

# TOWN OF BELVIDERE, VERMONT

## Town Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2026

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Belvidere was held on March 3, 2026, at the Belvidere Central School. Pamela McKenna, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Article 1: To elect a Moderator for Town Meeting.** Pamela McKenna was nominated by Brent Jones and seconded by Jon Hysick. Pamela McKenna was elected by voice vote.

**Article 2: To elect all other Town Officers required by Law; terms are for 1 year unless stated otherwise:**

Town Clerk: Cathy Mander-Adams was nominated by Josephine (Josie) McLean and seconded by Stephen Osgood. Cathy Mander-Adams was elected by voice vote.

Town Treasurer: Cathy Mander-Adams was nominated by Josie McLean and seconded by Brent Jones. Cathy Mander-Adams was elected by voice vote.

By Ballot, a Selectboard member for a term of 3 years: Earl Domina Jr. was nominated by Ken Adams Jr. and seconded by Steve Osgood. There were no further nominations. Thad Tallman made a motion and was seconded by Bill McLean that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Earl Domina, Jr. to the Selectboard for a term of 3 years. Motioned carried. Earl was elected for a term of three years.

By Ballot, a Lister for a term of 3 years: Richard (Rick) Schoon nominated Stacey Chase and seconded by Brent Jones. There were no further nominations. Ken Adams Jr. made the motion and was seconded by Bill McLean that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Stacey Chase as Lister for a term of 3 years. Motioned carried. Stacey was elected for a term of three years.

By Ballot, an Auditor for a term of 3 years: Pamela McKenna was nominated by Brent Jones and seconded by Jon Hysick. There were no further nominations. Bill McLean made a motion and was seconded by Mary Hysick that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Pamela McKenna as Auditor for a term of 3 years. Motioned carried.

Road Commissioner: Kevin Leavitt was nominated by Steve Osgood and seconded by Bill McLean. There were no further nominations, and Kevin Leavitt was elected by voice vote.

First Constable: Charlene Spaulding declined the nomination and then nominated Stacey Chase as First Constable; seconded by Bill McLean.

There were no further nominations, and Stacey Chase was elected by voice vote.

Second Constable: Bill McLean declined the nomination. Stephen Brown was nominated by Brent Jones and seconded by Charlene Spaulding. There were no further nominations, and Stephen Brown was elected by voice vote.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Mary Hysick was nominated by Brent Jones and seconded by Bill McLean. There were no further nominations, and Mary Hysick was elected by voice vote.

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District Director for a term of 2 years: Cathy Mander-Adams was nominated by Brent Jones and seconded by Steve Osgood. There were no further nominations, and Cathy was elected by voice vote.

**Article 3: To hear the reports of the Town Officers.** Items of note:

- Gender neutrality should be observed within the pages of the Town Report
- Ken stated that a spreadsheet detailing the Selectboard's Budget proposal for basic operating expenses for the Belvidere School building was not included in the report, but that a spreadsheet handout was available at the meeting
- Several meeting participants were disappointed that the Town Report dedication did not include Frank Machia
- Ken explained that according to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, this article to "hear" the reports of the Town Officers is an optional article to place in the Town Meeting Warning, and a motion to "accept" the reports of the Town Officers is not necessary

At 10:29AM the rules of the meeting were suspended to allow Belvidere's representatives to the State Legislature (who had just arrived at Town Meeting) to have a dialogue with those present at Town Meeting. Representatives Dan Noyes and Richard Bailey spoke first, followed by Senator Richard Westman. After a brief round of questions and answers Town Meeting resumed.

**Article 4: To see what action the town will take regarding the collection of taxes.**

Will the town vote to pay education taxes to the Treasurer on or before September 17, 2025, and pay town taxes to the Treasurer on or before November 19, 2025, and a rate of interest of 1% per month be charged on all overdue taxes beginning December 1, 2026? This was moved by Susan Schill and Bill McLean seconded. The article was approved by voice vote.

**Article 5: To fix the rate of compensation for elected and appointed Town Officials, if any.** Motion by Bill McLean to keep all pay rates for town officials at the current level and seconded by Brent Jones. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**Article 6: Will the Town vote to expend the current revenues as proposed in the Selectboard's Budget to pay the debts and current expenses of the Town?** Ken Adams moved to expend the current revenues as proposed in the amount of \$302,364.00, with \$203,319.00 to be raised by 2026 property taxes: seconded by Brent Jones. Discussion items regarding the motion:

- Review of the Selectboard meeting minutes of Oct. 21, 2024, detailing the assignment of Community Project Fund (formerly ARPA fund) monies to various projects recommended by the now dissolved ARPA Advisory committee
- Ken explained the project scope of the MERP funded upgrades to the current town office, and that after several inquiries had been made, it is determined that MERP funds cannot be transferred to the Belvidere School building
- FEMA reimbursements vs. FEMA project expenses were reviewed
- The labelling of various accounts listed in the Town Report was confusing because of inconsistency among the Auditors, Selectboard, and Treasurer, and clarification was needed
- It was moved by voice vote to "call the question," followed by a request for a paper ballot to vote on the original motion

The motion to expend the current revenues as proposed in the amount of \$302,364.00, with \$203,319.00 to be raised by 2026 property taxes was approved 22 "yes" to 19 "no".

**Article 7: To do any other business that may legally come before the Town Meeting:**

At the request of Susan Schill, Mary Hysick explained the taxes abated in 2025 by the Belvidere Board of Abatement

Town Logo — several comments were presented, as well as a variety of graphic designs by Jessica Barber. All suggestions should be sent by email to the Town Clerk email.

Tyler Barber, as Chair of the recently formed Belvidere Community Trust, gave an overview of the progress to date regarding the transformation of the Belvidere School property that has been reacquired by the Town.

At the suggestion of Stephen Brown, a consensus was reached to dedicate the 2026 Town Report (for 2027 Town Meeting) to Frank Machia

Meeting adjourned at 12:27 PM

*Cathy Mander-Adams, Town Clerk + Treasurer*

*Thad Zellman Jp 3/4/26*