

**WARNING TOWN OF HARDWICK
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 03, 2026**

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Hardwick Town House in said Town of Hardwick on Tuesday, March 03, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business:

The polls for Australian ballot voting will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. If special accommodations are necessary because of physical disabilities, please contact the Town Clerk's Office (472-5971).

Article 1. To elect a Moderator to govern said Town Meeting and for the year ensuing.

Article 2. Shall the Town accept the Town Report, year ending June 30, 2025?

Article 3. To elect all Town Officers and School District No. 26 Directors as required by the public laws of Vermont and the Town Charter. (Select Board and Union School District No. 26 Directors, to be voted by Australian Ballot).

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| First Constable | 1-year term |
| Second Constable | 1-year term |
| Town Agent | 1-year term |
| Surveyor of Wood, Bark and Lumber | 1-year term |
| Tree Warden | 1-year term |
| Cemetery Trustees Main Street, Maple Street, Fairview, Sanborn, Hardwick Street, West Hill, Hardwick Center | 1-year term |
| Fire Dept. Officers (can be voted as one) | 1-year term |
| One Library Trustee | 3-year term |
| One Library Trustee | 1 year remaining on a 3-year term |
| Grand Juror | 1-year term |

Article 4. Shall the Town have its current taxes collected by the Town Treasurer?

Article 5. Shall the Town vote a budget of four million seven hundred forty one thousand six hundred dollars (\$4,741,600) to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Select Board to set a new tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

Article 6. Shall the Town approve a one percent (1%) local option tax on (i) meals and alcoholic beverages pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138(b)(2) and (ii) rooms pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 138(b)(3) with the Town's share of receipts to be used for municipal, non-education expenditures as identified by the Select Board?

Article 7. Shall the Town contribute \$25,000, to be matched by more than \$700,000 of other public and private funds, toward the acquisition of +/- 329 acres of land on Buffalo Mountain to become a Town Forest to protect recreational access, fish and wildlife habitat, forestry, and Lamoille River water quality, and to provide outdoor educational opportunities for schoolchildren?

Article 8. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of AWARE?

Article 9. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand six hundred dollars (\$2,600.00) for the support of Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice?

Article 10. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for the support of Center for an Agricultural Economy?

Article 11. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Craftsbury Community Care Center?

Article 12. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the support of Greensboro Nursing Home?

Article 13. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the support of Hardwick Area Food Pantry?

Article 14. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of Hardwick Community Television?

Article 15. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand eight hundred dollars (\$2,800.00) for the support of Hardwick Downtown Partnership, Inc.?

Article 16. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of Hardwick Historical Society?

Article 17. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of Justice For Dogs?

Article 18. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Lamoille Family Center?

Article 19. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Arts Council, Inc. (NEKarts)?

Article 20. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging?

Article 21. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand one hundred sixty one dollars (\$3,161.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Human Services?

Article 22. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Learning Services?

Article 23. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed six thousand one hundred eight one dollars and fifty cents (\$6,181.50) for the support of Rural Community Transportation, Inc.?

Article 24. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the support of Salvation Farms, Inc.?

Article 25. Shall the Town hold the 2027 Town Meeting at the Hardwick Elementary School or the Hardwick Town House? Added at the Special Select Board meeting

Article 26. Shall the Town exempt the property of the Hardwick Area Rescue Squad from taxation for a period of five (5) years in accordance with section 3840 of Title 32, VSA?

Article 27. Shall the Town exempt the property of the Caspian Lake Lodge Masonic Temple Association, Inc. from taxation for a period of five (5) years in accordance with section 3840 of Title 32, VSA?

Article 28. Shall the Town exempt the property of the Caledonia Grange from taxation for a period of five (5) years in accordance with section 3840 of Title 32, VSA?

Article 29. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with new industrial and commercial owners, lessees, bailees, of real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees or operators who construct, acquire or renovate industrial and/or commercial real property, including additions to existing property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount of money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to the provision of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

Article 30. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with operators of agricultural real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees, or operators who construct acquire or renovate, or who intend to construct, acquire or renovate agricultural real property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount in money which shall be

paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to provisions of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

Article 31. To transact any other nonbinding business proper to be brought before said meeting.

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

Dated at Hardwick, Vermont this 16th day of January, A.D. 2026.

Eric Remick, Chair

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair

Shari Cornish

Danny Hale

Timothy Ricciardello

Hardwick Town Clerk's Office. Received for record this 16th day of January, A.D. 2026 at 8 O'clock 30 minutes a.m., the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.

Attest: Tonia L. Chase, Town Clerk:
