

# Annual Report



Town of Chester, Vermont  
Calendar Year 2023



ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIRST

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE TOWN OF  
CHESTER, VERMONT

FOR YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31, 2023



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**BREAKDOWN OF GRAND LIST**

2023

Total Education Listed Value	421,880,200
Total Listed Value for Taxation	422,784,678
Total Non-residential Education Value	229,055,766
Total Homestead Education Value	192,824,440
Cable Company	904,478
Veterans Exemptions	760,000
Current Use Exempt Amount (183 properties)	18,178,200

**ANNUAL GRAND LIST TAXABLE VALUE**

2021	3,977,771
2022	3,979,291
2023	4,023,899

**COMPARATIVE TAX RATE TABLE**

YEAR	2023	2022	2021
State Homestead Rate	1.5330	1.4592	1.5401
Non-Residential Tax Rate	1.5875	1.5174	1.5986
Municipal + Local Agreement Rate	.09322	0.8671	0.8554
Total Homestead + Municipal Rate	2.4652	2.3263	2.3595
Total Non-Resident + Municipal Rate	2.5197	2.3845	2.4540

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>		<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
MODERATOR		GREEN MOUNTAIN UNIFIED	
William E. Dakin, Jr.	2024	SCHOOL DISTRICT	
		Rick Alexander	2026
		Jeff Hance	2026
SELECTBOARD		Katherine Murphy	2025
Arunas "Arne" Jonynas, Chair	2026	Lois Perlah	2025
A. Lee Gustafson	2025	Deb Brown	2024
Heather Chase	2024	Josh Schroeder	2024
Peter Hudkins	2024		
Arianna Knapp	2024		
		JUSTICES OF THE PEACE	
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS		Kenneth D. Barrett	
Erron J. Carey	2025	Patricia Budnick	
Shirley Barrett	2024	Heather Chase	
Sue Willis	2026	Robert Crawford	
		Gerald Gleason	
		Susan Kibbe	
		Jessica Krust	
TRUSTEES OF WHITING LIBRARY		Cheryl LeClair	
Donna McNeill-Hudkins	2025	Marilyn Mahusky	
Jesse Bailey	2024	Russell Monier	
Lora Cokolat	2025	Philip Perlah	
Sam Comstock	2024	Tuckerman Wunderle	
William E. Dakin, Jr.	2024		
Matthew Gorsky	2026		
Christopher Burks (appointed)	2024		

OFFICERS APPOINTED

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>		<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER		PLANNING COMMISSION:	
Chief of Police	March, 2024	Cathy Hasbrouck, Chair	March, 2024
		Hugh Quinn	March, 2024
		Peter Hudkins	March, 2025
APPOINTED BY VT BOARD OF HEALTH		Barre Pinske	March, 2026
HEALTH OFFICER		Tim Roper	March, 2026
Michael Randzio	N/A	John Cummings	March, 2025
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER		POUND KEEPER:	
Noah Glover	N/A	Chief of Police	March, 2024
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD		REGIONAL PLANNING REP:	
Robert Greenfield, Chair	March, 2026	Julie Hance	March, 2024
Gary Coger	March, 2024	Derek Suursoo alternate	March, 2024
Harry Goodell	March, 2025	ROAD COMMISSIONER:	
Philip Perlah	March, 2025	Town Manager, Julie Hance	March, 2024
Scott McDonald	March, 2024	SECRETARY TO SELECTMEN:	
Larry Semones, Alternate	March, 2024	Susan Bailey	March, 2024
CEMETERY SEXTON		BOARD OF WASTEWATER DISPOSAL	
Jeffrey Sheldon	March, 2024	Board of Selectmen	
CLERK TO SELECTMEN		SOLID WASTE DISTRICT REP:	
A. Lee Gustafson	March, 2024	Derek Suursoo	March, 2024
SEVCA		TOWN CLERK/TREASURER	
Kathy Poston	October, 2024	Deborah Aldrich	March, 2026
SENIOR SOLUTIONS - COUNCIL		TOWN MANAGER:	
ON AGING		Julie Hance	March, 2024
Linda Stowell	March, 2024	TOWN SERVICE OFFICER:	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		Julie Hance	March, 2024
Town Manager, Julie Hance	March, 2024	TRANSPORT. ADVISORY COUNCIL REP.	
FENCE VIEWERS:		Kirby Putnam	March, 2024
Frank E. Balch	March, 2024	TREE WARDEN:	
Tony Weinberger	March, 2024	Arianna Knapp	March, 2024
Jack Cable	March, 2024	WATER COMMISSIONERS:	
FIRE WARDEN:		Board of Selectmen	
Jeffery Holden	June, 2024	WEIGHER OF COAL	
Ben Whalen, Asst. Fire Warden	June, 2024	Tony Weinberger	March, 2024
FIRST CONSTABLE:		ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	
Jeffrey Holden	March, 2024	Preston Bristow	January, 2024
GREEN UP DAY CHAIRMAN			
Frank Kelley	March, 2024		
INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES AND WOOD			
Tony Weinberger	March, 2024		

TOWN OF CHESTER LAND AND BUILDING ASSETS

DESCRIPTION	ACRES	VALUE	PARCEL #
ACADEMY BLDG - 230 MAIN ST	3.86	\$551,200.00	575031
CEMETERY - 4446 POPPLE DUNGEON RD	0.42	\$1,300.00	130158
CEMETERY - PLEASANT VIEW - 468 HIGH ST	8.9	\$71,600.00	595001
CEMETERY - 176 ADAMS RD	1	\$10,500.00	362000
CEMETERY - 4273 TREBO RD	0.28	\$900.00	272011
CEMETERY - 458 NORTH ST	5.74	\$17,900.00	555007
CEMETERY - BROOKSIDE- 194 MAIN ST	3.8	\$53,800.00	605104
CEMETERY - SMOKESHIRE - 182 CEMETERY RD	0.49	\$800.00	20146
DAN DAVIS LAND & PUMP HOUSE - 80 CANAL S	3	\$106,300.00	605031
HAMMOND PARK - COACH RD	0.55	\$30,500.00	605127
JEFFREY WELL & BARN - 259 & 391 VT RT 103 N	17	\$778,600.00	555042
LAND ONLY (GMUHS TANK SITE)	1	\$3,100.00	432009
LAND ONLY (DODGE LAND) WATER FARM ROAD	9.08	\$50,500.00	100105
LAND ONLY (HADLEY LAND) MAIN ST	14.1	\$40,300.00	575030
LAND ONLY (PECK LAND) WATER FARM ROAD	4	\$39,400.00	100106
LAND ONLY - 1635 VT RT 11 WEST	1.3	\$4,100.00	372010
LAND ONLY - 84 WATER FARM ROAD	40	\$105,000.00	100108
LAND ONLY - 895 VT RT 11 WEST	2	\$6,300.00	382025.4
LAND ONLY - 93 KINGSBURY ROAD	0.25	\$800.00	362041
LAND ONLY - 96 KINGSBURY ROAD	3	\$9,400.00	362043
LAND ONLY - RESERVOIR ROAD	0.2	\$300.00	372001
LAND ONLY (BOUCHARD) SMOKESHIRE RD	0.12	\$400.00	10100
LAND ONLY (COLBETH) GRAFTON RD	0.12	\$15,700.00	605054
LAND ONLY (HALF LOT) MARSHALL RD	0.11	\$10,400.00	625027
LAND ONLY (NORTH ST BRIDGE FIELD)	0.5	\$1,600.00	585069
LAND ONLY (QUIMBY LAND) SCHOOL ST	1.1	\$1,700.00	605072
LAND ONLY (WILEY LOT) 93 COBLEIGH ST	3	\$70,300.00	605007
LAND ONLY-ADAMS AQUIFER - COLBURN RD	30.53	\$88,400.00	525009.2
LIBRARY BUILDING - 117 MAIN ST	0.46	\$753,500.00	605039
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING - 130 PLEASANT ST	4.04	\$4,847,696.00	615093.2
RAINBOW ROCK - GREEN MTN TNPKE	1.84	\$19,000.00	392045.2
RECREATION AREA - 153 LOVERS LANE RD	37.28	\$738,800.00	565056
RESERVOIR - 83 WATER FARM RD	501.35	\$796,400.00	100102
RIVER BANK - VT RT 103 SOUTH	3.47	\$10,800.00	605196
SEWER PLANT - 130 LEGION DRIVE	13.45	\$2,620,700.00	442001
SHEDS - ELM ST	0.63	\$24,800.00	615029
THE GREEN - MAIN ST	1.5	\$4,700.00	605101
TOWN GARAGE - 144 TOWN GARAGE RD	6.12	\$708,000.00	585050
TOWN HALL - 556 ELM STREET	0.41	\$1,046,100.00	585029
WATERTANK - 878 VT RT 103 SOUTH	139.57	\$1,335,200.00	432022
YOSEMITE FIRE HOUSE - 716 DEPOT ST	0.11	\$54,500.00	585024
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>865.68</b>	<b>\$15,031,296.00</b>	

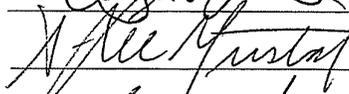
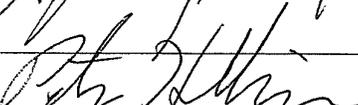
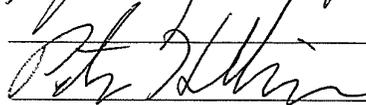
**TOWN OF CHESTER  
WARNING  
NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING**

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be by Australian ballot on March 5, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1:** To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont.
- ARTICLE 2:** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$380,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of providing grant match to complete construction on culvert replacement on Green Mountain Turnpike and paving the Andover Road? Said projects and paving to be financed for a term of 7 years.
- ARTICLE 3:** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$215,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a dump truck for highway in the amount of \$160,000 and a chipper for the highway department in the amount of \$55,000 to be financed for a term of 5 years? This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and are not additions to the town inventory.
- ARTICLE 4:** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing an ambulance to be financed for a term of 10 years? This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and is not an addition to the town inventory.
- ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$3,975,784 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 16, 2024, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 7:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 9:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

- ARTICLE 11:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the MOOver Rockingham to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 12:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and families in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) to Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, Inc. for continued support and services to the citizens of the Town of Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691?
- ARTICLE 17:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) to Neighborhood Connections, Inc. to cover the cost of providing services in Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 18:** Shall the voters of Chester authorize an annual community appropriation of \$4,070.00 to endorse the Mountain Town Connector, a service providing free transportation to residents of Chester?

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

 /s/ Arne Jonynas, Chairman  
 /s/ Lee Gustafson  
 /s/ Heather Chase  
 /s/ Peter Hudkins  
\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Arianna Knapp



December 14, 2023

Selectboard  
Town of Chester, Vermont  
Address of Governmental Unit

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Chester, Vermont for the year ended December 31, 2022. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated October 20, 2022. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### Significant Audit Findings

##### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Town of Chester, Vermont are described in Note 1 of Notes to Financial Statements. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

As described in Note 1 of Notes to Financial Statements, the Town of Chester, Vermont changed accounting policies related to Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB Statement) No. 98, "*The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*" in 2022. There was no impact in the financial statements based on the cumulative effect of these accounting changes.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Chester, Vermont's financial statements were:

- Fair value of investments
- Depreciation expense which is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets
- Pension related assets, liabilities and revenues/expenses which are based on actuarial valuations
- Accrued compensated absences
- Deferred property tax revenues

Management's process for determining the above estimates is based on firm concepts and reasonable assumptions of both historical and future events. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements are reflected in the deposits and investments, capital assets and other long-term obligations footnotes.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent and clear.

#### *Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

#### *Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. A schedule of any uncorrected misstatements has been presented to management with the management representation letter. We did not identify or propose any adjustments of misstatements as a result of audit procedures that were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

#### *Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### *Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 14, 2023.

*Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Town of Chester, Vermont’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

*Other Audit Findings or Issues*

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Town of Chester, Vermont’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

However, we noted certain other matters that we reported to management of the Town of Chester, Vermont in a separate letter dated December 14, 2023.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund, Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, Schedule of Contributions – Pension and Notes to Required Supplementary Information, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund Revenues, Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, capital asset schedules and schedule of expenditures of federal awards, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Selectboard and management of the Town of Chester, Vermont and is not intended to be and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very Best,

RHR Smith & Company, CPAs

DRAFT

# Selectboard Report

The all too common weather events affecting our community are happening on a regular basis. This last summer saw a flooding and rain event that devastated town roads, infrastructure, and property. Not quite as bad as the floods of Irene back in 2011, but nonetheless extensive and costly. The highway crew, along with the help of local contractors, once again put our town roads back into service.

It is difficult to live through weather events like these and not believe that climate change is having a big impact on Vermont. The town and highway department are doing its best to rebuild better and smarter. Located in the convergence of three rivers, Chester has its hands full dealing with weather events which affect our town budget and finances.

A “mini mud season” during this winter also brought challenges to the highway crew that are usually reserved for the spring. I urge citizens to have patience and empathy for our town workers dealing with conditions that are sometimes daunting and challenging. They are doing an excellent job considering the circumstances.

Short term rentals have become a debated topic on a local and state level. The town of Chester has implemented a registration system to gather knowledge and data for future decisions. We have also put a moratorium on new STRs until April 1, 2024, in order to have some time to decide what and if to do anything more on this issue. The topic has been discussed and debated at many of our selectboard and planning commission meetings. Final decisions are coming soon.

The budget process is always a challenge for the selectboard and town manager. Providing the services that citizens require and doing so in a fiscally responsible manner is no easy task in these challenging times. Supply issues, inflation, and soaring medical costs all contribute to the higher expenses of keeping a town running.

Matt Wilson has retired as our Fire Department Chief. He has had a long and distinguished career as chief and in many other aspects of Chester public service life. We all wish him well in his retirement years and thank him for his service to our community.

As a selectboard, we are always trying to do what is in the best interest of our citizens and being fiscally responsible in the process. Citizen participation in town government and affairs helps us to decide how to reach those goals. People being involved and informed about local government activities is crucial. I would like to thank all of the citizens who take the time to make the commitment to attend meetings, volunteer on boards, and belong to community organizations that all make Chester a better place to live and work.

I would also like to thank all of the town employees that keep this town running on a day-to-day basis and in emergencies. We are a community of diverse, caring citizens. Thanks to all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arne Jonynas

## Town Manager's Report And Budget Summary

As we ended 2022, we were hopeful that 2023 would be better, maybe with fewer challenges. However, in addition to continually rising costs throughout the year, the town was also hit with another flooding event in July similar to that of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, as well as additional moderate flooding in early December. Here's hoping for drier weather in 2024!

I would like to thank all Town of Chester employees for their dedication to their jobs and to their community. 2023 was a very challenging year for staff and their hard work really made the difference in managing the conflicts we faced.

This past year also brought some changes to staffing for Chester. Amanda Silva, Ambulance Chief, made some changes in her professional life allowing her to be home with her child. In addition, Fire Chief Matthew Wilson retired from Chester Fire Department after 28 years of service. They were both valuable employees to the Town of Chester and have served our community well for many years.

Michael Randzio was appointed as Ambulance Chief for Chester bringing many new ideas and skills to the service. Michael has earned his Advanced EMT allowing us to respond to more advanced calls and provide improved care. In addition, Chief Randzio has earned his Instructor Certification allowing Chester to perform many trainings in-house. This equals dollars saved and improved quality of training for Chester and the region.

Ben Whalen is stepping in as the Acting Fire Chief until we evaluate the department for future needs and goals. We will be reviewing our initiatives within the Public Safety Department and determining if there are benefits to making the Fire Chief a full time position, as are the Police Chief and Ambulance Chief. Given the rising demands on the public safety departments in our country, coupled with the lack of interest entering these professions on a part time basis and the decline in medical service in our region, many communities are faced with forming full time positions to get the work done.

In terms of budgets and numbers, 2023 was another tough year for the municipal budget, as it has been for all of us in our personal budgets as well. Costs of materials and supplies came close to tripling in many situations. In addition, demands on the ambulance service initiated the need for a second full-time position. With the declining availability in medical care in the region, Chester Ambulance is moving forward in identifying how it can fill community health needs while remaining within its scope of practice. Adjustments have been made to the 2024 budget to better reflect these changes.

The severe flooding in July brought another round of devastation to almost all town roads. The town suffered just over \$2 million in damages. As we did in 2011 with Tropical Storm Irene, expenses from the flood were isolated in a flood account so that there would be minimal impact to the General Fund. The impact is with the town's cash flow. Due to this interruption, we did need to obtain a Capital Expense Note to carry us through. This note will be paid at the end of 2024 with the FEMA expense reimbursements that we receive.

The 2024 budget has several increases distributed throughout all departments. With the existing rates of inflation, it is expected that the town's budget will need to increase as well. These increases include a modest 3% cost of living increase to salaries, the addition of one staff member to assist both the listers and zoning offices and a change in IT support services. However, the primary increase in this budget is within the capital plan contributions. As expected, 2024 is the first year that we begin paying the principal on the Public Safety Building at a cost of approximately \$176,000.

In an effort to keep the overall tax increase down, the Selectboard decided to phase the contribution over two years. This budget reflects an increased contribution of \$88,000, with \$88,000 coming from the ARPA funds. The 2025 budget will reflect the entire contribution. Additionally, the Selectboard has agreed to use a portion of the Capital Fund balance to make the final payment on two loans for the highway department. This will alleviate the amount of transfer from the General Fund. We have tried hard, yet again, to find the balance between not budgeting too tightly and not excessive budgeting. The staff and I feel that this proposed budget strikes that balance.

Capital purchases this year are at a minimum. These purchases include a replacement dump truck and replacing the chipper. Also included is the grant match for paving Andover Road. Bonds are being proposed instead of Capital Loans due to significantly lower interest rates. You will notice that both the Green Mountain Turnpike Culvert and Ambulance are listed as purchases for 2024, though they were approved in 2023. This is due to an error in noticing requirements for bond expenses, therefore we are required to revote these items. As I always like to remind, it is important to note that the capital purchases are contained within the General Fund Budget and are not additional expenses.

All of these efforts and initiatives result in a 2024 General Fund Budget of \$3,975,784. This is an increase of \$279,749 over 2023, approximately \$.07 or 7%. However, removing the principal payment for the EMS building of \$88,000 produces an operational budget increase of \$191,749 or \$0.479 or 4.79%. Being a taxpayer myself, I completely understand the impacts of ever-increasing budgets and how they affect our personal lives. However, with continued increases in inflation in our country, this impacts our local budgets significantly. I can assure you that we are looking at the town's budget in the most conservative way possible while still allowing the town to operate without the need to cut services. This budget reflects the cost of running our town as it stands today.

I, along with the Chester Selectboard, feel that this is a fiscally responsible budget for Chester and encourage the taxpayers to support it with their votes. I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Julie S. Hance  
Town Manager

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
DECEMBER 31, 2023

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES:	ACTUAL
Property Taxes	\$ 9,421,709.56
Licenses/Fees	\$ 26,493.20
General Government	\$ 102,774.70
Public Safety	\$ 423,070.93
Public Works	\$ 425,831.23
Culture & Recreation	\$ 19,946.85
Other Income	\$ 9,368.83
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 10,429,195.30
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Selectboard/Manager	\$ 146,570.91
Administration	\$ 419,083.42
Listers	\$ 54,495.58
Taxes	\$ 4,653.11
Planning	\$ 132,878.02
Insurance	\$ 326,869.50
Police	\$ 753,120.56
Fire	\$ 245,447.96
Ambulance	\$ 274,614.65
Communications	\$ 52,215.50
Highway	\$ 1,336,017.95
Solid Waste	\$ 36,214.40
Health & Welfare	\$ 1,766.72
Recreation Programs	\$ 129,451.57
Parks & Cemeteries	\$ 96,465.25
Library	\$ 124,805.21
Town Hall	\$ 38,018.99
Revitalization	\$ 24,659.38
Recreation Facilities	\$ 35,319.95
Emergency Services Building	\$ 38,553.27
Facilities Director	\$ 80,117.28
Capital Expenditures	\$ 172,364.63
County Tax	\$ 27,438.61
Grant Fund	\$ 40,000.00
Voted Articles	\$ 31,741.00
CTSD Assessment	\$ 5,727,247.54
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,350,130.96
Excess of Revenues over Expenses - General Fund Surplus	\$ 79,064.34

Town of Chester, Vermont  
2024 General Fund Budget  
Adopted 01.17.24

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
<b>01-01-1 Taxes</b>					
01-01-17-00.00 Current Taxes	8,533,812.21	9,165,789.98	8,530,000.00	3,955,063.00	removed school numbers
01-01-17-00.20 Penalty & Interest	82,661.42	80,502.36	83,000.00	83,000.00	
01-01-17-01.00 Railroad Tax	-	1,034.77	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-01-17-01.03 Land Use	160,855.00	161,463.00	160,000.00	160,000.00	
01-01-17-01.06 Pilot Program	12,250.45	12,919.45	12,000.00	12,000.00	
<b>01-01-1 Taxes Total</b>	<b>8,789,579.08</b>	<b>9,421,709.56</b>	<b>8,786,000.00</b>	<b>4,211,063.00</b>	
<b>01-02 Licenses, Permits &amp; Fees</b>					
01-02-15-00.01 Liquor License	1,110.00	925.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	
01-02-15-00.02 Fish & Game	25.50	67.50	50.00	50.00	
01-02-15-00.03 Dog Licenses	984.00	901.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
01-02-15-00.04 Other Licenses	475.00	425.00	500.00	500.00	
01-02-15-00.06 Motor Vehicle Reg.	277.00	201.00	200.00	200.00	
01-02-18-00.01 Planning/Zoning	6,494.00	9,423.70	8,000.00	8,000.00	
01-02-18-00.02 Short Term Rental Fee		14,550.00		15,000.00	
<b>01-02 Licenses, Permits &amp; Fees Total</b>	<b>9,365.50</b>	<b>26,493.20</b>	<b>11,050.00</b>	<b>26,050.00</b>	
<b>01-03 General Govt.</b>					
01-03-15-00.11 Recording Reserve Revenue	38,669.00	30,660.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	
01-03-15-00.17 911 House Numbers	402.66	34.25	50.00	50.00	
01-03-15-00.18 Clerk Fees	6,145.00	5,232.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	
01-03-15-00.19 Miscellaneous	3,566.13	220.46	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-03-15-00.41 Tax Sale Admin.	-	2,530.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-03-15-00.70 Solar Field Rent	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
01-03-15-00.90 American Rescue Act	148,664.37	-			
01-03-15-01.53 Income - Interest	9,139.51	58,097.99	1,000.00	60,000.00	
<b>01-03 General Govt Total</b>	<b>212,586.67</b>	<b>102,774.70</b>	<b>58,050.00</b>	<b>117,050.00</b>	
<b>01-04-2 Public Safety - Income</b>					
<b>01-04-21 Police Dept.</b>					
01-04-21-01.00 Court Fees	7,821.40	43,128.90	30,000.00	60,000.00	
01-04-21-03.00 Other Income-Police	1,125.00	7,258.80	3,000.00	5,000.00	
01-04-21-05.01 PD Services - OKEMO	22,120.00	16,800.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
01-04-21-05.02 PD Services - Other	81,416.25	670.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	
<b>01-04-21 Police Dept Total</b>	<b>112,482.65</b>	<b>67,857.70</b>	<b>98,000.00</b>	<b>130,000.00</b>	
<b>01-04-22 Fire Dept.</b>					
01-04-22-02.00 Hazmat Income		46,808.66		-	
01-04-22-03.00 Other Income-Fire	8,667.98	-	-	2,000.00	
<b>01-04-22 Fire Dept Total</b>	<b>8,667.98</b>	<b>46,808.66</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	
<b>01-04-23 Ambulance Service</b>					
01-04-23-01.00 Revenues-Ambulance	155,882.64	161,909.52	135,000.00	150,000.00	
01-04-23-03.00 Other Income - Ambulance		2,391.30		3,500.00	
01-04-23-04.00 Training Income - Ambulance		200.00			
<b>01-04-23 Ambulance Service Total</b>	<b>155,882.64</b>	<b>164,500.82</b>	<b>135,000.00</b>	<b>153,500.00</b>	
<b>01-04-26 Communication</b>					
01-04-26-01.00 Tower Rent	69,452.01	68,304.57	69,000.00	69,000.00	
01-04-26-02.00 Tower Electric	25.00	-			
<b>01-04-26 Communication Total</b>	<b>69,477.01</b>	<b>68,304.57</b>	<b>69,000.00</b>	<b>69,000.00</b>	
<b>Andover Assessment</b>	<b>55,754.67</b>	<b>75,599.18</b>	<b>75,599.18</b>	<b>83,633.12</b>	
<b>Total Public Safety Income</b>	<b>402,264.95</b>	<b>423,070.93</b>	<b>377,599.18</b>	<b>438,133.12</b>	

Town of Chester, Vermont  
2024 General Fund Budget  
Adopted 01.17.24

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
<b>01-05-3 Public Works Income</b>					
<b>01-05-31 Highway</b>					
01-05-31-11.01 Diesel/Gasoline - Ambulan	3,302.04	2,400.10	2,450.00	2,500.00	
01-05-31-11.02 Diesel/Gasoline - Fire	3,600.39	2,729.25	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-05-31-11.03 Diesel/Gasoline - Police	20,233.19	17,576.86	17,000.00	15,000.00	
01-05-31-11.04 Diesel/Gasoline Sale:Scho	39,969.14	31,404.30	36,000.00	32,000.00	
01-05-31-11.05 Diesel/Gasoline - Sewer	2,330.35	2,006.55	2,100.00	2,000.00	
01-05-31-11.06 Diesel/Gasoline - Water	2,254.68	1,941.40	2,100.00	2,000.00	
01-05-31-12.00 Sale/Material	724.75	-	500.00		
01-05-31-13.00 State Aid	215,803.31	317,186.38	216,000.00	216,000.00	
01-05-31-14.00 Other Income-Highway	580.00	5,056.24			
01-05-31-16.00 Prior Year HW Surplus		-	(53,441.65)	80,000.00	
<b>01-05-31 Highway Total</b>	<b>288,797.85</b>	<b>380,301.08</b>	<b>225,708.35</b>	<b>352,500.00</b>	
<b>Total Public Works Income</b>	<b>288,797.85</b>	<b>380,301.08</b>	<b>225,708.35</b>	<b>352,500.00</b>	
<b>01-07-51 Recreation</b>					
01-07-51-00.09 Andover	3,800.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
01-07-51-00.23 Pool Income	2,296.50	2,402.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-07-51-00.28 Food Sales	131.00		200.00		
01-07-51-00.29 Pavillion Rental	350.00	165.00	300.00	300.00	
01-07-51-00.33 Other Income	12,502.48				
01-07-51-00.36 League Fees	320.00	675.00	500.00	500.00	
<b>01-07-51-00 Recreation Total</b>	<b>19,399.98</b>	<b>7,742.00</b>	<b>8,500.00</b>	<b>8,300.00</b>	
<b>01-07-51-10 Seasonal Sports &amp; Camps</b>					
01-07-51-10.03 Start Smart Camp	30.00	-			
01-07-51-10.11 Sports for Squirts	90.00	127.50	150.00	150.00	
01-07-51-10.12 Baseball	2,337.50	2,506.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-07-51-10.13 Black Fly Camp	1,420.00	1,120.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
01-07-51-10.16 Fall Soccer	2,847.50	2,726.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-07-51-10.18 Soccer Camps	1,640.00	1,556.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
01-07-51-10.19 GM Sports Camp	440.00	45.00	500.00	500.00	
01-07-51-10.20 Basketball	1,860.00	3,565.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
01-07-51-10.21 Girl Basketball Camp	550.00				
01-07-51-10.25 Gymnastics/Dance	640.00		600.00	600.00	
01-07-51-10.27 Volleyball			300.00	300.00	
01-07-51-30-31 Track & Field	81.00	20.00			
01-07-51-10.41 Baseball Camp					
01-07-51-10.43 Tennis Camp			100.00	100.00	
01-07-51-10-52 Wrestling	900.00	249.35	800.00	800.00	
01-07-51-10.53 Climbing Team		190.00		-	
01-07-51-10-54 Wall Climbing	180.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	
<b>01-07-51-10 Sports &amp; Camps Total</b>	<b>13,016.00</b>	<b>12,204.85</b>	<b>11,950.00</b>	<b>11,950.00</b>	
<b>01-07-51 Recreation Total</b>	<b>32,415.98</b>	<b>19,946.85</b>	<b>20,450.00</b>	<b>20,250.00</b>	
<b>01-07-52 Parks &amp; Cemeteries</b>					
01-07-52-00.21 Sale - Lots	1,800.00	2,100.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-07-52-00.22 Grave Preparation	4,000.00	7,250.00	5,000.00	6,000.00	
01-07-52-00.23 Cemetery Funds	1,106.16	4,180.15	2,000.00	3,500.00	
01-07-52-00.25 Perpetual Care	1,500.00	1,750.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-07-52-00.26 Other Income		29,000.00			
01-07-52-00.40 Town Hall Rental	75.00	1,250.00	50.00	500.00	
<b>01-07-52 Parks &amp; Cemeteries Total</b>	<b>8,481.16</b>	<b>45,530.15</b>	<b>12,550.00</b>	<b>15,500.00</b>	
<b>01-08-15 Other Income</b>					
01-08-15-11.00 Poor Funds	908.35	250.77	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-08-15-12.00 Cyprus Minerals	851.50	2,180.33	1,000.00	2,000.00	

Town of Chester, Vermont  
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Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
01-08-15-13.00 School Refund Income	541.96	1,387.73	60,000.00	30,000.00	
01-08-15-15.00 Other Income		5,550.00			
<b>01-08-15 Other Income</b>	<b>2,301.81</b>	<b>9,368.83</b>	<b>62,000.00</b>	<b>33,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>9,745,793.00</b>	<b>10,429,195.30</b>	<b>9,553,407.53</b>	<b>5,213,546.12</b>	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
<b>01-10-11 Selectboard</b>					
01-10-11-10.00 Selectboard Salaries	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	
01-10-11-11.00 Social Security	573.75	573.75	573.75	573.75	
01-10-11-21.00 Expenses	108.49	10.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
<b>01-10-11 Selectboard</b>	<b>8,182.24</b>	<b>8,083.75</b>	<b>9,573.75</b>	<b>9,573.75</b>	
<b>01-10-12 Town Manager</b>					
01-10-12-10.00 Manager Salary	83,798.56	97,114.40	82,000.00	92,000.00	
01-10-12-11.00 Social Security	6,624.04	7,636.84	6,273.00	7,038.00	
01-10-12-14.00 Medical Insurance	17,379.08	19,761.60	19,770.00	21,650.00	
01-10-12-15.00 Life & Disability	98.40	474.96	358.00	358.00	
01-10-12-16.00 Retirement	6,954.69	7,882.49	5,432.50	7,015.00	
01-10-12-21.00 Expenses/Mileage	1,209.00	3,269.47	1,500.00	3,000.00	
Employee Appreciation				2,000.00	
01-10-12-22.00 Education/Training	1,671.35	2,347.40	3,000.00	2,000.00	
<b>01-10-12 Town Manager</b>	<b>117,735.12</b>	<b>138,487.16</b>	<b>118,333.50</b>	<b>135,061.00</b>	
<b>01-10-15 Administration</b>					
01-10-15-10.00 Elections Payroll	1,022.43	276.78	500.00	1,100.00	
01-10-15-10.01 Payroll	170,152.39	200,843.11	182,000.00	203,000.00	
01-10-15-10.11 Treasurer	3,690.48	3,947.49	4,000.00	4,120.00	
01-10-15-11.00 Social Security	15,973.09	18,735.33	14,229.00	15,844.68	
01-10-15-13.00 Workers' Comp		-			
01-10-15-14.00 Medical Insurance	42,069.48	38,348.40	40,827.00	32,400.00	
01-10-15-15.00 Life & Disability	303.40	1,206.76	1,074.00	1,074.00	
01-10-15-16.00 Retirement	9,571.06	10,533.93	12,057.50	13,702.50	
01-10-55-20.00 Transfer Out Recording					
01-10-15-21.00 General Supplies	6,391.94	9,709.93	7,000.00	9,000.00	
01-10-15-21.01 911 House Numbers	350.95		50.00		
01-10-15-21.02 Elections Expense	2,067.50	1,439.15	3,000.00	4,000.00	
01-10-15-22.00 Training	1,657.43	3,484.53	2,000.00	3,000.00	
01-10-15-23.00 Equipment	26,810.47	27,582.84	24,000.00	27,000.00	
01-10-15-25.00 VT State Treasurer			2,500.00		
01-10-15-26.00 Postage	9,150.90	6,040.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	
01-10-15-27.00 Notices	2,641.12	2,149.50	4,000.00	4,000.00	
01-10-15-27.01 Town Report	2,308.00	2,857.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	
01-10-15-34.00 Telephone	12,700.92	12,873.56	10,800.00	11,000.00	
01-10-15-37.00 Computer Service	27,762.08	18,197.03	16,000.00	7,000.00	See Computer line in communications
01-10-15-37.01 Record Restoration	3,892.73	85.27	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-10-15-37.02 Website	500.00	686.50	500.00	500.00	
01-10-15-37.03 NEMRC Software	356.44	1,184.24	500.00	2,100.00	
01-10-15-37.05 SAPA		-	500.00	2,000.00	
01-10-15-37-06 Municipal Music License	513.00	553.00	500.00	550.00	
01-10-15-37-07 Contracted Services	8,968.20	5,145.00	-		
01-10-15-40.00 VLCT	4,886.00	5,062.00	5,000.00	5,217.00	
01-10-15-55.00 Chamber of Commerce	149.00	149.00	150.00	150.00	
01-10-15-56.00 Legal	4,760.63	3,762.15	10,000.00	10,000.00	
01-10-15-57.00 Annual Audit	16,800.00	21,600.00	15,000.00	20,000.00	
01-10-15-82.00 TAN Interest	2,562.50	17,404.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	

Town of Chester, Vermont  
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Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
01-10-15-83.00 Service Charge	2,227.26	5,026.89	2,000.00	4,000.00	
01-10-15-99.00 Unclassified	906.43	200.03	500.00	500.00	
<b>01-10-15 Administration Total</b>	<b>381,145.83</b>	<b>419,083.42</b>	<b>372,187.50</b>	<b>395,258.18</b>	
<b>01-10-16 Listers</b>					
01-10-16-10.00 Salaries	27,310.94	30,092.78	28,000.00	37,000.00	Number of hours needed is expanding/potential split with zoning on FT
01-10-16-11.00 Social Security	2,089.27	2,302.13	2,142.00	2,830.50	
01-10-16-21.00 General Expense	6,894.82	8,767.04	6,000.00	8,000.00	
01-10-16-22.00 Training	167.00	-	500.00	500.00	
01-10-16-22.01 Travel		-	500.00	500.00	
01-10-16-23.00 Equipment	1,204.00	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	
01-10-16-37.00 Computer Service	6,960.65	5,044.88	5,000.00	2,000.00	See computer line in communications
01-10-16-37-01 NEMRC Contract Services	8,487.25	8,288.75	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-10-16-56.00 Legal		-	500.00	500.00	
<b>01-10-16 Listers Total</b>	<b>53,113.93</b>	<b>54,495.58</b>	<b>49,142.00</b>	<b>57,830.50</b>	
<b>01-10-17 Taxes</b>					
01-10-17-21.00 Tax Billing	78.44	-	-	-	
01-10-17-27.00 Advertising		4,620.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-10-17-37.02 State Appeals Decisions			0		
01-10-17-56.01 Tax Sale Service	100.00		500.00	500.00	
01-10-17-63.00 Abatement/Purchase	13.14	33.11	-	-	
<b>01-10-17 Taxes Total</b>	<b>191.58</b>	<b>4,653.11</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	
<b>01-10-18 Planning and Zoning</b>					
01-10-18-10.00 Salary	58,183.23	76,386.58	53,000.00	80,000.00	includes minutes, includes FT Lister/ZA position split with lister
01-10-18-10.11 DRB Salaries	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-10-18-10.12 Planning Salaries	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-10-18-11.00 Social Security	5,163.21	6,497.62	4,054.50	6,120.00	
01-10-18-14.00 Medical Insurance	4,468.32	4,849.26	4,900.00	10,700.00	Inc. Insurance for new position
01-10-18-15.00 Life & Disability	65.60	284.08	358.00	358.00	
01-10-18-16.00 Retirement	1,790.11	3,014.58	3,511.25	5,400.00	
01-10-18-21.00 Enforcement	2,280.58	1,104.81	3,000.00	2,000.00	
01-10-18-21.01 Supplies	1,304.53	352.43	500.00	500.00	
01-10-18-22.00 Travel/Training	389.00	184.00	1,000.00	500.00	
01-10-18-23.00 Computer	2,873.90	2,433.63	2,500.00	-	see communications dept.
01-10-18-27.00 Notices	5,630.77	5,342.25	3,000.00	3,500.00	
01-10-18-27.01 PC Expenses			1,000.00	1,000.00	
Housing Commission Expenses				2,000.00	
01-10-18-29.00 short Term Rental		7,620.14		4,000.00	
01-10-18-40.01 Regional Planning Dues	3,906.50	3,906.50	4,000.00	4,000.00	
01-10-18-56.00 Legal	1,013.50	15,902.14	1,500.00	2,000.00	Julian Quarry
<b>01-10-18 Planning and Zoning Total</b>	<b>92,069.25</b>	<b>132,878.02</b>	<b>87,323.75</b>	<b>127,078.00</b>	
<b>01-10-19 Insurance</b>					
01-10-19-11.00 Social Security	77.42	-	-	-	
01-10-19-12.00 Unemployment	2,804.00	2,272.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	
01-10-19-13.00 Workman's Comp	62,415.28	86,797.10	74,000.00	82,156.00	
01-10-19-14.00 Medical Ins	11,759.46	8,357.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
01-10-19-16.00 Retirement	(375.08)				
01-10-19-18.00 Coinsurance	132,466.80	108,691.40	112,000.00	112,000.00	
01-10-19-19.00 Wellness Program	450.00	-	500.00	500.00	
01-10-19-50.00 Property/Liab.	107,666.04	120,752.00	120,081.00	127,000.00	
<b>01-10-19 Insurance Totals</b>	<b>317,263.92</b>	<b>326,869.50</b>	<b>319,381.00</b>	<b>334,456.00</b>	

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Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
<b>01-11-21 Police Expense</b>					
01-11-21-10.00 Salary	428,854.30	448,068.28	458,000.00	500,000.00	
01-11-21-10.11 Police OT	39,336.77	46,264.61	20,000.00	20,000.00	
01-11-21-10.21 PD Services - OKEMO	15,987.00	15,690.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-11-21-10.22 PD Services - Other	62,520.07	495.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-11-21-10.23 Payroll for other Services	2,316.19				
01-11-21-10.26 Core Payroll	356.43	3,218.75	1,000.00	2,000.00	
<b>01-11-21-10 Total Police Payroll</b>	<b>549,370.76</b>	<b>513,736.64</b>	<b>481,000.00</b>	<b>524,000.00</b>	
01-11-21-11.00 Social Security	42,518.90	39,316.03	36,567.00	39,780.00	
01-11-21-14.00 Medical Insurance	67,280.33	53,213.05	78,935.00	68,735.00	
01-11-21-15.00 Life & Disability	631.40	1,851.29	2,148.00	2,148.00	
01-11-21-16.00 Retirement	35,384.12	36,286.99	36,012.50	38,000.00	
01-11-21-17.00 Uniforms	4,323.96	7,570.27	5,200.00	5,500.00	
01-11-21-21.00 Supplies	10,899.69	8,034.33	7,000.00	8,000.00	
01-11-21-21.01 DARE	262.60	-	300.00	300.00	
01-11-21-22.00 Training	2,608.12	2,593.70	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-11-21-22.01 Travel	587.02	22.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-11-21-23.00 Equipment	14,176.74	19,222.79	16,000.00	16,000.00	
01-11-21-29.01 MDC			-	-	
01-11-21-29.02 Watch Guard	-	324.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-11-21-34.00 Telephone	4,928.12	4,949.36	6,000.00	6,000.00	
01-11-21-37.00 Computer Services	18,672.99	15,388.16	14,000.00	22,000.00	
01-11-21-37.03 Contracted Services	175.00	387.30	-	200.00	
01-11-21-40.00 Police Association	390.00	515.00	900.00	900.00	
01-11-21-56.00 Attorney	19,219.00	14,996.57	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-11-21-56.01 Consulting	18,644.65	85.00	-	-	
01-11-21-68.00 Vehicles-Rep. & Maint	20,317.87	17,051.22	15,000.00	15,000.00	
01-11-21-78.00 Gasoline	20,233.19	17,576.86	17,000.00	17,000.00	
01-11-21-90.00 Capital Plan Contribution	11,126.63	-		32,450.00	
01-11-21-90.00 Capital Plan Cont. fr. Surplus		-			
<b>01-11-21 Police Expense</b>	<b>292,380.33</b>	<b>239,383.92</b>	<b>249,062.50</b>	<b>286,013.00</b>	
<b>01-11-21 Total Police Expense</b>	<b>841,751.09</b>	<b>753,120.56</b>	<b>730,062.50</b>	<b>810,013.00</b>	
<b>01-11-22 Fire Department</b>					
01-11-22-10.00 Salaries	96,688.55	100,707.84	101,000.00	107,000.00	
01-11-22-10.01 Hazmat/Special Detail		1,527.59	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-11-22-11.00 Social Security	7,537.40	7,704.33	7,726.50	8,185.50	
01-11-22-17.00 Uniforms	2,711.97	2,668.44	3,000.00	3,750.00	
01-11-22-21.00 Supplies	2,382.71	2,274.78	1,750.00	1,750.00	
01-11-22-22.00 Training	4,171.36	11,514.31	8,500.00	8,500.00	
01-11-22-22.01 Physicals	2,720.00		3,800.00	3,800.00	
01-11-22-34.00 Phone/Ipad/Data Link			1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-11-22-37.00 Contract Service	220.00	237.50	-	-	
01-11-22-40.00 Association Dues	957.00	649.02	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-11-22-60.00 Hydrant		160.00			
01-11-22-66.00 Equipment	24,830.65	31,533.39	36,600.00	38,000.00	
01-11-22-66.01 Foam Expense		2,065.50	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-11-22-67.00 Radio Maintenance	3,668.86	6,910.10	6,500.00	3,000.00	
01-11-22-67.01 Building Maintenance	356.62	16.55	-		
01-11-22-67.02 Equipment Maintenance	6,673.56	6,505.34	8,000.00	10,500.00	
01-11-22-68.00 Vehicle Maintenance	20,768.07	12,185.01	10,000.00	10,750.00	
01-11-22-76.00 Capital Transfer	74,818.44	56,049.72	56,049.72	56,665.14	
01-11-22-90.00 Bond Transfer					
01-11-22-79.00 Gasoline/Diesel	3,620.56	2,738.54	3,000.00	2,000.00	
<b>01-11-22 Fire Department Totals</b>	<b>252,125.75</b>	<b>245,447.96</b>	<b>253,426.22</b>	<b>261,400.64</b>	

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<b>01-11-23 Ambulance</b>					
01-11-23-10.00 Salaries	97,190.84	129,339.31	85,000.00	120,000.00	
01-11-23-10.01 Ambulance Chief	46,397.26	55,353.48	50,000.00	65,000.00	
01-11-23-10-02 Admin Assist Overtime		4,607.19	-	-	
01-11-23-11.00 Social Security	10,852.54	14,665.72	10,327.50	14,152.50	
01-11-23-13-00 Worker's Comp					
01-11-23-14.00 Medical Insurance	17,359.08	4,215.90	2,820.00	3,100.00	
01-11-23-15.00 Life & Disability	106.60	394.51	358.00	358.00	
01-11-23-16.00 Retirement	3,124.97	5,260.73	3,312.50	4,387.50	
01-11-23-17.00 Uniforms	1,957.52	389.64	2,500.00	5,000.00	
01-11-23-19.00 Bad Debt Expense	9,121.01		-	-	
01-11-23-19.01 Community Health Exp		84.00		500.00	
01-11-23-21.00 General Exp/Supplies	10,962.66	9,325.45	12,000.00	14,000.00	
01-11-23-21.01 Medical Expense		454.96			
01-11-23-22.00 Training	10,770.24	3,077.80	10,000.00	10,000.00	
01-11-23-23.00 Equipment/Computer	5,500.46	2,933.46	2,800.00	3,000.00	
01-11-23-37.00 Billing/Office Expense	2,266.02	1,303.09	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-11-23-37.01 Intercept	13,200.00	10,725.00	5,000.00	10,000.00	
01-11-23-37.02 Medicaid Provider Tax	2,978.03	3,812.53	3,812.53	3,800.00	
01-11-23-37.03 Contract Services	7,241.37	6,752.23	-	10,000.00	
01-11-23-66.00 Equipment	10,860.23	8,095.89	12,000.00	15,000.00	
01-11-23-67.00 Building Maintenance	4.98	75.98			
01-11-23-68.00 Vehicle Maintenance	1,981.88	11,347.68	6,000.00	10,000.00	
01-11-23-78.00 Fuel	3,302.04	2,400.10	2,450.00	2,500.00	
<b>01-11-23 Ambulance Totals</b>	<b>255,177.73</b>	<b>274,614.65</b>	<b>213,380.53</b>	<b>295,798.00</b>	
<b>01-11-26 Communications &amp; Technology</b>					
01-11-26-10.00 Dispatching	23,883.04	29,541.93	35,000.00	35,000.00	
01-11-26-34.01 Telephone	3,449.51	3,444.62	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-11-26-34.02 Cellular Phones	16,876.95	17,520.45	10,980.00	15,000.00	
Computer/IT Services				52,000.00	All depts reflected; includes cloud
01-11-26-67.00 Radio Maintenance		1,708.50	-	2,000.00	
<b>01-11-26 Communications Totals</b>	<b>44,209.50</b>	<b>52,215.50</b>	<b>48,980.00</b>	<b>107,000.00</b>	
<b>01-11-27 Town Constable</b>					
01-11-27-22.00 Constable Training		-	20.00	20.00	
<b>01-11-27 Town Constable Totals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	
<b>01-12-31 Highway</b>					
01-12-31-10.11 Salary & Hourly	483,275.49	431,245.06	516,000.00	533,000.00	
01-12-31-10.12 Highway Overtime	45,304.59	48,962.03	35,000.00	40,000.00	
01-12-31-11.00 Social Security	41,824.10	36,498.81	42,151.50	43,834.50	
01-12-31-14.00 Medical Insurance	111,588.68	132,392.44	132,497.00	147,294.00	
01-12-31-15.00 Life & Disability	787.20	3,197.66	3,222.00	3,222.00	
01-12-31-16.00 Retirement	33,917.60	38,647.55	36,437.50	38,677.50	
01-12-31-17.00 Uniforms	8,241.80	11,248.49	8,000.00	10,000.00	
01-12-31-21.00 Supplies	9,691.22	9,544.04	10,000.00	10,000.00	
01-12-31-21.01 Road Sign Replacement	1,349.67	902.56	2,000.00	3,000.00	
01-12-31-22.00 Training/CDL Reimb.	1,084.00	782.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-12-31-30.01 Garage Utilities	6,393.23	5,265.85	6,300.00	6,000.00	
01-12-31-30.02 Street Lights	26,184.05	29,326.49	25,000.00	25,000.00	
01-12-31-31.00 Garage Water-Sewer	1,550.01	2,862.36	1,500.00	2,500.00	
01-12-31-34.00 Telephone	2,171.94	1,827.86	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-12-31-37.01 Contract Service	23,696.25	6,320.00	12,000.00	10,000.00	
01-12-31-37.02 Mowing	3,350.42	1,354.44	3,500.00	3,500.00	
01-12-31-58-00 Gravel Pit Installation	160.00	-	-		
01-12-31-37-03 ComputerService	1,252.40	1,216.77	1,200.00	-	See communication dept.

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01-12-31-60.00 Culverts	11,245.40	10,818.60	13,000.00	13,000.00	
01-12-31-66.01 Tools/Equipment	3,844.31	4,967.03	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-12-31-66.02 Equipment	15,059.49	13,851.05	12,000.00	15,000.00	plow replacement included
01-12-31-66.03 Chains & Blades	15,079.90	23,090.58	18,000.00	20,000.00	
01-12-31-67.00 Communications			1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-12-31-68.00 Vehicle Maintenance	72,551.63	117,233.96	75,000.00	85,000.00	
01-12-31-69.00 Garage Maint.	7,251.90	16,874.86	5,000.00	7,500.00	powersurge in fire alarm
01-12-31-70.01 Gravel	50,402.73	46,427.40	60,000.00	50,000.00	
01-12-31-70.03 Rip Rap	3,771.03	4,560.00	6,000.00	8,000.00	
01-12-31-71.00 Salt	59,281.74	60,425.77	65,000.00	60,000.00	
01-12-31-72.00 Sand	57,498.00	72,616.00	70,000.00	65,000.00	
01-12-31-73.00 Calcium Chloride	7,786.95	4,838.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	
01-12-31-74.01 Bond Plan Transfer-Paving	219,538.96	199,983.15	199,983.15	198,667.47	
01-12-31-74.02 Hot Mix	3,219.48	2,107.84	5,000.00	4,000.00	
01-12-31-75.00 General Road Permits	2,040.00	2,300.00	2,040.00	2,500.00	
01-12-31-76.00 Capital Plan Transfer Sid	159,924.77	175,329.50	175,329.50	160,969.28	
01-12-31-77.00 Bridge Material	31,740.68	18,521.96	40,000.00	40,000.00	
01-12-31-79.00 Diesel/Gas	188,858.43	180,778.92	120,000.00	120,000.00	
01-31-31-81-00 Paving			-	-	
<b>01-12-31 Highway Totals</b>	<b>1,710,918.05</b>	<b>1,716,319.03</b>	<b>1,718,160.65</b>	<b>1,742,664.75</b>	
<b>Highway Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,710,918.05</b>	<b>1,716,319.03</b>	<b>1,718,160.65</b>	<b>1,742,664.75</b>	
<b>Highway Total Revenues</b>	<b>288,797.85</b>	<b>380,301.08</b>	<b>225,708.35</b>	<b>352,500.00</b>	
<b>Net Highway Budget to be raised:</b>	<b>1,422,120.20</b>	<b>1,336,017.95</b>	<b>1,492,452.30</b>	<b>1,390,164.75</b>	
<b>01-12-32 Solid Waste</b>					
01-12-32-37.02 Transfer Station	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	
01-12-32-95.00 Green Up Day	842.07	1,214.40	1,000.00	1,000.00	
<b>01-12-32 Solid Waste Total</b>	<b>35,842.07</b>	<b>36,214.40</b>	<b>36,000.00</b>	<b>36,000.00</b>	
<b>01-13-41 Health &amp; Welfare</b>					
01-13-41-10.00 Health Officer Salary	2,600.00	200.00	-	-	This is included in Ambulance
01-13-41-11.00 Social Security	193.08	14.87	-	-	
01-13-41-22-00 Training		-	-	-	
01-13-41-55-00 Animal Care		-	-	-	
01-13-41-56-00 Legal	200.00	1,551.85	-	1,000.00	
<b>01-13-41 Health &amp; Welfare Totals</b>	<b>2,993.08</b>	<b>1,766.72</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	
<b>01-14-51 Recreation</b>					
01-14-51-10.00 Rec. Payroll	63,838.37	68,881.48	68,000.00	71,400.00	
01-14-51-10-01 Lifeguard Payroll	13,424.32	13,918.51	17,000.00	19,000.00	
01-14-51-11.00 Social Security	5,700.00	6,205.04	5,202.00	5,462.10	
0114-51-13-00 Worker's Comp		-			
01-14-51-14.00 Medical Insurance	17,359.08	21,408.40	19,770.00	21,619.00	
01-14-51-15.00 Life & Disability	106.60	397.20	358.00	358.00	
01-14-51-16.00 Retirement	4,069.78	4,562.31	4,505.00	4,819.50	
01-14-51-21.00 Babe Ruth Baseball	17.58	-			
01-14-51-21.03 Sports for Squirts	60.00	-	100.00	100.00	
01-14-51-21.04 League Fee Expense	465.75	605.00	500.00	500.00	
01-14-51-21.05 Fall Flag Football	-	25.79	-		
01-14-51-21.06 GM Sports Camp	300.00	-	300.00	300.00	
01-14-51-21.09 Dance Camp	60.00	-	200.00	200.00	
01-14-51-21.12 Black Fly	850.00	880.00	800.00	800.00	
01-14-51-21.13 Baseball	2,983.33	3,148.94	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-14-51-21.15 Tennis		67.94			
01-14-51-21.16 Fall Soccer	1,415.98	1,197.40	1,200.00	1,200.00	
01-14-51-21.18 Soccer Camps	1,019.95	1,250.00	800.00	800.00	

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01-14-51-21.19 Basketball Camp	420.00	1,250.00			
01-14-51-21.20 Basketball	1,472.08	2,041.94	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-51-21.23 Wall Climbing Camp	120.00	200.00	400.00	400.00	
01-14-51-21.24 Winter Carnival	3,202.45	3,140.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	
01-14-51-21-26 Dance/Ballet	450.00	-			
01-14-51-21-27 Volleyball	267.34	-	200.00	200.00	
01-14-51-21-28 Wrestling	732.60	197.23	800.00	800.00	
01-14-51-66.00 Equipment		74.39			
<b>01-14-51 Recreation Total</b>	<b>118,335.21</b>	<b>129,451.57</b>	<b>126,635.00</b>	<b>134,458.60</b>	
<b>01-14-52 Parks &amp; Cemeteries</b>					
01-14-52-10.00 Salary	37,921.81	44,040.78	43,000.00	48,500.00	
01-14-52-11.00 Social Security	1,806.77	3,462.10	3,289.50	3,710.25	
01-14-52-14.00 Medical Insurance	23,145.44	9,909.50	11,286.00	14,656.00	
01-14-52-15.00 Life Insurance	114.80	204.36	358.00	358.00	
01-14-52-16.00 Retirement	1,974.61	3,865.37	2,848.75	3,273.75	
01-14-52-17.00 Uniforms	998.36	1,145.48	700.00	1,200.00	
01-14-52-21.00 Supplies	2,077.97	1,910.13	1,500.00	1,500.00	
01-14-52-30.00 Power on the Green	436.58	559.38	450.00	450.00	
01-14-52-31.00 Water	480.00	502.00	600.00	600.00	
01-14-52-37.01 Contract Labor	200.00	540.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-52-37.02 Trees	8,000.00	8,000.00	-	8,000.00	
01-14-52-55.00 Survey		1,850.00		1,000.00	offset in revenue
01-14-52-66.00 Equipment	1,956.11	1,127.99	1,500.00	1,500.00	Mower & fuel cabinet
01-14-52-69.00 Cemetery Shed	131.24	17,765.29			Offset in revenue
01-14-52-95.01 Memorial Day	613.00	728.88	600.00	750.00	
01-14-52-90-00 Capital/Bond Plan	17,051.28	-	-	-	
01-14-52-99.00 Miscellaneous	482.03	853.99			
<b>01-14-52 Parks &amp; Cemeteries Total</b>	<b>97,390.00</b>	<b>96,465.25</b>	<b>67,132.25</b>	<b>86,498.00</b>	
<b>01-14-55 Library</b>					
01-14-55-21.00 Library Expenses	489.62	989.50	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-55-30.00 Utilities	5,148.70	4,627.13	4,000.00	4,000.00	
01-14-55-31.00 Water/Sewer	696.75	725.16	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-55-32.00 Fuel	5,914.09	4,127.80	4,500.00	3,500.00	
01-14-55-69.00 Repairs/Maint.	15,664.58	16,335.62	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-14-55-90.00 Library Fund	93,000.00	98,000.00	98,000.00	101,000.00	
<b>01-14-55 Library Total</b>	<b>120,913.74</b>	<b>124,805.21</b>	<b>113,500.00</b>	<b>115,500.00</b>	
<b>01-14-56 Town Hall</b>					
01-14-56-21.00 Supplies	2,513.12	2,869.83	2,000.00	3,000.00	
01-14-56-30.00 Utilities	5,858.17	5,602.20	6,000.00	6,000.00	
01-14-56-31.00 Water/Sewer	742.92	769.89	800.00	800.00	
01-14-56-32.00 Fuel	10,294.50	4,309.32	6,000.00	3,500.00	
01-14-56-37.01 Cleaning Service	8,430.00	8,523.00	7,950.00	7,950.00	
01-14-56-37.02 Rubbish	5,534.45	6,422.44	4,000.00	6,000.00	
01-14-56-69.00 Repairs/Maint.	9,134.46	6,505.81	5,000.00	10,000.00	elevator repairs
01-14-56-69-02 Renovations	11,863.49	3,016.50	2,000.00	2,000.00	
<b>01-14-56 Town Hall Total</b>	<b>54,371.11</b>	<b>38,018.99</b>	<b>33,750.00</b>	<b>39,250.00</b>	
<b>01-14-57 Revitalization</b>					
01-14-57-69.01 Website Maintenance	488.16	-	500.00	500.00	
01-14-57-69.02 Historic Facility Mainten	20.58	3,084.68	20,000.00	30,000.00	Yosemite window match (30k)
01-14-57-69-03 Misc Maintenance	1,620.53	92.77	5,000.00	4,000.00	
01-14-57-69-04 Landscaping		1,400.00	1,000.00	1,400.00	
01-14-57-69-05 Info Booth Expense	4,809.24	5,268.71	3,500.00	4,000.00	new paint
01-14-57-69-06 Spring. Reg. Dev. Corp.	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	

Town of Chester, Vermont  
2024 General Fund Budget  
Adopted 01.17.24

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
01-14-57-69-07 Marketing Exp	6,199.95	1,749.30	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-14-57-69-08 Chester Events		3,063.92	4,000.00	4,000.00	
<b>01-14-57 Revitalization Total</b>	<b>23,138.46</b>	<b>24,659.38</b>	<b>45,000.00</b>	<b>58,900.00</b>	
<b>01-14-58 Recreation Facilities</b>					
01-14-58-21.01 Supplies	3,542.13	3,038.11	3,500.00	3,500.00	
01-14-58-21.02 Food Supplies	9.53		200.00	200.00	
01-14-58-22.00 Lifeguard Exp	856.86	975.50	500.00	1,000.00	
01-14-58-23.00 Equipment Purchase	150.88	362.99	500.00	500.00	
01-14-58-29.00 Computer	1,431.05	1,216.77	1,200.00	-	see communication dept.
01-14-58-30.00 Utilities	4,664.64	4,701.14	4,500.00	4,500.00	
01-14-58-31.00 Water/Sewer	1,646.75	1,348.76	1,000.00	1,200.00	
01-14-58-34.00 Telephone	1,376.31	1,388.36	1,000.00	1,500.00	
01-14-58-60.00 Pool Maintenance	4,654.78	4,760.15	6,000.00	2,000.00	
01-14-58-68.01 Vehicle Expense	3,599.96	3,599.96	4,000.00	4,000.00	
01-14-58-69.00 Facility Repair	8,615.38	6,944.79	8,000.00	10,000.00	
01-14-58-69.01 Skating Rink Maintenance		6,309.49	300.00	300.00	
01-14-58-69.02 Disc Golf	613.15	656.25	600.00	700.00	
01-14-58-69.03 Tennis Court		17.68			
01-14-58-69-02 Capital/Bond Plan	9,490.28		-		
<b>01-14-58 Recreation Facilities Total</b>	<b>40,651.70</b>	<b>35,319.95</b>	<b>31,300.00</b>	<b>29,400.00</b>	
<b>01-14-59 Emergency Services Bldg</b>					
01-14-59-21-00 Supplies	2,674.95	2,661.23	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-14-59-30-00 Utilities	18,303.36	16,777.40	12,000.00	13,000.00	
01-14-59-31-00 Water/Sewer	727.68	777.13	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-59-32-00 Fuel	12,559.29	8,712.46	10,000.00	8,000.00	
01-14-59-37-01 Cleaning Service	9,210.00	1,605.00	-	1,800.00	
01-14-59-69-00 Repairs & Maintenance	5,424.58	7,837.10	2,500.00	5,500.00	
01-14-59-69-01 Grounds Maintenance	485.03	182.95	4,000.00	8,000.00	paving work; plants for erosion
01-14-59-69-02 Initial Start Up Expense	4,261.16		-	-	
<b>01-14-59 Emergency Svc Services Bldg</b>	<b>53,646.05</b>	<b>38,553.27</b>	<b>31,500.00</b>	<b>39,300.00</b>	
<b>01-14-60 Facilities Director</b>					
01-14-60-10-00 Salary	40,362.00	53,650.25	50,200.00	56,000.00	
01-14-60-11-00 Social Security	3,080.04	4,056.49	3,840.30	4,284.00	
01-14-60-14-00 Medical Insurance	9,266.40	14,065.20	14,065.00	15,400.00	
01-14-60-15-00 Life & Disability	114.80	333.59	358.00	358.00	
01-14-60-16-00 Retirement	2,935.19	4,280.84	3,325.75	3,780.00	
01-14-60-17-00 Uniforms	470.68	552.10	500.00	500.00	
01-14-60-21-00 Supplies	-	36.99		3,000.00	connex box for storage
01-14-60-68.00 Vehicle Maintenance	667.89	3,141.82		4,000.00	
<b>01-14-60 Facilities Director Total</b>	<b>56,897.00</b>	<b>80,117.28</b>	<b>72,289.05</b>	<b>87,322.00</b>	
<b>01-16-75 Other Govt. Expenditures</b>					
01-16-75-41.00 County Tax	27,284.46	27,438.61	27,000.00	27,500.00	
<b>01-16-75 Other Govt. Expenditures Total</b>	<b>27,284.46</b>	<b>27,438.61</b>	<b>27,000.00</b>	<b>27,500.00</b>	
<b>01-17-80 Transfer Accounts</b>					
01-17-80-40.00 GMUSD Assessment	4,708,544.48	5,727,247.54	4,800,000.00		removing the school numbers
01-17-80-90.00 Transfer - Capital/Bond	242,775.25	172,364.63	172,364.63	259,984.41	
01-17-80-90-01 Transfer - Grant Fund	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	
<b>01-17-80 Transfer Accounts Total</b>	<b>4,991,319.73</b>	<b>5,939,612.17</b>	<b>5,012,364.63</b>	<b>299,984.41</b>	

Town of Chester, Vermont  
2024 General Fund Budget  
Adopted 01.17.24

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>9,696,666.60</b>	<b>10,698,691.04</b>	<b>9,519,442.33</b>	<b>5,234,266.83</b>	
Less L623 (GMUSD)	4,708,544.48	5,727,247.54	4,800,000.00	-	
<b>Other Revenue (less taxes Line 7)</b>	<b>1,211,980.79</b>	<b>1,263,405.32</b>	<b>1,023,407.53</b>	<b>1,258,483.12</b>	
<b>Net Budget voted at Town Meeting</b>			<b>3,696,034.80</b>	<b>3,975,783.71</b>	7%
				279,748.91	total increase amount
<b>01-18-81 Voted Articles</b>					
01-18-81-95.21 Visiting Nurses	13,807.00	13,807.00	13,807.00	13,807.00	
01-18-81-95.22 Health Care & Rehab	3,044.00	3,044.00	3,044.00	3,044.00	
	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
01-18-81-95.25 CT River Transit	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	
01-18-81-95.26 Meals & Wheels	4,000.00	-	-	4,000.00	
01-18-81-95.27 Family Center	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-18-81-95.28 RSVP	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	
01-18-81-95.32 Windsor County Partner	800.00	800.00	800.00	800.00	
01-18-81-95.34 SEVCA	3,040.00	3,040.00	3,040.00	3,040.00	
01-18-81-95.36 Women's Freedom Center	900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00	
01-18-81-95.37 Chester Fireworks		-	2,500.00		
01-18-81-95.87 Community Cares	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	
Mountain Town Connector				4,070.00	
01-18-81-95. Neighborhood Connections	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
<b>01-18-81 Voted Articles Total</b>	<b>35,741.00</b>	<b>31,741.00</b>	<b>34,241.00</b>	<b>39,811.00</b>	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>9,732,407.60</b>	<b>10,730,432.04</b>	<b>9,553,683.33</b>	<b>5,274,077.83</b>	

2024 Capital/Bond Debt Repayment Plan

Revenue	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Ending Balance previous year	\$ 491,527.27	\$ 508,000.00	\$ 279,000.00	\$ 228,705.50	\$ 106,705.50	\$ 184,705.50	\$ 262,705.50	\$ 340,705.50	\$ 418,705.50	\$ 453,705.50
Highway (current expenses)	\$ 380,932.70	\$ 375,312.44	\$ 359,636.75	\$ 354,579.70	\$ 270,412.04	\$ 168,693.88	\$ 116,922.92	\$ 41,682.00	\$ 11,341.00	\$ -
Highway (proposed expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
Highway (rev. sidewalks)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Department (current exp)	\$ 74,818.44	\$ 56,050.20	\$ 56,665.14	\$ 92,369.03	\$ 57,860.00	\$ 56,400.00	\$ 54,875.00	\$ 53,300.00	\$ 51,670.00	\$ -
Fire Department (proposed expense)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Police Department (current exp)	\$ 11,126.63	\$ -	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Police Department (proposed it)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Recreation (Bond Items)	\$ 9,490.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cemetery (Bond Items)	\$ 1,751.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ambulance (Proposed expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other (current expenses)	\$ 242,775.25	\$ 172,364.63	\$ 259,984.41	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
From ARPA towards EMS Gond Pmt	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Water Contribution	\$ 6,556.42	\$ 6,431.53	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer Contribution	\$ 20,871.84	\$ 20,447.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,239,850.11</b>	<b>\$ 1,138,606.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,075,736.30</b>	<b>\$ 1,186,447.04</b>	<b>\$ 942,663.64</b>	<b>\$ 912,600.44</b>	<b>\$ 901,417.54</b>	<b>\$ 898,493.86</b>	<b>\$ 896,949.20</b>	<b>\$ 863,900.60</b>

Current Expenses - Capital Plan:

2019 Loader - 129500/4 yrs/3%	\$ 34,524.96	\$ 33,618.21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2020 Palmer Bridge - 96000/4 yrs/3%	\$ 25,706.78	\$ 25,194.04	\$ 24,669.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2020 Dump Truck - 140,000/5 yrs/3%	\$ 30,968.00	\$ 30,226.00	\$ 29,484.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2020 Backhoe - 110,000/10 yrs/3%	\$ 14,069.00	\$ 13,728.00	\$ 13,387.00	\$ 13,046.00	\$ 12,705.00	\$ 12,364.00	\$ 12,023.00	\$ 11,682.00	\$ 11,341.00	\$ -
2020 Paving - 100,000/4 yrs/2.5%	\$ 26,875.00	\$ 26,250.00	\$ 25,625.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2020 Cruiser - 41,000/4 yrs/2.75%	\$ 11,126.63	\$ 10,868.86	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2021 Dump Truck - 130,000/5 yrs/3%	\$ 29,250.00	\$ 28,681.25	\$ 28,098.28	\$ 27,500.74	\$ 26,888.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2021 Depot Street Sidewalk 2000'	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2022 Pickup Trucks - 85000/4yrs	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 21,250.00
2022 Paving & Popple Dungeon - 210000/7 yrs	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
2022 & 2023 Cruisers - 129,800/4 years	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 32,450.00
2023 Highway Dump Truck 155.0k	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 38,750.00	\$ 38,750.00
Fire Truck - Tanker -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Proposed Expenses - Capital Plan - purchased in 2024 - all proposals will be for bonds in 2024 due to much lower interest rates

2016 (823,065) Other - Land	\$ 69,453.65	\$ 68,079.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
paving - highway	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Recreation	\$ 9,490.28	\$ 9,290.44	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fire	\$ 17,617.98	\$ 17,268.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer	\$ 20,871.84	\$ 20,447.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Water	\$ 6,556.42	\$ 6,431.53	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cemetery	\$ 1,751.28	\$ 1,726.31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2017 (920,000) Fire	\$ 57,200.46	\$ 56,050.20	\$ 56,665.14	\$ 55,369.03	\$ 57,860.00	\$ 56,400.00	\$ 54,875.00	\$ 53,300.00	\$ 51,670.00	\$ -
Highway - equipment	\$ 42,449.00	\$ 41,578.53	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Highway - Const. projects	\$ 53,811.25	\$ 52,723.17	\$ 53,403.76	\$ 52,158.48	\$ 52,073.20	\$ 52,073.20	\$ 52,073.20	\$ 52,073.20	\$ 52,073.20	\$ 52,073.20
2018 (669,000) Highway - Equipr	\$ 56,474.71	\$ 55,478.68	\$ 54,420.99	\$ 53,296.90	\$ 52,073.20	\$ 50,797.77	\$ 49,520.24	\$ 48,242.71	\$ 46,965.18	\$ 45,687.65
Other - Parklet	\$ 5,909.29	\$ 5,811.64	\$ 5,707.94	\$ 5,597.74	\$ 5,477.77	\$ 5,357.80	\$ 5,237.83	\$ 5,117.86	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,875.00
Other - Town Hall	\$ 48,801.71	\$ 47,942.39	\$ 47,029.87	\$ 46,060.07	\$ 45,001.33	\$ 44,042.59	\$ 43,083.85	\$ 42,125.11	\$ 41,166.37	\$ 40,207.63
2019 (300,000) Highway - Paving	\$ 54,817.00	\$ 54,147.00	\$ 53,407.00	\$ 52,657.00	\$ 51,867.00	\$ 51,037.00	\$ 50,207.00	\$ 49,377.00	\$ 48,547.00	\$ 47,717.00
2020 (4,777,194) EMS Building - c	\$ 118,610.60	\$ 118,610.60	\$ 295,246.60	\$ 293,685.00	\$ 291,757.00	\$ 289,757.86	\$ 287,634.68	\$ 284,922.28	\$ 281,695.02	\$ 278,020.14
2021 (250,000) Highway - Paving	\$ 11,987.00	\$ 37,664.30	\$ 37,435.72	\$ 37,178.58	\$ 36,878.58	\$ 36,542.88	\$ 36,149.92	\$ 35,757.92	\$ 35,365.92	\$ 34,973.92

Proposed Expense - Bond Plan - paving in 2024 (\$380,000 - \$335k paving, \$40k GMT)

2023 Paving Bond & GMT Bridge	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
2024 Dump Truck & Chipper 215,000/5 years	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00
Ambulance - 350,000/10 years	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00

Total Expenses:

Carry Forward/Fund Balance	\$ 748,322.84	\$ 813,036.44	\$ 847,030.80	\$ 1,079,741.54	\$ 757,958.14	\$ 649,894.94	\$ 560,712.04	\$ 479,788.36	\$ 443,243.70	\$ 375,195.10
	\$ -	\$ 228,705.50	\$ 106,705.50	\$ 184,705.50	\$ 184,705.50	\$ 262,705.50	\$ 340,705.50	\$ 418,705.50	\$ 453,705.50	\$ 488,705.50

**Town of Chester**  
**Summary of Small Funds**  
**2023**

ACADEMY FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 3,512.25
Interest	\$ -
Income	\$ -
Expenditure	\$ -
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 3,512.25</b>

CHESTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND	
Loan Interest Income	\$ 135.30
Charging Station Income	\$ 1,445.93
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,581.23</b>
Marketing	\$ 142.17
Cobleigh Charging Station	\$ 4,619.77
Labor	\$ -
CDF - Grant/Loan Expense	\$ -
Wayfinding Signage Expense	\$ -
Canopy Projects	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,761.94</b>
Interest Income - Investment	\$ 2,786.59
Bank Charges - Investment	\$ 3,472.85
Gain/Loss	\$ (11,853.93)
<b>Other Income Expense</b>	<b>\$ 5,200.37</b>
Investment Balance 01/01/2023	\$ 407,328.69
Investment Interest Income	\$ 2,786.59
Bank Charges - Investment	\$ (3,472.85)
Gain/Loss	\$ 11,853.93
<b>Investment Balance 3/31/23</b>	<b>\$ 418,496.36</b>

EMS BUILDING FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ (4,693.45)
Interest	\$ -
Feasibility Study	\$ -
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ (4,693.45)</b>

FORFEITURE FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 9,063.59
Interest	\$ -
Income	\$ -
Expenditure	\$ -
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 9,063.59</b>

HURRICANE IRENE FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 93,012.10
Income	\$ -
Act 250 Expense	\$ -
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 93,012.10</b>

account will be made whole at the end of Act 250 permitting

POLICE COMMUNITY RESOURCE	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 1,129.02
Interest	\$ -
Donations	\$ 5,560.75
Fund Transfer	\$ -
Expenditure	\$ (5,649.40)
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 1,040.37</b>

LISTER TRAINING FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 2,686.34
State Payment	\$ -
Expense	\$ -
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 2,686.34</b>

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 5,684.00
Donations	\$ 175.00
Expense	\$ -
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 5,859.00</b>

REAPPRAISAL FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 144,623.65
2023 State of Vermont Payment	\$ 15,895.00
Expense	\$ -
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 160,518.65</b>

RECREATION DONATION FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 9,670.11
Interest	\$ -
Donations	\$ -
Fund Transfer	\$ -
Expenditure	\$ 85.00
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 9,585.11</b>

SAM ADAMS POOR FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 3,768.37
Interest	\$ -
Income	\$ 727.34
Fund Transfer	\$ -
Expenditure	\$ -
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 4,495.71</b>

RECORDING RESERVE FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 49,169.01
Recording Reserve	\$ 10,308.00
Recording Expenditures	\$ (5,091.14)
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 54,385.87</b>

ARPA - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 505,874.16
ARPA Income	\$ -
ARPA Expense *	\$ (199,015.45)
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 306,858.71</b>

STORM 2023	
Balance January 1, 2023	\$ -
Income (FEMA/Insurance)	\$ 20,109.42
July 2023 Storm	\$ (1,834,011.01)
December 2023 Storm	\$ (106,499.77)
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ (1,920,401.36)</b>

## TOWN CLERK/TREASURER'S OFFICE REPORT

In 2019, Assistant Town Clerk Amie O'Brien started a three-year weeklong course to become a Certified Municipal Clerk. The New England Municipal Clerks Institute (NEMCI) is a weeklong course every year in July at Plymouth State College. The course was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid. In 2022 Amie got to continue her education, was elected President of her class, and has worked very hard to complete this intense course. In July 2023, Amie graduated from NEMCI and can now apply to become a Certified Municipal Clerk through the International Institute for Municipal Clerks. Bookkeeper, Cil Mathews retired in 2023. She will be greatly missed by everyone in the office. Laurie Roser was hired as the new Finance Director.

Our land records are available online at [chester.vt.publicsearch.us/](https://chester.vt.publicsearch.us/), back to 1982. At some point we would like to digitize the remainder of the land records back to the 1800's.

The Elections for 2024 are as follows:

- Town Meeting and floor vote is March 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Second Floor.
- Town and School Voting March 7, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, Second Floor.
- Major Party Primary August 13, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, Second Floor.
- General Election November 5, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, Second Floor.

An absentee ballot can be requested at the Town Clerk's Office, by calling (802) 875-2173, emailing [deborah.aldrich@chestervt.gov](mailto:deborah.aldrich@chestervt.gov) or [amie.obrien@chestervt.gov](mailto:amie.obrien@chestervt.gov), or on the My Voter Page at [mvp.vermont.gov](https://mvp.vermont.gov). Vermont offers same day voter registration. To register to vote visit the Town Clerk's Office or go online to [olvr.vermont.gov](https://olvr.vermont.gov).

We encourage voters to log in to the My Voter Page at [mvp.vermont.gov](https://mvp.vermont.gov) to learn more. On the My Voter Page, a registered voter can check registration status, view information on upcoming elections, access voter specific elections information including directions to a polling place and polling hours, view a sample ballot, request and track an absentee ballot, and much more.

There are many services offered at the Town Clerk's Office, which include: Dog Licenses; Motor Vehicle Renewals, accompanied by the renewal form that you receive from the State along with a check made out to the VT DMV and \$3 separate to the town; Fish & Game Licenses; Springfield Recycling Center stickers and punch cards; Marriage Licenses; Voter Registration.

All dogs must be registered by April 1, 2024. The costs are as follows: Neutered/Spayed = \$9.00, Non-Neutered/Spayed = \$13.00. After April 1: Neutered/Spayed = \$11.00, Non-Neutered/Spayed = \$17.00. There will be a Rabies Clinic on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Chester Public Safety Building located at 130 Pleasant Street. Rabies shots are \$15.00 per dog or cat. Dog licenses will be available at the Rabies Clinic for Chester residents.

Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. However, staff are available outside of these hours if prior arrangements are made. Property taxes will be due September 16, 2024, and Water/Sewer billing is done quarterly February, May, August, and November.

I would like to thank our Office Staff, Amie O'Brien, Assistant Town Clerk; Laurie Roser, Finance Director; and Julie Hance, Town Manager. Also. Highway and Water/Sewer Departments, Police Department and Fire and Ambulance Services and the citizens of Chester for your dedication and hard work to the Town of Chester. If you have any questions, please give us a call at the Town Office (802) 875-2173.

Deborah J. Aldrich, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Amie O'Brien, Assistant Town Clerk

# **2024 DOG AND CAT RABIES CLINIC CHESTER, VERMONT**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024, 10:30 a.m. to Noon  
at the Chester Public Safety Building**

**Rabies shot cost \$15 per animal**

**Dog Licenses are available for Chester residents**

**Reminder to renew dog licenses by April 1:  
Neutered: \$9; Non-Neutered: \$13**

**After April 1:  
Neutered: \$11; Non-Neutered: \$17**



## TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSA). Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, resources are limited by the number of dogs licensed as required by law by 6 months of age. A rabies vaccination is required to license. The first vaccination can be given at 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a vet office, Community Animal Aid (free to those on public assistance: 734-0259 at the E. Barre Fire Station) & Tractor Supply host monthly clinics. After vaccinating, contact your Town Clerk to license your dog. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be seized. Rabies is in Vermont and it is deadly.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event bitten by an animal, but would still need immediate medical attention. Vaccinations and licensing protect if they bite another animal or person, which could result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanized. If not proven by being licensed to be currently vaccinated, testing for rabies requires the brain to be examined.

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: [VSNIP.Vermont.Gov](http://VSNIP.Vermont.Gov). VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you'll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. **Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.**

**Facts:** Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The "mom" cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if not neutered. Resolve Carpet Cleaner and a single moth ball in its place will help deter from repeat markings. (Do not use moth balls with young children in the house.) 70% of cats and 15% of dogs using VSNIP are reported as strays or abandoned, which is cruel and illegal. Please do promote VSNIP, helping those that cannot afford to neuter, that will otherwise reproduce over and over. Repeat litters can cause uterine infection, mammary tumors, kidney failure, etc., leading to death. "Farm" cats are especially at risk. Be wary of any seller of animals that won't allow you to see how they are kept before acquiring and want to meet in a parking lot. Animals are often used as a means of making money, and their life may be the inside a room or cage. Please be the voice for those that cannot speak. Purchasing does not 'save' one, it 'enables' those to continue to misuse animals for money. Thank you for promoting this time proven program.

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard "Snook" Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are! **Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!** 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP      Executive Director: VVSA

## 2023 VITAL STATISTICS

Federal regulations (Intelligence Reform Law and the Real ID Act) have been issued and one of the areas affected is accessibility to vital records. These regulations have resulted in a more stringent protocol for obtaining certified copies and a tracking system for those who request certified copies. States have been required to implement new security standards regarding accessibility to birth and death certificates.

With fraud and identity theft on the increase and for the protection of the public, statistical information only will be printed.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please feel free to give us a call or stop by the office.

Deborah J. Aldrich, Town Clerk  
Amie O'Brien, Assistant Town Clerk

Statistical information for 2023:  
Civil Marriages - 26  
Births - 9  
Deaths – 34  
Burials – 17

### **Vital Records Law (Act 46) and What It Means for You**

The Vermont Legislature passed Act 46 and the changes went into effect July 1, 2019, which significantly changes the state laws that govern vital records –namely, birth and death certificates. The new law and rules will enhance the safety and security of birth and death certificates, provide better protection against misuse of these legal documents, and reduce the potential for identity theft. Additionally, the changes streamline the entire statewide system for creation, storage and tracking of birth and death certificates. Act 46 will impact anyone who seeks a copy of a Vermont birth or death certificate.

The most notable changes are:

- Only family members (as defined in Act 46), legal guardians, certain court-appointed parties, or legal representatives of any of these parties can apply to obtain a certified copy of a birth or death certificate. In the case of a death certificate only, the funeral home or crematorium handling disposition may apply for a certified copy.
- An individual must complete an application and show valid identification when applying for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate.
- An individual who refuses to complete the application or cannot provide valid identification will be ineligible and referred to the Vital Records Office.
- Certified copies of birth and death certificates can be ordered from any town, not just where the birth or death occurred or where the person was a resident.
- Certified copies will be issued on anti-fraud paper.
- Access to noncertified copies (previously called “informational” copies) is not significantly changed by the new law or rules.
- Marriage, civil union, divorce or dissolution certificate copies and processes are not affected by the new law or rules.

## 2023 LISTERS REPORT

The Listers processed 178 transfers of ownership in 2023, down from 191 in 2022. We noted a number of people settling permanently in former second homes.

Market values continue to rise across the state. It is likely Chester will be required to do a reappraisal given this year's results. Many towns are under reappraisal orders and there is a shortage of approved vendors who can perform reappraisals in Vermont. Bill H 480 passed by the 2023 legislature proposes a 6-year revaluation cycle for all towns. This bill could determine how Chester will conduct the reappraisal. Chester completed its last reappraisal in 2020.

Tax maps and residential property lister cards are available online through a link on the Town of Chester website. Commercial property lister cards are available on the Lister page of the website.

Lister office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM or by appointment.

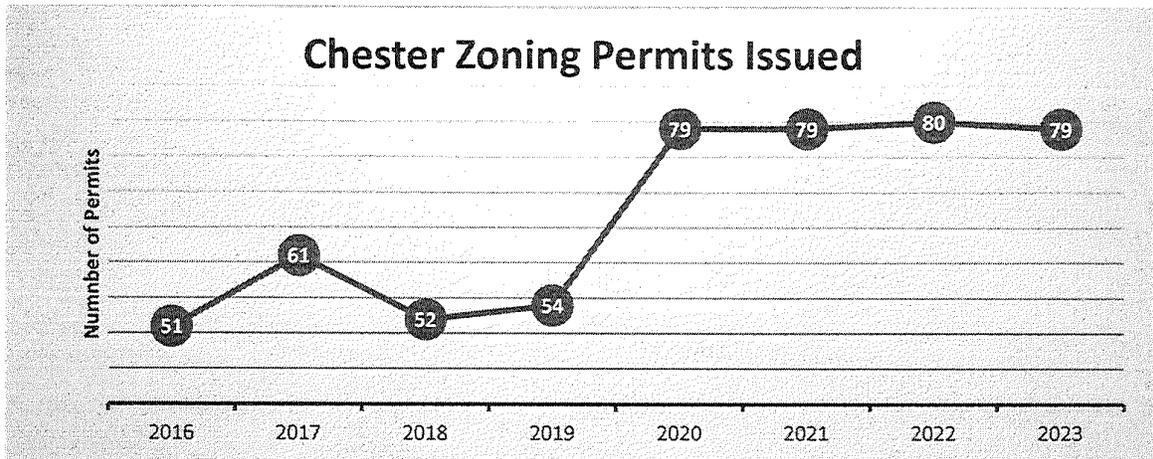
Phone: 802.875.2173      Email: [listers@chestervt.gov](mailto:listers@chestervt.gov)

## Town Planner and Zoning Administrator

It is my pleasure to serve as Chester's Town Planner and Zoning Administrator, having been hired in May of 2021. I live in Woodstock and my career spans 24 years with the Vermont Land Trust and 18 years in municipal planning and zoning.

As Zoning Administrator, I issue zoning permits and oversee their compliance, and provide staff support to the Development Review Board. Signs, home occupations, home businesses, changes in use, subdivisions, boundary line adjustments, new construction, and additions all require a zoning permit. The Town of Chester webpage ([www.chestervt.gov](http://www.chestervt.gov)) contains a lot of good information including the Unified Development Bylaws and permit application forms.

Like many Windham and Windsor County towns, Chester saw a 2020 jump in zoning permits due to the pandemic, urban crime, and a shift to remote work. This trend has remained remarkably constant through 2023.



As Town Planner, I provide staff support to the Planning Commission in all facets of its work including updates of the Town Plan and amendments to the Unified Development (Zoning) Bylaws. I also work with the Planning Commission, Town Manager, and Select Board to identify and resolve obstacles to providing affordable housing, essential businesses, and employment opportunities within the Town.

Beginning in 2023, the Town of Chester requires annual registration for all short-term rentals of private dwellings not associated with inns, hotels and lodging establishments (which are regulated in other ways), and **56 short-term rentals** have been registered. We believe this is an accurate count of the current number of short-term rentals in town. I am grateful for Cathy Hasbrouck's help in implementing the short-term rental registry as well as updates to the zoning bylaws, drafting DRB decisions, and advice on all things Chester.

### Preston Bristow

Town Planner and Zoning Administrator

(802) 875-2173

[zoning@chestervt.gov](mailto:zoning@chestervt.gov)

Town Hall office hours: Monday-Thursday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and by appointment

## Planning Commission

Leveraging the services of the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission and our Town Planner, the Planning Commission made significant progress modernizing our Unified Development Bylaws (UDB's). The primary objective of this year's work was to support the needs of Chester by providing a land use framework that reduces barriers for businesses and creates opportunities for more workforce housing. Here are some of the key activities and accomplishments for 2023:

- Updated the Administrative section of the UDB's to allow:
  - Up to two ADU's on residential properties.
  - Expanded capabilities for both Home Occupations and Home Businesses.
  - A comprehensive list of uses that are exempt from requiring a zoning permit.
  - Additional flexibility for non-conforming lots and structures.
- Created a new zoning district, Open Space, that defines and protects the floodway fringe areas in and around the Village Center. Protecting this land from development will maintain its ability to store flood water which can lessen the impact of flooding.
- Updated the Village Center or Non-Rural districts to reduce lot sizes and setbacks in areas serviced by public water and sewer and allow buildings with up to 4 dwelling units without requiring a DRB hearing. The primary objective is to facilitate additional housing density, where appropriate, by reducing zoning barriers.
- The Planning Commission has standing membership on the newly formed Housing Commission whose mission is to facilitate a strong, sustainable inclusive community and quality affordable housing.
- Provided guidance and support to the Select Board as they continue to evaluate how best to manage the fast-paced Short Term Rental landscape in Chester.

Looking ahead into 2024 we will partner with the community as we move forward with the required updates to the Rural zoning districts and pursue new opportunities to help keep Chester a thriving and healthy community. We welcome and encourage input from all Chester constituents.

Hugh Quinn, Planning Commission Chair [PCChair@chestervt.gov](mailto:PCChair@chestervt.gov)  
Tim Roper, Cathy Hasbrouck, Barre Pinske, John Cummings

## Development Review Board

The DRB is a 5-member quasi-judicial board that makes decisions on conditional uses, development in floodplain, subdivisions, appeals, dimensional waivers, and variances. The DRB had an active year and held public hearings on 18 applications in 2023: 5 for commercial uses, 3 for boundary line adjustments, 2 for subdivisions, 2 for driveway bridges in floodplain, 2 for food trucks, plus a campground, a quarry, a cell tower, and a carport to cover police cruisers. Sixteen applications were approved with conditions and two are ongoing.

Robert Greenfield, DRB Chair  
Gary Coger, Harry Goodell, Philip Perlah, Scott McDonald, Larry Semones (Alternate)

General Government Budget

2024

	2022	2023	2023	2024	
Account	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget Notes
<b>01-01-1 Taxes</b>					
01-01-17-00.00 Current Taxes	8,533,812.21	9,165,789.98	8,530,000.00	3,955,063.00	numbers
01-01-17-00.20 Penalty & Interest	82,661.42	80,502.36	83,000.00	83,000.00	
01-01-17-01.00 Railroad Tax	-	1,034.77	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-01-17-01.03 Land Use	160,855.00	161,463.00	160,000.00	160,000.00	
01-01-17-01.06 Pilot Program	12,250.45	12,919.45	12,000.00	12,000.00	
<b>01-01-1 Taxes Total</b>	<b>8,789,579.08</b>	<b>9,421,709.56</b>	<b>8,786,000.00</b>	<b>4,211,063.00</b>	
<b>01-02 Licenses, Permits &amp; Fees</b>					
01-02-15-00.01 Liquor License	1,110.00	925.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	
01-02-15-00.02 Fish & Game	25.50	67.50	50.00	50.00	
01-02-15-00.03 Dog Licenses	984.00	901.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
01-02-15-00.04 Other Licenses	475.00	425.00	500.00	500.00	
01-02-15-00.06 Motor Vehicle Reg.	277.00	201.00	200.00	200.00	
01-02-18-00.01 Planning/Zoning	6,494.00	9,423.70	8,000.00	8,000.00	
01-02-18-00.02 Short Term Rental Fee		14,550.00		15,000.00	
<b>01-02 Licenses, Permits &amp; Fees Total</b>	<b>9,365.50</b>	<b>26,493.20</b>	<b>11,050.00</b>	<b>26,050.00</b>	
<b>01-03 General Govt.</b>					
01-03-15-00.11 Recording Reserve	38,669.00	30,660.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	
01-03-15-00.17 911 House Number	402.66	34.25	50.00	50.00	
01-03-15-00.18 Clerk Fees	6,145.00	5,232.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	
01-03-15-00.19 Miscellaneous	3,566.13	220.46	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-03-15-00.41 Tax Sale Admin.	-	2,530.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-03-15-00.70 Solar Field Rent	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
01-03-15-00.90 American Rescue A	148,664.37	-			
01-03-15-01.53 Income - Interest	9,139.51	58,097.99	1,000.00	60,000.00	
<b>01-03 General Govt Total</b>	<b>212,586.67</b>	<b>102,774.70</b>	<b>58,050.00</b>	<b>117,050.00</b>	
<b>01-08-15 Other Income</b>					
01-08-15-11.00 Poor Funds	908.35	250.77	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-08-15-12.00 Cyprus Minerals	851.50	2,180.33	1,000.00	2,000.00	
01-08-15-13.00 School Refund Inco	541.96	1,387.73	60,000.00	30,000.00	
01-08-15-15.00 Other Income		5,550.00			
<b>01-08-15 Other Income Total</b>	<b>2,301.81</b>	<b>9,368.83</b>	<b>62,000.00</b>	<b>33,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>9,013,833.06</b>	<b>9,560,346.29</b>	<b>8,917,100.00</b>	<b>4,387,163.00</b>	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
<b>01-10-11 Selectboard</b>					
01-10-11-10.00 Selectboard Salarie	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	
01-10-11-11.00 Social Security	573.75	573.75	573.75	573.75	
01-10-11-21.00 Expenses	108.49	10.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
<b>01-10-11 Selectboard Total</b>	<b>8,182.24</b>	<b>8,083.75</b>	<b>9,573.75</b>	<b>9,573.75</b>	

General Government Budget

2024

	2022	2023	2023	2024	
Account	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget Notes
<b>01-10-12 Town Manager</b>					
01-10-12-10.00 Manager Salary	83,798.56	97,114.40	82,000.00	92,000.00	
01-10-12-11.00 Social Security	6,624.04	7,636.84	6,273.00	7,038.00	
01-10-12-14.00 Medical Insurance	17,379.08	19,761.60	19,770.00	21,650.00	
01-10-12-15.00 Life & Disability	98.40	474.96	358.00	358.00	
01-10-12-16.00 Retirement	6,954.69	7,882.49	5,432.50	7,015.00	
01-10-12-21.00 Expenses/Mileage	1,209.00	3,269.47	1,500.00	3,000.00	
Employee Appreciation				2,000.00	
01-10-12-22.00 Education/Training	1,671.35	2,347.40	3,000.00	2,000.00	
<b>01-10-12 Town Manager Total</b>	<b>117,735.12</b>	<b>138,487.16</b>	<b>118,333.50</b>	<b>135,061.00</b>	
<b>01-10-15 Administration</b>					
01-10-15-10.00 Elections Payroll	1,022.43	276.78	500.00	1,100.00	
01-10-15-10.01 Payroll	170,152.39	200,843.11	182,000.00	203,000.00	
01-10-15-10.11 Treasurer	3,690.48	3,947.49	4,000.00	4,120.00	
01-10-15-11.00 Social Security	15,973.09	18,735.33	14,229.00	15,844.68	
01-10-15-14.00 Medical Insurance	42,069.48	38,348.40	40,827.00	32,400.00	
01-10-15-15.00 Life & Disability	303.40	1,206.76	1,074.00	1,074.00	
01-10-15-16.00 Retirement	9,571.06	10,533.93	12,057.50	13,702.50	
01-10-55-20.00 Transfer Out Recording					
01-10-15-21.00 General Supplies	6,391.94	9,709.93	7,000.00	9,000.00	
01-10-15-21.01 911 House Number	350.95		50.00		
01-10-15-21.02 Elections Expense	2,067.50	1,439.15	3,000.00	4,000.00	
01-10-15-22.00 Training	1,657.43	3,484.53	2,000.00	3,000.00	
01-10-15-23.00 Equipment	26,810.47	27,582.84	24,000.00	27,000.00	
01-10-15-25.00 VT State Treasurer			2,500.00		
01-10-15-26.00 Postage	9,150.90	6,040.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	
01-10-15-27.00 Notices	2,641.12	2,149.50	4,000.00	4,000.00	
01-10-15-27.01 Town Report	2,308.00	2,857.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	
01-10-15-34.00 Telephone	12,700.92	12,873.56	10,800.00	11,000.00	
01-10-15-37.00 Computer Service	27,762.08	18,197.03	16,000.00	7,000.00	
01-10-15-37.01 Record Restoration	3,892.73	85.27	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-10-15-37.02 Website	500.00	686.50	500.00	500.00	
01-10-15-37.03 NEMRC Software	356.44	1,184.24	500.00	2,100.00	
01-10-15-37.05 SAPA		-	500.00	2,000.00	
01-10-15-37-06 Municipal Music License	513.00	553.00	500.00	550.00	
01-10-15-37-07 Contracted Service	8,968.20	5,145.00	-		
01-10-15-40.00 VLCT	4,886.00	5,062.00	5,000.00	5,217.00	
01-10-15-55.00 Chamber of Commerce	149.00	149.00	150.00	150.00	
01-10-15-56.00 Legal	4,760.63	3,762.15	10,000.00	10,000.00	
01-10-15-57.00 Annual Audit	16,800.00	21,600.00	15,000.00	20,000.00	
01-10-15-82.00 TAN Interest	2,562.50	17,404.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-10-15-83.00 Service Charge	2,227.26	5,026.89	2,000.00	4,000.00	
01-10-15-99.00 Unclassified	906.43	200.03	500.00	500.00	
<b>01-10-15 Administration Total</b>	<b>381,145.83</b>	<b>419,083.42</b>	<b>372,187.50</b>	<b>395,258.18</b>	

General Government Budget  
2024

	2022	2023	2023	2024	
Account	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget Notes
<b>01-10-16 Listers</b>					
01-10-16-10.00 Salaries	27,310.94	30,092.78	28,000.00	37,000.00	is expanding/potential split with zoning on FT
01-10-16-11.00 Social Security	2,089.27	2,302.13	2,142.00	2,830.50	
01-10-16-21.00 General Expense	6,894.82	8,767.04	6,000.00	8,000.00	
01-10-16-22.00 Training	167.00	-	500.00	500.00	
01-10-16-22.01 Travel		-	500.00	500.00	
01-10-16-23.00 Equipment	1,204.00	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	
01-10-16-37.00 Computer Service	6,960.65	5,044.88	5,000.00	2,000.00	communications
01-10-16-37-01 NEMRC Contract S	8,487.25	8,288.75	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-10-16-56.00 Legal		-	500.00	500.00	
<b>01-10-16 Listers Total</b>	<b>53,113.93</b>	<b>54,495.58</b>	<b>49,142.00</b>	<b>57,830.50</b>	
<b>01-10-17 Taxes</b>					
01-10-17-21.00 Tax Billing	78.44	-	-	-	
01-10-17-27.00 Advertising		4,620.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-10-17-37.02 State Appeals Decisions			0		
01-10-17-56.01 Tax Sale Service	100.00		500.00	500.00	
01-10-17-63.00 Abatement/Purcha	13.14	33.11	-	-	
<b>01-10-17 Taxes Total</b>	<b>191.58</b>	<b>4,653.11</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	
<b>01-10-18 Planning and Zoning</b>					
01-10-18-10.00 Salary	58,183.23	76,386.58	53,000.00	80,000.00	FT Lister/ZA position split with lister
01-10-18-10.11 DRB Salaries	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-10-18-10.12 Planning Salaries	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-10-18-11.00 Social Security	5,163.21	6,497.62	4,054.50	6,120.00	
01-10-18-14.00 Medical Insurance	4,468.32	4,849.26	4,900.00	10,700.00	
01-10-18-15.00 Life & Disability	65.60	284.08	358.00	358.00	
01-10-18-16.00 Retirement	1,790.11	3,014.58	3,511.25	5,400.00	
01-10-18-21.00 Enforcement	2,280.58	1,104.81	3,000.00	2,000.00	
01-10-18-21.01 Supplies	1,304.53	352.43	500.00	500.00	
01-10-18-22.00 Travel/Training	389.00	184.00	1,000.00	500.00	
01-10-18-23.00 Computer	2,873.90	2,433.63	2,500.00	-	
01-10-18-27.00 Notices	5,630.77	5,342.25	3,000.00	3,500.00	
01-10-18-27.01 PC Expenses			1,000.00	1,000.00	
Housing Commission Expenses				2,000.00	
01-10-18-29.00 short Term Rental		7,620.14		4,000.00	
01-10-18-40.01 Regional Planning	3,906.50	3,906.50	4,000.00	4,000.00	
01-10-18-56.00 Legal	1,013.50	15,902.14	1,500.00	2,000.00	Julian Quarry
<b>01-10-18 Planning and Zoning Total</b>	<b>92,069.25</b>	<b>132,878.02</b>	<b>87,323.75</b>	<b>127,078.00</b>	
<b>01-10-19 Insurance</b>					
01-10-19-11.00 Social Security	77.42	-	-	-	
01-10-19-12.00 Unemployment	2,804.00	2,272.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	



## Citizens Advisory Committee

The Chester, VT Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was established under the direction of the Selectboard in 2023. The Committee was created to act as a resource for the Town of Chester and the Chester Police Department to assist in the formation of strategies, development of community policing concepts, increasing public awareness, furthering engagement and transparency efforts, and help to identify best practices. The Committee is intended to provide a forum for discussions concerning community issues and the goal is to have a broad spectrum of viewpoints represented.

The five members of the CAC meet the second Tuesday of the month at the Chester Town Hall. To date, the CAC has organized into four sub-committees: Communication, Personnel, Policy Review, and Community Awareness. The CAC welcomes the community's input. A simple google form [<https://forms.gle/OH53GetuGH8xkqjZ6>] is available for questions, commendations, and/ or recommendations. The CAC can be reached at the following email address as well. [cac.chester.vt@gmail.com](mailto:cac.chester.vt@gmail.com)

Lastly, the Town of Chester and the Citizens Advisory Committee wants your feedback on the historic floods of 2023. The QR code below will take you to a google form that will help gather information so we can all be better prepared. Thanks for your input.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE – 2023



The Chester Police Department would like to again thank the Chester Community for its ongoing and continued support. Throughout the past year we have been building many more relationships with the community and establishing more partnerships with you. We have opened many lines of communication which is helping to build community policing participation. It is our community and the community's police department.

We are continuing with the community policing philosophy here at Chester Police Department. We have established a Police Advisory Board to assist us with many aspects of the department. We meet monthly and encourage the community to attend and give us input in these meetings. Please see the write-up from our Advisory Board to see what has been taking place over the past year.

The Chester Police Department continued to undergo several more changes in staffing during the 2023 calendar year. The changes of significance were that of Officer Michael Keefe joining the department as one of our full-time staff members. Mike brings over 25 years of experience as a police officer in Vermont with him. The second addition is that of Officer Craig Watrous. Craig was hired as a part time officer with the department and has over 10 years' experience in Vermont law enforcement. With the addition of these officers, it brings Chester Police Department ranks to 4 full-time and 4 part-time officers. We are currently looking for an experienced officer to fill the vacant full-time Lieutenants position.

Now that staffing issues have settled in, this has allowed us to continue to partner in the implementation of making Chester Public Safety function and run as a true Public Safety concept department to better serve you. All Chester officers are Vermont State Certified First Responders. Our administrative staff is also certified. This allows us to respond immediately to your emergency or staff the ambulance if personnel are needed. With the PD full-time, and a staff member of the ambulance full-time, this cuts down on response time by having the personnel ready and available. Some of the police officers are also cross trained as firefighters, most times being able to change hats and staff the fire department side of the house. We are continuing to work to find better and more efficient ways to serve the community by working with our partners in Chester Public Safety, our colleges at Chester Ambulance and Chester Fire Department.



There has been a lot going on in the past year and I'll summarize some of it up for you. You may have noticed a different look to the officer's uniforms. Some small modifications to the uniforms themselves and transitioning from ball cap type hats to new style police covers for all officers has provided a much more professional look to the uniform. Also, the Chester Legion Auxiliary donated funds so that 5

officers could be outfitted with Class A dress uniforms. This is something we did not have but needed for more formal police activities. We appreciated this donation very much.

The PD took possession of two new cruisers in 2023. The one due last year and this year's car early. This was done to lock in any rates and guarantee that we were able to get this year's car, as there has been a shortage at times of the ability to get police vehicles. 2024 is now the off year for cruiser purchases and we will be looking forward to that in 2025. Our new cruisers also have a new look to them as you have seen.

We have been able to gain quite a bit of equipment and uniforms through applying for grants to cover the costs, so the community had little to no cost to them. This included over \$4000 in coats, almost \$30,000 in new portable and cruiser radios, \$3600 in bullet proof vests (total cost \$9600 and filed paperwork to have the full amount covered over the \$3600). There are other applications in the process as we are always looking for other sources of funding from outside the Town when possible.

You should have noticed a lot more traffic enforcement throughout the Town over this past year 2023. In 2022, the total traffic stops were 86. In 2023, we increased traffic stops to 969 stops which is a significant increase of approximately 91%. We also added to our local traffic ordinances, adding specifically some of the commercial motor vehicle violations. We have more work to do, and we are off to a very productive start through 2023. We are continuing our CORE (Community Oriented Radar Enforcement Program) and have collaborated with the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance on a grant to enforce speed, DUI, aggressive driving and, mobile device enforcement to the area through a state grant.

We are working on our EOC (Emergency Operations Center) looking for funding sources for building upgrades, communications upgrades, live stream information, mapping programming, and much more. Within this, we are also fine tuning the Towns Emergency Management Plan and working with partners in that specific field of expertise. We are also looking at the potential of starting a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) of volunteers to assist Public Safety with numerous tasks in the future. More to come on that in 2024 hopefully.



It has been a pleasure to serve the community and be a part of the community in 2023. We are here for you and always looking for ways to improve our service to you. Please be safe and have a great 2024!

Respectfully,

Chief Thomas Williams  
Chester Police Department

# REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF

The Chester Fire Department responded to the following calls in 2023:

Types of Calls:	# of Calls	Types of Calls:	# of Calls
Structure Fires Chester	4	Structure Fires Chester	4
Structure Fires Andover	2	Structure Fires Andover	2
Structure Fires Mutual Aid	11	Structure Fires Mutual Aid	11
Rekindle Fires	0	Rekindle Fires	0
Room/Contents Fires	0	Room/Contents Fires	0
Building Electrical Fires	0	Building Electrical Fires	0
Chimney Fires	5	Chimney Fires	5
Vehicle Fires	6	Vehicle Fires	6
Appliance Fires	0	Appliance Fires	0
Oven Fires	0	Oven Fires	0
Oil/Wood/LP Burner Fires	0	Oil/Wood/LP Burner Fires	0
Trash/Rubbish Fires	0	Trash/Rubbish Fires	0
Dumpster Fires	0	Dumpster Fires	0
Gas Grill Fires	0	Gas Grill Fires	0
Illegal Fires	2	Illegal Fires	2
Forest/Brush/Grass Fires	2	Forest/Brush/Grass Fires	2
Brush/Grass Fires Mutual Aid	2	Brush/Grass Fires Mutual Aid	2
Water Leak Hazards	1	Water Leak Hazards	1
Motor Vehicle Crashes	34	Motor Vehicle Crashes	34
Motor Vehicle Crashes/Extrication	2	Motor Vehicle Crashes/Extrication	2
Low/High Angle Rescues	1	Low/High Angle Rescues	1
Swift Water/Flooding/Ice Rescues	24	Swift Water/Flooding/Ice Rescues	24
Snow/ATV Woods Rescue/Recov	4	Snow/ATV Woods Rescue/Recov	4



2023 has been a year of major incidents, great teamwork, and also change. Our call volume held steady with recent trends and total incidents came to 255, of this 229 incidents were in Chester and 26 were in Andover. Our numbers this year were driven up by winter weather in March and by the flooding events in July. Other notable call numbers include 6 structure fires within the towns of Chester (4) and Andover (2); as well as response to 11 more structure fires to our mutual aid partners. You will see in the call chart that we had high volumes of car accidents, fire alarms, and technical rescue incidents.

After the retirement of Fire Chief Wilson in January 2024 I was honored to take over as acting Fire Chief. I look forward to working with our members, other departments, and the community as we continue to move forward. By the time Town Meeting occurs in March we should have a vacant Captains position filled and we look forward to the new leadership.

After years of fundraising by the Yosemite Engine Company and countless hours of training by Chester firefighters, our technical rescue skills were put to the test in 2023. After learning from our mistakes during Hurricane Irene, the department wanted to be prepared for future water related incidents. The idea of

having a Swiftwater team was met with resistance as Irene was considered a once in a lifetime storm. During the July 2023 flooding Chesters team rescued twenty-four individuals and evacuated countless more in Chester and Andover. Chesters Technical Rescue Team is now one of 11 municipal departments/teams endorsed by and supported by the State of Vermont Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR). The state provides equipment, training, and financial reimbursement and in return the team can be deployed throughout the state. In addition to our water rescues, Chester also performed a high angle rescue in the hills of Smokeshire.

As mentioned, Chester Fire Department has also experienced lots of Change. In 2023 we had several folks leave this year including FF. Nick Trask, FF. Lucas Trask, FF. Amber Wilson, Captain George Niesuchouski, and Fire Chief Matthew Wilson. Together they had a total of sixty-five years of experience and their presence on the fire ground and in the fire house is missed greatly. We thank every single one of them for all they gave, all whom they protected, and for their lasting effects on the town and department. We wish them all nothing but the best.



Training continues to be our best method of being prepared for any emergency we may be called for. Firefighters continue to train a minimum of three times a month in topics including but not limited to hose handling, search and rescue, vehicle extrication, firefighting tactics, hazardous materials, pumps/hydrants, and technical rescue. Chester Fire hosted the National Fire Academy for Strategies and Tactics for Initial Company Officers, Pumping Apparatus Driver Operator program from the Vermont Fire Academy, a 16 hour Technical Rescue Class by CMC Rescue, and also had members attend advanced vehicle stabilization, fire ground safety seminars, and Confined Space Rescue. Currently 2 members are in the 240 hour FFI/FFII program at the Vermont Fire Academy with 3 more preparing to start the FFII program.

The Yosemite Engine Company, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the Chester Fire Department has continued to be a huge asset to the fire department. This organization is made up of current and past firefighters and their efforts are monumental. This year alone the organization donated \$15,000 to bettering the department and its members. I will speak more about this in the Yosemite Engine Company Report.

All of the credit and praise of the Fire Department falls back on the members. Without their commitment to the community, selfless actions, and passion for helping others nothing would be possible. They spend countless hours away from their families in all hours of the day and subject themselves to personal risk both physically and mentally. Your work and efforts shall not go unnoticed.

We wish to thank the communities of Chester and Andover for your continued support. Our department would not be able to function as it does without you.

Ben Whalen, Fire Chief  
Chester Vermont Fire Department

# Chester Ambulance Service



Chester Ambulance Service has had another busy year. We were requested to respond to 476 emergency calls and interacted with over 500 patients. 43 of these calls were to Andover and another 36 calls were for mutual aid to surrounding communities of Ludlow, Cavendish, Rockingham, Springfield, and Grafton.

This year we experienced a lot of changes in both staff and functions. We have grown with the returning of previous members and education opportunities that were provided by instructors we now have in-house.

Chester Ambulance Service was able to certify the Chester Police Department as Vermont Emergency First Responders (VEFR). This allows the Police Department to better assist us when needed but also provide a quicker response. Providing a more inclusive public safety response for the community.

Through the support of the community and select board we were able to hire a second full-time provider. This provided vital coverage in the station 7 days a week. Additionally, this improved our response times but also limited the need for mutual aid services.



More services were offered to the community such as CPR/AED/First aid classes and Stop the bleed. We had trained over 30 community members in these classes. We also assisted several individuals with life alert, mobility devices and other crucial safety issues. We plan to continue offering these to the community and grow what we can do.

2023 was filled with new experiences for Chester Ambulance and we are excited to see what 2024 brings. We continue to look for more members and ways to build the service. I want to thank all of our members for the amazing work they do for this community and the many hours they put in. I feel very fortunate to work with this group of individuals.

Sincerely,

Michael Randzio  
Chief of Chester Ambulance

Public Safety Budget  
2024

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
<b>01-04-2 Public Safety - Income</b>					
<b>01-04-21 Police Dept.</b>					
01-04-21-01.00 Court Fees	7,821.40	43,128.90	30,000.00	60,000.00	
01-04-21-03.00 Other Income-Police	1,125.00	7,258.80	3,000.00	5,000.00	
01-04-21-05.01 PD Services - OKEMO	22,120.00	16,800.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
01-04-21-05.02 PD Services - Other	81,416.25	670.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	
<b>01-04-21 Police Dept Total</b>	<b>112,482.65</b>	<b>67,857.70</b>	<b>98,000.00</b>	<b>130,000.00</b>	
<b>01-04-22 Fire Dept.</b>					
01-04-22-02.00 Hazmat Income		46,808.66		-	
01-04-22-03.00 Other Income-Fire	8,667.98	-	-	2,000.00	
<b>01-04-22 Fire Dept Total</b>	<b>8,667.98</b>	<b>46,808.66</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	
<b>01-04-23 Ambulance Service</b>					
01-04-23-01.00 Revenues-Ambulance	155,882.64	161,909.52	135,000.00	150,000.00	
01-04-23-03.00 Other Income - Ambulance		2,391.30		3,500.00	
01-04-23-04.00 Training Income - Ambulance		200.00			
<b>01-04-23 Ambulance Service Total</b>	<b>155,882.64</b>	<b>164,500.82</b>	<b>135,000.00</b>	<b>153,500.00</b>	
<b>01-04-26 Communication</b>					
01-04-26-01.00 Tower Rent	69,452.01	68,304.57	69,000.00	69,000.00	
01-04-26-02.00 Tower Electric	25.00	-			
<b>01-04-26 Communication Total</b>	<b>69,477.01</b>	<b>68,304.57</b>	<b>69,000.00</b>	<b>69,000.00</b>	
<b>Andover Assessment</b>	<b>55,754.67</b>	<b>75,599.18</b>	<b>75,599.18</b>	<b>83,633.12</b>	
<b>Total Public Safety Income</b>	<b>402,264.95</b>	<b>423,070.93</b>	<b>377,599.18</b>	<b>438,133.12</b>	
<b>Public Safety Expenses:</b>					
<b>01-11-21 Police Expense</b>					
01-11-21-10.00 Salary	428,854.30	448,068.28	458,000.00	500,000.00	
01-11-21-10.11 Police OT	39,336.77	46,264.61	20,000.00	20,000.00	
01-11-21-10.21 PD Services - OKEMO	15,987.00	15,690.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-11-21-10.22 PD Services - Other	62,520.07	495.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-11-21-10.23 Payroll for other Serv	2,316.19				
01-11-21-10.26 Core Payroll	356.43	3,218.75	1,000.00	2,000.00	
<b>01-11-21-10 Total Police Payroll</b>	<b>549,370.76</b>	<b>513,736.64</b>	<b>481,000.00</b>	<b>524,000.00</b>	
01-11-21-11.00 Social Security	42,518.90	39,316.03	36,567.00	39,780.00	
01-11-21-14.00 Medical Insurance	67,280.33	53,213.05	78,935.00	68,735.00	
01-11-21-15.00 Life & Disability	631.40	1,851.29	2,148.00	2,148.00	
01-11-21-16.00 Retirement	35,384.12	36,286.99	36,012.50	38,000.00	
01-11-21-17.00 Uniforms	4,323.96	7,570.27	5,200.00	5,500.00	
01-11-21-21.00 Supplies	10,899.69	8,034.33	7,000.00	8,000.00	

Public Safety Budget  
2024

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
01-11-21-21.01 DARE	262.60	-	300.00	300.00	
01-11-21-22.00 Training	2,608.12	2,593.70	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-11-21-22.01 Travel	587.02	22.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-11-21-23.00 Equipment	14,176.74	19,222.79	16,000.00	16,000.00	
01-11-21-29.01 MDC			-	-	
01-11-21-29.02 Watch Guard	-	324.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-11-21-34.00 Telephone	4,928.12	4,949.36	6,000.00	6,000.00	
01-11-21-37-00 Computer Services	18,672.99	15,388.16	14,000.00	22,000.00	
01-11-21-37-03 Contracted Services	175.00	387.30	-	200.00	
01-11-21-40.00 Police Association	390.00	515.00	900.00	900.00	
01-11-21-56.00 Attorney	19,219.00	14,996.57	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-11-21-56-01 Consulting	18,644.65	85.00	-	-	
01-11-21-68.00 Vehicles-Rep. & Maint	20,317.87	17,051.22	15,000.00	15,000.00	
01-11-21-78.00 Gasoline	20,233.19	17,576.86	17,000.00	17,000.00	
01-11-21-90-00 Capital Plan Contribution	11,126.63	-		32,450.00	
01-11-21-90-00 Capital Plan Cont. fr. Surplus		-			
<b>01-11-21 Police Expense</b>	<b>292,380.33</b>	<b>239,383.92</b>	<b>249,062.50</b>	<b>286,013.00</b>	
<b>01-11-21 Total Police Expense</b>	<b>841,751.09</b>	<b>753,120.56</b>	<b>730,062.50</b>	<b>810,013.00</b>	
<b>01-11-22 Fire Department</b>					
01-11-22-10.00 Salaries	96,688.55	100,707.84	101,000.00	107,000.00	
01-11-22-10.01 Hazmat/Special Detail		1,527.59	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-11-22-11.00 Social Security	7,537.40	7,704.33	7,726.50	8,185.50	
01-11-22-17.00 Uniforms	2,711.97	2,668.44	3,000.00	3,750.00	
01-11-22-21.00 Supplies	2,382.71	2,274.78	1,750.00	1,750.00	
01-11-22-22.00 Training	4,171.36	11,514.31	8,500.00	8,500.00	
01-11-22-22.01 Physicals	2,720.00		3,800.00	3,800.00	
01-11-22-34.00 Phone/Ipad/Data Link			1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-11-22-37-00 Contract Service	220.00	237.50	-	-	
01-11-22-40.00 Association Dues	957.00	649.02	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-11-22-60.00 Hydrant		160.00			
01-11-22-66.00 Equipment	24,830.65	31,533.39	36,600.00	38,000.00	
01-11-22-66.01 Foam Expense		2,065.50	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-11-22-67.00 Radio Maintenance	3,668.86	6,910.10	6,500.00	3,000.00	
01-11-22-67-01 Building Maintenance	356.62	16.55	-		
01-11-22-67-02 Equipment Maintenance	6,673.56	6,505.34	8,000.00	10,500.00	
01-11-22-68.00 Vehicle Maintenance	20,768.07	12,185.01	10,000.00	10,750.00	
01-11-22-76-00 Capital Transfer	74,818.44	56,049.72	56,049.72	56,665.14	
01-11-22-90-00 Bond Transfer					
01-11-22-79.00 Gasoline/Diesel	3,620.56	2,738.54	3,000.00	2,000.00	
<b>01-11-22 Fire Department Totals</b>	<b>252,125.75</b>	<b>245,447.96</b>	<b>253,426.22</b>	<b>261,400.64</b>	

Public Safety Budget  
2024

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
<b>01-11-23 Ambulance</b>					
01-11-23-10.00 Salaries	97,190.84	129,339.31	85,000.00	120,000.00	
01-11-23-10.01 Ambulance Chief	46,397.26	55,353.48	50,000.00	65,000.00	
01-11-23-10.02 Admin Assist Overtime		4,607.19	-	-	
01-11-23-11.00 Social Security	10,852.54	14,665.72	10,327.50	14,152.50	
01-11-23-13.00 Worker's Comp					
01-11-23-14.00 Medical Insurance	17,359.08	4,215.90	2,820.00	3,100.00	
01-11-23-15.00 Life & Disability	106.60	394.51	358.00	358.00	
01-11-23-16.00 Retirement	3,124.97	5,260.73	3,312.50	4,387.50	
01-11-23-17.00 Uniforms	1,957.52	389.64	2,500.00	5,000.00	
01-11-23-19.00 Bad Debt Expense	9,121.01		-	-	
01-11-23-19.01 Community Health Exp		84.00		500.00	
01-11-23-21.00 General Exp/Supplies	10,962.66	9,325.45	12,000.00	14,000.00	
01-11-23-21.01 Medical Expense		454.96			
01-11-23-22.00 Training	10,770.24	3,077.80	10,000.00	10,000.00	
01-11-23-23.00 Equipment/Compute	5,500.46	2,933.46	2,800.00	3,000.00	
01-11-23-37.00 Billing/Office Expense	2,266.02	1,303.09	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-11-23-37.01 Intercept	13,200.00	10,725.00	5,000.00	10,000.00	
01-11-23-37.02 Medicaid Provider Ta	2,978.03	3,812.53	3,812.53	3,800.00	
01-11-23-37.03 Contract Services	7,241.37	6,752.23	-	10,000.00	
01-11-23-66.00 Equipment	10,860.23	8,095.89	12,000.00	15,000.00	
01-11-23-67.00 Building Maintenance	4.98	75.98			
01-11-23-68.00 Vehicle Maintenance	1,981.88	11,347.68	6,000.00	10,000.00	
01-11-23-78.00 Fuel	3,302.04	2,400.10	2,450.00	2,500.00	
<b>01-11-23 Ambulance Totals</b>	<b>255,177.73</b>	<b>274,614.65</b>	<b>213,380.53</b>	<b>295,798.00</b>	
<b>01-11-26 Communications &amp; Technology</b>					
01-11-26-10.00 Dispatching	23,883.04	29,541.93	35,000.00	35,000.00	
01-11-26-34.01 Telephone	3,449.51	3,444.62	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-11-26-34.02 Cellular Phones	16,876.95	17,520.45	10,980.00	15,000.00	
Computer/IT Services				52,000.00	All depts reflected; includes cloud
01-11-26-67.00 Radio Maintenance		1,708.50	-	2,000.00	
<b>01-11-26 Communications Totals</b>	<b>44,209.50</b>	<b>52,215.50</b>	<b>48,980.00</b>	<b>107,000.00</b>	
<b>01-11-27 Town Constable</b>					
01-11-27-22.00 Constable Training		-	20.00	20.00	
<b>01-11-27 Town Constable Totals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	
<b>Total Public Safety Expenses</b>	<b>1,393,264.07</b>	<b>1,325,398.67</b>	<b>1,245,869.25</b>	<b>1,474,231.64</b>	
<b>Total Public Safety Income</b>	<b>402,264.95</b>	<b>423,070.93</b>	<b>377,599.18</b>	<b>438,133.12</b>	
<b>Total Public Safety Budget:</b>	<b>990,999.12</b>	<b>902,327.74</b>	<b>868,270.07</b>	<b>1,036,098.52</b>	

## Highway Department Town Report 2023

I would like to give a shout out to the highway crew for their dedication and patience working with me to get projects completed this past year. I'd also like to thank the public for their patience and cooperation throughout the year.

The Chester Highway Department kept busy in 2023. Winter was pretty mild followed by a mud season that was reasonable. Unfortunately, the Town Highway is preparing for a 2024 mud season that could be rough. Due to all the rain throughout the summer/fall and parts of winter, the water table is extremely high with some already rough, muddy areas.



Spring 2023 started the work season off with a Better Back Roads project on Lovers Lane Road that consisted of two culvert replacements, stone lining, and bank stabilization. The next Better Back Roads grant is intended for Roach Road with the same improvements. Crushing in the town pit was the next project, which produced 6,000 yards of material. This was followed by the flooding event that occurred on July 10, 2023, which resulted in damage to almost every town road, some being minor and some being major. The rest of the summer, the Highway Crew worked many hours along with several contractors to put our roads back together. I would like to give special thanks to all the contractors that assisted the department in putting things back together. The town was able to remove some gravel from the river in five locations. This material was brought to the pit on Water Farm Road to be processed in 2024 for sand and gravel for town roads.

Bridge work continued in 2023 with some repairs to bridge #52 in Popple Dungeon where one abutment was undermined due to flooding. Concrete was dumped under the abutment for restabalization. The Jewett Road bridge received a superstructure replacement just before winter due to beams deteriorating. This work was completed throughout a 2 week period after closure.

In 2024, the Highway Crew intends to do several culvert upgrades along with a Grant in Aid project on Amsden Hill Road. The 2024 season will consist of additional deck replacements. A membrane and asphalt layer will be applied to Blue Hill Road bridge. Repairs will also include a new structure on Green Mountain Turnpike along with curbing work on several bridges throughout town. The town will resume paving projects this coming year. Andover Road is the next roadway to be paved. The road will get approximately 15 culvert replacements, a reclaim of the existing asphalt followed by a two-inch base layer and a two-inch overlay. The town will be applying for the Two for One Grant through the State of Vermont to help alleviate expenses for this project. The department received a new six-wheel dump truck in 2023. The 2024 budget will also include a new six-wheel dump truck and chipper replacement.



Kirby Putnam  
Public Works Director

Public Works Budget  
2024

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
<b>01-05-3 Public Works Income</b>					
<b>01-05-31 Highway</b>					
01-05-31-11.01 Diesel/Gasoline - Ar	3,302.04	2,400.10	2,450.00	2,500.00	
01-05-31-11.02 Diesel/Gasoline - Fir	3,600.39	2,729.25	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-05-31-11.03 Diesel/Gasoline - Po	20,233.19	17,576.86	17,000.00	15,000.00	
01-05-31-11.04 Diesel/Gasoline Sale	39,969.14	31,404.30	36,000.00	32,000.00	
01-05-31-11.05 Diesel/Gasoline - Se	2,330.35	2,006.55	2,100.00	2,000.00	
01-05-31-11.06 Diesel/Gasoline - W	2,254.68	1,941.40	2,100.00	2,000.00	
01-05-31-12.00 Sale/Material	724.75	-	500.00		
01-05-31-13.00 State Aid	215,803.31	317,186.38	216,000.00	216,000.00	
01-05-31-14.00 Other Income-Highw	580.00	5,056.24			
01-05-31-16.00 Prior Year HW Surplus		-	(53,441.65)	80,000.00	
<b>01-05-31 Highway Total</b>	<b>288,797.85</b>	<b>380,301.08</b>	<b>225,708.35</b>	<b>352,500.00</b>	
<b>01-07-52 Parks &amp; Cemeteries</b>					
01-07-52-00.21 Sale - Lots	1,800.00	2,100.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-07-52-00.22 Grave Preparation	4,000.00	7,250.00	5,000.00	6,000.00	
01-07-52-00.23 Cemetery Funds	1,106.16	4,180.15	2,000.00	3,500.00	
01-07-52-00.25 Perpetual Care	1,500.00	1,750.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
01-07-52-00.26 Other Income		29,000.00			
01-07-52-00.40 Town Hall Rental	75.00	1,250.00	50.00	500.00	
<b>01-07-52 Parks &amp; Cemeteries Total</b>	<b>8,481.16</b>	<b>45,530.15</b>	<b>12,550.00</b>	<b>15,500.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS INCOME:</b>	<b>297,279.01</b>	<b>425,831.23</b>	<b>238,258.35</b>	<b>368,000.00</b>	

<b>01-12-3 Public Works Expense</b>					
<b>01-12-31 Highway</b>					
01-12-31-10.11 Salary & Hourly	483,275.49	431,245.06	516,000.00	533,000.00	
01-12-31-10.12 Highway Overtime	45,304.59	48,962.03	35,000.00	40,000.00	
01-12-31-11.00 Social Security	41,824.10	36,498.81	42,151.50	43,834.50	
01-12-31-14.00 Medical Insurance	111,588.68	132,392.44	132,497.00	147,294.00	
01-12-31-15.00 Life & Disability	787.20	3,197.66	3,222.00	3,222.00	
01-12-31-16.00 Retirement	33,917.60	38,647.55	36,437.50	38,677.50	
01-12-31-17.00 Uniforms	8,241.80	11,248.49	8,000.00	10,000.00	
01-12-31-21.00 Supplies	9,691.22	9,544.04	10,000.00	10,000.00	
01-12-31-21.01 Road Sign Replacem	1,349.67	902.56	2,000.00	3,000.00	
01-12-31-22.00 Training/CDL Reimb	1,084.00	782.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-12-31-30.01 Garage Utilities	6,393.23	5,265.85	6,300.00	6,000.00	
01-12-31-30.02 Street Lights	26,184.05	29,326.49	25,000.00	25,000.00	
01-12-31-31.00 Garage Water-Sewer	1,550.01	2,862.36	1,500.00	2,500.00	
01-12-31-34.00 Telephone	2,171.94	1,827.86	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-12-31-37.01 Contract Service	23,696.25	6,320.00	12,000.00	10,000.00	
01-12-31-37.02 Mowing	3,350.42	1,354.44	3,500.00	3,500.00	
01-12-31-58-00 Gravel Pit Installati	160.00	-	-		

Public Works Budget  
2024

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
01-12-31-37-03 ComputerService	1,252.40	1,216.77	1,200.00	-	See communication dept.
01-12-31-60.00 Culverts	11,245.40	10,818.60	13,000.00	13,000.00	
01-12-31-66.01 Tools/Equipment	3,844.31	4,967.03	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-12-31-66.02 Equipment	15,059.49	13,851.05	12,000.00	15,000.00	plow replacement included
01-12-31-66.03 Chains & Blades	15,079.90	23,090.58	18,000.00	20,000.00	
01-12-31-67.00 Communications			1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-12-31-68.00 Vehicle Maintenance	72,551.63	117,233.96	75,000.00	85,000.00	
01-12-31-69.00 Garage Maint.	7,251.90	16,874.86	5,000.00	7,500.00	powersurge in fire alarm
01-12-31-70.01 Gravel	50,402.73	46,427.40	60,000.00	50,000.00	
01-12-31-70.03 Rip Rap	3,771.03	4,560.00	6,000.00	8,000.00	
01-12-31-71.00 Salt	59,281.74	60,425.77	65,000.00	60,000.00	
01-12-31-72.00 Sand	57,498.00	72,616.00	70,000.00	65,000.00	
01-12-31-73.00 Calcium Chloride	7,786.95	4,838.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	
01-12-31-74.01 Bond Plan Transfer-	219,538.96	199,983.15	199,983.15	198,667.47	
01-12-31-74.02 Hot Mix	3,219.48	2,107.84	5,000.00	4,000.00	
01-12-31-75-00 General Road Permi	2,040.00	2,300.00	2,040.00	2,500.00	
01-12-31-76.00 Capital Plan Transfe	159,924.77	175,329.50	175,329.50	160,969.28	
01-12-31-77.00 Bridge Material	31,740.68	18,521.96	40,000.00	40,000.00	
01-12-31-79.00 Diesel/Gas	188,858.43	180,778.92	120,000.00	120,000.00	
01-31-31-81-00 Paving			-	-	
<b>01-12-31 Highway Totals</b>	<b>1,710,918.05</b>	<b>1,716,319.03</b>	<b>1,718,160.65</b>	<b>1,742,664.75</b>	
<b>01-12-32 Solid Waste</b>					
01-12-32-37.02 Transfer Station	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	
01-12-32-95.00 Green Up Day	842.07	1,214.40	1,000.00	1,000.00	
<b>01-12-32 Solid Waste Total</b>	<b>35,842.07</b>	<b>36,214.40</b>	<b>36,000.00</b>	<b>36,000.00</b>	
<b>01-14-52 Parks &amp; Cemeteries</b>					
01-14-52-10.00 Salary	37,921.81	44,040.78	43,000.00	48,500.00	
01-14-52-11.00 Social Security	1,806.77	3,462.10	3,289.50	3,710.25	
01-14-52-14.00 Medical Insurance	23,145.44	9,909.50	11,286.00	14,656.00	
01-14-52-15.00 Life Insurance	114.80	204.36	358.00	358.00	
01-14-52-16.00 Retirement	1,974.61	3,865.37	2,848.75	3,273.75	
01-14-52-17.00 Uniforms	998.36	1,145.48	700.00	1,200.00	
01-14-52-21.00 Supplies	2,077.97	1,910.13	1,500.00	1,500.00	
01-14-52-30.00 Power on the Green	436.58	559.38	450.00	450.00	
01-14-52-31.00 Water	480.00	502.00	600.00	600.00	
01-14-52-37.01 Contract Labor	200.00	540.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-52-37.02 Trees	8,000.00	8,000.00	-	8,000.00	
01-14-52-55.00 Survey		1,850.00		1,000.00	offset in revenue
01-14-52-66.00 Equipment	1,956.11	1,127.99	1,500.00	1,500.00	Mower & fuel cabinet

Public Works Budget  
2024

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
01-14-52-69.00 Cemetery Shed	131.24	17,765.29			Offset in revenue
01-14-52-95.01 Memorial Day	613.00	728.88	600.00	750.00	
01-14-52-90-00 Capital/Bond Plan	17,051.28	-	-	-	
01-14-52-99.00 Miscellaneous	482.03	853.99			
01-14-52-99.00 Miscellaneous	482.03	853.99			
<b>01-14-52 Parks &amp; Cemeteries Total</b>	<b>97,872.03</b>	<b>97,319.24</b>	<b>67,132.25</b>	<b>86,498.00</b>	
<b>PUBLIC WORKS EXPENSE TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,844,632.15</b>	<b>1,849,852.67</b>	<b>1,821,292.90</b>	<b>1,865,162.75</b>	

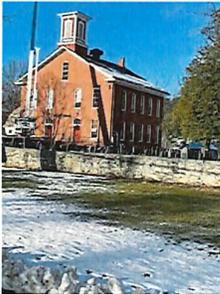
# Cemetery Department

The Chester Cemetery Department consists of a two-person team responsible for mowing, trimming, and maintaining 7 cemeteries which include:

- Pleasant View off High Street
- North Street Cemetery in the Stone Village
- Brookside Cemetery on Main Street
- Simmsbury Cemetery off Adams Road
- Spoonerville Cemetery off Trebo Road
- Smokeshire Cemetery off Cemetery Road
- Popplar Grove off Popple Dungeon Road

The department also maintains the grounds around town owned property located at the following locations:

- The Pinnacle
- Cobliegh Field
- Academy Building
- The Green
- Whiting Library
- Pocket Park across from the Soapshed
- Town Garage
- Town Hall
- Flood property on Route 11 West
- A section of property on Reservoir Road
- Pocket Park on School Street
- Property off First Avenue with the old apple tree



The Cemetery Department takes care of the trash receptacles placed at certain areas in Chester's Village. We are responsible for the selling of lots, placement of markers, and installation of cornerstones, which are mandatory per all new lots. All burials are prepped by the department, whether Full or Cremation. We maintain the old fallen or broken stones damaged due to age or the elements to the best of our ability. In the fall, we pick up the leaves from the areas we maintain in the summer.



During the summer of 2023, the department completed 20 burials, 7 of which were full burials and the rest cremations. There were 5 new monuments installed, 6 sets of corner markers, 1 military marker, and 8 new lots sold. Each year, we continue to bring in professional help to take down the older trees so we can preserve our historic landmarks that memorialize our ancestors.

I would like to thank the Highway Department for their help preparing for Memorial Day. We look forward to another busy summer maintaining and preserving the history of Chester!



As a reminder to the owners of lots in Chester cemeteries, please remove all summer seasonal arrangements from lots by October 31 and fall/winter arrangements by April 15th. Please note that flowerpots and plastic arrangements will be disposed of by the Cemetery Department on or around November 1st. Also, the planting of trees and shrubs is not allowed in the cemetery lots.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward Rushford, Cemetery Sexton

## **2023 GIFTS AND TRUST FUNDS FOR PERPETUAL CARE**

The Town accepted gifts and trust funds for perpetual care of cemetery lots in accordance with conditions of said gifts and trusts as follows: Edith & Frank Bidwell, \$250; Elizabeth & Roy Tatro, \$250; Damon & Teresa Tyler, \$500; Suzanne Jaquith & Stephen Burns, \$250; Peter Farrar, \$250; Shirly Holmberg, \$250.

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2022-2023 Annual Report

Transfer Station & Recycling

While casting about for something to contribute to this year's annual report, I chanced upon a report I found from 2004.

It seems some things had not changed all that much to this point. The flow and the storage of recycled materials were an issue then, although improved over the years, there is still not enough room. Marker prices have Risen and Fallen.

It was mentioned that a place was built to store batteries and as things evolved around here, the first shed had been replaced with one that turned out to be too small as well. Why too small you may ask.....Well batteries have become ubiquitous, they arrive on site faster than they depart, they are in everything, they size anywhere from Commercial equipment sized batteries to automotive size down to button sized batteries and everything in between. The composition of all these batteries is what determines the steps for storing them and transporting them safely.

There are over a dozen different chemistries we encounter every day; nickel cadmium or lithium ion which cannot be treated like all alkaline flashlight batteries we all have rolling around in the backs of our junk drawers; why not recycle them?? Another thing that people can do is take the batteries out of the things that are going into the trash stream. Years ago, we did have a dumpster fire that is a safe bet that it was started with a discarded battery.

I must have about used my allotment of pager space by now, but on a positive note I would like to express my gratitude to our band of hard-working Employees' and volunteers who help keep the wheels turning no matter what the weather serves us and who help pull it all together to get the job done year after year.

Thank You

Daniel Farrar

As Always,

Many thanks to the Cast & Crew, Friends & Volunteers

Dan Farrar

Recycling Coordinator



GREEN UP VERMONT  
[www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org)

Green Up Day  
May 6, 2023



Green Up Day, continued to grow with 23,500 volunteers statewide who cleaned up nearly 348 tons of litter and 15,000 tires. We saw 23% more volunteers lend a hand and heard in many cases there was less litter (30%) to be cleaned up. Tire collection saw a 4.8% increase. The statistics show that the hard work to beautify Vermont is still needed but also that our efforts for awareness are paying off. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2024.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. **Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.**

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or online at [www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org).

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow on Instagram (greenupvermont). [greenup@greenupvermont.org](mailto:greenup@greenupvermont.org) 802-522-7245

# Chester Recreation



The winter of 2023 saw our youth basketball teams play a full and successful season. We started off the 2023/2024 basketball season with coed Basketball clinics to get warmed up. This was our second year of youth wrestling and we had a successful season with practices and some tournaments. We also offered our Rock Stars Wall Climbing program at Green Mountain Union High School. Our annual Winter

Carnival was a huge success with many great activities including horse sleigh rides, youth snowmobile rides, ice carving, a wood sculpture fire, hiking at the Brookside Trail.

In the spring our softball and baseball teams start practicing and playing. The season runs from April through June with games and practices. We also held winter clinics to help prepare for the season.

In the summer, the town pool was once again a popular area. We continue to have open swim and adult swim times from June to August. There were a few sessions of swim lessons. The Recreation Department offers some summer camps during the summer months. This past year, pickleball continued to grow into a well-liked program with some games being held inside at Green Mountain Union High School.



In the fall, we ran our Pre-K through 6th grade soccer program. This goes from the end of August to the end of October.

Adult programming has become more popular with continued Zumba, added Yoga and Strength and Balance classes held at Town Hall weekly.



The Chester Recreation Department would like to thank the workers at the town garage and the facilities director for assisting with many projects, and Chester Andover Elementary School and Green Mountain Union High School for the use of their facilities.

Matthew McCarthy  
Recreation Director

# Town Health Officer

In 2023 the number one complaint was issues involving animals. Issues ranged from bites to animal welfare. The second issue was rental properties.

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the Vermont Fire Marshalls will be handling complaints in regard to rental properties.

Act 181 was signed into law transferring town Vermont's Rental Health and Safety Code previously administered by local municipal Health Officers to the Division of Fire Safety. The program is a complaint-based system designed to ensure rental housing is maintained in a safe and healthy manner.

The following link can be used to file complaints for rental properties:

[https://firesafety.vermont.gov/rental\\_housing\\_healthandsafety](https://firesafety.vermont.gov/rental_housing_healthandsafety)

Local ordinance pertaining to dogs:

SECTION 2 - LICENSE REQUIRED It shall be the duty of every person owning, keeping, or harboring in the Town any dog over four (4) months of age to procure a license therefore in accordance with Title 20, Sections 3581-3592, Vermont Statutes Annotated, as amended. All unlicensed dogs within limits of the Town found in violation of this ordinance shall be impounded.

SECTION 3 - DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE No person shall permit a dog owned or kept by him to run at large within the Town. A dog, while on any public way or place, shall be kept under restraint. A dog is under restraint within the meaning of this ordinance if it is controlled by a leash not more than eight (8) feet long or is at "heel" beside a competent person and obedient to that person's commands or is on or within 2 a vehicle. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to require the leashing of any dog while on private property by permission of the property owner or his agent, or to restrict the use of dogs for lawful hunting.

Please register your dog 4 months of age and older at the town office prior to April 1st to avoid additional fees. Your dog will need to have a current rabies vaccination to register.

Please review the entire Town of Chester's dog ordinance:

[www.chestervt.gov/uploads/5/0/4/4/50449173/dog-ordinance.pdf](http://www.chestervt.gov/uploads/5/0/4/4/50449173/dog-ordinance.pdf)

Respectfully,

Michael Randzio  
Town Health Officer

Recreation, Health Welfare Budget  
2024

2022 Actual    2023 Actual    2023 Budget    2024 Budget

**Recreation Revenue;**

<b>01-07-51 Recreation</b>				
01-07-51-00.09 Andover	3,800.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
01-07-51-00.23 Pool Income	2,296.50	2,402.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
01-07-51-00.28 Food Sales	131.00		200.00	
01-07-51-00.29 Pavillion Rental	350.00	165.00	300.00	300.00
01-07-51-00.33 Other Income	12,502.48			
01-07-51-00.36 League Fees	320.00	675.00	500.00	500.00
<b>01-07-51-00 Recreation Total</b>	<b>19,399.98</b>	<b>7,742.00</b>	<b>8,500.00</b>	<b>8,300.00</b>

**01-07-51-10 Seasonal Sports & Camps**

01-07-51-10.03 Start Smart Camp	30.00	-		
01-07-51-10.11 Sports for Squirts	90.00	127.50	150.00	150.00
01-07-51-10.12 Baseball	2,337.50	2,506.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
01-07-51-10.13 Black Fly Camp	1,420.00	1,120.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
01-07-51-10.16 Fall Soccer	2,847.50	2,726.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
01-07-51-10.18 Soccer Camps	1,640.00	1,556.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
01-07-51-10.19 GM Sports Camp	440.00	45.00	500.00	500.00
01-07-51-10.20 Basketball	1,860.00	3,565.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
01-07-51-10.21 Girl Basketball Camp	550.00			
01-07-51-10.25 Gymnastics/Dance	640.00		600.00	600.00
01-07-51-10-27 Volleyball			300.00	300.00
01-07-51-30-31 Track & Field	81.00	20.00		
01-07-51-10.41 Baseball Camp				
01-07-51-10.43 Tennis Camp			100.00	100.00
01-07-51-10-52 Wrestling	900.00	249.35	800.00	800.00
01-07-51-10.53 Climbing Team		190.00		-
01-07-51-10-54 Wall Climbing	180.00	100.00	200.00	200.00
<b>01-07-51-10 Sports &amp; Camps Total</b>	<b>13,016.00</b>	<b>12,204.85</b>	<b>11,950.00</b>	<b>11,950.00</b>
<b>01-07-51 Recreation Income Total</b>	<b>32,415.98</b>	<b>19,946.85</b>	<b>20,450.00</b>	<b>20,250.00</b>

**Recreation; Health & Welfare Expenses:**

**01-13-41 Health & Welfare**

01-13-41-10.00 Health Officer Salary	2,600.00	200.00	-	-	This is included in Ambulance
01-13-41-11.00 Social Security	193.08	14.87	-	-	
01-13-41-22-00 Training		-	-	-	
01-13-41-55-00 Animal Care		-	-	-	
01-13-41-56-00 Legal	200.00	1,551.85	-	1,000.00	
<b>01-13-41 Health &amp; Welfare Totals</b>	<b>2,993.08</b>	<b>1,766.72</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	

**01-14-51 Recreation**

01-14-51-10.00 Rec. Payroll	63,838.37	68,881.48	68,000.00	71,400.00
01-14-51-10-01 Lifeguard Payroll	13,424.32	13,918.51	17,000.00	19,000.00
01-14-51-11.00 Social Security	5,700.00	6,205.04	5,202.00	5,462.10
0114-51-13-00 Worker's Comp		-		
01-14-51-14.00 Medical Insurance	17,359.08	21,408.40	19,770.00	21,619.00
01-14-51-15.00 Life & Disability	106.60	397.20	358.00	358.00
01-14-51-16.00 Retirement	4,069.78	4,562.31	4,505.00	4,819.50
01-14-51-21.00 Babe Ruth Baseball	17.58	-		
01-14-51-21.03 Sports for Squirts	60.00	-	100.00	100.00
01-14-51-21.04 League Fee Expense	465.75	605.00	500.00	500.00
01-14-51-21.05 Fall Flag Football	-	25.79	-	##
01-14-51-21.06 GM Sports Camp	300.00	-	300.00	300.00
01-14-51-21.09 Dance Camp	60.00	-	200.00	200.00
01-14-51-21.12 Black Fly	850.00	880.00	800.00	800.00

Recreation, Health Welfare Budget  
2024

<b>01-07-51 Recreation</b>					
01-07-51-00.09 Andover	3,800.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
01-07-51-00.23 Pool Income	2,296.50	2,402.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
01-14-51-21.13 Baseball	2,983.33	3,148.94	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-14-51-21.15 Tennis		67.94			
01-14-51-21.16 Fall Soccer	1,415.98	1,197.40	1,200.00	1,200.00	
01-14-51-21.18 Soccer Camps	1,019.95	1,250.00	800.00	800.00	
01-14-51-21.19 Basketball Camp	420.00	1,250.00			
01-14-51-21.20 Basketball	1,472.08	2,041.94	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-51-21.23 Wall Climbing Camp	120.00	200.00	400.00	400.00	
01-14-51-21.24 Winter Carnival	3,202.45	3,140.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	
01-14-51-21.26 Dance/Ballet	450.00	-			
01-14-51-21.27 Volleyball	267.34	-	200.00	200.00	
01-14-51-21.28 Wrestling	732.60	197.23	800.00	800.00	
01-14-51-66.00 Equipment		74.39			
<b>01-14-51 Recreation Total</b>	<b>118,335.21</b>	<b>129,451.57</b>	<b>126,635.00</b>	<b>134,458.60</b>	
<b>Total Recreation, H&amp;W Income:</b>	<b>32,415.98</b>	<b>19,946.85</b>	<b>20,450.00</b>	<b>20,250.00</b>	
<b>Total Recreation, H&amp;W Expense:</b>	<b>121,328.29</b>	<b>131,218.29</b>	<b>126,635.00</b>	<b>135,458.60</b>	

# Whiting Library

Whiting Library proudly upholds our mission to provide for the enjoyment and enrichment of our communities, stimulate the communication of ideas, and serve the learning and leisure needs of people of all ages in a welcoming environment.

Regular programs included storytime for toddlers, preschoolers, and caregivers, a playgroup for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and caregivers, a weekly gaming group for teens, a monthly gaming group for school-age kids, and a monthly book discussion for adults. We also made regular outreach visits to Chester Community Preschool, a SEVCA Headstart site, and we made deliveries to home-bound patrons. You can find our current programs and events at <http://www.whitinglibrary.org/events/>.

During the year, we hosted several art exhibits in the Suzy Forlie Memorial Reading Room, including a display of Chester Andover and Green Mountain Union High School students for Youth Art Month and an exhibition featuring artists from the Stone Village Art Guild.

As part of our technology plan, we updated our hardware and library management software to bring the library into the 21st century. We are now part of the Vermont Organization of Koha Automated Libraries (VOKAL), a Green Mountain Library Consortium project dedicated to creating a shared catalog and Integrated Library System. The new software allows patrons to update their account information remotely and place requests online.

Currently, Whiting Library holds 14,218 books, DVDs, audiobooks, and magazines. Library card holders also have free access to over 45,000 ebooks and audiobooks through ListenUp! Vermont. We library card holds have access 24/7 to Chilton's Automotive Library, Udemy Professional for online development and IT courses, Learning Express, which provides occupational, career, and academic practice tests, Gale Legal Forms, Universal Class, which offers access to online courses in hobbies, computers, and personal development.

Whiting Library Board of Trustees focused on updating library policies and procedures related to court-ordered community service, exhibition, home delivery, and meeting space policies. There was a Library Improvement Sub-committee working on the layout and space in the library, making it more welcoming and accessible. The Trustees also recruited, interviewed, and hired a new library director.

Colleen Garvey from joined Whiting Library in January and now serves as Library Assistant. Also, during the year, Youth Librarian Carrie King completed the course requirements for the Vermont Certificate of Librarianship program.

The Board of Trustees wishes to thank the Select Board and the residents of the Town of Chester for their continued support of Whiting Library, which helps sustain and improve Whiting Library, now and into the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Zachariah, Whiting Library Director, and Matt Gorsky, Chair of the Whiting Library Board of Trustees

Whiting Library Operating Budget

		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
	State Grants				1,000
	Federal Grants				1,500
	Other Grants	5,687	1,436	3,000	2,500
05-02-55-10-00	Town of Andover	2,704	2,704	2,704	3,000
05-04-55-01-00	Book Sales	4,457	3,289	4,500	6,000
05-04-55-02-00	Lost Items/Refund	188	32	200	300
05-04-55-02-00	Meeting Room Donation	0	30	0	100
05-04-55-04-00	Copier	200	299	300	300
05-04-55-05-00	Fines	2	0	0	0
05-04-55-06-00	Non Resident Fees	270	240	200	3,500
05-06-55-02-00	Dividends	0	0	0	0
05-06-55-03-00	Raffles	9	25	100	600
05-06-55-04-00	Donations	9,087	18,703	4,216	17,300
05-06-55-05-00	Fundraising	7,450	1,996	22,000	21,600
05-06-55-06-00	Silent Auction	0	0	1,000	0
05-06-55-99-00	Misc Income	3,120	0	3,000	3,120
05-08-55-02.00	Fund Transfer	0	0	3,702	0
05-05-55-01-00	Town of Chester	93,000	98,000	98,000	101,000
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>126,175</b>	<b>126,754</b>	<b>142,922</b>	<b>161,820</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
05-14-55-10-00	Payroll	61,154	91,370	90,919	102,710
05-14-55-18-00	Payroll Tax Expense	5,482	7,975	6,955	7,859
	Unemployment	0	0	0	354
05-14-55-13-00	Workers Comp	516	562	0	666
05-14-55-14-00	Health Benefit Stipend	9,525	12,879	13,240	13,240
05-14-51-16.00	Retirement	0	0	0	2,675
05-14-55-21-00	Administration	654	1,721	508	1,499
05-14-55-21-01	Fundraising	1,719	1,477	1,000	1,502
05-14-55-21-02	Supplies	801	2,357	2,000	1,400
05-14-55-21-03	Books & Materials	9,192	12,975	10,000	12,950
05-14-55-22-01	Professional Development	124	53	200	300
05-14-55-22-02	Travel	0	148	200	200
05-14-55-26-00	Postage	1,209	1,354	1,200	1,200
05-14-55-27-00	Programs	2,042	2,548	2,000	2,300
05-14-55-27-01	Grant Expense	6,192	521	3,400	225
05-14-55-28-00	Copier	0	0	0	300
05-14-55-29-00	Equipment & Technology	1,722	12,959	3,500	1,200
05-14-55-34-00	Telephone	2,116	2,168	3,000	2,200
05-14-55-56-00	Legal	13,871	86	1,000	440
05-14-56-37.01	Cleaning	included in Repairs Maintenance Line until 2024			7,800
05-14-55-69-00	Repairs & Maintenance	3,856	6,699	3,800	800
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>120,174</b>	<b>157,852</b>	<b>142,922</b>	<b>161,820</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>		<b>6,000.35</b>	<b>-31,098.24</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Other Income</b>					
	Bequest Income	0	0.00		
05-06-55-00-00	Interest Income - Investment	19.95	321.32		
05-14-55-84-00	Realized Gain/Loss	-3141.14	4,361.44		
05-06-55-85-00	Unrealized Gain/Loss Investment	-23,337.38	9,446.08		
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>-26,458.57</b>	<b>14,128.84</b>		
<b>Other Expense</b>					
05-14-55-83-00	Bank Charges - Investment	1,862.99	1,621.88		
<b>Total Other Expense</b>		<b>1,769.02</b>	<b>1,621.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Other Income/Expense</b>		<b>-28,324.14</b>	<b>12,506.96</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>-22,324.70</b>	<b>-18,591.28</b>		

Whiting Library  
Balance Sheet  
As of 31 December 2023

	12/31/23	12/31/22	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
<b>Checking/Savings</b>				
Library - M&T Bank	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Petty Cash Account	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.0%
Due To/From Other Funds	103,480.00	132,771.91	29,291.91	100.0%
M&T Bank Money Market	29,237.80	29,211.06	-26.74	0.1%
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>132,917.80</b>	<b>162,182.97</b>	<b>-29,265.17</b>	
<b>Other Current Assets</b>				
Wilmington Trust/Preservation Trust	160,516.06	148,028.61	-12,487.45	8.4%
Vermont Community Loan Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>160,516.06</b>	<b>148,028.61</b>	<b>-12,487.45</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>293,433.86</b>	<b>310,211.58</b>	<b>16,777.72</b>	<b>-5.4%</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>293,433.86</b>	<b>310,211.58</b>	<b>16,777.72</b>	<b>-5.4%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts Payable	3,914.06	2,100.50	-1,813.56	100.0%
Deferred Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,914.06</b>	<b>2,100.50</b>	<b>-1,813.56</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Equity</b>				
Fund Balance - Whiting Library				
Opening Bal Equity	308,111.08	330,435.78	22,324.70	-6.8%
Retained Earnings-Fund Balance	-18,591.28	-22,324.70	-3,733.42	-16.7%
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>289,519.80</b>	<b>308,111.08</b>	<b>18,591.28</b>	<b>-6.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>293,433.86</b>	<b>310,211.58</b>	<b>16,777.72</b>	<b>-5.4%</b>

# 2023

• YEAR IN REVIEW •

## Whiting Library



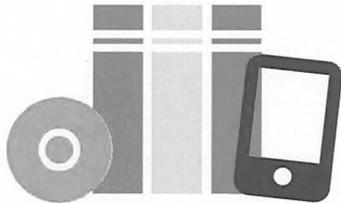
15,068

VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY



2,000

ACTIVE CARDHOLDERS



14,436

ITEMS CHECKED OUT  
(PRINT, MEDIA, AUDIO, EBOOKS)



4,081

VISITS TO OUR WEBSITE



1,025

INQUIRIES MADE  
TO LIBRARY STAFF



1,657

PEOPLE ATTENDED A  
PROGRAM OR EVENT



388

PUBLIC INTERNET  
SESSIONS



\$684,740

DOLLARS SAVED

### Whiting Library

117 Main Street  
Chester, VT 05143  
802-875-2277  
WhitingLibrary.org

### Open Hours:

Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Facilities Budget  
2024

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Budget Notes
<b>Facilities Expenses:</b>					
<b>01-14-55 Library</b>					
01-14-55-21.00 Library Expenses	489.62	989.50	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-55-30.00 Utilities	5,148.70	4,627.13	4,000.00	4,000.00	
01-14-55-31.00 Water/Sewer	696.75	725.16	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-55-32.00 Fuel	5,914.09	4,127.80	4,500.00	3,500.00	
01-14-55-69.00 Repairs/Maint	15,664.58	16,335.62	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-14-55-90.00 Library Fund	93,000.00	98,000.00	98,000.00	101,000.00	
<b>01-14-55 Library Total</b>	<b>120,913.74</b>	<b>124,805.21</b>	<b>113,500.00</b>	<b>115,500.00</b>	
<b>01-14-56 Town Hall</b>					
01-14-56-21.00 Supplies	2,513.12	2,869.83	2,000.00	3,000.00	
01-14-56-30.00 Utilities	5,858.17	5,602.20	6,000.00	6,000.00	
01-14-56-31.00 Water/Sewer	742.92	769.89	800.00	800.00	
01-14-56-32.00 Fuel	10,294.50	4,309.32	6,000.00	3,500.00	
01-14-56-37.01 Cleaning Service	8,430.00	8,523.00	7,950.00	7,950.00	
01-14-56-37.02 Rubbish	5,534.45	6,422.44	4,000.00	6,000.00	
01-14-56-69.00 Repairs/Maint	9,134.46	6,505.81	5,000.00	10,000.00	elevator repairs
01-14-56-69-02 Renovations	11,863.49	3,016.50	2,000.00	2,000.00	
<b>01-14-56 Town Hall Total</b>	<b>54,371.11</b>	<b>38,018.99</b>	<b>33,750.00</b>	<b>39,250.00</b>	
<b>01-14-57 Revitalization</b>					
01-14-57-69.01 Website Maint	488.16	-	500.00	500.00	
01-14-57-69.02 Historic Facility	20.58	3,084.68	20,000.00	30,000.00	(30k)
01-14-57-69.03 Misc Maintenance	1,620.53	92.77	5,000.00	4,000.00	
01-14-57-69.04 Landscaping		1,400.00	1,000.00	1,400.00	
01-14-57-69.05 Info Booth Exp	4,809.24	5,268.71	3,500.00	4,000.00	new paint
01-14-57-69.06 Spring. Reg. Dr	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
01-14-57-69.07 Marketing Exp	6,199.95	1,749.30	5,000.00	5,000.00	
01-14-57-69.08 Chester Events		3,063.92	4,000.00	4,000.00	
<b>01-14-57 Revitalization Total</b>	<b>23,138.46</b>	<b>24,659.38</b>	<b>49,000.00</b>	<b>58,900.00</b>	
<b>01-14-58 Recreation Facilities</b>					
01-14-58-21.01 Supplies	3,542.13	3,038.11	3,500.00	3,500.00	
01-14-58-21.02 Food Supplies	9.53		200.00	200.00	
01-14-58-22.00 Lifeguard Exp	856.86	975.50	500.00	1,000.00	
01-14-58-23.00 Equipment Pu	150.88	362.99	500.00	500.00	
01-14-58-29.00 Computer	1,431.05	1,216.77	1,200.00	-	see communication dept.
01-14-58-30.00 Utilities	4,664.64	4,701.14	4,500.00	4,500.00	
01-14-58-31.00 Water/Sewer	1,646.75	1,348.76	1,000.00	1,200.00	
01-14-58-34.00 Telephone	1,376.31	1,388.36	1,000.00	1,500.00	
01-14-58-60.00 Pool Maintenance	4,654.78	4,760.15	6,000.00	2,000.00	
01-14-58-68.01 Vehicle Expenses	3,599.96	3,599.96	4,000.00	4,000.00	
01-14-58-69.00 Facility Repair	8,615.38	6,944.79	8,000.00	10,000.00	

Facilities Budget

2024

01-14-58-69.01 Skating Rink Maintenance		6,309.49	300.00	300.00	
01-14-58-69.02 Disc Golf	613.15	656.25	600.00	700.00	
01-14-58-69.03 Tennis Court		17.68			
01-14-58-69-02 Capital/Bond	9,490.28		-		
<b>01-14-58 Recreation Facilities</b>	<b>40,651.70</b>	<b>35,319.95</b>	<b>31,300.00</b>	<b>29,400.00</b>	
<b>01-14-59 Emergency Services Bldg</b>					
01-14-59-21-00 Supplies	2,674.95	2,661.23	2,000.00	2,000.00	
01-14-59-30-00 Utilities	18,303.36	16,777.40	12,000.00	13,000.00	
01-14-59-31-00 Water/Sewer	727.68	777.13	1,000.00	1,000.00	
01-14-59-32-00 Fuel	12,559.29	8,712.46	10,000.00	8,000.00	
01-14-59-37-01 Cleaning Servi	9,210.00	1,605.00	-	1,800.00	
01-14-59-69-00 Repairs & Mai	5,424.58	7,837.10	2,500.00	5,500.00	
01-14-59-69-01 Grounds Main	485.03	182.95	4,000.00	8,000.00	for erosion
01-14-59-69-02 Initial Start Up	4,261.16		-	-	
<b>01-14-59 Emergency Svc Servi</b>	<b>53,646.05</b>	<b>38,553.27</b>	<b>31,500.00</b>	<b>39,300.00</b>	
<b>01-14-60 Facilities Director</b>					
01-14-60-10-00 Salary	40,362.00	53,650.25	50,200.00	56,000.00	
01-14-60-11-00 Social Security	3,080.04	4,056.49	3,840.30	4,284.00	
01-14-60-14-00 Medical Insura	9,266.40	14,065.20	14,065.00	15,400.00	
01-14-60-15-00 Life & Disabilit	114.80	333.59	358.00	358.00	
01-14-60-16-00 Retirement	2,935.19	4,280.84	3,325.75	3,780.00	
01-14-60-17-00 Uniforms	470.68	552.10	500.00	500.00	
01-14-60-21-00 Supplies	-	36.99		3,000.00	connex box for storage
01-14-60-68.00 Vehicle Maint	667.89	3,141.82		4,000.00	
<b>01-14-60 Facilities Director To</b>	<b>56,897.00</b>	<b>80,117.28</b>	<b>72,289.05</b>	<b>87,322.00</b>	
<b>Total Facillites Expenses:</b>					
	<b>349,618.06</b>	<b>341,474.08</b>	<b>331,339.05</b>	<b>369,672.00</b>	

## Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens January 2024 Report

The Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens (CCG&G,) has made some very positive changes in the past year, on its way to a fourth anniversary. We began as a project of Victory Gardening in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, (a local 350VT event and online group).

CCG&G is dedicated to creating and operating a community greenhouse and gardens so the people who live, work, or go to school in Chester, VT can garden. We align the gardens, greenhouse, and programs sustainable food systems and economic development, holistic health, climate change, education, access for seniors and those with disabilities, and quality of life, treating all with justice and equality. Our initial focus has been the outdoor gardens. The Select Board approved installation at the lot on Canal Street. The 10' by 10' plots were created in spring. Numerous donations contributed to a successful first growing year, given by GMUHS students, water hookup by Arne Jonynas a fence gate by John and Letty Keller, and a Jamie Townsend sign anonymously donated. The goal for our first year was met with 24 garden plots producing wonderful food, herbs and flowers. Our initial grant from *The Crockett Foundation* of "The Victory Garden with James Crockett" fame was used to quickly erect a deer fence, which curtailed herbivory by the town herd. It was a big success with many vegetables donated to the Chester Andover Family Center, and pick-your-own flowers for members, neighbors and friends, a flower sharing project by Jessy Pierce. Despite the rainy weather, the first season plots were quite productive.

In the fall, CCG&G held a raffle, the proceeds of which will go toward purchasing a much needed tool shed. There were two baskets of goodies, with donations from over a dozen merchants in town, the list of whom you can see on our website. The baskets were on display in the Annex on the Commons in Chester village, and also at the Common Street Market.

Plans for the upcoming year include seed starting and composting workshops, Three Sisters demonstration plots, berry and nut bushes, perennial beds for asparagus, pollinators, and hopefully the beginning of a community fruit tree orchard. The site plan and scope is available upon request.

Garden plots are available for spring 2024. There are needs based scholarships available so anyone can garden. All skill levels are welcome!

CCG&G invites community participation through ideas, enthusiasm, and guidance. CCG&G visited residents along Canal Street and Grafton Street, and has been around town to talk at Markets in Chester, Select Board Meetings, and the Fall Festival. We are seeking new board members, especially a treasurer, grant specialist, and advisor in Three (or Seven) Sisters gardening. We welcome additional input and ideas from all. Please visit: [ChesterCommunityGreenhouseAndGardens.com](http://ChesterCommunityGreenhouseAndGardens.com) or contact any of the Board of Directors members directly to get involved.

We are grateful to all those that have given their support of any type, including educators and students, business owners, the people of Chester and surrounding communities, the Town and the Select Board.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of Chester Community Greenhouse & Gardens  
P.O. Box 1271, Chester, VT 05143 [chestergreenhouse@gmail.com](mailto:chestergreenhouse@gmail.com)

## REPORT of WATER and WASTEWATER Departments

In 2023 we had one employee, Gerald Davis move on to Springfield Wastewater department. However we hired on two personnel that are new to the Water and Wastewater fields. Michael Davis started at the end of July and Austin Stoodley at the end of December. We are currently working on training them with the hope that they will make a career with Chester and be certified operators before my retirement. It takes approximately two years to train and get certifications in both the Water and Wastewater fields. The state is currently experiencing a severe shortage of trained operators. It takes many hours of training both in classroom and experience to achieve certification.

The weather this year again played a large part in what we were able accomplish this year, i.e. flooding and rainfall. This has been one of the wettest years on record for the northeast, and some of our planned projects had to be put on hold due to our required time spent with dealing with flood damage and the need for repairs to both the water and wastewater systems.

During the July flood the water department lost the 8 inch water main into the Sewer Plant due to the road being washed out. It completely separated the main at a push joint quickly emptied the entire system. We were not able to locate it quickly due to the ongoing rainfall and flooding. When we located it we were able to isolate it and started to refill the system, however due to the rapid loss of our supply we had to follow state water supply rules and issue a boil water order for everyone's safety until the water passed two consecutive coliform tests to insure that the water quality was safe. The flooding caused several other, more minor service line leaks that were repaired throughout the summer.

However the water department was able to complete the **lead service line inventory** that is required by new Federal and State regulations. This took some time if you can imagine locating and identifying every piece of pipe in the water system. Chester is fortunate because of the many water main replacement and addition projects that we have continued to do over the years that have put us ahead in the replacement of these lead lines. In the 33 years that I have worked here I have been involved in 16 different projects to replace, upgrade or add water mains. In the 10 or so years prior to that the cast iron mains were cleaned and relined with a concrete liner with 5 other water main extension projects done at about the same time. This foresight has put us ahead of many other communities that have to identify and replace these lead pipes. We identified 8 locations, six of which are galvanized pipe requiring replacement with only 2 unknown. A copy of the report will be on the town web site and attached to the annual **consumer confidence report** that we are required to do annually. We also were able cover the cost of this survey from the grant money that we received, a savings of approximately 34,000 dollars.

We have also continued to work on identifying a site for a secondary, or backup well to ensure that we have continued water flows for whatever our needs are. We drilled test wells at a couple of locations. One was not suitable because of hitting bedrock at 50 feet.

A suitable one was located near the Jeffery well site. The State Water Supply Division has approved the site and the next step is designing the well and acquiring the funds to proceed, hopefully before the end of the season. Upgrades will include an onsite generator that can run either well. Also automatic PH monitor. Chlorination unit to be used only in emergency situations. This will finally give us the backup that we need as our current emergency well will not produce enough of the water that the town uses on a daily basis.

We also managed our regular maintenance, mowing, trimming, and painting of hydrants and bi-annual flushing of the system, along with flood damage repairs throughout the town. In the winter time we have the normal snow removal, cleanup of both plants, pump stations and hydrants. We had 12 water meter repairs, 8 service line leak repairs, added 2 new water services, 10 curb stop repairs and 3 hydrants repaired, one completely replaced. As the approximate cost of replacing each hydrant runs about \$10,000 dollars we still have 3 that are out of service, however not in critical locations awaiting repairs.

I would like to thank all of the residence that make an effort to keep the hydrants near their property clear of snow in the winter, as we generally can't get to them right away after a storm.

In the **Wastewater** department this year we completed our mandatory Asset Management program. **Asset Management** is an assessment to include condition and estimated value of all of the wastewater department's property to include the wastewater plant, all manholes, in ground pipe, every pump station down to every pump, tools and spare part on the shelves. Again a grant covered all cost of the survey. Inspection of every Manhole in town, 168 of them, and 47 of them we had to be uncovered from either being paved over or covered with sod or gravel. We had to raise them up to ground level, add risers when needed, and repair bricks and mortar as needed. We flushed and cleaned every sewer main in town, then camera them. The camera showed that we had many problems in the sewer mains that we were unaware of. From sags in the line to holes, pipe separations, tree root penetration and infiltration, ground water entering the main, which then flows to the Treatment Plant, requiring us to treat it.

The Wastewater system also had to deal with the flooding damage. At the First Ave. pump station the water over topped the Can, the portion of the station underground where the pumps and motors are located. It filled with water so that both 10 hp. electric motors were submerged and could not operate. We had to pump out the Can and dry out everything. After 24 hrs. We were able to get pump # 1 working and pump # 2 after five days. We had to replace the dehumidifier, the sump pump and the ventilation fan. In December pump # 1 quit working and we had to replace it. They are not made to operate under water and the bearings and electrical motor windings burned up. We were surprised that it lasted that long considering it was the second time under water. We are currently working on a project that will allow us to replace that pump station and put in 15hp, submersible pumps. At the same time we would raise the generator and operating controls up 3 feet higher out of the current 100 yr. flood plain. At the same time we would replace the 4 inch force main, which is in very poor shape after 52 yrs. It is made of unlined Cast Iron and due to the deterioration, buildup of scale, breaks, at least 4 repairs in the pipe the maximum flow has been severely compromised and reduced. This causes extra

wear and tear on the pumps in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. station as well. This pipe has been in continual use for 52 years. The 8 inch gravity feed main would also be replaced at the same time. It runs next to the force main that runs from the top of Depot Street to 1<sup>st</sup>. Ave pump station.

All flows of the wastewater from North St. Depot St. First Ave. Elm St. and First Ave. are pumped from the First Ave. pump station to the top of Depot St. where it gravity flows to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

At the wastewater plant we had many hours of cleanup from flood damage from 2 floods this year in and around the plant to include the shop and shed interiors as well as the Head works building. We cleaned the sludge holding tank and repaired the Aeration diffusers within it. We had to replace and rebuild a Jet Motive pump from tank # 2. Also a waste pump was rebuilt and replaced. We purchased a 40 ft. shipping container for storage and located it on the highest ground that we have. Hopefully it will help keep tools and parts dry during our frequent floods.

I would especially like to thank the Town of Springfield Water department, Roy Farrar and crew. Also Tim from H.M. Savage for the excavation work. They assisted us by repairing our 8 inch water main into the Wastewater Plant. At the time we were inundated with flood damage and a pump station that was out of service and this was of great assistance to us.

Respectfully submitted

Jeff Holden

Water/Wastewater Superintendent

## CHESTER WATER DEPT - VT0005318 Consumer Confidence Report - 2022

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided in 2022. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. To learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings which are held:

The first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Chester Town Hall.

The person who can answer questions about this report is: Jeff Holden

Telephone: (802) 875-2173

### Water Source Information

Your water comes from:

Source Name	Source Water Type
JEFFREY WELL	Groundwater

The State of Vermont Water Supply Rule requires Public Community Water Systems to develop a Source Protection Plan. This plan delineates a source protection area for our system and identifies potential and actual sources of contamination. Please contact us if you are interested in reviewing the plan.

### Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include surface water (streams, lakes) and ground water (wells, springs). As water travels over the land's surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals. It also picks up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity. Some "contaminants" may be harmful. Others, such as iron and sulfur, are not harmful. Public water systems treat water to remove contaminants, if any are present.

In order to ensure that your water is safe to drink, we test it regularly according to regulations established by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Vermont. These regulations limit the amount of various contaminants:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

### Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past year. It also includes the date and results of any contaminants that we detected within the past five years if tested less than once a year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily show that the water poses a health risk.

Terms and abbreviations - In this table you may find terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAAA):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during four consecutive calendar quarters.

**Maximum Contamination Level (MCL):** The "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG):** The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Addition of disinfectant may help control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of disinfectants in controlling microbial contaminants.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** NTU is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** (one penny in ten thousand dollars)

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** (one penny in ten million dollars)

**Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** (one penny in ten billion dollars)

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** a measure of radioactivity in water

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of 4 consecutive quarters (when on quarterly monitoring); values in table represent the highest RAA for the year.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**90th Percentile:** Ninety percent of the samples are below the action level. (Nine of ten sites sampled were at or below this level).

**Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):** a group of over 4,000 human-made chemicals (they do not occur naturally) that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide and includes:

(PFNA): Perfluorononanoic Acid

(PFOA): Perfluorooctanoic Acid

(PFOS): Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid

(PFHpA): Perfluorohexanoic Acid

(PFHxS): Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid

(11C-11F3O4S): 11-Chloroicosadecafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic Acid

(9Cl-11F3ONS): 9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic Acid

(DONA): 4,8-Dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic Acid

(HFPO-DA): Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid

(NMeFOSAA): N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid

(NMeFOSAA): N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid

(PFBS): Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid

(PFDA): Perfluorodecanoic Acid

(PFDoA): Perfluorododecanoic Acid

(PFHxA): Perfluorohexanoic Acid

(PFTA): Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid

(PFTtDA): Perfluorotridecanoic Acid

(PTUnA): Perfluoroundecanoic Acid

Detected Contaminants CHESTER WATER DEPT

Health Information Regarding Drinking Water

Chemical Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Barium	05/04/2022	0.04	0.04 - 0.04	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	05/04/2022	7.3	7.3 - 7.3	ppb	100	100	
Nitrate	11/09/2022	0.2	0.2 - 0.2	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. CHESTER WATER DEPT is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Distribution Information

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place and distributing copies by hand or mail.

Lead and Copper	Collection Year	90th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL*	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Lead	2022	6.9	0 - 9	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	2022	0.12	0 - 0.13	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

\*The lead and copper AL (Action Level) exceedance is based on the 90th percentile concentration, not the highest detected result.

Violation(s) that occurred during the year

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. The below table lists any drinking water violations we incurred during 2022. A failure to perform required monitoring means we cannot be sure of the quality of our water during that time.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	Failure to Monitor	Asbestos	01/01/2022 - 03/31/2022
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	Failure to Monitor	Cyanide	04/01/2022 - 06/30/2022
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	Failure to Monitor	Nitrate	04/01/2022 - 06/30/2022

The above samples for Cyanide and Nitrate were lost, so they were taken again. The Asbestos sample above was taken one week after it was due.

Water Department  
2024 Budget

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Notes	
03-04-33-01.00	Water Fees	236,686.00	258,298.04	265,000.00	336,000.00	
03-04-33-02.00	Delinquent Fees					
03-04-33-03.00	Penalty/Interest	6,786.09	7,778.43	5,500.00	6,500.00	
03-04-33-05.00	Water Connection	5,000.00		2,500.00	2,500.00	
03-04-33-06.00	Hydrant Fees					
03-04-33-07.00	Meter Install	128.00	19,512.00			
03-04-33-08.00	Timber Sale					
03-04-33-09.00	Loan Proceeds					
03-04-33-10.00	Grant Proceeds		11,034.00			
03-06-33-01.00	Interest Income					
03-06-33-99.00	Other Income			11,500.00		
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>248,600.09</b>	<b>296,622.47</b>	<b>284,500.00</b>	<b>345,000.00</b>	
03-12-33-10.00	Labor	108,519.57	111,556.85	91,000.00	129,950.00	
03-12-33-11.00	Social Security	8,159.33	8,574.32	6,961.50	9,950.00	
03-12-33-12.00	Unemployment					
03-12-33-13.00	Workers Comp	2,539.86	5,178.03	4,346.00	5,500.00	
03-12-33-14.00	Medical Insurance	17,575.08	20,832.84	20,429.50	22,350.00	
03-12-33-15.00	Life Insurance	205.00	613.97	225.00	650.00	
03-12-33-16.00	Retirement	8,374.60	8,252.64	3,014.00	8,935.00	
03-12-33-17.00	Uniforms	600.00	1,322.96	600.00	1,000.00	
03-12-33-18.00	Co Insurance	5,534.18	1,540.97	10,000.00	10,000.00	
03-12-33-21.00	Supplies	228.87	1,083.50	500.00	500.00	
03-12-33-22.00	Training	574.56	308.93	500.00	500.00	
03-12-33-28.00	Paving			2,000.00	2,000.00	
03-12-33-29.00	Computer	1,322.83	1,216.77	1,400.00	2,500.00	
03-12-33-30.00	Utilities	23,855.09	26,668.71	21,000.00	25,000.00	
03-12-33-33.00	Gas - Propane	138.45	238.97	500.00	500.00	
03-12-33-34.00	Telephone			400.00	400.00	
03-12-33-37.00	Contract Service	149.30	2,333.20	4,500.00	4,500.00	
03-12-33-38.00	Testing	2,420.00	1,505.00	2,500.00	4,000.00	
03-12-33-42.00	State Fees	4,610.75	2,810.20	5,000.00	5,000.00	
03-12-33-50.00	PACIF Insurance	3,264.00	3,436.00	3,436.00	3,461.00	
03-12-33-55.00	Tank Inspection			1,000.00	1,000.00	
03-12-33-56.00	Legal Services			500.00	500.00	
03-12-33-57.00	Audit		800.00	800.00	800.00	
03-12-33-58.00	Grant Expense		113,468.64			
03-12-33-60.00	System Maintenance	498.11	1,380.94	6,500.00	6,000.00	
03-12-33-60.01	Collection System	12,237.26	9,048.10	10,000.00	10,000.00	
03-12-33-60.02	Meters Installation	29.13	1,084.52	500.00	500.00	
03-12-33-60.03	Hydrants	31.05	80.78	3,500.00	4,000.00	
03-12-33-60.04	Well Repair	2,435.05	1,339.05	3,500.00	3,500.00	
03-12-33-61.00	Chemicals	14,742.02	25,144.53	17,000.00	25,000.00	

Water Department  
2024 Budget

03-12-33-66.00	Tools	1,946.99	1,075.56	2,000.00	2,000.00	
03-12-33-68.00	Vehicle Maintenance	771.86	255.36	1,000.00	1,000.00	
03-12-33-68.01	Water Truck	2,998.28		-	-	
03-12-33-68.02	Tractor		336.13			
03-12-33-69.00	Repairs/Maintenance	253.63	928.73	500.00	1,000.00	
03-12-33-75.00	Depreciation Expense	73,070.00				
03-12-33-78.00	Gasoline	2,254.68	1,941.40	1,700.00	1,700.00	
03-12-33-82.03	Water Bond Reimbursement	94,589.54	94,589.94	94,589.94	94,589.94	
03-12-33-83.00	Service Charge					
03-12-33-90.00	Capital Bond Transfer	63,610.59	6,431.53	6,431.53		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>457,539.66</b>	<b>455,379.07</b>	<b>327,833.47</b>	<b>388,285.94</b>	
<b>Total Water Fund</b>		<b>(208,939.57)</b>	<b>(158,756.60)</b>	<b>(43,333.47)</b>	<b>(43,285.94)</b>	

**Water Department  
Balance Sheet  
As of 31 December 2023**

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Change</b>
03-00-00-00-00	Water Fund	-	-	0.00%	-
03-00-00-05-00	Accounts Receivable	-	-	0.00%	-
03-00-00-05-10	Fixed Assets	3,689,836.00	3,689,836.00	100.00%	-
03-00-00-05-15	Accumulated Depreciation	(239,560.00)	(239,560.00)	100.00%	-
03-00-00-09-00	Due to/From Other Funds	(213,076.31)	53,012.75	-501.93%	(266,089.06)
03-00-00-10-00	Water Reserve	-	-	0.00%	-
03-00-00-30-15	A/R Water Billing	42,788.29	37,864.14	13.00%	4,924.15
03-00-00-30-50	A/R Miscellaneous	128.00	128.00	0.00%	-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>3,280,115.98</b>	<b>3,541,280.89</b>	<b>-7.37%</b>	<b>(261,164.91)</b>

<b>LIABILITY</b>					
03-00-01-00-00	Accounts Payable	6,687.03	6,112.40	9.40%	574.63
03-00-01-00-05	Accrued Payroll	-	-		-
03-00-01-00-10	Accrued Comp Balances	5,304.51	5,304.51	0.00%	-
03-00-01-30-15	Water Overpayments	(2,519.98)	(2,519.98)	0.00%	-
03-00-01-70-01	Water Bond	2,364,738.38	2,459,327.92	-3.85%	(94,589.54)
<b>Total Liability</b>		<b>2,374,209.94</b>	<b>2,468,224.85</b>	<b>-3.81%</b>	<b>(94,014.91)</b>

<b>Fund Balance</b>					
03-00-03-00-00	Fund Balance - Unreserved	258,372.04	467,312.01	-44.71%	(208,939.97)
03-00-03-00-05	Retained Earnings	-	-		-
03-00-03-00-10	Net Investment in Capital	814,684.00	814,684.00	0.00%	-
<b>Total Prior Years Fund Balance</b>		<b>1,073,056.04</b>	<b>1,281,996.01</b>	<b>-16.30%</b>	<b>(208,939.97)</b>
Fund Balance Current Year		(167,150.00)	(208,939.97)	-20.00%	41,789.97
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>		<b>905,906.04</b>	<b>1,073,056.04</b>	<b>-15.58%</b>	<b>(167,150.00)</b>
<b>Total Liability and Fund Balance</b>		<b>3,280,115.98</b>	<b>3,541,280.89</b>	<b>-7.37%</b>	<b>(261,164.91)</b>

Sewer Department  
2024 Budget

Account		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Comments
04-04-34-01.00	Sewer Fees	439,203.38	444,147.26	460,000.00	479,500.00	
04-04-34-02.00	Delinquent Fees	-				
04-04-34-03.00	Penalty/Interest	11,871.16	13,961.95	7,500.00	10,000.00	
04-04-34-05.00	Sewer Connection Fee	3,500.00		3,500.00	3,500.00	
04-04-34-06.00	Excess BOD					
04-04-34-07.00	Fine Income					
04-04-34-10.00	Grant Proceeds		74,915.70			
04-06-34-01.00	Interest Income					
04-06-34-99.00	Other Income					
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>454,574.54</b>	<b>533,024.91</b>	<b>471,000.00</b>	<b>493,000.00</b>	
04-12-34-10.00	Payroll	109,949.88	104,486.36	91,000.00	129,950.00	
04-12-34-11.00	Social Security	8,358.93	8,033.54	6,961.50	9,950.00	
04-12-34-12.00	Unemployment	-				
04-12-34-13.00	Workers Comp	3,809.78	5,178.03	4,346.00	5,000.00	
04-12-34-14.00	Medical Insurance	28,537.69	20,832.84	20,430.00	22,350.00	
04-12-34-15.00	Life Insurance	188.60	629.86	246.00	700.00	
04-12-34-16.00	Retirement	5,583.50	7,138.18	3,014.00	8,935.00	
04-12-34-17.00	Uniforms	2,552.38	1,374.72	600.00	1,000.00	
04-12-34-18.00	Co Insurance	7,408.79	1,540.97	10,000.00	10,000.00	
04-12-34-21.00	Supplies	216.10	799.58	500.00	600.00	
04-12-34-22.00	Training	361.00	1,650.93	750.00	750.00	
04-12-34-24.00	Lab Equipment	2,732.88	3,218.69	10,000.00	5,000.00	
04-12-34-29.00	Computer	1,130.18	1,216.77	1,000.00	3,000.00	
04-12-34-30.00	Utilities	38,741.47	44,047.49	37,000.00	38,000.00	
04-12-34-30.01	Pump Stations	18,682.35		18,000.00	18,000.00	
04-12-34-30.02	Pumps	13,504.22	12,209.70	12,000.00	12,000.00	
04-12-34-34.00	Telephone	1,858.62	1,872.16	1,700.00	1,750.00	
04-12-34-37.01	CLCTN System	8,201.37	8,309.00	6,000.00	8,000.00	
04-12-34-37.02	Contract Services	250.00	825.00	6,000.00	4,000.00	
04-12-34-38.00	Testing	4,625.00	4,840.00	4,500.00	6,000.00	
04-12-34-42.00	State Fees	525.00	525.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
04-12-34-50.00	PACIF Insurance	9,019.00	9,855.00	9,855.00	10,355.00	
04-12-34-51.00	Flood Insurance	-				
04-12-34-55.00	Engineering	-				
04-12-34-55.01	Sludge Disposal	14,673.90	13,315.90	22,000.00	22,000.00	
04-12-34-56.00	Legal	-		500.00	500.00	
04-12-34-57.00	Audit	-	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	
04/12/34/58.00	Grant Expense		95,254.00			
04-12-34-60.01	Sewer Line Repair	1,904.26	525.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
04-12-34-60.02	Generator	334.00	3,472.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
04-12-34-60.03	Pumps	5,593.50	18,709.16			
04-12-34-60.04	Line Flushing			4,500.00	4,500.00	

Sewer Department  
2024 Budget

04-12-34-61.00	Chemicals	7,116.45	6,430.07	13,000.00	12,000.00	
04-12-34-61.02	UV Disinf.	-	1,782.72	1,400.00	1,600.00	
04-12-34-66.00	Tools	2,592.54	701.08	2,000.00	2,000.00	
04-12-34-67-00	Safety Equipment	446.70	58.25	500.00	500.00	
04-12-34-68.00	Vehicle Maintenance	992.09	718.45	1,200.00	1,200.00	
04-12-34-68-02	Tractor		336.12		5,000.00	
04-12-34-68-04	Jetty Trailer					
04-12-34-69.00	Plant Maintenance	23,943.42	14,453.84	12,000.00	12,000.00	
04-12-34-75.00	Depreciation Expense	50,143.00				
04-12-34-79.00	Vehicle Fuel	2,330.35	2,006.55	1,800.00	1,800.00	
04-12-34-80.00	Reserves					
04-12-34-82.01	Interest					
04-12-34-82.02	Bond Interest	21,635.62	17,141.46	26,000.00	26,000.00	
04-12-34-82.03	Sewer Bond Reimburse	110,000.00	110,000.00	110,000.00	110,000.00	
04-12-34-83.00	Service Charge	-				
04-12-35-90.00	Capital/Bond Transfer	20,134.55	20,447.20	20,447.20		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>528,077.12</b>	<b>545,535.62</b>	<b>466,549.70</b>	<b>501,740.00</b>	
<b>Total Sewer Fund</b>		<b>(73,502.58)</b>	<b>(12,510.71)</b>	<b>4,450.30</b>	<b>(8,740.00)</b>	

**Sewer Department  
Balance Sheet  
As of 31 December 2023**

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>
04-00-00-00-00	Sewer Fund	-		0.00%	-
04-00-00-00-01	Sewer Reserve	-	-	0.00%	-
04-00-00-05-00	Accounts Receivable	-	-	0.00%	-
04-00-00-05-10	Fixed Assets	1,904,551.00	1,904,551.00	0.00%	-
04-00-00-05-15	Accumulated Depreciation	(800,716.00)	(800,716.00)	0.00%	-
04-00-00-09-00	Due to/From Other Funds	(124,463.18)	19,773.31	-729.45%	(144,236.49)
04-00-00-30-15	A/R Sewer Billing	76,351.69	69,089.84	10.51%	7,261.85
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,055,723.51</b>	<b>1,192,698.15</b>	<b>-11.48%</b>	<b>(136,974.64)</b>

<b>LIABILITY</b>					
04-00-01-00-00	Accounts Payable	4,710.17	4,344.92	8.41%	365.25
04-00-01-00-05	Accrued Payroll	-	-	0.00%	-
04-00-01-00-10	Accrued Comp Balances	1,672.00	1,672.00	0.00%	-
04-00-01-05-00	USDA Loan	317,317.95	436,167.59	-27.25%	(118,849.64)
04-00-01-30-15	Sewer Overpayments	4,495.88	3,548.41	26.70%	947.47
04-00-01-70-01	Sewer Fund	-	-	0.00%	-
<b>Total Liability</b>		<b>328,196.00</b>	<b>445,732.92</b>	<b>-26.37%</b>	<b>(117,536.92)</b>

<b>Fund Balance</b>					
04-00-03-00-00	Fund Balance - Unreserved	309,270.23	382,772.81	-19.20%	(73,502.58)
04-00-03-00-05	Retained Earnings	-	-	0.00%	-
04-00-03-00-10	Net Investment in Capital	437,695.00	437,695.00	0.00%	-
<b>Total Prior Years Fund Balance</b>		<b>746,965.23</b>	<b>820,467.81</b>	<b>-8.96%</b>	<b>(73,502.58)</b>
Fund Balance Current Year		(19,437.72)	(73,502.58)	-73.56%	54,064.86
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>		<b>727,527.51</b>	<b>746,965.23</b>	<b>-2.60%</b>	<b>(19,437.72)</b>
<b>Total Liability and Fund Balance</b>		<b>1,055,723.51</b>	<b>1,192,698.15</b>	<b>-11.48%</b>	<b>(136,974.64)</b>

# SEWER and WATER DEPARTMENT NOTES

## 2023

	Original Date	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total Repaid
<b>Bond Series 2 - \$1,151,360</b>	May 2015	113,372	129,847	129,872	135,991	135,991	135,991	135,991	135,991	135,991	135,991	67,996					1,393,024
<i>Sewer Bond - refinanced</i>																	
Beginning Balance	\$1,151,360	\$1,070,528	\$979,785	\$885,477	\$787,461	\$685,594	\$579,723	\$469,692	\$333,701								
Principal Payment	\$80,832	\$90,743	\$94,309	\$98,015	\$101,867	\$105,871	\$110,031	\$114,355	\$118,850								
Ending Balance	\$1,070,528	\$979,785	\$885,477	\$787,461	\$685,594	\$579,723	\$469,692	\$333,701	\$214,851								
Interest Payment		\$42,021	\$35,538	\$31,857	\$34,124	\$30,121	\$25,960	\$21,636	\$8,571								
<b>Water Project Loan \$25,800</b>	2014 & 2015			5,160	5,160	5,160	5,160	5,160	5,160								25,800
<i>loan for water master planning</i>																	
Beginning Balance				25,800	20,640	15,480	10,320	5,160									
Principal Payment				5,160	5,160	5,160	5,160	5,160									
Ending Balance				20,640	15,480	10,320	5,160	-									
Interest Payment																	
<b>Water Project Bond \$4,050,000</b>	May 2015				97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	4,050,000
Beginning Balance					3,725,763	3,572,457	3,421,450	3,326,860	3,232,270								
Principal Payment					97,420	94,590	94,590	94,590	94,590								
Ending Balance				3,725,763	3,628,343	3,477,867	3,326,860	3,232,270	3,137,680								
Interest Payment																	
Approved May 2015 vote; repayment begins 2 years from completion																	
<b>Total Utilities Long Term Debt</b>		113,372	129,847	135,032	238,571	238,571	238,571	238,571	233,411	233,411	233,411	165,416	97,420	97,420	97,420	97,420	5,468,824

**TOWN NOTES  
GENERAL FUND and CAPITAL FUND  
2023**

**GENERAL FUND:**

**Line of Credit:**

Borrowed & Paid:

TAN Current Expense Note/Line of Credit

Dated 05/22/2023 M&T Bank

\$900,000.00 Due 10/31/2023

	original date	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total to Repay
<b>Bond Series 1 - \$823,065</b>	March 2016	5,584	59,345	58,688	178,619	175,868	172,920	125,741	123,244									900,009
Capital Purchases Article 2 \$269,900																		
Paving Bond - Article 3 \$220,000																		
OWell Land Purchases \$333,165	March 2017		7,875	23,824	60,824	60,114	156,355	155,461	150,352	110,069	107,528	57,860	56,400	54,875	53,300	51,670		1,104,506
<b>Bond Series 3 - \$920,000</b>																		
Popple Dungeon Culvert - Article 2 \$135,000																		
Route 35 Improvements - Article 2 \$100,000																		
Fire Pump - Article 3 - \$500,000																		
Capital Items - Article 4 - \$185,000																		
<b>Bond Series 2 - \$669,000</b>	March 2018			6,668	18,186	18,186	18,186	111,186	109,233	107,159	104,955	102,555	47,593	46,279	44,884	43,538	42,175	820,782
Compaction Roller - Article 2 \$110,000																		
Steeple Plow Article 2 \$115,000																		
Hamat Trailer Article 2 \$11,000																		
Procket 50 Park Article 4 \$25,000																		
Town Hall Reno Article 3 \$469,000	March 2019			1,619	4,817	4,817	4,817	54,817	54,117	53,407	52,657	51,867	51,037					329,155
Paving							733	37,879	37,664	37,436	37,179	36,879	36,543	36,150				260,462
<b>Bond Series 3 &amp; 4 - \$250,000</b>	July 2021																	
Paving Lovers Lane Rd & Popple Dungeon Rd																		
<b>Total Bond Payments</b>		5,584	67,220	89,181	259,248	258,984	353,011	483,083	474,610	308,070	302,318	249,161	191,573	137,304	98,184	95,208	42,175	3,414,913

\* Repayments include Principal & Interest

**CAPITAL FUND:**

	original date	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
<b>Capital Equipment Note \$136,500</b>	June 2016		45,500	45,500	45,500													136,500
2016 John Deere Excavator			45,500	45,500	45,500													
<b>Highway Lease \$147,137.40</b>	June 2015	49,046	49,046	49,046														147,138
2015 John Deere 544K Loader		49,046	49,046	49,046														
<b>Highway Ton Truck \$37,200</b>	Sept 2018				12,400	12,400	12,400											37,200
Ton Truck Loan					12,400	12,400	12,400											
<b>Highway Loader \$129,500</b>	June 2019				32,375	32,375	32,375	32,375										129,500
2019 John Deere Loader					32,375	32,375	32,375	32,375										
<b>Highway Palmer Bridge \$96,000</b>	Oct 2020						96,000											96,000
Palmer Bridge Repair - refinanced							96,000											
<b>Police Cruiser \$41,000</b>	May 2020				10,250	10,250	10,250	10,250										41,000
2016 Police Cruiser					10,250	10,250	10,250	10,250										
<b>Highway Truck \$140,000</b>	July 2020						28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000							140,000
2021 Western Star							28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000							
<b>Highway Paving \$100,000</b>	July 2020				25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000										100,000
Syvan, Peck & Elm Street					25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000										
<b>Highway Loader/Backhoe \$110,000</b>	July 2020				11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000		110,000
2020 JD4100 Loader/backhoe					11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000		
<b>Highway Palmer Bridge \$96,000</b>	Oct 2020						24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000							96,000
Palmer Bridge Repair - refinanced							24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000							
<b>Highway Truck \$130,000</b>	Aug 2021						26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000						130,000
2022 Western Star							26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000						
<b>Highway 2 Pick Up Trucks \$85,000</b>	June 2022							21,250	21,250	21,250	21,250	21,250						85,000
2022 Ford F350 & 2022 GMC Sierra 3500								21,250	21,250	21,250	21,250	21,250						
<b>Highway Improvement \$210,000</b>	Dec 2023								30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000		210,000
Popple Dungeon & Town Garage									30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000		
<b>2 Police Cruisers \$112,000.00</b>	July 2023								28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000					112,000
2023 31 Chevy Tahoe; 2023 31 Chevy Tahoe									28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000					
<b>Highway Truck \$155,000</b>	Sept 2023								31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000					155,000
2024 Western Star - 47X									31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000					
<b>Current Exp Note \$1,900,000</b>	Dec 2023								1,900,000									1,900,000
Operating Expenses to Offset 2023 Floods									1,900,000									

<b>Total Loan Payments</b>		49,046	94,546	94,546	57,900	44,775	239,025	156,625	207,875	2,134,500	175,250	147,250	100,000	72,000	41,000	11,000	0	3,625,338
<b>Total Long Term Debt</b>		54,650	161,765	185,727	317,148	303,759	592,036	639,708	682,485	2,442,570	477,568	396,411	291,573	209,304	139,184	106,208	42,175	7,040,251

Delinquent Water/Sewer Report  
As of December 31, 2023

	CURRENT	OVER 30	OVER 60	OVER 90	OVER 120	TOTAL
SEWER	\$ 21,457.45	\$ 564.85	\$ 560.40	\$ 7,571.26	\$ 46,197.73	\$ 76,351.69
WATER	\$ 14,668.34	\$ 294.06	\$ 290.14	\$ 4,636.98	\$ 22,898.77	\$ 42,788.29
TOTAL	\$ 36,125.79	\$ 858.91	\$ 850.54	\$ 12,208.24	\$ 69,096.50	\$ 119,139.98

The town has adopted a stricter delinquent water and sewer collection procedure. Once a billing is sent out, it is due in 30 days and becomes delinquent in 31 days. The account will be allowed to be delinquent for 30 days before the shut off process begins. At that time, the user has the opportunity to make a payment arrangement with the requirement that all future current billings remain current. Should this not occur, shutoff will occur with further charges being assessed. We are hopeful that this stricter collection policy will help reduce the delinquencies in these funds, thereby reducing the need for rate increases.

Delinquent Tax Report  
As of December 31, 2023

Tay Year	Principal	Interest	Penalty	Total Due
2014	\$ 149.90	\$ 216.75	\$ 11.99	\$ 378.64
2015	\$ 1,381.68	\$ 1,782.80	\$ 110.54	\$ 3,275.02
2016	\$ 1,596.39	\$ 1,803.50	\$ 127.71	\$ 3,527.60
2017	\$ 1,565.64	\$ 1,581.00	\$ 125.26	\$ 3,271.90
2018	\$ 1,627.89	\$ 1,465.20	\$ 130.23	\$ 3,223.32
2019	\$ 2,656.12	\$ 2,072.13	\$ 212.52	\$ 4,940.77
2020	\$ 20,569.44	\$ 12,239.36	\$ 1,645.58	\$ 34,454.38
2021	\$ 41,652.21	\$ 17,286.09	\$ 3,332.20	\$ 62,270.50
2022	\$ 53,281.61	\$ 11,988.31	\$ 4,262.35	\$ 69,532.27
2023	\$ 220,881.41	\$ 9,955.78	\$ 17,696.08	\$ 248,533.27
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 345,362.29</b>	<b>\$ 60,390.92</b>	<b>\$ 27,654.46</b>	<b>\$ 433,407.67</b>

**PROCEDURES FOR TAX SALE**

Taxes are due on Sept. 15 of each year. If taxes are not paid, or a payment arrangement made by Oct. 15, tax sale process will begin. Typically, the town holds two tax sales per year. The first one in Mar. and the second one in November. The fall tax sale is usually for those individuals who have not kept up on their payment arrangement.

A tax sale is a remedy available to a municipality to ensure collection of its local property tax. The right to sell real estate to satisfy taxes is a wholly statutory right. The first step is to have the Tax Collector "extend" his Warrant on the property in question.

The next step is to advertise such property for sale at public auction, both publicly on the notice board and in a local newspaper. In addition, Notices of Tax Sale are sent directly to the property owner by registered mail. All mortgage and lien holders are sent the same notice.

After three successive weeks of advertising, and at least ten day from the last advertisement, the property is sold at public auction if the taxes remain unpaid. The owner of a property may redeem the property within one year by paying to the Tax Collector the tax due, together with 1% interest per month plus all associated charges. The Tax Collector then returns the funds to the purchaser and releases the property from the Tax Sale Lien.

When the time for redemption (i.e. one year) has passed, and the property has not been redeemed, the Tax Collector will execute and deliver to the purchaser a Quit Claim Deed.

**2024 PROPERTY TAXES DUE**  
**September 16, 2024**

Interest will be assessed on September 18, 2024 at the rate of 1%. Penalty will be assessed at the rate of 3% on September 18, 2024. An additional 5% will be assessed on October 2, 2024.

Municipal Grants Managed  
during 2023

Type of Grant	Purpose	Amount	Year Awarded	Current Status
Vtrans	Sidewalk upgrades	\$ 800,000.00	2018	Finalizing Right of way with Vermont Rail. Hoping to construct in 2024.
Historic Preservation	Yosemite Fire House Windwos	\$ 20,000.00	2023	Window restoration in progress
Vtrans	Gr. Mtn. Tnpk Culvert	\$ 236,400.00	2022	Construction in 2024
Vtrans	Paving Cobleigh Parking	\$ 52,500.00	2022	Paving work in 2024
Downtown Fundings	Wayfinding Package	\$ 233,100.00	2022	Signs to be construction in 2024
Better Backroads	Culvert work - Lovers Lane	\$ 29,974.00	2022	Construction in 2023
FEMA	Tanker for Fire Dept.	\$ 475,000.00	2022	Truck has been ordered
Municipal Planning	Bylaw Modernization	\$ 20,000.00	2022	Planning Commission work almost done. Will close in 2024
Public Safety	Purchase of AEDs	\$ 4,765.00	2023	AED units purchased
Human Services	Training equip. for ambulance	\$ 8,645.22	2023	Equipment Purchased
Municipal Planning	Housing Study	\$ 30,000.00	2023	Awarded late 2023
Vtrans	Scoping study for Sidewalk to High School	\$ 44,000.00	2023	Awarded late 2023
Homeland Security	PD Radios	\$ 29,694.72	2023	Radios purchased and installed
Clean Water Funding	Lead Line Inventory	\$ 73,560.00	2023	LLI completed
Drinking Water Fund	Wastewater Asset Mgmt	\$ 39,000.00	2023	Completed and in draft review
PACIF Grant - VICT	Ditch Box and safety jackets	\$ 7,500.00	2023	Purchased and Closed out
Homeland Security	Body Cameras	\$ 6,369.00	2023	Purchase and deployed
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,110,507.94</b>		

2024 Grant Budget

Grant Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award Amount	Town Match Required	Other Dept.
<b>Grants that have been awarded:</b>				
Sidewalk Grant	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	Capital
Vtrans Paving Grant	\$ 535,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 335,000.00	Capital
Green Mountain Turnpike Culvert	\$ 236,400.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 36,400.00	Capital
Wastewater Asset Management Plan	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 39,000.00	Water
Yosemite Fire House Windows	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	ARPA
Park & Ride for Cobleigh	\$ 52,500.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 10,500.00	
Wayfinding Sign Package	\$ 233,100.00	\$ 186,480.00	\$ 46,620.00	ARPA
Public Safety Building AEDs	\$ 9,530.00	\$ 4,765.00	\$ 4,765.00	
Fire/Ambulance Equipment - Firehouse Subs	\$ 29,465.94	\$ 29,465.94	\$ -	
AFG - Fire Tanker Truck	\$ 475,000.00	\$ 452,380.95	\$ 22,619.05	Capital
Lead Line Inventory for Water Dept.	\$ 73,560.00	\$ 73,560.00	\$ -	
Municipal Planning Grant - housing	\$ 45,600.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 15,600.00	
Bylaw Modernization Grant	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	
Sidewalk to HS Scoping Study	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	
Radios for PD	\$ 29,694.72	\$ 29,694.72	\$ -	
<b>Total Grants Received</b>	<b>\$ 2,925,850.66</b>	<b>\$ 2,171,346.61</b>	<b>\$ 754,504.05</b>	
<b>Grants applied for - awaiting award:</b>				
Communications Equipment Public Safety	\$ 119,000.00	\$ 119,000.00	\$ -	
FEMA - Generator for Well Station	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	Water
Better Back Roads - Roach Road	\$ 22,478.80	\$ 17,983.04	\$ 4,495.76	
Urban Forestry	\$ 52,500.00	\$ 47,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	in kind
<b>Total Grants Applied For</b>	<b>\$ 293,978.80</b>	<b>\$ 274,483.04</b>	<b>\$4,495.76</b>	
<b>Seed Money for Potential Grants:</b>				
PACIF Grant	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$0.00	
Assistance to Firefighters - Compressor	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 76,500.00	\$8,500.00	
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$30,000.00	
<b>Total Seed Money:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$38,500.00</b>	
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$ 3,219,829.46</b>	<b>\$ 2,445,829.65</b>	<b>\$797,499.81</b>	

**Grant Fund  
Balance Sheet  
As of 31 December 2023**

	12/31/23	12/31/22	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current Assets			
Due To/From Other Funds	55,327.98	179,178.66	-123,850.68
Total Checking/Savings	55,327.98	179,178.66	-123,850.68
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>55,327.98</b>	<b>179,178.66</b>	<b>-123,850.68</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	2,145.00	0.00	2,145.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,145.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,145.00</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>			
Fund Balance - Unreserved	179,178.66	-22,946.87	202,125.53
Fund Balance Current Year	-125,995.68	202,125.53	-328,121.21
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>53,182.98</b>	<b>179,178.66</b>	<b>-125,995.68</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; Fund Balance</b>	<b>55,327.98</b>	<b>179,178.66</b>	<b>-123,850.68</b>



## **The Yosemite Engine Company**

### **Our Mission**

*“The purpose of the company is to promote goodwill, encourage public support, promote fire safety and prevention, and improve cooperation among members.*

*The purpose of the company shall also be to provide training opportunities for members of the Chester Fire Department and to conduct fund-raising activities for the benefit of said department and the community.”*

The Yosemite Engine Company had another great year of fundraising and continuing our mission of supporting the Town of Chester and our community. The Engine Company was able to donate over \$15,000 to the Chester Fire Department. The money went towards the costs of equipment, training, fitness, and food and supplies. These things would not have been possible without the Yosemite Engine Companies work and more so would not have thinkable without the support of the communities of Chester and Andover in our fundraising efforts.

2024 is going to be an even bigger year for the Yosemite Engine Company. We have committed up to \$12,000 per year to offset the costs of training. The Fire Departments aging and worn Swiftwater equipment is in need of replacement and we hope to fund these efforts, and we will continue to support fire safety education supplies. Although our 2024 goals are large, we are confident we can achieve them with our continued fundraising efforts and community support. We will continue to sell Vermont Christmas Trees, food at the Fall Festival, and send out our yearly donation letter.

As we move forward, I am saddened to say I am resigning from my position of President of the Yosemite Engine Company. In January of 2024 I became Acting Chief of the Fire Department and feel there is too much conflict of interest to fill both rolls. It has been an honor and privilege to have held this position since the retirement of Mark O’Neil more than a decade ago. I am thankful for the support of the Yosemite Engine Company and our community. The things this group does are truly remarkable and so much has been made possible through their efforts. Mark Verespy has been elected president by the members for 2024 and I congratulate him in taking this position.

Thank you for supporting us in supporting you.

Ben Whalen, President (2023)  
Yosemite Engine Company

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN OF CHESTER FIRE WARDEN**

This year of 2023 we had a very wet summer and no red flag days. I issued 318 verbal permits. This year and Ben Whelan, the Assistant Fire Warden issued 20 permits for a total of 338.

2023 we had 2 minor brush fires within Chester. Both were caused by power lines down.

There were 1 unpermitted burn with no hazards, no danger. I just explained the burn regulations to the subject with nothing further to report.

There were no tickets issued and 1 verbal warning issued for burning without a permit.

I turned down 4 permits due to unfavorable conditions, high wind conditions

I would like to note that there were no problems caused by any of the permitted burns, which is why we issue permits.

I know that we have many new to the area residences that are unfamiliar with the process. I urge them to call and have the proper information before burning.

I would like to thank all of the citizens of Chester for calling for permits to burn. This is the main reason that we usually have no unnecessary Fire Department responses.

I would also request that people continue to call in the winter to burn legal materials so that I can keep track of where the fires are and continue to avoid unnecessary Fire Department responses. This will continue to be a cost savings to the taxpayers by avoiding unnecessary responses.

I would like to remind everyone that you may call for a permit any day of the week on my cell at 802-384-3001.

I would remind everybody that if I am unavailable that Ben Whalen is my Deputy Warden and is available at 802-289-1087.

Respectfully submitted  
Jeff Holden  
Town of Chester Fire Warden

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY AND BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT**

In the year 2023 the Boards of Civil Authority and Tax Abatement had little business before them. There were no appeals this year for lower property assessments beyond the level of Lister grievance. The Board of Civil Authority thanks the Listers for their hard work and expertise in setting assessments and handling grievances. Their dedication makes our work much easier.

The Board of Civil Authority met in August to discuss purging of the Voter Checklist. Every odd year the Board of Civil Authority sends purge letters to voters they believe no longer live in Chester.

The Board of Tax Abatement had no request for abatement in 2023.

There was one election in 2023. The Town Meeting Tuesday, March 7, for voting on local office candidates and school budgets.

There will be four elections in 2024:

- Town Meeting and Floor Vote is March 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Second Floor.
- Town and School Voting March 7, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, Second Floor.
- Major Party Primary August 13, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, Second Floor.
- General Election November 5, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, Second Floor.

There are several options for voting besides coming to the polling place (Town Hall) on Election Day. A voter can request an absentee ballot from the Vermont Elections Management System/My Voter Page, come to the Town Office or call the Town Office at 875-2173.

We thank the Town Office Staff and Listers for all the time and energy they contribute to assisting the BCA in our work.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Chase, Chair  
Board of Civil Authority and Tax Abatement

## TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The annual meeting of the Trustee of Public funds was held Jan.24, 2024 for the year ending 2023 with the trust officers of M & T Bank, Wilmington Trust. Reports were given by Trust Officers Remus Preda and John Conlon on the economic conditions of equity funds, bond funds, real estate funds. Although 2023 took a downward turn it rallied by the end of the year. It has been the strategy of the Trustees of Public Funds to maintain a balanced portfolio to maintain a slow but safe growth. This year funds accrued interest of \$14,315.49 will be returned to the town. Our funds have grown over the years significantly and although restricted, we consider requests for individual funds.

There was a request of \$29,000 from the cemetery department to build an addition to the equipment shed, tree work and survey work. The request was granted and the funds sent to the Town of Chester .

We welcome Susan Willis to the board of Trustees as our newest member.

As always if you have a special interest or project and would like to donate funds to the town to be held in the Trustee Public Funds account, just send a letter with your donation and instructions for the life of the fund.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Barrett  
Erron Carey  
Susan Willis

**STATEMENT OF TRUST FUNDS  
HELD BY TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

<u>Investments</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Net Income 2023*	\$ 14,315.49
Principal Money Market Fund	\$ 35,099.74
Mutual Funds: Fixed Income	\$ 396,373.67
Equity	\$ 346,430.03
Real Assets	\$27,628.42
Accrued Income	\$966.61
Total Investments	<u>\$ 820,813.96</u>
*\$ to be disbursed January 2024	\$ 14,315.49

**TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS  
PAYABLES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Due Town of Chester	\$ 12,038.92
Due Chester Town School District: Abbie Ingalls School Fund	\$ 29.20
Due Chester Schools: Williams School Fund	<u>\$ 2,247.37</u>
TOTAL	\$ 14,315.49

**TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS  
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS 2023**

	Receipts	Disbursements	Invested Principal
	Income	Principal	To Town
			To Schools
			To Cemetery
Cemetery Fund	\$ 4,626.29		\$ 4,626.29
Campbell for Poor	382.19		382.19
Samuel Adams Cemetery	1.16		1.16
Howe-Peabody	2,211.05		2,211.05
Fullerton Cemetery	19.03		19.03
Samuel Adams Poor	1,193.19		1,193.19
Salter Poor Fund	29.20		29.20
Cyprus Minerals	3,576.82		3,576.82
Abbie Ingalls School	29.20	29.20	
Williams School Fund	2,247.37	2,247.37	
<b>Capital Gains Distributions</b>			
	<u>\$ 14,315.49</u>		<u>\$ 12,038.92</u>
		<u>\$ 18,798.85</u>	<u>\$ 2,276.57</u>
			<u>\$ 18,798.85</u>

Inc MMkt Bal 12/31/23      \$ 14,315.49      \$ 18,798.85

00

12/31/2023 Year- End Market Value	Contribution Amount	Total
<b>\$820,813.96</b>	-	<b>\$820,813.96</b>

	Old %	New %
Cemetery Fund	32.32%	32.32%
Campbell for Poor	2.67%	2.67%
Samuel Adams Cemetery	0.01%	0.01%
Howe Peabody	15.45%	15.45%
Fullerton Cemetery	0.13%	0.13%
Samuel Adams Poor	8.33%	8.33%
Salter Poor Fund	0.20%	0.20%
Cyprus Minerals	24.99%	24.99%
Abbie Ingalls School	0.20%	0.20%
Williams School Fund	15.70%	15.70%
	100.00%	100.00%

To: Windsor County Town Clerks  
From: Assistant Judges Alison Johannensen and David Singer  
Re: County News  
Date: December 2023

The County has experienced some changes this year, the first one is the bond that the county tax payers had approved for the Court House renovation has been paid off as of November 01, 2023. Thank you to all the tax payers for supporting this renovation.

Assistant Judge Ellen Terie decided not to run for re-election last year and retired as of January 31, 2023. Assistant Judge Terie was a valued member of the county and we certainly thank her for the 8 years she served Windsor County residents.

We also thank Assistant Judge Michael Ricci, who was also a valued member of the county and served the Windsor County residents for almost 2 years after being appointed by Governor Scott.

Our Deputy Clerk, Dianne Bumps decided to retire from her county position in May of 2023. We thank Dianne for her dedication during her 5 years with Windsor County.

The County Building Superintendent, Bruce Page, who has taken care of both county building since July of 2017 decided to retire from his county position at the end of November 2023. We thank Bruce for all his dedication and hard work.

We thank Mike Chamberlain for the many years he served Windsor County as Sheriff. We wish him well and hope he is enjoying himself.

We wish them all well in their new adventures!

Windsor County residents elected Ryan Palmer as the County Sheriff. Sheriff Palmer has been approaching his new responsibility with a lot of enthusiasm.

Windsor County residents elected two (2) new Assistant Judges, Alison Johannensen and David Singer who assumed office as of February 01, 2023. We welcome both of the assistant judges.

The Assistant Judges are working hard on securing an energy efficiency grant to be used to replace the old boiler in the county building. If the county is successful in securing the grant, we hope the boiler can be replaced within the next year.

The Windsor County Final Budget Hearing is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2024 at the County Building in Woodstock, Vermont at 5:00 P.M.

# Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

Springfield Local Health Office | 100 Mineral St, Suite 104, Springfield, VT  
802-289-0600 | [AHS.VDHSpringfield@Vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHSpringfield@Vermont.gov)

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The Springfield Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Southern Windsor and Northern Windham Counties.**

Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit [HealthVermont.gov/local/springfield](https://HealthVermont.gov/local/springfield)



## Responding to Health Emergencies

It is important that we respond quickly to public health emergencies. This helps reduce illness and injury in our community. There were two major emergencies in our district this past year.

### COVID-19

The first was responding to COVID-19 through prevention and response efforts. We distributed over 8,200 COVID test kits for free including through Veggie Van Go events in Springfield and Windsor.

### Historic Flooding

The second major public health emergency was the catastrophic flooding in July. We staffed several Disaster Response Centers in Londonderry and Ludlow to distribute free water test kits. We also served as a collection point for water test kits and sent over 180 test kits to the state laboratory for processing. Over 50% of these kits were positive for bacteria. This provided essential information to keep our community safe.



## Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Services

Springfield WIC serves an average of 600 individuals monthly with 3 outlying clinic sites in Bellows Falls, Ludlow and Windsor

- In 2023, our WIC staff helped families buy over \$96,000 of fruits and vegetables. Our Farm to Family coupons distributed an additional \$4,000 in our community.
- Also in 2023, our WIC program gave out 100 State Park passes, helping to reduce financial barriers to safe physical activity.
- Springfield WIC continues to be a safe and supportive place for nursing families to access resources, information and support.



## SNOWFALL

Snowfall is presently measured at Dian Circle, elevation 760 feet above sea level. Some areas of town exceed 1,800 feet in elevation; therefore, snow totals there may be higher. Steadman Mountain at 2,300 feet is the highest elevation in Town while the Missing Link Road, between Peck Road and Green Mountain Turnpike, at 530 feet above sea level is the lowest elevation in Town.

SEASON	Shown in Inches							TOTAL
	OCT.	NOV	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL	
1984-85	0	10	16.25	7	11	13	5	62.25
1985-86	0	11.5	14.5	27	18	8.5	8.5	88
1986-87	0	18	23	54.5	1	9	4	109.5
1987-88	4	11	15	19	36	7.5	1	93.5
1988-89	0	0	9.5	7.5	15.5	9	6	47.5
1989-90	0	5	15.5	38	27	6	0	91.5
1990-91	0	1	13.5	21	10.5	8.5	0	54.5
1991-92	0	2	20.5	5.5	8.5	5	7.5	49
1992-93	0	3	5.5	26.5	40	26	7	108
1993-94	0.5	0	13.5	46	13	22	0	95
1994-95	0	5	6	7	15	4	0	37
1995-96	0	8	29.5	32	9.5	22.5	11	112.5
1996-97	0.5	4	19.75	30	22.75	22	8	107
1997-98	0	19	13	25.5	7	15	0	79.5
1998-99	0	1.5	6	34	9.5	19	0	70
1999-00	0	0.5	2.5	20.25	26.5	15	1	65.75
2000-01	0.5	1	16	6	27.5	53	0	104
2001-02	0	0	8	30.5	5.5	20.5	2	66.5
2002-03	7	18.75	31.5	27.5	17.5	5	15.5	122.75
2003-04	0.5	5	30.75	10	14.5	12.25	0	73
2004-05	0	0	11	29.75	16.25	22	0	79
2005-06	1	4.5	17.5	21.5	13.5	0	0	58
2006-07	0	0	4	4.25	24.25	25.25	18.75	76.5
2007-08	0	2.5	40	17.5	38	12	1	111
2008-09	0	2	35	35	13.5	6.5	0	92
2009-10	0	0	22	13	31.25	0	0	66.25
2010-11	0	Trace	16	34.5	37.5	10	2.2	100.2
2011-12	8.75	10	2	15.25	3.5	15	0	54.5
2012-13	0	0	22	9.75	25	15.75	0	72.5
2013-14	0	0.75	24.75	12.5	34	12.5	0	84.5
2014-15	0	9.75	13	17.25	38.25	3.5	1	82.75
2015-16	0	0	5	4.5	8	0	2.5	20
2016-17	3.5	0	25.25	13	28.5	26.5	6	102.75
2017-18	0	trace	26.25	11.75	27.25	36.25	5.25	106.75
2018-19	Trace	20	3.5	26.5	15.25	11	0.5	76.75
2019-20	0	2	16	12.5	18.25	11.25	2	62
2020-2021	1.5	0.5	34	18.75	28.5	1	4	88.25
2021-2022	0	trace	11	14.75	15.25	10	0	51
2022-2023	0	3	23	22.75	10	35.5	0	51
2023-2024	0	10.25	3					13.25
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>4.74</b>	<b>16.60</b>	<b>20.76</b>	<b>19.53</b>	<b>14.28</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>79.66</b>

**SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**TOWN REPORT 2023**  
**January 2024**

On behalf of SRDC, our Board and our members, many thanks for the continued support and partnership from the Town of Chester this past year.

We continue to provide assistance to the Town and residents on a variety of matters, from meeting with prospects to assisting existing businesses with their needs. We served several clients in the community this past year including those looking to start a business as well as Chester's major employers. This includes our direct efforts as well as those of the Small Business Development Center and Procurement Technical Assistance Center, which are all part of our office.

SRDC continues to provide technical assistance to companies for a variety of needs, including facilitating applications for programs for those impacted by this summer's flooding as well as the current Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange, which several Chester businesses have accessed.

The dominant issue with our area employers continues to be workforce development. SRDC is a close partner with the River Valley Technical Center and River Valley Workforce Investment Board, as well as other regional stakeholders, and is actively working to address a variety of related issues, including increasing the workforce participation rate in the labor market area. We are a core partner on the Working Communities Challenge team, which is one of 8 regions in Vermont to receive a multi-year grant from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to assist low- and moderate-income people with barriers to sustainable employment.

SRDC is always grateful and appreciative of our relationship with the community. We appreciate our partnership with Julie Hance at Town Hall and Dale Williamson of Newsbank continues to serve as a member of the SRDC Board.

As always, we are ready and anxious to talk to any existing company or anyone looking to start a business venture. If you would like to know more about SRDC, please feel free to contact me at our offices at 14 Clinton Street, Springfield, 885-3061 or [bobf@springfielddevelopment.org](mailto:bobf@springfielddevelopment.org). You can also learn more about SRDC through our web site at [www.springfielddevelopment.org](http://www.springfielddevelopment.org) or on our Facebook page!

Again, many thanks for your continued support. Working together, we will ensure that "Great Things Happen Here" for many years to come.

Bob Flint  
Executive Director

### **Mount Ascutney Regional Commission**

The Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) is an organization that serves ten towns in the southern Windsor County Region, including Chester. The activities and programs of the MARC are governed by a Board of Commissioners that are appointed by each member town. The primary function of the MARC is to assist member towns with their planning and other community related activities, and to promote cooperation and coordination among towns.

During FY23, the dues from member towns contributed about 2% of the MARC's annual budget of \$1,741,824. The town dues assessment of \$3,907 was determined on a \$1.30 per person based upon U.S. Census data. The remaining revenues were derived from federal, state, and other funding sources.

The MARC offers member towns a broad range of services, including assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, water quality, emergency management, data, mapping, and other planning activities. In FY23, the MARC assisted the Town of Chester in preparing a Local Emergency Management Plan; assisted with the response and recovery from the July flooding event, provided technical assistance with updating the Unified Development Bylaws; technical assistance with the Grants-in-Aid Program; assisted with grant writing for transportation projects, and provided information and technical assistance related to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

We would like to thank town appointed representatives Julie Hance, Derek Suursoo, Peter Hudkins and Arne Jonynas who have served on the MARC Board and Committees this past year.

Thank you for your continued support of local and regional planning. For more information about the MARC, call us at (802) 674-9201, visit our website at [www.marcvt.org](http://www.marcvt.org), or look us up on Facebook.

Jason Rasmussen, AICP  
Executive Director

**Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District**

Andover • Athens • Baltimore • Cavendish • Chester • Grafton • Ludlow • Plymouth  
Reading • Rockingham • Springfield • Weathersfield • West Windsor • Windsor

**[www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org](http://www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org)**

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*The District was chartered in fourteen Vermont towns. appoints a representative the Board of Supervisors. Derek Suursoo; Jay Blodgett is the alternate.*



*1981 and currently serves Each member municipality and an alternate to serve on Chester's representative is*



Food scraps are banned from the landfill because they generate methane gas which degrades the ozone layer. The Springfield Transfer Station accepts food scraps (including meat and bones) from people with an access permit. To facilitate backyard composting, the District sold composters and food scrap pails throughout the year.



The District's household hazardous waste (HHW) depot in Springfield opened for its second season in May 2023. It was open, by appointment, for five months, two mornings a week. The Depot will re-open in May 2024. If you need to dispose of HHW before May, make an appointment in Rutland at [www.rcswd.com](http://www.rcswd.com).



Two retailers in Springfield accept unwanted paint year-round. Bring paint to Bibens Ace Hardware or Sherwin-Williams during regular business hours and dispose of it for free (cans must be labeled, not leaky, not rusty – bring others to the HHW Depot).



AA, AAA, C, D, 9v, hearing aid, coin cell, tool, and rechargeable batteries are accepted at the Springfield Transfer Station. Batteries are "special recycling" and do NOT go in with other recycling (fire hazard).



This is the "reuse" symbol - that is what we do with glass bottles and jars that are brought to the Springfield, Ludlow, and Weathersfield transfer stations.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Kennedy    Mary T. O'Brien    Ham Gillett  
District Manager    Recycling Coordinator    Outreach Coordinator

## **Chester Conservation Committee 2023 Report**

The Chester Conservation Committee (CCC) is an informal group of local volunteers dedicated to fostering awareness and stewardship of Chester's natural and recreational resources. The CCC's efforts are focused primarily on developing and maintaining outdoor recreational assets, implementing conservation projects and public education. The CCC also serves as a resource for the Town when trails and other types of conservation stewardship projects are being contemplated and discussed.

### **Hiking Trails**

The CCC continues to manage and maintain the Lost Mine and Butternut Hill Trails in the Chester Town Forest on Reservoir Road, as well as the Brookside Trail behind the Chester Academy building. Trail maps can be downloaded from the Town website at: [www.chestervt.gov/recreation](http://www.chestervt.gov/recreation).

The CCC's efforts focus mainly on ensuring that the popular trails remain open, safe and passable throughout the year. Typical projects include removing fallen trees, installing signage, refreshing trail blazes, updating maps, and more recently, assembling and installing Leopold benches at various trail locations. All three trails continue to offer exceptional year-round hiking opportunities for community members and town visitors.

### **Conservation Projects**

The CCC remains actively involved in several on-going volunteer projects focused on monitoring, evaluating and improving environmental conditions in Chester.

**Vermont Green-Up Day:** The CCC leads the recruitment and coordination of volunteers and resources for the annual VT Green-Up Day activities in Chester, removing and properly disposing trash and other abandoned materials from roadways and neighborhoods to help beautify the Town.

**Williams River Water Quality Monitoring project:** In collaboration with the Connecticut River Conservancy, (CRC) the CCC recruits and coordinates volunteers to collect water samples from four different Chester locations throughout the summer. The samples are tested and results are uploaded to the CRC's "[Is it Clean?](#)" website.

**Chester Tree Canopy Improvement project:** After completing the Chester Tree Inventory and the Emerald Ash Borer mapping projects in prior years, the CCC is now involved in supporting the Town's initiative to plant more trees in Chester through recently announced grant funding opportunities.

**Chester Winter Carnival:** CCC members lead a guided snowshoe hike on the Brookside Trail every year in conjunction with the winter carnival.

### **Public Outreach & Education**

The CCC continues to be involved in a variety of public outreach and education programs benefiting the Chester community.

**Green Mountain Conservation Camp Scholarship:** Since 2012 the CCC has provided full tuition scholarships, with support from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, to students from Chester-Andover Elementary School and GMUHS to attend a weeklong session of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife's Green Mountain Conservation Camp.

**Chester Fall Festival:** The CCC participates annually in the Chester Fall Festival by setting up a booth and providing festival attendees with educational materials and information related to Chester's hiking trails and natural resources.

### **Disc Golf Course**

The Chester Disc Golf Course remains a popular recreational activity for Chester area residents as well as disc golf enthusiasts who travel from afar. The challenging 18-hole course winds its way through hilly, wooded terrain at the Pinnacle Recreation Area on Lover's Lane.



A group of local players have formed the Chester Disc Golf League and play weekly rounds throughout the year. The season culminates with the League Championships held in October.

The park-like setting of the course, complete with connecting trails and carved wooden benches, is a popular destination for hikers and families who enjoy exercising and exploring the woods that surround the course.

Disc golf is a sport that anyone can play and enjoy. For more information about the course and how to play, please visit the course kiosk located near the basketball courts and granite curb bench.

The Chester Conservation Committee currently meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 5:00pm, typically at the Whiting Library. For more information about the CCC please email [garyk5136@gmail.com](mailto:garyk5136@gmail.com).

See you out on the trails, in the woods or on the course...

# MOOVER!

## The MOOver Report FY24

Thank you again for Chester \$2250 donation last year.

As a private non-profit 501c3 transportation company, Southeast Vermont Transit the MOOver relies heavily and more than ever on local contributions. These funds allow us to draw down federal funds to provide operating support and the required match for our replacement vehicles. Chester has contributed to us for many years, and we thank you again for your support.

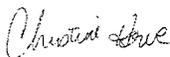
The MOOver's mission is to provide a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and quality of life for 34 Windham and southern Windsor County towns. We operate fixed bus routes that connect Rockingham to Walpole, Brattleboro, Ludlow, Springfield, DHMC, and Dartmouth College. We provide senior and disabled transportation, Medicaid, and other demand-response service via our fleet of 60 buses and a network of volunteer drivers. We receive state and federal grants plus contributions from 34 towns, three resorts, human service partners, sponsorships, and fundraising.

The town of Chester's total operating expenses last year were \$130,647. We provided 133,049 bus, van, taxi, and volunteer rides. Our buses, vans and volunteers traveled 2,128,771 miles over 70,668 hours.

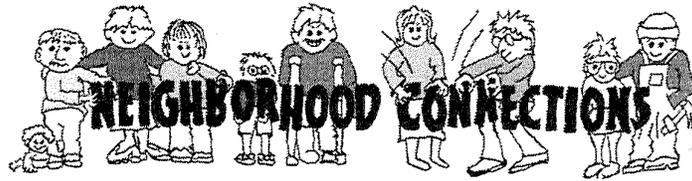
Chester's contribution supports continuing public transit in your town and throughout the region. Service levels vary by town and from year by year. A town's transportation needs can be minimal some years and large the next. We need your help to remain a healthy company to be able to respond to needs of the elderly, disabled, or in an emergency or crisis when the need arises.

We are requesting a \$ 2250 contribution from Chester this year. We hope you will support our funding request.

Thank you!



Christine Howe  
General Manager



Town of Chester, Vermont  
Attn: Town Clerk/Select Board

**Re: Transportation Appropriation Request for 2024**

Dear Select Board:

The Mountain Town Connector, Neighborhood Connections' transportation program, has provided nearly 1500 rides since its launch in 2021. These rides to essential services are accessible to anyone in our transportation service area at no cost to the rider. As a bonus, we offer "door through door" service and the opportunity to be linked to other resources if needed, ensuring our neighbors are always well cared for.

**The popularity of our program is evident in the over 1200 ride requests we have received year-to-date, an increase of over 200% since last year.** Our expansion efforts in response to this growth have included procedural updates and hiring additional staff, allowing us to fulfill more ride requests and increase group rides and social activities. Because of this, so many of our neighbors have been able to get where they needed to go this past year with the help of our accommodating staff and drivers.

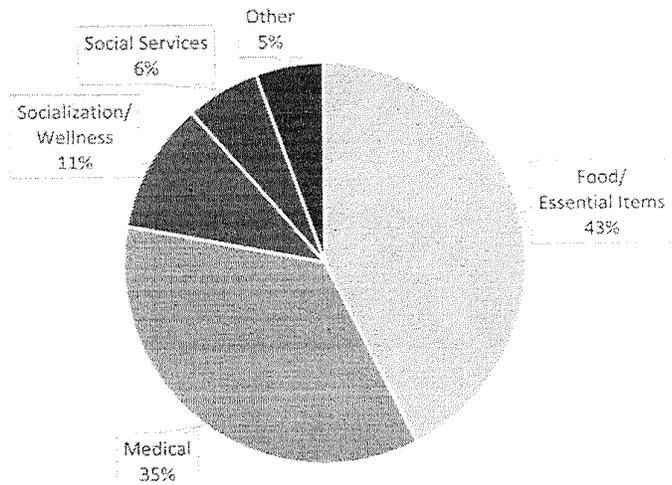
The long-term viability of the Mountain Town Connector requires collaboration and support from the communities we serve. Most of our program has been financed thus far by grantors who believe in the importance of transportation access in rural communities like ours, and we will continue to seek this support. Our long-term sustainability goal also includes securing 20% (or \$22,000) of our program's budget directly from town appropriations. As 17% of our ridership is from Chester, we kindly request a \$4,070 contribution from the town's budget to sustain our efforts.

Thank you for your continued support.

With sincerest gratitude,

Nicole Wengerd, PhD  
Executive Director

Top Five Ride Request Categories





Town of Chester  
Attn: Town Clerk/Select Board  
556 Elm Street  
PO Box 370  
Chester, VT 05143

**Re: Appropriation Request for 2023**

**Board of Directors:**

**Dwight A. Johnson**  
*Chairman*

**Ed Magee**  
*Treasurer*

**Carolyn Partridge**  
*Secretary*

**Charma Bonanno**

**Pat Cherry**

**Rusty Davis**

**Jim Linville**

**Skip Raymond**

**Mark Reffner**

**Bob Wells**

**Susie Wyman**

**Executive Director:**  
**Nicole Wengerd**

Dear Select Board:

Neighborhood Connections, Inc. is a community-based nonprofit serving nine towns in southern Vermont, including Chester. Our mission is to promote the health and well-being of the people of Southern Vermont's mountain towns through advocacy, education, and social services.

We offer case management, social programming, transportation, and more in response to community needs. Our two full-time, clinically-trained social workers provide case management and counseling, free of charge, to anyone in our catchment area. With over 8000 services delivered, our case management has doubled this year; in response, we've added staff and programs to manage amplified demand. Our most-accessed services are food security, health-related services, and transportation.

We are requesting \$1500 in appropriations from the town of Chester for our general operating budget in 2023 to help us to continue to grow and serve. We greatly appreciate the financial support you have provided us in the past. We're committed to eliminating barriers so all community members – regardless of age, disability, or income level - can experience a better quality of life.

With sincerest gratitude,

Nicole Wengerd, PhD  
Executive Director

*Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire*  
*Home Health, Hospice and Pediatric Services*

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is one of the oldest and largest non-profit providers of in-home healthcare services in the region. VNH is committed to providing the highest quality care throughout all stages of life, from maternal child care to end of life hospice care, and everything in between. Providing individuals and families with the care they need within the comfort of their own home allows them to maintain comfort and dignity throughout their time of care.

VNH services reduce cost associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, VNH made 1,554 in-home visits.

- **Home Health Care**: 51 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Hospice Services**: 6 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.
- **Long-Term Care**: 7 residents with chronic medical problems who need extended care in home to avoid admission to a nursing home.
- **Skilled Pediatric Care**: 1 resident for well-baby, preventative and palliative medical care.

VNH serves many of Chester's most vulnerable citizens – the frail elderly and disabled, at-risk families, people with terminal illnesses, children with chronic medical needs and the uninsured and underinsured. We are dedicated to delivering outstanding home health and hospice services that enrich the lives of the people we serve.

It is with your help that we are able to provide services like this to those in need. Chester's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*Anthony Knox*

Anthony Knox  
Community Relations Manager

**Women's Freedom Center's  
Statement of Services  
And Report to the Town of Chester**

The Women's Freedom Center's mission is to end physical, sexual, and emotional violence against the women and children of Windham and southern Windsor County. The Freedom Center works to fulfill its mission by educating the community regarding the root causes of violence against women, challenging the systems that help keep it in place, and providing support and services, including shelter and safe housing, to survivors and their children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. Since our beginnings in 1974, we have provided support to the survivors of these crimes, as well as consultation and educational activities to a wide range of community groups to help create a community in which violence is not tolerated.

Emergency support such as shelter, safety planning, financial assistance, and information and referral is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Ongoing individual and group support for survivors and their children; legal, medical, housing, and social services advocacy; and cooperative work with other agencies are provided during the week. Due to the rural nature of Windham County and southern Windsor County and the isolation inherent in many abusive relationships, we are committed to meeting with survivors wherever we may do so safely. Sometimes, this means assisting them to get to us, and other times, it means us going to them somewhere safe in their community.

During the fiscal year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the Women's Freedom Center responded to over 1,900 crisis telephone calls, sheltered 144 people, and provided thousands of hours of individual and group support, advocacy, emergency financial and housing assistance, access to legal representation, transportation and childcare to **1,099 people** (623 women, 2 non-binary individuals, 31 men, and 444 children) who had been abused. These figures include 16 survivors and their 9 children from Chester. In addition, we provided 50 community outreach activities, including school presentations and workshops, to over 700 people throughout Windham and southern Windsor Counties.

The Women's Freedom Center is a private, non-profit organization relying heavily on community support to provide our free and confidential services. We thank you for your Town's contribution to the Freedom Center and hope you will look at it as an investment in creating a future free from violence, something we all deserve.

Regards,



Vickie Sterling  
Executive Director  
Women's Freedom Center

# Chester Historic Preservation Committee

The Chester Historic Preservation Committee (CHPC) entered its seventh year of advisory work to address the value, condition, and present and future uses of the seven historic buildings owned by the Town of Chester: Jeffrey Barn on Route 103, Hearse House, Public Tomb, Academy Building/Central School, Whiting Library, Town Hall, and District No. 2 Firehouse/Yosemite Firehouse. The committee views historic structures as assets and important landmarks of Chester's cultural, artistic, historic, and architectural heritage. Many of the buildings house essential services in the life of the town and its residents. Others have potential that can be of future benefit to citizens, businesses, and visitors. All of them need regular maintenance and improvements to their appearance, function, and accessibility. Fortunately, the Town has been allocating money in each budget to help with its recognized need for continual maintenance and prioritized projects on these buildings. Here is an update on some of those buildings where action has been taken or planned.

**Jeffrey Barn on Route 103, northwest of the Stone Village.** There has been no solution found by the Select Board for the decaying large dairy barn. The barn's size, sawn timbers, need for extensive repair, lack of accompanying land, and proximity to a Town well field continue to restrict solutions.

**Hearse House Museum.** Open to the public for self-guided tours during good weather from Memorial Day through Columbus Day, this seasonal museum has text and photographs linked by QR codes on its displays to information on the Town's website under History – thereby making that information accessible year-round. Small repairs, including weather stripping, to the sliding doors are scheduled for Spring of 2024 to discourage dirt and vermin. A fire extinguisher still needs to be installed inside.

**Academy Building/Central School.** The town is waiting for energy grants to open up and for the results of an energy audit to determine exactly what needs to be done, including repair to fallen ceiling plaster both over the main stairway to the second floor and the landing upstairs.

**Whiting Library.** With the opening up of a new grant cycle, some improvements to the sprinkler system and handicap access may be possible.

**Town Hall.** The Town is waiting for the results of an energy audit to determine the next work necessary and a plan to make that possible.

**Fire District No. 2/Yosemite Firehouse.** In December 2022 the Town was awarded a \$20,000 matching grant from the State of Vermont. Besides repair to the existing windows, the grant will help cover new storm windows, renovation of the two sliding doors, and fabrication of doors behind the sliders on the south side of the building. The windows were slated for removal and restoration off site to be done in winter 2023/24. On Friday January 19, 2024, the windows on the second floor were removed and the openings boarded up with plywood. The lower windows should also be removed in January 2024 although access to many of them is harder because of the storage of heavy ladders, fire engines, and hose reels on the first floor. Another grant was applied for to cut the desired new door and its access on the north side of the building, but results of that application are not in yet.

In Fall of 2022 a nonprofit corporation – entitled Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum, Inc. – was formed to increase financial support and knowledge about the historic firehouse, its fire equipment, the history of firefighting, and the firefighters serving Chester. That organization hosted its first public program featuring the last Fire Chief at Yosemite talking about a number of famous fires fought in the area, with reference to photos that Chief Arnold P Stoddard donated to the Friends of Yosemite. In early January 2024, the Friends submitted a Federal grant for expert help in preserving some of the firemen

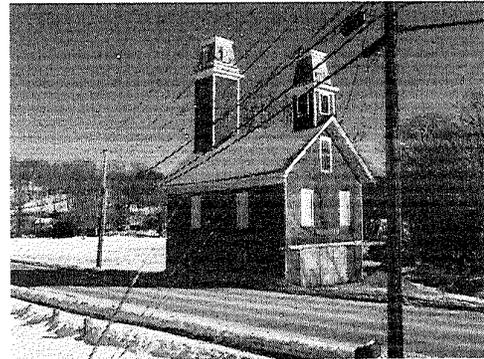
coats and other items presently stored at the historic firehouse. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum, c/o PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

Anyone with memorabilia and information to help tell the story of the Chester Fire Department in that historic structure is encouraged to contact CHPC Chair Lillian Willis at [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net) or at 802-875-1340.

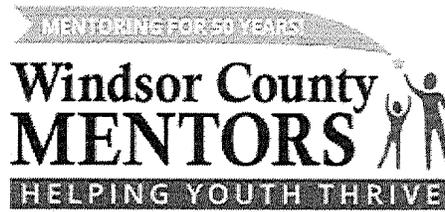
**Summary.** Although the firehouse survived the flooding and ravages of last year's severe storms, other areas in town demanded Town funds and staff attention, so progress on all the Town's historic buildings in 2023 continued slowly.

**Chester Historic Preservation Committee**

Kelly Arrison, Ron Chute, John DesLauriers, Carolyn Frisa, Cynthia Prairie, Margie Straub, Lillian Willis;  
Advisor: Chris Curran.



The removal of windows on the second floor at the historic Yosemite firehouse started the removal/restoration process for all the windows slated for repair over winter 2023/34.



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PO Box 101 • Windsor, VT 05089 • 802-674-5101 • [info@wcmentors.org](mailto:info@wcmentors.org) • [www.wcmentors.org](http://www.wcmentors.org)

### **Town Narrative - Chester For July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

For 50 years Windsor County Mentors has been creating and nurturing intensive community- and school-based mentoring partnerships, free of charge, to any Windsor County child between 5 and 18 who could benefit from a long-term, trusting relationship with an adult in their community.

Mentoring has been studied extensively and strong evidence shows that mentoring offers vulnerable youth opportunities to share experiences with reliable adults to widen their vision of themselves, helping them to become confident, contributing members of their community and increasing their social and mental wellbeing.

It has been shown that youth with mentors have:

- Increased high school graduation rates, including higher college enrollment rates
- Enhanced self-esteem
- Enhanced self-confidence
- Improved behavior, both at home and at school
- Stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers
- Decreased likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use

In the past year, WCM served and supported school- and community-based mentorships with children from towns throughout Windsor County including one (1) in Chester. Collectively, our mentors volunteered thousands of hours to their communities.

Our surveys demonstrate the positive effects of mentoring on local families, with a clean sweep this year:

- 100% of Mentors would recommend mentoring to a family member, friend, or colleague.
- 100% of Mentee parents said their child is hopeful about his/her future.
- 100% of Mentees reported that having a mentor has made a difference in his/her life.

WCM employs regional outreach coordinators around Windsor County, assuring that we are able to grant each town the attention it deserves.

Financial support from Windsor County towns helps ensure the well-being of children and their families.

For more information on our mentorships, find us on Facebook, visit our website [www.wcmentors.org](http://www.wcmentors.org), or contact us at [ProgramsWC@outlook.com](mailto:ProgramsWC@outlook.com) 802-674-5101. WCM thanks the voters of Chester for their support for the children of Windsor County.

Matthew Garcia  
Executive Director

Connecting Volunteers Age 55 and Older to Service Opportunities in  
Bennington, Windham, and Windsor Counties

[www.rsvpvt.org](http://www.rsvpvt.org)



volunteer  
*do good, feel good*



**AmeriCorps**  
Seniors

## **Green Mountain RSVP – Chester Annual Town Report – FY 2023**

Green Mountain RSVP (GMRSVP) is an AmeriCorps Seniors program that engages people 55 and older to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement. GMRSVP is focused on addressing social isolation, healthy aging, and food insecurity.

Your town's funds help us to continue to support and develop programs for older adults who wish to volunteer. Our staff and administrative costs are covered by federal funds from the AmeriCorps Seniors Program. Thank you for your continued support of local volunteers.

Eighteen GMRSVP volunteers live in Chester and eleven volunteers serve 213 residents in the community by delivering Meals on Wheels, working at the Chester Andover Family Center, and facilitating Bone Builder strength and balance classes.

Contact Program Director, Corey Mitchell at (802)674-4547 to learn more about GMRSVP and how you can volunteer in Chester or visit our website [gmrsvpvt.org](http://gmrsvpvt.org).



## **SENIOR SOLUTIONS**

### **Detailed Report to the Town of**

### **Chester**

Senior Solutions, Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. has served the residents of Chester and Southeastern Vermont since 1973. We have offices in Springfield (main office), Windsor and Brattleboro. Our mission is to promote the well-being and dignity of older adults. Our vision is that every person will age in the place of their choice, with the support they need and the opportunity for meaningful relationships and active engagement in their community.

**This is a summary of services provided to Chester residents in the time period of 10/01/2022 - 9/30/2023.**

**Information & Assistance:** 176 Calls or Office Visits. Our HelpLine (1-802-885-2669 or 1-866-673-8376 toll-free) offers information, referrals and assistance to older Vermonters, their families, and their caregivers to problem-solve, plan, and access resources. We assist with health insurance problems, long-term care applications, fuel assistance, applying for benefits, and many other needs. Extensive resources are also on our website: [www.SeniorSolutionsVT.org](http://www.SeniorSolutionsVT.org)

**Medicare Assistance:** 63 Calls or Office Visits. Chester residents received assistance with Medicare issues through our State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides Medicare education and counseling, classes for new Medicare enrollees, and help enrolling in Part D and choosing a drug plan.

**In-Home Care Coordination Services:** We provided 42 residents with in-home case management or other home-based assistance (totaling 793.5 hours) to enable them to remain living safely at home. A Senior Solutions' case manager meets clients at home to create and monitor a person-centered plan of care. Based on this plan, case managers work to secure the services needed to support the client in the community. We also support clients with self-neglect behaviors, and help those who experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

**Nutrition services and programs:** 37 residents received 3,980 Home-Delivered Meals provided by Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield Inc. We also supported community meal gatherings at Meals & Wheels of Greater Springfield Inc. and other meal sites in our region.

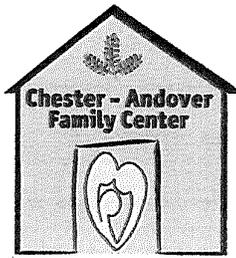
Senior Solutions administers federal and state funds to local organizations to help them operate these meal programs. However, the funds we provide do not cover the full cost, so local meal sites must seek additional funding. Senior Solutions does not use our town funding to support these meals and does not benefit from any funds that towns provide directly to local meal sites. Senior Solutions also offers the services of a registered dietician to older adults and to local meal sites.

**Volunteer Visitors:** Our volunteers provided home visits, telephone reassurance, and help with shopping or other errands. Our Vet-to-Vet program matched Veteran volunteers with Veteran recipients. 8 residents received 390 hours of volunteer service.

**Other Services:** Senior Solutions provides many other services, including caregiver respite, grants for special needs, transportation, wellness and fall prevention programs, legal assistance (through Vermont Legal Aid), assistance for adults with disabilities, and home-based mental health services.

*Senior Solutions is enormously grateful for the support of the people from the Town of Chester.*

*Submitted by Mark Boutwell, Executive Director*



## Chester-Andover Family Center

Our Mission: *The Chester -Andover Family Center makes a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental nutritional food, affordable clothing and household goods.*

P. O. Box 302  
908 VT Route 103 South  
Chester, VT 05143

Telephone: (802) 875-3236  
Email: [cafc302@gmail.com](mailto:cafc302@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org](http://www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org)

### The Chester-Andover Family Center

#### Board of Directors

2023

Kris Winnicki, President  
Gail Stewart, V. P.  
Suellen Slater, Treasurer  
Ruth Walker, Secretary  
David Carey  
Ann DiBernardo  
Nancy Dourney  
Melissa Howe  
Anne Lamb  
Nena Nanfeldt  
Stephen Rubino  
Jean Samples  
Mary Semones  
Charmaine Wesley-  
Hartman

- **History:** The Family Center has been providing relief from hunger and financial stress for the most vulnerable residents of Chester and Andover since 1985. The Center was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1995 and is staffed entirely by volunteers.
- **Partners:** Neighborhood Connections offers our financial assistance recipients counseling, assistance with budgeting, and referral to other sources of assistance. We also partner with the Vermont Foodbank, SEVCA, The Chester Police Department, Senior Solutions and Springfield Supportive Housing.
- **Thrift Shop:** We provide affordable, quality clothing, small housewares and linens. Thrift Shop income supports the Food Shelf, our Financial Assistance Program and operating expenses.
- **Food Shelf:** One hundred eighty-seven individuals are enrolled to receive nutritious, supplemental food with an average of just over one hundred fifty people being helped each month. Food is purchased from the Vermont Foodbank, area grocery stores, and local growers. Individuals and organizations donate money, shelf-stable food and fresh produce.
- **Financial Assistance Program:** The Family Center provides financial assistance for utilities, heating fuel, rent and auto repair.
- **Gratitude:** The Chester-Andover Board of Directors acknowledges and thanks our donors, the community and our many dedicated volunteers who donate resources and time in support of our mission.

*“Making a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental nutritional food, affordable clothing and household goods. “*

## Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community-based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965. Our mission is to *empower and partner with individuals and communities to alleviate the hardships of poverty; provide opportunities to thrive; and eliminate root causes of poverty.* SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Home Repair, Family Services (crisis resolution, fuel, utility, housing and food assistance), Micro-Business Development, Vermont Matched Savings (asset building & financial literacy), Ready-for-Work (workforce development), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Thrift Stores, and a Community Solar program.

In the community of Chester, we provided the following services during FY2023:

**Weatherization:** 16 homes (16 people) received weatherization services.

**Emergency Heating System Replacement:** 7 homes (15 people) received emergency heating System repairs or replacements.

**Head Start:** 22 families (82 people) received comprehensive child development and family support services.

**Energy & Financial Coaching:** 1 household (1 person) received coaching to reduce their energy burden and the associated costs.

**Tax Preparation:** 7 households (9 people) received assistance preparing their income taxes.

**Family Services:** 45 households (104 people) received 218 services (crisis resolution, financial counseling, nutrition education, forms assistance, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services)

**Fuel & Utility Assistance:** 30 households (75 people) received 4 assists.

**Housing Assistance:** 9 households (16 people) received 9 assists.

**Thrift Store Vouchers:** 5 households (25 people) received goods and services valued at \$1,270

**Solar Energy Assistance:** 7 households (25 people) received a total of \$3,010 in energy credits on their electric bill to reduce their energy burden.

**Emergency Home Repair:** 2 households (5 people) received emergency repairs to address immediate health or safety concerns in their home.

The combined value of services provided to residents in the Town of Chester exceeded \$139,988.00.

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private and town funds allow us to not only maintain, but increase and improve service. We thank the residents of Chester for their support.

Kathleen Devlin, Interim Executive Director  
Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA)  
91 Buck Drive  
Westminster, VT 05158  
(800) 464-9951 or (802) 722-4575  
[sevca@sevca.org](mailto:sevca@sevca.org)  
[www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org)

**COMMUNITY CARES NETWORK  
OF  
CHESTER/ANDOVER, INC.**

**Community Cares Network of Chester/Andover, Inc. is a volunteer organization serving the senior citizens of Andover and Chester by helping them to stay in their own homes longer, safely. Volunteers regularly take clients to doctor appointments, and to do errands and shopping. We have also referred clients to places where they can get help.**

**The major snow storm of March 14, which knocked out power and phone lines, and cell phone service, was a hardship for many of our clients. As safety allowed, a few volunteers walked/hiked to check on some of our clients.**

**CCN had two fundraisers. A Spaghetti Dinner at the town hall in Andover on June 2, was well attended. In September, about 22 volunteers ages 7 to 88 worked together to produce about 100 apple pies for sale at the Chester Festival, while enjoying good conversation. Approximately 100 pies were all sold by early afternoon on Saturday.**

**On October 14, CCN sponsored an Information Fair for the public at the Andover Town Hall, providing pertinent information for seniors and caregivers. Representatives from Chester Ambulance, Bayada, and Equipois Occupational Therapy were there to talk with attendees, with additional information available about Davis Memorial Chapel, Chester-Andover Family Center, Power of Attorney, Advanced Directives, and Emergency Preparedness.**

**Respectfully submitted by  
The Community Cares Network of Chester/Andover, Inc. Board  
Deborah Armstrong, Director  
Mary Adams  
David Armstrong  
Erron Carey  
Jacquelyn Griswold  
Kathy Jo Martens**

**Health Care & Rehabilitation Services**  
**Narrative Report from FY23 for Town of Chester**

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) is a comprehensive community mental health provider serving residents of Windsor and Windham counties. HCRS assists and advocates for individuals, families, and children who are living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. HCRS provides these services through outpatient mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment program, community rehabilitation and treatment program, developmental services division, and alternatives and emergency services programs.

During FY23, HCRS provided 15,729 hours of services to 110 residents of the Town of Chester. The services provided included all of HCRS' programs resulting in a wide array of supports for the residents of Chester.

Anyone with questions about HCRS services should contact George Karabakakis, Chief Executive Officer, at (802) 886-4500.



Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) is a non-profit organization founded in 1987, serving the residents of Windham and southern Windsor County. We provide housing for residents of low and moderate incomes, preserve and revitalize neighborhoods, help residents acquire their own homes, and generally improve the social, economic, and cultural health of communities in Windham and southern Windsor County.

WWHT's mission is *to strengthen the communities of Southeast Vermont through the development and stewardship of permanently affordable housing and through ongoing support and advocacy for its residents.*

The organization applies mission to practice through three branches: Homeownership, Housing Development, and Property Management. The **Homeownership's** Home Repair Program assisted *21 homeowners* by providing low-cost loans to make critical repairs. *110 participants completed the Homebuyer Educational Workshop.* The one-to-one counseling assisted *31 new homeowners* in 2023 by navigating them through the purchase process to closing on their new home. The *Shared Equity program has 140 homes* currently and provides grants to income-eligible homebuyers to subsidize the purchase of single-family homes which lowers the cost to the homebuyer. The VHIP (Vermont Housing Improvement Program) works with private landowners to rehab and/or create new units. There were *36 under construction and 14 completed projects* spread across the whole of Windham and Windsor Counties this year with a healthy pipeline for 2024.

**Housing Development:** WWHT develops affordable rental housing opportunities which meet the diverse housing needs within a community. This takes the form of both the rehabilitation of existing housing and the construction of new apartments. This year, the Bellows Falls Garage opened creating *27 new, affordable apartments* to downtown Bellows Falls, and contributes to the revitalization of this portion of the historic Vermont village. The Alice Holway Drive development in Putney is slated to create 25 new homes within the village and is planned to break ground in 2024. The Central & Main 25-unit development in downtown Windsor will also be breaking ground in 2024. This year, WWHT completed work on *deep retrofits and renovations on 26 apartments* in Brattleboro and Windsor, comprising some of the oldest buildings in our portfolio. Breathing new life into these units allows us to serve our residents into the coming decades.

**Property Management:** WWHT owns *83 residential properties* housing 16 commercial spaces with 929 rental apartments and 3 mobile home parks, home to over 1,500 residents. We manage the rental properties in southern Windham County and contract with Stewart Property Management for the properties in northern Windham and Windsor Counties. WWHT takes pride in the appearance of our multi-family housing and is committed to providing the staff and financial resources necessary to ensure the long-term health and safety of our residents as well as the preservation of property values. We've expanded our supportive services capacity through participating in the SASH For All program, connecting residents of all ages to critical resources to meet their self-driven health and well-being goals. Between Windsor's SASH program and SASH For All, we had over *120 participants connected to health and wellness resources.*

Although WWHT is a non-profit, we pay local property taxes on our rental properties and our shared-equity homeowners pay property taxes to the Towns and Villages.

**For more information, please visit us on the web at [www.homemattershere.org](http://www.homemattershere.org)**



Chester Townscape  
 P.O. Box 561, Chester, VT 05143  
[www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape](http://www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape)  
**FOR 2023 TOWN OF CHESTER ANNUAL REPORT**  
**CHESTER TOWNSCAPE**



In 2023, Chester Townscape [CT] celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are an all-volunteer group of 21 active individuals dedicated to enhancing Chester’s appearance and cultural vitality for its residents, businesses, and visitors. Each year CT provides seasonal landscaping and maintenance, as well as decorations, for public buildings and properties throughout town. We continue to maintain the Information Booth and Gazebo gardens that were created in 2019 and to enhance and maintain the landscaping at the Swinging Bridge on School Street, as well as the landscaping at the Chester-Andover Family Center.

Developed by CT members, two walking-tour brochures, one of the Stone Village and one of Main Street, promote Chester’s historic appeal. These brochures are distributed free of charge to various business locations.

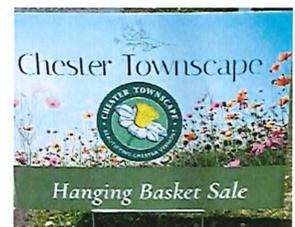
This year CT again worked with River Valley Technical Center Horticulture and Natural Resources Program under the leadership of John Harmer. CT provided the plant list, and the students grew the plants in their greenhouse. They planted the 32 Bridge Boxes and nurtured them in the greenhouse for three weeks before they were transported to Chester, where they brightened numerous bridges.



Over 800 plants are needed annually to plant the pots, window boxes, and whiskey barrels seen throughout Chester. The planting of over 40 pots was done by our volunteers outside at the Town Garage, and the pots were then distributed to various locations around Town. We want to thank the Town of Chester for providing the space for planting and distribution.



**Chester Beautification.** Funds necessary to purchase the flowers, as well as the Fall and Winter enhancements, are raised by Chester Townscape through a direct-mail campaign. In the Spring, a Tree & Shrub Sale was followed by a Hanging Basket Sale. The return of our Fall Bulb Sale during the Chester Fall Festival included a spectacular Fall display which featured the new Storage Trailer built by our member Stu Stocker. We are grateful to everyone who supported us in this challenging year.



In Summer, a consistent look is displayed by the bridge boxes, whiskey barrels and pots seen in many prominent locations. Many thanks to our watering helpers who provided some welcome relief to the watering task this year. The spectacular array of flowers which cascaded from planters placed on various Chester bridges were as stunning as in years past and delighted both residents and visitors.



Along the Brookside Cemetery wall, the daffodils bulbs were early sensations. Following that daffodil bloom, CT volunteers planted, watered, and fertilized alternating begonias and sunpatiens that flourished well into the Fall. The gardens and landscaped areas at the Chester-Andover Family Center continued to be improved to create a colorful welcome for those entering Chester from the East. The School Street Pocket Park also continues to be improved each year with perennials and bulbs planted along the rock wall.

Summer plantings were followed in Fall by pumpkins and corn stalks at various locations. Winter saw green boughs placed in the whiskey barrels and window boxes and evergreen wreaths with red bows hung in public locations.



**In Appreciation.** CT is grateful for the support received from many sources: our watering partners, the Town of Chester for its support and collaboration in our projects, Chester Historical Society for maintaining the perennial gardens at the Academy Building, and Green Mountain Union High School for the beautiful seasonal plantings at the school entrance. Special thanks go to Sarah Yake of Salon 2000 for the winter decorations at the Depot gazebo and to Carol Neff and her helpers for holiday decorating at the Information Booth. We also thank all the homeowners and businesses that beautifully decorated their homes and establishments, thereby making Chester a “winter wonderland” this year.

**For Information.** The Chester contacts for the flowers and beautification programs may be found on the Town of Chester website at [www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape](http://www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape). Support for CT’s projects comes from private donations and grants. Contributions to Chester Townscape, a subcommittee of the tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) Chester Community Alliance, Inc. [CCA], may be sent to CCA at PO Box 561, Chester, VT 05143, with Chester Townscape or its specific project noted in the memo line.

Respectfully submitted,

**2023 Chester Townscape Committee**

Mary Bittner, David Carey, Nancy Chute, Nancy Dourney, Judy Hallberg, Cheryl LeClair, Barb LeMire, John McAveaney, Melanie McGuirk, Chris Meyer, Polly Montgomery, Evan Parks, Lynn Russell, Megan Scott, Rosann Sexton, Stu Stocker, Margie Straub, Ann Summers, Lillian Willis, Barbara Windham, and Judy Yogman

## 2023 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator William Dakin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Moderator Dakin explained that if there were no objections non-voters would be allowed to speak on specific articles. There were no objections.

Moderator Dakin read the warning and explained that Articles 1, 2 and 3 would be voted on tomorrow by Australian Ballot.

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2 and 3 will be by Australian ballot on March 7, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1:** To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont. *No discussion.*
- ARTICLE 2:** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$420,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of providing grant match to complete construction on Route 35, grant match for culvert replacement on Green Mountain Turnpike and paving the Andover Road? Said projects and paving to be financed for a term of 7 years. *No discussion.*
- ARTICLE 3:** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$457,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a dump truck for highway in the amount of \$155,000 to be financed for a term of 5 years; and to purchase an Ambulance in the amount of \$302,000 to be financed for a term of 10 years? *No discussion.*
- ARTICLE 4:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a town clerk as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2651e: *Tim Roper moved Article 4 as written. Seconded by Nick Boke. Judith Yogman how is this done now. Town Manager Julie Hance explained that Town Clerk and Treasurer are elected positions now. They would like to change the policy more for the Treasurers position than the Clerk's position. Arne Jonynas explained that the jobs are getting more complicated and involved and there would be more control. Article 4 passed.*
- ARTICLE 5:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a town treasurer as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2651f. *Leigh Dakin moved Article 5 as written. Seconded by Penny Benelli. Article 5 passed.*
- Moderator Dakin introduced Alison Clarkson, State Senator. Senator Clarkson talked about work and priorities being done in the House and Senate in Montpelier.*
- ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$3,700,034.80 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 15, 2023, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness. *Tim Roper moved Article 6 as written. Seconded by Marilyn Mahusky.*

*Town Manager Julie Hance made a power point presentation. (Copy attached)  
Peter Hudkins commended Town Manager Julie Hance and the Board on keeping the  
increase at only 6%. Article 6 passed.*

*Moderator Dakin introduced Heather Chase, State Representative. Representative  
Chase explained work being done in Montpelier.*

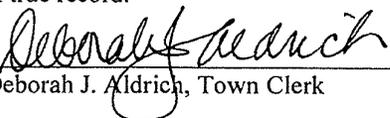
*Arne Jonynas presented Certificates of Appreciation to Leigh Dakin, Ben Whalen and  
Daniel Cook and thanked them for their many years of service to the Town of Chester.*

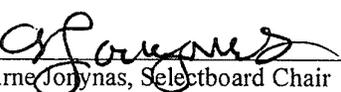
- ARTICLE 7:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2500 (two thousand five hundred dollars) to support the Chester Fireworks for Independence Day, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691? *Heather Chase moved Article 7 as written. Seconded by Mary Semones. Article 7 passed.*
- ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Leigh Dakin moved Article 8 as written. Seconded by Penny Benelli. Article 8 passed.*
- ARTICLE 9:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Tim Roper moved Article 9 as written. Seconded by Arianna Knapp. Article 9 passed.*
- ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Janet Currier moved Article 10 as written. Seconded by Penny Benelli. Passed*
- ARTICLE 11:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Marilyn Mahusky moved Article 11 as written. Seconded by Penny Benelli. Article 11 passed.*
- ARTICLE 12:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Nick Boke moved Article 12 as written. Seconded by Janet Currier. Article 12 passed.*
- ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the MOOver Rockingham to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Penny Benelli moved Article 13 as written. Seconded by Tim Roper. Article 13 passed.*

- ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Marilyn Mahusky moved Article 14 as written. Seconded by Cathy Hasbrouck. Article 14 passed.*
- ARTICLE 15:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Penny Benelli moved Article 15 as written. Seconded by Arianna Knapp. Article 15 passed.*
- ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *David Armstrong moved Article 16 as written. Seconded by Jerene Slivinsky. Article 16 passed.*
- ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and families in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Cathy Hasbrouck moved Article 17 as written. Seconded by Janet Currier. Article 17 passed.*
- ARTICLE 18:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000) to Neighborhood Connections, Inc. to cover the cost of providing services in Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? *Tim Roper moved Article 18 as written. Seconded Mary Semones. Julie Hance amended Article 18 to read Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1500.00 to Neighborhood Connections, Inc. to cover the cost of providing services in Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? Seconded by Peter Hudkins. Town Manager Julie Hance explained that this Article should have read \$1500, not \$1000. The amendment to Article 18 passed. Article 18 passed as amended.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

A true record.

  
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 Deborah J. Aldrich, Town Clerk

William Dakin, Jr., Moderator  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 Arne Jonynas, Selectboard Chair



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