WARNING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
BRISTOL, VERMONT
March 4 and 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Bristol are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED to meet at Holley Hall in said Bristol, on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., said meeting to be recessed at the close of all business to be transacted from the floor to the following day, Tuesday, March 5, 2024, for voting by Australian ballot between the hours of 7:00 a.m., at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 p.m., at which time the polls will close, for the election of officers and voting on those articles so noted.

ARTICLE 1: To hear the reports of the Town officers. **Article passed by voice vote.**

ARTICLE 2: To elect by Australian ballot the following Town Officers as required by law: one Selectboard member for a three-year term; one Selectboard member for a two-year term; one First Constable for a one-year term; one Second Constable for a one-year term; one Lister for a three-year term; one Town Moderator for a one-year term; three Library Trustees each for a three-year term; one Library Trustee for a one-year term, one Library Trustee for a two-year term, two School Board members each for a three-year term, one School Board member for a two-year term and one School Board member for a one-year term for Mount Abraham Unified School District.

Selectboard Member (3 year term) – Joel Bouvier **802**
Selectboard Member (2 year term) – Jessica Teets **511**
First Constable (1 year term) – Bruce Nason **806**
Town Moderator (1 year term) – Jennifer L. Wagner **791**
Library Trustee (3 year term) – Jessica Teets **788**
Library Trustee (2 year term) – Elyssa Boisselle **756**
Library Trustee (1 year term) – Elizabeth Guilbeault **757**
Mount Abraham Unified School District Member (3 year term) – Erin Jipner **789**
Mount Abraham Unified School District Member (2 year term) – Mike Dash **733**

ARTICLE 3: Will the voters of the Town of Bristol vote that all real property taxes payable in installments shall bear interest at a rate of ¾ of one percent per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-quarter percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of each installment with the payment of the real property taxes and interest to the Town Treasurer for the Town's fiscal year period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, real property taxes being due in two equal installments on November 15, 2024, and April 15, 2025, by physical delivery to the Town Office before midnight on that date?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: Will the Town limit the amount of the penalty charged by the collector of delinquent taxes for payments made after the due date for payment to four percent (4%) of the tax collected pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1674(3)(A)? **Article passed by voice vote.**

ARTICLE 5: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2024-2025 fiscal year General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of **$1,149,168** subject to modification by actions on the subsequent articles, with **$962,968** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2024 Grand List sufficient to raise **$962,968**?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Will the voters set the salaries that shall be paid to the members of the Selectboard for 2024-2025 to be **$1,000** plus **$25** per meeting and **$35** per meeting for the Chair?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2024-2025 fiscal year Public Works Department Operating Budget in the amount of **$912,544,** with **$785,586** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2024 Grand List sufficient to raise **$785,586**?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2024-2025 fiscal year Arts, Parks, and Recreation Department budget in the amount of **$415,076**, with **$302,486** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2024 Grand List sufficient to raise **$302,486**? **Article passed by voice vote.**

ARTICLE 9: Will the voters authorize the transfer of **$200,000** of the June 30, 2022, General Fund unassigned fund balance to the various Town Reserve Funds accounts as noted?

Reserve Funds:	**Amount:**
Capital Sidewalk Fund	$10,000
Capital Technology Fund	$10,000
Capital Building and Maintenance Fund	$40,000
Capital Road Fund	$100,000
Capital Paving Fund	$30,000
Cemetery Fund	$10,000
Total:	**$200,000**

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Will the voters authorize the establishment of a new Recreation Equipment and Facilities capital fund for the Recreation Department and authorize the transfer of **$10,000** from the June 30, 2022, General Fund unassigned fund balance to it?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Will the voters appropriate the following sums to be placed in various Town Reserve Funds accounts as noted?

Reserve Funds:	**Amount:**
Capital Highway Equipment Fund	$135,000
Capital Sidewalk Fund	$40,000
Capital Fire Equipment Fund	$25,000
Capital Fire Vehicle Fund	$125,000
Capital Technology Fund	$7,000
Capital Building and Maintenance Fund	$30,000
Capital Road Fund	$50,000
Reappraisal Fund	$15,000
Capital Paving Fund	$135,000
Conservation Fund	$10,000
Total:	**$572,000**

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Will the voters approve an appropriation of **$218,360** for the Lawrence Memorial

Library for its annual operating budget, said sum to be raised by taxes?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: Will the voters appropriate the following sums in support of the Bristol-based organizations listed below, with said amounts level funded or lowered from the prior year, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

Organization:	**Amount:**
Bristol Cemetery Association, Inc.	$29,000
Bristol CORE	$10,000
Bristol Family Center	$4,000
Bristol Historical Society	$2,500
Bristol Little League Baseball & Softball	$2,000
Bristol Recreation Club	$15,000
Bristol Town Band	$1,200
NEAT (Northeast Addison Television)	$3,500
Total:	**$67,200**

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Will the voters appropriate **$8,500** to the Bristol Fourth of July Committee to organize the parade, fireworks, and events on the Town Green and Recreation Field?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: Will the voters appropriate **$6,000** to the Have-a-Heart Food Shelf for providing food and essential items, free of charge, to any person living in the Five-Town Area of Addison County (Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven, and Starksboro).
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: Will the voters appropriate **$750** to the Addison Allies Network, Inc. for migrant farmworkers living in Addison County?
Appropriation moved to raise to $1,500. Amended Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 17: Will the voters appropriate **$3,000** to the Charter House Coalition that provides emergency shelter and has outreach programs for individuals/families in need?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 18: Will the voters appropriate **$1,500** to Habitat for Humanity Addison County to build affordable, energy-efficient, and sustainable homes for eligible families?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 19: Will the voters appropriate **$22,692** to Bristol Rescue Squad to support emergency services?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 20: Will the voters appropriate the following sums in support of the organizations listed below, with said amounts level funded or lowered from the prior year, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

Organization:	**Amount:**
Addison County Home Health & Hospice	$4,700
Addison County Parent/Child Center	$4,800
Addison County Readers	$2,000
Addison County Restorative Justice Services	$1,150
Addison County River Watch Collaborative	$300
Age Well	$2,700
Atria Collective (formerly WomenSafe)	$3,500
Counseling Service of Addison County	$3,875
Elderly Services	$2,200
Homeward Bound	$1,000
HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects)	$3,250
John W. Graham Shelter	$1,400
Open Door Clinic	$1,000
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program	$750
Tri-Valley Transit	$11,306
Turning Point Center of Addison County	$3,000
Vermont Adult Learning	$1,650
Total:	**$48,581**

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 21: Will the voters authorize the use of Australian ballot for voting on the Civic/Social Services Appropriations starting with the 2025 Town Meeting?
Article was voted down by voice vote.

ARTICLE 22: Will the voters renew the exemption of the Libanus Lodge No. 47 (Mason's Lodge) for its property located at 4 Elm Street from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years pursuant to 32 V.S.A §3840?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 23: Will the voters authorize the purchase of 4.7 acres located at the corner of Hewitt Road and Route 116 from Thomas and Pamela Lathrop for the purpose of constructing a new Public Works facility? A downpayment of $17,000 (10% of the $170,000 purchase price) would be paid at closing from the Capital Building and Maintenance Reserve Fund and the $153,000 principal balance would be paid over a 10-year period at a 6% simple interest rate, with annual payments of approximately $24,000.
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 24: To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting.
Article passed by voice vote.

Sharon Lucia

Sharon A. Lucia, Town Clerk