



**Town of Danville**  
P.O. Box 183 - 36 Route 2 West  
Danville, VT 05828  
**Tel (802) 684-3352 \* Fax (802) 684-9606**

March 12, 2025

Vermont Secretary of State  
Elections Division

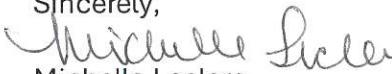
Secretary Hanzas,

On March 4, Town Meeting Day, Danville passed a measure, 150-112 by Australian ballot, asking the legislature to repeal its charter: [24 App. V.S.A. ch. 114](#). Enclosed are the supporting documents.

Danville's charter, enacted in 2011, only does one thing: it requires the use of Australian ballot for Town and highway budgets. Danville has been voting this way for 15 years now and voters seem happy doing so – but would like to repeal the charter that mandates it. Without the charter, voters expect to continue to vote on Town and highway budgets by Australian ballot for the foreseeable future, in accordance with [17 V.S.A. § 2680\(c\)\(2\)\(D\)](#). The normal process of discontinuing use of Australian ballot would already be a significant municipal effort, requiring a separate Australian ballot vote and taking effect the following year, which is why proponents characterized the charter constraint as unnecessary.

In working through the charter repeal process per [17 V.S.A. § 2645](#), we did make at least one mistake. The Selectboard scheduled the public hearings at the pre-Town Meeting informational meetings to maximize attendance, so the first hearing was 24 days before the vote, not at least 30. (We did not realize the mistake until 2 days before the first meeting.) There was better-than-usual attendance at the meetings, and normally literally no-one from the public shows up for special-purpose public hearings, so we hope the legislature will forgive this error.

Sincerely,

  
Michelle Leclerc  
Danville Town Clerk

**Town of Danville**  
P.O. Box 183 - 36 Route 2 West  
Danville, VT 05828

January 2, 2025

**Town of Danville Charter Proposal**

Per the Town Meeting Committee recommendation and in accordance with [17 V.S.A. § 2645](#), the Selectboard proposes the following charter repeal question for Town Meeting 2025, to be asked by Australian ballot.

**Shall the town voters (Australian ballot) propose the General Assembly repeal its charter, 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 114, § 101? In accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2645, the entire charter text to be deleted is shown here: Annual and special meetings, All annual and special meetings of the town of Danville shall be called and warned in the manner provided by the laws of the State. All voting on the Town budget and the highway budget at all annual and special meetings shall be by Australian ballot.**

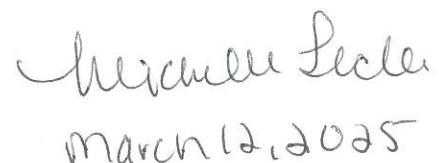
Note that according to [17 V.S.A. § 2645](#) the town must hold two public hearings [(3)(A)], the notices must include the deleted matter struck through [(6)(B)(i)], and the voting shall be by Australian ballot [(7)(A)] as proposed. Note also that if the measure passes and the legislature repeals the charter, Danville will continue to vote on Town and highway budgets by Australian ballot in accordance with [17 V.S.A. § 2680\(c\)\(2\)\(D\)](#), unless and until the town votes to discontinue it - just like any other Vermont town.



GLENN E. HERRIN  
Selectboard member and  
Town Meeting Committee member

References:

- 1 - [Selectboard meeting minutes, July 18, 2024](#) (Town Meeting Committee presentation)
- 2 - [Town Meeting Committee Report 2024](#)



March 12, 2025



**WARNING**  
**TOWN OF DANVILLE**  
**SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING**  
**PURSUANT TO 1 V.S.A. § 312 (c)(2),(5)**  
Community Building  
4215 Bruce Badger Memorial Hwy, North Danville, VT

**AGENDA**

**Monday, March 3, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

**7:00 PM – Call to Order**

- A. Public Informational Meeting Budget Hearing – School
- B. Public Informational Meeting Budget Hearing – Town
- C. **Public Hearing - Charter Change:** Shall the town voters (Australian ballot) propose the General Assembly repeal its charter, 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 114, § 101; In accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2645, the entire charter text to be deleted is show here: Annual and special meetings. All annual and special meetings of the Town of Danville shall be called and warned in the manner provided by the laws of the State. All voting on the Town budget and the highway budget at all annual and special meetings shall be by Australian ballot?
- D. Any other business that legally comes before the meeting

**8:00 PM – Adjourn**

Teams Link:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_N2YxZjE4MmUtZjVhMS00OTliLThiMzQtN2ExNjAwYmMzZmE3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2285144860-a5c5-47db-9b4c-2e330e85d5dc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228209ba1-9568-4561-a9e6-c822025253f5%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_N2YxZjE4MmUtZjVhMS00OTliLThiMzQtN2ExNjAwYmMzZmE3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2285144860-a5c5-47db-9b4c-2e330e85d5dc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228209ba1-9568-4561-a9e6-c822025253f5%22%7d)

Town of Danville  
Unapproved Selectboard Minutes  
Public Informational Pre-Town Meeting & Public Hearing  
March 3, 2025  
North Danville Community Building (7:00 pm)

**Board Members Present:** Janice Ouellette, Eric Bach, Peter Griffin and Glenn Herrin

**Board Members Absent:** Alison Low

**Others Present:** Audrey DeProspero, Michelle Leclerc, Donna Somers, Tom Ziobrowski, Dianne Langmaid, Matthew Choate, Tom Ziobrowski, Marvin Withers, Keith Gadapee, David Towle, Eric Hewitt, Clayton Cargill, Mary Beatte, Linda Camato, Mike Boudreau, Kelly Sinclair, Lee Beattie, Kay Freedy, Deb Marrier, Marge St. Marie, Dan Ouellette and Greg Prior

Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chair Janice Ouellette at 7:07 pm.

**1. Public Informational Meeting Budget Hearing – SCHOOL**

School discussed open seats, people running and warning.

**School discussion finished at 8:16 pm**

**2. Public Information Meeting Budget Hearing – TOWN**

**Opened at 8:20 pm**

**Discussion ensued on**

Open positions:

Moderator – Toby Balivet running for 1 year term.

Selectboard – 3 year – Alison Low running for three-year term. She was unable to attend this evening.

Selectboard – one year – Glenn Herrin running for one year term. Glenn Herrin discussed his background.

Selectboard – one year – Matt Choate running for one year term. Matt Choate discussed his background.

Lister – 3 year – Tim Ide running for three-year term.

Delinquent Tax Collector – Ed Ledo running for one year term.

Warning items:

Janice Ouellette discussed General Fund taxes up \$198,822 and unaudited deficit of \$149,905.

There were questions and answers on items.

Highway increase discussed, surplus amount, stabilization of taxes and additional equipment purchase.

Glenn Herrin discussed property tax breakdown.

Janice Ouellette discussed Train Station not budgeting in general fund, a suggestion of the new auditing firm to put in a separate fund.

Eric Bach discussed Special Article-Tennis Courts being owned by town and their need of attention.

Glenn Herrin discussed Special Article-Speeding and seeing how people felt about expending additional money to hire or contract for additional police or sheriff coverage.

Eric Bach discussed Reserve Fund.

Community Appropriations discussed.

Glenn Herrin discussed Historical Perspective (inflation and adjustment)

- 3. Public Hearing - Charter Change:** Shall the town voters (Australian ballot) propose the General Assembly repeal its charter, 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 114, § 101: Annual and special meetings. All annual and special meetings of the Town of Danville shall be called and warned in the manner provided by the laws of the State. All voting on the Town budget and the highway budget at all annual and special meetings shall be by Australian ballot?

Public Hearing opened at 9:30 pm.

Glenn Herrin discussed state law, holding Australian ballot on General and Highway budgets, not needing charter because they already do and will continue to do. It is a law that they do not need so they want to get rid of it. Ask legislature to repeal to get off books and next year Danville will continue to do the same. If town votes and it passes, town will submit to legislature.

Discussion ensued.

Public Hearing closed at 9:37 pm.

- 4. Any Other Business that legally comes before the meeting**

Tom Ziobrowski inquired about payment of tax due date.

Michelle Leclerc discussed HS122 and lessening complication of due dates.

- 5. Adjourn – 9:39 pm.**

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted March 5, 2025 at 12:50 pm.



**WARNING  
TOWN OF DANVILLE  
SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING  
PURSUANT TO 1 V.S.A. § 312 (c)(2),(5)**

Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
36 Route 2 West, Danville, VT

**AGENDA**

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

**12:30 PM – Lunch**

**1:00 PM – Call Meeting to Order**

- A. Public Informational Meeting Budget Hearing – School
- B. Public Informational Meeting Budget Hearing – Town
- C. **Public Hearing - Charter Change:** Shall the town voters (Australian ballot) propose the General Assembly repeal its charter, 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 114, § 101: In accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2645, the entire charter text to be deleted is show here: Annual and special meetings. All annual and special meetings of the Town of Danville shall be called and warned in the manner provided by the laws of the State. All voting on the Town budget and the highway budget at all annual and special meetings shall be by Australian ballot?
- D. Any other business that legally comes before the meeting

**2:00 PM – Adjourn**

Teams Link:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MmQ0YWI5ZTQtMTdmZi00ZGMzLWFkZDktMWFkOTkyYjRjNGQ5%40th-read.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2285144860-a5c5-47db-9b4c-2e330e85d5dc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228209ba1-9568-4561-a9e6-c822025253f5%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmQ0YWI5ZTQtMTdmZi00ZGMzLWFkZDktMWFkOTkyYjRjNGQ5%40th-read.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2285144860-a5c5-47db-9b4c-2e330e85d5dc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228209ba1-9568-4561-a9e6-c822025253f5%22%7d)

Town of Danville  
Selectboard Minutes  
Public Informational Pre-Town Meeting & Public Hearing  
February 8, 2025  
Danville Town Hall (12:30 lunch/1:00 meeting)

**Board Members Present:** Janice Ouellette, Alison Low, Eric Bach and Glenn Herrin

**Board Members Absent:** Peter Griffin

**Others Present:** Audrey DeProspero, Barbara H. Fontaine, Gary G. Fontaine, Tom Ziobrowski, Chris Burns, Scott Burns, Eric Schafer, Matt Foster, Julia Rapczynski, Ellen Gold, Jeff Gold and Diana Moore, Tim Sanborn, Clayton Cargill and Sarah Welch

**Others Present Using Teams:** Kay Freedy and Ginny Lavelly

Meeting called to order by Janice Ouellette at 1:00 pm.

1. **Public Informational Meeting Budget Hearing – SCHOOL** – Clayton Cargill spoke on school information.
2. **Public Information Meeting Budget Hearing – TOWN** – Janice Ouellette discussed open positions: Peter Griffin not running, three-year seat open which Alison Low is running for, and 2 one-year terms open which both Glenn Herrin and Matt Choate are running for each of the one-year terms.

Alison Low discussed running for 3-year seat, she wants to help with the completion of the sidewalk infrastructure, parking lot at Town Hall, Dog Park and community speeding.

Glenn Herrin discussed finishing up his second one-year term. He has lived in VT since 2015.

Other Open positions: Janice Ouellette discussed: Matt Choate submitted his bio which is on the Danville website, Lister three year term, Tim Ide is re-running and Delinquent Tax Collector, Ed Lido is re-running.

General Fund taxes up \$198,822, reasons discussed and Highway taxes up \$604 and reasons discussed.

Glenn Herrin discussed property tax (budget/rates and bills).

Alison Low discussed Train Station's multi-year endeavor and the removal of expenditure and revenues from General budget per suggestion of auditor.

Eric Bach discussed Special Article (tennis courts on school grounds) for \$20,000.

Alison Low discussed Special Article (speeding) to hire or contract additional police officer or sheriff coverage (\$81,860 – 40 hours year-round).

Eric Bach discussed Reserve Funding Capital Project Fund Special Article to cover deficit (\$132,657) in Highway fund and the Special Appropriations from organizations.

Glenn Herrin discussed Historical Perspective of budget.

3. **Public Hearing – Charter Change – Opened at 2:52 pm**  
Glenn Herrin discussed needing to notice more than 30 days in advance of the vote and being at 28 days. The repeal enables people to have floor vote debates such as budget numbers by floor vote, it does not change how we vote, just the ability of how we vote. We would continue as Austrian Ballot.

Closed at 2:58 pm

4. **Any Other Business that legally comes before the meeting** – none.

5. **Adjourn** – 3:00 pm.

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted February 10, 2025 at 12:20 pm.



**WARNING  
TOWN OF DANVILLE SELECTBOARD MEETING  
PURSUANT TO 1 V.S.A. § 312 (c)**

Danville Town Hall Conference Room  
36 Route 2 West, Danville, VT

*Meeting is being held in person as well as by Teams*

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, July 18, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

**6:00 PM - Call to Order**

1. Additions to the Agenda
2. Approve minutes of Regular meeting of June 20, 2024  
Approve minutes of Special meeting of July 11, 2024

**6:05 PM – Visitors**

1. Will Seegers, 821 McDowell Road – Culvert Replacement
2. Town Meeting Committee Out brief
3. Lee Beattie, North Danville Community Center – Front Doors

**6:30 PM – Town Clerk’s Report (Michelle Leclerc)**

- IT (Tech Group LLC & Rural Solutions)
- Liquor Permit, Danville Fair – Red Barn Brewing
- Sewer Bill Change
- \$150 Trash Removal N. Danville Water Damage (Insurance)

**6:45 PM – Highway Report (Keith Gadapee)**

- Workers Comp

**7:00 PM – Issues and Information (ALL)**

- A. Debrief Joint Meeting
- B. MERP Energy Grant
- C. Consult Call with VLCT Federal Funding Assistance
- D. Patrick Shattuck Rural Edge Partnership for Sidewalks
- E. CDS Award Form & Shared Pathways
- F. Charette – Signs Removal
- G. Congo Church Parking Lot Lease
- H. WCAX – FD
- I. Town Plan Review
- J. Town Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Expectations

**Financials: Orders to review and sign**

**8:30 PM – Adjourn**

*Teams info: Please sign in at least 5 minutes prior to meeting (waiting room will be open at 5:45pm)*

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MTIhM2EyMjktY2QxOS00YWUwLTg0MTItYTg5NTczYWMwMmNj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2285144860-a5c5-47db-9b4c-2e330e85d5dc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228209ba1-9568-4561-a9e6-c822025253f5%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTIhM2EyMjktY2QxOS00YWUwLTg0MTItYTg5NTczYWMwMmNj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2285144860-a5c5-47db-9b4c-2e330e85d5dc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228209ba1-9568-4561-a9e6-c822025253f5%22%7d)

Town of Danville  
Selectboard Minutes  
July 18, 2024  
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

**Board Members Present:** Janice Ouellette, Eric Bach, Peter Griffin, Glenn Herrin and Alison Low

**Others Present:** Audrey DeProspero, Michelle Leclerc, Keith Gadapee, Shelli Gadapee, Will Seegers, Alice Kitchel, Dani Cochran, Eric Hutchins, and Clayton Cargill

Meeting called to order by Chair Janice Ouellette at 6:00 pm.

**1. Additions to the agenda:**

- Set Special Meeting Date for IT

**2. Approve minutes:** *Motion by Eric Bach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Herrin to recognize the June 20, 2024 minutes as accurately reflecting the agenda of the **Regular meeting**. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

*Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to recognize the July 11, 2024 minutes as accurately reflecting the agenda of the **Special meeting**. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

**3. Visitors**

- **Will Seegers, 821 McDowell Road – Culvert Replacement** - Request for culvert replacement started before flooding. Badger Brook has a 7-foot culvert and in the last year, it has flooded his property on three different occasions. The culvert backs up and eventually goes over the road and floods property, gardens, trees, and bushes. All items get covered with silt. DEC Watershed Coordinator informed him that culvert is undersized and should be an 11-foot culvert.

Alison Low thought they could apply for Hazard Mitigation Program by August 16.

Glenn Herrin noted FEMA provides money and it does not count flooding of personal property for qualifications, so hazard mitigation money will not be given.

Keith Gadapee spoke to Will Seeger about this issue and it does not take road out when it floods. His suggestion is to start process to get this engineered. A hydraulic study also needs to happen. This will tell the size, type, style and design needed. It would also fit under VTrans Class 2 Structures grant, but the Town would have to prove it is needed. Request is to start in with project to hire an engineer firm. Money would need to be set aside. Keith Gadapee will go after funding but engineering study needs to be done first. He would like approval to move forward with project.

Eric Bach inquired about cost needed.

Keith Gadapee doesn't know yet but could find out.

Alison Low wondered if they approved tonight would they need to approve with dollar amount.

Glenn Herrin thought Keith Gadapee should work with state, get hydrologic study and engineer study done.

Keith Gadapee wanted minutes to reflect that this project does not help one person, it helps highway infrastructure. He noted bigger culverts and stone line ditches do work.

*Motion by Alison Low, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to authorize to spend up to \$5,000 to do engineering study upon completion of hydrologic study on McDowell Road. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

- **Town Meeting Committee Out brief** - Glenn Herrin discussed Town Meeting options, bringing people together, hybrid meeting being a good way to engage, comparison to NH Town meeting, TMC formed Ad Hoc committee to support Floor committee meeting, involving young people, ensuring floor meeting accessibility, days and times, advantage holding TM on a Tuesday has (it is day off for some, people are allowed to take it off and it is Town Meeting Day), and 5 different

options: have only floor meet (everyone comes together) score 18 out of 28; elect by ballot (hybrid) score 22 out of 28; budget by ballot (hybrid) score 18 out of 28; only have ballot – score 0 out of 28; and SB2 option – score 3 out of 28. Committee recommends: continue to hold Tuesday in 2025 and talk about information at Town Meeting, in 2025 both Town and School put on measure to repeal current charters, if passes, then in 2026 still do budgets by Australian Ballot which gives option to go back to something in future and in 2026 put forward what we think we should do.

Janice Ouellette not comfortable because it is the few who always attend that make the decision.

Glenn Herrin noted then they could ask that as a ballot question.

Glenn Herrin (continued discussion) Timeline: now through December what do we do in 2025. In 2025 we talk about what to do in 2026, then legislature takes it up. This completes the Town Meeting Committee charge and Committee is done.

Alice Kitchel noted her facilitator background helped with research. They have a gem in Town Meeting however they have let it go to sleep and it is time for the community to come together with design work to make it manageable. This one day allows all to legislate on things and it builds community amongst people which is priceless.

Eric Hutchins noted the Ad Hoc committee did lots of work getting babysitters, lunch and an increase in participation. He thought during modern times, it is important to encourage kids to attend. It is one day that they hold budget discussion, which gives you a budget when you leave.

Clayton Cargill agreed with action of committee. He thought a charter change was good and noted the school goes first in the upcoming Town Meeting but thought school should lag behind one year.

Glenn Herrin suggested all to consider the same sequence all the time: Town in morning and School in afternoon.

Alison Low discussed process of doing floor vote on budget, how to build budgets, making change to budget on floor and removing current constraint. She was concerned about attendance of working people and evening meetings being an issue to elderly people.

Glenn Herrin discussed floor meeting attendance and noted it is not dropping, it is roughly the same number in attendance.

- **Lee Beattie, North Danville Community Center – Front Doors** – postponed.

#### 4. **Town Clerk** (Michelle Leclerc)

- Special Events Liquor Permit for Red Barn Brewing for Danville Fair. Area will have tent and ropes.

*Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Griffin to approve Special Event Permit for Red Barn Brewing for Danville Fair. Vote 4-0-1. Eric Bach abstained. Motion carries.*

- Sewer Bill Change – US Route 2 West (UW002-001-000) Beauty chair front and office space. Units changed from 3 to 2. All hair stuff removed.

Waste water rates will be discussed in future meeting for changes.

- \$150 Trash Removal N. Danville Water Damage (Insurance)

*Consensus is to pay reimbursement.*

- Letter sent for 43 dogs (93 owners). Down to 51 unlicensed dogs.
- Heat Pumps – current a/c unit in Town Clerk office will not go below 76. If purchasing heat pumps the following locations would need one: TC, vault, meeting room.

Alison Low discussed consultation with MERP Assessment.

- Budget Status Report given to Selectboard

- Vehicle in parking lot. State Police came, car had already left. St. J called TC office to see if there were surveillance cameras on property as car was stolen on Monday.

Blink System cameras discussed. Suggestion of Town Clerk was to have system installed.

- IT (Tech Group LLC & Rural Solutions) – See (K) Set Special Meeting Date for IT.
- Sewer Connection – Ryan Dauphin, Peacham Road filed application last year but it has expired.

*Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to approve as long as in parameters within sewer ordinance. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

## 5. Highway Foreman (Keith Gadapee)

- Rained – infrastructure damage, will have Federal Highway sites and a few FEMA sites.
- VTrans request – written response from Town needed for reopening rail trail in West Danville, trail users will be on Wightman Road (Old Route 2 in West Danville by Trade Sales Place) to Kittridge Road. This will help avoid any issues with construction and pedestrians.

*Consensus is for Keith Gadapee to respond back to VTrans' email.*

- New Hire – refused, not enough money.
- Workers Comp – involved in accident. WC pays 66% of salary. Seeks 100% of salary. There is no spot for him with his restrictions (4 weeks) so he is asking for 14 hours weekly to make up difference in pay. Town could pay 33% or he could use sick time. He would document his hours and then the Town could refill back his sick time. He feels he needs to work to support his crew.

Eric Bach inquired if they paid Keith Gadapee 14 hours would that reduce his WC.

Michelle Leclerc noted yes, it does.

Eric Bach thought he should use sick time.

Michelle Leclerc noted Keith Gadapee has 510 hours of sick time.

FMLA discussed – noted was it is designed to protect worker.

*Motion by Alison Low, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to allocate Keith Gadapee sick time to cover 33% of lost work time for a period until August 12. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

Discussed was reimbursement of sick time.

Eric Bach discussed Danville Fair signs.

Keith Gadapee noted his crew would get signs for Danville Fair.

## 6. Issues and Information (All)

- (a) **Debrief Joint Meeting** – Janice Ouellette thought Joint Meeting was a great idea to share priorities and how to assist each other. She thought they should reconsider the format to make it user friendly and would like to hold a Joint Committee meeting yearly. They lost a lot of people when the agenda focus changed. Future meeting will be standalone meeting and going forward all special and emergency meetings will have no other topics on them.

Format changes discussed and possible location other than Town Hall discussed.

- (b) **MERP Energy Grant** – Janice Ouellette met with members of the Energy Commission. Application out at end of July and is basic, not a lot of narrative. MERP funds have to commit at end of 2024. Suggested improvements, cost and savings discussed. Paul Weaver is reorganizing list for most impact of dollar spent. Discussed was Selectboard committing to fund some items on continuous basis. Carter Finegan is looking into lesser items for communities not getting MERP dollars. Janice Ouellette is not sure if grant can do two buildings. Discussion ensued about North Danville's boiler.

- (c) **Consult Call with VLCT Federal Funding Assistance** – Janice Ouellette discussed her and Alison Low's attendance to another call which was very valuable. She discussed getting a local project manager and the current procurement policy needing to be changed. The current does not meet requirements of receiving federal funding because it is very vague. Selectboard will need to work on a new policy. Other funding options discussed: VOREC, Transportation Alternative and VTrans possible funding source to address stormwater. Possible funding round table needed and plan being put in place to move forward.
- (d) **Patrick Shattuck Rural Edge Partnership for Sidewalks** – Alison Low discussed recommendation to reach out to critical stakeholders, meeting to tour the site of proposed improvements, and NVDA Transportation Staff invitation to Bentley's on August 2 to discuss walkability and safety of Hill Street.
- (e) **CDS Award Form & Shared Pathways** – Janice Ouellette discussed outreach from Senator Sanders office. The online form has been completed. They are still in the preliminary stage. There is a funding gap but they are trying to move forward.
- (f) **Charette – Signs Removal** – Eric Bach discussed wooden signs on McDonald Farm (Beattie) and Old Peck Farm (Pastula). Signs are tipping over and are faded. They were put up in 2004 and have had no maintenance. The landowners do not want to keep them and they are okay with the removal of them.

*Consensus is that it is okay to remove signs and to let landowners remove them.*

Janice Ouellette suggested to reach out to the family of the person who made signs to let them know what is happening.

Janice Ouellette and Eric Bach to work with landowners.

Alison Low meet with Emily Finnegan about the concern with the swales on Route 2 and culverts with rain garden drainage on Hill Street. VTrans is supposed to maintain swales on Route 2. Alison Low is looking into funding for Hill Street. Drainages on Hill Street is part of a much larger issue. Culvert drainage discussed.

- (g) **Congo Church Parking Lot Lease** – Janice Ouellette spoke with Tim Ide who met with church council. They want to move forward with the Town leasing their parking lot. A future meeting will be held with Janice Ouellette, one Selectboard member, Tim Ide and one Council member to discuss terms of lease.
- Alison Low volunteered.
- (h) **WCAX - FD** – Eric Bach discussed OSHA requirements for Fire Department, he noted they were doing an over haul. The last one done was in the late 80's. They are operating under different guidelines and fire trucks after 15 years are not safe and cannot be used. This information is not defined anywhere whether it can be refurbished or is it just done. Financial implications discussed.

Dani Cochran noted she is trying to discuss with Chief and Assistant Chief. NFPA and OSHA combining standards, which is not feasible for smaller towns. Truck committee is getting together to start work on truck specs. Whatever truck they get will not fit in station. Peacham just paid \$600,000 for their truck. Their gear is disposed after 10 years but with trucks they push it. Trucks to change will be W1 and Engine 3 which was purchased in 2014.

Janice Ouellette noted this is proposed regulations.

Eric Bach noted comment period is end of summer.  
Janice Ouellette inquired about enforcement mechanism.

Eric Bach noted large fines if by OSHA.

Janice Ouellette suggested for them to get together with other fire departments to formulate a coordinated response for the comment period.

Glenn Herrin will check with fire safety and see if there is some action town can take.

Eric Bach asked Dani Cochran to let them know if she hears something about a fire truck because budgets are starting soon.

- (i) **Town Plan Review** – Glenn Herrin noted at this meeting or next, they can adopt plan for hearing of September 5. He wondered if the Selectboard wanted to take more time to review.

Peter Griffin noted he read it through and appreciated the summary portion.

*Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Griffin to accept proposed Town Plan for Public Hearing on September 5 for Town Plan adoption. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

Noted was adoption of Town Plan will be at Selectboard meeting and title of Planning Commission Town Plan to change to Selectboard Town Plan

- (j) **Town Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Expectations** – Glenn Herrin discussed expectations to if disaster in area people wonder what town is doing and what not doing. He wondered if they wanted to try to open EOC earlier when potential disaster coming in, who is available to do it, volunteers (three people would be enough), and what could they do.

Eric Bach noted he has received no social media complaints for not having EOC open. There has been no negative feedback.

- (k) **Set Special Meeting Date for IT** – availability discussed. Date set for Tuesday, July 23 from 1-3pm.

**7. Financials: Orders to review and sign**

Chair Janice Ouellette to review and sign the Financial Orders on behalf of the Selectboard.

**8. Adjourn – Eric Bach motioned to adjourn at 8:19 pm.**

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted July 23, 2024 at 9:00 am.



**WARNING**  
**TOWN OF DANVILLE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**PURSUANT TO 1 V.S.A. § 312 (c)**

Danville Town Hall Conference Room  
36 Route 2 West, Danville, VT

*Meeting is being held in person as well as by Teams*

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, January 2, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

**6:00 PM – Call to Order**

- 1. Additions to the Agenda
- 2. Approve minutes of Regular meeting of December 19, 2024

**6:05 PM – Visitors**

- Greg Prior – Inquiries: Status of Town Clock and Parking Lot and 2024 Charet
- Clayton – Bulky Waste Bin Update (Fee Schedule and Payment Methods)

**6:15 PM – Town Clerk’s Report (Michelle Leclerc)**

- Donorbox
- Auditor

**6:30 PM – Highway Report (Keith Gadapee)**

- Sewer Ordinance Hook Up Interpretation

**6:45 PM – Issues and Information (ALL)**

- A. Town Services Committee
- B. Purchasing Policy
- C. Town Meeting Coordinator
- D. Town Meeting Agenda**
- E. Letter to Sewer Ratepayers
- F. Budgets: General and Highway

**Financials: Orders to review and sign**

**8:00 PM – Adjourn**

*Teams info: Please sign in at least 5 minutes prior to meeting (waiting room will be open at 5:45pm)*

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NzA2OGFIM2EtM2FjOC00Mml2LThiN2EtYWFKNjViNTM5ZDU1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2285144860-a5c5-47db-9b4c-2e330e85d5dc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228209ba1-9568-4561-a9e6-c822025253f5%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NzA2OGFIM2EtM2FjOC00Mml2LThiN2EtYWFKNjViNTM5ZDU1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2285144860-a5c5-47db-9b4c-2e330e85d5dc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228209ba1-9568-4561-a9e6-c822025253f5%22%7d)

Town of Danville  
Selectboard Minutes  
January 2, 2025  
Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

**Board Members Present:** Janice Ouellette, Alison Low, Eric Bach, Peter Griffin, and Glenn Herrin

**Others Present:** Audrey DeProspero, Greg Prior, Michelle Leclerc, Keith Gadapee and Clayton Cargill

**Meeting called to order** by Chair Janice Ouellette at 6:00 pm.

**1. Additions to the agenda:** MPM Grant and North Danville School

**2. Approve minutes:**

*Motion by Alison Low, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Herrin to recognize the **Regular** December 19, 2024 minutes as accurately reflecting on the agenda of the meeting. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

**3. Visitors:**

- **Greg Prior** – Inquiries: Status of Town Clock and Parking Lot and 2024 Charet –

Town Hall Parking lot – spoke to a number of people noted Energy Committee interested in having solar panels in the location. He wondered what the current plan was and how he could track progress.

Janice Ouellette noted there was no set plan yet, but there were a couple of plans out there. Progress is that Town is applying for grants for funding (Better Connections Grant and Storm Water Mitigation). Unless Hill Street drainage is addressed, Town will not be able to do parking lot.

Greg Prior inquired if it was shovel ready.

Alison Low noted they have conceptual plans but they did not get funded.

Greg Prior wondered if they could put gravel and is it permeable.

Alison Low noted the bigger issue is, if they can't get grant funding for pre-construction work, they would have to dip into Town funds.

Greg Prior wondered if they could use Town grader and plant flowers around edge.

Janice Ouellette noted no.

Greg Prior wondered how he could get involved.

Alison Low noted if they got funding there would be public sessions.

2024 Charette – where would public access information and how can he track progress.

Eric Bach noted information would be in the minutes.

Alison Low discussed Selectboard put money in the budget.

Clock – what is the status of clock, and what is progress and eta.

Janice Ouellette noted they just spoke about this at their last meeting and then there was a two week holiday break.

Greg Prior wondered if there was any mitigation to get clock wound and how he would track progress, by just coming back in two weeks and asking Selectboard.

Janice Ouellette noted yes, he could do that. She wondered if there was any possibility of any other things that they could roll into that space.

Alison Low noted they could reach out to Preservation Trust and Nicole Grator.

- **Clayton Cargill** – Bulky Waste Bin Update (Fee Schedule and Payment Methods) – bulky bin put in place two Fridays ago and sat for one week. A frozen mattress was brought in the back of a truck, and he accepted because he wanted to dry it out. The gentleman agreed to pay the \$45 fee. Another man brought in a small item and was charged \$4. Progress is manageable. Currently in the research phase for cost for items. He has googled towns to see what they are currently charging and has created a draft price sheet but is still looking at other towns who have bulky bins.

Janice Ouellette discussed having a list approved by Selectboard and policies in place before accepting anything as her concern is someone gets charged one price and then another person gets charged differently.

Clayton Cargill spoke of items being hand unloaded, so if a dump trailer of items were brought in by a contractor, he would suggest a better option for them. Any heavy items will be put in the bin by the Highway Department's machinery. Freon items need to be collected in bulk of 50 so he would defer persons to NEKWM. He would like a table at Town Meeting so that residents could learn of the new bulky bin and pick up some informational spreadsheets.

Suggested changes to Clayton Cargill's handout: add 'Residential' to title, replace 'plush' with 'upholstered', add 'Prices subject to change', put date on document, and double check St. J full and half truck prices.

*Motion by Eric Bach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alison Low to approve handouts with tonight's changes, pending double check of St. J prices and to come back in two weeks with final document. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

4. **Town Clerk** (Michelle Leclerc) –

- Donorbox – started December 22 and in one week they have received over \$1,000 for Train Station. Eric Bach wondered if they could subcategorize things on the donorbox with QR codes and use for other donation items.
- Auditor – sent out 3 RFPs for auditor companies and only received one back from Sullivan and Powers. They are higher than the current auditor, but they do not charge for questions, they are easy to work with and they come into the office. Working with the current auditor, Bachelder you have to send multiple emails and will not come into the office.

Janice Ouellette thought having support for accounting questions and someone to come in to do field work makes sense.

Alison Low thought this was putting much in line with other towns she has worked with.

*Motion by Alison Low, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to accept proposals for auditing services with Sullivan and Powers for the next five (5) years. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

- Dog Fines – two people last year did not license their dogs, if they come in this year how would the Selectboard like for the Town Clerk office to handle.

Janice Ouellette suggested accepting and license the dog.

Alison Low suggested not to discourage and accept.

- Common Level of Appraisal - received CLA from state, it went down to 72.96%, last year was 85.59% and the year prior was 94.5%. This triggers a reappraisal. Suggested was to do statistical reappraisal as its \$20,000 instead of \$70,000 using the same persons.
- Wastewater meeting is Tuesday, January 14 from 1-2pm.
- Ambulance Service Agreement received; it is same as last year.

Alison Low noted it would not affect the budget.

- VLCT insurance – we pay \$50 for milfoil removal.
- Train Station Line of Credit coming due February 1<sup>st</sup>, what would Selectboard like to do. Train Station wants to renew.

Janice Ouellette noted they would first have to pay off Line of Credit.

Michelle Leclerc noted the money would come out of the Building Fund, she wondered if the Selectboard wanted to keep the same bank or go out for quotes.

Eric Bach suggested getting three quotes.

- Tax Anticipation Note will be done.

#### 5. Highway Foreman (Keith Gadapee)

- Sewer Ordinance Hook Up Interpretation – engineer contacted him about a new house lot that could potentially be hooked to Town sewer and he wondered if lot was in area of sewer, was it mandatory for them to hook on.

Alison Low noted she looked through ordinance and it looks like it is mandatory but there is a lot of items out of date. Yes, it is required because people are supposed to use it.

Keith Gadapee noted next lot beside them is not hooked on existing line but it could be because it is potentially grandfathered. The new construction building house lot will need to dig across wetland and will have to bore under so they think it would be cheaper if they built their own.

Eric Bach noted if it was a private sewer system then engineering is permitted through state and it is less of a worry for Town. He wondered what would happen if they could not take on any more lots.

Alison Low wondered if DEC would approve if they knew that they could be put on public system. She suggested he check in with DEC.

Peter Griffin discussed Section 2.04.

Glenn Herrin noted if they are in specified dimensional standards then they are required to connect but if not, it makes sense for mound.

*Consensus is they can have private system if they choose, if they are outside specific dimensions.*

#### 6. Issues and Information (All)

- (a) **Town Services Committee** – Glenn Herrin created charter for committee. Discussion was on mission, what Selectboard wants them to do, expectations, finding by December 2025, getting info and recording to have information to look at for the next 5 years, permission to look at other stuff and guidance, and what Selectboard doesn't want them to do.

Alison Low noted FAST (feasible, acceptable, suitable and timely) test makes item #4 (what not to consider) unnecessary.

Glenn Herrin noted he would strike #4 from the charter.

Alison Low wondered if they should have someone from the Fire District on the committee.

Glenn Herrin noted yes, the charter organization says 3 or more.

Janice Ouellette noted Tim Ide was interested in being on the committee.

Glenn Herrin discussed soliciting via FPF and direct contact with people and then appointing persons at the next meeting of January 16.

Eric Bach discussed capping size of the committee between a certain number instead of 3 or more.

Glenn Herrin noted yes, they could put in charter 7 or 9.

*Consensus was 7.*

Glenn Herrin noted even if someone was not on the committee, they could come, present and give information.

- (b) **Purchasing Policy** – Janice Ouellette noted she was working on revisions. She will be working with Bonnie Waninger on Tuesday regarding language around reoccurring expenditures and Conflict of Interest Policy which is no longer required because of the new Code of Ethics. She wondered if they needed to retool their policy or reference code in policy. Currently they are not required to accept emailed bids but do they want to do so or should all be mailed.

Alison Low likes emailed bids.

Janice Ouellette noted if they do accept electronic bids they need to set parameters, all bids to go to one person, suggested was Selectboard Administrator, who will print and put in sealed envelope with date and time received and put with others received.

Eric Bach wondered if they could set up email such as [bids@danvillevt.gov](mailto:bids@danvillevt.gov) and designate one person to look at that email.

Alison Low noted if working with contractors, the architect or engineer usually does it.

Glenn Herrin noted we may limit ourselves if we do not open it up.

- (c) **Town Meeting Coordinator** – Glenn Herrin discussed volunteer, Alice Kitchel who wanted others with her noting they could appoint two persons or others could support her that don't need to be appointed. Alice Kitchel felt that she would like an additional person so that two people learned the task.

Alison Low noted Alice Kitchel could pull in other persons to help her.

Greg Prior discussed business continuity, noting if needed documentation became a thing he would be willing.

*Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Bach to appoint Alice Kitchel as the Town Meeting 2025 Coordinator with the authority and responsibility to advertise TM; coordinate non-governmental TM activities; help support Town and School District actions as needed; and submit an after-action review by May to facilitate and enhance local participatory democracy. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

- (d) **Town Meeting Agenda** – Glenn Herrin discussed list of things for potential ballot items: renovate existing main fire station or build new (noted was it may change to 2026 as starting with North Danville fire station may kick start and help with cost and area search); parking lot (may be too early so they could put off until next year); tennis courts (if in budget they do not need to ask, or it could be similar to an appropriation); town services committee (this could be initiated by survey); hire more police or sheriff coverage (keep); town ownership of Fire District #1 (may be a bit premature); and **TM Committee asking legislature to rescind the charter requiring budget vote by Australian ballot** (will be long discussion addressed at TM).

Michelle Leclerc inquired if Town goes first or second this year.

Glenn Herrin noted TM Committee recommendation was stop alternating.

Clayton Cargill discussed Supervisory Union noting CCSD voted to go back to Town Meeting day so Superintendent has another place to be but if they knew when they were going on a consistent basis they would know where they were going and could plan for lunch. School never takes enough time to go until lunch and town sometimes goes past time.

Janice Ouellette noted Town went first last year and wondered if there was any desire to designate Town to go first this year.

Glenn Herrin noted if it works better for school and TM Committee did suggest it and it helps with lunch he agreed.

Clayton Cargill noted he could ask school committee if it is a thing they like and get back to Selectboard.

Glenn Herrin suggested to make decision at next meeting.

- (e) **Letter to Sewer Ratepayers** – Alison Low noted she and Michelle Leclerc worked on letter.

Janice Ouellette discussed typos: line 9 add 'long' in front of 'run' and last sentence change 'assistance' to 'assistant'.

Alison Low noted they needed to evaluate commercial rates and wondered if there was any advantage to getting payments upfront and if so, could they offer incentive to do so.

Michelle Leclerc noted no.

Eric Bach wondered if electronic bills were able to be set up in their system.

*Consensus to approve as presented with corrections, have Danville Selectboard be closing on letter and mail.*

- (f) **MPM RFP** – Janice Ouellette discussed Municipal Project Manager RFP sent to Chris Hunt for review and then will be sent to Dubois and King.

- (g) **North Danville School** – Alison Low discussed Mitch Shatney of VT Insulation Solutions meeting at North Danville School on Thursday, January 23 at 9am to talk about insulation recommendations. Noted was recessed light fixtures not being a concern as they can be dealt with by building boxes around them. She has invited Carter Finnegan but has not heard back yet if she can attend, however the folks from North Danville are excited about attending.

- (h) **Budgets: General and Highway** –

General

Michelle Leclerc added a couple of line items: bulky waste revenue and expense (bulky waste \$6,000).

Clayton Cargill suggested to budget for same number as the intent is to be revenue neutral.

Janice Ouellette suggests to leave numbers as they were for Bulky Day.

Michelle Leclerc did not know anything about tires, but she made a line item.

Keith Gadapee suggests \$1,000 and if deficit then it should come out of Highway line as he puts truck tires in there.

Michelle Leclerc noted she put in HRA figures and insulation for North Danville to be put in Building Fund. She wondered if Selectboard wanted line in Town Report or no lines in report.

Janice Ouellette noted no lines.

Alison Low wondered about balance of insurance claim for North Danville and its location.

Michelle Leclerc noted it does not show as it was received in 2023. She inquired about VOREC Grant.

Janice Ouellette noted it was a Train Station grant and should close out by 31<sup>st</sup>, they are waiting to see if they are getting an extension or not.

Wastewater

Michelle Leclerc noted it was accurate except for bank interest.

Highway

Discussed was deficit, borrowing money instead of reducing carryover and creating a loan payment.

Keith Gadapee discussed six months ago law came into effect about childcare and Town chose to pay full tax amount; he wondered if they were going to do it again.

Janice Ouellette thought they should.

Eric Bach noted it is cheaper to do than manage it.

Final numbers in deficit carryover. .32% increase over last year.

Capital Equipment account transfer discussed.

Janice Ouellette noted they would have to ask voters to take out deficit note to cover 2023 deficit.

Capitol Equipment transfer amount discussed and lessen it to lower loan.

Janice Ouellette discussed spreading deficit over 3-4 years instead of the coming year.

Peter Griffin inquired if there was a cost associated with taking note.

Janice Ouellette noted yes.

Alison Low inquired what was cost.

Janice Ouellette noted there will be interest. First interest payment come due in 2026. Language would be something like 'would voters vote to fund the audited 2023 deficit'. She spoke of creating a fund balance to cover any future deficit.

Michelle Leclerc discussed not doing anything and letting deficit ride.

Discussion ensued on loan deficit, capital equipment transfer, and principal and interest.

Alison Low noted next meeting they would approve wording for Article on Australian Ballot.

Janice Ouellette noted Article for deficit would be for floor vote.

Rates discussed: Highway same, Town .2039 last year and .2135 this year.

7. **Financials:** Orders reviewed and signed.

8. **Adjourn – Motion by Eric Bach to adjourn at 8:33 pm.**

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted January 3, 2025 at 12:50 pm.

**WARNING - TOWN OF DANVILLE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - March 4, 2025**

The legal voters of the Town of Danville are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Danville School in said Town on March 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business:

- *The polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for in-person voting.*
  - *Absentee ballots may also be requested until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2025.*
1. To elect a Moderator.
  2. To elect a Selectperson for a term of three years.
  3. To elect two Selectpersons for a term of one year each.
  4. To elect a Lister for a term of three years.
  5. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector.
  6. Shall the town voters appropriate a total of \$42,802.00 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A § 2691?
    - Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice \$2,600.00.
    - Catamount Film and Arts \$500.00.
    - The Community Restorative Justice Center \$250.00.
    - Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium \$2,196.00.
    - Kingdom Animal Shelter \$500.00.
    - Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging \$1,700.00.
    - Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc. \$2,306.00.
    - Northeast Kingdom Youth Services \$750.00.
    - Pope Memorial Library \$28,000.00.
    - Rural Community Transportation, Inc. \$1,800.00.
    - Umbrella \$1,200.00.
    - West Danville Community Club \$1,000.00.

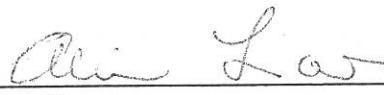
7. Shall the town voters raise, appropriate, and expend up to \$20,000.00 to resurface the public tennis courts on the school grounds?
8. Shall the town voters raise, appropriate, and expend an additional \$81,860.00 to hire or contract additional police or sheriff coverage?
9. Shall the town voters borrow up to \$132,657.00 over 3 years to replenish the Capital Fund for monies used to cover 2023 audited deficit in the Highway budget?
10. Shall the town voters (Australian ballot) propose the General Assembly repeal its charter, 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 114, § 101? In accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2645, the entire charter text to be deleted is shown here: ~~Annual and special meetings. All annual and special meetings of the Town of Danville shall be called and warned in the manner provided by the laws of the State. All voting on the Town budget and the highway budget at all annual and special meetings shall be by Australian ballot?~~
11. Shall the town voters (Australian Ballot) authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$905,932.92, of which \$845,721.45 shall be raised by taxes and \$60,211.47 by non-tax revenues?
12. Shall the town voters (Australian Ballot) authorize Highway Fund expenditures of \$1,931,891.60, of which \$1,283,289.01 shall be raised by taxes and \$648,602.59 by non-tax revenues?
13. Shall the town voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes on November 14, 2025, by physical delivery to the treasurer before 4:00 p.m. on that date?

14. Dated this 16th day of January 2025.

DANVILLE SELECTBOARD

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Ouellette, Chair

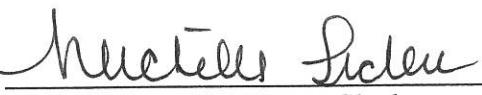
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Bach, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alison Low

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenn Herrin

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Griffin

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Leclerc, Town Clerk

# OFFICIAL TOWN MEETING BALLOT

## Town of Danville- Annual Meeting

March 4, 2025

### TOWN OF DANVILLE - ARTICLE 10

~~"Shall the town voters (Australian ballot) propose the General Assembly repeal its charter, 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 114, § 101? In accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2645, the entire charter text to be deleted is shown here: Annual and special meetings, All annual and special meetings of the town of Danville shall be called and warned in the manner provided by the laws of the State. All voting on the Town budget and the highway budget at all annual and special meetings shall be by Australian ballot?"~~

*If in FAVOR of the article, mark an (X) in this square.*

*If OPPOSED to the article, mark an (X) in this square.*

### TOWN OF DANVILLE – ARTICLE 11

~~"Shall the town voters (Australian Ballot) authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$905,932.92, of which \$845,721.45 shall be raised by taxes and \$60,211.47 by non-tax revenues?"~~

*If in FAVOR of the budget, mark an (X) in this square.*

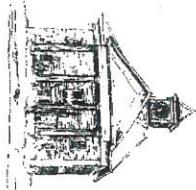
*If OPPOSED to the budget, mark an (X) in this square.*

### TOWN OF DANVILLE – ARTICLE 12

~~"Shall the town voters (Australian Ballot) authorize Highway Fund expenditures of \$1,931,891.60, of which \$1,283,289.01 shall be raised by taxes and \$648,602.59 by non-tax revenues?"~~

*If in FAVOR of the budget, mark an (X) in this square.*

*If OPPOSED to the budget, mark an (X) in this square.*



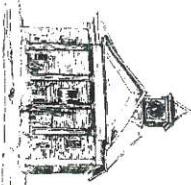
# Town Meeting '24

## Danville Town Meeting Committee (TMC)

All Those in Favor, Frank Bryan and Susan Clark - There are a lot of factors in our world that are pushing us away from each other. Town Meeting builds something Vermont has always had a lot of: social capital.

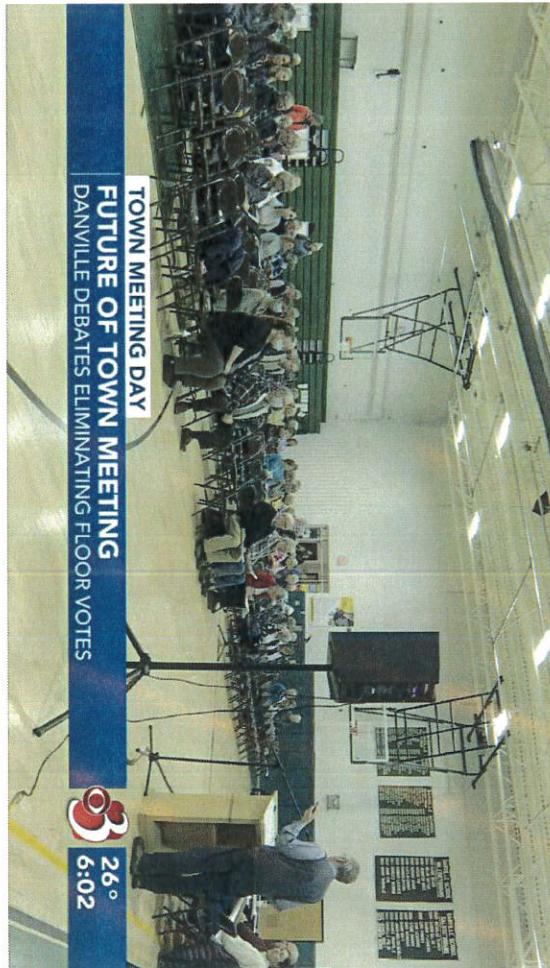
Identifying options for enhancing local participatory democracy in traditional Town Meeting

Presentation as of March 4, 2024

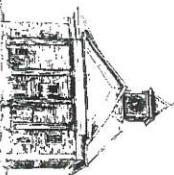


## Town Meeting Committee

- At the 2023 Town Meeting, there were articles on whether to continue floor meetings or move everything to Australian Ballot (for both Town and School)
- The articles failed, but the discussion raised many good points – pro and con ...so the Selectboard chartered a committee to see if there are better ways



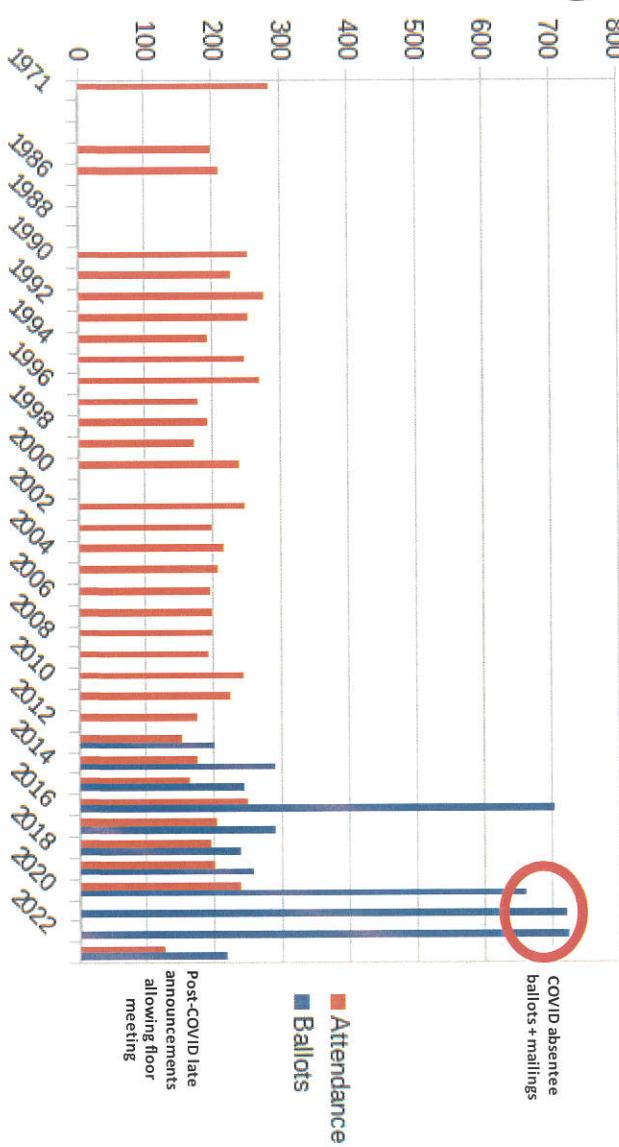
- *The Town Meeting Committee identifies options for enhancing local participatory democracy in traditional Town Meeting by conducting research, soliciting and considering public input, and making recommendations to the Selectboard and School Board by January 2025*

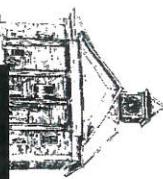


## Danville Town Meeting History

- First Danville Town Meeting: March 17, 1788
- Early meetings reflect an abundance of officers; controversial issues were generally about livestock and land
- In 1840 town population peaked at 2,633; recently the population hovers around 2,200 with a voter checklist around 1,700
- A 2010 petition led to charters that require **Australian Ballot for budgets**
  - Charters are for Town and School
  - Same thing could be done with votes, instead
- Over the past 35-40 years...
  - Floor meeting attendance has ranged from 153 to 275 with an average of **209**
  - Ballots (without COVID mailings) average 305

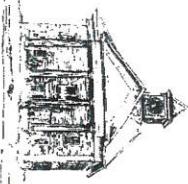
- Attendance is NOT really dropping, but...**
- Attendance has never been high
  - Maximum voter turnout (for ballots) seems to be ~40%
  - Hot issues bring out voters - even without mailing ballots to everyone





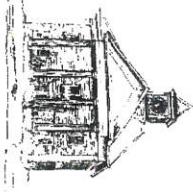
# Town Meeting Options

Floor (Only)	Hybrid A: Elections	Hybrid B: Budgets	Ballot (Only)	New Combination
TM is conducted entirely by Floor Meeting	TM Elections are by Australian Ballot; remainder is conducted with Floor Meeting	TM Budgets are by Australian Ballot; remainder is conducted with Floor Meeting	TM is conducted entirely by Australian Ballot	TM is in two parts: Floor Meeting a month in advance sets Australian Ballot items
Allows attendees to legislate any/all TM issues; meeting brings voters together	Allows attendees to legislate (discuss and make changes to) Floor Meeting items; maximizes convenience for voters to say yes or no on specific types of issue; meeting brings voters together	Higher turnout; maximizes convenience for voters to say yes or no to TM issues	Allows attendees to set potential solutions and maximizes convenience for yes/no voting	
Lower turnout; people who don't attend can't vote	Prevents voters from legislating Australian Ballot issues (yes/no only)	Prevents voters from legislating issues to cast ballots	Unique system will be confusing. May not improve participation for meeting or ballot.	
Attending meeting takes effort	People who don't attend Floor Meeting can't vote on those issues	Voters don't need to attend to cast ballots		
Officers elected from floor; only attendees can vote and may or may not know candidates	Officers petition to get on ballot; voters know candidates ahead of time for ballot	Officers elected from floor; only attendees can vote and may or may not know candidates	Candidates chosen at Floor Meeting; voters know candidates by ballot time	
Attendees may modify budgets as needed; TM should always result in official budget	Attendees may modify budgets as needed; TM should always result in official budget	Attendees may only change budgets by voting down, requiring future ballot cycle(s)	Attendees may/only change budgets by voting down, requiring future ballot cycle(s)	Attendees may modify proposal at Floor Meeting; budgets should usually pass at ballot
Floor Meeting	Floor Meeting	Floor Meeting	Floor (Information) Meeting	Floor Meeting
~14%	~12%	~12%	0%	~14%
For ALL options (including Floor Meeting only), special / high-interest issues can still go to Australian Ballot with potential for up to ~40% participation				
Australian Ballot 0%	Australian Ballot ~20%	Australian Ballot ~20%	Australian Ballot ~27%	Australian Ballot ~27%
2025: TM vote to repeal charter; Legislature rescinds 2025 or 26; TM vote to discontinue use of ballot for budgets in following year	2025: TM vote to repeal charter; Legislature rescinds (optional) 2025 or 26: TM vote to hold elections by Australian Ballot in following year	No changes required, but... 2025: TM could vote to repeal charter (would continue to vote on budget by Australian Ballot unless/until rescinded)	2025: TM vote to repeal charter; Legislature rescinds (optional) 2025 or 26: TM vote to use Australian Ballot for all measures in following year	2025: TM votes for new charter with Combination TM rules ~2026: Legislature approves changes (after deliberation) ~2027: TM begins new format
Change Process				



## Participation Boosters (for any Town Meeting)

- Public Encouragement
  - Ensure accessibility on par with balloting
  - Offer online attendance
  - Offer daycare
  - Involve young people
  - Advertise services and issues
  - Host welcome / TM orientation
  - Mail ballots to all active registered voters
    - Select or School Board action
    - Expect ballot increase from 27% to 40%
- Improve Ballot Item Input
  - Host info meeting before TM warning to allow voters to comment on, if not amend, items
  - Change Floor Meeting Date/Time
    - Saturday before first Tuesday
    - Saturday evening
    - Sunday or Monday
    - Tuesday evening



# Tell us what you think...

- Take the survey!
- Come to the meetings!
- Contact us any way that works for you!