TOWN OF BRISTOL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING CONDENSED MINUTES
Monday, March 2, 2026 – Tuesday, March 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Bristol are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED to meet at Holley Hall in Bristol on Monday, March 2, 2026, 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 Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 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.

Ruth Hardy, Senator spoke
Karen Lueders, Rep spoke
Herb Olson, Rep spoke

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

ARTICLE 2: On Tuesday, March 3, 2026, elect the following Town Officers by Australian ballot, as required by law:

- Selectboard member (3 year term) – Michelle S. Perlee **549**
- Selectboard member (2 year term) – Jessica Teets **537**
- First Constable (1 year term) –
- Second Constable (1 year term) –
- Town Moderator (1 year term) – Jennifer L. Wagner **579**
- Lister (3 year term) –
- Library Trustee (3 year term) – Scott Kluever **469**
- Library Trustee (3 year term) – Sophie Bristol Pickens **520**
- Mount Abraham Unified School District (3 year term) – Michael Dash **526**

ARTICLE 3: On Tuesday, March 3, 2026, by Australian ballot, should the voters approve a Local Option Tax (LOT) for the Town of Bristol, in alignment with the State of Vermont (currently 1%), on sales, meals, rooms, and alcohol, as specified in 24 V.S.A. § 138(b)? The proceeds would be designated for Capital Infrastructure (minimum 40%), Climate Resilience & Emergency Preparedness (minimum 20%), and Economic Development (minimum 20%).
Selectboard Note: More information can be found at www.bristolvt.org/lot
Voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Yes **418** No **200**

ARTICLE 4: Will the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, to the Town Treasurer?

- Real property taxes will be due in three (3) equal installments:
  - August 15, 2026
  - November 15, 2026
  - March 15, 2027
- Taxes must be delivered in person to the Town Office by midnight on the due date. Postmarks are not accepted.
- 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.

The original Article proposed installments due August 15, 2026, November 15, 2026, and March 15, 2027. The voters amended the due dates to September 10, 2026, December 10, 2026, and May 10, 2027. Amended Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Will the Town set a limit on the penalty charged for late property tax payments to 8% of the amount owed, as allowed by Vermont law (32 V.S.A. § 1674(3)(A))?

The original Article proposed an 8% penalty. The voters amended it to a 2% penalty. Amended Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Will the voters **set the salaries that shall be paid to the members of the Selectboard** for 2026-2027 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 2027 fiscal year **General Fund Operating Budget** in the amount of **$1,407,887.11**, with **$1,215,907.11** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2026 Grand List?

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

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2027 fiscal year **Public Works Department Operating Budget** in the amount of **$1,404,341.06**, with **$1,289,341.06** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2026 Grand List?

*Budget includes capital appropriations for the Capital Equipment Fund, Capital Paving Fund, and Capital Road Fund.

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2027 fiscal year **Arts, Parks, and Recreation Department Budget** in the amount of **$381,317.72**, with **$237,517.72** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2026 Grand List?

*Budget includes capital appropriations for the Capital Recreation Equipment and Facilities Fund and the Skatepark Project Fund.

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2027 fiscal year **Fire Department Budget** in the amount of **$505,073.40**, with **$505,073.40** to be raised by taxes through a tax rate set by the Selectboard on the 2026 Grand List?

*Budget includes capital appropriations for the Capital Fire Equipment Fund and the Capital Fire Vehicle Fund.

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 **$265,275.44**, said sum to be raised by taxes?

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Will the voters approve an appropriation for the **Bristol Rescue Squad Annual Operating Budget** in the amount of **$37,820.00**, said sum to be raised by taxes
Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: 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.	$29,000.00
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**

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Will the voters appropriate **$2,000.00** to **Addison County Restorative Justice Services**? **Article passed by voice vote.**

ARTICLE 15: 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	$4,700.00
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**

Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the voters of Bristol call upon the General Assembly to discuss, take testimony, and vote on H.433 during the 2026 session? H.433, an Act Relating to incremental Implementation of Green Mountain Care, would establish publicly financed universal primary care, mental health services, and substance use treatment as a first step in phasing in universal health care for all Vermont residents. **Article passed by voice vote.**

ARTICLE 17: To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting.

Under this article, the voters adopted, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the Apartheid-Free Communities Pledge, as amended, on a standing vote of 35 in favor to 30 opposed.

The adopted pledge reads: **"We affirm our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people, and we oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression, and we declare ourselves an apartheid-free community, and to that end, we pledge to join others in working to end all support to the government of Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation."**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:48 p.m.

Sharon A. Lucia, Town Clerk