

Meeting Agenda

Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)

Feb. 12, 2026 | 6:30-8:30pm | All are welcome



Join in person:

ONE Community Center, 20 Allen Street

Join remotely:

<https://zoom.us/j/93179389982>

O.N.E. Community Dinner

5:30-6:30pm | Free | Donations welcome

ONE ❤️ Menu: Roasted squash polenta with balsamic roasted beets & beans, citrus slaw with pears, herb biscuits, and chocolate cake.

Music: Brian Perkins & Friends

Facilitator: Marc Stannard

Notetaker: Kason Hudman

6:30 pm Introduction

5 min Review and adopt/approve the agenda and previous minutes; introductions as time allows.

6:35 pm Public Forum (2 minutes max per person)

10 min Please state your full name, pronouns, street, and ward, and follow the NPA ground rules.

6:45 pm Ballot Question overview

75 min *Representatives from City departments, including Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak and Councilor Grant*
Learn more about the questions that will be on your ballot, why they are there, and what it means for you.

8:00 pm Burlington School District

25 min *Polly Vanderputten - Ward 2 School Commissioner*
Gene Bergman - Ward 2 City Councilor
Hear from the currently serving candidates running for re-election in Ward 2.

8:25 pm Door prize drawing + Adjourn!

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 12!

Scan the QR code ([or click here](#)) to: [Email us](#) • Go to [our website](#) • Watch meeting recordings on [CCTV's website](#) • Connect with us on [Instagram](#) • Request a time slot with the [request form](#) • Get to all links related to this meeting



Appendix to the Agenda

Ward 2 NPA Steering Committee

To contact the entire Ward 2 NPA Steering Committee, email ward2npa@googlegroups.com

Name	Email	Joined	Term expiration
Lauren Ebersol	lebersol27@gmail.com	2023	2027
Kason Hudson	kasonhudman@gmail.com	2024	2028
Charlie Giannoni	charliecpg@gmail.com	2024	2028
Marc Stannard	Marc.Stannard@outlook.com	2024	2028
Nora Aronds	noraaronds@yahoo.com	2025	2029
Grace Sherwood	Gsherwood703@gmail.com	2025	2029

NPA Guiding Principles

- Operate through democratic principles and democratic procedures.
- Provide a safe and welcoming forum where residents can actively share their voices about issues that matter to them, and where they can learn from the voices of others.
- Cultivate involvement by a diverse spectrum of community members through active outreach and through eliminating barriers to participation.
- Operate in a manner that models respectful, inclusive, culturally, and economically aware practices.
- Be a fun, creative, and vital organization that provides value and benefit through the multitude of perspectives shared by those who participate.

Ward 2 NPA Ground Rules

- Meetings should have **clearly defined agenda and roles**.
- **Honor time limits:** A best effort must be made to start on time, follow the agenda, and finish on time.
- **Listen to others:** Make efforts to be an open-minded member of the group.
- **Respect the agenda and the process:** Try to remain focused on the issue at hand.
- **Share your opinion respectfully:** Speak out, but not over, others' comments.
- **Treat people how you would like to be treated:** Be respectful of everyone, including guests.

Elected officials representing Ward 2

Mayor

Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak	Progressive	mayor@BurlingtonVT.gov
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City Councilors

Central District (Wards 2 & 3)	Melo Grant	Progressive	megrant@burlingtonvt.gov	802-310-0962
Ward 2	Gene Bergman	Progressive	gbergman@burlingtonvt.gov	802-598-3602

School Board Members

Central District (Wards 2 & 3)	Jean Waltz	jwaltz@bsdvt.org	802-355-7856
Ward 2	Polly Vanderputten	pvanderputten@bsdvt.org	802-578-8653

Vermont State House Representatives

Chittenden-15	Troy Headrick	Independent	theadrick@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-15	Brian Cina	Progressive/Democrat	bcina@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-16	Kate Logan	Progressive/Democrat	klogan@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-16	Jill Krowinski	Democrat	jkrowinski@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-17	Abigail Duke	Democrat	aduke@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228

Vermont State Senators

Chittenden-Central	Tanya Vyhovsky	Progressive/Democrat	tvyhovsky@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-Central	Martine Gulick	Democrat	mgulick@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 828-2228
Chittenden-Central	Philip Baruth	Democrat/Progressive	pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 503-5266



REIB CHARTER CHANGE

OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING (REIB)

January 15, 2026

REIB Charter Change: What Voters Are Being Asked to Decide

- On March 3, Burlington voters will decide whether to add the Office of Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (REIB) to the City Charter
- The City Charter defines which parts of City government are permanent
- This change would make the REIB a stable, ongoing part of City government.
- Placing the REIB in the Charter helps ensure this work continues consistently over time, regardless of changes in leadership.



What is **DEI** in City Government?

Practical tools to improve systems & outcomes for everyone

Diversity

Recognize our community's differences

Understand that **one-size-fits-all** solutions don't always work.



Equity

Address barriers to access and opportunity



Provide fair support so all can succeed

Inclusion

Ensure people feel *welcomed and valued*



Create spaces where *everyone can participate.*

Focusing on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion helps the City serve all its residents effectively and fairly.



REIB Charter Change: What the REIB Does and Why it Matters for Burlington

What the REIB Does in Burlington

- Supports city departments in the development, implementation, and coordination for programs and services to ensure consistency and accessibility
- Provides training and guidance for City staff, boards, and commissions
- Creates ways for community members to engage directly with City government

Why This Matters for Burlington

- Helps the City and community respond to diverse and community-identified needs
- Supports a strong local economy and community resilience.
- Brings diverse perspectives into City decision-making and builds trust.



REIB Charter Change: Budget Clarity

Budget clarity:

- The REIB already exists
- It represents about **0.7% of the City's General Fund**
- At its highest funding level, it has never exceeded **1% of the General Fund**



FY27 General Fund Budget & Police and Fire Tax Rate Increase

NPA Presentation

January-February 2026



FY27 Budget: Big Picture

- Estimated **\$10-12M budget gap** at this time
 - Approx. 10% of City's \$107M budget
- **Current FY27 general fund personnel estimate is \$78.5M (increase of 7.5%)**
- **This is in line with expectations**
 - Still includes estimates for health insurance & worker's comp based on timing of the current fiscal year and self-insured nature of our insurance plan



FY27 Budget: Personnel

- Started with FY26 personnel budget of \$73M
 - Departments recently provided updated information
- New police and fire union contract provisions unanimously supported by City Council and Mayor:
 - Add **2 new firefighters** per BFFA contract FY27
 - **Cost of living adjustments** of 7% (fire) and 4.75% (police). In line with regional salaries for first responders.
 - AFSCME negotiations start in February for FY27 so used a conservative figures for salary/benefits
 - Non-union – used AFSCME estimate as is our recent practice



FY27 Budget: Personnel

- Add required **annual step increases** for all eligible employees
- Increase **employer healthcare costs by 10%**
 - Based on initial estimate and subject to change based on current usage
- Increase **employer retirement costs by 5%**
 - Initial estimate
- Increase **worker's compensation** insurance costs by **5%**
 - Initial estimate



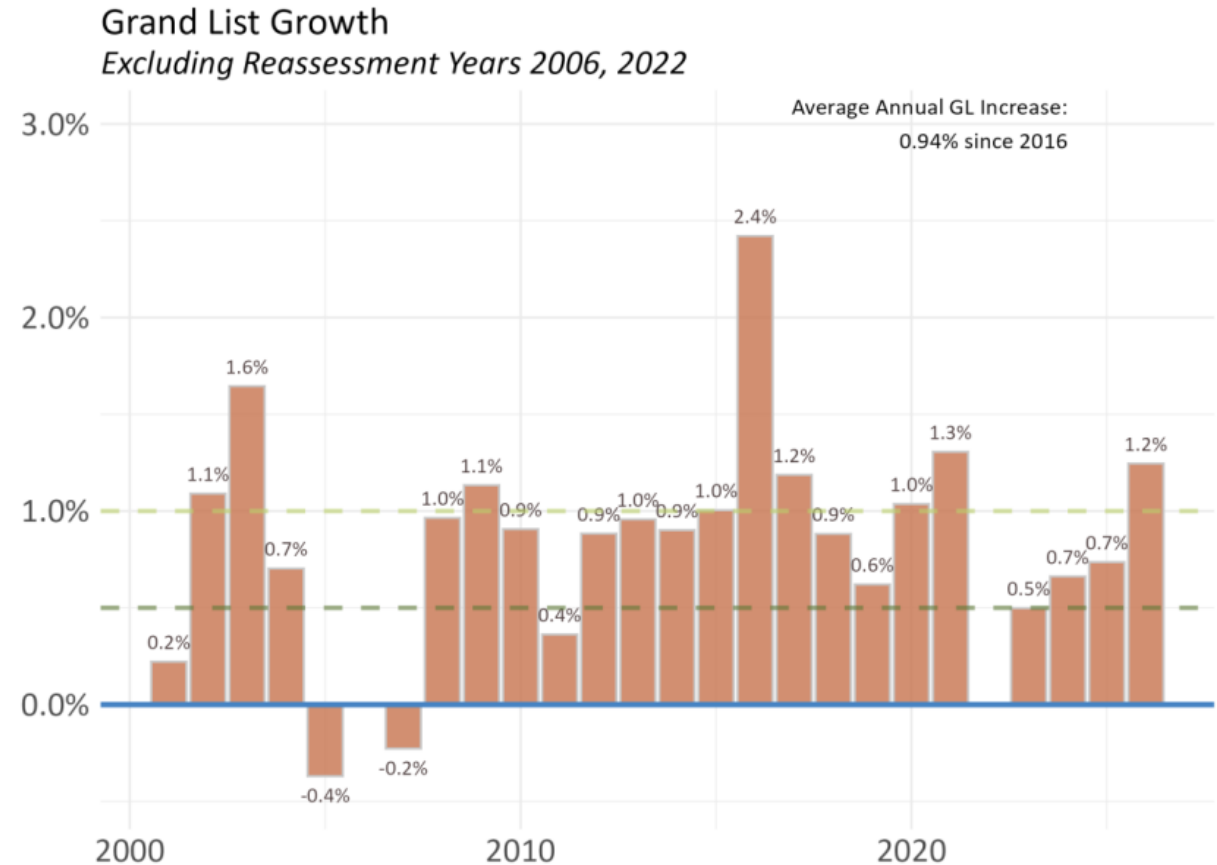
FY27 Budget: Operating

- Add **3% for inflation** on most other non-personnel operating costs
- Added money to have cash available to purchase **9 new vehicles on the urgent/dire need list**: 6 are for Police & Fire, remaining are for Parks
 - Since 2013, City has constrained replacement of vehicles and equipment for budget reasons
 - In 2020, fleet committee estimated City needs \$2.7M/year for sustainable replacement of fleet
 - City has not yet been able to find sustainable fleet money in budget
 - Situation is no longer sustainable for first responders



Why Ongoing Structural Budget Gap?

- Grand List is foundation of our revenue: property taxes.
- Property taxes represent **approximately half** of City's General Fund revenue
 - Other revenue comes from grants, other types of taxes (ex: gross receipts), and fees.
- **Our Grand List grows at a lower rate than our operating costs.**
- **Average annual grand list growth of 1.05% since 2016**
- Note: In FY27, we no longer collect \$1M of business personal property tax revenue, and there is no replacement source of revenue.





Why Ongoing Structural Budget Gap?

- **The City has overly relied on one-time funds.** We are changing this practice and removing historically unachievable revenues from our budget.
- FY26 Included **\$1.2M of ARPA funding** for police and fire salaries that is no longer available.
- FY26 included **\$650k of one-time increased collection** of delinquent property taxes and gross receipts – removing for further discussion.
- Some revenues overbudgeted in recent years, and budget not met – revising downward to make realistic creates an **additional expected gap of \$1.3M**



Why Ongoing Structural Budget Gap?

- The City has grown the size of our workforce, services and programming over the past decade.
- The City added 98 FTEs positions with salaries funded by the General Fund between FY14 – FY24.
 - This is an ongoing operational expense we added with one-time revenue sources in many cases.



Balanced Budget: 3-Part Approach

- A gap of \$10-12M in City budget of \$107M is approximately 10% and will **require a balanced, three-part approach:**
 - Raise Revenue
 - Rightsize Government
 - Realize Strategic Opportunities





Raise Revenue: Raise Police & Fire Tax

- One option to raise revenue is **\$0.05 increase to police & fire tax**
- **Would raise about \$3M toward projected gap**
- Overall expected increase to FY27 compensation and benefits for police & fire is **\$3.05M**
 - Excluding retirement, which is covered by dedicated tax
- Current police & fire tax projected to raise \$6.4M this year
 - In contrast, budgets for those departments are \$39.1M
 - Police & fire tax only raises 16% of costs for the services
- **Bipartisan City Council vote (9-3) to place tax rate increase on TMD March ballot**



Municipal Tax Effect

Note: \$353K is current median assessed value for home or condo in Burlington



Fiscal Year	Muni Tax Rate	Total Muni Tax on \$353K Property	\$ Increase	% Increase
FY22	\$.6704	\$2,367		
FY23	\$.7085	\$2,501	\$134	5.7%
FY24	\$.7523	\$2,655	\$154	6.2%
FY25	\$.8326	\$2,939	\$284	10.7%
FY26	\$.8556	\$3,020	\$81	2.8%
FY27	\$.9363 *	\$3,305	\$285	9.4%



* Proposed rate for FY27 including \$.05 police and tax increase + other increases required by Charter.



Preliminary Early Balanced Solution

Category	Solution	Amount	Notes
Raise Revenue	Increase Police & Fire Property Tax \$.05	\$ 3M	Council approved question to be placed on Town Meeting Day ballot.
Raise Revenue	Utilize One-Time Revenues	\$ 2M	Exploring use of dedicated tax balances from many years previous in appropriate, budget-relieving ways.
Raise Revenue	Enhance Collections	\$ 1M	Examples include parking tickets, ambulance fees and building permits. Refine amount.
Rightsize Government	Reduce Government Expenses 5-10%	\$ 3M	Department Heads made recommendations for further discussion.
Rightsize Government	Create Voluntary Furlough Program	\$ 0.2M	HR moving forward to create voluntary program.
Realize Strategic Opportunities	Sale of City Property	\$ 1M	Vacant properties or used for parking. Would create one-time money and add to ongoing property tax revenue.
	Total	\$ 10.2M	

Numbers are preliminary, and this is just an initial look at one way we could choose to structure the solution.



Summary

- \$10-12M current gap
- Will utilize a three-part approach to handle – raising revenue, rightsizing government, and realizing strategic opportunities
- \$0.05 increase to police and fire tax will raise \$3M, which pays for increases City is obligated to contract to pay to those employees
- Vote happens on Town Meeting Day, March 3
- Each department will present budget to Board of Finance in early April
- Budget drafted by Mayor and must be approved by June 30 by City Council