

**TOWN OF HIGHGATE**  
**Selectboard Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 20, 2025 @ 6:30pm**  
**Approved Minutes**

NOTE: All actions taken are unanimous unless otherwise stated

**ZOOM LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82242735871>**

**A. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order by Vern Brosky III, Chair, @ 6:30pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **This meeting was a hybrid of in-person and Zoom video.** Participants were in-person unless otherwise noted.

**Highgate Selectboard Members** – Vern Brosky III, Chair; Merry Souza, Vice-Chair; Richard Flint; Kyle Lothian *absent – Ben Lowell*

**Highgate Office Staff** – Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk & Public Meetings Clerk; Carrie Johnson, Town Administrator (interim); Shelley Laroche, Treasurer & DTC

**Public** – Alice (Sue) Cota; Scott Bessette; Richard J. Noel; Ed Adrian; Greta Brunswick (via Zoom)

**B. Public Comment**

- Sue Cota thanked our road crew for their excellent work on our roads over the last few weeks, we have had several storms, they have been very busy!
- Sue has distributed some town reports, everyone is very impressed with the cover which commemorates the Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. Vern agreed with Sue, noting that the town report is a very impressive document, and a lot of work goes into putting that together. Vern also thanked our road crew – Nick, Cody, Luke, and Butch – who all put in countless hours to keep us safe. Richard Noel added that Jay Peak has 330” of snow – the most in the country!
- Vern reminded everyone about the Town Meeting Informational Session on Feb. 27 at 6pm at Highgate Elementary School (gym).

**C. Selectboard Items**

- Motion by Merry Souza to exit the regular meeting and enter into the Liquor Control Board @ 6:05pm. The motion was seconded by Richard Flint – **APPROVED.** Motion by Merry Souza to approve three applications for RL Vallee Inc – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class / Tobacco / Tobacco Substitute. The motion was seconded by Kyle Lothian – **APPROVED.** Motion by Kyle Lothian to approve the two applications for Martin’s General Store – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class / Tobacco. The motion was seconded by Richard Flint – **APPROVED.** Motion by Richard Flint to exit the Liquor Control Board and enter back into the regular meeting @ 6:08pm. The motion was seconded by Merry Souza – **APPROVED.**
- Motion by Richard Flint to approve the minutes from *February 6, 2025*, as written. The motion was seconded by Merry Souza – **APPROVED.**
- NorthWest Access TV sent in a funding request that was not presented to the board with changes in staff. We budgeted for \$1,800.00 for their services, the funding request is for \$4,000.00. Fewer subscriptions to cable have impacted their funding sources. They do a great job for us and all over the county, with meetings and sporting events and more. There are funds in our budget to cover this. Motion by Merry Souza to approve the funding request of \$4,000.00 for NorthWest Access TV. The motion was seconded by Richard Flint – **APPROVED.**

- Carrie got clarification on the lighting bids we opened on 2/6/25. They were not apples to apples bids. Rainville Electric included an alternative option. The Rainville bid was to replace lights one for one with LED and not make any other changes. His alternative option was to include LED lighting intended for high bay areas. It was also recommended to change the wiring while the work is being done. There were questions about 110 vs 220 and what has been budgeted and for what departments. There was nothing budgeted for the fire department so that will have to wait unless they want to use other funds in their budget. Richard Flint would like to do the offices / meeting room / hallway / bathrooms / public works now. The second floor was discussed, but that is used just for storage. Flood lights and wiring for outdoor lighting were also discussed. Merry Souza again recused herself from this decision. The bids stand at \$18,839.25 from Rainville Electric and \$24,713.00 from Lamos Electric. It was noted that the Lamos bid does not include the high bay lighting option discussed earlier. Motion by Kyle Lothian to accept the bid from Rainville Electric for the areas discussed for new lighting and wiring and to wait on the project for HVFD. The motion was seconded by Richard Flint – **APPROVED** (3-YES – Vern / Kyle / Richard o-NO Merry – recused)
- Greta Brunswick from NRPC was on Zoom to participate in the village wastewater project discussion. This project has a number of funding sources and a couple of them require very specific progress letters. The basis is that you understand the design and we are moving forward in support of the project. We also sent letters to 75 residents / businesses along the route of the proposed system to gauge interest on who would like to hook on. Three sessions with the engineer are scheduled here and other times can be scheduled if those times don't work. Even if residents are not interested in hooking up now, we need to know where their systems are located. One of the next phases will be to develop an ordinance and a fee structure based on the number of residents and businesses interested in hooking up to the wastewater system. Greta has been instrumental in keeping this moving forward through our transition with staff. ERUs were discussed (equivalent residential units) as a way to measure wastewater usage. Vern asked for clarification on the area to be serviced by the proposed system, and a map was shared. There was discussion on possibly expanding the boundary, depending on interest. Vern spoke about talk radio and the Governor's proposal with changes to ACT250 to lessen the burden for municipal water and wastewater systems. Motion by Kyle Lothian to approve the basis of design letter to the state. The motion was seconded by Richard Flint – **APPROVED**. Motion by Richard Flint to authorize Carrie Johnson to sign the letter. The motion was seconded by Merry Souza – **APPROVED**.
- We have a grant for \$49,000.00 for a pavilion at the trail head (LVRT) at the arena property. The pavilion will technically sit on state owned land, so we need to complete two lease documents between the Town of Highgate and the State of VT – AOT. The cost is \$1.00 and the term is for five years, renewable up to four times. Richard Flint expressed concerns about snowmobiles running that trail and liability if someone gets hurt. Carrie explained that we are asking to lease a small triangular piece of property for the pavilion, and we aren't accepting liability by signing this. Vern read aloud from sections of the lease. There was discussion on the LVRT and who and what is allowed to use it and if it is a VAST trail. Motion by Richard Flint to accept and sign the lease paperwork for the pavilion. The motion was seconded by Merry Souza – **APPROVED**. Vern did not sign the documents, this will be done later.

#### **D. Town Treasurer – Shelley Laroche**

- Motion by Richard Flint to approve and sign the check warrants. The motion was seconded by Merry Souza – **APPROVED**.
- The delinquent tax balance is \$128,202.06.
- Shelley thanked the board for their support with us closing to the public for a few days last week to get some much needed work done on the single audit. It was a very productive few days without interruptions and we are more organized than we have ever been. It was a team effort with Carrie, Shelley, Wendi, and Carolyn all pitching in to organize all the projects and grants we have in progress.

**E. Town Clerk – Wendi Dusablon**

- License your dogs by April 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid late fees and possible fines. Our annual vaccination clinic for dogs and cats will be Saturday, March 29 from 9am – noon at Highgate Arena. More info to follow in the month of March.
- We have a long list of positions for appointment after Town Meeting Day. The full list is attached to the end of these minutes. Letters are due to Wendi by 2pm on 2/27/25.
- Our informational session for Town Meeting Day will be held on Thursday 2/27 at 6pm at Highgate School in the gym. There was discussion on set up for this meeting. We will have plenty of chairs available and hope to have an excellent turnout before voting day. Note: NO FLOOR MEETING ON MARCH 4. We are now fully Australian ballot, and polls will be open from 7am – 7pm at the arena on March 4. Our JPs will be coming in to assist, as they always do, we could not do it without them and all they do for us during elections.
- Absentee ballots are available for anyone who needs or wants to vote early. Please make sure ballots are returned to Wendi by 7pm on March 4 in order to be counted. As of today we have sent out 67 and 19 have been returned. Wendi shared sample ballots. We have three ballots – town / ambulance / and school district.
- Tabulator accuracy testing was completed on 2/19 at 2pm and this was warned to the public. All went well and was testing was 100% accurate.
- The town office schedule is all over the place March 3 – 7, because of Town Meeting Day. The schedule is attached to the end of these minutes and has been posted to the public as well.
- MVSD annual reports are available in our lobby or online.
- There was lengthy discussion on posted roads. As part of that annual process, it needs to be “filed with the Selectboard”. Scott Bessette has strong opinions on this. Richard Flint will speak with our public works crew about this before we decide if we will be posting roads for 2025.

**F. Interim Town Administrator – Carrie Johnson**

- Carrie reiterated what Shelley had said earlier about organizing everything in the TA office. The grant spreadsheet has been reorganized as well, by project type.
- The project at 1030 Monument Road (demo) previously did not go exactly as we had planned, but we did just get notification that the state signed off and approved it with no further remediation needed. Sue Cota asked about the pile of wood / trees on the property. If that could be cleaned up it would look so much better. Carrie will look into it.

*Vern noted that this is Kyle Lothian’s last regular meeting with us – he has just the informational session left. Kyle has served on the Selectboard on and off for 5+ years. He is a man of great integrity, and we appreciate all that he has done for us and the town. Kyle very much appreciates the support of the town employees and different boards and departments. Everyone is amazing and he is grateful to have had this opportunity to serve his community.*

Motion by Richard Flint to exit the regular meeting @ 7:32pm. The motion was seconded by Kyle Lothian – **APPROVED.**

**G. Executive Session**

Motion by Vern Brosky III to enter into executive session @ 7:32pm with Carrie Johnson, Scott Bessette, and Ed Adrian (town attorney) to discuss contracts, where premature general public knowledge would place the town and / or the individuals involved at a substantial disadvantage. The motion was seconded by Kyle Lothian – **APPROVED.** Scott Bessette and Ed Adrian exited executive session @ 8:43pm. Carrie Johnson exited executive session @ 8:50pm. Motion by Richard Flint to exit executive session @ 8:59pm. The motion was seconded by Merry Souza – **APPROVED.**

**H. Adjournment**

Motion by Richard Flint to adjourn the meeting @ 8:59pm. The motion was seconded by Merry Souza – **APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Wendi Dusablon 3/6/25

Wendi Dusablon  
Town Clerk & Public Meetings Clerk

Minutes Approved by:

Merry Souza

~~Vern Brosky III~~  
Selectboard Chair

Merry Souza  
Vice-Chair

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**



## **The Town of Highgate**

### **2025 TOWN MEETING INFORMATION SESSION**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025 @ 6:00PM  
@ HIGHGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GYMNASIUM)**

*PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON OR USE THE ZOOM LINK:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86492134232>*

**REMINDERS.....**

- ✓ *Town Meeting Day is Tuesday, March 4, 2025 – polls will be open at Highgate Sports Arena from 7am – 7pm @ 243 Gore Road. WE NO LONGER HAVE A FLOOR MEETING ON TOWN MEETING DAY – FULLY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING – AS VOTED ON LAST MARCH*
- ✓ *Absentee ballots will be available in early to mid- February and can be requested by contacting the Town Clerk, Wendi Dusablon, at 802-868-5002, wdusablon@highgatevt.org, by stopping by the office, or through the “My Voter Page” <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>*
- ✓ *Voter registration is available at the town office, through the “My Voter Page”, or same day registration is available at the polls*

## 2025 Town Meeting Warning ~ Highgate Vermont

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The legal voters of the Town of Highgate, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Highgate Sports Arena (243 Gore Road) in the Town of Highgate on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 between the hours of seven o'clock in the forenoon (7:00am), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock in the evening (7:00pm), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Articles of business:

**ARTICLE #1:** To elect the following town officers:

- a) One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five (5) years
- b) One Library Trustee for a term of five (5) years
- c) One Moderator for the ensuing year
- d) One Selectboard Member for a term of one (1) year remaining on a three (3) year term
- e) One Selectboard Member for a term of two (2) years
- f) One Selectboard Member for a term of two (2) years
- g) One Selectboard Member for a term of three (3) years
- h) One Treasurer for a term of three (3) years

**ARTICLE #2:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate set the final date of payment for FY2025/2026 property taxes to be **Thursday, October 30, 2025**, with payments to be received in the town office by 4:00pm?

**ARTICLE #3:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate advise the Selectboard to allow the legal use of ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles) on all town roads? ATVs must be registered, insured, have a valid VASA (Vermont All Terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association) registration sticker affixed, as well as wear approved helmets and seatbelts.

**ARTICLE #4:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate request the Selectboard to hold the Town Meeting Day Informational Meeting within the 30 days preceding Town Meeting Day, as is allowed per statute 17 V.S.A. § 2680?

**ARTICLE #5:** **As a non-binding advisory opinion:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate purchase the property located at **5 Gore Road** (formerly known as Paws for Thought), owned by Robert & Sheryl Wilkins, as an option for the future home of the Highgate Library & Community Center?

**ARTICLE #6:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of **\$7,423** for the support of the **VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region** to provide services to residents of the Town?

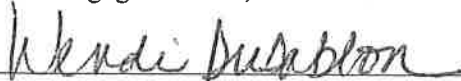
**ARTICLE #7:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate reallocate **\$30,000** within the **Capital Improvement Plan** from the indoor turf / field house line item and move it to the 72" zero turn mower line item?

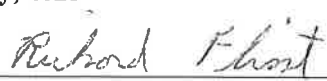
**ARTICLE #8:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate **\$590,000** to meet the expenses and liabilities of the **Capital Improvement Plan**, with an estimated **\$590,000** to be raised by taxes?

## 2025 Town Meeting Warning ~ Highgate Vermont

- ARTICLE #9:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$1,153,171 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the **Highway Fund**, with an estimated \$982,171 to be raised by taxes?
- ARTICLE #10:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$1,600,822 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the **General Fund**, with an estimated \$710,352 to be raised by taxes?
- ARTICLE #11:** **As a non-binding advisory opinion:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate contract with **AmCare Ambulance Service** for all ambulance services, in the amount of \$269,262.97, with such services beginning on July 1, 2025, for a term of three (3) years?
- ARTICLE #12:** **As a non-binding advisory opinion:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate contract with **Missisquoi Valley Rescue** for all ambulance services, in the amount of \$268,936.11, with such services beginning on July 1, 2025, for a term of three (3) years?

Dated at Highgate Center, Vermont this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025

  
Attest: Wendi Dusablon, Highgate Town Clerk

  
Richard Flint, Highgate Selectboard Member

  
Vernon Brosky III, Highgate Selectboard Chair

  
Kyle Lothian, Highgate Selectboard Member

  
Merry Souza, Highgate Selectboard Vice Chair

  
Benjamin Lowell, Highgate Selectboard Member

- **NOTE:** The Town of Highgate no longer holds a floor meeting, as voted on in March 2024. Voting is fully Australian ballot between 7am – 7pm on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 @ Highgate Sports Arena, located @ 243 Gore Road.
- Register to vote by contacting the Town Clerk 802-868-5002 or [wdusablon@highgatevt.org](mailto:wdusablon@highgatevt.org), or visit the My Voter Page at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Same day voter registration is also available.
- Absentee ballots are available upon request – contact the Town Clerk directly, stop by, or request through the My Voter Page (info above).
- Return ballots at the polls on March 4<sup>th</sup>, by mail, during our office hours 9am – 4pm Monday – Thursday, or by using our secure drop box at the rear entrance of the Municipal Bldg. Ballots must be received by the Town Clerk by 7pm on March 4, 2025 in order to be counted.
- The Town Meeting Informational Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2025 @ 6:00pm in the gymnasium @ Highgate Elementary School. Attend in-person or participate via Zoom with the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86492134232>
- Ambulance RFP responses are available at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours, by contacting the town office, or by visiting the town website [www.highgatevt.org](http://www.highgatevt.org).

**WARNING ANNUAL MEETING  
MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The legal voters of the Missisquoi Valley School District, consisting of the Towns of Franklin, Highgate, and Swanton, are hereby notified, and warned to meet to transact the following business by Australian ballot in their respective polling places hereinafter named for each of the above referenced towns on March 4, 2025 at the polling places and times hereinafter listed.

ARTICLE I To elect from the legal voters of said District the following officers:

- A. A Moderator for a term of one (1) year,
- B. A Clerk for a term of two (2) years,
- C. A Treasurer for a term of three (3) years,
- D. A MVSD School Director for a term of three (3) years from Franklin,
- E. A MVSD School Director for a term of three (3) years from Highgate,
- F. A MVSD School Director for the remainder of a three (3) year term from Highgate,
- G. A MVSD School Director for a term of three (3) years from Swanton.

ARTICLE II Shall the voters of the Missisquoi Valley School District approve the School Directors to expend \$50,956,879 which is the amount the School Directors have determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in a per pupil education spending of \$12,190, which is 2.89% higher than the per pupil spending for the current year.

ARTICLE III Shall the voters of the Missisquoi Valley School District authorize the Board of Directors of the said School District to borrow money to pay the current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to sign notes for that purpose?

Said persons and voters warned are further notified that voter qualification, registration, absentee voting, and voter procedures shall be in accordance with Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17 VSA.

The legal voters of the School District are further notified that an Informational Meeting will be held in person at Missisquoi Valley Union High School Library and electronically via Zoom on February 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of explaining the budget items to the voters. The link to access this virtual meeting will be posted on the MVSD Website, mvdsdschools.org, and MVSD social media prior to the meeting.

**POLLING PLACES AND TIMES**

FRANKLIN- Franklin Town Hall, 5336 Main Street, Franklin; from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
HIGHGATE- Highgate Sports Arena, 243 Gore Rd, Highgate Center, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
SWANTON-Swanton Village Municipal Complex, First & Elm Streets, Swanton; from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025

Board of Directors

Renee Sauls  
Jennifer Chretien  
Pierrette Bouchard  
Jessie Johnston  
Peter Magallon

Edward [unclear]  
Donald E. Collins  
Alphonse [unclear]  
[unclear]

Received and Recorded this

1-28-2025

District Clerk

Nola Gilbert



# PROPOSED BUDGET: \$50,956,879

This is a 4% increase from last year, and it will allow us to continue meeting the increasing needs of our growing population of students. By strategic investment in our personnel, facilities, and programs that have the most impact on student success, we'll be able to carry on providing a high-quality education while also bringing taxes down from last year!

This budget comes in just under the 3% increase per student spending that the governor recommended to help stabilize education spending in the state, and we're proud to set the example for other districts in Vermont of sustainable budgets that still prioritize student outcomes.



## TAX RATES ARE GOING DOWN!

Franklin: ↓ \$0.06

Highgate: ↓ \$0.11

Swanton: ↓ \$0.04

## HOW CAN TAXES DROP IF THE BUDGET INCREASED?

Property taxes are calculated from a wide variety of factors with the total number of the budget playing a relatively small role. Some factors that are contributing to a lower projected tax rate with this budget are:

- Increasing ratio of students with greater support needs.
- Lower Yield due to lower school budgets statewide.
- Additional revenue from strategic budgeting and grant use.

Learn more about this budget proposal at [mvdschools.org](http://mvdschools.org) or  
**THE MVSD SCHOOL BUDGET INFO MEETING,**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 7:00 PM AT THE MVU LIBRARY**



**Missisquoi Valley School District**  
**100 Robin Hood Dr, Suite 2**  
**Swanton, VT 05488**

**Local Postal Customer**

**PRSR STD**  
**ECRWSS**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**EDDM RETAIL**

**MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**2025 - 2026 Adopted School Budget Summary**

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES	FY2024 BUDGET		FY2025 BUDGET		FY2026 PROPOSED
	APPROVED	Actuals	APPROVED	Anticipated	
1100 Instructional Programs	\$16,880,098	\$15,205,837	\$17,132,458	\$17,853,554	\$18,275,420
1201 Special Education	\$7,856,054	\$8,079,047	\$9,081,127	\$8,142,340	\$10,150,635
1401 Interscholastics & CoCurriculars	\$670,896	\$615,342	\$669,497	\$492,347	\$719,565
2120 Guidance Services	\$1,094,548	\$1,066,478	\$1,221,565	\$1,104,701	\$1,274,892
2132 Health Services	\$534,449	\$388,911	\$483,649	\$527,194	\$498,554
2140 Psychological Services	\$378,733	\$431,727	\$558,411	\$407,277	\$386,728
2151 Speech & Audiology Services	\$726,536	\$526,391	\$723,614	\$557,995	\$627,209
2160 Occupational & Physical Therapy	\$205,480	\$219,607	\$128,031	\$238,669	\$261,469
2190 Student Support	\$2,074,463	\$1,081,952	\$1,539,444	\$1,389,131	\$1,362,835
2212 Curriculum & Instruction	\$232,087	\$236,237	\$105,488	\$117,586	\$124,880
2213 Professional Development	\$267,150	\$161,749	\$219,763	\$223,443	\$219,772
2219 Mentoring Services	\$41,097	\$40,338	\$62,616	\$35,669	\$64,182
2220 Library Services	\$451,444	\$429,756	\$464,452	\$463,753	\$507,407
2230 School Technology Services	\$836,095	\$724,819	\$974,774	\$745,860	\$890,477
2290 Instructional Support Services	\$1,500	\$252	\$2,613	\$799	\$2,512
2310 Board of Education	\$97,042	\$103,631	\$106,783	\$97,398	\$106,908
2320 General Administration (and 2490)	\$901,055	\$895,243	\$967,353	\$1,103,650	\$1,151,888
2410 Principals' Office	\$2,089,716	\$2,073,401	\$2,114,234	\$2,251,520	\$2,388,543
2510 Fiscal Services	\$684,183	\$958,272	\$798,021	\$1,137,736	\$858,882
2570 Human Resources / Personnel Serv	\$365,391	\$359,558	\$377,253	\$374,438	\$423,335
2580 Technology Administration	\$277,715	\$297,622	\$404,187	\$486,852	\$379,843
2590 District-wide Services	\$403,638	\$1,254,731	\$1,304,917	\$966,489	\$485,245
2610 Plant Operation & Maintenance	\$3,454,707	\$3,109,697	\$3,886,886	\$3,388,935	\$4,321,366
2700 Transportation Services	\$2,514,119	\$2,636,437	\$3,149,928	\$2,721,567	\$3,135,561
3100 Food Services	\$24,832	\$5,093	\$26,429	\$72,033	\$35,154
4000 Construction & Renovations	\$1,535,000	\$3,704,358	\$1,921,350	\$1,950,583	\$1,921,350
5100 Long Term Debt	\$385,539	\$493,317	\$384,594	\$488,770	\$382,267
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>\$44,983,567</b>	<b>\$45,099,803</b>	<b>\$48,909,437</b>	<b>\$47,340,289</b>	<b>\$50,956,879</b>

ESTIMATED REVENUES	FY2024 BUDGET		FY2025 BUDGET		FY2026 PROPOSED
	APPROVED	Actuals	APPROVED	Anticipated	
Estimated Local Revenues	\$2,628,682	\$4,168,528	\$2,030,419	\$2,573,531	\$2,086,203
Estimated State Revenues	\$5,498,661	\$5,824,588	\$6,665,912	\$6,837,086	\$7,188,531
Estimated Federal Revenues	\$2,875,141	\$1,273,329	\$1,764,905	\$1,253,831	\$1,999,100
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>\$11,002,484</b>	<b>\$11,266,445</b>	<b>\$10,461,236</b>	<b>\$10,664,448</b>	<b>\$11,273,834</b>

NET EDUCATION SPENDING	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
Equalized Pupil Count	1774.60	3245.32	3255.49
Spending per Equalized Pupil / LTW ADM	\$19,149	\$11,847	\$12,190
Estimated Property Yield	\$15,479	\$9,893	\$8,553
<b>PreK-12 Equalized Tax Rate with Statewide Adj.</b>	<b>\$1.2371</b>	<b>\$1.1975</b>	<b>\$1.4252</b>

ESTIMATED HOMESTEAD TAX RATE After Statewide Adjusted CLA by Town	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
FRANKLIN [CLA - 72.85% FY25 --> 90.15% FY26]	\$1.4769	\$1.6438	\$1.5809
HIGHGATE [CLA - 78.83% FY25 --> 101.17% FY26]	\$1.4523	\$1.5191	\$1.4087
SWANTON [CLA - 78.98% FY25 --> 96.61% FY26]	\$1.3816	\$1.5163	\$1.4752

**OFFICIAL BALLOT  
MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 4, 2025**

**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.**

<p align="center"><b>FOR MODERATOR</b></p> <p>For a One Year Term      Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p><b>TIMOTHY MAGNANT</b>      <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in)      <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR FROM FRANKLIN</b></p> <p>For a Three Year Term      Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p><b>PETER MAGNANT</b>      <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in)      <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR FROM HIGHGATE</b></p> <p>For the Remainder of a Three Year Term      Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p><b>ELAINE NESTER</b>      <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in)      <input type="radio"/></p>
<p align="center"><b>FOR CLERK</b></p> <p>For a Two Year Term      Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p><b>NOLA GILBERT</b>      <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in)      <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR FROM HIGHGATE</b></p> <p>For a Three Year Term      Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p><b>RENICK DARNELL-MARTIN</b>      <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in)      <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR FROM SWANTON</b></p> <p>For a Three Year Term      Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p><b>DONALD "DON" COLLINS</b>      <input type="radio"/></p> <p><b>CASEY HANSEN</b>      <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in)      <input type="radio"/></p>
<p align="center"><b>FOR TREASURER</b></p> <p>For a Three Year Term      Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p><b>JULIE RIVERS</b>      <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in)      <input type="radio"/></p>		

**ARTICLES**

**ARTICLE II**  
Shall the voters of the Missisquoi Valley School District approve the School Directors to expend \$50,956,879 which is the amount the School Directors have determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in a per pupil education spending of \$12,190, which is 2.89% higher than the per pupil spending for the current year.

YES

NO

**ARTICLE III**  
Shall the voters of the Missisquoi Valley School District authorize the Board of Directors of the said School District to borrow money to pay the current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to sign notes for that purpose?

YES

NO



**OFFICIAL BALLOT  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
HIGHGATE, VERMONT  
MARCH 4, 2025**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. **DO NOT USE PENCIL.**
- To vote, fill in the oval to the right of your choice.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. **DO NOT ERASE.**

**ATTENTION HIGHGATE REGISTERED VOTERS:  
PLEASE READ BOTH QUESTIONS CAREFULLY PRIOR TO  
MARKING YOUR BALLOT**

*Copies of both Ambulance Services Request for Proposals (RFP) responses are available to view in their entirety by visiting [www.highgatevt.org](http://www.highgatevt.org) under The Town Meeting Day 2025 tab, or under the events or recent announcements sections. You may also stop by the town office during regular business hours, or contact us to have copies sent to you. Copies of both RFPs will be on display outside of the polling location at Highgate Sports Arena, 243 Gore Road, on March 4.*

**ARTICLE #11: As a non-binding advisory opinion:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate contract with **AmCare Ambulance Service** for all ambulance services, in the amount of **\$269,262.97**, with such services beginning on July 1, 2025, for a term of three (3) years?

PLEASE SELECT EITHER YES or NO FOR ARTICLE #11

YES

NO

**ARTICLE #12: As a non-binding advisory opinion:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate contract with **Missisquoi Valley Rescue** for all ambulance services, in the amount of **\$268,936.11**, with such services beginning on July 1, 2025, for a term of three (3) years?

PLEASE SELECT EITHER YES or NO FOR ARTICLE #12

YES

NO

**YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING THIS BALLOT**



OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HIGHGATE, VERMONT
MARCH 4, 2025

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.

Table with 3 columns and 3 rows of candidates for various offices: Cemetery Commissioner, Selectboard Member, Library Trustee, Moderator, and Town Treasurer. Includes names like Dennis Nolan, Chad L. Carr, Merry Souza, Amy A. Rainville, Richard E. Flint, Benjamin Lowell, and Phillip S. Ladue.

TOWN ARTICLES

ARTICLE #2: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate set the final date of payment for FY2025/2026 property taxes to be Thursday, October 30, 2025, with payments to be received in the town office by 4:00pm?

YES [ ]

NO [ ]

ARTICLE #3: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate advise the Selectboard to allow the legal use of ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles) on all town roads? ATVs must be registered, insured, have a valid VASA (Vermont All Terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association) registration sticker affixed, as well as wear approved helmets and seatbelts.

YES [ ]

NO [ ]

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

+

### ARTICLES CONTINUED

**ARTICLE #4:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate request the Selectboard to hold the Town Meeting Day Informational Meeting *within the 30 days preceding Town Meeting Day*, as is allowed per statute 17 V.S.A. § 2680?

YES   
NO

**ARTICLE #5: As a non-binding advisory opinion:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate purchase the property located at **5 Gore Road** (formerly known as Paws for Thought), owned by Robert & Sheryl Wilkins, as an option for the future home of the Highgate Library & Community Center?

YES   
NO

**ARTICLE #6:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of **\$7,423** for the support of the **VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region** to provide services to residents of the Town?

YES   
NO

**ARTICLE #7:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate reallocate **\$30,000** within the **Capital Improvement Plan** from the indoor turf / field house line item and move it to the 72" zero turn mower line item?

YES   
NO

**ARTICLE #8:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate **\$590,000** to meet the expenses and liabilities of the **Capital Improvement Plan**, with an estimated **\$590,000** to be raised by taxes?

YES   
NO

**ARTICLE #9:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate **\$1,153,171** to meet the expenses and liabilities of the **Highway Fund**, with an estimated **\$982,171** to be raised by taxes?

YES   
NO

**ARTICLE #10:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate **\$1,600,822** to meet the expenses and liabilities of the **General Fund**, with an estimated **\$710,352** to be raised by taxes?

YES   
NO

**GO TO NEXT BALLOT AND CONTINUE VOTING**





# 2024

## Highgate Vermont Town Reports

**2024 TOWN REPORTS ARE HERE**

pick up your copy beginning

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at the following locations

in town: **Town Office (entry or drop box);**

**Desorcie's Market; Martin's General Store;**

**Highgate Arena; Highgate Library & Community**

**Center; OC McCuin**

You can also contact us to have one mailed

to you and a pdf will be on our website soon.

802-868-5002 [wdusablon@highgatevt.org](mailto:wdusablon@highgatevt.org)

April 8  
2024

ECLIPSE  
Highgate Center

Magnitude: 1.0242  
Duration: 2h, 22m, 37s  
Duration of Totality: 3m, 32s  
Partial Begins: 2:14:49 PM  
Full Begins: 3:26:18 PM  
Maximum: 3:28:04 PM  
Full Ends: 3:29:50 PM  
Partial Ends: 4:37:26 PM

Total Solar Eclipse

100% Coverage of Sun

Vermont, USA

cover photo design – Vera Nazarian

# Town Meeting Day in Highgate

## Tuesday, March 4, 2025

- ✓ Polls will be open Tuesday, March 4, 2025, from 7am – 7pm at Highgate Sports Arena, 243 Gore Road.
- ✓ **NO FLOOR MEETING** – we are now a fully Australian ballot town, as voted on and approved last March.
- ✓ Informational meeting on all the Town Meeting Day articles will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27 @ 6pm at Highgate Elementary School, 219 Gore Road.
- ✓ Absentee ballots will be available in early February, contact Wendi to request yours at any time to get on the list. Early voting will also be available at the town offices during regular hours once ballots are received.
- ✓ 2024 town reports will be available by February 1<sup>st</sup> at the following locations: Town Office (entry way and drop box locations); Desorcie's Market; OC McCuin; Martin's General Store; Highgate Library & Community Center; Highgate Sports Arena. A digital version will be on our website, or you can contact Wendi to have a town report mailed to you.
- ✓ The town office will close at noon on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The town office will be closed on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Wendi Dusablon, Highgate Town Clerk*

*802-868-5002*

*wdusablon@highgatevt.org*



# WANT TO VOTE ABSENTEE FOR TOWN MEETING?

- ❖ **BALLOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY FEBRUARY**
- ❖ **STOP BY, CALL, EMAIL, OR USE THE MY VOTER PAGE TO REQUEST YOUR BALLOTS – BALLOTS CAN BE REQUESTED AT ANY TIME – WHY WAIT ? REQUEST YOURS NOW 😊**
- ❖ **THERE WILL BE THREE BALLOTS:**
  - ✓ **MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT**
  - ✓ **TOWN OF HIGHGATE ELECTED OFFICIALS & WARNED ARTICLES BALLOT**
  - ✓ **TOWN OF HIGHGATE AMBULANCE SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS BALLOT**
- ❖ **BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE TOWN CLERK BY 7PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED**

Wendi Dusablon, Highgate Town Clerk  
802-868-5002      [wdusablon@highgatevt.org](mailto:wdusablon@highgatevt.org)

MY VOTER PAGE      <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

# TOWN OF HIGHGATE POSITIONS FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE HIGHGATE SELECTBOARD

*Appointments will take place on Thursday, March 6, 2025 (after Town Meeting Day)*

**Submit letters of interest to Highgate Town Clerk, Wendi Dusablon, by 2:00pm Thursday, February 27, 2025**

Tree Warden	1-year term	Planning Comm. Member	3-year term
Animal Control Officer	1-year term	Planning Comm. Member	3-year term
Asst. Animal Control Officer	1-year term	Recreation Comm. Member	2-year term
NW Regional Planning Rep.	1-year term	Recreation Comm. Member	2-year term
NW Regional Planning Rep.	1-year term	Recreation Comm. Member	2-year term
Transportation Advisory Rep.	1-year term	Communications Union Dist. Rep.	1-year term
Delinquent Tax Collector	1-year term	Communications Union Dist. alternate	1-year term
Road Commissioner	1-year term	Communications Union Dist. alternate	1-year term
Fire Commissioner	1-year term	Health Officer	3-year term
NW Rail Trail Council Rep.	1-year term	Deputy Health Officer	3-year term
Development Rev. Board Member	3-year term		
Development Rev. Board Member	3-year term		

*\*Office hours are Monday – Thursday 9am – 4pm (closed to the public on Fridays)*

*\*By mail – Town of Highgate, PO Box 189, Highgate VT 05459 Att: Wendi*

*\*Use our secure drop box located at the rear entrance of the town office building*

*\*By email [wduasablon@highgatevt.org](mailto:wduasablon@highgatevt.org)*

# Highgate Town Clerk's Office Public Notice

Office hours for the week of March 3, 2025

**MONDAY, MARCH 3**

**OPEN 9:00AM - NOON**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4**

**TOWN MEETING DAY  
OFFICE IS CLOSED  
POLLS ARE OPEN @ HIGHGATE  
SPORTS ARENA FROM 7AM - 7PM**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**

**CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 6**

**OPEN 9:00AM - 4:00PM**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7**

**CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FRIDAYS**

# TOWN OF HIGHGATE, VT

Effective March 1, 2025 - May 15, 2025

# NOTICE

*No decision was made 7/20/25 -*

NO VEHICLE HAVING A WEIGHT, INCLUDING VEHICLE AND LOAD EXCEEDING

- **TWO AXLE 15,000 LBS.**
- **THREE AXLE 18,000 LBS.**
- **TRACTOR TRAILER UNIT 20,000 LBS.**

SHALL BE OPERATED ON THE FOLLOWING ROADS IN THE TOWN OF HIGHGATE VERMONT 3/1/25 - 5/15/25

- **PARENT ROAD**
- **CASSIDY ROAD**
- **COOK ROAD**
- **TARTE ROAD**
- **DUNTON ROAD**
- **ROLLO ROAD**
- **BALLARD ROAD**
- **MACHIA ROAD**
- **DURKEE ROAD**

As per sections 1109 and 1110 Title 19 Vermont State Statutes

*0*