TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD AGENDA
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,
White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting will be conducted in person at Town Hall

The meeting will also be available on Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/91619901314
Live stream the meeting on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@junctionartsandmedia

I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting (6:00)
II. Pledge of Allegiance (6:01)
III. Order of Agenda
IV. Selectboard

1. Public Comment (6:02)
   Public comment is an opportunity for the public to comment. It is not the place for dialogue. Questions about Town Operations? Please Contact the Town Manager.
2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements (6:12)
3. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances
   a. Remarks and Funding Requests from Bugbee Building Committee (6:15)
   b. Finalize Tentative Budgets (6:30)

V. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting (9:00)

All Meetings of the Hartford Selectboard are open to the public. Persons who are seeking action by the Selectboard are asked to submit their request and/or materials to the Selectboard Chair or the Town Manager's office no later than 5pm on Tuesday two weeks prior to the meeting date. Requests received after that date will be addressed at the discretion of the Chair. Individuals wishing to address the board should do so during the Public Comment period. Please Note: The Hartford Selectboard offers public viewing of meetings live at Town Hall, and additionally as a courtesy generally on YouTube, Channel 1085, and Zoom. If a member of the public has technical difficulties accessing this meeting remotely, please alert us by emailing Selectboard@hartford-vt.org.

Tentative Selectboard FY27 Budget Decisions and their Impact

As you will recall, the original budget proposal (contained in your budget books), resulted in a default property tax burden of $19,783,510. Corrections and updates netting a reduction of $133,927.15 changed this property tax burden to $19,649,582.85, without recourse to either the Unassigned Fund (balance: $2,627,425) or the revenues accruing annually from the new Local Option Sales Tax ($1,200,000).

At meetings on December 4 and December 9, the Selectboard took a series of non-binding straw votes regarding possible changes to the Original Budget Draft reflected on spreadsheets contained within the binders distributed to Selectboard members toward the beginning of the budget process. These tentative, non-binding straw votes are summarized below:

The Selectboard approved creation of a Facilities Manager position: Town Manager and HR Director have recently concluded that the overall cost of such a position is likely to be approximately $124,323. (50% in GF and 10% in each of the Enterprise Funds). GF impact: **$ 62,161.50**.

The Selectboard approved creation of one additional patrol position. GF Impact: **$93,401**. The Selectboard approved an additional **$16,000** in "high priority" equipment purchases. The Selectboard approved an additional **$77,000** to fully fund HPD reserves.

The Selectboard approved an additional **$7,910** for Dispatch division equipment and **$59,675** to fully fund Dispatch reserve accounts.

The Selectboard approved the addition of two DPW/Highway operators. Budget Impact: **$182,900** in personnel and $**25,000** in material.

The Selectboard approved a budget allocation of **$5,000** to the Sister Cities Commission.

In terms of Spending Cuts, the Selectboard voted to remove from the FY27 budget **($15,000)** (camera) from the IT Department's budget proposal. GF Impact: **($15,000).**

TOTAL NET of Tentatively Approved Additional/(Reduced) GF Spending **$514,047.50**.

Enterprise Funds (Funded by User Rates-Not Property Taxes)

The Selectboard approved the addition of one full-time wastewater operator to split-time between the Hartford (70%) and Quechee (30%) wastewater systems. Hartford Wastewater Budget Impact: **$63,403**. Quechee Wastewater Budget Impact: **$26,678**.

The Selectboard approved the transition from 2.5 to 3.0 Transfer Station attendants, to deal with increased recent usage of the facility. Solid Waste Budget Impact: **$54,237**.

The DPW Director has requested approval of an additional **$23,000** in the Solid Waste Fund to cover the cost of recently-announced tipping fee increases at the Lebanon Transfer Station

Remaining Issues:

1. TM Office: Whether to Fund TM Executive Assistant as FT or cut to PT? HR Potions and FTE's

2. What items to propose to voters for usage of revenues from the Local Option Tax (rooms, meals and alcohol). Can LOT be used for budgeted expenditures thereby reducing the property tax burden? Are there other worthy uses for LOT, to recommend to the voters? See attached updated list of options the Selectboard has expressed interest in proposing to the voters.

AGENDA MEMORANDUM
December 16, 2025
Town Selectboard Budget Meeting
Submitted by: John Haverstock, Town Manager

Subject: Possible LOT Items for the 2027 Town Meeting Ballot

Possible LOT items

Hartford's Local Option Tax (LOT) collects a tax of one percent (1%) on meals, rooms, and alcohol sales in Town. Typically, the annual amount collected is approximately $350,000. Per the Town Charter, voters must approve the specific uses of LOT revenue.

The Selectboard will have to determine what proposals to make to the voters regarding the use of LOT funds.

Perhaps some proposals will allow currently budgeted expenditures to be removed from the General Fund budget in order to reduce the property tax burden. Here is a list of LOT usage ideas that have gained some traction/support at the December 9 Selectboard meeting:

DPW/Highway's budget proposal contains **$40,000** in spending for a sidewalk snowplow.

Dispatch's budgeted final reserve payment toward the purchase of a fourth Dispatch Console: **$50,000**

Unbudgeted funding for an enhanced Town Parade to coincide with America's 250th birthday: **$10,000**

Unbudgeted A/V upgrades to Town Hall Room 1: **$70,000** (approx.)

Unbudgeted Bugbee Senior Center Building Life/Safety Upgrades: **$27,628**

Unused LOT revenue remains in the fund for use at a later date.

Hypothetical FY27 GF Budget Scenario No. 1: Property Tax Impact (Updated 12.10.25)

<u>Based on Original Budget Draft</u>

Subtracting $8,049 in Revenues and $141,976.15 in Expenses for Updates/Correction of Errors. See attached updated FY26-27 Budget Corrections Sheet. This means a net reduction of the default property tax burden of $133,927.15. The Board has explored the possibility of increasing spending to accommodate requests from Department Heads. At present, these potential net increases total $514,047.50.

Default Property Tax Burden: $19,783,510 - $133,927.15 = $19,649,582.85 + $514,047.50 = $20,163,630.35.

Apply $2,000,000 to Revenue Line*

New Property Tax Burden: $18,163,630.35

Measured Against <u>FY26</u> property tax revenue ($17,115,058), this would result in a 6.1% property tax increase for FY27.

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*Unassigned Fund Transfer to GF Revenue of $1,000,000
*Local Option Sales Tax Transfer to GF Revenue of $1,000,000

Unassigned Fund Balance as of 6/30/25: $2,627,425. After a $1,000,000 FY27 transfer to the General Fund, this leaves a balance of $1,627,425, which is approximately 7% of the FY27 GF Budget.

Anticipated Local Option Sales Tax Net Revenues for FY27: $1,200,000. After a FY27 transfer of $1,000,000, this would leave a balance of $200,000, leaving open the possibility of additional property tax relief when tax rates are set in July.

There is room to get more aggressive with the use of these two revenue sources to either offset added spending and/or further reduce the increase in the property tax burden.

Hypothetical FY27 GF Budget Scenario No. 2: Property Tax Impact (Updated 12.10.25)

Based on Original Budget Draft

We have subtracted $8,049 in Revenues and $141,976.15 in Expenses for Updates/Correction of Errors. This means a net reduction of the default property tax burden of $133,927.15. Spending for possible additions to the GF budget discussed at the 12.4.25 and 12.9.25 meetings of $514,047.50 is factored in.

Default Property Tax Burden: $19,783,510 - $133,927.15 = $19,649,582.85 + $514,047.50 = $20,163,630.35.

Apply $2,600,000 to Revenue Line*

New Property Tax Burden: $17,563,630.35

Measured Against FY26 property tax revenue ($17,115,058), this would result in a 2.6% property tax increase for FY27.

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*Unassigned Fund Transfer to GF Revenue of $1,500,000
*Local Option Sales Tax Transfer to GF Revenue of $1,100,000

Unassigned Fund Balance as of 6/30/25: $2,627,425. After a $1,500,000 FY27 transfer to the General Fund, this leaves a balance of $1,127,425, which is approximately 4.9% of the FY27 GF Budget.

Anticipated Local Option Sales Tax Net Revenues for FY27: $1,200,000. After a FY27 transfer of $1,100,000, this would leave a balance of $100,000, leaving open the possibility of additional property tax relief when tax rates are set in July.

John Haverstock

From:	Dana Clawson
Sent:	Friday, December 12, 2025 10:21 AM
To:	John Haverstock
Subject:	Bugbee short term needs.
Attachments:	Building Committee - Short Term Project List Dec 2025.pdf

John,

Attached is the list of immediate needs at the Bugbee Senior Center that will be reviewed by the Bugbee Committee on Monday and likely be presented to Selectboard on Tuesday. Please note that we are still waiting for quotes on installing the backup generator and replacing the grease trap.

Best,
Dana Clawson
Environmental Sustainability Coordinator
Town of Hartford
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, Vermont 05001
802-295-9353 ext. 223

Bugbee Senior Center Short Term Need's- December 2025

Project	Scope	Narrative for the Selectboard	Timeline	Cost Estimate
General safety & fire code compliance	1. Replace damaged ceiling tiles 2. Install fire caulking in basement 3. Install compliant handrails & stair guard 4. Install fire rated basement door	These are required repairs/maintenance from the most recent fire inspection report.	ASAP	$5,120
Electrical compliance & improvements	1. Duplex outlet for PA equipment 2. GFCI outlet conversion in kitchen 3. Trace & labeling of circuits in panels 4. Install box extension and cover on electrical box in utility room. 5. Diagones & repair hood fan controls	These are required repairs/maintenance from the most recent fire inspection report, with the exception of the hood fan controls. In this case, without conducting maintenance on the hood fan's control system there is a risk that the entire device will need a costly replacement due to updates in the code.	ASAP	$1,658
Install Backup Generator	*Pending - Service call w/Schaal Electric*	Currently, Bugbee can serve as a heating or cooling shelter during certain weather emergencies. However, the facility is vulnerable to power outages. Installation of a backup generator would permit the facility to serve in a wider range of emergency scenarios.		
Hillside maintenance	Remove tree saplings to ten feet up the hillside and elevate lower tree limbs as needed.	The most recent hillside clean up was 2021 (2)? This is needed to remove tree shoots that could become hazardous over time. The hillside itself is well rooted and none of the arborists have identified any immediate concerns with existing trees.	Spring 2026	$1,850
Grease Trap Replacement	*Pending - Service call for Friday, 12/12/2025*	The grease trap is at the end of its useful life. Time will be needed to properly diagnose and scope this project.	ASAP	
Decommission existing HVAC	1. Recover & disposte refrigerant from the three separate systems. 2. Cut and cap the refrigerant piping near the condensers. 3. Disconnect the line and low voltage electrical from the condensers. 4. Remove and dispose of the condensers.	When the heat pumps were installed, the existing AC units were left in place. This creates a hazard as the units are no longer being maintained.	ASAP	$2,650
Retaining Wall	Replace deteriorated retaining wall and/or excavate	The retaining wall in the back yard has completely rotted away. There is a small risk of encroachment on the facility from erosion. The retaining wall should be replaced and/or the existing soil excavated and stabilized.	Spring 2026	$8,000

Replace bulkhead	Weather sealing on bulkhead has rotted.	The foundation & weather sealing surrounding the basement bulkhead has rotted away and currently is covered with a tarp to prevent water intrusion into the facility.	Spring 2026	$5,000
Replace/install exit devices	Replace exit devices on three exterior doors.	Two existing crash bars on the doors into the lobby are falling apart. The Library door uses a handle but should be replaced with a crash bar to ensure there are no delays if exiting during an emergency is necessary.	Spring 2026	$1,350
Parking lot restripe	Restripe parking lot; resurfacing requires further assessment.	The lines marking regular and handicap parking spaces are badly worn and it has been many years since the lot has been restriped. This reduces the efficiency of the lot while also increasing the risk of hazards and accidents.	Spring 2026	$2,000
		TOTAL SAFETY & COMPLIANCE:		**$27,628**
Site Evaluation Study	See attached RFP		Study	$50,000
			Expenses	$4,000
		TOTAL SITE EVALUATION STUDY		**$54,000**
		Recommended Capital Allocation:		**$81,628**

John Haverstock

From:	Dillon Walsh
Sent:	Thursday, December 11, 2025 1:19 PM
To:	John Haverstock
Subject:	Re: AV Upgrade to Room 1

Hi John,

That's a good question. The current scope reflects a full solution: audio upgrades, cameras, cabling, recorder, transcoder, labor, and the supporting components for a turnkey setup.

If the Town chose to upgrade only the audio and leave JAM responsible for their own video needs, the cost would be significantly lower - likely around half of the current figure. In my last discussion with JAM (some time ago), they indicated they only expected the audio to be upgraded and felt the OWL was still adequate, though I'm unsure if that has changed.

I'm happy to explain the difference between an audio-only upgrade and a full-room upgrade to anyone who asks. I also want to note that my role here is essentially acting as a conduit between the vendors and the installation. Once the project is completed and handed off, my involvement would be limited to providing internet access to whoever is utilizing the equipment. I'm glad to assist, but ultimately I'm just facilitating the process if it moves forward.

Dillon Walsh
IT Director
Town of Hartford
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, VT 05001
(P) 802-478-1105

From: John Haverstock <jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2025 11:38 AM
To: Dillon Walsh <dwalsh@hartford-vt.org>
Subject: RE: AV Upgrade to Room 1

Thanks, Dillon,

Do you feel there is a reduced scope option, at a lower cost? Or is your feeling that this figure (to be updated) represents the appropriate scope? Remember, you may be asked to defend this proposal/figure from voter scrutiny.....

John Haverstock
Town Manager, Hartford, VT
802/295-9353 x216

From: Dillon Walsh <dwalsh@hartford-vt.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2025 11:00 AM
To: John Haverstock <jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org>
Subject: Re: AV Upgrade to Room 1

Hi John,

Looking back on previous entries, one vendor submitted a response to the RFP for $65,916.30. Another vendor submission was for $69.179.00. I have requests out to both vendors to get this updated, however I am not positive they will be able get an updated figure in time for 12/16. As a general rule of thumb, I would say this is a pretty accurate number, but if I don't get one back, I would maybe consider adding 5% increase to both as a buffer. I will let you know if I hear back before then.

Dillon Walsh
IT Director
Town of Hartford
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, VT 05001
(P) 802-478-1105

From: John Haverstock <jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 1:17 PM
To: Dillon Walsh <dwalsh@hartford-vt.org>
Subject: AV Upgrade to Room 1

Dillon,

The Selectboard has expressed interest in considering using LOT funds for an A/V upgrade in Town Hall Room 1. Can you please dust off and update your research and provide a figure(s) for an upgrade you can recommend to the Selectboard and then to taxpayers? The sooner the better, but definitely <u>before</u> the December 16 "final" budget meeting.

Thanks.

John Haverstock
Town Manager, Hartford, VT
802/295-9353 x216

John Haverstock

From:	David Allen <David.Allen@casella.com>
Sent:	Wednesday, December 10, 2025 5:16 PM
To:	John Haverstock
Cc:	Bryan Gazda
Subject:	RE: [External] Hartford, VT's Curbside Recycling Program
Attachments:	Hartford VT FInal Proposal- DUE 4.2.2025 lb.pdf

[**EXTERNAL EMAIL: DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi John - - Sorry for the delay - - I'm buried in my own budget process and just coming up for air. I suggest taking the rate we proposed in our bid this Spring and increasing it by 10% to be safe. Lots of options to consider with cart ownership and managing that inventory that can bring your costs down. As we expressed earlier this year, we're not interested in the manual collection option you asked for in your RFP . Attached is a copy of our RFP response for your reference.

Lety me know if I can help further. Good luck with your budgets! Thanks

David M. Allen
Market Area Manager

1544 Woodstock Road, White River Junction, VT 05001
p. 802-478-0780 • c. 603-543-7088
e. david.allen@casella.com • w. casella.com

CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.
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From: John Haverstock <jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 4:39 PM
To: David Allen <David.Allen@casella.com>
Cc: Bryan Gazda <bgazda@hartford-vt.org>
Subject: RE: [External] Hartford, VT's Curbside Recycling Program

Hi Dave.

Just checking in again and hoping to get a figure we can consider before the budget is set in the coming days....

Thanks.

John Haverstock
Town Manager, Hartford, VT
802/295-9353 x216

From: David Allen <David.Allen@casella.com>
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2025 4:08 PM
To: John Haverstock <jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org>
Cc: Bryan Gazda <bgazda@hartford-vt.org>
Subject: RE: [External] Hartford, VT's Curbside Recycling Program

[**EXTERNAL EMAIL: DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi John - - Thanks for your message.

We would definitely be interested in bidding to re-start the Hartford curbside recycling program. Estimating the cost will take a few days but our last proposal would be directionally correct. I'll get better budget estimates for you in a few days.

David M. Allen
Market Area Manager

1544 Woodstock Road, White River Junction, VT 05001
p. 802-478-0780 • c. 603-543-7088
e. david.allen@casella.com • w. casella.com

CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.
RECYCLING • SOLUTIONS • ORGANICS • COLLECTION • ENERGY • LANDFILLS

From: John Haverstock <jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org>
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2025 12:46 PM
To: David Allen <David.Allen@casella.com>
Cc: Bryan Gazda <bgazda@hartford-vt.org>
Subject: [External] Hartford, VT's Curbside Recycling Program

Hi Dave.

Municipal budget season is upon us and a Hartford Selectboard member has asked whether Casella would submit a proposal to resume Hartford's curbside recycling program, in case there is Board and/or voter support to do so. I recognize that a start up venture would be a different proposition than simply continuing the existing program, for which you submit a bid earlier this year. Therefore, let me ask a couple of questions:

1. Would Casella be interested in bidding to re-start Hartford's curbside recycling program, if the Board and/or voters approved the idea?
2. If so, can you estimate the annual cost of doing so, assuming a multi-year contract?

Thanks.

John Haverstock
Town Manager, Hartford, VT
802/295-9353 x216

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John Haverstock

From: Bryan Gazda
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2025 1:13 PM
To: John Haverstock
Subject: SB Revised Costs - Dec 2025.xlsx
Attachments: SB Revised Costs - Dec 2025.xlsx

John,

Bottom line cost just for Casella's services to pick up recyclables. Doesn't include any processing or disposal fees, that will take more time to update if this moves forward.

Bryan

REVISED ESTIMATED REISIDENTIAL RECYCLING COSTS - DEC 2025

Revised Casella Waste System Proposal				
3 Year Contract Term				
Contract Year	April RFP Cost	Dec 2025 Revised Cost	Difference	Pct
2026-27	$540,361.00	$594,397.10	**$54,036.10**	10.00%
2027-28	$567,379.05	$624,116.96	**$56,737.90**	5.00%
2028-29	$595,748.00	$655,322.80	**$59,574.80**	5.00%
TOTAL	**$1,703,488.05**	**$1,873,836.86**	**$170,348.81**	**10.00%**

5 Year Contract Term				
Contract Year	April RFP Cost	Dec 2025 Revised Cost	Difference	Pct
2026-27	$488,854.00	$537,739.40	**$48,885.40**	10.00%
2027-28	$513,296.70	$564,626.37	**$51,329.67**	5.00%
2028-29	$538,961.54	$592,857.69	**$53,896.15**	5.00%
2029-30	$565,909.61	$622,500.57	**$56,590.96**	5.00%
2030-31	$594,205.09	$653,625.60	**$59,420.51**	5.00%
TOTAL	**$2,701,226.94**	**$2,971,349.63**	**$270,122.69**	**10.00%**

John Haverstock

From:	John Haverstock
Sent:	Friday, December 12, 2025 8:25 AM
To:	John Haverstock
Subject:	FW: Transfer Station Usage Data
Attachments:	Nov 11-18-25 User Data.xlsx

John Haverstock
Town Manager, Hartford, VT
802/295-9353 x216

From: Bryan Gazda <bgazda@hartford-vt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 8:32 AM
To: John Haverstock <jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org>
Subject: Transfer Station Usage Data

John,

I had staff ask users over the course of one-week in Nov., what they were there for. Attached is the data for the week. That 37% are there for recycling only indicates that residents have adjusted to not having curbside recycling. I want to wait until after the holidays and when we have more staff to do this again for comparison.

Bryan Gazda, MPA
Director of Public Works
Town of Hartford, VT
bgazda@hartford-vt.org
Office - 1-802-295-3622, ext. 104
Cell - 1-802-547-3887

Transfer Station Weekly Totals

Date	Trash & Recycle	Trash Only	Recycle Only	Daily Total
12-Nov-25	36	26	30	**92**
13-Nov-25	45	14	32	**91**
14-Nov-25	39	11	43	**93**
15-Nov-25	88	32	58	**178**
18-Nov-25	50	9	44	**103**
Total	**258**	**92**	**207**	**557**
Pct	**46.32%**	**16.52%**	**37.16%**	**100.00%**

John Haverstock

From: Erik Krauss
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 10:46 PM
To: John Haverstock
Cc: Ashley Andreas
Subject: Curbside Recycling on the ballot

Hi John,
When this topic came up during the 12/9 meeting you mentioned contacting VLCT. I think it would be wise to run it by them. For reference, the Town has done this type of thing in the past. One example, from 2015, is pasted below.

Thanks,
Erik

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2015

4. Shall the Town appropriate a sum not to exceed One Hundred Eighty Thousand ($180,000) Dollars for the purpose of continuing Curbside Recycling within the Town of Hartford. (By Australian ballot)

John Haverstock

From: Garrett Baxter <gbaxter@vlct.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 10:12 AM
To: John Haverstock
Subject: Re: Town Meeting Ballot

[**EXTERNAL EMAIL: DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]
Good morning John,

Thanks for reaching out to us. In response to your question, the article really presents two different questions. The first question, should the Town resume its Curbside Recycling Program, is an advisory question, but not one I would suggest asking if you're not going to implement the response. As you know, the Legislature only allows municipal voters to bind their local legislative bodies on those matters which the VT Legislature has deemed are in the realm of the voters to decide at such meetings. As the VT Supreme Court has held on numerous occasions, municipalities are compelled by law to present an article to the voters "only when 'the purpose stated in such petition set[s] forth a clear right which [i]s within the province of the town meeting to grant or refuse through its vote.' " Skiff v. South Burlington School District, 2018 VT 177 at ¶ 18 quoting Wassmansdorf, 128 Vt. at 160, 260 A.2d at 207.

If a voter-backed petition does not deal with a matter over which the town voters have been given authority in statute the selectboard may choose how to respond to that petition, including refusing to call a special town meeting, if one is requested as a town is under no legal obligation to warn a vote on a matter that is "frivolous, useless or unlawful" or is not "within the province of the town meeting to grant or refuse through its vote." Royalton Taxpayers v. Wassmandsdorf, 260 A.2d. 203 (1969).

To my knowledge, the Legislature has not granted the voters any right to compel a municipality to resume a curbside recycling program.

The second question is how much money to appropriate to this service, which is binding in the sense that it would go to calculating the overall tax rate if approved. If you intend on voting on this question then I would recommend breaking it apart into two separate questions as voters' response to one may impact their response to the other. If you vote from the floor, then the article can be divided upon motion.

Generally speaking, the voters' "appropriation" or authorization to make an expenditure is a prerequisite to the town's ability to spend money as it is the voters to whom the Legislature has vested the exercise of this authority.

The voters appropriation can take two forms which is to say that there are two ways to vote a budget: the first, which is also the most common which, is to vote the specific amounts and the other is to express their vote as a rate on a dollar of the grand list, otherwise known as the tax rate.

Few towns still vote a tax rate, since doing so carries some risk as it assumes that your Grand List won't change from year to year. If it does, then this type of vote may not be very accurate in terms of helping voters approximate their individual tax liabilities as they'll be basing it off their previous year's appraisal. You may be better served by inserting a figure that represents the total overall cost associated with administering such a program and then informing the voters, as a point of order at Town Meeting, how much an increase such a program would represent as a tax increase to help inform their vote.

I hope this helps. All the best.

Sincerely,

Garrett A. Baxter

Garrett Baxter, Esq.
Senior Staff Attorney, Municipal Assistance Center
Vermont League of Cities & Towns
89 Main St. Suite 4, Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 229-9111
gbaxter@vlct.org
Pronouns: he, him, his
VLCT.ORG

From: John Haverstock <jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 9:12 AM
To: VLCT <info@vlct.org>
Subject: Town Meeting Ballot

Hello.

May a Town present something like the following language on its Town Meeting ballot? If so, would the vote be **binding** or merely **advisory**?

Shall the Town resume its Curbside Recycling program, at the quoted annual cost of $________________, effective July 1, 2026, which translates to an approximate tax increase on a $250,000 property of $________.

Thanks.

John Haverstock
Town Manager, Hartford, VT
802/295-9353 x216

Please note that any response or reply to this electronic message may be subject to disclosure as a public record under the Vermont Public Records Act.