TOWN OF BRISTOL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING CONDENSED MINUTES
Monday, March 3, 2025 – Tuesday, March 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Bristol are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED to meet at Holley Hall in Bristol on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will address all business to be discussed and voted on in person from the floor. After the meeting, it will be recessed until the next day, Tuesday, March 4, 2025, for voting. Voting will take place by Australian ballot from 7:00 a.m. (when the polls open) until 7:00 p.m. (when the polls close). During this time, voters will elect officers and vote on specific articles.

Herb Olsen, Rep spoke

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

ARTICLE 2: To elect the following Town Officers by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, as required by law:

- Selectboard member (3 year term) – Ian Albinson **620**
- Selectboard member (2 year term) – John (Peeker) Heffernan **593**
- First Constable (1 year term) – Bruce Nason **638**
- Second Constable (1 year term) - vacant
- Lister (3 year term) – Mark N. Bouvier **641**
- Lister (2 year term) – Douglas Corkins **606**
- Town Moderator (1 year term) – Jennifer L. Wagner **639**
- Library Trustee (3 year term) – Vicki Coyle **492**
- Library Trustee (3 year term) – Darren Klinefelter **428**
- Library Trustee (3 year term) – Ken Johnson **340**
- Library Trustee (1 year term) – Daniella Sutherland **312**
- Library Trustee (2 year term) – Elizabeth Guilbeault **406**
- Library Trustee (2 year term) – Peter Hewitt **253**
- Mount Abraham Unified School District (3 year term) – Elizabeth Sayre **506**
- Mount Abraham Unified School District (3 year term) – Meredith Rossignol **421**
- Mount Abraham Unified School District (2 year term) – Melissa Laurie **587**

ARTICLE 3: Will the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026?

- Real property taxes will be due in two equal installments:
  - November 15, 2025
  - April 15, 2026
- Taxes must be physically delivered to the Town Office by midnight on the due date.
- Late payments will incur interest:
  - 0.75% per month (or part of a month) for the first 3 months after the due date.
  - 1.25% per month (or part of a month) starting after 3 months.

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: Will the Town set the penalty charged for late property tax payments to 2% of the amount owed, as allowed by Vermont law (32 V.S.A. § 1674(3)(A))?
The original Article was a 4% penalty. The voters amended it to 2% penalty.
Amended Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Will the voters set the **salaries that shall be paid to the members of the Selectboard** for 2025-2026 to be **$1,000** plus **$25** per meeting and **$35** per meeting for the Chair? **Article passed by voice vote**.

ARTICLE 6: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2025-2026 fiscal year **General Fund Operating Budget** in the amount of **$1,096,775.11*** subject to modification by actions on the subsequent articles, with **$909,845.11** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2025 Grand List sufficient to raise **$909,845.11**?

*Budget includes capital appropriations for the Capital Building and Maintenance Fund, Capital Sidewalk Fund, Capital Technology Fund, Cemetery Reserve Fund, Conservation Reserve Fund, Reappraisal Fund.
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2025-2026 fiscal year **Public Works Department Operating Budget** in the amount of **$1,292,108.24***, with **$1,177,108.24** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2025 Grand List sufficient to raise **$1,177,108.24**?

*Budget includes capital appropriations for the Capital Highway Equipment Fund, Capital Paving Fund, Capital Road Fund.
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2025-2026 fiscal year **Arts, Parks, and Recreation Department Budget** in the amount of **$463,484.77***, with **$314,684.77** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2025 Grand List sufficient to raise **$314,684.77**?

*Budget includes capital appropriations for the Capital Recreation Equipment and Facilities Fund.
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2025-2026 fiscal year **Fire Department** Budget in the amount of **$501,093.41**, with **$501,093.41** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2025 Grand List sufficient to raise **$501,093.41**?

*Budget includes capital appropriations for the Capital Fire Equipment Fund, Capital Fire Vehicle Fund.
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Will the voters authorize the establishment of a new **Skatepark Project capital fund** for the Recreation Department? **Article passed by voice vote**.

ARTICLE 11: Will the voters approve an appropriation for the **Lawrence Memorial Library Annual Operating Budget** in the amount of **$259,162**, said sum to be raised by taxes?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Will the voters appropriate the following sums to support 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 13: 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 14: Will the voters appropriate **$10,000** 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).
The original Article was a $6,000 appropriation. The voters amended it to a $10,000 appropriation. **Amended Article passed by voice vote**.

ARTICLE 15: Will the voters appropriate **$37,820** to **Bristol Rescue Squad** to support emergency services?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: Will the voters appropriate **$2,000** to **Addison County Restorative Justice Services**?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 17: Will the voters appropriate **$1,000** to **The Bristol Mentoring Program** to support volunteer mentors from the Bristol Community and Bristol children?
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 18: 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 Allies Network, Inc.	$750
Addison County Home Health & Hospice	$4,700
Addison County Parent/Child Center	$4,800
Addison County Readers, Inc.	$2,000
Addison County River Watch Collaborative	$300
Age Well	$2,700
Atria Collective	$3,500

Counseling Service of Addison County	$3,875
Elderly Services	$2,200
Habitat for Humanity	$1,500
Homeward Bound	$1,000
HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects)	$3,250
John W. Graham Housing and Services	$1,400
Open Door Clinic	$1,000
RSVP and Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program	$750
Tri-Valley Transit	$11,306
Turning Point Center	$3,000
Vermont Adult Learning	$1,650
Total:	**$49,681**

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 19: To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting. **Article passed by voice vote**.



Sharon A. Lucia, Town Clerk