

**Town of Baltimore
Town Meeting
March 3, 2026**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:15PM by Joan Whaley. Joan then read the Warning.

Article I- To elect a moderator for the year ensuing.

Town Clerk Deb Bean took nominations from the floor. A motion was made for Joan Whaley and seconded. No more nominations. Motion carried.

Joan asked if School Director Adrienne Williams would like to speak. Adrienne outlined some of the concerns regarding the continually increasing the cost of education which has become a major concern for Tax Payers and has become unsustainable. Adrienne read the following Resolution which was approved by the town as read.

Resolution:

Shall the town of Baltimore declare that the current statewide education funding system has failed the people of Baltimore and is no longer capable of providing the equitable and convenient education guaranteed under the Vermont Constitution, and that the repeated legislative inaction, including the flawed implementation of Act 73, has produced unsustainable property tax burdens that disproportionately harm small rural towns?

Shall the town direct the Schoolboard to formally communicate this position to the Vermont Legislature and to notify state officials that Baltimore is prepared to explore all available legal and political avenues to protect its taxpayers and students unless meaningful structural reform is enacted during the current legislative session?

Joan asked if Windsor-2 Rep. VL Coffin would like to speak. Rep. Coffin talked about some of the bills that he was involved in and he did comment that the high level of educational property tax for school financing was unsustainable and would likely increase each year. Representative Coffin ended by saying please contact him with questions and/or comments.

Article II- To act on Town Reports of the Town.

Motion made and seconded to accept as written. Carried.

Article III- To elect all Town and Officials as the law directs.

Town Clerk TE 2029- Motion made and seconded to nominate Deborah Bean. No other nominations. Motion carried and Assistant clerk cast one ballot.

Town Treasurer TE 2029- Motion made and seconded to nominate Deborah Bean. No other nominations. Motion carried and Assistant clerk cast one ballot.

Selectman TE 2029- Motion made and seconded to nominate Motion made and seconded to nominate George Wheeler. No other nominations. Motion carried and Assistant clerk cast one ballot.

Lister TE 2029- Motion made and seconded to nominate Joan Whaley No other nominations. Motion carried and Assistant clerk cast one ballot.

Auditor TE 2029- Motion made and seconded to nominate Sheila Patch. No other nominations. Motion carried and clerk cast one ballot.

Town Grand Juror- One year- Motion made and seconded to nominate Steve Waldo. No other nominations. Motion carried.

Town Agent- One year- Motion made and seconded to nominate Derek Bruce. No other nominations. Motion carried.

Trustee of Public Funds- One year -Motion made and seconded to nominate Deborah Bean. No other nominations. Motion carried.

Trustee of Campbell Fund TE 2029 -Motion made and seconded to nominate Orson Kendall. No other nominations. Motion carried.

Article IV- Shall the voters authorize a total GENERAL FUND expenditure of \$69,805.00, of which \$59,805.00 to be raised by taxes and \$10,000.00 carried forward from 2025 year-end General Fund surplus to cover anticipated 2027 Town operating expenses? No discussion. Motion made and seconded to accept. Motion carried.

Article V- Shall the voters approve the transfer of \$1,000.00 from the 2025 General Fund Surplus into the General Fund Contingency to pay for unanticipated General Fund operating expenses? No discussion. Motion was made and seconded to accept. Motion carried.

Article VI- Shall the voters authorize a total HIGHWAY FUND expenditure of \$106,100.00 of which \$67,100.00 shall be raised by taxes, \$19,000.00 from anticipated State Aid Revenue and \$20,000.00 carried forward from 2025 year-end Highway Fund surplus to cover anticipated 2027 Highway expenses? Kevin Gould, asked how come State Aid is always \$19,000.00. Bud explained we have for most years received \$20,000 to \$21,000 however because we have not received this payment, we project only \$19,000.00. Motion was made and seconded to accept. Motion carried.

Article VII- Shall the voters approve the transfer of \$2,000.00 from the 2025 Highway Fund surplus into the Highway Expense Contingency to meet unanticipated highway expenses? No discussion. Motion was made and seconded to accept. Motion carried.

Article VIII- To see what date in 2026 the town will set for the payment of local property taxes to be paid into the Town Treasury.

Motion was made and seconded to act on Article IX and then return to Article VIII. Motion Carried. After which, Motion made and seconded to have taxes due in full on or before December 1, 2026. Carried.

Article IX- Shall the voters approve the transition for the town to switch from a calendar year to a fiscal year starting during year 2028? If this Article is approved by the town, then the date that property taxes are due would change to accommodate when town expenses need to be paid. Questions were asked as to why this transition was needed. The Selectboard said that it was because of problems in creating proposed budgets so far in the future. Because of the rate of inflation with the cost of goods and services, a more accurate proposed budget would be presented if the town budget approval date was the same year as the start date of the budget. It was also explained by the Selectboard that the town was having difficulty in obtaining cost for goods and services from contractors and, also, for any bids to be submitted by other towns for their services, if we asked them to submit a bid for over a year when it was needed. After discussion, Article IX was not approved by the town voters because of concern over in the change in date for property tax collection and auditing problems.

Article X- To do any other Town business legal and proper when met not to involve expenditures of the Town.

Motion made and second to adjourn at 7:52 P.M. Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Rich
Assistant Town Clerk