

Agenda Summary
February 24, 2026

Agenda Item B-1

Annual Meeting Informational Meeting

Summary: State law requires a municipality to hold an informational meeting within 30 days prior to Annual Meeting to discuss any warned articles on the Australian ballot. For your reference attached is a copy of the Australian ballot warning.

In addition, enclosed is a copy of the floor vote warning in case you choose to decide to discuss any of those articles as well.

Town Plan & Other Policy Impact: N/A

Fiscal Impact: Enclosed is the FY'27 Comparative Budget Summary. The net budget represents an increase of 1.09% and a projected tax increase of 3.12%.

Recommendation: No formal action is necessary.

OFFICIAL WARNING
TOWN OF STOWE – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Stowe are hereby notified and warned to meet at Stowe High School, 413 Barrows Road, in said Town on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. The polls shall open at seven o'clock in the morning (7:00 AM), and shall close at seven o'clock in the evening, (7:00 PM), during which time Articles 1 through 5 shall be voted on by Australian ballot.

The legal voters of the Town of Stowe are further notified and warned to meet at Stowe High School, 413 Barrows Road, in said Town on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at eight o'clock in the morning (8:00 AM), and immediately following the conclusion of the Stowe School District Annual Meeting, to act on the following articles not involving Australian ballot voting, being Articles 6 through 8.

BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

Article 1: To elect a Moderator of Town Meetings for a one (1) year term.

Article 2: To elect all Town officers as required by law, to wit:

- a. One Selectboard member for a three (3) year term
- b. One Selectboard member for a two (2) year term
- c. One Town Lister for a three (3) year term

Article 3: Shall the voters approve the Selectboard's proposed General Fund Budget of Eighteen Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$18,651,457), of which Twelve Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Twenty-Two Dollars (\$12,739,222) is to be raised by property taxes, and Five Million Nine Hundred and Twelve Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty-Five Dollars (\$5,912,235) is to be funded by non-property tax revenues?

Article 4: Shall the Charter of the Town of Stowe be amended by adding Section 904 entitled "Local option taxes" and authorizing the assessment of a two percent (2%) sales tax to read as follows:

§ 904. Local option taxes

- (a) The Selectboard is authorized to levy a two (2) percent sales tax to be collected and distributed by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.
- (b) Upon the effective date of this provision, any previously approved local option sales tax is repealed and superseded.

Article 5: Shall the Charter of the Town of Stowe be amended by adding Section 904 entitled "Local option taxes" and authorizing the assessment of a two percent (2%) rooms, meals, and alcohol tax to read as follows:

§ 904. Local option taxes

- (a) The Selectboard is authorized to levy a two (2) percent rooms, meals, and alcohol tax to be collected and distributed by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.
- (b) Upon the effective date of this provision, any previously approved local option sales tax

is repealed and superseded.

In the event Article 4 and Article 5 are both approved, then Subsection 904(a) and (b) in Article 5, above, will be re-codified in the amended Charter as Subsections 904(b) and (c), and the two percent (2%) local option sales tax approved in Article 4 will be codified as Subsection 904(a).

BY FLOOR VOTE

- Article 6: Shall the voters approve an increase in the number of Justices of the Peace to be elected from the Town from twelve (12) to fifteen (15) as authorized by Vermont Constitution, Chapter II, Section 52?
- Article 7: Shall a Housing Reserve Fund be established pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2804 to receive funds to promote the development of safe and affordable housing and to be administered and expended by the Selectboard in conformance with those purposes and the Stowe Town Plan then in effect?
- Article 8: To hear and to act on the report of the Town officers and the Auditor's report for the budget period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF NON-BINDING TOWN BUSINESS

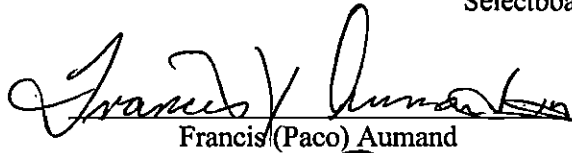
ADJOURN

The legal voters of the Town of Stowe are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said Annual Meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

APPROVED this 28 day of January, 2026.

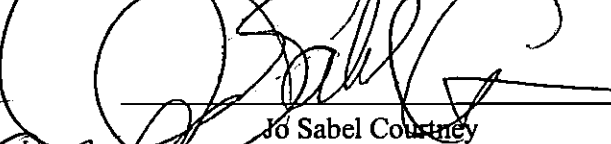
ATTEST:

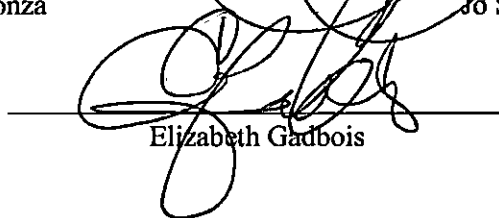
Selectboard, Town of Stowe


Francis (Paco) Aumand


Ethan Carlson


Dominick Donza


Jo Sabel Courtney


Elizabeth Gadbois

ATTEST:

Received, filed, and recorded in the Town of Stowe this 29 day of January, 2026.


Penny Davis, Town Clerk

Comparative Budget Summary FY 27

Total Operating Expenditures

Departments	FY25 Adopted	FY25 Actual	FY26 Adopted	FY27 Budget Request	FY 26- FY 27 \$ Change (Decrease)	FY 26- FY 27 \$ Change (Decrease)
Accounting	377,935	383,765	404,620	463,656	59,036	14.59%
Administration	644,992	681,637	730,076	911,230	181,154	24.81%
Annual Leave Transfer	100,000	100,000	100,000	120,000	20,000	20.00%
Buildings & Facilities	573,347	565,756	607,984	653,472	45,488	7.48%
Capital Fund Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	
Cemetery Commission	24,700	35,261	26,200	26,200	-	0.00%
Debt Management	1,296,354	1,294,733	1,249,135	1,222,545	(26,590)	-2.13%
Economic Development & Community Services	97,350	97,350	101,740	102,810	1,070	1.05%
Elections	3,666	5,343	3,676	3,678	2	0.05%
Emergency Management	9,200	2,048	9,201	9,366	165	1.79%
Fire & Rescue	2,113,882	2,094,978	2,248,857	2,413,168	164,311	7.31%
Equipment Reserve Fund Transfer	530,000	530,000	1,350,000	645,000	(705,000)	-52.22%
Equipment Reserve Fund Transfer {Surplus}	-	-	-	-	-	
General Government	736,459	744,005	799,817	873,194	73,377	9.17%
Highway	2,888,401	2,679,579	2,964,503	3,056,337	91,834	3.10%
Information Technology	470,097	440,055	457,713	526,377	68,664	15.00%
Insurance	283,959	289,852	327,095	312,007	(15,088)	-4.61%
Library	560,822	519,683	586,438	622,630	36,192	6.17%
Listers	167,778	174,213	181,839	192,676	10,837	5.96%
Mountain Rescue	59,072	62,677	66,720	94,943	28,223	42.30%
Parks	643,154	676,353	665,119	762,017	96,898	14.57%
Police	2,555,651	2,309,884	2,501,312	2,555,675	54,363	2.17%
Public Works - Administration	546,928	538,340	739,756	720,911	(18,845)	-2.55%
Recreation	526,562	507,742	521,302	579,880	58,578	11.24%
Social Services	60,899	60,899	61,699	60,149	(1,550)	-2.51%
Solid Waste	602	596	602	602	-	0.00%
Stowe Arena	680,675	742,264	753,208	800,918	47,710	6.33%
Town Clerk & Treasurer	365,838	357,293	378,982	404,028	25,046	6.61%
Zoning & Planning	449,289	387,774	486,847	518,242	31,395	6.45%
Expenditure Total:	16,767,612	16,282,082	18,324,441	18,651,711	327,270	1.79%

Comparative Budget Summary FY 27

Total Operating Revenues

Departments	FY25 Adopted	FY25 Actual	FY26 Adopted	FY27 Budget Request	FY 26- FY 27 \$ Change (Decrease)	FY 26- FY 27 \$ Change (Decrease)
Accounting	33,000	34,165	35,200	37,200	2,000	5.68%
Administration	987,499	1,131,943	1,097,529	1,101,383	3,854	0.35%
Annual Leave Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings & Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Fund Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cemetery Commission	1,200	1,920	1,200	1,200	-	0.00%
Debt Management	555,170	553,547	555,519	549,023	(6,496)	-1.17%
Economic Development & Community Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elections	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Management	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fire & Rescue	403,351	463,081	367,000	456,000	89,000	24.25%
Equipment Reserve Fund Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Government	-	-	-	-	-	-
Highway	242,325	244,725	231,420	240,125	8,705	3.76%
Information Technology	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Library	3,680	6,600	3,680	3,680	-	0.00%
Listers	4,600	4,539	4,600	4,600	-	0.00%
Mountain Rescue	-	6,634	-	-	-	-
Parks	37,270	24,635	30,348	29,949	(399)	-1.31%
Police	160,340	115,838	145,520	126,020	(19,500)	-13.40%
Public Works - Administration	182,882	199,340	211,320	222,675	11,355	5.37%
Recreation	202,280	179,215	189,267	233,116	43,849	23.17%
Social Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solid Waste	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stowe Arena	329,757	356,765	379,407	358,642	(20,765)	-5.47%
Town Clerk & Treasurer	455,165	694,062	530,300	628,617	98,317	18.54%
Zoning & Planning	80,100	126,916	110,100	70,005	(40,095)	-36.42%
Revenue:	3,678,619	4,143,924	3,892,410	4,062,235	169,825	4.36%
Local Option Sales Tax:	1,050,751	1,454,538	1,050,751	1,500,000	449,249	42.76%
Surplus Carry Forward:	350,000	(623,534)	350,000	350,000	-	0.00%
Undesignated Fund Transfer:			800,000		(800,000)	-100.00%
Grand List Growth:				-	-	-
Total Revenue:	5,079,370	4,974,928	6,093,161	5,912,235	(180,926)	-2.97%
Property Tax Raised	11,688,242	11,307,154	12,231,280	12,739,476	508,196	4.15%
Town Grand List	53,184,452	53,184,452	53,754,043	54,291,583	537,540	1.00%
Town Tax Rate	\$ 0.2198	\$ 0.2126	\$ 0.2275	\$ 0.2346	\$ 0.0071	3.12%

Comparative Budget Summary FY 27

Total Net Budget

Departments	FY25 Adopted	FY25 Actual	FY26 Adopted	FY27 Budget Request	FY 26- FY 27 \$ Change (Decrease)	FY 26- FY 27 \$ Change (Decrease)
Accounting	344,935	349,600	369,420	426,456	57,036	15.44%
Administration	(342,507)	(450,306)	(367,453)	(190,153)	177,300	-48.25%
Annual Leave Transfer	100,000	100,000	100,000	120,000	20,000	20.00%
Buildings & Facilities	573,347	565,756	607,984	653,472	45,488	7.48%
Capital Fund Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cemetery Commission	23,500	33,341	25,000	25,000	-	0.00%
Debt Management	741,184	741,186	693,616	673,522	(20,094)	-2.90%
Economic Development & Community Services	97,350	97,350	101,740	102,810	1,070	1.05%
Elections	3,666	5,343	3,676	3,678	2	0.05%
Emergency Management	9,200	2,048	9,201	9,366	165	1.79%
Fire & Rescue	1,710,531	1,631,898	1,881,857	1,957,168	75,311	4.00%
Equipment Reserve Fund Transfer	530,000	530,000	1,350,000	645,000	(705,000)	-52.22%
Equipment Reserve Fund Transfer(Surplus)	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Government	736,459	744,005	799,817	873,194	73,377	9.17%
Highway	2,646,076	2,434,854	2,733,083	2,816,212	83,129	3.04%
Information Technology	470,097	440,055	457,713	526,377	68,664	15.00%
Insurance	283,959	289,852	327,095	312,007	(15,088)	-4.61%
Library	557,142	513,084	582,758	618,950	36,192	6.21%
Listers	163,178	169,673	177,239	188,076	10,837	6.11%
Mountain Rescue	59,072	56,043	66,720	94,943	28,223	42.30%
Parks	605,884	651,718	634,771	732,068	97,297	15.33%
Police	2,395,311	2,194,046	2,355,792	2,429,655	73,863	3.14%
Public Works - Administration	364,046	339,000	528,436	498,236	(30,200)	-5.71%
Recreation	324,282	328,527	332,035	346,764	14,729	4.44%
Social Services	60,899	60,899	61,699	60,149	(1,550)	-2.51%
Solid Waste	602	596	602	602	-	0.00%
Stowe Arena	350,918	385,500	373,801	442,276	68,475	18.32%
Town Clerk & Treasurer	(89,327)	(336,769)	(151,318)	(224,589)	(73,271)	48.42%
Zoning & Planning	369,189	260,857	376,747	448,237	71,490	18.98%
Net Budget	13,088,993	12,138,157	14,432,031	14,589,476	157,445	1.09%
Local Option Sales Tax:	1,050,751	1,454,538	1,050,751	1,500,000	449,249	42.76%
Surplus Carry Forward:	350,000	(623,534)	350,000	350,000	-	0.00%
Undesignated Fund Transfer:	-	-	800,000	-	(800,000)	-100.00%
Property Tax Raised	11,688,242	11,307,154	12,231,280	12,739,476	508,196	4.15%
Town Grand List	53,184,452	53,184,452	53,754,043	54,291,583	537,540	1.00%
Town Tax Rate	\$ 0.2198	\$ 0.2126	\$ 0.2275	\$ 0.2346	\$ 0.0071	3.12%

**OFFICIAL WARNING
TOWN OF STOWE
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

The legal voters of the Town of Stowe are hereby notified and warned that the Selectboard will hold a public informational meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the Akeley Memorial Building to discuss the following articles which will be voted on by Australian ballot on March 3, 2026.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator of Town Meetings for a one (1) year term.

Article 2: To elect all Town officers as required by law, to wit:

- a. One Selectboard member for a three (3) year term
- b. One Selectboard member for a two (2) year term
- c. One Town Lister for a three (3) year term

Article 3: Shall the voters approve the Selectboard's proposed General Fund Budget of Eighteen Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$18,651,457), of which Twelve Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Twenty-Two Dollars (\$12,739,222) is to be raised by property taxes, and Five Million Nine Hundred and Twelve Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty-Five Dollars (\$5,912,235) is to be funded by non-property tax revenues?

Article 4: Shall the Charter of the Town of Stowe be amended by adding Section 904 entitled "Local option taxes" and authorizing the assessment of a two percent (2%) sales tax to read as follows:

§ 904. Local option taxes

- (a) The Selectboard is authorized to levy a two (2) percent sales tax to be collected and distributed by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.
- (b) Upon the effective date of this provision, any previously approved local option sales tax is repealed and superseded.

Article 5: Shall the Charter of the Town of Stowe be amended by adding Section 904 entitled "Local option taxes" and authorizing the assessment of a two percent (2%) rooms, meals, and alcohol tax to read as follows:

§ 904. Local option taxes

- (a) The Selectboard is authorized to levy a two (2) percent rooms, meals, and alcohol tax to be collected and distributed by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.
- (b) Upon the effective date of this provision, any previously approved local option sales tax is repealed and superseded.

In the event Article 4 and Article 5 are both approved, then Subsection 904(a) and (b) in Article 5, above, will be re-codified in the amended Charter as Subsections 904(b) and (c), and the two percent (2%) local option sales tax approved in Article 4 will be codified as Subsection 904(a).

Dated at Stowe, Vermont this 28th day of January, 2026.

PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGE – LOCAL OPTION TAX ALTERNATIVES
REVISED JANUARY 28, 2026

Article 1. Shall the Charter of the Town of Stowe be amended:

- (a) By adding Section 904 entitled “Local option taxes” to read as follows:

§ 904. Local option taxes

The Selectboard is authorized to levy a two (2) percent sales tax to be collected and distributed by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.

- (b) Upon the effective date of this provision, any previously approved local option sales tax is repealed and superseded.

Article 2. Shall the Charter of the Town of Stowe be amended:

- (a). By adding Section 904 entitled “Local option taxes” to read as follows:

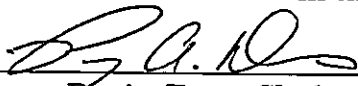
§ 904. Local option taxes

The Selectboard is authorized to levy a two (2) percent rooms, meals, and alcohol tax to be collected and distributed by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.

- (b) Upon the effective date of this provision, any previously approved local option rooms, meals, and alcohol taxes are repealed and superseded.

In the event Article 4 and Article 5 are both approved, then Subsection 904(a) and (b) in Article 5, above, will be re-codified in the amended Charter as Subsections 904(b) and (c), and the two percent (2%) local option sales tax approved in Article 4 will be codified as Subsection 904(a).

Received and recorded in the Office of the Stowe Town Clerk by:


Penny Davis, Town Clerk

1/29/2026
Date



OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL MEETING
TOWN OF STOWE, VERMONT
MARCH 3, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. **DO NOT USE PENCIL.**
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use block letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. **DO NOT ERASE.**

TOWN ARTICLES

MODERATOR 1 YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	SELECTBOARD 2 YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	LISTER 3 YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE
(Write-in) ☐	NICK DONZA ☐	ADAM DAVIS ☐
SELECTBOARD 3 YEAR TERM Vote for not more than ONE	(Write-in) ☐	(Write-in) ☐
FRANCIS "PACO" AUMAND ☐	SAMPLE BALLOT	
(Write-in) ☐		

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters approve the Selectboard's proposed General Fund Budget of Eighteen Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$18,651,457), of which Twelve Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Twenty-Two Dollars (\$12,739,222) is to be raised by property taxes, and Five Million Nine Hundred and Twelve Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty-Five Dollars (\$5,912,235) is to be funded by non-property tax revenues?

SAMPLE BALLOT

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Charter of the Town of Stowe be amended by adding Section 904 entitled "Local option taxes" and authorizing the assessment of a two percent (2%) sales tax to read as follows:

§ 904. Local option taxes
(a)The Selectboard is authorized to levy a two (2) percent sales tax to be collected and distributed by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.
(b)Upon the effective date of this provision, any previously approved local option sales tax is repealed and superseded.

SAMPLE BALLOT

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Charter of the Town of Stowe be amended by adding Section 904 entitled "Local option taxes" and authorizing the assessment of a two percent (2%) rooms, meals, and alcohol tax to read as follows:

§ 904. Local option taxes
(a) The Selectboard is authorized to levy a two (2) percent rooms, meals, and alcohol tax to be collected and distributed by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.
(b) Upon the effective date of this provision, any previously approved local option sales tax is repealed and superseded.

SAMPLE BALLOT

YES ☐
NO ☐

In the event Article 4 and Article 5 are both approved, then Subsection 904(a) and (b) in Article 5, above, will be re-codified in the amended Charter as Subsections 904(b) and (c), and the two percent (2%) local option sales tax approved in Article 4 will be codified as Subsection 904(a).

SAMPLE BALLOT

**SCHOOL DIRECTOR
SEAT 1
3 YEAR TERM
Vote for not more than ONE**

SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

YES ☐

NO ○

SAMPLE BALLOT

