

-WARNING-

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

VIA ZOOM

The residents of the Town of Bennington qualified by law to vote in Town Meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet (via Zoom) in said Town on Monday, March 1, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., (or immediately following the SW. VT Union Elementary School District's Annual meeting should that run over) to transact the business specified to be done from the floor.

If you are a resident of the Town of Bennington, intend to be present at the meeting (via Zoom) and are hearing impaired, arrangements will be made for a sign interpreter to be present at this meeting. For necessary arrangements, please contact Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager at the Bennington Town Offices, 205 South Street, P.O. Box 469, Bennington, VT - (802) 442-1037 no later than Friday, February 12, 2021.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at The Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance). The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the election of officers and voting on all ballot articles specified. Those on the checklist to vote in the Village of North Bennington shall vote for the election of officers and on all ballot articles at the Bennington Fire Facility. The Bennington Fire Facility above mentioned, is hereby established as the central polling place for those on the checklist to vote in said Bennington. Residents of Bennington and North Bennington may register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office, 205 South Street, Bennington, Vermont. Eligible residents registering on Election Day must do so at the polling place where they will cast their Town Meeting ballot.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE "FLOOR"

Monday, March 1, 2021

7:30 P.M.

ARTICLE 1. TOWN REPORT: To hear the report of Town Officers.

ARTICLE 2. OTHER BUSINESS: To transact such other proper business when met.

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY BALLOT
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021
THE POLLS TO BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
AT THE POLLING PLACES SPECIFIED ABOVE**

SELECT BOARD ELECTION. Two Select Board Members residing in the Town shall be elected for term of three (3) years, One Select Board Member residing in the town shall be elected for term of one (1) year.

TOWN CLERK ELECTION. A Town Clerk residing in the Town shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, the total sum of \$14,275,440.00 consisting of the following: \$4,148,910.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$10,126,530.00 for the payment of the following: Any indebtedness not otherwise specifically provided for, interest on indebtedness, legally authorized State and County taxes, the prosecution and defense of the common rights and interests of the inhabitants of the Town, and for other necessary incidental expenses?

The proposed budget includes \$25,000.00 for fire equipment, \$5,000.00 for fire facilities, \$13,000.00 for parking improvements, \$400,680.00 for healthcare reserve and workers compensation insurance, \$40,000.00 for marketing, \$100,000.00 for bridges and \$2,000.00 for well maintenance, any unexpended portion of which will be reserved to subsequent years for that purpose.

YES
NO

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town of Bennington add \$0.01 to the General Fund tax rate for the purpose of creating a reserve to support Parks, so Designated as "A Penny for Parks"?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 3. §103-407. Mayoral form of government
(a) In lieu of a town manager, the voters may adopt a mayoral form of government, by vote at a duly-warned annual meeting, warned pursuant to a petition signed by five percent of the voters or on the Select board's own motion. Once a vote in favor of this form of government is successful, the voters shall elect a mayor at the next annual meeting for a three-year term. Once the mayor takes office,

the Town Manager system of governance shall end for Bennington.

(b) The mayor shall be responsible for the management of the administrative affairs of the Town, in the same manner and with the same powers and responsibilities as the Town Manager, as stated in statute and this charter.

(c) The mayor shall have the power to veto any action of the Select board.

(d) The Select board shall have the authority to override the mayor's veto by a vote of five members of the board taken at a regular meeting. Within 30 days of the vote to override, voters may petition for a binding referendum on the issue by a petition signed by five percent of the voters. At a special meeting held within 60 days of the receipt of the petition, the voters shall decide whether to uphold the mayor's veto.

(e) The compensation for the mayor shall be set by the Select board based on comparable salaries and benefits for a town manager.

(f) The mayor shall serve as the voice of the Town of Bennington, taking responsibility for implementing the policies of the Select board, leading the Town toward greater prosperity and a healthy economy, and a better life for all its residents.

YES

NO

ARTICLE 4. Shall the town authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? "Cannabis retailer" means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to sell cannabis and cannabis products to adults 21 years of age and older for off-site consumption.

YES

NO

ARTICLE 5. Shall the town authorize integrated licensees in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? "Integrated licensee" means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to engage in the activities of a cultivator, wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, and testing laboratory in accordance with state law.

YES

NO

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters decrease the Select Board's pay by \$100.00 to \$1,300.00 annually?

YES

NO

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?

YES

NO

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$5,500.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$6,750.00 for BROCC - Community Action In Southwestern Vermont?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$7,000.00 for Vermont Center for Independent Living?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for The Tutorial Center?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$12,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$15,000.00 for Sunrise Family Resource Center?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 17. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region?

YES
NO

ARTICLE 18. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

YES
NO

BY THE SELECT BOARD



Donald A. Campbell, Chair

Jeannette Jenkins, Vice Chair

Jim Carroll

Sarah Perrin

Bruce C. Lee-Clark

Jeanne Conner

Dated at Bennington, Vermont this 25th day of January, 2021.