

Municipal Corner – Town Meeting

The first Tuesday in March is the traditional day for Town Meeting in Vermont and when Stowe holds their Annual Meeting. Below is some information to help ensure you are registered to vote and have the opportunity to do so.

Register to Vote: You can register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office M-F 8am to 4:30 pm. The last day you can register to vote for Annual Town Meeting is Wednesday, February 25th.

Absentee Ballots: You can obtain an absentee ballot at the Town Clerk's Office M-F 8am to 4:30pm. The last day to request a ballot is Monday, March 2nd. All ballots must be received by the close of polls and postmarks are not accepted.

Informational Meeting: The Selectboard and School Board will hold an informational meeting at 5pm on Monday, March 2nd, at the Akeley Building Memorial Hall to answer questions regarding the proposed Australian ballot and floor articles, including the budgets. Representatives from the Electric Commission will also be in attendance to answer questions regarding their proposed bond article.

Town Meeting: Town Meeting for the School District and Town will be held starting at 8am on March 3rd at the Stowe High School Auditorium. Floor votes will involve consideration of the proposed FY'16 Town General Fund Budget of \$11,083,075 of which \$8,352,254 is proposed to be raised in property taxes. It will also involve consideration of appropriating money for several capital projects (Trash Recycling Receptacles \$20,000, Bridge Street Bridge Local Match \$160,000, Village Sidewalk Replacement Preliminary Engineering \$75,000, Luce Hill Road Culvert Rehabilitation \$65,000, West Branch Erosion Mitigation Design & Permitting \$50,000, Mountain Road Village Sidewalk Phase 2 Design & Permitting \$30,000, Town Clock Rehabilitation \$10,000 and Main Street Utility Line Relocation Feasibility & Preliminary Design \$50,000).

Voting: Australian ballot voting will occur between 7am and 7pm on March 3rd at Stowe High School Gym. In addition to the election of officers, the Stowe School District budget of \$12,217,575 will be voted on and a proposed Electric Department \$800,000 bond vote. The bond is "for the purpose of acquiring, replacing and/or constructing municipal electric plant improvements, namely substation transformers, CIS billing system & IT improvements and vehicle replacement of Digger Bucket trucks."

Town Report: The Town Report should be available to be picked up by February 23rd at the Akeley Memorial Building and at various locations around town. Copies will also be available at Annual Meeting.

Democracy Belongs to the Diligent: We are fortunate to live in Vermont where your voice can still be heard if you choose to exercise it, particularly at the local level. A lot of people twitter, Facebook and electronically speak their mind, but if you really want to make a difference show up and participate.

Please contact me if you have any questions (csafford@townofstowe.vermont.org or 253-6868) or stop by the office (M-F 8am to 4:30pm).