

**STATE OF VERMONT  
Bennington County, SS:  
TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY**

**March 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warning**

Shaftsbury residents, qualified to vote at the Annual Town Meeting, are hereby notified and warned to meet in person at the Shaftsbury Elementary School 150 Buck Hill Road or virtually via Zoom on **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, at 6:00 PM** to hold a public information hearing. Upon completion of the information session, the Meeting will stand adjourned until **Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** when voting by Australian ballot will commence at the Town Garage on North Road for the election of town officers and consideration of ballot articles.

Shaftsbury residents may submit an application to the Town Clerk to have their names added to the voter checklist no later than **12:00 PM on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 or at the Town Garage on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 from 7am to 7pm** to be eligible to vote on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at the polls. Any voter unable to come to the polls may apply for an early voter ballot with the Town Clerk until **12:00 PM on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**. Registration to vote can be done online by going to **MVP.VERMONT.gov**. Residents registering on Election Day must do so only at the polling place of their physical residence.

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR ON MONDAY, MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 AT 6:00 PM IN THE SHAFTSBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 150 BUCK HILL ROAD.**

- To hear reports of the Town Officers and take action thereon.
- Shall the Town authorize collection of taxes on real or personal property by its Treasurer, which are due in hand on or before **Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM** or likewise postmarked no later than **November 10<sup>th</sup> ?**
- Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$3,221,460.25 to defray the Town's general and highway expenses for Fiscal Year 2027, the amount of such sum to be raised by property taxes and to be reduced by non-tax revenues and reserve funds?
- To transact any other non-binding business as legally may come before said meeting at this time.

## **AGENDA**

**The agenda items will be discussed but not voted on. Voting will be by Australian ballot on Tuesday March 3, 2026.**

1. Review and discuss Articles 1, 2, and 3.
  - o Public Comments
2. Review and discuss Article 4: Community Appropriations
  - o Public comments
3. Discussion of other non-binding business
  - o Public comment

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026**  
**7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM**  
**Town Garage North Road**

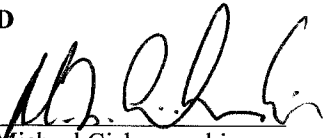
- 1) Voting for Town Officials
- 2) Shall the Town vote to change the status of the position of Treasurer from elected to appointed?
- 3) Shall the Town vote to exempt Shaftsbury Community Hall from payment of property tax for a period of five years?
- 4) Community Appropriations to Determine:
  - 1) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,225 to Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice?
  - 2) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,000 to the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless?
  - 3) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the Bennington Free Clinic?
  - 4) Shall the Town appropriate \$600 to Bennington Little League?
  - 5) Shall the Town appropriate \$4,500 to the Bennington Project Independence, Inc.?
  - 6) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,700 to the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council?
  - 7) Shall the Town appropriate \$600 to the Center for Restorative Justice?
  - 8) Shall the Town appropriate \$200 to the Green-Up Vermont?
  - 9) Shall the Town appropriate \$2,500 to the Paran Recreations, Inc.?
  - 10) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,500 to the Park McCullough House
  - 11) Shall the Town appropriate \$450 to the Project Against Violent Encounters?
  - 12) Shall the Town appropriate \$950 to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?
  - 13) Shall the Town appropriate \$2,500 to the Shaftsbury Historical Society, Inc.?
  - 14) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the Sunrise Family Resource Center?
  - 15) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,100 to the SW Vermont Council on Aging?
  - 16) Shall the Town appropriate \$900 to the Tutorial Center?
  - 17) Shall the Town appropriate \$300 to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?
  - 18) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the VT Center for Independent Living?
  - 19) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,000 to Shires Media Partnership (WBTN)
  - 20) Shall the Town appropriate \$450 to Bennington County Conservation District?
  - 21) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitations?
  - 22) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,850 to Bennington County Habitat for Humanity?
  - 23) Shall the Town appropriate \$500 to the Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?
  - 24) Shall the Town appropriate \$750 to the Bennington County Senior Center?

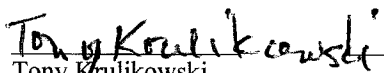
DATED at Shaftsbury, Vermont this 20th day of **January 2026**.

**TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Zoe Centros Kearn, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Naomi Miller, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Cichanowski

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Krulikowski

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Peacock

# Remote Only Public Informational Hearing Handout Town of Shaftsbury

## **Public Informational Hearing**

The process for using the Australian ballot system at town meeting requires a public informational hearing as a precursor to the vote. The Selectboard must hold an informational hearing when a town uses this system of voting on any public or budget question. The informational hearing, which is administered by the Selectboard, must be held within the 10 days immediately preceding the town meeting at which the Australian ballot system of voting is to be used. The purpose of the informational hearing is to afford the electorate an opportunity to discuss the article(s) on which they will be voting. The hearing serves as the debate component that would otherwise accompany voting when conducted from the floor.

The Selectboard of the town of Shaftsbury will offer in person and remote access via electronic means to its public informational hearing. Whenever feasible, the public should, at minimum, be able to access and participate in the remote hearing by dialing in through telephone.

## **Accessing a Meeting**

Please refer to the remote only public informational hearing notice and agenda for information on how to access the hearing remotely. Please note that whether you join by telephone, computer, or device, you may be put on hold or in a waiting “room” until granted access to the hearing. You also may be muted or restricted from using any chat function until the public comment portion of the hearing.

## **Participation**

All meetings will be conducted in accordance with the Selectboard’s Rules of Procedure , to the extent practicable. The moderator will follow the public informational hearing agenda and, when feasible, allow members of the public attending remotely to participate through voice (audio) means or alternatively using any chat function during the designated public comment periods on the agenda and at other applicable times as needed.

While the moderator will attempt to provide those attending remotely the same reasonable opportunity to comment, please be aware that technical and other issues may interfere or possibly even prevent that opportunity from occurring.

Initially, the meeting’s host/organizer will mute all remote attendees. This is necessary to control background noise. The host/organizer will then unmute remote participants or allow participants to unmute themselves when invited to speak by the moderator.

Please review the following guidelines:

- ▶ The moderator will invite comment:
  - during the public comment period as designated on the agenda; and
  - other times as determined by the moderator.
- ▶ When a remote participant/attendee is unmuted, they must state

their name before commenting.

When the Selectboard adjourns the hearing, the host/organizer will end the electronic meeting by turning off/closing the remote meeting software.

Remote attendees will be automatically disconnected.

The hearing will be recorded unless unusual circumstances make it impossible to do so. Minutes and other public records that are part of the hearing will be made available in accordance with VT's Open Meeting and Public Records Laws.

## **TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY**

### **IN PERSON and REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING**

#### **NOTICE and AGENDA**

The Selectboard for the Town of Shaftsbury will hold a public informational hearing in person at the Shaftsbury Elementary School, 150 Buck Hill Road and by electronic means on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, at 6:00pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2026 Town Meeting Warning.

#### **Information on how to access the remote hearing:**

Shaftsbury Town is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Town Meeting 2026

Time: Mar 2, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3141923081?omn=82246863354>

Meeting ID: 314 192 3081

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,3141923081# US

+13092053325,,3141923081# US

Join instructions

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/82246863354/invitations?signature=NycAN\\_BVEycio4fHh1oUmnfODp70Cfw7z\\_1b41L7TQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/82246863354/invitations?signature=NycAN_BVEycio4fHh1oUmnfODp70Cfw7z_1b41L7TQ)

Please review our "Informational Handout for Remote Public Hearings" to understand how these electronic hearing will be managed.

To ensure smooth access, we recommend that you test your remote hearing software in advance of the meeting. **If you have difficulty accessing the hearing, email [webmaster@shaftsburyvt.gov](mailto:webmaster@shaftsburyvt.gov).**

**Notice on hybrid public meetings**

This meeting is a hybrid meeting, which means that some or all of the public body is meeting remotely and some are meeting physically in a previously noticed location where the public may attend to observe, listen, and participate contemporaneously. One member of this public body or other staff is present at the location to ensure the public can participate, if desired.

Please note that while we will strive to provide means for those attending remotely to participate in the public comment period, there may be technical difficulties or reasons that otherwise prevent or interrupt remote public participation. Therefore, it is important to note that the Open Meeting Law only ensures the public's right to participate and comment at a public meeting by attending at the designated physical location as posted in the notice and agenda.

**YOU CANNOT VOTE AT TOWN MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**You must be logged in to Zoom to attend the Town Meeting Online.**