

**RESIDENTIAL  
PROPERTY OWNERS  
FILE FORM: HS 122  
(HOMESTEAD DECLARATION)  
BEFORE APRIL 15, 2024.  
IF THIS FORM IS NOT FILED  
YOU WILL BE CHARGED AT THE NON-RESIDENTIAL  
RATE ON YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL  
&  
FILE FORM: HI 144  
(HOUSEHOLD INCOME)  
BEFORE APRIL 15, 2024  
TO GET THE PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT ON  
YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL  
WE HAVE A FEW OF THESE FORMS  
AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**AUDITORS' ANNUAL REPORT**

**TOWN OF BERKSHIRE**

**VERMONT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

**Berkshire Town Annual Informational Meeting**

**Berkshire Town Clerk's Office**

**March 04, 2024 @ 7 PM**

**Northern Mountain Valley Unified Union School District**

**Annual informational Meeting February 21, 2024 @ 7 PM**

**Bakersfield Elementary School**

**VOTE AT THE BERKSHIRE TOWN OFFICE**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 05, 2024 AT 10:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

## **ATTENTION**

### **TOWN OF BERKSHIRE RESIDENTS**

**All residents of the Town of Berkshire are hereby reminded that they are not to plow snow across the road. It is in violation of Vermont Statutes, Title 23 vsa section 1126 and Title 19 vsa section 1105, to plow or blow snow on the town highway. Violators are subject to a fine up to \$1,000.00. The violators can be held liable for the actual cost of repairing any damage and for reasonable Attorney's fees. The snow can turn to ice causing a safety hazard for all motorists. When a plow hits these ridges of ice or frozen banks, severe damage can result to the snow removal equipment. All residents and private plow operators are asked to refrain from plowing snow across the road.**

### **Board Vacancies:**

**Wild & Scenic Committee**

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission**

**Berkshire Planning Commission**

**If you are interested in representing Berkshire on any of these boards please contact the Berkshire Town Clerk's Office.**

### **DOG LICENSE**

**Dog License are due Friday, April 01, 2024.**

**A 50% penalty fee added thereafter. No advance notice is sent. It is the responsibility of the owner to register his or her dog.**

**LICENSE FEES INCLUDE \$5.00 STATE FEE**

**Females \$13.00 - Spayed Females \$9.00**

**Males \$13.00 - Neutered Males \$9.00**

**Dogs six months of age and up to one year of age must have a current rabies certificate. Dogs one year of age up to two years of age must have rabies certificate dated in the last twelve (12) months. Dogs two years of age must have rabies certificate in the last three years.**

### **DOG LICENSE ACCOUNT 2023**

**134 Dogs were registered in 2023**

**BERKSHIRE HAS A DOG ORDINANCE WHICH STATES  
ALL DOGS MUST BE CONTAINED BY SOME TYPE OF LEASH.**

# **RABIES CLINIC**

**DRIVE THRU**

**March 30th, 2024**

**10:15 AM - 10:45 AM**

**Berkshire Elementary School  
parking lot.**

**Please remain in your vehicle  
and staff from the  
Stowe Veterinary Clinic  
will assist you.**

## **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: (802) 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: [VSNIPVermont.Gov](http://VSNIPVermont.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**

**NOTES OF INTEREST**  
**EVERYONE PLEASE PUT YOUR 911 NUMBER**  
**WHERE IT MAY BE SEEN FROM THE ROAD**

**Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes are Due October 04, 2024**

**At 5:00pm. We do not accept postmarks!!!!!!**

**Taxes received after this date will be subject to delinquent fees and interest. Please Mail Early so it will Arrive at The Clerk's Office on Or Before The Due Date. Partial payments may be made on property taxes before the tax notices are mailed out. Payments may be made on current taxes anytime until the due date. We will give you a receipt for any payments made. No discount or interest given for early payments.**

**OFFICE HOURS**

**MONDAY thru THURSDAY 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.**

**CLOSED FROM 12:00-1:00 FOR LUNCH**

**CLOSED ON FRIDAYS**

**ADDRESS**

**Berkshire Town Clerk's Office**

**4454 Watertower Rd, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450**

**Phone (802)933-2335 Fax (802)933-5913**

**Email : townclerk@berkshirevt.com**

**VITAL STATISTICS FOR BERKSHIRE**

**Births: Males 2      Females 11**

**Deaths: Males 11      Females 6**

**Marriages: 8**

### TOWN OFFICERS

Emily Fecteau	Town Clerk/Treasurer	Appointed
Todd Kinney	Selectperson	Term Expires 2024
Andy Smith	Selectperson	Term Expires 2025
Jason Kittel	Selectperson	Term Expires 2025
Tony Archambault	Selectperson	Term Expires 2026
Vincent Hickey	Selectperson	Term Expires 2024
Virginia Messier	Lister	Term Expires 2026
Vacant	Lister	Term Expires 2027
Hildegard Jamka	Auditor	Term Expires 2026
Carol Hickey	Auditor	Term Expires 2024
Linda Sweetser	Auditor	Term Expires 2025
Virginia Messier	Delinquent Tax Collector	Term Expires 2024

Tanya Dufrense	Northwest Solid Waste District Representative
Vincent Hickey	Health Officer
Vincent Hickey	Service Organization of the Selectperson
Vincent Hickey	Energy Coordinator
Tony Archambault	Road Commissioner
Claude Charron	Fire Warden
Tony Archambault	Deputy Fire Warden
Phil Pelkey	Tree Warden
Kurt Valenta	CUD Board (Communications Union District)
Emily Grims	CUD Board

District Representatives	Lisa Hango
	Wayne Laroche

State Senators

Robert Norris  
Randy Brock

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Vincent Hickey	Marilyn "Lyn" Lauffer
Carol Hickey	Ryan Roy
Meghan St. Pierre	Jeanne Norris
Paul Hatch	

### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Ann Lavery

### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Carl Ruprecht - Chairperson	
Claude Charron	Margo Sherwood
Jason Jutras	Dustin Broe
Russell Ford	Kris Lantz
Jason Doe	



### **PLANNING BOARD**

**Margo Sherwood - Chairperson**

**Russell Ford**

**Kristine Koch**

**Claude Charron**

**Walter Elander**

**Jay Tremblay**

**Joshua Grims**

### **TOWN OFFICERS' BOND**

**VLCT Insurance Agency**

<b>Emily Fecteau</b>	<b>Town Clerk</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Emily Fecteau</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Laurie Thompson</b>	<b>Assistant Town Clerk</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Virginia Messier</b>	<b>Delinquent Tax Collector</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Tony Archambault</b>	<b>Selectperson</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Vincent Hickey</b>	<b>Selectperson</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Anthony Lussier</b>	<b>Selectperson</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Todd Kinney</b>	<b>Selectperson</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Andy Smith</b>	<b>Selectperson</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Danny Kennison</b>	<b>Road Foreman</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>

### **Town Assets**

Checkbook Balance December 31, 2023	\$125,900.00
Delinquent Taxes	<u>\$ 68,593.08</u>

Total Assets: \$194,493.08

### **Liabilities & Fund Balance**

#### **Liabilities**

Taxes Owed to School	\$ 60,000.00
Highway Reserve	\$ 27,826.68
Land Records Reserve	\$ 22,633.69
Culvert Reserve	\$ 10,000.00
Planning Reserve	\$ 2,171.54
Speed Sign Reserve	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$126,631.91

Available Cash Forward \$ 67,861.17

### **Comparative Balance Sheet 12/31/2023**

	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
Delinquent Taxes	\$ 37,432.72	\$ 68,593.08
Checking Account	<u>\$122,710.86</u>	<u>\$ 125,900.00</u>
	\$160,143.58	\$ 194,493.08

### **Current Liabilities**

	2022	2023
Total Assets	\$160,143.58	\$194,493.08
Current Liabilities	<u>\$114,193.14</u>	<u>\$126,631.91</u>
	\$274,336.72	\$ 67,861.17

Town Report 2023

	A	B	C	D
1		<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
2	<b>Tax Revenue</b>			
3	Current Taxes	\$818,452.09	\$672,729.89	\$900,353.96
4	Unreserved Fund Balance	\$45,950.44	\$0.00	\$67,861.17
5	Delinquent Taxes Collected	\$0.00	\$75,482.35	\$0.00
6	Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$6,000.00	\$5,291.25	\$6,000.00
7	School Tax Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$27,731.88	\$0.00
8	Hold Harmless	\$105,000.00	\$111,468.00	\$110,000.00
9	<b>Total Tax Revenue</b>	<b>\$975,402.53</b>	<b>\$892,703.37</b>	<b>\$1,084,215.13</b>
10				
11	<b>Zoning Fees</b>			
12	Zoning Permits	\$1,800.00	\$1,740.00	\$1,800.00
13	Compliance Permits	\$1,000.00	\$1,280.00	\$1,000.00
14	Variances/Subdivisions	\$1,000.00	\$1,344.00	\$1,000.00
15	Highway Permits	\$450.00	\$370.00	\$400.00
16	Driveway Permits	\$100.00	\$195.00	\$150.00
17	<b>Total Zoning Fees</b>	<b>\$4,350.00</b>	<b>\$4,929.00</b>	<b>\$4,350.00</b>
18				
19	<b>Other Revenue</b>			
20	Recording Fees	\$16,000.00	\$14,253.67	\$15,000.00
21	Dog Licenses	\$1,000.00	\$948.00	\$1,000.00
22	Liquor Licenses	\$350.00	\$255.00	\$300.00
23	State Reappraisal Funds	\$7,000.00	\$7,106.00	\$0.00
24	Interest on Statements	\$2,000.00	\$2,456.01	\$2,000.00
25	Town Report Reimburse	\$600.00	\$720.50	\$0.00
26	Land Use Change Tax	\$0.00	\$693.50	\$0.00
27	Civil Fines	\$0.00	\$370.00	\$0.00
28	Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$102.01	\$500.00
29	Efficiency Vermont	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
30	<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$27,450.00</b>	<b>\$29,904.69</b>	<b>\$18,800.00</b>
31				
32	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$1,007,202.53</b>	<b>\$927,537.06</b>	<b>\$1,107,365.13</b>
33				
34	<b>Highway Revenue</b>			
35	Highway State Aide	\$125,000.00	\$193,438.79	\$65,000.00
36	Municipal Roads Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
37	Wild & Scenic Grant	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
38	Paving Grant	\$0.00	\$130,053.94	\$0.00
39	<b>Total Highway Revenue</b>	<b>\$125,000.00</b>	<b>\$333,492.73</b>	<b>\$65,000.00</b>
40				
41	<b>TOTAL ALL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,132,202.53</b>	<b>\$1,261,029.79</b>	<b>\$1,172,365.13</b>
42				
43				
44				
45				
46				

### Taxes Billed 2023

	Grand List X	Tax Rate =	Taxes Raised
Municipal Grand List	\$1,334,154.56	0.1259	\$ 167,969.96
Highway Grand List	\$1,334,154.56	0.4794	\$ 639,593.83
Local Agreement	\$1,334,154.56	0.0039	\$ 5,203.20
Homestead Education	\$ 893,284.00	1.3362	\$1,193,606.16
Non-Residential Education	\$ 438,841.46	1.6141	\$ 708,333.97
		Total Tax	\$2,715,039.90

### Taxes as Billed

Taxes Collected as of October 04, 2023	\$ 2,578,551.82
Net delinquent for October 04, 2023	\$ 107,671.93
Taxes Collected After October 4, 2023	\$ 55,162.53
Total Delinquent December 31, 2023	\$ 52,509.40

2023 Taxes	\$ 2,578,551.82
School Taxes Paid by Town	\$ 1,608,438.00
State Paid School Tax	<u>\$ 297,383.93</u>
	\$ 672,729.89

Town Report 2023

	A	B	C	D
47		<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
48	<b>Office Payroll</b>			
49	Town Clerk	\$28,756.67	\$28,756.80	\$29,619.37
50	Town Treasurer	\$16,464.82	\$16,464.93	\$16,958.87
51	Assistant	\$26,000.00	\$26,457.25	\$27,000.00
52	Lister	\$15,000.00	\$14,992.50	\$16,000.00
53	Assessor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00
54	Auditor	\$600.00	\$352.00	\$600.00
55	Selectperson	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
56	Health Officer	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
57	BCA	\$400.00	\$75.00	\$400.00
58	Planning/Zoning	\$1,500.00	\$945.00	\$1,500.00
59	Custodian	\$1,700.00	\$1,687.50	\$1,700.00
60	Zoning Administrator	\$5,500.00	\$5,597.50	\$5,600.00
61	General Share Fica/Medi	\$11,000.00	\$10,033.25	\$11,000.00
62	Child Care Contribution	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
63	Retirement	\$2,600.00	\$2,525.61	\$2,800.00
64	Health Insurance	\$19,956.24	\$19,956.28	\$22,524.96
65	<b>Total Office Payroll</b>	<b>\$135,977.73</b>	<b>\$134,343.62</b>	<b>\$155,703.20</b>
66				
67	<b>Office Expenses</b>			
68	Postage	\$2,500.00	\$2,055.13	\$2,500.00
69	Advertising	\$900.00	\$815.00	\$900.00
70	Copier	\$2,250.00	\$2,461.62	\$2,250.00
71	Computer Expense	\$4,000.00	\$2,395.99	\$5,000.00
72	Office Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,737.60	\$2,500.00
73	Lister Supplies	\$500.00	\$381.04	\$500.00
74	Trainins/Seminars	\$1,300.00	\$1,417.00	\$1,500.00
75	NEMRC Support	\$6,500.00	\$6,693.75	\$6,800.00
76	Mileage	\$500.00	\$393.15	\$500.00
77	Office Telephone	\$2,200.00	\$2,141.82	\$2,200.00
78	Office Heat	\$3,000.00	\$3,099.16	\$3,000.00
79	Office Electricity	\$1,500.00	\$1,258.06	\$1,500.00
80	Lawn Mowing	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00
81	Digitize Land Records	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
82	Microfilming	\$500.00	\$115.00	\$250.00
83	Office Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$4,081.34	\$4,000.00
84	<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b>\$34,450.00</b>	<b>\$32,845.66</b>	<b>\$39,200.00</b>
85				
86	<b>General Expenses</b>			
87	Street Lights	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
88	Franklin County Tax	\$12,000.00	\$12,967.88	\$13,500.00
89	VT League of Cities & Towns	\$3,137.00	\$3,137.00	\$3,234.00
90	NW Regional Planning	\$1,795.00	\$1,795.00	\$1,547.00
91	Legal Fees	\$5,000.00	\$1,332.40	\$5,000.00
92	Berkshire Fire Department	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00

**Town Report 2023**

	A	B	C	D
93		<b>Budget 2023</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>
94	Enosburg Ambulance	\$45,415.32	\$45,082.20	\$46,777.77
95	Dispatch Fee	\$21,559.00	\$21,559.00	\$22,637.00
96	Election Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$732.51	\$1,500.00
97	Town Report Expense	\$2,000.00	\$1,807.49	\$1,200.00
98	Dog Expense	\$3,500.00	\$1,634.20	\$2,000.00
99	Property/Casualty Insurance	\$31,472.00	\$31,616.50	\$31,806.00
100	Northwest Solid Waste	\$1,856.40	\$1,856.40	\$2,011.00
101	Planning/Zoning Expense	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
102	Reappraisal	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
103	Interest Line of Credit	\$2,500.00	\$3,492.38	\$3,000.00
104	Unemployment fund	\$2,000.00	\$4,335.38	\$4,000.00
105	Tax Mapping	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
106	Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$1,142.40	\$1,000.00
107	<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>\$170,334.72</b>	<b>\$160,490.74</b>	<b>\$169,312.77</b>
108				
109	<b>Voted Appropriations</b>			
110	Franklin County Home Health	\$3,553.00	\$3,563.00	\$3,553.00
111	Northwest Counseling	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
112	St Albans Family Center	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
113	Age Well	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
114	Franklin County Ind Development	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
115	Green Mtn Transit Agency	\$1,385.00	\$1,385.00	\$1,385.00
116	VT Ctr Independent Living	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$180.00
117	Franklin County Aniaml Rescue	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
118	Voice Against Violence	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
119	Richford Summer Camp	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00
120	Northwest unit Investigations	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
121	Berkshire Recreation Committee	\$3,500.00	\$3,800.00	\$3,500.00
122	Care Partners Adult Daycare	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
123	VT Fire Protection (VACD)	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
124	Green Up	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
125	<b>Total Voted Appropriations</b>	<b>\$19,268.00</b>	<b>\$19,578.00</b>	<b>\$19,268.00</b>
126				
127	<b>Total Office &amp; General</b>	<b>\$360,030.45</b>	<b>\$347,258.02</b>	<b>\$383,483.97</b>
128				
129	<b>Highway Payroll</b>			
130	Highway Payroll	\$206,923.36	\$190,157.09	\$208,000.00
131	General Share Fica/Medi	\$15,000.00	\$12,822.46	\$15,000.00
132	Retirement	\$10,000.00	\$9,729.65	\$12,000.00
133	Health Insurance	\$39,912.48	\$39,912.44	\$45,049.92
134	<b>Total Highway Payroll</b>	<b>\$271,835.84</b>	<b>\$252,621.64</b>	<b>\$280,049.92</b>
135				
136	<b>Highway Utilities</b>			
137	Highway Telephone	\$1,300.00	\$1,160.83	\$1,300.00
138	Highway Heat	\$3,500.00	\$5,452.26	\$5,000.00

Town Report 2023

	A	B	C	D
139		<b>Budget 2023</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>
140	Highway Electricity	\$1,500.00	\$1,509.81	\$1,600.00
141	Highway Garbage Removal	\$1,500.00	\$960.00	\$1,500.00
142	<b>Total Highway Utilities</b>	<b>\$7,800.00</b>	<b>\$9,082.90</b>	<b>\$9,400.00</b>
143	<b>Highway Outside Services</b>			
144	Hired Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$4,505.00	\$5,000.00
145	Rented Equipment	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
146	Stripping	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
147	Crushing	\$7,605.00	\$7,605.00	\$7,500.00
148	Paving/Resurfacing	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
149	Paving Grant Expenses	\$0.00	\$130,053.94	\$0.00
150	<b>Total Outside Services</b>	<b>\$166,355.00</b>	<b>\$292,913.94</b>	<b>\$166,250.00</b>
151				
152	<b>Special Projects</b>			
153	New Garage Reserve	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$45,000.00
154	Office Roof Repair & Coating	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
155	Local Hazard Mitigation Update	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
156	Digitize Land Records	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	Office Expense
157	Municipal Roads Grant Expense	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
158	Speed Sign	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
159	River Rd Grant Expense	\$0.00	\$11,103.20	\$0.00
160	Roadside Rubbish Removal	\$2,000.00	\$850.00	\$0.00
161	<b>Total Special Projects</b>	<b>\$45,500.00</b>	<b>\$56,953.20</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>
162				
163	<b>Highway Maintenance</b>			
164	Garage Maintenance/Supplies	\$13,000.00	\$12,315.76	\$13,500.00
165	Truck 3 (2017)	\$10,000.00	\$32,270.21	\$10,000.00
166	Truck 1 (2022)	\$4,000.00	\$3,178.35	\$4,000.00
167	Truck 2 (2012)	\$15,000.00	\$13,380.76	\$15,000.00
168	Loader (2015)	\$1,500.00	\$1,852.70	\$1,500.00
169	Mower/Tractor/Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$591.34	\$3,000.00
170	Sifter (1990)	\$1,000.00	\$5,750.11	\$2,000.00
171	Excavator K11 (1999)	\$2,500.00	\$6.28	\$2,500.00
172	Hydro Seeder	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
173	Plows & Sanders	\$8,000.00	\$6,758.92	\$8,000.00
174	Trailers	\$1,000.00	\$692.52	\$1,000.00
175	Chipper (1984)	\$500.00	\$131.26	\$500.00
176	Grader (2013)	\$6,000.00	\$5,584.61	\$6,000.00
177	Minor Equipment	\$2,500.00	\$1,032.76	\$2,500.00
178	General Vehicle Supplies	\$6,000.00	\$4,797.94	\$6,000.00
179	Diesel	\$50,000.00	\$49,382.69	\$50,000.00
180	Gasoline	\$3,000.00	\$2,889.59	\$3,000.00
181	Radio Costs	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
182	Equipment Fund	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
183	Municipal Roads Permit (MRGP)	\$2,000.00	\$1,125.00	\$2,000.00
184	<b>Total Maintenance</b>	<b>\$169,500.00</b>	<b>\$181,740.80</b>	<b>\$172,000.00</b>

Town Report 2023

	A	B	C	D
185		<b>Budget 2023</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>
186	<b>Highway Materials</b>			
187	Salt	\$30,000.00	\$28,862.48	\$30,000.00
188	Chloride	\$25,000.00	\$31,050.00	\$30,000.00
189	Highway Materials	\$5,000.00	\$4,297.00	\$5,000.00
190	Culverts	\$10,000.00	\$9,677.96	\$10,000.00
191	Gravel	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
192	Road Signs	\$3,000.00	\$1,765.12	\$3,000.00
193	Guard Rails	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
194	<b>Total Materials</b>	<b>\$84,000.00</b>	<b>\$85,652.56</b>	<b>\$89,000.00</b>
195				
196	<b>Total Highway</b>	<b>\$744,990.84</b>	<b>\$878,965.04</b>	<b>\$761,699.92</b>
197				
198	<b>Debt Services</b>			
199	Truck Payment/Interest(2022)	\$27,181.24	\$27,181.24	\$27,181.24
200	<b>Total Debt Services</b>	<b>\$27,181.24</b>	<b>\$27,181.24</b>	<b>\$27,181.24</b>
201				
202	<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY/DEBT</b>	<b>\$772,172.08</b>	<b>\$906,146.28</b>	<b>\$788,881.16</b>
203				
204	<b>TOTAL ALL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,132,202.53</b>	<b>\$1,253,404.30</b>	<b>\$ 1,172,365.13</b>



**WARNING**  
**2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The legally qualified Voters of the Town of Berkshire are hereby warned and notified to vote the following Articles by Australian Ballot at the Berkshire Town Clerk's Office Tuesday, March 05, 2024 at which time the polls will open at 10:00 AM in the Forenoon and will close at 7:00 PM in the afternoon.

**Article 1:**

- (A) A Town Moderator for the ensuing year.
- (B) A Selectperson for a term of three years.
- (C) A Selectperson for a term of two years.
- (D) An Auditor for a term of three years.
- (E) A Lister for a term of three years.
- (F) A Delinquent tax collector three years.

**Article 2:** Shall the Town of Berkshire approve the proposed 2024 budget in the amount of \$1,172,365.13 to defray the expenses of the Town for the ensuing year to cover any present indebtedness of the Town and other loans, State and County taxes and other ordinary expenses with amount of \$900,353.96 to be raised by taxes?



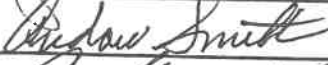


**Article 3:** Shall the voters authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$5,000.00 to help the Franklin County Field Days Inc purchase land, get a clean water supply, move buildings and set up tracks?

Approving this request will raise the budget by \$5,000.00.

**Dated:** January 29, 2024

**Attest:** Town Clerk

**Selectboard**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**General Ledger Long Term Debt****12/31/2023**

<b>Truck 2022</b>	<b>Interest Rate 1.59%</b>	<b>Maturity</b>	<b>4/24/2024</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>			<b>\$ 52,666.67</b>
<b>Principal Payment</b>			<b>\$ <u>26,333.33</u></b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>			<b>\$ 26,333.34</b>

**Restricted Funds**

<b>Reappraisal CD's</b>	<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$100,834.77</b>
<b>Equipment CD</b>	<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 85,204.18</b>
<b>New Garage CD</b>	<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$251,629.55</b>
<b>Hilton Marcy CD</b>	<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 40,066.40</b>

**Cemeteries**

<b>Collected from Florence E Gibson Estate</b>	<b>\$ 204.62</b>
<b>East Berkshire Cemetery Association</b>	<b>\$ 102.31</b>
<b>Berkshire Center Cemetery Association</b>	<b>\$ 102.31</b>

## **Treasurer Report**

### **General**

<b>Current Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 672,729.89</b>
<b>Zoning Fees</b>	<b>\$ 4,929.00</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 29,904.69</b>
<b>Interest Delinquent Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 5,291.25</b>
<b>Delinquent Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 75,482.35</b>
<b>School Tax Refund</b>	<b>\$ 27,731.88</b>
<b>Hold Harmless</b>	<b>\$ 111,468.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 927,537.06</b>

### **Highway**

<b>State Aide to Roads</b>	<b>\$ 193,438.79</b>
<b>Municipal Roads Grant</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Wild &amp; Scenic Grant</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>Paving Grant</b>	<b>\$ 130,053.94</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 333,492.73</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,261,029.79</b>

## SELECTBOARD REPORT

<b>Salaries</b>	<b>\$ 291,985.57</b>
<b>FICA</b>	<b>\$ 22,855.71</b>
<b>Office Expense</b>	<b>\$ 32,845.66</b>
<b>General Expense</b>	<b>\$ 160,490.74</b>
<b>Health Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 59,868.72</b>
<b>Retirement</b>	<b>\$ 12,255.26</b>
<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 1 9,578.00</b>
<b>Highway Utilities</b>	<b>\$ 9,082.90</b>
<b>Highway Outside Services</b>	<b>\$ 292,913.94</b>
<b>Highway Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 181,740.80</b>
<b>Highway Materials</b>	<b>\$ 85,652.56</b>
<b>Truck 2022</b>	
<b>Payment/Interest</b>	<b>\$ 27,181.24</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>\$ 56,953.20</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,253,404.30</b>

# Statement of Delinquent Taxes

January 1,2023 to December 31,2023

Year	Balance	Collection	Abated	Balance
2021	\$7,132.25	\$4,120.01	\$731.55	\$2,280.69
2022	\$30,002.80	\$16,199.81	\$0.00	\$13,802.99
2023	\$107,671.93	\$55,162.53	\$0.00	\$52,509.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$144,806.98</b>	<b>\$75,482.35</b>	<b>\$731.55</b>	<b>\$68,593.08</b>

2021

Donna Bailey  
Nichols Leonard

2022

Carr Roger  
Dipallina Thelma  
Hardy Jonas  
Hoerner Andy & Heidi  
Lontine Shannon  
Nichols Leonard  
Ryea Lesa  
Steiniger Anna

2023

Austin Debra  
Bessette Anthony  
Conger Robert & Sheila  
Couture Jamie  
Cruz Lorrie  
Dipallina Thelma  
Donna Bailey  
Guilmette Lindey  
Hardy Jonas  
Hoerner Andrew & Heidi  
Lafountain John

2023

Laughlin Corey  
Lontine Shannon  
Martin Ronald  
Mc Kenna Justin  
Nicolas Leonard  
Roy Rachel  
Ryea Lesa  
Steiniger Anna & Richard  
Tatro Jeffery  
West Leon & Katherine  
Wetherby Janet Coulombe

Delinquent \$16,083.68  
Current Late \$52,509.40  
**Total \$68,593.08**

Interest Received as of Dec 31,2023 \$5,291.25

Interest Due as of Dec 31, 2023 \$2,776.05

## **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

**The Town of Berkshire received ARPA funds in the amount of \$262,008.66 in 2021 and received \$262,132.20 in 2022. \$105,000.00 was issued to the East Berkshire Fire District to help with repairs and \$29,976.84 was used for digitizing the Berkshire Land Records. In 2023, \$256,678.73 in ARPA funds were used for paving the Berkshire Center Road. The remaining \$132,485.29 has not yet been allocated. To learn more about ARPA, please visit the VLCT website at <https://www.vlct.org/american-rescue-plan-information>**

**The Town of Berkshire would like to thank the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee for the help with a grant to replace a damaged culvert on the River Road. The River Road had been closed to through traffic while awaiting the replacement of the culvert. This culvert did not allow the water to run freely causing erosion, because of the Wild & Scenic Grant the Town was able to replace the culvert. The area was also cleaned, stoned lined and seeded to prevent any future erosion.**



## Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR) Wild & Scenic Committee

2839 VT Route 105 East Berkshire, VT 05447

Tel: (802) 933-3645 E-mail: [info@vtwsr.org](mailto:info@vtwsr.org) Website: [www.umatrwildandscenic.org](http://www.umatrwildandscenic.org)

Dear Residents of Berkshire,

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR) Wild & Scenic Committee strives to protect, enhance, and encourage enjoyment of our beautiful rivers. Designated as Wild and Scenic in 2014, 46.1 miles of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in Westfield, Troy, North Troy, Richford, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Enosburg Falls, and Montgomery are protected. Our Committee is made up of 2 residents from each of these 8 municipalities, as well as our great partners. **If you or someone you know is interested in representing your town in the important decisions we make (such as what projects to fund with our dollars!), please let us know – we need another voice from your Town!**

As we plan for a wonderful 2024, we also want to look back at the successes of 2023. UMATR is proud of the many and varied events we hosted this past year, from our speaker series to our Wild and Scenic Film Festival, we engaged 212 attendees for our virtual and viewing activities during 2023. We engaged another 33 people who helped us remove trash from our swimming holes and get 89 amphibians safely across the road during their migration! And we always love getting people out on the river - we had 62 paddlers and snowshoers join us during our on-water (and near-water) events in 2023.

During 2023, we also supported 13 great community-led grant projects in our region with \$82,750 in grant funds. In Berkshire, \$10,000 of these funds supported repairs to River Rd. We're so pleased this road was able to be opened back up from both sides! We also highlighted Berkshire during our Paddle and Picnic, enjoying a snack under the twin bridges and lunch break at the Doe Campsite. And we loved hosting people during our Open House in March, showing off our renovated and beautiful office space. If you haven't gotten to see it, we're planning to hold another Open House, or please stop by whenever you see our cars out front; we always enjoy giving a tour!

We are planning a busy 2024, and would love to see you at some of our events. Join us this winter for snowshoeing and our online speaker series, in the spring to help spotted salamanders or to enjoy our (still!) new office space while catching up with us during our Open House in May (so we can highlight the deck this year!), or on the water this summer: we're bringing back our Sojourn day-paddles, where we paddle all 46 Wild and Scenic river miles, and we're going to introduce a 'Tubing on the Trout' event this summer! Don't miss your chance to join these great events: visit our website ([umatrwildandscenic.org](http://umatrwildandscenic.org)) where you can register, and join our mailing list to stay up-to-date with all our activities.

Respectfully submitted by your representative to the UMATR Committee: Russ Ford, and UMATR's growing staff: Lindsey Wight and Sarah Lunn. Please contact us with any questions or comments ([info@vtwsr.org](mailto:info@vtwsr.org)).

# ***Town of Berkshire, Vermont***

## **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

**ZONING OFFICE**

**1151 WATER TOWER ROAD**

**Berkshire, Vermont 05450**

**Ann E. Lavery, Zoning Administrator**

## **2023**

### ***Zoning Report***

2023 was a busy year for Zoning business in Berkshire. Two unique permits were issued for Event Venues. This was a new area of permitting for Berkshire, but with assistance from VLCT and NRP, we now have sites in Berkshire where events may be held

57 (fifty-seven) Applications were processed this year.

Seven new Single Family homes have been permitted.

Sixteen Permits were approved for Accessory Use Structures (porches, additions, etc.)

Nineteen Certificates of Compliance were issued.

Two Boundary Line Adjustments were approved.

Four Subdivision Requests, and two Boundary Line Adjustments were considered, and approved.

Five Findings of Facts were issued and recorded.

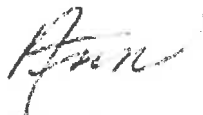
The DRB had an Appeal on one of the Event Venue Sites. We are awaiting a decision from the Environmental Court on this issue.

As always it is a pleasure to work with the residents of Berkshire. We are hopeful that 2024 will be another productive year for the Town of Berkshire. If at any time you need any sort of zoning assistance please contact me.

Regular office hours are Mondays from 9-Noon, or anytime by request.

Berkshire Development Review Board Members are: Chairman Carl Ruprecht, Dustin Broe, Claude Charron, Jason Doe, Russell Ford, Jason Jutras, Kris Lantz, and Margo Sherwood.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
***Ann E. Lavery***

Interesting Data
New Homes in Berkshire
Past Five Years
2022 = 4
2021 = 9
2020 = 5
2019 = 0
2018 = 4



**BERKSHIRE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT****REVENUE 2023**

<b>1/1/2023</b>	<b>BALANCE ON HAND</b>	<b>\$187,495.04</b>
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**Income 2023**

<b>Town of Berkshire</b>	<b>\$27,000.00</b>	
<b>Marcy Estate</b>	<b>\$837.88</b>	
<b>Interest</b>	<b>\$85.91</b>	
<b>Loiselle Redemption</b>	<b>\$742.20</b>	
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$156.00</b>	

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,736.08</b>	<b>\$28,736.08</b>
		<b>\$216,231.12</b>

**Expenses 2022**

<b>Office</b>	<b>\$354.20</b>	
<b>Electric</b>	<b>\$987.66</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>\$1384.32</b>	
<b>Heat/Gas/Fuel</b>	<b>\$4430.22</b>	
<b>Due/Licenses</b>	<b>\$559.00</b>	
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>\$1949.43</b>	
<b>Radios</b>	<b>\$602.73</b>	
<b>Truck Repairs</b>	<b>\$5547.76</b>	
<b>Building Repairs</b>	<b>\$4301.68</b>	
<b>Misc.</b>	<b>\$662.40</b>	

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,779.40</b>	<b>\$20,779.40</b>
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<b>12/31/2023</b>	<b>BALANCE ON HAND</b>	<b>\$195,451.72</b>
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**To anyone interested in joining the Fire Department, we meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm at the fire station.**

**To report a fire: Dial 911, be prepared to give the dispatcher your name, location and telephone number where you can be reached for call back information if necessary. Do not assume that the Fire Department will automatically know where you are located, for this reason we suggest that property owners give thought to what information is necessary so emergency services can arrive as quickly as possible when the need arises. Additional information that is helpful: town road names and numbers, highway route numbers, local land marks or the name of neighbors who are well known in the community.**

### **Officers**

**Tony Archambault - Chief**

**Jason Jutras - Captain**

**Chris Smith - Assistant Chief**

**Andy Smith - Treasurer**

### **Firefighters**

**David Kennison**

**Andrew Davis**

**Bill Denno**

**Ricky Mason**

**Jacob Pidgeon**

**Jessie Underwood**

**Josh Randall**

## *A MESSAGE FROM THE AUDITORS*

*The auditors have examined the records and accounts of the Town of Berkshire. In our opinion the financial statements referred to in the Town Report, presents fairly, in all materials respects, the financial position of the Town of Berkshire as of December 31, 2023 and the results of its operation for the year then ended.*

*Carol S Hickey* 1/24/2024  
Carol Hickey

*Linda Sweetser* 1/24/2024  
Linda Sweetser

*Hildy Jamka* 1/24/2024  
Hildy Jamka

