

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Townshend are hereby notified and WARNED to meet at Dutton Gym in Townshend, Vermont on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 9 am to act on the following articles viz:

David Liebow, Moderator, calls the meeting to order at 9:07 am. The moderator gives his opening remarks, leads the town in the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence and welcomes new residents. There are no objections to the moderator not reading through the entirety of the Warning.

David Liebow called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

ARTICLE I: To choose a moderator for the ensuing year.

Liebow opens nominations for Moderator. Andrew Snelling nominates David Liebow for Moderator. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for David Liebow for Moderator for a one year term.

David Liebow, Moderator, one year term

ARTICLE II: To act upon the July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 independent auditor's report.

Nicolas Suarez makes the motion to approve the article. Catherine Marrow seconds the motion. Discussion and then Bob DeSiervo makes an amendment for the Selectboard to report each month on the progress of the recommendations from the Auditor's Report. Craig Hunt seconds the amendment. Discussion followed with Tyler Burns asking who responsibility it is, with Snelling saying that the Auditor's Report goes to the Selectboard. The Amendment passes by paper ballot, 94 to 40. The motion passes unanimously with a voice vote.

ARTICLE III: Shall the voters vote to restructure the Finance Department to create a parttime Treasurer and a part-time book-keeper to fulfill the duties of the treasurer and tax collector duties.

Nicolas Suarez makes the motion to approve the article. Catherine Marrow seconds the motion. Suarez speaks to why the Selectboard is proposing this change. Discussion ensues, questioning why this is being proposed and how it would work. Warren Beattie calls the vote and Tammy Claussen seconds. A paper ballot is called and the Article is defeated, with 110 voting no and 33 voting yes.

ARTICLE IV: To elect all Town Officials for the ensuing year(s):

Town Clerk 1 year term

Craig Hunt nominates Ellenka Wilson. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Ellenka Wilson for Town Clerk for a one year term.

Ellenka Wilson, Town Clerk one year term

Town Treasurer 1 year term

Craig Hunt nominates Elaine Hill. Hill respectfully declines the nomination. Nick Suarez nominates Elisha Stratford. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Elisha Stratford for Treasurer for a one year term.

Elisha Stratford, Treasurer, one year term

Selectboard 3 year term

Nick Suarez nominates Catherine Marrow. Irving Stowell nominates Rob Wright. Bob DeSiervo nominates Laura Richardson. Michelle Brooks Valliere nominates Steven Frisk. Rob Wright withdraws his nomination. Mary Gould Merrill nominates Warren Beattie. Warren declines the nomination. The results of the paper ballot are as follows: Marrow 85. Laura Richardson 34. Steven Frisk 28. Marrow has the majority. Catherine Marrow is elected to the Selectboard to a three year term.

Catherine Marrow, Selectboard, three year term

Selectboard 1 year term

Tyler Burns nominates Steven Frisk. Elizabeth Martin nominates Shiloh Tedrow. Susan Hunt nominates Laura Richardson. Warren Beattie nominates Rob Wright and Glenn Beattie nominates Dale West. The first paper ballot resulted in Frisk receiving 38. Tedrow 21. Richardson 34. Wright 34. West 28. Being no majority, a second vote was called. Frisk withdrew his nomination. The results of the second paper vote as follows: Tedrow 20. Richardson 41. Wright 59. West 25. Being no majority, a third paper vote was called. Tedrow received 19 votes, Richardson 48 and Wright received (81) the majority and wins the seat.

Rob Wright, Selectboard, one year term

Selectboard 1 year term

Nick Suarez nominates Steven Frisk. Shaun Marrow nominates Dale West. Liza Martin nominates Shiloh Tedrow. Susan Hunt nominates Laura Richardson. The first paper ballot resulted in Frisk receiving 60. Tedrow 12. Richardson 38. West 32. Being no majority, a second vote was called. The results of the second paper vote as follows: Tedrow 6. Richardson 39. Frisk 77. West 17. Frisk received the majority and wins the seat.

Steven Frisk, Selectboard, one year term

Lister 3 year term

Stanley "Mike" Bills nominates Eugene Kuch. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Eugene Kuch for Lister for a one three term.

Eugene Kuch, Lister, three year term

Delinquent Tax Collector 1 year term

Irving Stowell nominates Becky Nystrom Reilly. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Becky Nystrom Reilly for Delinquent Tax Collector for a one year term.

Becky Nystrom Reilly, Delinquent Tax Collector one year term

First Constable 1 year term

Steven Frisk nominates Warren Beattie. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Warren Beattie for First Constable for a one year term.

Warren Beattie, First Constable one year term

Second Constable 1 year term

Andy Snelling nominates Mike Cutts. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Mike Cutts for Second Constable for a one year term.

Mike Cutts, Second Constable one year term

Library Trustee 5 year term

Nick Suarez nominates Marliee Attley. Kathy DuGrenier nominates Sandy Glaser. Attley declines the nomination. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Sandy Glaser for Library Trustee for a five year term.

Sandy Glaser, Library Trustee five year term

WRMUED Representative 3 year term

Joe Winrich nominates Al Claussen. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Al Claussen for WRMUED Representative for a five year term.

Al Claussen, WRMUED Representative three year term

Cemetery Commissioner 5 year term

Charlie Marchant nominates Scott Nystrom. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Scott Nystrom for Cemetery Commissioner for a five year term.

Scott Nystrom, Cemetery Commissioner five year term

Cemetery Commissioner 2 year term

Charlie Marchant nominates Jay Warren. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Jay Warren for Cemetery Commissioner for a five year term.

Jay Warren, Cemetery Commissioner two year term

Cemetery Commissioner 3 year term

Charlie Marchant nominates Tim Massucco. There being no other nominees, nominations are closed. The nomination passes by a voice vote and the clerk casts a single ballot for Tim Massucco for Cemetery Commissioner for a five year term.

Tim Massucco, Cemetery Commissioner three year term

ARTICLE V: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to cover all monies raised for municipal entities for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

Nicolas Suarez makes the motion to approve the article. Gene Kuch seconds the motion. The article is approved by a voice vote.

ARTICLE VI: To see if the Town will authorize its Property Tax Collector to receive its Real Property Taxes quarterly, August 26, 2026, November 24, 2026, February 24, 2027, and May 26, 2027. Monthly interest will be charged at the rate of one-half percent (.5%) or fraction thereof, Interest of one percent (1%) or fraction thereof plus penalties will commence on May 30, 2026?

Nicolas Suarez makes the motion to approve the article. Catherine Marrow seconds the motion. The article is approved by a voice vote.

ARTICLE VII: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$635,526 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of the Town of which \$441,585 to be raised in taxes?

Nicolas Suarez makes the motion to approve the article. Gene Kuch seconds the motion. Suarez makes an amendment to add the Treasurers salary and benefits to the appropriation. The Treasurers salary would increase from \$5,000 to \$35,124.07, benefits would cost \$21,000. The \$20,000 the Selectboard budgeted for a Bookkeeper would no longer be needed. The Amendment would increase appropriation from \$635,526 to **\$671,650.07** and the amount to be raised in taxes would increase from \$441,585 to **\$477,709.07**. Steven Frisk seconds the amendment. The amendment passes with a voice vote. There was discussions about where and why surplus is kept, Suarez said that the Selectboard does what the Auditors recommend keeping some, rather lowering the tax burden. Discussion includes how much a \$100,000 surplus would reduce individual taxes. The article is approved by a voice vote.

ARTICLE VIII: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$1,114,215 to pay for the running expenses and liabilities of maintaining the Town's roads of which \$736,065 to be raised in taxes?

Katie Marrow makes the motion to approved the article and Nick Suarez seconds the motion. There is discussion about the need for gravel every year, as it used to be done every other year, people expressed safety concerns if the Town does not have enough gravel. Chad Greenwood makes an amendment to decrease the budget by \$50,000 to eliminate yearly gravel crushing. A paper ballot is called, the amendment fails, with 73 people voting against the amendment while 39 people voted for it. Liza Martin called the question, Jillian seconds the motion. A paper ballot is called and the Article passes 72 to 32.

ARTICLE IX: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$104,382, by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the library.

Gene Kuch makes the motion. Kristine Kuch seconds the motion. Elizabeth Brown makes an amendment to reduce the expenses and liabilities by \$10,413, as the Librarian no longer needs benefits. The amendment to raise \$93,969 by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the library is seconded and passes with a voice vote. Laura Richardson questions why if the Librarians salary and hours are increased, the library isn't open to the public more. The motion to raise \$93,969 by taxation, for the running expenses and liabilities of the library passes with a voice vote.

ARTICLE X: To see if the Town will raise \$2,100, by taxation, for the Old Cemetery Fund?

Craig Hunt makes the motion. The motion is seconded by Katie Marrow and is approved by a voice vote.

ARTICLE XI: To see if the Town will vote to create a Highway Surplus Fund to carry over highway surplus funds to address large highway projects and save money for future highway expenses?

The motion is made by Connie Holt and seconded by Katie Marrow. Irv Stowell made an objection to consideration of the question (Passover the motion). A paper ballot was called and did not meet the 2/3 necessary (44 yes, 37 no). There is a lot of discussion about where and why there is a surplus and if the surplus money is making decent interest. There are

concerns that if there is a surplus we are being overtaxed and that such a surplus adds concerns about a lack of transparency. Al Haumann makes an amendment to the article that any surplus funds are in an interest-bearing account. Connie Holt seconds the amendment. The amendment fails by a voice vote. A paper ballot is called, the article fails, with 35 voting for it and 44 against.

ARTICLE XII: To see if the Town will vote to raise, by taxation, and appropriate \$400,000 to the Highway Reserve Fund with the following allocation;

1. \$200,000 to be used towards funding highway infrastructure.
2. \$200,000 to used towards funding future purchases, leasing and repair of highway equipment.

Katie Marrow makes the motion to approve the article. Nick Suarez seconds the motion. Andy Snelling makes an amendment to appropriate \$200,000, not \$400,000. Bob DeSeirvo seconds. There is discussion about the need for the equipment to be properly maintained and not run into the ground. Robert Trier brings up the point that no one pays cash for equipment and there are bonds and municipal loans for such expenses. Catelyn Mays calls for the vote, Gene Kuch seconds it. A paper ballot is called. The amendment passes with 44 in favor and 33 opposed. Tyler Burns calls for an amendment, changing it from \$200,000 to \$360,000. Jillian Settle calls the vote, with a called paper ballot the amendment passes with 40 in favor and 36 opposed. The amendment passes. Nick Suarez calls the question. The article passes with 38 in favor and 30 opposed.

ARTICLE XIII: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$15,000, by taxation, and placed in a Fire Department reserve fund for vehicle repair, as requested by the town auditor and the Selectboard?

Glen Beattie makes the motion. Nick Suarez seconds the motion. There is a short discussion about the repair needs and age of the fleet. The article passes with a voice vote.

ARTICLE XIV: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$20,000, by taxation, to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Fund toward a future pumper?

Craig Hunt makes the motion. Gene Kuch seconds it. The article is approved by a voice vote.

ARTICLE XV: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$4,000, by taxation, to be placed in the Fire Pond Reserve account toward a future fire pond or maintenance of the existing fire ponds?

Craig Hunt makes the motion. Nick Suarez seconds it. The article is approved by a voice vote.

ARTICLE XVI: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000, by taxation, to be placed in a Town Hall & Opera House capital Preservation Fund, to be used exclusively for ongoing structural, mechanical, and historic preservation work on the Town Hall & Opera House building - specifically excluding routine maintenance, day-to-day operational expenses, or any costs currently funded under existing Town Hall budget line items - with expenditures from said fund to be approved by the Selectboard.

Catelyn Mays makes a call to pass over before the article is read. Craig Hunt makes the motion. Charlie Marchant seconds the motion. A paper ballot is called to pass over the article. The pass over is denied with a vote for 40 to not pass it over and 31 in favor. There is discussion about why this money is necessary, what work needs to be done at Town Hall. Irving Stowell calls the question. Shaun Marrow seconds it. The Article passes with a voice vote.

ARTICLE XVII: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$20,015 by taxation, for the support of Social Services, as recommended by the Social Services Committee?

Craig Hunt makes the motion. Lucas Farrel seconds the motion. The Article passes with a voice vote, with a few nos.

ARTICLE XVIII: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$65,000, through taxation, for the purpose of purchasing a trash compacting system for trash collection at the Transfer Station?

Nick Suarez makes the motion. Craig Hunt & Katie Marrow second the motion. Discussion involves if the compacting system will have a roof and the increasing hauling fees. The Article passes with a voice vote.

ARTICLE XIX: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire land by gift or purchase for municipal forest to promote reforestation water conservation and good forestry practices?

Craig Hunt makes the motion. Nick Suarez seconds it. The article passes by a voice vote.

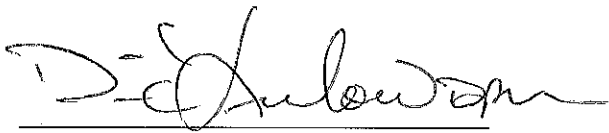
ARTICLE XX: To see if the Town will vote to set the first Tuesday in March 2027 as the date for the 2027 Town of Townshend Annual Meeting?

Nicolas Suarez makes the motion to approve the article. Catherine Marrow seconds the motion. The article is approved by a voice vote.

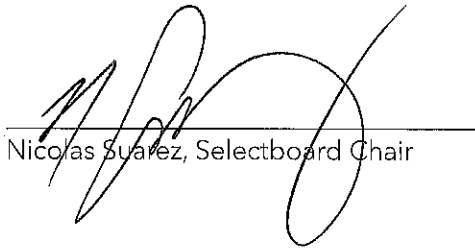
ARTICLE XXI: To transact any other non-binding business to properly come before said Meeting?

There is no other non-binding business to be discussed.

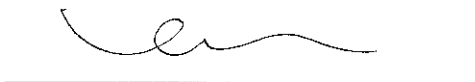
The 2026 Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.



David Liebow, Moderator



Nicolas Suarez, Selectboard Chair



Ellenka Wilson, Town Clerk