

- Property & casualty insurance up 77.08% to \$26,562
- Accounting fees increase 38.89% to \$25,000
 - Preparation for future audits and financial reporting

Article 7: FY2027 General Fund Budget cont.

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

Building Maintenance Increases

- Holley Hall building maintenance jumps 316.67% from \$12,000 to \$50,000
 - This is for significant deferred maintenance and major repairs to the building, including water damage, window rot, and sewer line repairs.

Capital Reserve Fund Buildup

- Capital Building & Maintenance Fund: \$120,000 (up from \$30,000) - 300% increase
 - Currently at \$217,662, this fund is expected to see heavy use this year for both the Holley Hall and Lawrence Memorial Library capital projects
 - Capital Sidewalk Fund reduced to \$20,000 (with \$20,000 moving to Capital Building)
 - Also, preparation for the future Public Works Department building design & planning

Article 8: FY2027 Public Works Budget

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Total: \$1,404,341.06
- Raised by taxes: \$1,289,341.06
- Capital funds: Equipment, Paving, Road
- An 8.77% increase from FY2026

Personnel Costs Increase

- Base salaries up 11.59% to \$323,041
- Overtime up 13.53% to \$28,473
- VMERS retirement contributions up 23.51% to \$34,965 based on employee salaries
- FICA/Medicare up 20.17% to \$28,917

Article 8: FY2027 Public Works Budget cont.

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

Contracted Services

- Tree work budget increased 155.81% from \$8,600 to \$22,000
 - Contracting for a larger amount of hazardous tree work throughout the town
- New environmental services line item: \$30,000

Winter Materials Increasing

- Salt: \$78,000 (up 11.43%)
- Winter sand: \$52,000 (up 15.56%)
- Chloride: \$28,000 (up 3.70%)
- Road gravel down 12% to \$22,000

New Debt Service

- Added 2024 Lathrop Hewitt Road property debt: \$20,458

Article 9: FY2027 Arts, Parks, & Recreation Budget

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Total: \$381,317.72
- Raised by taxes: \$237,517.72
- Capital funds: Recreation Equipment & Facilities, Skatepark Project
- A 6.70% increase from FY2026

Recreation Programs Expanding

- Elder Eagles program: \$3,000 (up 50% from \$2,000) for growing senior services
- 5 Town Riders: \$8,400 (new line item for local program partnership)
- Pottery Studio Investment with contracted labor, \$18,000 (up 20% from \$15,000)

Capital Reserve Funds

- Capital Recreation Equipment & Facilities: \$5,000
- Newly established Skatepark Fund: \$5,000

Article 10: FY2027 Fire Department Budget

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Total: \$505,073.40
- Raised by taxes: \$505,073.40
- Capital funds: Fire Equipment, Fire Vehicle
- A 3.44% increase over 2026

Article 11: Lawrence Memorial Library Budget

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Annual Appropriation: \$265,275.44
- To be raised by taxes
- A 2.36% increase over 2026
- Full report and budget breakdown on page 112 of the [2025 Annual Town Report](#)

Article 12: Bristol Rescue Squad Budget

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Annual Appropriation: \$37,820.00
- To be raised by taxes

Article 13: Bristol-based Organization Appropriations

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Bristol Cemetery Association, Inc. \$29,000.00
- Bristol CORE \$10,000.00
- Bristol Family Center \$4,000.00
- Bristol Fourth of July Committee \$8,500.00
- Bristol Historical Society \$2,500.00
- Bristol Little League Baseball & Softball \$2,000.00
- Bristol Recreation Club \$15,000.00
- Bristol Town Band \$1,200.00
- Have-a-Heart Food Shelf \$6,000.00
- NEAT (Northeast Addison Television) \$3,500.00
- **Total: \$81,700.00**

Full organization reports can be found on page 97 of the [2025 Annual Town Report](#)

Article 14: Addison County Restorative Justice Services

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Annual Appropriation: \$2,000.00
- To be raised by taxes
- This organization's third year of appropriation change

Article 15: Local Organization Appropriations

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Addison County Home Health & Hospice \$4,700.00
 - Addison County Parent/Child Center \$4,800.00
 - Addison County Readers, Inc. \$2,000.00
 - Addison County River Watch Collaborative \$300.00
 - Age Well \$2,700.00
 - Atria Collective \$3,500.00
 - Counseling Service of Addison County \$3,875.00
 - Elderly Services \$2,200.00
 - Homeward Bound \$1,000.00
 - Habitat for Humanity Addison County \$1,500.00
 - HOPE \$3,250.00
 - John W. Graham Shelter \$1,400.00
 - Open Door Clinic \$1,000.00
 - RSVP of Addison County \$750.00
 - Tri-Valley Transit \$11,306.00
 - Turning Point of Addison County \$3,000.00
 - Vermont Adult Learning \$1,650.00
 - **Total: \$48,931.00**
- Full organization reports can be found on page 120 of the 2025 Annual Town Report

Civic Organization Appropriations Wrap-Up

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

Total Civic Organization Appropriations

- Total for FY2027 is \$435,726.44
- Total Civic Organization Appropriations are 11.8% of the total FY2027 budget
- Non-Bristol-based Civic Organization Appropriations total \$50,931.00 for FY2027
- The majority of appropriations increase yearly, and amounts are approved by floor vote, not by the Selectboard.

ARTICLE 16: H.433 Implementation of Green Mountain Care

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Shall the voters of Bristol call upon the General Assembly to discuss, take testimony, and vote on H.433 during the 2026 session?

Selectboard Notes

- The Selectboard approved a non-binding resolution urging the Vermont General Assembly to consider H.433, a healthcare bill residents find worthy of legislative attention.
- Healthcare costs are a significant budget pressure for Bristol, making the resolution directly relevant to residents.
- Voters will discuss and vote on the resolution at Town Meeting, fitting Vermont's tradition of direct policy engagement.
- As non-binding, the resolution records residents' collective stance without requiring any specific action.

ARTICLE 17: Any Other Non-binding Business

Monday, March 2, 2026 | Floor vote

- Anything else?

Presentation Wrap-Up

Town Meeting + Floor Voting: March 2, 2026, 6:00 PM

Paper Ballot Voting: March 3, 2026, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Town Meeting Preparations at Holley Hall

- The 2025 Town Report is available on the [Town website](#), and printed copies can be obtained at the Town Offices, Lawrence Memorial Library, and Bristol Beverage
- For the Monday, March 2nd meeting, the Bristol Recreation Department will offer free childcare and pizza in the basement of Holley Hall
- The Masons will also offer low-cost dinner options in addition to their usual free snacks and drinks before/during the Annual Town Meeting
- In-person attendance is strongly encouraged. A remote Zoom option will also be available, though without the ability to vote.

Thank You!

