

GRAFTON, VERMONT
WARNING
For Town and Town School Districts

The legal voters of the Town and Town School Districts of Grafton, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Grafton Elementary School on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM EST to take action on the following articles:

ART. 1 To choose all Town and Town School District Officers. Voting to be by Australian ballot; polls open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

ART. 2 To act on the Auditor's Report.

ART. 3 To authorize the Selectmen, the Town School Directors and the Athens/Grafton Joint Contract School District Directors to borrow money, respectively, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes.

ART. 4 Shall the Town of Grafton vote to raise one hundred forty nine thousand dollars (\$149,000) for the Capital Budget? (\$100,000 for Equipment, \$4,000 for Guard Rail, \$20,000 for Highway Roadway Projects, \$15,000 for Fire Truck, \$5,000 for Computers for Town Offices, \$5,000 Bridge Scraping and Painting).

ART. 5 Shall the Town of Grafton raise five hundred thirty thousand, eight hundred fifty dollars (\$530,850) for the maintenance of highways and bridges?

ART. 6 Shall the Town of Grafton raise two hundred fifty six thousand, ninety dollars (\$256,090) for the Selectmen's Budget?

ART. 7 Shall the Town of Grafton raise \$9,000 for ambulance service?

ART. 8 Shall the Town of Grafton raise \$26,000 for the Fire-fighter's Association operating expenses?

ART. 9 Shall the Town of Grafton raise \$9,000 for Grafton Rescue Squad operating expenses?

ART. 10 Shall the Town of Grafton raise \$9,741 for Humanitarian expenses? (Bellows Falls Senior Center - \$674; Grace Cottage - \$1,500; Grafton Cares - \$1,000; HCRS - \$600; Parks Place - \$100; RSVP - \$160; Senior Solutions - \$650; SEVCA - \$650; The Current - \$250; Valley Cares - \$1,052; Visiting Nurse Association - \$2,300; VCIL - \$105; Women's Freedom Center - \$600; Youth Services - \$100).

ART. 11 Shall the voters of the Grafton Town School District approve the Athens/Grafton Joint Contract School District budget K-6 expenses of one million, three hundred forty seven thousand, one hundred sixty three dollars and forty nine cents (\$1,347,163.49) that includes five hundred dollars (\$500.00) compensation for each School Director?

ART. 12 Shall the voters of the Grafton Town School District approve the school board to expend eight hundred seventy eight thousand, one hundred fifty nine dollars and seventy six cents (\$878,159.76) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of thirteen thousand, six hundred dollars and eighty three cents (\$13,600.83) per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.59% higher than spending for the current year.

ART. 13 Shall the voters of the Grafton Town School District vote to form the Windham Northeast Unified School District on the following terms:

1. The districts listed below (referred to herein as Member Districts) shall all be identified as "necessary" for the formation of the New Unified School District:

Athens School District
Grafton School District
Rockingham School District
Westminster School District

The Bellows Falls Union High School District shall also be considered necessary for the formation of the new Unified School District but it shall not be referred to as a Town School District and its interests are represented by the voters of each of the Town School Districts.

2. The Windham Northeast Unified School District will offer education to pre-kindergarten through Grade 12.

3. The Windham Northeast Unified School District Board of Directors will be comprised of ten (10) board members who shall have equal votes and whose initial representation will mirror that of Union High School District #27 (Bellows Falls High School) on March 7, 2017. This ratio will be reviewed upon the issuance of each U.S. Census and may be reviewed more frequently to reformulate its membership in accordance with existing state law at that time. Formulation of the initial membership on the board of school directors as detailed below:

Number of Board Members by District

Athens	1
Grafton	1
Rockingham	5
Westminster	3

The Windham Northeast Unified School District Board Directors will be nominated from the legal voters of each Town School District (and after formation of the Unified School District, each member town), and will be elected by Australian ballot for three-year terms, except for those initially elected at the time of the formation of the Windham Northeast School District. Candidates will be elected by an at-large vote of the electorate in the Town School Districts.

4.A. The use of the Windham Northeast Unified School District schools and related facilities and property will be determined by the Windham Northeast Unified School District Board of Directors in a manner that most effectively and efficiently attains quality and equitable education for all students. However, the Windham Northeast Unified School

District Board of Directors will continue to use all school facilities operating as elementary/middle public schools on July 1, 2018 for Windham Northeast Unified School District programs and activities unless a majority vote of the electorate of the municipality in which the school is located approves a plan to close a school facility. Decisions regarding the use of schools for pre-kindergarten programs will be determined by the Windham Northeast Unified School District Board of Directors.

4.B. No later than June 30, 2018, the Forming Entities will convey to the Windham Northeast Unified School District all of their school-related real property and personal property, including all land, buildings and contents for One Dollar subject to all encumbrances of record and the Windham Northeast Unified School District will assume all capital associated therewith.

4.C. In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the Windham Northeast Unified School District determines that any of the real property, including buildings and land, conveyed to it by the Forming Entities other than the Union High School District is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the Windham Northeast Unified School District and its educational programs, the Windham Northeast Unified School District shall convey such real property, for the sum of one dollar, and subject to all encumbrances of record, the assumption or repayment of all outstanding bonds and notes and the repayment of any school construction aid or grants as required by Vermont law, to the municipality in which it is located.

The conveyance of any of the above school properties shall be conditioned upon the town/village owning and utilizing the real property for community and public purposes for a minimum of five years. In the event a town/village elects to sell the real property prior to five years of ownership, the town shall compensate the Windham Northeast Unified School District for all capital improvements and renovations completed after the formation of the Windham Northeast Unified School District and prior to the sale to the town/village. In the event a town/village elects not to acquire ownership of such real property, the Windham Northeast Unified School District shall, pursuant to Vermont statutes, sell the property upon such terms and conditions as established by the Windham Northeast Unified School District Board of School Directors.

4.D. For at least the first year that the Windham Northeast Unified School District is fully operational and providing educational services, students will attend elementary school and middle school according to their town/district of residence.

5.A. Capital Debt:

The Windham Northeast Unified School District will assume all capital debt of Forming Entities, including both principal and interest, as may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2018.

5.B. Operating Fund Deficits and Balances:

The Windham Northeast Unified School District will assume any and all general operating deficits and/or surpluses and fund balances of the Forming Entities that may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2018. Those Forming Entities with surpluses, fund balances or remaining reserve funds at the close of business on June 30, 2018, will transfer all such funds to the Windham Northeast Unified School District. In addition, reserve funds identified for specific purposes will be transferred to the Windham Northeast Unified School District and will be applied for said purpose unless otherwise determined through appropriate legal process.

5 C. Specified Funds:

The Forming Schools will transfer to the Windham Northeast Unified School District any pre-existing school district specific endowments or other restricted accounts that may exist on June 30, 2018. Scholarship funds or like accounts held by school districts on June 30, 2018 that have specified conditions of use will be used in accordance with said provisions.

6. The provisions of the Report and Formation Plan approved by the State Board of Education on December 20, 2016, which is on file at the offices of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union shall govern the Unified School District.
(Voted By Australian Ballot)

ART. 14 To elect the following directors to the initial Board of Directors of the Windham Northeast Unified School District:
Athens:

1 Director for a one year term expiring in March of 2019
Grafton:

1 Director for a two year term expiring in March of 2020
Rockingham: 5 Directors
2 for one year terms expiring in March of 2019
1 for a two year term expiring in March of 2020
2 for three year terms expiring in March of 2021
Westminster: 3 Directors
1 for a one year term expiring in March of 2019
1 for a two year term expiring in March of 2020
1 for a three year term expiring in March of 2021
(Voted By Australian Ballot)

ART. 15 Shall the Town of Grafton pay its property taxes to the Treasurer in Quarterly installments, with the due dates being Aug. 15, Nov. 15, Feb. 15, and May 15?

ART. 16 Shall the Town of Grafton levy an interest charge on all delinquent taxes on real and personal property of one (1) percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of each installment for the first three months, and one and one-half (1 ½) percent per month or fraction thereof for every month thereafter, as provided for in 32 VSA 5136.

ART. 17 To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the Town and Town School District meeting.