

# **2026 Pre-Town Meeting**

## **Town of Danville Selectboard**



**Town Highlights**  
**Officials to Elect**  
**Budget Public Hearings**  
**Special Articles**  
**TM 2025 updates**

**February 7, 2026 – Danville Town Hall, 1:00 pm**  
**March 2, 2026 – North Danville School, 6:00 pm**

# 2025-26 Town Highlights

TOWN OF DANVILLE, VT NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME TO The Club!

Each quarter we'll bring you important news from around Danville!




### COMMUNITY POWERED DESIGN

Since Town Meeting Day, the Town Services Committee has been hard at work on the priorities you've shared with us. We've researched, gathered data, conducted studies, and invited subject matter experts to participate particularly on pedestrian safety.

Based on your feedback and survey responses you - safety matters!

In the foreground are the results from the visual preferences survey. The public outreach is a component of the pre-construction planning for this project to ensure safe and efficient circulation as well as management of stormwater. In the charrette, held October 5th, roughly 30 people from the community came to participate in a hands-on design exercise. Their work will inform the preliminary construction cost estimate that will be developed by the consultants. This work is covered by the Municipal Planning Grant from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.



Residents can now bring bulky items to the **Recycle Center every Saturday** during open hours. Find pricing at [danvillevt.gov](http://danvillevt.gov) \*No Household Garbage

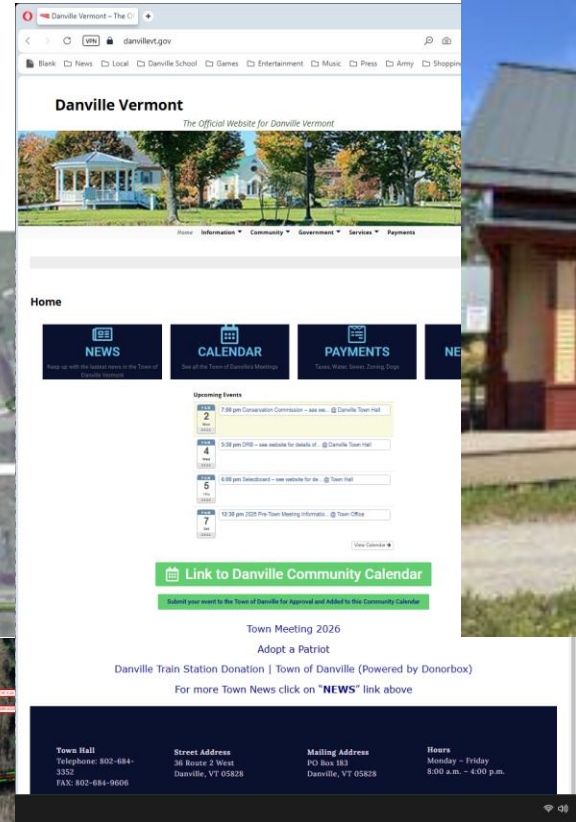
**Town Meeting Day | Danville School**  
SAVE THE DATE: **Tuesday, March 18th**

**Holiday Crafts for Kids**  
Sat, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> | 9am-11am

**Gingerbread House Decorating**  
Sat, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> | 1pm-3pm

**Holiday Family Fun & Games**  
Sat, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> | 3pm-5pm

Register today for Pope Memorial Library's Annual Gingerbread House Decorating!

**Town Meeting 2026**  
Adopt a Patriot  
Danville Train Station Donation | Town of Danville (Powered by Donorbox)  
For more Town News click on "NEWS" link above

**Town Hall**  
Telephone: 802-684-3352  
FAX: 802-684-9606

**Street Address**  
38 Route 2 West  
Danville, VT 05828

**Mailing Address**  
PO Box 483  
Danville, VT 05828

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Town Services Recommendation Summary			
Service	Action	Responsibility	Deadline
Services Committee	Continue to appoint new Town Services Committees, to serve from March to December, each year	Selectboard	19-Mar-26
Facility-Grounds	Budget and contract for a building inspection to validate or update the status of Town structures (bulk or one/year)	Selectboard	15-Jan-26
Facility-Grounds	Update and maintain (quarterly) a listing of facilities, grounds, managers, and additional info as needed	Selectboard	19-Feb-26
Facility-Grounds	Reconsider establishment of a Public Works position or organization within the Town depending on resolution of other Facility-Grounds and Services issues	Selectboard	14-Jan-27
FD Admin Position	Warn and present information on Fire Department Admin position as TM26 Article	Selectboard	15-Jan-26
FD Admin Position	Refine position description and hire Fire Department Admin IAW TM26	Selectboard, Fire Chief	01-Jul-26
PedSafety	Purchase speed limit and 2xRSF signs	Road Foreman	31-Dec-25
PedSafety	Continue traffic enforcement at ~35 hours/month	Selectboard	15-Jan-26
PedSafety	Purchase 4-8 village entry signs	Selectboard	31-May-26
PedSafety	Install additional speed limit and RSF signs and add pavement markings at gateways	Road Foreman	31-May-26
PedSafety	Install village entry signs at gateways	Road Foreman	01-Oct-26
PedSafety	Reevaluate traffic enforcement for 2027 as needed	Selectboard	17-Dec-26
PedSafety	Continue to provide updates on Pedestrian Safety and opportunities for feedback	Selectboard	Ongoing
Recycling Center	Hire additional Recycling Attendant (as alternate to primary)	Selectboard	16-Oct-25
Recycling Center	Continue weekly bulky waste collection at Recycling Center	Selectboard	Ongoing
Wastewater	Appoint Wastewater Superintendent	Selectboard	20-Nov-25
Wastewater	Warn and present information on Wastewater plant updates (including sludge removal) and potential bond as TM26 article	Selectboard	15-Jan-26
Wastewater	Update contract for wastewater support to include facility, and grounds, management as needed	Selectboard	01-Mar-26
Wastewater	Execute wastewater plant upgrades and sludge removal IAW TM26 article	Selectboard	31-Dec-28
Wastewater	Manage wastewater operations, capital improvements, fees, and budgets such that customers pay for the system (with limited occasional support from the Town as approved)	Selectboard, Town Treasurer	Ongoing
Water District	Warn and present information on purchase of Danville Fire District #1 as TM26 article	Selectboard	15-Jan-26
Water District	IAW TM26 article, engage with ANR DEC to ensure technical, managerial, and financial capacity for the Town to operate the fire district; submit new permit to operate application	Selectboard	01-Sep-26
Water District	IAW TM26 article, execute acquisition and integration of Danville Fire District #1, subject to DFD#1 approval	Selectboard	31-Dec-26
Water District	IAW TM26 article, manage drinking water operations, capital improvements, fees, bond transfer, and budgets such that customers pay for the system (with limited occasional support from the Town as approved)	Selectboard, Town Treasurer	Ongoing
Website	Maintain website as shared Selectboard - Town Clerk responsibility with 2 Content Managers	Selectboard, Town Clerk	15-Sep-25
Zoning Fees	Adopt updated fee schedule	Selectboard	18-Dec-25
Zoning Fees	Revise and update fee schedule (by updated Zoning Bylaw)	Selectboard	19-Feb-26

Town of Danville, Vermont  
 36 Route 2 West | PO Box 183  
 Danville, VT 05828

No.

## PARKING VIOLATION

### NOTICE

This vehicle is improperly parked.  
 Violations are as follows:

- Vehicle has no valid Parking Permit
- Parked in a No Parking Space/Area
- Parked in Fire Lane
- Parked in Reserved or Assigned Parking Space
- Blocked Driveway or Access
- Blocked other Vehicle
- Parked in 2 Spaces
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Warning

Fined Violation  
 (See Amount Below)

License No. State Permit No.

Vehicle Make/Model

Driver's Name (If Known)

Other Info

Date Location

Time Issued

**Total Due: \$**

### Dog Licensing

Dog licenses for the just moved to town, new puppy, it should licenses at the Town

- All dogs over the age of 6 months old must be licensed by April 1 of each year. A current rabies certificate is required.
- **Neutered males & spayed females** – \$11 (after April 1st, \$13 + fine)
- **Intact males & females** – \$15 (after April 1st, \$19 + fine)
- **Fine** for lack of current license and/or rabies tag: \$100 for first offense, \$200 for subsequent offenses (but no voluntary waiver fee is \$5 from April 16 to June 30, \$10 July 1 and later)
- *Examples: If you simply forgot and come in to register a neutered male on April 2, the cost is \$13 (no waiver fee); if it becomes \$18; and on July 1 it becomes \$23. If the Town has to chase you down to register a neutered male figure is \$113.*

# Policy / Ordinance Updates

**All policies and ordinances on [Town website!](#)**



### Town of Danville Ordinance Regulating Open Burning

**Section I. Authority:** This ordinance is adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Danville under the authority granted by 24 V.S.A. § 1971 & 24V.S.A. § 2202a.

**Section II Purpose:** It is the intent of this ordinance to provide for the control of open burning to ensure the public's health, safety, and welfare and to prohibit solid waste disposal practices that pose a danger to the public health and welfare and the environment or constitute a public nuisance.

**Section III Definition:** For purposes of this ordinance, "Open burning" shall mean the burning of combustible materials where emissions do not pass through a stack, chimney or flue, but are released directly to the air. Open burning does not include the use of campfires with a ring of 3 feet or less, outdoor grills, and fireplaces for recreation or preparation of food, and such uses are expressly exempt from this ordinance.

#### Section IV Prohibited open burning:

A. **No Open Burn permits will be issued for the Village Core District and Historic District in Danville Green, the Village Core District in West Danville, and the designated Village Center of North Danville.** Residents residing in these areas may deposit their allowable materials at the town wood dump.

Town of Danville

### Zoning Fees as of January 1, 2026

Adopted on December 18, 2025

#### Fees added to ALL Permits at time of application

- Filing/Recording Fee: \$15
- Certificate of Occupancy (CO): \$40
  - No CO fee for accessory structures of 150 sq ft or less (or area not applicable), decks, patios, carports, or driveways
  - Add \$50 rush or late fee (in addition to payment of any prior fees)

#### Zoning Fees

- Permit Fees
  - Sign (that requires a permit): \$25
  - 250 sq ft or less project (or area not applicable): \$50
  - 251-500 sq ft project: \$100
  - 501-1000 sq ft project: \$150
  - 1,001-1,500 sq ft project: \$200
  - 1,501-2,000 sq ft project: \$250
  - 2,001-2,500 sq ft project: \$300
  - 2,501-3,000 sq ft project: \$350
  - 3,001 sq ft or greater project: \$450
- DRB Hearing Fee: \$175 (plus Permit Fee)
- Conditional Use/Site Plan Review: Permit Fee + DRB Fee
- Design Control: Permit Fee + DRB Fee
- Waiver/Variance: Permit Fee + DRB Fee
- Change-of-Use: \$75 + DRB Fee (if required)
- Boundary line adjustment: \$150
- Subdivision, up to 2 Lots: \$150 + \$50/lot
- Subdivision, over 2 Lots: \$150 + \$50/lot + DRB Fee
- Extension/Amendment to Existing Permit: 50% of prior Permit Fee

#### Penalty Fees

- Late Fee / After the Fact Permit:
  - At the First Notification Letter, Permit Fee + \$100
  - At the Second Notification, Permit Fee + \$200
  - At the Third Notification, Permit Fee + \$300
  - Notice of Violation, \$100/day fine (per Zoning Bylaw)

## Officials to Elect (and known Candidates)

- Moderator (1 year)
  - Toby Balivet
- One Selectperson (3 years)
  - Matt Choate
  - Others?
- Two Selectpersons (1 year)
  - Jan Ouellette
  - Kristin Calkins
  - Others?
- One Lister (3 years)
  - Marcia Pettigrew
- Delinquent Tax Collector (1 year)
  - Ed Ledo

# Property Tax – Budgets, Rates, and Bills

Vermonters frequently talk about tax rates as "cents" or "pennies" - a tax rate of 0.20 is 20 cents

- **2025** Grand List: \$3,415,757.44
  - Taxes per "penny": \$34,158
  - Tax rate for \$10,000: 0.0029
- **General Fund Tax Rates:**
  - 2025: 0.2759
  - 2026: ~0.2608 (about 26 cents)
  - -0.0151
- **Highway Tax Rates:**
  - 2025: 0.3756
  - 2026: ~0.3774 (about 38 cents)
  - +0.0018

Property Value	Estimates!		Per budget \$10,000	Per tax rate "penny"
	2026 Town Tax	2026 Change		
\$100,000	\$638.22	-\$13.28	\$2.93	\$10
\$150,000	\$957.33	-\$19.92	\$4.39	\$15
\$200,000	\$1,276.45	-\$26.55	\$5.86	\$20
\$250,000	\$1,595.56	-\$33.19	\$7.32	\$25
\$300,000	\$1,914.67	-\$39.83	\$8.78	\$30
\$400,000	\$2,552.89	-\$53.11	\$11.71	\$40
\$500,000	\$3,191.11	-\$66.39	\$14.64	\$50

**Estimated** combined municipal and highway taxes based on **2025** Grand List, **with** agency appropriations; actual values will depend on approved budget items and **2026** Grand List

Tax bills have 3 components: Municipal (General Fund), Highway, and Education (School, NOT part of Town budget!)



# General Fund taxes up \$45,070

## 2025 General Fund surplus - \$112,206\*

Total expenses were \$19K over budget, but revenue was \$131K higher than forecast

Biggest changes for 2026: Train Station \$17K, building improvements (from special purpose funds), sheriff up \$20K (offset by 2025 article)

No fire engines this year – but ~\$746,584 coming in 2027-2029

Special purpose funds are smoothing tax rates

### Expenses / Taxes

- 2024: \$1,000,822 / \$646,900
- 2025: \$905,933 / \$845,722
- 2026: \$1,079,345 / \$890,791

*\*Anticipated / unaudited surplus*

# Highway taxes up \$5,933

Highway budget remains nearly flat at .46% increase

NO major equipment purchases in 2026

Payroll changing slightly with Town Administrator

Budget uses special fund contributions to prepare for future equipment purchases (~\$868K coming in 2027-2029) and infrastructure work

## Expenses / Taxes

- 2024: \$1,963,601 / \$1,282,685
- 2025: \$1,931,892 / \$1,283,289
- 2026: \$1,706,799 / \$1,289,222



# Social Service Agency Appropriations

Organization	2025	2026
Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00
Catamount Film and Arts	500.00	500.00
Community Restorative Justice Center	250.00	250.00
Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium	2,196.00	2,196.00
Kingdom Animal Shelter	500.00	500.00
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging	1,700.00	1,700.00
Northeast Kingdom Human Services	2,306.00	2,306.00
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services	750.00	750.00
Pope Memorial Library	28,000.00	28,000.00
Rural Community Transportation	1,800.00	1,800.00
The St Johnsbury Nutritional Center*		5,000.00
Umbrella	1,200.00	1,200.00
West Danville Community Club	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$42,802.00</b>	<b>\$47,802.00</b>

*\*The St Johnsbury Nutritional Center is taking over the Meals on Wheels program. In 2024, the town supported this program with a \$5,000 appropriation for the Danville Senior Action Center.*

# Special Purpose Funds

Fund	Purpose	Annual Estimate*	Target	2025 Balance
Capital Projects (Reserve)	Capital projects (e.g. sidewalk, parking lot, fire stations)	As needed to fund known projects	\$383,000 sidewalk match \$\$\$-? parking lot, fire stations	\$505,008
Town Building	Maintenance of all Town buildings and grounds	\$21,000	\$20,000 or as needed for anticipated projects	\$129,236
Fire Department Capital Equipment	Fire Department engines and vehicles	\$130,000	As needed to pay for equipment on schedule	\$221,748
Highway Capital Equipment	Highway Department large equipment	\$220,000	As needed to pay for equipment on schedule	\$112,259
Infrastructure Improvement	Major highway repairs / upgrades (McDowell Rd, Bruce Badger MH)	\$20,000	\$50,000 or as forecast for known projects	\$0 (new)
<i>Sewer Maintenance</i>	<i>Sewer facility maintenance and upgrades</i>	<i>\$45,000</i>	<i>\$2,245,000 for 2027</i>	<i>\$148,062</i>
<i>Town Hall / Green (Endowment)</i>	<i>Maintain Town Hall and Green (Marion Sevigny fund)</i>	<i>N/A (unspent interest reinvested)</i>	<i>\$600,000 minimum</i>	<i>\$854,665</i>
<i>Listers Reappraisal</i>	<i>Conduct periodic town-wide real estate reappraisals</i>	<i>\$36,000</i>	<i>\$182,400 by 2030 (current contract)</i>	<i>\$88,454</i>

*Dedicated funds under the control and direction of the Selectboard, tracked separately from operating expenses and budget lines, generally used over time to save for major expenses to avoid wild tax fluctuations and interest payments*

**\*Annual Estimate** is how much the Town should **save or spend** for these types of expenses – e.g. one year save \$220K, but the next year spend \$440K.

# Town Administrator

Given recommendations from the Town Services Committee and a sudden vacancy, the Selectboard has recharacterized the Selectboard Assistant position as a Town Administrator (as of March)

- **Initial Hire: Keith Gadapee**
- **Succession: Bill Bailey, Onsite Highway Supervisor**

- Full-time position (40 hours per week instead of 25, with benefits)
- Serves as the Selectboard's top administrative officer
- New / extra duties:
  - Administrator for Highway Department, Fire Department, and Sewer utility
  - Emergency Management Director
  - Town Health Officer
- Manages use, scheduling, and maintenance of public buildings



# Special Article

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**Shall the voters of the Town of Danville authorize the Selectboard, for a period of up to two years, to engage in the acquisition of Danville Fire District #1; to include its land holdings, equipment, profits and debts, should the municipality's existing prudential board choose to dissolve or sell? (Advisory Only)**

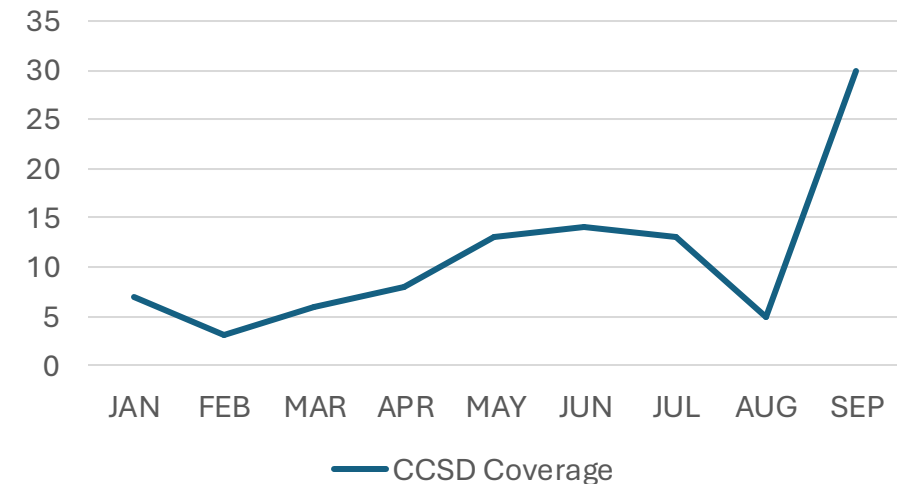
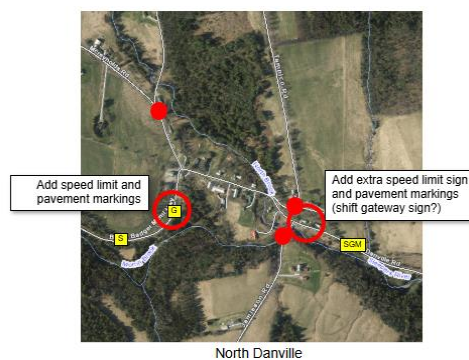
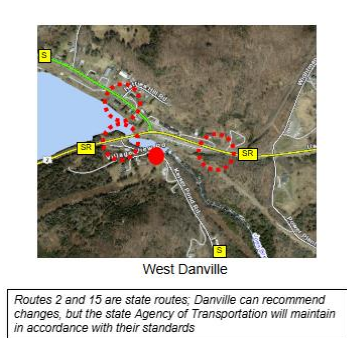
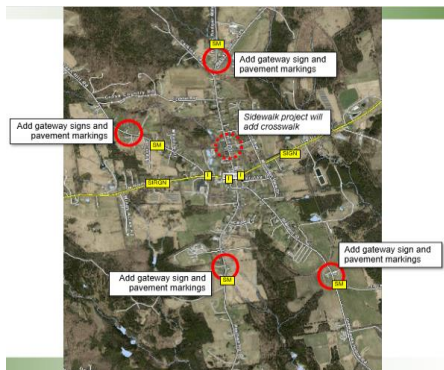
# 2025 TM: Pedestrian Safety

Article 8, as passed: **Shall the town voters raise, appropriate, and expend up to an additional \$40,930 to implement the recommendations of the Town Services Committee to improve pedestrian safety in the Town of Danville?**

- Analysis and public feedback should continue
- Sheriff coverage goal for 2027 is ~35 hours/month
- Improvements to village gateways coming in spring
- Spending: \$7,356 in 2025, \$33,574 in 2026



Photos:  
Greg  
Prior



Public meeting presentation and recording available at the bottom of the [Town Services Committee web page](#)

**Why can't Danville voters decide for ourselves how to conduct balloting, like other Vermonters?**

- ...because **the Legislature** says so with [our charter](#).
- Are we **uninformed, stupid, untrustworthy**, what ...?
- Every other town can use a [deliberate process](#) where they discuss and **hold an Australian ballot** vote one year on whether to change the **following** year.
- Danville's charter says we **must always** vote on Town and highway budgets by Australian ballot.
- Voters seem happy with that **now**, but what if...
  - We have a **one-time issue** where we want to have a floor vote?
  - The legislature allows **new forms** of voting (like through the Internet)?
  - We want to **combine** our Town and highway budgets?
  - Our **descendants** just want to do things differently?

**This is the mistake we made - following the Australian ballot rules for hearings and missing that the charter proposal rule is slightly different.**

**Danville Charter Proposal Process (JAN-MAR 2025)**  
 (17 V.S.A. § 2645 and 17 V.S.A. § 2680)

Selectboard makes charter repeal proposal	Y
Selectboard files copy of proposal	Y
Selectboard warns public hearings	Y
Selectboard holds 2 hearings (24 days and 1 day before)	Y
... <a href="#">by law for Australian ballot</a> ; hearing WITHIN 30 days	Y
... <a href="#">by law for charter proposal</a> ; first one 30+ days BEFORE	N
Australian ballot vote passes at Town Meeting, 150-112	Y

Town forwards charter repeal proposal to Secretary of State, Representative, and Senator

# 2025 TM: Charter Repeal

**Danville voters** passed 2025 Article 10 by Australian ballot 150-112 to **propose the legislature repeal the town charter, [24 App. V.S.A ch. 114, § 101](#)**, which mandates Australian ballot for Town and highway budgets.

- This **wouldn't change how we vote now**, but **future voters** would be able to make changes without having to go through a **2-4+ year process** to change the charter.

State Representative Burt acted on the proposal in April 2025 by proposing [H.510](#).

- The House GovOps committee discussed the bill on January 22 and 29, 2026, and is taking no action (killing it). The members' discussion focused on a small timing issue (which most didn't seem to understand) with our proposal process and almost **zero** discussion of the **bill or its merits**.
- The Town can warn the question again and do the exact same things (plus holding a public hearing 30+ days before the vote...) after which the Legislature may act – or not.

**Kudos** to State Representatives **Matthew Birong, Chea Waters Evans, Lucy Boyden, Philip Jay Hooper, Robert Hooper, Michael Morgan, and Mary-Katherine Stone** for spending an hour (hearing and discussion) talking about how Danville "broke the rules" (which we pointed out to them in our official proposal, begging forgiveness) and rejecting our proposal so we have to **go through the same process again** – as opposed to them taking 15 minutes to [read about](#), [understand](#), and [act on](#) the issue to **clear it up forever**.

# Other Business

Other comments or  
questions on Town  
Meeting?

**Town Meeting starts at 10:00am in the Danville School gym –  
floor meeting until complete, Australian balloting until 7:00pm**