

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
TOWN OF FERRISBURGH, VT.
For the Year Ending December 31, 2023



Please bring your Town Report with you to Town Meeting.
**Town meeting will be held via Zoom and in person at 10:00 A.M. on
Saturday, March 2, 2024 at the Town Hall – (see page 71)**

Polls Open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 5, 2024

We would like to thank all the volunteers, committee members, and town employees for all of the time you spend keeping Ferrisburgh a great place to live.

Front cover photo:

Town grader with road crew

Road crew pictured: Corey Collette, Reilly LaBerge, John Bull, and Jeremy Lemoine
(not pictured, Aaron Schondube)

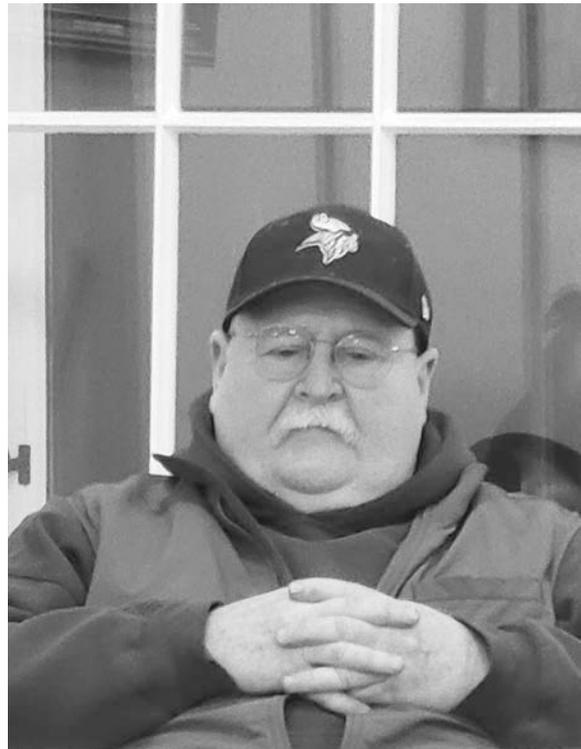
“photo courtesy of Pam Cousino”

DEDICATION OF TOWN REPORT

This Town Report is dedicated to Deb Healey, our Town Treasurer from March 2017 through December of 2023 and Red Muir, a Selectboard member and town Building Committee Chair since 2015.

In addition to her work as Treasurer, Deb volunteered her time as Secretary of the Town Conservation Commission (2006-2013); service on the Town Energy Committee from 2010-2013; a term as Auditor from 2014-2017; and the delinquent Tax Collector in 2018. She was also the Volunteer Town Coordinator for Green Up Day for many years. Deb was a great addition to the office and she wrote procedures for everything that she did in the office, which is a great help to our new Treasurer. Deb will be missed and we wish her a great retirement.

Red served first as Fence Viewer (2013-2018), and began work on the town building committee in 2014. He was elected to the selectboard in 2015. It is hard to estimate the enormous number of hours that Red has spent as Chair of the Building Maintenance Committee! His attention to detail and persistence are reflected in the excellent condition of all our town buildings. While Red is stepping down from the selectboard he plans to continue working on the building committee. We appreciate the nine years that Red spent on the Selectboard and wish Red all the very best in his retirement.



TOWN OF FERRISBURGH GENERAL INFORMATION

Chartered 1762

Area.....	39,000 acres
Town Roads (excluding Class 4 Roads).....	74.99 miles
State Highway (Route 7 & 22A).....	7.785 miles
Population (2020 Census).....	2646
Voter Checklist (as of January 1, 2024).....	2342

BUSINESS HOURS

The Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. (except for legal holidays) and by appointment.

MEETING SCHEDULES

The following are held in the Town Clerk's Office:

- **Selectboard** meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M.
- **Conservation Commission** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. (No meetings in July and August.)
- **Historical Society** meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 P.M.
- **Planning Commission** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.
- **Zoning Board of Adjustment** meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.
- **Town Trails Committee** meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M.
- **Town Center Committee** meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M.

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See us on the web at <http://ferrisburghvt.org>

<u>TOWN OFFICERS</u>		<u>TERM</u>	<u>EXPIRES</u>
MODERATOR	Kyle Rowe	(1 Year Term)	2023 Apptd.
TOWN CLERK	Pamela Cousino	(3 Year Term)	2026 Apptd.
TOWN TREASURER	Alison Brigger	(3 Year Term)	2026 Apptd.
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK/TREAS.	Laurie Curler	(3 Year Term)	2026 Apptd.
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK/OFFICE CLERK	Karen Petersen	(3 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
SELECTBOARD MINUTE TAKER	Carol Allen		Appointed
PLANNING/ZONING MINUTE TAKER	Robyn King		Appointed
SELECTBOARD	Chris Campbell	(2 Year Term)	2024
	Michael “Red” Muir	(3 Year Term)	2024
	Clark Hinsdale	(3 Year Term)	2025
	Walter E. Reed II	(2 Year Term)	2025
	James Benoit	(3 Year Term)	2026
ROAD FOREMAN	Reilly LaBerge	Appointed	
ROAD SUPERINTENDENT	John Bull	Appointed	
ROAD CREW	Corey Collette	Appointed	
	Jeremy Lemoine	Appointed	
	Aaron Schondube	Appointed	
LISTERS	Brian Goodyear, Chair	(3 Year Term)	2024
	Tim Davis	(3 Year Term)	2025
	Roderick “Doc” Cole	(3 Year Term)	2026
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	Steven True	Appointed	2025
AUDITOR	Vacancy	(3 Year Term)	2024
	Jarad Roach	(3 Year Term)	2025
	Andrew Dombek	(3 Year Term)	2026
COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES	Tom Steadman	Appointed	Apptd.
FIRST CONSTABLE	Shawn Emery	(1 Year Term – Apptd.)	2024
CIVIL DEFENSE CHAIRMAN	William Wager	Appointed	
UNIFIED SCHOOL DIRECTOR	Erica Andrus	(3 Year Term)	2024
	Kristina MacKulin	(3 Year Term)	2024
	Nichole Bearor	(3 Year Term)	2025
	Chris Kayhart	(3 Year Term)	2026
ROGERS & HAZARD FUND TRUSTEES	Paul Hoffman	(2 Year Term)	2025
	Martha “Lee” Shorey	(1 Yr of 2-Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE	David Olson	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
	Vacancy	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.

TOWN OFFICERS

**ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING REPRESENTATIVES**

	<u>TERM</u>	<u>EXPIRES</u>
Tim Davis	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
Arabella Holzapfel	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
Steve Huffaker	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
Vacancy, Alternate	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
Vacancy, Alternate	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
Vacancy, Alternate	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMM (TAC)

Steve Huffaker	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
Vacancy, Alternate	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
Vacancy, Alternate	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
(2-year terms)**

Joseph Baker	(2 Year Term)	2025
Judy Chaves	(2 Year Term)	2025
Art Cohn	(2 Year Term)	2025
Norton Davis	(2 Year Term)	2025
Lissa Gebo	(2 Year Term)	2025
Vacancy	(2 Year Term)	2025
Chris Kayhart	(2 Year Term)	2025
Chris McClain	(2 Year Term)	2025
Jean Richardson	(2 Year Term)	2025
Silas Towler	(2 Year Term)	2025

**PLANNING COMMISSION
(Appointed – 4-year terms)**

Gail Blasius	(4 Year Term)	2024
Walter Reed	(4 Year Term)	2024
Robert Beach, Chair	(4 Year Term)	2025
Bonnie Barnes	(4 Year Term)	2025
Anne Cohn	(4 Year Term)	2026
Arabella Holzapfel	(4 Year Term)	2026
Jean Richardson	(4 Year Term)	2026
Bessie Sessions	(4 Year Term)	2027
Michael Quinn	(4 Year Term)	2027

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
(Appointed – 3-year terms)**

Norman Smith, Chair	(3 Year Term)	2024
Diane Nadon	(3 Year Term)	2024
Robert Beach	(3 Year Term)	2025
John Paul	(3 Year Term)	2025
Katie Quinn	(3 Year Term)	2025
Michael Delaney	(3 Year Term)	2026
David Mentzer	(3 Year Term)	2026

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
(Appointed – 4-year terms – Advisory)**

Craig Heindel, Chair	(4 Year Term)	2024
Vacancy	(4 Year Term)	2024
Matthew Gorton	(4 Year Term)	2025
Karen Pettersen	(4 Year Term)	2025
Barry Estabrook	(4 Year Term)	2025
Jen Cirillo	(4 Year Term)	2026
Don DeWees	(4 Year Term)	2026
Amy Dohner	(4 Year Term)	2026
Joe Nelson	(4 Year Term)	2026

FENCE VIEWERS

Art Cohn	(1 Year Term)	2023 Apptd.
Vacancy	(1 Year Term)	2023 Apptd.
Vacancy	(1 Year Term)	2023 Apptd.

TOWN OFFICERS

			<u>TERM</u>	<u>EXPIRES</u>
CLIMATE AND ENERGY COMMITTEE		Kurt Haigis	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
		Arabella Holzapfel	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
		Jim Averill	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
MAPLE BROADBAND		Steve Huffaker, Delegate	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
		Arabella Holzapfel, Alter.	(1-Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
TRAILS COMMITTEE		Bridgette Bolduc Lindsey Brown Anne Cohn Robert Coleburn Amanda Crocker Courtney Kanetzky Katy Nunn		
VILLAGE CENTER COMMITTEE		Bonnie Barnes Lyndsay Brown Anne Cohn Rick Kerschner		
RECREATION COMMITTEE		Tim Bicknell Martha Davis Kurt Haigis		
TREE WARDEN	JWNelson.PC@ Gmail.com	Joe Nelson	(1 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
DEPUTY TREE WARDEN		Reilly LaBerge	(1 Year Term)	2025 Apptd.
FIRE WARDEN	877-3564	Michael Coyle	(5 Year Term)	2027 Apptd.

TOWN OFFICERS

			<u>TERM</u>	<u>EXPIRES</u>
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	388-2981	Addison County Sheriff	Appointed	
HEALTH OFFICER	233-7068	Suzele Atkins	(3 Year Term)	2025 Apptd.
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER		Vacancy	(3 Year Term)	2024 Apptd.
TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE	877-3429			
TOWN GARAGE	877-3076			

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE 911
RESCUE 911
POLICE 911

State Legislators for the Town of Ferrisburgh:

Senator Chris Bray – New Haven	Representative Diane Lanpher – Vergennes
Senator Ruth Hardy – Middlebury	Representative Matt Birong – Vergennes

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2023**

Town officials present: Selectboard members – Chris Campbell, Clark Hinsdale, Red Muir
Treasurer – Deb Healey, Assistant Town Clerk – Laurie Curler, Office Clerk – Karen Petersen,
Town Clerk attended via Zoom – Pam Cousino

At 10:00 Moderator Kyle Rowe opened the Town Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
He then gave a brief explanation of Robert’s Rules of Order.

ARTICLE 1: To hear reports of the Town Officers.

Clark Hinsdale mentioned that Bill Clark was unable to attend as the moderator and that
Selectboard member Jim Benoit was plowing and that our Chair, Jessica James, was unable to
attend. He mentioned that the budget was a conservative budget with a total increase of 3.8%
mostly due to personnel and town initiatives. The Center Methodist Church was donated to the
town for the good of the community. There is a one-page survey going around regarding ideas
for use, so please fill it out. The sale of the Route 7 and 22A property is pending. More hours
have been added to the Zoning Administrator position. The building committee has been very
busy working on the various buildings that the town owns.

Red Muir spoke about the updated lighting in the parking lot. They plan to refinish the
floors in the town hall. The Brown Church has been inspected and tested for lead, mold, and
asbestos & the committee completed an environmental site study. The septic tank has been
located, now we need to determine what’s there. The building has been winterized for now. We
will be reviewing the survey for input on how to best use the Brown Church.

Ashley LaFlam spoke regarding the fundraising of the Union Meeting Hall. \$670,000 has
been raised. They are currently waiting on a National Park Service grant application for roof
repairs. The programming committee has developed a calendar of activities.

Chris Kayhart moved and Rick Kerschner seconded to accept the report of town officers. So
voted.

ARTICLE 2: Will the town vote to collect taxes in four (4) installments with the installment dates
to be September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1 with each installment to be received in
the town office before 4:00 p.m.

Carl Cole moved and Katie Quinn seconded the article. There was no discussion and the
article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters of the town authorize the purchase of a grader in an amount not to exceed \$324,000, minus \$200,000 from ARPA funds and \$15,000 from a Truck fund, with a balance of \$110,000 which shall be financed over a period of five years?

David Tatlock moved the article. Katie Quinn seconded.

Nadia Smith questioned how ARPA monies have been spent and wondered if this is an unreasonably large amount of funds to be allocated to one item? Deb Healey explained that the Town received a total of \$800,000 in ARPA funds and that much of the money has gone towards infrastructure such as towards a new fire truck, the bridge on Monkton Road that needs to be redone, and the grader. Chris Campbell spoke about how the selectboard worked on keeping most of the funds in town although they did donate \$50,000 towards Maple Broadband which will also benefit some Ferrisburgh residents. Deb Healey mentioned that the money to allow us to have hybrid meetings also came from ARPA.

Norman Smith asked what was wrong with the existing grader. Red Muir responded with information from John Bull stating the current grader is a 2004 and we want to trade it in while it still has value. The current grader has 7000 hours (equivalent to 280,000 miles) on it and it was scheduled to be replaced in 2019, but due to Covid, that was pushed out. With over 30 miles of dirt roads we need to have a good grader on hand. It is also used to help with large snowstorms. This new grader meets Tier 4 emission standards and will help reduce our carbon footprint. If we waited another year to replace it the cost increase would be 8.8%, an additional \$33,500. Paul Hoffman moved the question, seconded by Chris Kayhart. The article passed by a majority voice vote.

Article 4: Shall the voters of the town approve total general fund expenditures of \$2,455,992, of which \$1,982,543 shall be raised by taxes and \$473,449 by non-tax revenue for the 2023-2024 Selectboard Budget, excluding any other amounts authorized by the voters? NOTE: Total expenditures will be increased by any separate articles voted independently.

David Tatlock moved the article, seconded by Matt DeBlois. Norm Smith requested details on the budget. Clark Hinsdale went over changes to the budget. It has a 3.8% total increase mostly due to increasing the Treasurer's position from 20 to 32 hours per week with benefits, heating oil, and diesel fuel increases. The debt service decreased by \$27,721. The other large increase was under the public safety category. Chris Campbell discussed ongoing negotiations with the Vergennes Fire Department regarding fees for fire coverage.

Rick Kerschner and David Tatlock asked if the Bixby appropriation had changed. Marsha Hoffman as Treasurer of the Bixby Library indicated that the amount had not changed in 5 years.

The article passed unopposed.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$37,494 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

Addison County Economic Development Corporation	500
Addison County Home Health & Hospice, Inc.	2,983
Addison County Parent Child Center	1,600
Addison County Readers, Inc.	600
Addison County Restorative Justice	800
Addison County River Watch Collaborative	500
Age Well	1,100
American Legion - Memorial Day Observation	1,000 (300)
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes	500
Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.	1,650
Elderly Services, Inc.	1,100
Friends of the Vergennes Opera House	500
Gage Cemetery Association	2,500
Green Up Vermont	150
Homeward Bound	1,000
HOPE	2,000
John Graham Shelter	825
Lewis Creek Association	500
North Ferrisburgh Cemetery Association	2,500
Open Door Clinic	1,200
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District	275
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	210
Rokeby Museum	1,000
Tri-Valley Transit	3,517
Union Cemetery	2,400
Vermont Adult Learning	785
Vermont Center for Independent Living	250
Women Safe	1,250
Charter House Coalition	2,000
Turning Point Center of Addison County	3,000
TOTAL	\$37,495

David Tatlock moved to amend article 5, seconded by Katie Quinn. The total of \$37,495 was correct but the American Legion amount of \$1,000 was incorrect, it should be \$300. Discussion ensued about this issue with comments by David Tatlock, Chris Kayhart, Rick Kerschner, Don DeWees and others. The question was called by Red Muir; seconded by Jean Richardson. After more discussion the moderator asked if there was a motion to close the question. Moved by Carolyn Tatlock and seconded by Paul Hoffman. The article was voted on and passed.

There was some discussion regarding the school budget and Deb Healey, the Town Treasurer, mentioned the pie chart that is in the town report that shows the percentage of our tax dollars to the school, versus the town.

Paul Hoffman thanked the townspeople for accepting the gift of the Center Methodist Church to the town.

Paul Hoffman moved to adjourn the annual town meeting at 10:50 a.m., seconded by Katie Quinn.

At the close of the above business, the meeting shall be recessed until March 7, 2023 at the Ferrisburgh Town hall to vote by Australian ballot on the following matters, to wit:

OFFICES TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT
March 7, 2023

ARTICLE 6: To elect Town Officers

Auditor – 3-year term

Auditor – 2 years of 3-year term

Selectboard – 2-year term

Unified School Director – 3-year term

Moderator – 1-year term

Lister – 2-years of a 3-year term

Rogers & Hazard Fund Trustee – 2-year term

First Constable – 1-year term

Selectboard – 3-year term

Unified School Director – 1-year of a 3-year term

Lister – 3-year term

Town Agent – 1-year term

Polls open from 7 a.m. To 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pam Cousino



Clark Hinsdale



(l. to r.) Musicians Paul Asbell, Bob Stannard and Joe Moore on stage in the Community Center, performing at a fundraiser for Rokeby Museum.
“photo courtesy of Karen Petersen”

Ferrisburgh Town Audit Committee Report Year Ending December 2023

The Town Audit Committee was formed this year with two members. The Town Audit Committee is seeking a third member for the upcoming year.

The Committee has been able to audit the town warrants twice monthly, on the day(s) following each Selectboard meeting. We inspected each payment against the warrant signed by the Selectboard, ensuring the payment amounts matched the invoices and were made in a timely manner. The Treasurer, Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk were available during our audit sessions to answer any questions we had on individual payments.

We found no concerns from our inspections. In our opinion the management of the Town accounts is being done in a competent manner.

We thank the Town staff for their assistance during our audit sessions, and their willingness to answer our questions.

Respectfully,



Andrew Dombek



Jarad Roach

Vermont Elections Management System (VEMS) My Voter Page and Online Voter Registration

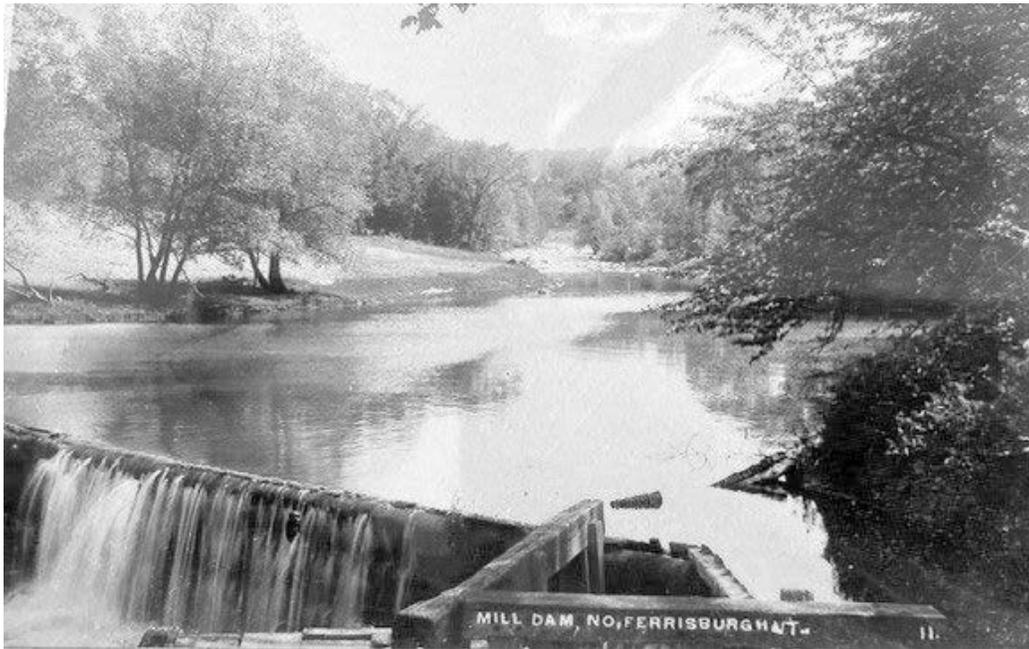
The My Voter Page is an Online Voter Registration system which is a great way for registered voters to:

- 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

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page to learn more. If you have trouble logging in, please contact us as we may need to confirm some of your information. Email townclerk@ferrisburghvt.org or call the town clerk's office at 802-877-3429.

Registered voters can log in at: <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>

Online registration can be found at: <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>



The Mill Dam in North Ferrisburgh Hollow, from an old postcard.
“photo courtesy of Clark Hinsdale”

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. 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

BIRTHS



<u>BIRTH MONTH</u>	<u>BABY'S NAME</u>	<u>PARENT'S NAMES</u>
February 2023	Cosmo Clear	Katherine Clear & Rolf Humburg
March 2023	Karlee Ashley	Karizma Joyal & Kristian Ashley
March 2023	Kaden Ashley	Karizma Joyal & Kristian Ashley
March 2023	Aidan Emery	Samantha Tabor & Shawn Emery
April 2023	August Jerger	Stacey Teitel & Bradley Jerger
May 2023	Avonlea Clayton	Stephanie Culver & Zachery Clayton
May 2023	Lillian Johnson	Karrinne Johnson & Benjamin Johnson
May 2023	Silas Reynolds	Mickayla Myers & Jacob Reynolds
May 2023	Elsie Billings	Jaskia Atkins & Andrew Billings
May 2023	Heath Steff	Kelly Osborne & Tyler Steff
May 2023	Gia Bates	Melissa Garcia & Spencer Bates
June 2023	Daisy Sullivan	Rachel Brands & Zachary Sullivan
June 2023	Iris Cockerline	Emily Melander & Daniel Cockerline
June 2023	Daisy Cockerline	Emily Melander & Daniel Cockerline
July 2023	Dahlia Pierce	Laura Wright & Brendan Pierce
July 2023	Lila Weaver- Masseau	Lucy Weaver & Evan Masseau

BIRTHS (cont'd.)

August 2023	Ashley Jimenez-Gonzalez	Roxana Gonzalez-Arenas & Marcos Jimenez-Trinidad
September 2023	Lucas Larrow	Natalie Salley & William Larrow Jr.
September 2023	Francesca Rowland	Catherine Rowland & Aaron DellaCroce
October 2023	Oliver O'Brien-Billings	Dana O'Brien & Lauren Gmyrek-Billings
October 2023	Ezra Warner Penniman	Katherine Liebfried & Craig Penniman
October 2023	Jubilee Brownell	Keegan Jackman & Lathrop Brownell
October 2023	Emory Ghali	Amanda Walther & Andrew Ghali
October 2023	Quinn Benoit	Katie Blanchard & Shawn Benoit
November 2023	Lauren Sheehan	Brittany Nolan & Ryan Sheehan
November 2023	Cooper Hume	Christen Campbell & Dustin Hume



Gathering sap at the Union Meeting Hall, March 2023.
“photo courtesy of Judy Elson”

CIVIL MARRIAGES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TOWN</u>
December 2022	Vorsteveld, Megan Van Wyck, Eric	Panton Ferrisburgh
January 2023	Devlin, Hillary Zinn, Daniel	N. Ferrisburgh N Ferrisburgh
March 2023	MacHarg, Patricia Morris, David	Ferrisburgh Lake Peekskill, New York
June 2023	Moettus, Mara Bakali, Joseph	Washington D. C. Washington D. C.
June 2023	Verburg, Geneva Boot, Jared	Hudsonville, MI Jenison, MI
June 2023	Sawyer, Jasmine Lowry, Stephen	Ferrisburgh Ferrisburgh
July 2023	Keller, Brittany Minotti, Justin	New York New York
July 2023	Putnam, Bonnie Husk, Matthew	Essex Jct Ferrisburgh
August 2023	Angier, Hillary Palkar, Satyajeet	N Ferrisburgh Canada
September 2023	Many, Danielle Jerry, Michael Jr	Ferrisburgh Ferrisburgh
October 2023	White, Kathryn Burkett, Kyle	N. Ferrisburgh N. Ferrisburgh
November 2023	Ashley, Melissa Danyow, Brett	Ferrisburgh Ferrisburgh
December 2023	Riley, Amanda Wallace, Christina	N. Ferrisburgh N. Ferrisburgh

DEATHS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Age</u>
Ambrose, William Sr.	January 2023	63
Sheehan, Michael	January 2023	51
Chamberlain, Sally	February 2023	86
Keyes, Mary	March 2023	79
Jackson, Mark	May 2023	68
Looby, Katherine	May 2023	36
Straw, Duane	May 2023	84
Stearns, Kathleen	June 2023	77
Huestis, Michael	July 2023	80
Sumner, Christopher	July 2023	41
Woods, Marilyn	September 2023	82
Warden, Jeffrey	September 2023	61
Woodward, Jennifer	November 2023	55
Barrows, Timothy	December 2023	67

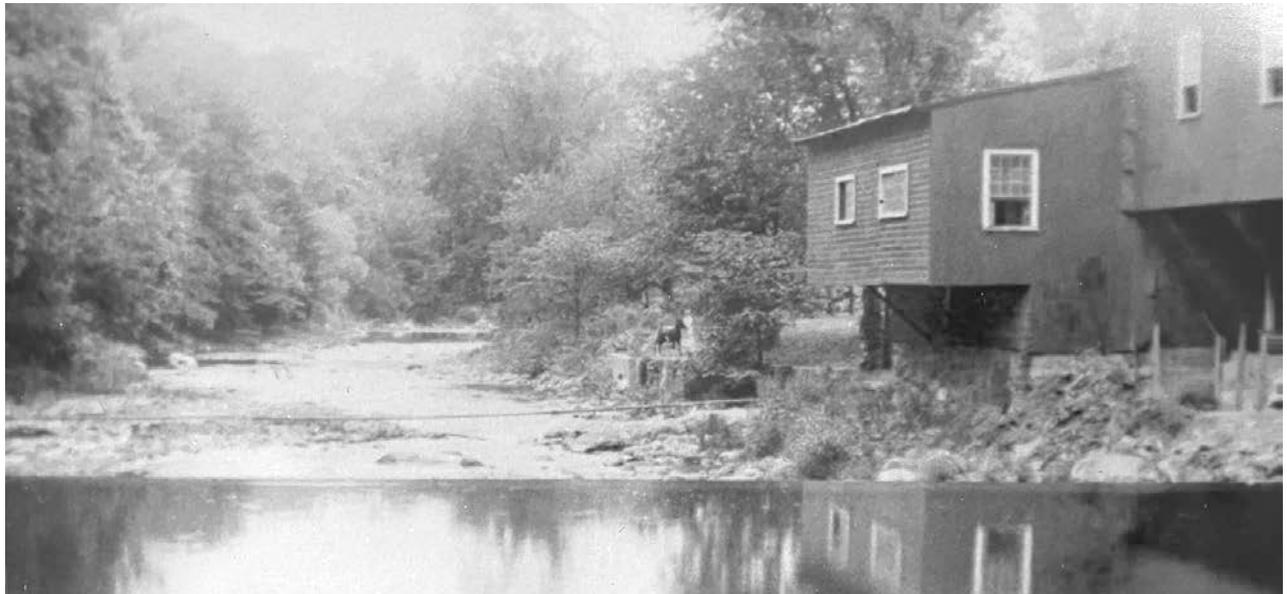


Photo taken in the Hollow at the bridge, with a girl and a pony.
“photo courtesy of Jean Richardson”

SELECTBOARD REPORT

The Selectboard focused on running the town smoothly while being conservative on spending your money. The Buildings Maintenance Committee is doing a great job thoughtfully managing our funds to maintain our facilities. Long-time Selectboard member and Committee Chair Red Muir is stepping down after many hundreds of hours selflessly devoted to our community. Take a moment to thank Red for his hard work on our behalf.

As this report goes to print, we are negotiating with Vergennes over a five-year contract to continue fire protection for the southern and western portions of Ferrisburgh. The two fire departments have worked well together over many years and we value that relationship. As the only town in the district that financially supports two fire departments, we want to make sure our residents are getting fair value for the funds they expend on fire service.

This year's proposed budget does include a significant increase for Vergennes Area Rescue Service (VARS) and the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department. We actually encouraged both organizations to request the funds that they feel they need to do provide those services. VARS has often been out of service and we wanted to make sure we pay our share to achieve 24-hour coverage. Consider becoming an individual member/supporter of VARS as well.

Welcome Alison Brigger, our new Town Treasurer. Our retiring Treasurer, Deb Healey, went above and beyond the call of duty covering the long period of time it took to find her replacement as well as training her and helping with the Audit. Well done, Deb!

The thousands of hours of volunteer service we receive from one hundred or so community members enrich our lives and keep our tax rate down. Consider the fact that our town tax rate is about 1/3 of the rate in neighboring Vergennes. We are expecting (fearing) a significant increase in the statewide education property tax and are being conservative on our municipal spending.

We will need to reappraise Ferrisburgh in the near future as our common level of appraisal has dropped below 80%. Once we get our assessments back in the vicinity of 100% of fair market value, the tax rates should drop accordingly. Because of how the statewide property tax for education functions, reappraisal will actually save many residents money, so please realize that the reappraisal is a good thing!

Please consider serving on a town board, committee, or organization. Several of our community organizations have written and received grants for things like a safe Route 7 crossing, trails, and the Union Meeting Hall. In serving the town you will also meet wonderful people and actually see the difference one person can make.

My life has certainly been enriched by being active in this fabulous town.

Thank you,

Clark Hinsdale, Chair
Ferrisburgh Selectboard

Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report 2023

Dear Resident,

Our Fire Department faced several major incidents this year. We had to battle two separate tractor trailer “hazardous material fires”, both which caused significant damage to property and the disruption of traffic for extended hours on Route #7. Several area fire departments responded to aid with the control and extinguishment of these blazes and accidents. We saw not only another very busy year, but we were called upon multiple times to assist with flooding and damage caused by the extreme weather.

Our community engagement has continued to be one of the department’s cornerstones. The members dedicated countless hours organizing our 29th annual chicken barbeque. Success of this activity also depended on help from many others, including: The Ferrisburgh Bake Shop, Vermont Livestock, Marcel Brunet & Sons, and many family members / friends of the Fire Department. Ferrisburgh Day was also a markable success, with over 350 attending our open house. Activities on that day included: fire education exhibits, games for the children, a vehicle extrication demonstration, and meeting our team.

We want to thank the students of the Ferrisburgh Central School for allowing us to spend time educating them in fire safety. It is always an honor and joy working with the children of our community.

We are sad to lose one of our own this year. Jennifer Woodward unfortunately lost her battle with a long illness. She was a dedicated associate member who worked hard behind the scenes designing props for fire safety, brought coffee and food to fire crews at active scenes, and helped manage our financials. She will be missed by the community and our department.

I want to congratulate Assistant Chief Shane Coyle for being selected as Addison County Fighters “Officer of The Year”. Shane has risen through the ranks, starting as a cadet at age 13 and becoming an executive leader of the department.

We currently have several open positions in our department. If you have any interest in giving back to your community, helping your neighbors, and joining an active, fun group of volunteers, please reach out to us at www.ferrisburghvolfire.org.

We thank the residents and selectboard of the Town of Ferrisburgh for the continued support of our department.

Sincerely,

Bill Wager, Chief

Natural Gas Tanker Fire

On June 1, 2023 at approximately 2300 hours the Ferrisburgh Fire Department was dispatched to a call of a tractor trailer on Route 7 with the brakes on fire. First arriving units found the rear of the southbound unit on fire with rapid extension to the front of the trailer. It was immediately identified as a TT unit carrying 440,000 cubic feet of natural gas. A second and third alarm were requested by Incident command (IC) Chief Wager and the road was shut down to traffic.

Another TT unit had stopped behind the first unit in an attempt to put out the flames with a handheld fire extinguisher. The fire was growing with such intensity that he was unable to remove his truck from the scene. An arriving firefighter, in bunker gear, gained access to that truck and was able to back it away from the fire scene.

The fire at this time had grown horizontally, shutting off access from both the north and south. Initially, tanker shuttles were established on both the north and south sides of the incident.

Vermont State Police, Agency of Transportation, and the State Hazmat teams were all dispatched to the scene.

Seeing the communication and powerlines on the west side of the road engulfed in flames, IC ordered the electrical grid in this sector to be shut down. Unfortunately, the back-up electrical power to support communications failed. This resulted in a temporary interruption of radio communication. The incident commander was able to position himself in the front-line pumper with 3 portable radios with separate frequencies to cover water supply, fire attack, and dispatch.

Evacuation was ordered for the civilians in the closest residences.

The pressure relief valves released approximately 20 minutes into the incident and performed as designed. The unit was cooled for the approximately one-hour timeframe that it took to burn off all the compressed gas.

The truck was a complete loss but, thanks to an alert driver who had stopped the truck in this very rural area to notify the truck operator of the impending fire, there was no other damage other than to the roadway itself. If the truck had continued travelling, in 3 more miles it would have been in a densely populated downtown area.

Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department Dry Hydrant

Pictured below is the dry hydrant installed at Whitney Palmer's residence, 314 Old Hollow Road, in North Ferrisburgh (photo courtesy of Jim Averill.) The hydrant provides over 100,000 gallons of water, with a 1,200 gallons/min flow rate, for firefighters.

The project was funded by a grant from the Vermont Rural Fire Protection program, managed by Troy Dare. SJ Landworks and the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department performed the installation.



Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Annual Contract Projection

<u>Category</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Facilities	\$ 9,200	\$ 11,050
Trucks	\$10,000	\$ 10,000
Equipment	\$24,450	\$ 32,800
Insurance	\$15,200	\$ 17,200
Communications	\$10,150	\$ 12,600
Training	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,000
General	\$ 6,850	\$ 9,365
Incentive	\$15,000	\$ 35,000
Totals	<u>\$98,250</u>	<u>\$132,015</u>



Natural Gas Tanker Fire on US Route 7, June 1, 2023.
“Photo courtesy of Mike Donnelly”

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR 2023**

The Building Maintenance committee is a sub-committee of the Selectboard. It meets twice a month. Minutes are posted on the Town Website and given to the Selectboard along with any written reports.

- The committee is responsible for assessing the maintenance and repair needs of all the town buildings and tracking the work to completion.
- The Town presently owns 7 buildings: Town Offices and Community Center (Town Hall); Sisters House; Center School House (Ferrisburgh Historical Society); Fire Station; Town Highway Department and Garages; Union Meeting Hall; and the Brown Church (former Methodist Church).
- The Committee recommends proposed repair work and contracts to the Selectboard and also works, under an MOU, with a non-member, non-profit organization, the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall (FUMH), to expend donated funds and grant monies raised through cooperative fundraising efforts for the UMH repairs.
- The committee assists in grant writing and also tracks the grants and contracts for building repairs.
- Minor repairs/maintenance can be approved by the committee. Major projects require prior approval from the full Selectboard.
- Town Funds available for building repairs and maintenance are in the following accounts: Town Hall Maintenance; Town Buildings Reserve Fund; UMH Windows (MK Taylor Foundation). Funds provided through joint fundraising efforts with the FUMH are in a Fund called UMH Contracts.
- All records are on file at the Town Hall and available to the public.

Work undertaken in 2023:

Town Offices and Community Center/Town Hall

- Heating System: \$10,241
- Floors: \$29,956
- General Maintenance: \$4,877

TOTAL 2023: \$40,074

Estimated Expenses for 2024: \$10,000 for Parking Lot and General Maintenance.

Fire Station: The Fire Department has its own budget for routine maintenance. Town covers capital expenses. In 2023 the windows and window trim needed major repairs.

TOTAL 2023: Window and trim Repair: **\$20,920**

Estimated Expenses for 2024: No work proposed, but the Fire Department is anticipating repairs and an upgraded/new heating system for 2024.

Town Highway Department: The Highway Department has a Capital Improvement Plan, and its own budget for routine maintenance.

TOTAL 2023: Electrical and firewall: **\$3,906**

Estimated Expenses for 2024: None presently planned.

Sisters House, shed and garage: This property is leased out and expenses offset in part or whole by rental income (\$7,800) which is deposited in General Operating, not the Building Reserve Fund.

TOTAL 2023: Septic maintenance **\$382**

Estimated Expenses for 2024: \$2,000

Ferrisburgh Center School House (Historical Society):

TOTAL 2023: \$1,450 to bring electrical up to code.

Estimated Expenses for 2024: \$1,000 for maintenance.

Brown Church:

- Environmental Assessment \$9,000

- Maintenance \$2,845
- TOTAL 2023: \$11,845**
- Planned Expenses for 2024:** \$5,000 for septic design and general maintenance.

Union Meeting Hall, Town Green:

- General maintenance, roof shoring, trees: \$1,612
- Permits: \$1,180
- Windows Repair and Restoration: \$37,405 (MK Taylor Foundation and FUMH)
- TOTAL 2023: \$40,897**
- Expenses for UMH in 2024:**
- Maintenance \$ 2,000
- Driveway striping for rental events \$ 2,000
- Windows repair \$24,045 (MK Taylor Foundation)
- TOTAL \$28,045**

In addition, the Town will continue working with Friends of the Union Meeting Hall (FUMH) to prepare contracts and continue restoration on the UMH, using grant funds which are deposited into the Building Reserve Fund to cover contracted work.

Emergency Generator: The committee undertook research and gathered estimates on a range of Emergency Generators and assessed which town building which be most suited to act as an emergency shelter. This information was submitted to the Selectboard for their discussions and decision. No town funds spent.

Wastewater Capacity at Town Center: In 2022, the Town obtained a Vermont Wastewater and Revolving Loan Fund grant of \$32,250 to undertake an assessment of wastewater capacity in the Town Center. We worked with Otter Creek Engineering of Middlebury and conducted onsite evaluation at several potential sites. No useful site was located to date. This work is ongoing.

Original Loan amount: \$32,250
 Amount spent by Town: \$(28,849) + (\$150 non-reimbursable mark-up)
 Amount Reimbursed to Town \$28,699
 Balance available on Loan Grant **\$3,551**

Balances on hand in Buildings Reserve Fund January 1, 2024:

Town Buildings: \$93,091
 Building Maintenance: \$8,125
 UMH MK Taylor Fund: \$91,415
TOTAL \$192,631
 FUMH Contracts deposits \$51,896

Thank you to everyone for the hours of volunteer time and to Deb Healey, Pam Cousino and Laurie Curler, and Alison Deming for their patience in dealing with all the invoices and documentation needed for tracking and reporting on grants and donations.

Respectfully Submitted:
 Michael (Red) Muir, Chair
 Carl Cole, Vice Chair
 Silas Towler
 Craig Bunten
 Rick Kerschner
 Jean Richardson

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

We have had another busy year in the Town Clerk's office. Please see the following highlights listed below.

Statistics for 2023 include:

- Vital statistics recorded: 26 births, 11 marriages, and 16 deaths.
- Land records received and recorded: 2,048 pages of land records, a decrease of 2528 pages from 2022; these include warranty deeds, quit claim deeds, mortgages, mortgage discharges, easements, liens, and zoning permits.
- Licenses issued: 325 dog licenses, 29 applications for liquor licenses and 26 catering licenses, 44 Green Mountain Passports, and 27 Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department licenses.
- Notary services performed: 198
- Renewals processed: 40 motor vehicle registration renewals
- Voter registrations added: 125 new voters. The total voter checklist is 2,342.
- Certified copies issued: 102 certified copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates.

All of our land records have been scanned and indexed back to 1980. These can be viewed in our office on the public computer and they are also available on our website. Lister/Assessor cards for all properties are also online, under the Listers tab.

Laurie, and Karen have done a great job in keeping our office running smoothly. The road crew - John, Aaron, Corey, Jeremie, and Reilly - are always ready to lend a hand and do a great job mowing the lawn and keeping the parking lots plowed. The selectboard also continues to be very supportive.

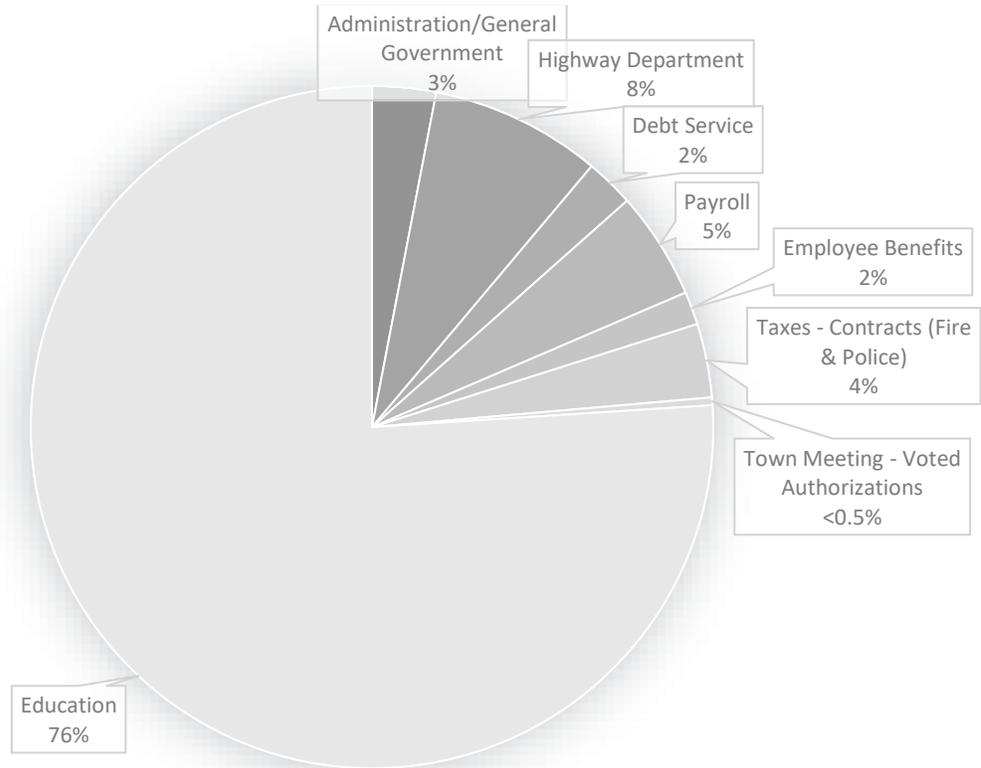
Deb Healey was appointed as our Town Treasurer in March of 2017 and retired at the end of December. Deb has done a wonderful job as our treasurer and has filled in where she could regarding the town clerk duties. She has been part of the team and has been great to work with. We hate to see her go and wish her a great retirement. Alison Brigger was hired this past October and is assimilating into her new job. She is a nice addition to our team and it is nice having a younger person in the office.

Town Meeting will be on Saturday March 2nd, 2024 at the Town Hall starting at 10:00 a.m. and warned articles will be voted on the floor. You must be in person in order to vote, but the meeting can be watched on Zoom. The polls will be open for the election of officers and the school budget from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5th, 2024. You may also come to the office prior to Town Meeting Day and vote in person or take the ballots with you. We can also mail the ballots to you, but please make sure to allow time for mailing. There will also be a Presidential Primary this year so you will need to let us know if you are voting Democratic or Republican. We only ask this of you once every 4 years and it allows us to give you just the ballot that you need.

I am happy to continue as your Town Clerk and look forward to seeing all of you throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Cousino

Treasurer's Report 2023



This year's professional audit of the Town's books stated that we are consistent on the financial end of things compared to where we were last year. We did have an increase in expenses for the highway department this year due to the flooding across Vermont, though thankfully, we were not affected as badly as other towns like Montpelier. On positive news, we received federal funding not only from flood relief funds, but also from COVID-19 financial relief grants. We have been using this money from the government to offset the financial strain we suffered during the height of COVID and continued issues we see pop-up on occasion. We also have some money left from our ARPA (American Rescue Plan) injection last year that remains to be allocated. In terms of our long-term debt, this year we fully paid off the 2017 Tandem Truck loan as well as our 2018 John Deere Loader MELF loan completely. We have taken on a new loan for a John Deere 310/SL Backhoe, with a 4 year pay off.

I have stepped up this year as the new Treasurer and am happy to have the opportunity to serve this wonderful community. All the people here have been so welcoming, and I plan to repay this kindness by serving the town as best as I can from now on.

2023 Highway Report

Looking back on 2023 we certainly had many projects in the works. Thanks to a paving grant, stormwater grant, and bridge grant we upgraded a considerable amount of infrastructure. This coupled with ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds gave us the opportunity to use some of our hard-earned Federal and State tax dollars to reduce the cost to Ferrisburgh property owners. As I am sure you noticed from the picture, we replaced our 2001 JD Grader with a new 2023 JD grader. The purchase price was \$331,00.00 minus \$100,000.00 dollars in ARPA funds

This Summer we promoted Reilly Laberge to acting Road Foreman. This title came with an updated job description and is currently a working document. Reilly had already assumed some of the responsibilities outlined in this position. This Winter, Reilly is responsible for winter road conditions and calling in the crew. He is also responsible for managing projects and performing these duties with the crew. Reilly and I will work together to plan projects, discuss budget issues, and respond to citizens and contractors' requests. This will be a work in progress as we prepare for my eventual retirement.

On Arnold Bay Road we cut dead trees, removed brush, ditched, stone lined, seeded, mulched, and reset a cross culvert to bring this road up to the new storm water standards. The total cost of this project was \$54,452.00. We were paid for our labor and equipment (\$51,689.00). This left a balance of \$2,763.00 which was paid from our construction budget.

The Monkton Road Bridge was built in 1951. At the time of inspection, the Federal sufficiency rating was 43.9 out of 100. The scope of work included removal of pavement and overhang, repairing the deck, bearing seat and wing wall, clean and paint structural steel, install a membrane and repave approaches and deck. The guardrails were also relocated to the edge of the deck resulting in a wider driving surface. The total cost of this project was \$358,000.00. We received a bridge grant for \$200,000.00, applied \$158,000.00 dollars of ARPA funds which left us with a balance of \$0.00 from construction budget funds.

In our paving projects this year, we paved Jersey Street, Basin Harbor Road, and a section of Shellhouse Mountain Road. On these projects, we added material to the shoulders and driveway cuts. The cost to repave Basin Harbor Road was \$226,313.00 that was offset by a Class 2 paving grant of \$200,000.00.

In other projects around town, we removed dead trees, brushed, and ditched, seeded, and mulched a portion of Jersey Street, washed all bridge decks, and ditched a section of Clark Wood's Road. This in addition to our normal duties of roadside mowing, mowing lawns and Cemeteries, grading gravel roads, and adding material and chloride.

The rain this Summer caused some damage on roads and culverts. Fortunately, all the issues were minor and did not require significant dollars to repair as we have the equipment and expertise to handle these in-house. As the ground became saturated many of our ditches and culverts could not handle the intense storms. Hopefully, these weather conditions will not persist in the future.

For the 2024 Construction season we have been approved for a \$24,000.00 grant to continue upgrading our roads to comply with the stormwater rules. We also received a \$24,500.00 roadside safety grant to remove road hazards and paint center and fog lines. Removing dead trees, brush, and Ash trees from our roadside will also be an ongoing project. Shoulder removal, ditching, reseeding, and mulching will be done in numerous locations, along with our normal activities of grading, roadside mowing, bridge washing, and mowing Town property lawns.

You will notice in our Budget an increase in the paving budget. Pavement costs have skyrocketed in the last few years. This has resulted in falling behind in our general maintenance. If we do not keep up with our general maintenance, paving costs can quadruple in a fleeting time. This year's budget reflects today's cost of maintaining our 50 miles of paved roads. We have also budgeted to replace our 2012 Mack plow truck. This was scheduled to be replaced in 2022, but we delayed it so we could pay off other equipment dept. Both the truck and, especially, the winter equipment are at the point where they are no longer reliable.

Thanks to my dedicated crew Aaron Schondube, Reilly Laberge, Corey Collette, and Jeremy Lemoine. Please give them a wave and a thumbs up for all the great work they accomplish to make Ferrisburgh a safe and beautiful place.

John Bull
Operations Manager

Planning Commission Report

Ferrisburgh Friends: The Planning Commission has had a busy year. This year, we have reviewed a few of the larger projects that we have seen since 2020. The attendance at our meetings has gone back to mostly in person and we are grateful for that.

As always, our meetings are public and held on the third Wednesday of every month. Town member input and involvement is always welcome.

Sincerely,
Bob Beach

Ferrisburgh Town Center Committee Report

The Town Center Committee is charged with evaluating and making recommendations about existing and potential services and infrastructure for the town center. Over the past year the committee oversaw a survey of town residents on potential uses for the former Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church, next door to the town offices, which has been donated to the town, and it is involved with ongoing discussions concerning its future. The committee has also sponsored grant applications to study and subsequently construct pedestrian and bike safety measures for Route 7 and has secured the opportunity to participate in a multi-town housing and transportation planning grant.

The Committee meets monthly and welcomes new members.

Bonnie Barnes
Lindsey Brown
Anne Cohn
Rick Kerschner

Ferrisburgh Trails Committee Report

The Ferrisburgh Trails Committee, formed in 2022, aims to establish, maintain, and promote trail systems within the town, connect to surrounding networks, and enhance the well-being and safety of the public while cultivating the spiritual fabric of Ferrisburgh. Within the past year the Committee was successful in winning a grant to hire a consultant to develop a Ferrisburgh Trail and Travel Master Plan. Once the Master Plan is complete, we hope it will align with the Town Plan and guide future land use that is trail-centric and foster a deeper sense of community. The Committee is also in ongoing discussions with the State of Vermont to make improvements to the western section (accessible from the Town Beach) of Kingsland Bay State Park. The Committee meets monthly and welcomes new members.

Anne Cohn, for the Trails Committee

THE FERRISBURGH ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT REPORT

The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) consists of seven members who are appointed by the Selectboard for a term of three years. The members of the Board are volunteers who have diverse backgrounds, which is important due to the wide range of applications submitted to the Board.

Steve True, our Zoning Administrator, has provided a summary of matters that the Board heard.

The ZBA is a quasi-judicial Board. Review of all applications submitted to the Board are held in publicly warned hearings. The applicant presents the details of the application. Persons who wish to speak for or against the application may be heard or can be represented by an attorney. The minutes of the meeting are taken by the secretary for the Board and posted for the public.

Decisions of the Board are made by applying the zoning by-laws to the evidence and arguments presented at the Hearing. Often there is a site visit to review the proposed use. The Board may impose conditions as part of its approval. The Board issues written decisions, which are to be enforced by the Zoning Administrator.

The Zoning By-laws set forth specific districts in the Town. The by-laws contain permitted uses and conditional uses, as well as dimensional standards, for each district. The by-laws are available on the Town Website at www.ferrisburghvt.org.

Applications for permitted uses can be granted by the Zoning Administrator without review by the Board. The Board reviews applications for conditional uses. The Board also hears appeals of the Zoning Administrator's decisions.

There is a zoning map which defines the zoning districts, and these are part of the by-laws. There are definitions which are designed to protect the public health, safety and welfare and manage growth in Ferrisburgh. Other purposes include the conservation of rural agricultural land, as well as protecting the town's land, water, wetland, forests, and wildlife resources. The overall purpose is to preserve the quality of life and enhance Ferrisburgh's sense of community.

Members of the Board participated in the review of the current Zoning By-laws. In connection with the review, the Board wishes to thank Jean Richardson, who helped tremendously in the drafting and redrafting process.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Ferrisburgh Town Clerk's office at 7:00 p.m. and are open to the public.

Norman C. Smith, Chair
Bob Beach
Mike Delaney
David Mentzer
Diane Nadon
John Paul
Katie Quinn

Zoning Permit Summary

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
New Houses	9	18	12	7	7	4
Seasonal to Full Time	0	0	1	1	1	0
Total New Residences	9	18	13	8	8	4
Replacement Houses	0	1	1	1	1	3
House Addition/Renovations	7	13	10	5	12	8
Accessory Dwelling Unit	2	2	5	2	5	0
Garage/Barn/Shed	22	18	27	31	21	19
Additions to Accessory Bldg.	0	5	2	3	0	4
Commercial	8	8	8	7	2	1
Decks/Porches/Docks	3	2	17	9	18	11
Pools/Ponds/Fences	0	1	4	6	1	5
Solar	0	0	7	5	3	4
Home Occupation	3	4	3	2	5	2
Recreation	1	0	0	0	1	0
Signs	4	2	1	1	4	2
Certificate of Compliance	33	47	64	55	42	33
Renewals	0	1	4	1	1	0
Withdrawn	4	3	2	2	3	0
Denied	1	1	0	0	0	0
Subdivision Amendment	3	1	1	1	1	0
Boundary Adjustments	9	3	3	0	2	1
2-Lot Subdivisions	3	1	1	2	2	2
Sketch Plans	7	8	7	2	1	6
Preliminary Plats	2	4	1	0	0	0
Final Plats	4	8	4	1	0	6
Agricultural/Exempt	3	1	5	6	7	6
Fill	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total Permit Applications	129	152	191	150	130	117
Violations	1	1	2	0	1	2

Zoning Board of Adjustment Summary

Conditional Use	24	21	20	20	22	6
Variance, Waiver	3	3	7	2	3	1
Appeals	0	1	2	0	1	0
Total Number of Hearings	26	25	29	22	26	7

Steven William True
Zoning Administrator

Town of Ferrisburgh **2023 Listers Report**

The Ferrisburgh Listers Annual Assessment work (building permits/land subdivisions, etc.) in 2022-2023 resulted in an increase of the Town's Grand List from \$593,604,275 to \$600,425,142, totaling a \$6,820,867 increase in total real value.

- As of April 1, 2023, there were 1,568 properties in the Township of Ferrisburgh. The breakdown by property type was as follows:
 - 908 Houses
 - 64 Mobile Homes
 - 282 Lake Champlain Properties
 - 48 Farms
 - 64 Commercial
 - 0 Industrial
 - 15 Utilities
 - 14 Vacation/Seasonal Properties (non-Lake Champlain properties)
 - 173 Miscellaneous (mostly vacant land)

- A total of 122 Change of Appraisal Notices for 2023 were mailed out to town property owners.

- Formal Grievance Hearings were held on June 21, 2023. A total of 3 property owners filed grievances, which were all denied. None were appealed to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA). Any property owner who has not received a Change of Appraisal Notice, but feels their assessment is incorrect, should contact the Board of Listers at listers@ferrisburghvt.org to be notified of the Grievance Hearing schedule.

- There were 3 listers corrections to the 2023 Grand List.

- Vermont Law requires towns to be assessed at 100% of Fair Market Value; Vermont Education Taxes are based on the market value of all properties in a town. The State Tax Department does an annual correlation (Equalization Sales Study) of the listed values compared to the most recent three years of sale prices for each town. (The current Study includes sales from April 1, 2022, through April 1, 2023.) It determines the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and the coefficient of dispersion (COD), which measures equity and the fair distribution of property taxes paid by owners of different categories of Real Estate (i.e., commercial, residential, vacant land, etc.). Prior to 2023, when listed values fall below 85% or over 115% of fair market value **or** a coefficient of dispersion greater than 20%, the State requires a town-wide reappraisal. In the early months of 2023, the State of Vermont changed this logic to only use the COD. The Town of Ferrisburgh's State of Vermont's Annual Certified Equalization Education Property Value Notice was received from the Vermont Department of Taxes on January 4, 2024.

The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is 72.60 %, with a Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) of 22.5%. The new 72.60% CLA showed a decrease over the 86.93% CLA in 2022, indicating a substantial increase in sales prices of sales data analyzed. We have noted that the volume of sales transactions in Addison County has continued to decrease as the Addison County Multiple Listing Service (MLS) inventories overall have been falling to historically low levels not seen since the end of the 2008 housing crisis. The rapid increase in sales prices has also been impacted by COVID-19 and the relocation of many into our region.

- The impact of the CLA on property taxes can't be overstated. As the CLA decreases, the “tax penalty” increases. As more years pass between a Town’s full reappraisal, it is expected to see a gradual decrease: however, any steps the Board of Listers can take to slow that decline directly impact your property taxes. Please note that the Board of Listers is appealing our new value and has requested a redetermination of the COD, based on the evidence we will be submitting to the State. Our hope is that the new value will be published prior to Town Meeting Day to allow the Selectboard and residents a more accurate representation of our Grand List.

	CLA Comparison (towns with last reappraisal > 3 years)					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ferrisburgh	102.26	100.71	98.22	95.34	86.93	72.60
Vergennes	100.11	96.01	91.79	86.97	78.55	70.78
New Haven	95.5	93.51	91.42	87.25	80.55	73.48
Charlotte	97.66	95.72	94.99	87.78	82.0	66.76

- It should be noted that solar array projects above 50,000 watts are considered taxable by the State of Vermont and municipalities. Ferrisburgh has nine solar properties in this category. They are assessed on an income approach basis. The local tax is based on the Ferrisburgh municipal, non-residential tax rate. Instead of a state education tax rate, a flat tax (a/k/a Solar Energy Capacity Tax) of \$4.00/kilowatt times the solar plant's capacity is levied. This tax is billed directly to the owner or lessee of the Vermont Tax Department's solar array and is due on April 15 of each year.
- The Listers continue to deal with several misconceptions covering the need for zoning building permits. To clarify, all property owners contemplating any construction or land development (including agricultural buildings) should contact Steven True, the Town of Ferrisburgh Zoning Administrator. He will determine if a building permit is necessary. The Listers obtain copies of all the building permits/zoning permits and perform interior inspections on these properties throughout the year. The effective date of all the Change of Assessments is April 1 of each year. Properties that are unfinished as of April 1 are re-inspected the following year and thereafter until completion.
- Following the release of the State’s 2023 Equalization Study, another 41 towns received reappraisal orders due to a high COD, including the Town of Ferrisburgh. Typically, only a dozen or so towns receive these orders per year. The state of reappraisals in Vermont was alarming last year and now even more so. Of the 241 towns in Vermont, only 85 are not under a reappraisal order. Although the Board of Listers has been successful in delaying the need for a costly reappraisal, the forecast we issued last year has proven true.

- This past Fall, the Board of Listers developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a complete reappraisal, which includes a re-assessment of all town properties including interior property inspections, development of new land, building pricing, and Lake Front Calculator schedules, and other adjustments and factors. The RFP has a target start of 2025, however the lack of certified appraisers in the state may delay this until 2026. This RFP was approved by the Selectboard in January. In addition to discussion on Town Meeting Day, we will be increasing communications to the Selectboard and community members over the next year to educate and prepare for that task.

Reappraisals are about...

Fairness: Every property owner should pay their fair share of property taxes, based on the actual value of their property. This avoids situations where some people pay more than their fair share due to outdated or inaccurate valuations.

Equalization: Properties of equal value should pay the same amount in school taxes, regardless of their location in the state. This ensures that school districts across Vermont have access to equal funding, regardless of local property values.

By ensuring both fairness and equalization, the reappraisal process seeks to create a more just and equitable system of property taxation for school funding in Vermont.

Reappraisals are NOT...

a way for the Town to collect more money. A pie metaphor captures the essence of property tax reappraisal. It indicates that the reappraisal doesn't affect the total amount of taxes collected (the size of the pie), but rather how that amount is divided amongst property owners (cutting the pie fairly). While some individual tax bills might change, the overall revenue for the Town remains the same.

The Listers would like to thank the Ferrisburgh residents and property owners for their help and cooperation during the annual building permit inspection process. Special thanks are due to Alyth Hescok from Real Capital Consulting, who is providing professional appraiser services to the Board to help maintain an up-to-date grand list that assures that all property owners will be taxed equitably. The Listers are available to discuss any questions or concerns with the 2023-2024 assessments and ongoing building permit and Grand List changes.

Respectfully Submitted:
Brian Goodyear
Roderick Cole
Tim Davis
-Ferrisburgh Listers-

Town of Ferrisburgh Sales per the Addison County Multiple Listing Service

Sale Category	Sales 2023	Sales 2022	Sales 2021	Sales 2020	Sales 2019	Sales 2018	Sales 2017	Sales 2016	Sales 2015	Sales 2014	Sales 2013	Sales 2012
Residential	26	20	20	34	40	26	40	42	30	26	30	17
Vacant Land	6	5	4	5	7	3	2	7	4	4	4	5
Commercial	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Multifamily	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SALES	32	26	25	41	47	29	42	52	34	30	34	22



Flooding on Old Hollow Road, July 16, 2023.
 “photo courtesy of Karen Petersen”

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission: 2023 Annual Report

The Conservation Commission aims to be a steward of the natural resources in the Town of Ferrisburgh. With the help of community volunteers and local experts, and in collaboration with State and private organizations, we strive to promote educational programming about and support protection of our natural environment. In 2023, we pursued these goals through the following efforts:

- Monitoring conditions in the Ferrisburgh Town Forest: clearing trails of brush and blowdowns, maintaining boundary markings and watching for invasive plants.
- Encouraging field investigations in the Town Forest by participants in UVM's Master Naturalist Program.
- Assisting the Town Tree Warden by participating in the Selectboard-appointed Shade Tree Preservation Committee, responsible for drafting a Town plan that will oversee planting and care of trees in public spaces and along town roads.
- Inviting representatives of the Intervale Conservation Nursery to collect black ash seeds from trees in the Town Forest for growing and preserving these endangered trees.
- Hosting a popular public slide talk by Alyssa Bennett, Vermont State Small Mammals Biologist, on *Bats of the Champlain Valley*. Her playful approach to a serious subject was appreciated by her all-age audience.
- Coordinating with the town Trails Committee on upgrading signage on the Town Forest access trail.
- Partnering with UVM School of Natural Resources students to identify significant wildlife habitat blocks and connectors in the town of Ferrisburgh, regarding compliance with new state requirements pertaining to town plans concerning wildlife.
- Organizing volunteers to count bats roosting at three different sites in town on four different dates in July, in cooperation with Vermont Fish and Wildlife. This is part of an ongoing, years-long study aimed at monitoring the health of the Vermont bat population.
- Welcoming "Bird Diva" Bridgett Butler who led a well-attended slow-birding walk in the Little Otter Wildlife Management Area.
- Co-sponsoring, with the Ferrisburgh Climate & Energy Committee, a presentation by Vermont State Climatologist Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, in which she explained the science behind climate change and how it affects Vermonters.
- Assisting in the process of revising our Town Plan by suggesting changes to sections on natural resource policies.
- Advising town boards regarding an Open Space Agreement policy, and regarding natural resources that might be impacted by zoning permit applications.



Tip-up of a large pine in the Town Forest,
blown down in the December '22 storm. Photo by Don Dewees.

2023 Conservation Commission:

Jen Cirillo
Don Dewees
Amy Dohner, Treasurer
Barry Estabrook, Secretary
Matthew Gorton
Craig Heindel, Chair
Joe Nelson
Karen Pettersen

Tyler Steff left the Commission this year.

We thank him for his service.

**BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY AND BOARD OF ABATEMENT
REPORT FOR 2023**

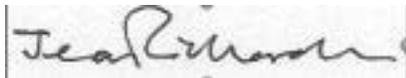
The members of the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) are: the 10 Justices of the Peace, the 5 members of the Selectboard, and the Town Clerk. When taxpayers believe that the appraised value of their property is not fair they may “grieve” to the Listers first, and if they are still not satisfied they may appeal further from the Listers to the BCA. A minimum of 3 BCA members are required to hear these appeals. Site inspections are required. The taxpayer appealing their appraisal has the burden of producing sufficient evidence to persuade the BCA that the Listers are incorrect.

The Common Level of Assessment (CLA) for Ferrisburgh for 2022, was 95.34%, which is close to the 100% level, as determined by the State, which indicates that the Listers’ appraisals are close to expected. The CLA for 2023 was 88.86% and the CLA for 2024 is 72.60%.

In 2023 the BCA received no appeals.

The Board of Abatement (BOA) consists of all the members of the BCA, plus the Town Treasurer and the 3 Listers. That is a total of 20, and at least 11 of those are normally required to be present to listen to Requests for Abatement of Taxes, because any amount abated will impact the Grand List. Those taxpayers who request Abatement must meet one of the specific criteria laid out in the Statutes such as loss of property by fire; or inability to pay taxes in whole, or in part, due to health reasons, death of spouse etc.

In 2023 we had no Abatement requests.



Jean Richardson
Chair of BCA and BOA

FIRE WARDEN REPORT 2023

2023 was as odd a year, weather-wise, as the beginning of COVID in 2020. Torrential rain; heat; wind; popup weather unlike anything we have seen before. Conditions like this made it almost impossible to know if issuing a burn permit was a good idea or a mistake.

To those that called to ask for a permit ahead of time, thank you for helping keep our town and its firefighters safe. To those who had to hear “I’m sorry, not today.”, please know there were good reasons.

I only had to involve the State Air Quality and Control officer twice this year. In one instance a townspeople, thinking ahead and asking all the right questions, helped us develop a burn plan. In the second instance, we responded to unlawful burning.

PERMITTING REMINDERS

MATERIALS - Only clean untreated wood, brush piles, and yard debris are permitted burn materials.

PERMIT TIMING - The permit is only good from sun-up to sun-down on the approved day. If you anticipate a longer burn, please call for a site visit.

COURTESY - Please consider your neighbors and wind direction prior to lighting your pile.

Remember, when in doubt, call me at 802-985-8051 with any questions and to obtain a fire permit. Failure to consult with the warden in advance can cost upwards of \$10,000 in fines and court fees.

Finally, consider volunteering as a member of the Ferrisburgh Fire Department. We are looking for motivated men and women to join our ranks. We meet nearly every Wednesday night. Stop by and take a look. I bet we have gear to fit you!

Thank you again to all. Let’s make 2024 another safe year.

Respectfully
Michael Coyle, Fire Warden

The Friends of the Union Meeting Hall (FUMH) is a local non-profit whose mission is two fold; to host enriching programming and events for our community and to restore the historic Union Meeting Hall. This spring we will embark on a long list of much anticipated restoration projects at the Union Meeting Hall, bringing about a new era for the nearly 200 year-old building. Projects will include:



Structural Work - A number of restoration projects will begin in April 2024 including the repair of the broken and rotted roof trusses, replacing broken slate roof tiles, repointing the historic chimneys and installing a new metal snow belt. In addition the sloping floors will be leveled, the steeple piers will be reinforced, and rotted exterior trim will be replaced and painted. The interior of the building will not be open to the public during construction. Weather permitting the repairs are set to be completed by August 2024.

Window Work - Restoration of the historic windows began in 2022, with the removal and repair of the historic windows off-site. This spring, work to repair exterior rot on the window casings will begin and the casings will be repainted. Restored windows will be reinstalled and the window stops will all be replaced. Work will be completed by summer 2024.

These projects are supported in part by a grant from the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior in partnership with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, by a 2023 Save America's Treasures Grant recommended by Senator Leahy as one of his Congressionally Directed Spending requests, The Millstone Foundation, The MK Taylor Foundation and private philanthropic support.

Future Projects

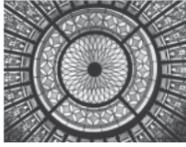
The FUMH continues to work in partnership with the Ferrisburgh Building and Maintenance Committee planning future restoration projects at the building, which will include:

- Rebuilding the historic front wooden deck which will also be ADA accessible.
- New heating and cooling systems.
- Upgraded electrical systems to support those upgrades.
- Rebuilding the interior stage to code which will also be ADA accessible.
- Adding a second bathroom.

A major focus for the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall throughout 2024 is to continue our successful efforts to raise philanthropic funds to support ongoing restoration projects at the Union Meeting Hall. The support of our Town and the generosity of all of our extraordinary supporters have been vital to our success. We invite you to become part of our success story by supporting our efforts to rehabilitate the building for continued community use. You can donate by visiting our website: unionmeetinghall.org, and selecting the "Donate Tab". Gifts of cash or check may also be sent to 41 Middlebrook Rd, Ferrisburgh, VT 05456.

Programming and Events

The FUMH continues to host an array of programming and events year round, including a Sugar on Snow celebration with FCS students, Taste of Summer, celebration of Fredrick Douglass' speech at the Union Meeting Hall in partnership with Rokeby Museum, Monster Mash and Make and Take in partnership with the FCS PTO, Ferrisburgh Day, Toy Swap, monthly movie nights, Thankful Tree, food trucks, live music and more! We remain committed to hosting programming and events that provide enriching opportunities for all members of our community.



BIXBY MEMORIAL FREE LIBRARY

Board of Trustees

President

Erin Roche
Vergennes

Vice President

Silas Towler
Ferrisburgh

Treasurer

Marsha Hoffman
Ferrisburgh

Secretary

Deb Dabrowski
Ferrisburgh

Tania Bolduc
Vergennes

Tom Borchert
Waltham

Bethanie Farrell
Panton

Susan Nelson
Addison

Nancy Remsen
Vergennes

Peter Welch
Vergennes

Bixby Library Staff
Director

Catharine Findiesen
Hays

Assistant Director
Amber Lay

**Circulation Desk
Manager**
Martha Sanborn

**Youth Services
Librarian**
Mary Neffinger

**Program & Outreach
Manager**
Cedar Winslow

Building Steward
John Dugan

January 2024

Hello, Ferrisburgh Friends and Neighbors!

It's hard not to notice that the Bixby is making things happen these days. With a growing list of offerings for all ages in our five towns, the Bixby continues to create opportunities for social connections, civic engagement, personal growth, arts & culture, volunteerism, local history, and, of course, reading!

I am so proud to be a part of this. More books are getting checked out, and we are ordering new titles faster than ever. At the same time, **more people are coming to the library** to use the free public Wi-Fi, computers, and printer, warm up or cool down as needed, be inspired by our local history exhibits, and participate in programs like senior tai chi, bridge, book and writer's clubs, fiber arts circle, storytime, family movie nights, LEGO robotics clubs, nature and author talks, local history presentations, and more.

Even without coming to the library, you are enjoying more of the library's free ebooks, audiobooks, movies, online courses, and other digital resources **at home, on a tractor, or during your commute.**

Here are some highlights from 2023:

- Total Visitors: 21,664, up 45%
- Total Checkouts: 22,286, up 23%
- Total Cardholders: 2,476
- Volunteer Hours: 1860
- Number of Programs: 140
- Program Attendance: Adults: 508, Children: 1041, up 79%
- 623 weekly take-and-make crafts distributed
- 220 meeting room reservations by community members with a total of 2113 attendees

If you haven't been to the Bixby in a while, I hope you'll take a moment to stop by. I highly recommend looking up at the dome and the hot air balloon that floats above the circulation desk, browsing the latest historical exhibits in the Kerr Room, contributing to the ever-present jigsaw puzzle, and checking out an item from the Library of Things - from a telescope to knitting needles, snowshoes to a home repair tool kit, a GoPro or record player to indoor and outdoor games and more.

All of this takes time, effort, vision, and money. The support from each of our five towns is our rock and foundation. ANWSD, the Rotary, and the Lions Club are among our valued local partners. We have also cultivated additional funding to bring in even more support for programming and library operations with grants from the United Way of Addison County, the Hoehl Foundation, the Vermont Arts Council, the Vermont Community Foundation, RTX/Collins, and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership. Our full and part-time staff team, along with many dedicated volunteers, make it all happen.

People turn to libraries for help when times are challenging. With Ferrisburgh's contribution, we uphold a 111-year tradition of providing a welcoming place for everyone in our five-town community, regardless of age or stage of life. I hope you are as supportive as I am of the beautiful, resourceful, and reliable presence the Bixby continues to be for our community - I know great things are ahead for 2024.

On behalf of the Bixby Library Board of Trustees, the Bixby Staff, and our volunteers, **thank you for continuing to support, be proud of, and enjoy all the Bixby has to offer!**

Erin Roche, President, Bixby Board of Trustees

Rogers and Hazard Relief Society, 2023 Report

Do you know a neighbor in need? Are you in a developing situation that will put you and/or your family in a crisis state?

Into the 138th year, the trustees of Rogers and Hazard Relief Society carry on a tradition of neighbor-helping-neighbor mission and want to insure that Ferrisburgh residents, friends and neighbors know that this modest fund exists to help members of the Ferrisburgh community. If you or someone you know has a short-term need that may not be quickly resolved through social service agencies or other means, the fund can respond quickly to consider modest support (typically \$500 or less) available to townspeople who need relief.

This fund, formally the “Rogers and Hazard Relief Society”, was established in 1886 with a purpose to “...relieve the wants of the sick and poor in Ferrisburgh, Addison County, Vermont by doctoring, nursing and such ministries as said trustees deem proper.” The Society began with funds bequeathed by Joseph Rodgers (\$3050) and donated by Rufus Hazard (\$360).

We are very grateful for the Ferrisburgh residents that have made donations to Rogers and Hazard. Donations to the Rogers and Hazard Relief Society are always welcome and any donations are tax deductible under IRS regulations which recognize the Rogers and Hazard Relief Society as a 501(C) 3, non-profit organization. The more resources we have, the more we can help our Ferrisburgh neighbors.

In early January 2023, the Rogers and Hazard Relief Society was the recipient of a discretionary grant from the Hoehl Family Foundation “to support community members in need.” This grant has allowed us to support the Thanksgiving meal baskets at Ferrisburgh Central School, assist with critical transportation needs of town residents, and provide firewood to Ferrisburgh families in need. The Hoehl Family Foundation extended the discretionary grant to include 2024. We are so very grateful to the Hoehl family for their most generous gift of support for our mission of neighbors-helping-neighbors.

The Rogers and Hazard trustees redefined recognized needs in the Ferrisburgh community and are working to inform Ferrisburgh residents of the purpose of R & H Neighbor Helping Neighbor Fund. The Board identified that kindness and caring are learned and practiced early on in life and wanted to acknowledge the impact of caring amongst youth. Establishing a new tradition, Paul Hoffman, trustee of Rogers & Hazard Neighbor Helping Neighbor Fund presented Drew Houghton with the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Award upon his 6th grade graduation from Ferrisburgh Central School, Thurs. June 15. The son of Michelle Houghton of Ferrisburgh, Drew was recognized by the Ferrisburgh Central School teachers for exemplifying the mission of the Rogers and Hazard Relief Society with his actions and deeds towards his peers. Along with the certificate of accomplishment, Drew received a gift card.

The previous 5 years has seen various board members gain experience with several nonprofits such as USDA Rural Development, Neighborworks, Vermont 211, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO), Vergennes Food Shelf (serving Ferrisburgh residents), North

Ferrisburgh Methodist Church and Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE). With this collaboration, many services have been provided at minimal expense to Rogers and Hazard, leaving funds for other needs among residents that don't have alternative resources. Board members have been successful negotiating with local contractors as another form of "neighbor helping neighbor".



Peter Stapleford, 6th grade teacher (retiring), Drew Houghton, 6th grade graduate, Paul Hoffman, trustee, Rogers and Hazard Neighbor Helping Neighbor.

Contact can be made with any of the listed trustees.

Karlene DeVine, President C(802) 377-7380 - H(802)877-6392

Art Cohn, Vice-President C(802) 989-8931

Paul Hoffman, Treasurer C(802) 371-9770 Town Trustee (2023-2025)

Meg Langworthy, Secretary C(802) 777-7422 – H(802) 877-3217

Lee Shorey C(802) 922-3076 Town Trustee (appointed 2023-2024)

Chris Melendy C(802) 373-0102 Lissa Gebo C(802) 877-2879

Marty Dewees C(802) 377-7296 H(802) 425-4220 Matthew Watkins C(802) 373-4449

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

**Middlebury Local Health Office | 156 S. Village Green, Suite 102, Middlebury VT
802-388-4644 | AHS.VDHMiddlebury@Vermont.gov**

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The Middlebury Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Addison County.** Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/middlebury



WIC Welcomes Clients In-Person

When the COVID-19 waivers ended, the Middlebury District Office was able to resume in-person Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) services.

This kickoff event was successful, drawing over 100 attendees eager to reconnect. At this event staff met participants, taught about nutrition and shared VT state park passes. Since the start, the WIC team has been meeting clients by phone and in person. They also continue to reach out to families to educate them about WIC services.



802 Smiles

The 802 Smiles initiative is working to improve dental care access, education and prevention.

Our office is working with Vermont's 802 Smiles program and local schools to improve oral health services for students. We will be collaborating to improve infrastructure and increase capacity, making it easier for students to get care. Including oral health in schools ensures students understand the importance of dental health and have access to necessary resources.



Emergency Preparedness

Our office works with community partners to strengthen emergency preparedness and response.

During the recent flood emergency, our office distributed important information and resources. We distributed water test kits and promoted safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers through education and reflector distribution. We worked with the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to offer "Stop the Bleed" training at various locations, including local farms. To learn more about "Stop the Bleed" or to request training, please contact us!



Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

Member Benefits - All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 142 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. Staff responds to thousands of member questions and publishes guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2023, VLCT specialists provided government-specific finance training as well as resources and consultation that help Vermont's cities and towns comply with federal rules for receiving federal ARPA and infrastructure funding. Staff also provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to local officials.** The League provides training via webinars, classes at members' locations, and its annual member conference, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. In the wake of the 2023 floods, VLCT became a crucial information hub for local officials. VLCT's Equity Committee assists local officials in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their municipalities' decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal concerns are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped cities and towns access additional resources to respond to the pandemic, repair roads and bridges, enact cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2023 includes securing \$3 million for towns to expand their capacity to access state and federal grants through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, fighting to balance changes to local zoning laws with state land use laws to facilitate housing construction, elevating awareness of the financial difficulties rural emergency medical services face, amplifying municipal concerns as the Legislature contemplates moving toward a state-led reappraisal system, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- **Access to insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also offers members group rates on important benefits for municipal employees: life, disability, dental, and vision insurance. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.

Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions and to access resources to help them carry out the important work of local government. **To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit vlct.org.** Recent audited financial statements are available at vlct.org/AuditReports.

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 • www.acrpc.org • Phone: 802.388.3141

Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2023

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following technical assistance and planning to the Region during its 2023 fiscal year:

Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Worked with Orwell, Waltham, Ferrisburgh and Vergennes on Municipal Planning Grants.
- Worked with Bristol, Lincoln and Shoreham on Bylaw Modernization projects focused on housing.
- Represented the Region in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- Assisted municipalities in applying for Village Center Designation: Cornwall, Ferrisburgh.
- Designed and conducted a Regional Housing Survey.

Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted educational workshops on planning topics, including housing, planning essentials and flood resiliency by-laws.
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.

Emergency Planning

- Worked with Addison County’s Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) and Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning and training.
- Helped communities create Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) & Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs)
- Updated Mutual Aid agreements for Public Works Departments.
- Administered two Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) grants.
- Administered one Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant.
- Assisted Vermont Emergency Management and FEMA with summer flooding response.

Energy Planning:

- Helped all towns access capacity grants and energy assessments through the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.
- Worked with Efficiency Vermont and municipalities to implement enhanced energy plans.
- Provided energy scorecards for municipalities to track progress on state and local energy efficiency goals.
- Developed an online map of renewable energy resources and siting.

Transportation Planning

- Supported the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee’s regional priorities and studies.
- Supported Tri-Valley Transit by providing leadership and technical support.
- Worked with municipalities to reduce road erosion from local roads.
- Assisted Towns with bike and pedestrian, Better Roads and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for projects in Middlebury, Vergennes and New Haven.
- Sponsored town transportation planning studies.
- Conducted traffic and pedestrian studies and hosted the regional Walk/bike council meetings.
- Provided local oversight for Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for Vergennes and surrounding communities

Natural Resources Planning

- Actively supported the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.
- Worked with municipalities to support conservation commissions.
- Served as the Clean Water Service Provider for the Otter Creek Basin
- Provided educational outreach supporting the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan update.
- Assisted in stormwater planning projects and Ecosystem Restoration Program grants.

Brownfields Planning

- Administered EPA-funded Community Wide Assessment grant for brownfield sites

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting





ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipal district formed in 1988 to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 21 member municipalities: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Pantton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge and Whiting. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors (Board) comprised of one representative and one alternate appointed by each of the member municipalities. The Board holds hybrid meetings on the 3^d Thursday of the month at 7 PM, and the Executive Board meets monthly 8 days prior to the Board at 4:30 PM. All meetings are open to the public.

District Mission

To seek environmentally sound & cost effective solutions for: (1) Promoting **waste reduction**; (2) Promoting **pollution prevention**; (3) Maximizing **diversion** of waste through reuse, recycling and composting; and (4) Providing for **disposal** of remaining wastes.

District Office and Transfer Station

Telephone: (802) 388-2333

Fax: (802) 388-0271

Website: www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org

E-mail: acswmd@acswmd.org

Transfer Station Hours: M-F, 7 AM–3 PM & Sat, 8 AM–1 PM

Office Hours: M-F, 8 AM–4 PM

HazWaste Center Hours: M-F, 8 AM–2 PM & Sat, 8 AM–1 PM

The District Office, Transfer Station and HazWaste Center are co-located at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury. The Transfer Station accepts large loads of waste and single stream recyclables for transfer to out-of-District facilities. District residents and businesses may drop off a variety of other materials for reuse, recycling and composting. A complete list of acceptable items and prices can be found on the District's website.

2023 Highlights

New Regional Residential Drop-off. The ACSWMD is developing a new regional residential solid waste transfer station at 65 Campground Road in New Haven, Addison County, VT. This regional facility will serve all 21 member towns of the District. District surveys and experience over the past 30 years have demonstrated that the hub and spoke system of town drop-offs feeding into the District Transfer Station in Middlebury, VT lacks a substantive depot, open some weekdays and on Sats., that can accept a variety of recyclables along with residential bagged Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). This new facility, while not intended to replace the small-town drop-offs, is intended to offer a sustainable system to provide more comprehensive and accessible service for residents. All relevant environmental and solid waste permits have been obtained by the District. The District contracted with Champlain Construction for Phase 1 construction. The scope of the work in Phase I, to be completed in early 2024, includes some site work: erosion control, concrete pads, paving, storm drain, buried retaining wall, driveway, landscaping, gate, and two concrete bunkers. The District will arrange for a private vehicle to park during Phase 1. In Phase 2, with a goal toward CY2025 construction, the new regional residential transfer station will be constructed and fully staffed, and will accept residential single stream recyclables, food scraps, leaf & yard debris, scrap metal, electronics (E-Waste), MSW, fluorescent light bulbs, tires, books, plastic film/bags, and confidential documents for shredding/ recycling. A new regional HazWaste (HHW) Center is planned for Phase 3 in CY2026.

HHW Extended Producer Responsibility Law. In 2023, Vermont enacted the first-in-the nation Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Extended Producer Responsibility Law. H.67 requires producers of hazardous household products to safely collect and dispose of them. It is the eighth Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law enacted in Vermont, second only to California with its number of successful EPR programs. EPR is a legislative tool that extends a manufacturer's responsibility for its product throughout all lifecycle stages. Under an EPR program, financial and management responsibility for products is shifted away from local governments and back to the manufacturer. The District has been participating in numerous planning sessions to obtain an EPR law for HHW since 2017 and will continue these efforts in the coming years along with the VT Department of Environmental Conservation and other solid waste planning entities to ensure successful implementation of this critical program. The program goals include a reduction in public sector costs for managing HHW, increased education and outreach about safe management and reduction in generation of HHW, and incentives for producers to design products that are less toxic in the future.

2024 Annual Budget

The ACSWMD Board of Supervisors adopted its 2024 Annual Budget, including the Rate Schedule for CY2024, on Nov. 16, 2023. The new rates will take effect on Jan. 1, 2024. As with prior years, the 2024 Annual Budget will be funded by a combination of: (1) tip fees collected at the Transfer Station; (2) a per-ton District Fee on all waste generated within the District and destined for disposal; (3) donations or fees at special events sponsored by the District; (4) the sale of items such as compost bins; (5) grants, if available; (6) profit sharing of scrap metal; and (7) manufacturer EPR reimbursements. **There will be no assessments to member municipalities in CY2024.** The new tip fee for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) & Construction/Demo Debris (C&D) at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury will be \$148/ton, a \$3/ton increase. Rates on a few other items will have nominal changes. For a copy of the 2023 Annual Report and/or adopted CY2024 Rate Sheet, please call the District at 802-388-2333, or e-mail the office at acswmd@acswmd.org. Both are also available on the District's website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.



Proven Expertise & Integrity

January 8, 2024

Selectboard
Town of Ferrisburgh
P.O. Box 6
Ferrisburgh, Vermont 05456

MANAGEMENT LETTER

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Ferrisburgh as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Town's internal control. We did so to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements, but not for expressing our opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Ferrisburgh's internal control over financial reporting or compliance.

During our audit we became aware of several matters referred to as "management letter comments" that offer opportunities for strengthening internal control and improving operating efficiencies of the Town of Ferrisburgh. The following pages summarize our comments and suggestions on those matters.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Selectboard, management and others within the entity and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

These matters do not modify our opinion on the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023, where we expressed an unmodified opinion on our independent auditor's report dated January 8, 2024.

Outstanding Checks:

While performing the audit for the above-mentioned fiscal year, we noted that the Town has outstanding checks remaining on bank reconciliations that were older than 6 months from the date of issuance. We recommend that management establish procedures that address all outstanding checks that are older than 6 months from the date of issuance to help ensure accuracy and completeness of transactions in the correct reporting period and to help avoid material misstatements in the financial statements. (Some examples of ways to address these checks are: voiding and reissuing a new check to the payee, contacting the payee directly, submitting the payment information through the State's Unclaimed Property Program for payees who cannot be contacted or who do not respond.)

We would like to thank Deb, Pam, Laurie and all the staff at the Town of Ferrisburgh for their cooperation throughout this audit process.

If there are any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to call.

Very Best,

DRAFT

RHR Smith & Company, CPAs



Burlington Free Press ad for Grand Re-Opening of Shortsleeve's IGA in the Hollow, June 1948. "courtesy of Karen Petersen"

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH, VERMONT

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, July 1	\$ 543,711	\$ 543,711	\$ 543,711	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Property taxes	9,347,552	9,347,552	9,378,772	31,220
Intergovernmental revenues	320,062	320,062	339,768	19,706
Charges for services	91,025	91,025	76,408	(14,617)
Interest income	36,500	36,500	50,505	14,005
Other revenue	20,000	20,000	51,451	31,451
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>10,358,850</u>	<u>10,358,850</u>	<u>10,440,615</u>	<u>81,765</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	509,319	509,319	440,003	69,316
Public safety	210,887	210,887	222,910	(12,023)
Highway	921,938	921,938	1,073,527	(151,589)
Employee benefits	184,825	184,825	159,069	25,756
Education	7,448,968	7,448,968	7,448,968	-
Tax assessments	102,894	102,894	101,677	1,217
Town meeting - voted authorizations	37,195	37,195	37,195	-
Debt service:				
Principal	209,563	209,563	205,919	3,644
Interest	25,050	25,050	28,642	(3,592)
Transfers to other funds	164,500	164,500	164,500	-
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>9,815,139</u>	<u>9,815,139</u>	<u>9,882,410</u>	<u>(67,271)</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$ 543,711</u>	<u>\$ 543,711</u>	<u>\$ 558,205</u>	<u>\$ 14,494</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH, VERMONT
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2023

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,858,564	\$ 4,755	\$ 1,863,319
Delinquent taxes receivable	115,635	-	115,635
Other receivable	22,811	-	22,811
Due from other funds	-	900,562	900,562
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,997,010	\$ 905,317	\$ 2,902,327
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	427,702	\$ -	\$ 427,702
Due to other funds	900,562	-	900,562
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,328,264	-	1,328,264
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Prepaid taxes	7,967	-	7,967
Deferred property tax	102,574	-	102,574
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	110,541	-	110,541
FUND BALANCES			
Nonspendable	-	-	-
Restricted	-	14,017	14,017
Committed	-	276,867	276,867
Assigned	-	614,433	614,433
Unassigned	558,205	-	558,205
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	558,205	905,317	1,463,522
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 1,997,010	\$ 905,317	\$ 2,902,327

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT E

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH, VERMONT

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Property taxes	\$ 9,378,772	\$ -	\$ 9,378,772
Intergovernmental	339,768	-	339,768
Interest income	50,505	10	50,515
Charges for services	76,408	-	76,408
Miscellaneous	51,451	659,902	711,353
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>9,896,904</u>	<u>659,912</u>	<u>10,556,816</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General government	440,003	405,049	845,052
Public safety	222,910	-	222,910
Highway	1,073,527	-	1,073,527
Employee benefits	159,069	-	159,069
Education	7,448,968	-	7,448,968
Tax assessments	101,677	-	101,677
Town meeting - voted authorizations	37,195	-	37,195
Capital outlay	-	328,949	328,949
Debt service:			
Principal	205,919	-	205,919
Interest	28,642	-	28,642
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>9,717,910</u>	<u>733,998</u>	<u>10,451,908</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>178,994</u>	<u>(74,086)</u>	<u>104,908</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers in	-	164,500	164,500
Transfers (out)	(164,500)	-	(164,500)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>(164,500)</u>	<u>164,500</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	14,494	90,414	104,908
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1	<u>543,711</u>	<u>814,903</u>	<u>1,358,614</u>
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	<u>\$ 558,205</u>	<u>\$ 905,317</u>	<u>\$ 1,463,522</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH, VERMONT

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,755	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,755
Due from other funds	329,898	556,647	14,017	900,562
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 334,653	\$ 556,647	\$ 14,017	\$ 905,317
LIABILITIES				
Due to other funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-
Restricted	-	-	14,017	14,017
Committed	-	276,867	-	276,867
Assigned	334,653	279,780	-	614,433
Unassigned	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	334,653	556,647	14,017	905,317
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 334,653	\$ 556,647	\$ 14,017	\$ 905,317

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH, VERMONT

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Interest income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 10
Other income	429,177	230,725	-	659,902
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>429,177</u>	<u>230,725</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>659,912</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Capital outlay	-	328,949	-	328,949
Other	405,049	-	-	405,049
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>405,049</u>	<u>328,949</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>733,998</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>24,128</u>	<u>(98,224)</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>(74,086)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	4,500	160,000	-	164,500
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>4,500</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,500</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	28,628	61,776	10	90,414
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1	<u>306,025</u>	<u>494,871</u>	<u>14,007</u>	<u>814,903</u>
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	<u>\$ 334,653</u>	<u>\$ 556,647</u>	<u>\$ 14,017</u>	<u>\$ 905,317</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

LONG-TERM DEBT (Bonds and Leases)**Town Highway Facility Mortgage
July 1, 2022 thru June, 30 2023**

Outstanding 07/01/22	\$ 510,000.00
Principal Paid	<u>\$ 42,500.00</u>
Balance 06/30/23	\$ 467,500.00

**2020 Mack - Tandem Truck Loan
July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023**

Outstanding 07/01/22	\$ 121,953.60
Principal Paid	<u>\$ 30,488.40</u>
Balance 06/30/23	\$ 91,465.20

**Fire Truck Capital Lease
July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023**

Outstanding 07/01/22	\$ 110,743.93
Principal Paid	<u>\$ 26,356.52</u>
Balance 06/30/23	\$ 84,387.41

**2017 Tandem Truck Loan
July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023**

Outstanding 07/01/22	\$ 38,000.00
Principal Paid	<u>\$ 38,000.00</u>
Balance 06/30/23	\$ -

**2019 F550 Truck - MELF Loan
July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023**

Outstanding 07/01/22	\$ 30,997.80
Principal Paid	<u>\$ 10,332.60</u>
Balance 06/30/23	\$ 20,665.20

**2018 John Deer Loader - MELF Loan
July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023**

Outstanding 07/01/22	\$ 20,241.62
Principal Paid	<u>\$ 20,241.62</u>
Balance 06/30/23	\$ -

**2022 Mack - Tandem Truck Loan
July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023**

Outstanding 07/01/22	\$ 190,000.00
Principal Paid	<u>\$ 38,000.00</u>
Balance 06/30/23	\$ 152,000.00

**2022 John Deere Backhoe Loan
July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023**

Outstanding 07/01/22	\$0.00
Loan Received 8/18/22	\$77,500.00
Principal Paid	<u>\$0.00</u>
Balance 06/30/23	\$77,500.00

Total Bonds and Notes Outstanding 06/30/2023 **\$ 893,517.81**

NON-BUDGET ACCOUNTS 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023**General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance**

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	543,711
Amount added in FY22/23	<u>14,494</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	558,205

Reappraisal Account

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	127,533
Payment from State	13,643
Minus expenses	<u>0</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	141,175

Highway Facility Account

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	10,857
Minus expenses	<u>0</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	10,857

Town Hall & Community Center Maintenance Fund

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	4,875
Rental Revenue Received	2,650
Minus expenses	0
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	7,525

Town Clerk's Records and Restoration Fund Account

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	61,598
Plus Revenues	9,213
Minus Expenses	<u>-800</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	70,011

Pumper Fund

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	30,000
Plus Revenues	30,000
Minus Expenses	<u>0</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	60,000

Town Buildings Maintenance Fund

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	48,387
Plus Deposits	98,699
Minus Expenses	<u>-60,456</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	86,630

ARPA Fund

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	220,501
Plus Deposits	402,245
Minus Expenses	<u>-386,834</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	235,912

NON-BUDGET ACCOUNTS 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023 Con't.**Town Truck Fund**

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	15,899
Plus Deposits	77,500
Minus Expenses	<u>-77,500</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	15,899

UMH Grant Funds

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	157,000
Plus Revenues	104,033
Minus Expenses	<u>-157,552</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	103,481

HRA/FSA Accounts

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	8,154
Plus Deposits	13,470
Minus Expenses	<u>-16,868</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	4,756

Miscellaneous Funds

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	20,264
Deposits	4,510
Minus Expenses	<u>0</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	24,774

Highway Contingency Fund

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	105,196
Plus Deposits	66,850
Minus Expenses	<u>-33,441</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	138,605

Conservation Fund

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	359
Plus Deposits	550
Minus Expenses	<u>-26</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	883

Recreation & Rec Facilities

7/01/2022 Beginning Balance	4,282
Plus Deposits	55
Minus Expenses	<u>-521</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2023	3,816

2023 Highway Equipment List

Truck # F1	2018 Mack, plow sander wing	\$169,000
Truck # F2	2020 Mack plow wing sander	\$198,000
Truck # F3	2022 Mack plow sander equipment	\$220,000
Truck # F4	2012 Mack plow sander equipment	\$35,000
Truck # F5	2016 Ford 1 ton plow and sander	\$28,000
Equipment #6	2023 JD Grader	\$331,000
Truck # F7	2005 IH plow sander wing	\$15,000
Vehicle #8	2016 Ford F350 plow sander	\$30,950
Equipment #9	2022 310 SI Loader Backhoe	\$134,300
Equipment #10	2018 544 K John Deere Loader	\$109,000
Equipment # 11	2011 JD excavator	\$38,500
Equipment #12	John Deere 6710 tractor	\$10,000
Attahment	2018 Roadside mower	\$19,500
grounds maint 1	2006 John Deere Z mower	\$1,000
grounds maint 2	2015 JD 540 mower/bagger	\$1,250
grounds maint 3	leaf blowers broom	\$1,000
misc	grass trimmers	\$500
eq. trailer 1	2022 Rampant 24 ton equipment trailer	\$25,500
eq trailer #2	2003 Moritz 6 ton eq trailer	\$4,000
Eq trailer #3	landscape trailer	\$2,000
	plows	\$18,500
	grader plow wing	\$10,000
	plasma cutter	\$500
	welders	\$1,500
	chainsaws	\$2,500
	small tools	\$10,000
	power tampers	\$4,000
	compressor	\$1,500
	culvert thawer and trailer	\$2,000
	2 way radios	\$6,000
	pressure washer	\$1,200
	Chloride pump tank trailer	\$4,500
	computer software @ accessories	\$8,000
	TOTAL	\$1,443,700

**DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023**

Delinquent July 1, 2021	\$151,703.77	
Delinquent June 2, 2022	<u>\$210,337.38</u>	
Total Delinquent		\$362,041.15
Collected July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	\$217,656.26	
Abated	\$0.00	
Delinquent June 30, 2022	\$144,384.89	
TOTAL		\$362,041.15

**Delinquent Tax Collection Report
Calendar Year January 1, to December 31, 2023**

Delinquent Taxes January 1, 2023	\$135,636.37
New Delinquents June 30, 2023	\$210,337.38
TOTAL	\$345,973.75
Delinquent Taxes Collected 2023	\$284,047.59
Delinquent Taxes December 31, 2023	\$61,926.16

**Delinquent as of January 1, 2024
Tax year 2020/2021**

Lotta - Vu Farm, LLC*

Tax Year 2021/2022

Mark Bowen	Nancy Chamberlain	Christoper Dennis
Lotta - Vu Farm, LLC*	Alexander Brace*	Michael Louer

Tax Year 2022/2023

Bernard Loven	Melanie Osterczy	Thomas Tatro
Lotta - Vu Farm, LLC*	Samantha Porter	Alexander Brace*
Frank Luyster	Nancy Chamberlain	Michael Louer
Mark Bowen	Christopher Dennis	

NOTE: * means delinquent taxes have been paid in full since January 1, 2024

2024/2025 Ferrisburgh Proposed Budget

REVENUE					
ACCOUNT	GENERAL TOWN FUND	APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL	APPROVED BUDGET	Proposed BUDGET
		7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/24-6/30/25
2000-00-05	Property Taxes - (All sources)	1,841,389	2,433,442	1,981,543	2,152,184
2000-00-10	Property Tax Interest	22,000	30,855	22,000	18,000
2000-00-90	Delinquent Tax Penalty	14,000	11,436	12,000	12,000
2000-00-15	Vermont State Mileage Aid	161,000	173,010	173,000	178,000
2000-00-12	Homestead Tax Reduct. Reimb.	12,000	10,238	12,000	10,000
2000-00-20	Railroad Tax/State Land Tax/PILOT	35,062	36,296	36,200	36,200
2000-00-25	Liquor License Fees	925	1,580	925	1,200
2000-00-35	Overweight Permits/Highway Dept. Sales	1,700	1,445	1,700	1,200
2000-00-40	Zoning Fees	16,600	18,479	16,600	14,000
2000-00-45	Land Recording & Other Clerk Fees	50,000	29,602	40,000	30,000
2000-00-26	Marriage, Dog, Hunting Fees	6,000	5,190	5,000	5,000
2000-00-50	Police Fines	8,000	11,662	8,000	9,000
2000-00-55	Sister's & Hall Rental Fees	7,800	8,450	7,800	7,800
2000-00-60	State - Current Landuse	112,000	120,224	116,724	118,000
2000-00-99	Miscellaneous	20,000	28,064	20,000	20,000
2000-00-65	Interest on Town Savings	500	8,214	1,500	8,000
2000-00-70	Non-budget Grants	(236)	23,387	0	0
	ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act	0	235,913	0	0
	REVENUE TOTAL	2,308,740	2,951,574	2,454,992	2,620,584
	EXPENSE BUDGET SUMMARY				
	Administration/General Government	301,100	307,324	330,491	358,567
	Highway Department	691,765	584,050	715,720	787,718
	Debt Service	234,613	234,561	206,892	202,956
	Payroll	573,444	518,163	591,109	614,926
	Employee Benefits	184,825	159,068	183,158	208,529
	Taxes - Contracts (Fire and Police)	343,782	354,587	390,127	447,888
	Town Meeting - Voted Authorizations	37,195	37,195	37,494	0
	Education	7,448,968	7,448,968	0	0
	EXPENSE TOTAL W/EDUCATION	9,815,691	9,643,917	2,454,990	2,620,584
	EXPENSE TOTAL W/O EDUCATION	2,366,723	2,194,949	2,454,990	2,620,584
EXPENSE					

2024/2025 Ferrisburgh Proposed Budget

ACCOUNT #	FUNCTION	APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL	APPROVED BUDGET	Proposed BUDGET
		7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/24-6/30/25
	Payroll				
5100-10	Highway Payroll	266,707	279,573	276,443	302,224
5100-10	Overtime Highway	27,966	35,913	44,330	45,015
5100 & 3400	Wage Pool FKA Contingency	35,791	0	26,036	17,500
5100-10.15	Highway Wages - Temporary	0	0	1,000	1,000
3400-10	Town Office Payroll	240,980	200,856	243,100	246,687
3400-10.15	Overtime Town Office	2,000	1,822	1,200	2,500
	TOTAL	573,444	518,163	592,109	614,926
	Town Clerk's Office				
3400-19	Town & Vital Land Books	1,700	2,053	1,700	2,200
3400-20	Office Supplies	5,750	4,523	5,750	5,950
3400-21	Office/Leased Equip./Support	11,355	16,034	11,355	12,999
3400-22	Postage	5,400	4,519	5,400	5,600
3400-23	Office/IT Outsourced	9,100	14,312	9,100	9,430
3400-24	Office/Computer Replacement	2,000	18,543	2,000	2,000
3400-25	Town Web Site	660	0	660	3,440
3400-30	Advertising-Town	1,500	2,453	1,500	2,500
3400-31	Advertising-Planning & Zoning	1,000	1,283	1,000	1,300
3400-34	Telephone-Clerk's Office	4,850	4,788	4,850	4,850
3400-40	Workshops/Meetings/Dues	1,000	309	1,000	1,000
3400-60	Marriage, Dog, Hunting & Misc. Fees	3,600	3,571	3,600	3,800
3420-45	Professional Auditor	8,750	9,950	8,750	9,965
3430-45	Lister's Professional Appraisers	38,000	19,167	38,000	36,000
3430-46	Lister's Tax Mapping/Digitization	6,500	3,942	6,500	6,500
3430-47	Lister's Web Hosting Cards/Cost Tables/Cama Recove	0	0	0	1,985
3430-50	Lister's Stipend	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
3400-55	Reappraisal	0	0	0	10,000
3510-60	Legal Exp. Selectboard	10,000	4,503	10,000	10,000
3510-61	Legal Exp. Zoning	6,300	20,422	6,300	9,450
3620-48	Zoning/Planning Expenses	1,000	145	1,000	1,000
3620-49	Zoning By-laws or Plan Rewrite/Permit Consult	5,000	0	5,000	5,000
3630-48	Conservation Commission	550	550	550	550
3710-48	General Liability/Hazard Insurance	38,331	37,857	38,332	41,987
3710-49	Worker's Compensation	25,431	25,679	25,431	27,774
	TOTAL	190,177	197,004	190,177	217,680

2024/2025 Ferrisburgh Proposed Budget

ACCOUNT #	FUNCTION	APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL	APPROVED BUDGET	Proposed BUDGET
		7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/24-6/30/25
	Administration/General Government				
3000-10	Selectboard Stipend	3,800	3,100	3,800	3,800
3000-11	Selectboard Expenses	200	2,062	200	200
3080-62	Annual Report Expenses	5,000	5,762	6,000	6,200
3310-20	Elections/Town Meetings	4,000	1,591	3,000	4,000
	Union Meeting Hall				
3310-76	Electricity - Union Meeting Hall	583	715	500	1,000
3310-78	Water - Union Meeting Hall	750	917	803	803
	Brown Church				
3310-65	Water-Brown Church	0	261	0	803
3310-66	Electricity-Brown Church	0	689	0	1,000
3310-67	Fuel - Brown Church	0	648	0	0
	TOTAL	14,333	15,744	14,303	17,806
	Town Offices/Community Center				
3710-85	Town Offices Routine Maintenance	7,547	8,876	7,500	7500
3710-86	Electricity-Town Offices/Comm. Ctr	3,500	4,154	4,025	4,486
3710-87	Heating Fuel-Town Offices/Comm. Ctr	3,500	5,424	6,000	6,500
3710-88	Water-Town Offices/Comm. Ctr	750	777	803	803
	TOTAL	15,297	19,231	18,328	19,289
	Other Administration				
3710-70	Town Bldgs. Reserve Fund	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
3310-68	Annual Buildings Maintenance-other	4,023	255	5,995	0
9000-91	Bank Service Charges	170	167	170	192
9900-60	Ferrisburgh Day	600	303	600	600
9900-78	Grant matches	0	0	4,818	0
9900-77	Personnel contingency	0	0	20,000	25,000
9900-79	Contingency	2,500	1,613	2,500	2,500
9910-80	Mileage-all	1,000	308	600	1,000
6100-10	Health Officer Stipend	750	750	750	750
6100-20	Health Officer Expenses	300	0	300	300
6100-30	Auditors Stipend	0	0	0	1,500
6200-20	ACHS Contracts - Homeward Bound	600	600	600	600
6200-15	Fire Warden Stipend	750	750	750	750
6300-10	Web Site Coordinator Stipend	600	600	600	600
	TOTAL	81,293	75,346	107,683	103,792

Town of Ferrisburgh Annual Report for 2023

2024/2025 Ferrisburgh Proposed Budget

ACCOUNT #	FUNCTION	APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL	APPROVED BUDGET	Proposed BUDGET
		7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/24-6/30/25
	Maintenance - Town Highways				
5100-89	Paving	250,000	263,179	225,000	319,000
5110-47	Chloride	25,000	33,616	28,000	30,000
5110-68	Gravel Rd Repair/Maintenance	40,000	34,646	40,000	35,000
5110-68.05	Road Construction/Bridge Repair	65,000	147,966	65,000	65,000
5110-68.10	New Const. Rented Svcs/Equip	4,000	2,606	4,000	4,000
5110-91	Painting Class 2 Roads/Line Strips	5,000	0	5,000	5,000
5140-21	Winter Maintenance Materials	80,000	82,132	85,000	80,000
5220-49	Culverts	10,000	2,753	10,000	15,000
5281-21	Street/Traffic Signs	3,000	1,000	3,000	3,000
5290-21	Tree Maintenance Fund	4,500	4,500	4,500	7,000
5330-66	Rented Services/Equipment	10,000	11,651	10,000	11,000
	Town Garage/Yard				
5310-21	Shop Supplies/Equipment	5,000	4,758	5,000	5,000
5310-34	Telephone - cell & land line	2,585	2,991	2,627	1,160
5310-68	Maintenance	3,000	4,122	3,000	3,000
5310-69	Water	780	810	803	803
5310-76	Electricity	1,500	1,625	1,700	1,755
	Vehicles/Equipment				
5310-73	Shop Heat	8,000	9,873	10,890	10,000
5310-74	LP Bulk GAS N/T	2,000	2,704	3,000	3,500
5310-75	Diesel Fuel	50,000	79,689	85,000	70,000
5330-21	Operation/Gas	2,400	5,306	4,200	3,500
5330-68	Maintenance of Equipment [renamed]	50,000	43,712	50,000	40,000
5330-70	Repair of Equipment [NEW]	10,000	22,902	10,000	15,000
5332-00	Highway Contingency Fund	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
	TOTAL	691,765	584,050	715,720	787,718
	Employee Benefits/Insurance				
9700-15	Municipal Retirement System	31,285	31,664	30,500	32,925
9720-14	Unemployment Compensation	1,557	670	800	800
9730-13	Social Security - Employer's Share	43,350	41,589	41,565	44,745
9740-12	Medical Insurance	97,331	76,004	99,818	116,544
9740-13	Disability/Life Insurance	11,302	9,142	10,475	10,875
	Child Care Contribution - CCC	0	0	0	2,640
	TOTAL	184,825	159,068	183,158	208,529

2024/2025 Ferrisburgh Proposed Budget

ACCOUNT #	FUNCTION	APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL	APPROVED BUDGET	Proposed BUDGET
		7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/24-6/30/25
	Debt Service				
5330-95	2023 Grader Loan	0	0	0	21,620
5330-96	2023 Grader Interest	0	0	0	5,646
5330-98	Truck - Bond 2017	38,000	38,000	0	\$0
5330-99	Truck - Bond Interest 2017	855	881	0	\$0
5331-94	2022 JD Backhoe 310SL Prin	0	0	15,500	\$15,500
5331-95	2022 JD Backhoe 310SL Int	0	0	2,318	\$1,856
5331-88	2019 HD Truck MELF Prin	10,333	10,333	10,333	\$0
5331-89	2019 HD Truck MELF Int	620	620	414	\$0
5331-92	2022 Tandem Dump Tr Prin	38,000	38,000	34,324	\$38,000
5331-93	2022 Tandem Dump Tr Int	4,453	4,379	3,637	\$2,681
5330-92	2020 Mack Truck Prin	30,488	30,488	30,489	\$30,488
5330-93	2020 Mack Truck Int	2,805	2,805	2,104	\$1,404
5334-90	JD Loader 2018 MELF bond prin	20,242	20,242	20,242	\$0
5334-91	JD Loader 2018 MELF bond int	405	405	405	\$0
5331-90	Highway Facility Bond	42,500	42,500	42,500	\$42,500
5331-91	Highway Facility Interest	15,912	15,908	14,626	\$13,260
9000-92	Fire Truck Payment	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$30,000
	TOTAL	234,613	234,561	206,892	202,956
	Taxes - Assessment				
9300-51	Addison County Tax	30,948	30,211	30,815	35,737
9300-52	Bristol Gravel Pit Property Tax	686	649	685	700
9300-53	Vermont Stormwater Payment	2,209	1,765	2,103	2,103
9390-52	Vermont League of Cities & Town	4,430	4,430	4,588	4,729
9391-53	A.C. Regional Planning Commiss.	3,572	3,572	3,651	3,873
9400-00	Bixby Memorial Library	61,050	61,050	61,050	61,050
	TOTAL	102,895	101,677	102,893	108,192
	Public Safety (Fire Protection & Police)				
9392-54	Traffic Law Enforcement/Sheriff's Dept.	21,840	20,315	22,800	23,760
6200-10	Animal Control/Sheriff's Dept.	750	0	750	750
6100-40	Animal Control - Mileage/Exp.	300	0	300	300
9393-55	Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Dept. Cont.	93,960	93,960	98,350	132,015
9000-96	Fire Truck Reserve Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
9394-55.05	Vergennes Fire Department - Contract	66,900	85,607	108,264	104,676
9395-55.10	Vergennes Fire Department - Extra	2,000	828	0	0
9395-60	Vergennes Area Rescue Squad	25,137	22,200	26,770	39,795
	Radar Signs	0	0	0	8,400
	TOTAL	240,887	252,910	287,234	339,696

2024/2025 Ferrisburgh Proposed Budget

ACCOUNT #	FUNCTION	APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL	APPROVED BUDGET	Proposed BUDGET
		7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/22-6/30/23	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/24-6/30/25
	Town Meeting - Voted Authorizations				
9982-56.10	A. C. Economic Development Corp.	500	500	500	500
9983-56.15	A. C. Home Health & Hospice, Inc.	2,983	2,983	2,983	2,983
9979-56.00	A. C. Parent/Child Center	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
9979-56.10	A. C. Readers, Inc.	600	600	600	600
9981-56.10	A. C. Restorative Justice Services	800	800	800	800
9998-56.30	A. C. River Watch Collaborative	500	500	500	500
9987-56.35	Age Well	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
9985-56.25	Am. Legion - Memorial Day Observ.	0	0	300	300
9979-56.55	Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes	500	500	500	500
9998-56.70	Charter House Coalition	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
9981-56.05	Counseling Service of Addison County	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650
9988-56.40	Elderly Services, Inc.	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
9981-56.15	Friends of the Vergennes Opera House	500	500	500	500
9998-56.40	Gage Cemetery Association	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
9990-56.50	Green Up Vermont	150	150	150	150
9980-56.05	Homeward Bound	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
9980-56.00	H O P E	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
9992-56.65	John Graham Housing and Services	825	825	825	825
9998-56.10	Lewis Creek Association	500	500	500	500
9998-56.65	N. Ferrisburgh Cemetery Association	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
9998-56.95	Open Door Clinic	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
9993-56.70	Otter Creek Nat. Res. Conserv. Dist.	275	275	275	275
9994-56.75	Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	210	210	210	210
9994-56.76	Rokeby Museum	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
9983-56.25	Tri-Valley Transit	3,517	3,517	3,517	3,517
9998-56-50	Union Cemetery Association	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
9996-56.85	Vermont Adult Learning	785	785	785	785
9997-56.90	Vt. Center for Independent Living	250	250	250	250
9984-56.20	Atria Collective / Formerly WomenSafe	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250
9998-56.75	Turning Point of Addison County	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
	TOTAL VOTED AUTHORIZATIONS	37,195	37,195	37,495	37,495

**Brief Summary of Activities of Organizations
Requesting Town Funds for 2024**

Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) - \$500

ACEDC has been serving the Ferrisburgh community for over twenty-six years. ACEDC is Ferrisburgh's economic development resource. It offers expertise and resources to businesses throughout Addison County. They do this through direct assistance, as with their revolving loan funds.

Addison County Home Health & Hospice, Inc. - \$2,983

Addison County Home Health & Hospice, Inc. is a community focused non-profit home healthcare agency. They provide an array of services that enable our neighbors to receive care in their own homes, where they are the most comfortable and often experience the best quality of life. Ninety-five Ferrisburgh and North Ferrisburgh residents were served with 1,076 visits in 2023.

Addison County Parent/Child Center (PCC) - \$1,600

The mission of the Parent/Child Center is to provide support and education to families and assure that our community is one in which all young children get off to the right start, with the opportunity to grow up healthy, happy, and productive. The Center provides parenting education classes and workshops (on site and in neighboring communities) community playgroups, home visits, pregnancy prevention programs, job training, academic classes, transportation, and childcare. Approximately 90 Ferrisburgh residents received service in 2023.

Addison County Readers, Inc. - \$600

Addison County Readers, Inc. is an entirely volunteer non-profit organization that sponsors Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program. The program mails free books monthly to preschool (ages 0-5) children in Addison County at an annual cost of approximately \$30 per child. As of December 2023, 90 children in Ferrisburgh were receiving books through the program. More than half of the parents reported that they read to their children more because of this program.

Addison County Restorative Justice Services - \$800

Addison County Restorative Justice Services provides a community restorative justice response focusing on the "balanced approach" in meeting the needs of the victim, the community, and the offender. The goal is to help the offender develop empathy and accept responsibility while providing compensation for loss for the victims, and compensation of resources for the community. They have expanded their program beyond Court Diversion and the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program to include the Driving with License Suspended Program, Safe Driving Program, Reparative Restorative Panels, Reentry Navigation, and Circles of Support and Accountability for those reentering the community from incarceration. Twenty-three individuals from the town of Ferrisburgh were served through the 10 different programs in FY 22-23.

Addison County River Watch Collaborative (ACRWC) - \$500

Eight other towns in the county contribute similar amounts which helps with processing and analyzing of water samples. ACRWC's annual cash budget is approximately \$45,000. The State of Vermont no longer is funding E.coli sample processing, so town funding is even more critical. During the 2023 sampling season they monitored 3 sites on Mud Creek within the

**Brief Summary of Activities of Organizations
Requesting Town Funds for 2024 (cont'd.)**

Town of Ferrisburgh. The plan is to resume monitoring on Little Otter Creek in 2024. In 2023 they began planting shrubs and trees along stream banks, which they will continue in 2024. The quality reports can be found at <http://acrpc.org/acrwc>.

Age Well - \$1,100

For nearly 50 years, Age Well has provided services and support that allow seniors to stay independent, and remain healthy at home, where they want to be. They offer care and service coordination; Meals on Wheels; community meals; wellness programs; social activities; Tai Chi; transportation services; expertise on Medicare, insurance and long and short-term care options; a helpline and more. Vermont is ranked as the third “oldest” state in the country and our aging population is only growing, expecting to double in the next fifteen years. They served 144 people from Ferrisburgh between 10/1/2022-09/30/2023.

American Legion- Vergennes Post #4 -\$300.00

Plans are underway for the annual observance of Memorial Day which will be observed on Monday May 27, 2024. As in the past years, Vergennes Post #14 will assume responsibility for decorating the graves of all veterans buried in the town of Ferrisburgh. The donation will also support the annual Memorial Day Parade.

Boys & Girls Club - \$500

They are continuing to write a lot of grants to keep this program free and your generosity makes all the difference. The Club will hit its 25th year of operation in 2024. They served 109 individuals, 17 of whom were Ferrisburgh residents. A few program highlights include an amazing trip to Salem, MA to see the Maritime Museum under their Ultimate Journey programming grant. They have partnered with Kampgrounds of America, United Airlines, and our local Boy Scouts troop to complete programming to take place in 2024 in South Dakota. Without the Town’s support they would not be able to improve these programs for our youth.

Open Door Clinic - \$1200

Open Door Clinic provides access to healthcare services, free of charge, to those uninsured and under-insured and who meet financial eligibility guidelines. They are a volunteer-based group and rely solely on the expertise and efforts of 150 volunteers to care for their patients. Services are provided in a compassionate, respectful, and culturally sensitive manner until a permanent healthcare provider can be established. So far this year, their knowledgeable insurance person has helped more than 292 individuals learn about health plans and has enrolled 181 in Vermont Health Connect. The clinic served 70 Ferrisburgh residents through 125 medical visits, 31 dental visits, and 41 case management services this past year.

Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc. - \$1,650

During fiscal year 2023, the Counseling Service provided 19,677 hours of service to residents from the town of Ferrisburgh who had mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability needs. They have aided individuals living with developmental disabilities as well as their families, people with severe and persistent mental illness, people dealing with substance abuse problems, elderly

Brief Summary of Activities of Organizations Requesting Town Funds for 2024 (cont'd.)

people suffering from depression, anxiety and other mental health issues, and the entire community through educational programs and special events. They have not asked for an increase since 2007 and are hopeful the voters will enthusiastically approve their request.

Elderly Services, Inc. \$1,100

The Board of Directors of Elderly Services would like to thank the citizens of Ferrisburgh for their support for their programs over the last 40 years. They are requesting a donation of \$1,100 to be considered at the 2024 town meeting. This money will be used to continue operating Project Independence, ESI College lifelong learning, and their Eldercare Counseling Program. There are 11 participants from Ferrisburgh who have benefited from their services this year.

Friends of the Vergennes Opera House - \$500

The Friends of the Vergennes Opera House is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to preserve the historic Vergennes Opera House as a center for the presentation of the arts and other activities that promote and celebrate a sense of community. The Opera House serves a population of over 20,000 people from Addison County and beyond. It is a vibrant cultural and community center.

Gage Cemetery - \$2,500

The Gage Cemetery Association thanks the Town of Ferrisburgh for supporting them during the past year. With the support of the town, they can continue the lawn maintenance at the cemetery.

Green Up Vermont - \$150

Some quick litter statistics from 2023: Nearly 23,500 volunteers, 348 tons of litter and 15,000 tires. Since Green Up Vermont is not a state agency, its success depends not only on individuals volunteering to clean up, but also on financial support given by both the public and private sectors throughout Vermont. Mark your Calendar for Green Up Day 2024, May 4th, and help keep Vermont green! It is even more crucial to expand the Green Up Day reach to our youth, planting the seeds of civic engagement and giving back to our communities. You can visit the website at www.greenupvermont.org

Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE) - \$2000.00

HOPE seeks to assist individuals and families in identifying and obtaining the resources to help them meet their own basic needs. HOPE operates one of the largest food shelves in the state and has a partnership with area farmers. With government assistance programs ending, HOPE is seeing a large increase of people coming for assistance. During the year ended December 31, 2022, HOPE directly aided 2,296 people.

Homeward Bound - \$1,000

In FY 2023, Homeward Bound served Addison County by taking in 1,200 animals. Those animals were cared for daily, provided with necessary medical attention, and spayed/neutered prior to being placed for adoption. Four animals were adopted by residents of Ferrisburgh. One stray was brought to Homeward Bound, and three animals were surrendered by their owner. Three pets belonging to low-income pet owners received aid from Homeward Bound. As the only animal shelter in Addison County, it also offers programs and services to meet a wide array of critical animal welfare needs.

**Brief Summary of Activities of Organizations
Requesting Town Funds for 2024 (cont'd.)**

John Graham Housing and Services - \$825

JGHS mission is strengthened by intensive service coordination at three critical points - homeless prevention, eviction prevention, and rapid rehousing. The greatest challenge is that housing stock in Addison County has fallen to one third of what it was in the 1980s. Vermont has the second highest per-capita rate of homelessness in the country, and Addison County has a vacancy rate of less than 1%. It is their hope that the Town of Ferrisburgh will partner with JGHS in our effort to end homelessness in Addison County.

Lewis Creek Association (LCA) - \$500

Thanks to Ferrisburgh's annual financial support, LCA continues to monitor water quality trends, wildlife habitat, and river corridor conditions while pursuing restoration and conservation opportunities in Ferrisburgh and nearby watershed towns. They plan to increase their understanding of invasive plant control needs in Ferrisburgh's lower Lewis Creek area and intend to continue European frogbit control this upcoming year. LCA received grand funding to begin a knotweed removal project on demonstration sites in Ferrisburgh. They are working on a manual that will help landowners determine the best way to improve stormwater management in their neighborhoods and understand why it's important.

North Ferrisburgh Cemetery Association - \$2,500

This request will help cover the cost of maintenance of the cemetery and mowing during the grass growing season. The Association appreciates the help from the town and continues to make improvements to the cemetery, which they would not be able to do without your support.

Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD) - \$275

The Otter Creek NRCD has been serving the land use needs of the landowners of Addison County since 1941. They are organized and partially funded by the State of Vermont to furnish free technical assistance to landowners about proper land use and treatment. The district continues to receive token administrative funds from the state; however, it is the yearly contribution from Addison County towns that enables NRCD to maintain its services to farmers, landowners, towns, businesses, and schools. 4 Ferrisburgh residents purchased fruit and shade tree seedlings from the Annual District Tree sale. The district supported Scholarships for up to 6 area students to attend Green Mountain Conservation Camp. The contribution of \$275 is the same assessment as it has been since 1983 and amounts to \$.11 per resident.

Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Addison County - \$210

Ferrisburgh senior citizens took advantage of RSVP's free income tax return preparation services and free osteoporosis prevention classes. Overall, 261 Addison County residents benefited from attending the Bone Builders classes and 394 community members received income tax services. During the winter months, RSVP handed out over 300 warm clothing items to community members throughout Addison County. Ferrisburgh residents volunteered over 2,287 hours to the community, and provided 24,711 hours to local social services, health care organizations, schools, and other non-profits. The monies requested this year will help to defray the financial impact of COVID on our organization.

**Brief Summary of Activities of Organizations
Requesting Town Funds for 2023 (cont'd.)**

Rokeby Museum - \$1,000

Your donation helps them to support their mission, to connect visitors with the experience of the Underground Railroad and with the lives of the Robinson family. They look forward to continuing their relationships with Ferrisburgh and regional schools. They remind residents that Tuesday afternoons are free to all and their trails are open during daylight hours year-round. To receive an e-newsletter announcing events and special programs visit our website at www.rokeby.org.

Tri-Valley Transit (TVT) - \$3,517

TVT provides significant services to dozens of “transportation disadvantaged” Ferrisburgh residents. Last year Ferrisburgh helped support 900 Dial-a-Ride for Ferrisburgh residents, either by volunteer drivers or by wheelchair accessible vehicles, including TVT-owned vehicles operated by Elderly Services, Inc. Tri-Valley Transit’s Dial-A-Ride and Shuttle Bus systems provided 180,335 rides this past year. The state and federal grants through which they provide those rides require them to raise up to 20% of the cost of the programs through “local match” dollars. TVT’s town requests account for approximately 5% of the 20% requirement.

Union Cemetery Association - \$2,400

This request will help cover the cost of cemetery maintenance and mowing.

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) - \$785

In FY 2023, Vermont Adult Learning provided services to 1,125 individuals statewide. In 2023 Ferrisburgh residents could receive services from the following programs: Meals on Wheels and VAL could provide adults with basic skills reading, writing and math, GED prep and testing. A high school diploma program and classes for English Language Learners is available too.

Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) - \$250

VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability in FY 2023. They are in their 44th year of support and advocacy, are helping to build a society where they can live with dignity, and independence. With this allocation VCIL will be able to reach even more Vermont citizens with disabilities.

Atria Collective- \$1,250

During FY 2023, Atria Collective served at least 13 residents including adults and children of Ferrisburgh They provided prevention programming presentations at Ferrisburgh Central School and the Vergennes Union Middle and High School to more than 437 students. Often victims choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their safety and that of their children. Therefore, statistics for those served in any given town are understated. Your contribution will be used to support the services provided such as a hotline, supervised visitation program, education and outreach, and transitional housing support for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

**Brief Summary of Activities of Organizations
Requesting Town Funds for 2023 (cont'd.)**

Charter House Coalition - \$2,000

Charter House Coalition has provided a consistent resource for neighbors in need since 2005. Their emergency shelter is open 24 hours to people experiencing homelessness. They offered free meals every day to anyone in the community. Between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, staff and volunteers prepared and delivered 28,000 meals. The Charter House outreach program provided essential support to approximately 5,300 adults and children temporarily housed in area hotels and at their emergency shelter. Their emergency shelter provided just under 9,000 bed nights, which equals 9,000 people staying in a shelter.

Turning Point Center of Addison County - \$3,000

Turning Point serves all 22 towns in Addison County. The center is peer-run and offers a safe and substance-free environment to support their mission. They seek to enhance spiritual, mental, and physical growth as well as foster social connections for community members in Addison County affected by substance use disorders and addictive behaviors. The staff at TPCAC have experienced a 48% increase in participants receiving individual coaching this past year. The center held 535 group meetings with 2,440 participants.



Tapping the trees at the Union Meeting Hall, March 2023.
“photo courtesy of Judy Elson”

**WARNING
TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
March 2, 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Ferrisburgh are hereby warned and notified to meet in person at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall, in said town, on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business from the floor. NOTE: Polls for Australian ballot voting will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the Town Hall. – In order to vote, you must attend the meeting in person. –

ARTICLE 1: To hear reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the town vote to collect taxes in four (4) installments with the installment dates to be September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1 with each installment to be received in the town office before 4:00 p.m. on the due date?

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters of the town authorize the purchase of a tandem dump truck and related snow removal equipment in an amount not to exceed \$225,000, which shall be financed over a period not to exceed five years?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters of the town approve total general fund expenditures of \$2,620,584 of which \$2,152,184 shall be raised by taxes and \$468,400 by non-tax revenue for the 2024-2025 Selectboard Budget, excluding any other amounts authorized by the voters? NOTE: Total expenditures will be increased by any separate articles voted independently.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$37,495 to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

Addison County Economic Development Corporation	500
Addison County Home Health & Hospice, Inc.	2,983
Addison County Parent/Child Center	1,600
Addison County Readers, Inc.	600
Addison County Restorative Justice Services	800
Addison County River Watch Collaborative	500
Age Well	1,100
American Legion - Memorial Day Observation	300
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes	500
Charter House Coalition	2,000
Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.	1,650
Elderly Services, Inc.	1,100
Friends of the Vergennes Opera House	500
Gage Cemetery Association	2,500
Green Up Vermont	150
Homeward Bound	1,000
HOPE	2,000
John Graham Housing and Services	825
Lewis Creek Association	500
North Ferrisburgh Cemetery Association	2,500
Open Door Clinic	1,200
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District	275
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	210
Rokeby Museum	1,000

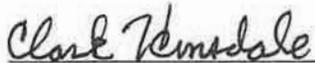
Tri-Valley Transit	3,517
Union Cemetery	2,400
Vermont Adult Learning	785
Vermont Center for Independent Living	250
Atria (formerly Women Safe)	1,250
Turning Point Center of Addison County	3,000
TOTAL	\$37,495

ARTICLE 6: To elect Town Officers.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Moderator – 1-year term | Auditor – 3-year term |
| Selectboard – 2-year term | Selectboard – 3-year term |
| Lister – 3-year term | First Constable – 1-year term |
| Unified School Director – 3-year term | Unified School Director – 3-year term |
| Rogers & Hazard Fund Trustee – 2-year term | Town Agent – 1-year term |

Polls open from 7 a.m. To 7 p.m.

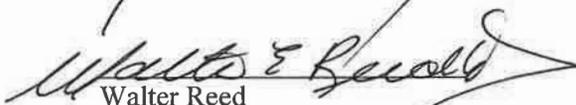
Dated at Ferrisburgh, Vermont, this 16th day of January 2024.


Clark Hinsdale, Chair


James Benoit


Chris Campbell


Michael Muir


Walter Reed

Received for record this 23rd day of January 2024.


Pam Cousino, Town Clerk

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86280956997?pwd=cm92OUVwc3hVaUQwbFVxMWpRRlRGZz09>

Meeting ID: 862 8095 6997
Passcode: 567598

One tap mobile
+16465588656,,86280956997#,,, *567598# US (New York)

Dial by your location
• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
• +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
• +1 646 931 3860 US
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbr9LHyZKa>



Aerial view of Ferrisburgh Center showing Hawkins Garage and Ferrisburgh Central School.
“photo courtesy of Birdseye Construction”