

**TOWN OF NORWICH, VERMONT AND
NORWICH TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 3, 2020**

The legal voters of the Town of Norwich, Vermont and the Norwich Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet in Tracy Memorial Hall, Norwich, Vermont at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 2, 2020, to transact business not requiring a vote by Australian ballot. Voting for Town Officers and for all articles on the Warning will be by Australian ballot. The polls will be open Tuesday, March 3, 2020 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

This meeting is called to determine if the Town will:

Article 1. Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

Article 2. Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2020.

Article 3. Hear and act on the reports of the Officers of the Town and Town School District.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich approve a gross spending general Town budget of \$4,441,173 plus state and federal grants and gifts consistent with budgeted programs for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021?

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich increase the gross spending general Town budget for FY21, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, by \$80,000 for the replacement of a bridge for the Brown Schoolhouse Road trail extension over the Charles Brown Brook that collapsed in July, 2018 with a requested reimbursement up to \$50,000 from a Recreational Trails Program Grant, and authorize a loan to be paid over a term not to exceed five (5) years?

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich increase the gross spending general Town budget for FY21, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, by \$11,000 for the purchase and installation of two Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)?

Article 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich increase the gross spending general Town budget for FY21, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, by \$40,000 in order to establish a Climate Emergency Designated Fund?

Article 8 - Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,055,000 (with possible reduction through receipt of federal, state and/or other grant funds) of general obligation bonds or notes to be amortized over a period of not more than twenty years, to be used for capital improvements to implement the first phase of the elimination of fossil fuel use in Town operations as directed by the voters in Article 36 of the 2019 ballot, including, without limitation, the renovation and upgrading of HVAC, control, and lighting systems in Tracy Hall and upgrades of the lighting and controls systems in the Public Safety apparatus bay and in the Public Works Garage?

Article 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$30,669.51 for Norwich's share of a Regional Energy Coordinator position serving 7 municipalities and based at the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) for a period of one year beginning July 1, 2020?

Article 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$13,514 to Advance Transit to be used to help cover operating costs and providing matching funds for grants, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of providing public transportation services?

Article 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,000 to Community Access Television, Inc. (CATV) for video recordings of meetings for local government transparency?

Article 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,000 to Good Beginnings to be used for those operating expenses that are reasonably necessary for the support of programs?

Article 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,659 to the Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation to be used to offer support for new, growing and relocating businesses?

Article 14. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,500 to Headrest to be used for the operation of a crisis 24/7 hotline?

Article 15. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,500 to the Norwich American Legion, to be used for the Legion's Memorial Day observance?

Article 16. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$20,000 to the Cemetery Commission under 18 VSA §5361 to supplement the interest from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund for maintenance of the Town Cemeteries?

Article 17. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$4,348 to The Child Care Center of Norwich to be used for income sensitive scholarships to Norwich children?

Article 18. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$8,000 to the Norwich Historical Society and Community Center to support those programs that support the celebration of historic events?

Article 19. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,000 to the Norwich Lions Club to be used to underwrite the fireworks for the Norwich Fair in celebration of the 257th year of the Town's Charter?

Article 20. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$288,600 to the Norwich Public Library Association, to be used for the operating expenses of the Library?

Article 21. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$337 to Public Health Council of the Upper Valley to be used for continuing public health education for Norwich residents particularly in the areas of substance abuse, elder care, oral health, emergency preparedness, and healthy living?

Article 22. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,200 to Senior Solutions (an area Agency on Aging) to provide social services benefitting Norwich residents aged 60 and older?

Article 23. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,750 to SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action) to be used for emergency needs, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services, financial counseling and food and nutrition education?

Article 24. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,000 to the Special Needs Support Center of the Upper Valley to help children and adults with special needs, and their families, meet their unique challenges through advocacy and program support?

Article 25. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$6,000 to The Family Place to be used for general program support, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs such as direct service through early intervention, child care payment assistance, healthy baby visits, reach up, welcome baby, parent education, playgroups and other services?

Article 26. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,000 to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to be used for trail planning and work?

Article 27. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$15,600 to the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH to help support the home health, maternal and child health and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings?

Article 28. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$5,300 to the White River Council on Aging to be used for home delivered meals, transport and social services?

Article 29. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,000 to Windsor County Mentors to be used for mentoring youth?

Article 30. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,500 to WISE (Women's Information Service) to be used to support WISE's crisis intervention and support services and prevention education?

Article 31. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,000 to Youth-In-Action to be used for operating expenses that support our community service efforts?

Article 32. Shall the voters of Norwich approve an enhanced state model Fair and Impartial Policing Policy as it is written which will limit collaboration with federal

immigration officials and welcome and protect the rights of all people living in and passing through Norwich?

Article 33. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich require that taxes be paid in U.S. funds in two installments? The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Norwich Finance Office on or before 4:30 pm August 14, 2020 and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 pm February 12, 2021. A legible, official United States Post Office postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% per month for the first three months and 1½% per month thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% collection fee in accordance with Vermont Statutes after February 12, 2021.

Article 34. To transact any other business that may legally come before the annual Norwich Town Meeting.

Article 35. To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA §562(9).

Article 36. Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA §562(5)?

Article 37. Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District approve the School Board to expend \$6,215,808, which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing 2020-21 fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,584 per equalized pupil (this includes the Dresden assessment for 7-12th grade). This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.77% higher than spending for the current year.

Article 39. To transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School District.

Norwich Selectboard

John Pepper, Chair
Claudette Brochu, Vice-Chair
Roger Arnold
John Langhus
Mary Layton

Norwich School Board

Thomas Candon, Chair
James Mackall, Vice-Chair
Lauren Morando Rhim, Secretary
Kelley Hersey
Neil Odell