

TOWN OF HALIFAX, VERMONT

ANNUAL REPORT



FOR FY23

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 5, 2024
(Please bring this report)

Town Reports

TOWN OF HALIFAX VERMONT ANNUAL MEETING WARNING

March 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Halifax, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Halifax Elementary School Multipurpose Room, 246 Branch Road in said Town on Tuesday March 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business from the floor:

Article 1: To hear the reports of Town officers.

Article 2: Shall the Town collect taxes for the Town and the Halifax School District as follows: Taxes will be due on or before September 30, 2024 payable to the Town Treasurer by delivery to town hall postmarked on or before that date. Taxes will become delinquent after September 30, 2024 and payable with penalties and interest to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Article 3: Shall the Town approve Selectboard and Highway expenditures of \$2,432,019 of which \$1,967,319 shall be raised by taxes and \$464,700 by non-tax revenues to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Town for FY25.

Article 4: Shall the Town set the Treasurer’s budget for salary and collection of current taxes at \$20,000 plus \$4000 for expenses for FY25.

Article 5: Shall the Town rescind the reserve fund called the Grant Reserve Fund to be used for the purpose of grant management accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804 and deposit the remaining funds, \$ 136,056.46, formerly the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) balance, into the general fund.

Article 6: Shall the Town appropriate \$3000 to the Wings Community Programs’ programming providing after school and summer camps including academic and physical activity programs for students entering grade K-8 in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691.

Article 7: Shall the Town appropriate a total of \$20,574 to the following social service agencies, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

\$250	American Red Cross	Emergency & disaster assistance
\$200	Brattleboro Area Hospice	Death & grief support
\$500	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership	Substance abuse prevention
\$500	Deerfield Valley Food Pantry	Hunger & food insecurity relief
\$50	Green Up Vermont	Roadside trash cleanup
\$2000	Halifax Community Club	Community service & events
\$1000	Halifax Fire Company	Fire & medical first response
\$750	Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)	Mental health services

The following articles will be voted by Australian ballot:

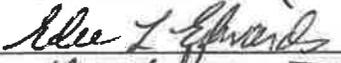
Article 1: To elect by Australian Ballot all Town Officers required by law to be elected at the Annual Town Meeting and to fill all vacancies.

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>TERM LENGTH</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Town Moderator	1 year	Term expires 2025
Selectboard	3 years	Term expires 2027
Selectboard	2 years	Term expires 2026
Lister	3 years	Term expires 2027
Auditor (to stagger years of election)	3 years	Term expires 2027
Auditor (to stagger years of election)	2 years	Term expires 2026
Auditor (to stagger years of election)	1 year	Term expires 2025
(Normal auditor term is a 3-year position for all 3 seats)		
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year	Term expires 2025
Trustee of Public Funds	3 years	Term expires 2027
Cemetery Commissioner	3 years	Term expires 2027
Halifax School Moderator	1 year	Term expires 2025
Halifax School Director	3 years	Term expires 2027
Trustee to the Whitingham Library	3 years	Term expires 2027

Polls open from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2024

Signatures:

 Pete Stevenson
 Edee L Edwards
 KAREN A. CHRISTOFFERSON
 Tristan Roberts

PLEASE NOTE

The Halifax School Financial Reports will be made available as an insert (Appendix A) to the Town Report.

Acct. #	Acct. Description	Budget FY22	Budget FY23	Spent FY23	Budget FY24	Proposed FY25	Fixed, Commodity or Flexible
6267	Conservation Commission Expenses	500	500	0	0	0	Flexible
6268	Constable Expenses	0	800	400	0	0	Flexible
6250 Total	Town Office Expenses	30,250	36,850	24,718	32,750	22,500	
6271	Street Lights	2,000	2,000	1,253	1,200	1,200	Flexible
6274	Stray Dogs (WCHS)	350	350	385	385	400	Fixed
6276	Miscellaneous Town Expense	0	0	0	0	0	Flexible
6270 Total	Town Expenses	2,350	2,350	1,638	1,585	1,600	
6310	Accounting Services (RESERVE)	0	13,600	15,000	0	5,000	Fixed
6320	Legal Services	5,000	5,000	570	5,000	5,000	N/A
6330	Computer Services	3,500	3,500	868	7,000	7,000	Flexible
6340	Law Enforcement	6,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	Fixed
6300 Total	Professional Services	14,500	32,100	26,438	22,000	27,000	
6410	Moderator	500	500	200	500	500	Flexible
6420	Ballot Clerks	750	1,700	1,609	600	1,800	Flexible
6425	Town Meeting Expense - Misc	250	500	349	2,650	2,650	Flexible
6440	Special Town Meeting Expense	0	0	0	900	900	Flexible
6400 Total	Town Meeting Expense	2,700	4,700	4,139	4,650	5,850	
6450	Bridges - Other	0	0	0	0	0	Flexible
6452	Bridge Construction-FUND reserve fund	50,000	30,000	0	0	5,000	Flexible
6453	Bridge Maintenance FUND	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	Flexible
6454	Bridge Construction - SRA*	0	0	0	0	0	Flexible
6450 Total	Bridges**	60,000	40,000	0	0	5,000	
6281	Cemetery Perpetual Care Reserve Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000		23,714	Flexible
6280 Total	Cemeteries	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	23,714	
6610	Dispatching Fees	15,234	16,000	15,771	16,000	16,485	Fixed
6620	Special UnLeaded Fuel	500	500	0	500	500	Flexible
6630	Fire Company Fees	1,000	1,000	998	1,000	1,100	Fixed
6640	Equipment & Gear	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	10,000	Flexible
6650	Contracted Ambulance Services	16,500	16,500	16,104	16,500	21,500	Fixed
6600 Total	Halifax Fire Company & Ambulance	39,234	40,000	38,872	40,000	49,585	
6710	WSWMD	4,800	4,850	4,837	5,319	5,525	Fixed
6715	Contracted Recycling	20,000	20,000	18,749	20,000	20,000	Fixed
6720	Landfill Monitoring	5,000	5,000	9,148	6,000	6,000	N/A
6730	Other	0	0	850	0	0	Flexible
6700 Total	Environmental Expenses	29,800	29,850	33,584	31,319	31,525	
6751	County Tax	10,000	11,000	9,573	10,000	15,000	Fixed

Town of Halifax, VT - FY25 Budget							Run date ==>	02-Feb-24
Highway Proposed Budget FY25 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)								
Acct #	Acct. Description	Budget FY22	Budget FY23	Actual Spent FY23	Budget FY24	Proposed FY25	Fixed, Commodity or Flexible	
7110	Road Crew Gross wages	240,000	246,505	240,411	267,513	297,856	Flexible	
7115	Road Crew Overtime wages	43,500	43,500	35,900	43,500	47,556	Flexible	
7120	Road Commissioner	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200	2,000	Flexible	
7100 TOTAL SALARIES & WAGES		290,700	297,205	283,511	318,213	347,412		
7295	Misc benefits(scrap metal)			472	0	0	Flexible	
7210	Conferences / Training	100	100	2,075	2,600	2,600	Flexible	
7220	Health Insurance	122,000	122,000	100,714	122,000	139,885	Fixed	
7230	Life Insurance	780	780	724	780	603	Fixed	
7260	Retirement	16,000	16,000	17,920	20,994	23,815	Fixed	
7270	Uniforms	4,000	4,000	3,775	4,000	4,000	Flexible	
7280	Hiring Costs / Drug Tests	250	250	1,177	250	500	Flexible	
7200 TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		143,130	143,130	126,856	150,624	171,402		
7305	FY2020 Deficit	0	0		0			
7310	Electricity	2,400	2,400	1,838	2,400	2,400	Commodity	
7320	Heating Oil	4,000	6,000	8,544	12,000	10,000	Commodity	
7330	Communications (Phone)	2,000	2,200	2,236	2,200	2,200	Flexible	
7335	Radio/Repeater	0	0	0	0	7,000	Flexible	
7340	Building Repairs & Maint.	5,000	5,000	5,017	5,000	6,500	Flexible	
7360	Office Cleaning & Supplies	500	500	993	1,100	2,600	Flexible	
7370	Trash Collection	1,500	1,800	1,728	1,800	1,800	Flexible	
7380	Shop Supplies	7,000	9,000	10,251	9,000	9,000	Flexible	
7300 TOTAL GARAGE EXPENSES		22,400	26,900	30,607	33,500	41,500		
7410	Sand	40,000	40,000	124,944	116,000	127,600	Commodity	
7420	Salt	26,000	26,000	31,936	26,000	32,000	Commodity	
7430	Gravel	130,000	120,000	201,539	220,000	220,000	Commodity	

Acct #	Acct. Description	Budget FY22	Budget FY23	Actual Spent FY23	Budget FY24	Proposed FY25	Fixed, Commodity or Flexible
7676	Trailer						
7680	Repairs & Maintenance	105,000	105,000	123,160	105,000	125,000	Flexible
7681	Tires	12,000	12,000	10,598	12,000	17,500	Flexible
7682	Chains	2,500	2,500	2,975	2,500	6,000	Flexible
7683	Plow/Grader Edges	5,000	5,000	9,423	5,000	15,000	Flexible
7685	Diesel Fuel	50,000	75,000	97,984	75,000	90,000	Commodity
	7600 TOTAL EQUIP OPERATING COSTS	338,232	311,000	360,439	298,600	412,049	
6551	Garage Bond Interest	500	500	31	0	0	N/A
6552	Garage Bond Payment	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0	N/A
	6550 TOTAL GARAGE BOND (see Selectboard)	10,500	10,500	10,031	0	0	
	SUBTOTAL HIGHWAY & EQUIPMENT	\$1,287,962	\$1,277,435	\$1,600,777	\$1,260,137	\$1,868,663	
	Income Against Expenses						
	Scott Fund	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	
	State Aid	145,000	145,000	152,057	152,000	150,000	
	Articles	0	0	0	0	0	
	Other Funding	11,000	11,000	11,000	17,500	264,000	
	SUBTOTAL INCOME AGAINST EXPENSES	170,000	170,000	177,057	183,500	414,000	
	RAISE AND APPROPRIATE - HIGHWAY	\$1,117,962	\$1,107,435	\$1,423,720	\$1,076,637	\$1,454,663	

Town of Halifax - BUDGET FY25

As of:

02-Feb-24

Surplus(Deficit) From Town Operations

Unaudited - Cash Basis FY23

Property Taxes	\$2,962,117	Self Funded Revenues (x/Cemetery) ⁴	\$128,353
Highway Revenues	229,779	Cemetery Revenues	10,360
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,902		
Licences, Permits & Fees	449		

Revenues Town Operations: \$3,194,247

Revenues Self Funding Activities: \$138,713

Highway Expenses ¹	\$1,423,720	Cemetery Expenses	\$19,410
Taxes Collected and Paid to the School	1,472,987	Grants	16,363
Selectboard Expenses ²	259,668	Restoration and Office Equipment Funds	1,817
Town Operations	65,144	Delinquent Tax Penalty & Zoning Comm.	13,499

Expenses Town Operations: \$3,221,519

Expenses Self Funding Activities: \$51,089

Surplus(Deficit) Operations:	(\$27,271)	Surplus(Deficit) Self Funded Activities:	\$87,625
FY24 Tax Revenue Shortfall	(218,500)	Surplus(Deficit) Self Funded Activities:	\$87,625
Rebate from School (State Reconciliation)	64,974	Surplus(Deficit) Operations:	(27,271)
Net FY24 Tax Revenue Shortfall	(153,526)	Unaudited Cash Basis P&L - FY2023	\$60,353
Total Surplus(Deficit) from Operations:³	(\$180,797)		

Footnotes:

- 1 Net of \$177,057 Income against Expenses FY23
- 2 Net of \$34,342 Income against Expenses FY23
- 3 Included in Raise & Appropriate for Proposed FY25 Budget
- 4 Includes Primarily Delinquent Tax Penalties, Grants, Restoration & Office Equipment

Town of Halifax Equipment Schedule (2024)

Model Year	Equipment Fleet	Truck Number	Purchase Price	Normal Life Span (years)	Optimal Life Span (years)	Target Replacement	Notes	Optimal Trade In Estimate	Estimated Replacement Cost (x/Trade in)	Current Hours as of 12/1/2023
1994	Morbark Wood Chipper	A.	N/A	15	15	2009	1	N/A	\$58,000	1,034
2009	Caterpillar Excavator	B.	\$151,000.00	15	15	2024	2	\$40,000	\$350,000	7,921
2009	John Deere Loader	C.	\$106,000.00	15	15	2024	3	\$30,000	\$235,000	7,909
2011	Caterpillar AWD Grader	D.	\$288,745.00	15	15	2026	4	\$75,000	\$445,000	6,980
2014	New Holland Tractor	E.	\$78,000.00	15	15	2029	5	\$20,000	\$200,000	2,865

- 1 Not eligible for trade in. Estimate potential sealed bid result of circa \$3,000. Average quote of \$58,000 received May 2023.
- 2 Received quote for \$350,000 IN June 2023.
- 3 Received quote for \$235,000 in June 2023.
- 4 Received quote for \$445,000 in June 2023.
- 5 Purchased as a used machine. Replacement costs increased to reflect current cost environment.

Town of Halifax Future Equipment (2024)

Best Efforts to Acquire	Equipment Fleet	Notes	Purchase Price
Used	Loader / Backhoe	1	\$90,000.00
Used	TRUE	2	\$40,000 - \$70,000

Future equipment schedule is presented in order to identify additional opportunities for operating cost savings, but due to capital constraints are not feasible at this time.

- 1 Purchase to minimize time and repair costs on Excavator and Loader. Potential funding via Grant Reserve.
- 2 Used to compact gravel roads to extend maintenance interval and help reduce costs due to material loss (erosion etc)

**Town of Halifax Highway Budget
Equipment Finance Schedule - 2024**

As of Date: 02-Feb-24

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT (ESTIMATE)	Morbark Wood Chipper	Caterpillar Excavator	Caterpillar AWD Grader	John Deere Loader	Total Replacement Equipment Forecast
Current Quote:	\$58,779.75	\$350,000.00	\$445,000.00	\$235,000.00	
Term per Quote:	10 Years	10 Years	10 Years	7 Years	
Estimated Principal:	\$5,877.98	\$35,000.00	\$44,500.00	\$33,571.43	
Add to Fleet:	2009	2025	2026	2029	
Principal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023 Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Principal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024 Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Principal	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$33,571.43	\$68,571.43
Interest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2025 Total	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$33,571.43	\$68,571.43
Principal	\$5,877.98	\$35,000.00	\$44,500.00	\$33,571.43	\$118,949.40
Interest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2026 Total	\$5,877.98	\$35,000.00	\$44,500.00	\$33,571.43	\$118,949.40
Principal	\$5,877.98	\$35,000.00	\$44,500.00	\$33,571.43	\$118,949.40
Interest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2027 Total	\$5,877.98	\$35,000.00	\$44,500.00	\$33,571.43	\$118,949.40
Principal	\$5,877.98	\$35,000.00	\$44,500.00	\$33,571.43	\$118,949.40
Interest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2028 Total	\$5,877.98	\$35,000.00	\$44,500.00	\$33,571.43	\$118,949.40
Principal	\$5,877.98	\$35,000.00	\$44,500.00	\$33,571.43	\$118,949.40
Interest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2029 Total	\$5,877.98	\$35,000.00	\$44,500.00	\$33,571.43	\$118,949.40

Source: Estimates based on Current Market Information
N/A = Interest estimates are not available as they are dependent upon prevailing rates at time of purchase.

**MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 7, 2023**

Pursuant to notice the inhabitants of the Town of Halifax, Vermont, who are legal voters in the Town Meeting met at the West Halifax Elementary School multi-purpose room in West Halifax, Vermont, on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 for the 246th Annual Meeting of the Town of Halifax.

Moderator Paul G. Blais called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. and announced that the polls would be open from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. for voting by Australian Ballot for Town and Town School District Officers.

Moderator Blais called for a moment of silence in memory of those who had passed away.

The Board of Selectmen led the voters in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The town officers were introduced: Town Clerk - Patty Dow, Chairman for the Selectboard- Lewis Sumner and Peter Silverberg. Moderator Blais stated that the meeting would be run by Roberts Rules of Order except where state law overrules and gave a brief explanation of parliamentary procedure.

Moderator Blais read the Warning in its entirety.

ARTICLE 1: The following Town Officers were elected by Australian Ballot:

TOWN MODERATOR	Paul G. Blais
SELECTBOARD MEMBER-3 years	Patrick McAllister
SELECTBOARD MEMBER-2 years	Edee Edwards
TOWN CLERK	Patricia Dow
TOWN TREASURER	Patricia Dow
LISTER	Tina L. Blais
AUDITOR	
AUDITOR	
AUDITOR	
COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES	Mary Brewster
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS- 3 years	Patrick McAllister
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS- 1 year	Laurel A. Copeland
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS- 3 years	Laurel A. Copeland
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS- 2 years	Linda Swanson
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS- 1 year	Gary Rand
HALIFAX SCHOOL MODERATOR	Paul Blais
HALIFAX SCHOOL DIRECTORS	Paul G. Blais

ARTICLE 2: Voted to hear the reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 15: Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be deposited into the Reappraisal Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 16: Voted to establish a reserve fund to be called the Building Maintenance Fund for the purpose of maintaining and upgrading town owed structures in accordance with 24 VSA & 2804 to be funded with the current balance of \$7,806.14.

RECESS: Town meeting was recessed at 12:05 pm and will reconvene at 1:00 pm.

Town Meeting reconvened at 1:05 P.M. and a recess for the State Representative, Tristan Roberts to speak with the assembly began.

DEDICATION TO WAYNE COURSER

Tristan Roberts called Wayne Courser to the front Stage. I am pleased to present to you House of Current Resolution 37 honoring the former Halifax Fire Chief Wayne Courser for his exemplary voluntary leadership and community service. This resolution was supported by the entire House of Representatives and Senate in Montpelier and signed by the Speaker of House and Lieutenant Governor. Tristan read the Concurrent House Resolution in its entirety: (A full copy of the Certificate is at the end of these minutes)

DEDICATION TO LAURA & LEWIS SUMNER

Tristan Roberts awarded Laura and Lewis Sumner the Concurrent House Resolution #42 of which he read aloud. (A full copy of the Certificate is at the end of these minutes)

Tristan Roberts also presented Lewis Sumner a Plaque, the Town of Halifax greatly appreciates and acknowledges Lewis Sumner thanking him for his commitment and dedication and devotion to the town of Halifax for 57 years of service.

Tristan Roberts spoke about: Capital budgets, Education in the High School System, the Electric Heating and Portable Heat Act. He also answered a question from Kim Tefft about School Choice.

Moderator: Paul G. Blais reconvened the annual Town Meeting at 2:10

ARTICLE 17: Voted to establish a reserve fund to be called the Grant Reserve Fund for the purpose of grant management in accordance with 24 VSA & 2804 to be funded with the current American Rescue Plan Act 9ARPA0 balance of \$193,956.46.

ARTICLE 18: Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5000 to match the Caring for Canopy grant from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the purpose of ash tree removal from Town right of ways.

ARTICLE 19: Voted to approve the sum of \$5,000 to support the services of the Whitingham Free Public Library.

STEPHAN CHAIT: Thanks to the road crew for the work they do. Mud season in January makes it a difficult job keeping the roads up.

LAURA SUMNER: I am stunned speechless, thanks to the Town of Halifax for the privilege and honor given to me to serve you.

TRISTAN ROBERTS: I just want to say to the Town of Halifax and Whitingham residents to come visit me at the State House.

MIKE FOURNIER: When we are doing budget meetings, the more input we get from the town taxpayers the better off we would be. We would have a better idea in how to keep the taxes as low as possible.

NOTE: The foregoing is a summary of the certified record of the minutes of the March 7, 2023 Annual Town Meeting which is recorded in Volume 6, Pages 334-341.

FIRST CONSTABLE (1 yr)
SECOND CONSTABLE (1 yr)
FIRE WARDEN (5 yrs)

Andrew Rice
Roy Richardson
Malcolm Sumner – Term Expires 2025

NEWSPAPERS OF RECORD

Deerfield Valley News
The Commons

SELECTMEN'S MEETING DATES

Bi-Monthly on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays
6:00 P.M. at Town Office

Persons interested in any appointed position, please give your name to the Select Board, Select Board Assistant or the Town Clerk. Nominations and appointments are awarded during the first and second Select Board meetings in March after Town Meeting.

FIRST CONSTABLE (1 yr)
SECOND CONSTABLE (1 yr)
FIRE WARDEN (5 yrs)

Andrew Rice
Roy Richardson
Malcolm Sumner – Term Expires 2025

NEWSPAPERS OF RECORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING DATES

Deerfield Valley News
Bi-Monthly on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays
6:00 P.M. at Town Office

Persons interested in any appointed position, please give your name to the Selectboard, Selectboard Assistant or the Town Clerk. Some appointments have some form of compensation; many others do not. Nominations and appointments are awarded during the first and second Selectboard meetings in March after Town Meeting.

Halifax Broadband Committee 2023 Activity Report

In 2020, the Halifax Broadband Committee determined that Halifax had some of the worst Internet service in the entire state. We suggested that Halifax should become a founding member of the Deerfield Valley Communications Union District, a “CUD” now known as DVFiber. The Town Meeting vote to join was unanimous. DV Fiber has since grown to include 24 towns.

The District is community-owned and governed by Representatives of member towns.

Halifax is scheduled to be served by DVFiber as early as the end of 2024, and into 2025.

Please sign up here to be notified of service availability as soon as it arrives in Halifax.

<https://dvfiber.net/service-availability/>

DV Fiber is committed to affordable pricing. DV Fiber is also committed to building a network that reaches every location in town and to coordinating financial assistance to those that would find the service difficult to afford.

In 2022, the Broadband Committee recommended that the town should allocate a portion of the funds obtained through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help these households. The Selectboard voted to commit \$40,000 for this purpose. These funds are set aside and managed by DV Fiber in consultation with Halifax.

Respectfully submitted,

Tristan Roberts
Chair

P.S. Again, please sign up here:

<https://dvfiber.net/service-availability/>

Cemetery Commission Report

The Cemetery Commission as configured in March 2023 met four times in FY 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) and four times thereafter. The special meetings were held to draft and revise and approve regulations for Halifax cemeteries, discuss the scope of work to tackle and review bids thereon, approve new rates for cemetery maintenance, and discuss maintenance and restoration for all cemeteries in town. The scope of work was guided by the “Proposal to Maintain and Improve the Cemeteries in Halifax,” a comprehensive plan presented in late 2022 to restore cemeteries with years of deferred maintenance and establish future maintenance budgets that account for inflation.

Upon taking office in March, the Cemetery Commissioners ensured that all public cemeteries were scheduled for maintenance. The Commissioners cleared branches and saplings from all cemeteries. Contractors removed 48 trees from three cemeteries, cleared & leveled donated cemetery land (Niles; West Halifax), and delivered fill dirt. The commissioners and other volunteers cleaned, straightened, and repaired headstones in Halifax Center, Hall Family Cemetery, Hatch Cemetery, West Halifax Cemetery, and Whitneyville Cemetery, removed shrubs and roots, and recontoured low or irregular areas where necessary. The Commissioners signed deeds for new plots as the need arose and assessed remaining work needed in all cemeteries. The Cemetery Commission will continue to work through the 2022 Plan for the reparation, restoration, and maintenance of the town’s 22 cemeteries.

Commissioners:

Linda Swanson
Gary Rand
Laurel Copeland

Collector of Delinquent Taxes

UPDATED: June 30, 2023

REPORT FOR FY2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

	Beginning Balance	Del. Taxes Collected	Ending Balance
TAX WARRANTS ISSUED BY TOWN TREASURER			
Tax Warrant for FY 2021 (07/01/20-06/30/21)	\$ 6,797.66	\$ -	\$ 6,797.66
Tax Warrant for FY 2022 (07/01/21-06/30/22)	\$ 17,866.93	\$ -	\$ 17,866.93
Tax Warrant for FY 2023 (7/01/22-6/30/23)	\$ 163,192.61	\$ 138,978.58	\$ 24,214.03
TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES --- FY20, FY21, FY23	\$ 187,857.20	\$ 138,978.58	\$ 48,878.62
Delinquent Taxes Collected			\$ 158,317.94
Tax Commission Collected			\$ 12,663.78
Interest Collected			\$ 7,218.40
Total Del. Taxes, Penalty, Interest FY23			\$ 178,200.12
Miscellaneous Costs Collected			\$ 583.21
Credit for Tax Year FY24			\$ 4,558.08
Total Del. Taxes, Penalty, Interest, Misc			\$ 183,341.41
Mary Brewster			

Report of the Halifax Fire Company, Inc. for 2023

To the Honorable Citizens of the Town of Halifax:

It is an honor for the members of the Halifax Fire Company, Inc. to serve both the citizens of the Town and its visitors.

2023 started with the retirement of long time Chief Wayne Courser. Chief Courser served the Company and the citizens of Halifax for over 50 years as Chief. He remains a member of the company and a valuable resource when it comes to the history of the department and the Town.

The membership of the Company elected Dennis M. Annear as the new Chief of Department in January. Dennis has over 45 years in the fire service with at least 30 years as Chief. He started in the Town of Charlemont, Massachusetts and then served the Town of Orange, Massachusetts as a full time career Chief for 23 years. He retired from Orange in 2015 and currently serves not only the Town of Halifax but the Towns of Charlemont and Rowe, Massachusetts as their Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director. The other officers of the Company are Malcolm Sumner as Assistant Chief, Ross Barnett and Jeff Longe as Captains and Tom Teft and Jeff Duncan as Lieutenants.

The Department had a busy year in 2023. We responded to 97 calls for Service. 44 of these calls were for Medical Emergencies. While we are not a licensed First Response Agency the members respond on these calls because you are our neighbors. We also help to find your house for the Whitingham Rescue and Deerfield Valley Ambulance. The next largest number of calls were to respond to our neighboring communities as Mutual Aid to assist them with a call. We responded 15 times, with 13 of those calls directly to the scene of a Fire and 2 to provide apparatus and manpower to cover a Town that were on a call. 10 of the calls were for Motor Vehicle Crashes. Even though we live in a rural area we only responded 5 times for wires and trees across the roadways and only 4 times for Fire Alarms sounding.

The Halifax Fire Company, Inc. raises the vast majority of its funds. We Thank All of You who contribute with a direct donation, purchase tickets for

Halifax Listers' Report

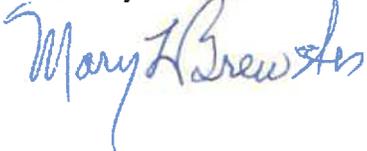
2023

In 2023 there was one grievance, which was satisfactorily resolved, with no Board of Civil Authority appeals. We continue to follow up zoning permits with site visits. It is always our goal to maintain timely and accurate property records, participate in continuing education, and respond to the needs of our community.

It is always our intent to be open, fair, and consistent during any assessment process. The Listers invite all property owners to call upon them to address any questions they might have. Property Cards are always accessible to the public at the Town Office, and we encourage property owners to review their property assessment. It is the responsibility of the property owner to initiate the grievance process for their property. We encourage you to check the posting of Grievance dates on the town website: May/June. For your convenience, you can contact us at any time during the year to request to be put on a "grievance reminder list."

Lister office hours are Wednesdays from 9am to 3pm; our phone number is 802-368-2080; email: <halifaxlisters@myfairpoint.net>. We are always willing to accommodate alternative appointment times to meet the needs of the community.

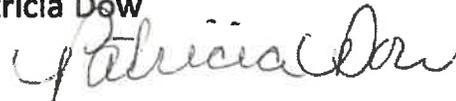
Mary L. Brewster



Tina Blais



Patricia Dow



Road Commissioner Report

First I would like to thank the crew for all the hours of working and being on call, Keith Stone, Ben Barnett, Wade Janvosky, and Blake Janvosky. This year has brought a lot of rain washouts, and trees falling down on unscheduled work hours.

This year we received the new tandem Western Star dump truck. We did 11 segments of clean water grant work on Fowler Road. We did $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile on Vaughn Road of new culverts, gravel, and ditch stone for a FEMA washout on July 10th. We did a full reclamation of Green River Road from Metcalf Road to Ellingwood Road with 4 inches of new blacktop and new shoulders, and we also paved to the top of Clark Road making it easier for the plowing with half the road paved before now the blacktop truck can do the whole road and turn around.

We made a turn around on the end of Hall Road for a place to turn around instead of using the personal driveway of a Halifax resident. We fixed up Bucklin Hill turn around along with Perry Road turn around. The Town is continuing to have beaver problems with them blocking culverts which in return takes a lot of time throughout the course of the year to run around and keep unplugging culverts.

We did a 5 ft culvert replacement on Pike Road (also a July 10th FEMA washout). The Town has received a grant to put in a box culvert on Pike Road which has been put out to bid and awarded to A.S. Clark out of Newfane, VT. The work will begin after July 1st, 2024. We also received a grant for clean water on Green River Road and Clark Road that has been completed and mailed in for reimbursement.

We are going through the maintenance account pretty quickly with keeping equipment a long time and repairs are starting to cost a lot of money compared to over the years. This year we have not used much of the chloride budget because of the amount of rain we have received. Lot of the budgets are going to need to be looked at for the following year with the prices of everything going up.

We placed culverts on Hale Road, Green River Road, Clark Road, Hatch School Road, Shearer Hill Road, Pike Road, Tony Hanson Road, Reed Hill Road, Fowler Road, Perry Road, Stowe Mountain Road, Old County Road, Woodard Hill Road, Vaughn Road, Stage Road, and a driveway culvert on Phillips Hill Road.

We put down gravel on the Pennel Hill Cemetery Road, Pennel Hill Road, Fowler Road, Josh Road, Perry Road, Bucklin Hill Road, Moss Hollow Road, Hall Road, Phillips Hill Road, Shearer Hill Road, Pike Road, and Butterfield Road.

We received the grant for Reed Hill Better Back RDS from the post office to Larrabee Road to be completed June 30, 2024. We will also apply for another Better Back RDS grant this year and another VTRANS Grants in Aid grant this year along with a paving and structure grant.

Please feel free to stop in the Town Garage with any questions or concerns.

Thank you - Mike Fournier

- Assessing the Town’s financial policies and recommend changes or additions to the Selectboard
- Reviewing the Town’s quarterly financial statements, received from the Treasurer, and make a report to the board on the committee’s assessment of the quarterly financial statements
- Engaging with the Treasurer on all matters relating to the Town’s financial policies including, but not limited to:
 - Accounting policies and procedures
 - Financial reporting matters
 - Audit findings and recommendations
 - Preparation and dissemination of Audit reports

The Selectboard re-entered into a contract with the Windham County Sheriff’s Office to provide law enforcement coverage for Halifax. Following one of the meetings where Sheriff Mark Anderson addressed the Selectboard he attended a “Coffee with a Cop” session hosted by the Community Center.

DV Fiber is in the process of installing fiber optic cable in Halifax. Connections to the network are expected to begin in 2024 and continue through 2025. Members of the Selectboard also served on the Broadband Committee during the early implementation period. The board is grateful to David Jones for his unwavering support and dedication to bringing this critical service to Halifax.

A Community Assessment and Project Prioritization (CAPP) meeting was held on May 6, 2023 in the multipurpose room at the school. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input from the community to better understand what residents priorities are. These initial meetings and several follow up meetings and discussions were extremely helpful in providing the Selectboard with insights into the level of community interest for prioritizing, developing and expanding various projects. This insight helped us decide how to expend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in a manner consistent with the Town’s priorities. To this end, the Selectboard is pleased to report that \$204,475 ARPA funding has been committed to:

- help residents connect to the DV Fiber network
- to help the Community Center with infrastructure improvements
- the help the fire department with safety equipment
- to help the Historical Society with building repairs

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Appointments Made By Town Clerk

Assistant Town Clerk	William Moore
Assistant Town Clerk	Tina Blais
Deputy Registers	Mark Shea, James Curley, Tom Robinson, Lewis Sumner

Vital Records Filed

Marriages	5
Deaths	10
Births	3

Land Records Recorded

Cemetery Deed	1
Certificate of Highway Mileage	1
Certificate of Members	1
Certificate of Name Change	2
Certificate of Trust	4
Current Use	6
Current Use Withdrawal	1
Death Certificate Recording	3
Decree of Distribution	1
Easement	7
Foreclosure Waiver	1
Land Use Permit	1
License to Sell	1
Life Estate Deed	6
Mortgage Assignments	2
Mortgage Deed	25
Mortgage Discharge	34
Mortgage Discharge Rescission	1
Motion to Dismiss	2
Permit Driveway	9
Permit New Parcel	2
Permit renewal	1
Permit Salvage Yard	1
Permit Sign	1
Permits Zoning	24
Power of Attorney	32
Promissory Note	1
Property Transfer Tax Return	49
Quit Claim Deed	3
Release of Tax Lien	4
Scriver's Error	2
Supplemental Indenture	2
Tax Collectors Deed	1
Tax Lien	3
Trustees Certificate	1
UCC Financing	1

TREASURER'S TOWN ACCOUNT
Fiscal Year 7/1/22 - 6/30/23

Prepared by:
 Patricia Dow, Treasurer

<u>CASH BALANCES</u>	<u>June 30, 2022</u>	<u>June 30, 2023</u>
1100 General Account	50,226.81	136,664.54
1110 Scott & Eames Fund	20,316.84	10,285.84
1120 Equipment	55,349.35	0.00
1125 Resurfacing Fund	89,000.31	89,000.31
1130 Record Restoration Fund - TC fees funded	15,657.54	16,248.71
Auditor - celebration external fund	17,055.06	16,749.58
1140 Niles	1,853.62	0.00
1155 Grants Reserve Fund	99,234.19	186,056.46
1160 ReAppraisal Project - outside funding	24,568.13	30,144.13
1170 Office equipment Fund - TC fees funded	8,807.63	9,985.30
1180 Cemetery Perpetual Care Reserve	10,852.02	2,479.29
1185 Cemetery Restoration Donations	0.00	1,421.32
1191 Building Maintenance Fund	7,806.14	7,806.14
1192 Bridge Fund - Reserved Funding	59,994.86	59,994.86
TOTAL CASH BALANCES	460,722.50	566,836.48

<u>REVENUES - Selectboard & Highway</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
5100 · PROPERTY TAXES		
5110 · Residential & Land Property Tax	2,590,930.52	
5120 · Delinquent Tax Receipts	167,456.36	
5130 · Current Use Reimbursement Receipts	132,329.50	
5140 · HS-122 State tax adjustment	70,744.96	
5180 · Equalization Study	656.00	
Total 5100 · PROPERTY TAXES		2,962,117.34
5200 · LICENSES, PERMITS, FEES		
5230 · Town Clerk Fees	11,846.16	
5240 - Dog Licenses	69.00	
5250 · Driveway, Right of Way permit	240.00	
5280 · Special License, Permit, & Fees	140.00	
Total 5200 · LICENSES, PERMITS, FEES		12,295.16
5400 · SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING		
5430 · SCOTT or EAMES FUND	19,000.00	
5440 - Grants	102,685.27	
Total 5400 SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING		121,685.27
5600 · INTEREST INCOME		
5611 · General Account	8,713.83	
5622 · Delinquent Tax Interest	8,781.66	
Total 5600 · INTEREST INCOME		17,495.49
5700 · MISCELLANEOUS		
5710 · Fines	53.50	
5720 · Bank Charge Recovery	389.92	
5730 · Miscellaneous	528.19	
5740 - Refunds	1,101.33	
5770 - Transfers Income (to transfer Equipment fund to General Fund)	55,349.35	
Total 5700 · MISCELLANEOUS		57,422.29

TREASURER'S TOWN ACCOUNT
Fiscal Year 7/1/22 - 6/30/23

Prepared by:
 Patricia Dow, Treasurer

6250 · TOWN OFFICE EXPENSES		
6251 · Repairs & Maintenance	1,559.55	
6252 · Telephone	4,141.72	
6253 · Dues & Subscriptions	4,396.76	
6254 · Ads & Legal Notices	609.75	
6255 · Office Supplies	1,148.17	
6256 · Lister Supplies	5,888.03	
6260 · Selectmen Expenses	422.35	
6261 · Planning Commission Expense	447.11	
6262 · EOC Emergency Supplies & Exp	2,954.91	
6265 · Lease Agreements	2,750.00	
6268 · Constable Expenses	399.55	
Total 6250 · TOWN OFFICE EXPENSES		24,717.90
6270 · TOWN EXPENSES		
6271 · Street Lights	1,253.25	
6274 · Stray Dogs	385.00	
6276 · Miscellaneous		1,638.25
6300 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		
6310 · Accounting Services	15,000.00	
6320 · Legal Services	569.80	
6330 · Internet & Computer Services	868.39	
6340 · VT Law Enforcement Services	9,999.96	
Total 6300 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		26,438.15
6400 · TOWN MEETING/ELECTIONS EXPENSE		
6410 · Moderator	200.00	
6420 · Ballot Clerks	1,608.75	
6425 · Town Meeting Expense - Misc	349.43	
6430 · Printing	1,750.00	
6435 · Town Mtg Postage	230.40	
Total 6400 · TOWN MEETING/ELECTIONS EXPENSE		4,138.58
6600 · FIRE COMPANY		
6610 · Dispatching Fee	15,771.00	
6630 · Fire Company Insurance & Dues	997.50	
6640 · Equipment & Gear	6,000.00	
6650 · Contracted Ambulance Services	16,103.98	
Total 6600 · FIRE COMPANY		38,872.48
6850 · INSURANCE		
6851 · VLCT-Employment Practices Liabi	2,137.00	
6852 · VLCT-Public Officials Liability	1,043.00	
6853 · VLCT-Workers Comp	14,604.50	
6854 · VLCT-Property & Casualty	9,555.00	
6855 · VLCT-Unemployment Insurance	804.00	
Total 6850 · INSURANCE		28,143.50
6700 · ENVIRONMENTAL EXPENSES		
6710 · WSWMD	4,836.76	
6715 · Contracted Recycling	18,748.77	
6720 · Landfill Closure	9,148.05	
6730 · Other	850.00	
Total 6700 · ENVIRONMENTAL EXPENSES		33,583.58
6750 · TAXES & INTEREST EXPENSES		
6751 · County Tax	9,573.00	
Total 6750 · TAXES & INTEREST EXPENSES		9,573.00
6800 · Town Share of School Expenses (plowing)		11,000.00

TREASURER'S TOWN ACCOUNT
Fiscal Year 7/1/22 - 6/30/23

Prepared by:
 Patricia Dow, Treasurer

7600 · EQUIPMENT EXPENSE ACCOUNT-FUND		
7605 - EQUIPMENT FINANCING		
7655 - Loader/Tractor	14,829.80	
7695 · Interest on loan	7,061.36	
7696 · Equipment Lease Payments	72,617.00	
Total 7605 EQUIPMENT FINANCING		94,508.16
7600 - EQUIPMENT EXPENSES		
7644 - Shop Equipment	712.34	
7645 · Shop Supplies & Tools	1,215.09	
7650 - PowerSaws	400.94	
7660 - All Equipment	2,500.00	
7670 · VLCT Property & Casualty/Equip	16,962.00	
7680 · Repairs & Maintenance	123,160.31	
7681 - Tires	10,598.24	
7682 - Tire Chains	2,975.00	
7683 - Plow/Grader Edges	9,422.98	
7685 · Diesel Fuel	97,984.28	
7699 - Transfer Equipment Fund balance to Gen. Fund	55,349.35	
Total 7600 · EQUIPMENT EXPENSE ACCOUNT-FUND		321,280.53
Total 7000 · HIGHWAY ACCOUNT		<u>1,656,125.92</u>
9000 · SELF FUNDED ACCOUNTS & FUNDS VOTED ON AT TOWN MEETING		
9500 · TREASURER		
9510 · Salary	15,000.00	
9520 · Expenses	3,682.54	
Total 9500 · TREASURER		18,682.54
8200 · COMMISSIONS & EXPENSES		
8210 · Delinquent Tax Collector	11,913.82	
8220 · Zoning Admin/Permit Fees	1,585.00	
Total 8200 · COMMISSIONS		13,498.82
8300 - EXPENSES FOR SELF FUNDED ACCOUNTS		
6257 - Office Equipment Fund	865.00	
8310 - Delinquent Tax Collectors Expense	196.31	
8320 - Zoning Expenses	17.36	
8335 - Tax Sale Attorney Fees	142.50	
8360 - Grants	16,363.00	
Total 8300 EXPENSES FOR SELF FUNDED ACCOUNTS		17,584.17
9210 - Restoration Fund expenditures	951.50	
9220 - Office Equipment Fund expenditures		951.50

Tree Warden Report

Invasive pests – insects and fungi that are not native to Vermont – continue to be the main concern of tree wardens throughout the state. Emerald ash borer (EAB) is the pathogen of greatest concern although there are several others being actively monitored.

Because 99% of infected ash trees will die as a result of EAB, the state of Vermont advises the removal of all ash trees in municipal rights-of-way. Trees dying of EAB infestation become fragile and can collapse in any direction at any moment, creating a significant public hazard. It is far more expensive and dangerous to remove an infested tree than a healthy one, so a proactive approach is best. In the current fiscal year, Halifax received a matching grant of \$5,000 to supplement the \$5,000 allocated in the town budget for removal of roadside ash trees. Prioritizing one of the most traveled roads, the town hired a tree company to remove ash trees along the beginning of Collins Road.

Removal of roadside ash trees is an expensive undertaking and therefore will have to be done over a span of several years. Halifax is not eligible for another matching grant in 2024, but hopefully will be eligible in 2025. Even without grants from the state, it will be important to budget for this project each year until the hazard of collapsing trees is eliminated.

On a more positive note, we are fortunate to have a diverse population of hardwoods and softwoods, especially black spruce, red spruce, Norway spruce, eastern hemlock, balsam and white pine for softwoods, and red maple, sugar maple, red oak, white ash, American beech, black cherry, basswood, quaking aspen, bigtooth aspen, Lombardy poplar and a smattering of other species for hardwoods. Approximately 90% of Halifax is forestland.

These trees cleanse the air of pollutants, sequester carbon, generate the oxygen we breath, stabilize soils against erosion, purify water and provide food and shelter for wildlife. Thus, they are well worth protecting!

The easiest and most important thing we can do to slow the spread of invasive pests is to keep firewood local. Insects are often transported undetected when firewood is trucked from one location to another. Please don't move firewood!

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kelly
Halifax Tree Warden

Trustees of Public Funds (Consolidated Report)

and Whitingham, stating that the interest only may be used for the general purposes of the town. Two CD's held in Brattleboro Savings & Loan generate interest paid to the Town annually.

Wicks Cemetery Fund was established in 1995 by Abigail MacBride and Susan Ford (MacBride) Hammaker in memory of Roger Lea MacBride “for the perpetual care of the Wicks Cemetery” with a stipulation that payments be made only from the income from the fund. The fund is currently held in an investment account at Edward Jones.

Cemetery Fund was established to hold donations given for the maintenance and restoration of Halifax cemeteries. Funds have been received from various individuals over the years. The funds can be spent in their entirety.

Additional information is located on the town website at <https://halifaxvt.com/trustees-of-public-funds/>.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Report from Trustees of Public Funds for Fiscal Year Ending in 2023
(7/1/2022-6/30/2023)

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Cael</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Eames</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Scott</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Cemetery</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Wicks</u> <u>Fund</u>
Beginning balance 7/1/2022	\$567,132	\$97,118	\$131,728	\$318,309	\$17,650	\$2,328
Expenditures	(\$204)	(\$35)	(\$0)	(\$168)	\$0	\$0
Income	\$17,023	\$1,288	\$1,705	\$13,605	\$317	\$107
Distributions	(\$24,150)	(\$90)	(\$5,000)	(\$14,000)	(\$5,060)	\$0
Change in market value	(\$18,578)	\$0		(\$18,075)	\$0	(\$503)
Ending balance 6/30/2023	\$541,223	\$98,281	\$128,433	\$299,671	\$12,907	\$1,932

Brattleboro Area Hospice

191 Canal Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-257-0775

January 8, 2024

Attention: Selectboard, Town of Halifax

Dear Select Board,

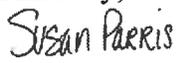
Brattleboro Area Hospice (BAH) provides a wide range of services to individuals at the end-of-life, and their families. All services are provided at no cost to participants.

- **Hospice & EarlyCare:** BAH offers physical, spiritual, and emotional support for individuals with terminal illness, and their families, as well as help with practical needs (e.g., respite care, grocery shopping, seasonal chores, etc.). Additionally, BAH offers an EarlyCare Support Program to those with a prognosis of up to two years, and who may continue active medical therapies. BAH is preparing to launch a new program in March 2024, the **Support for Individuals with Serious Illnesses**, which will expand our current EarlyCare Support Program to those who are seriously ill, regardless of their prognosis.
- **Bereavement Services & Support Groups:** Bereavement support is provided through both individual and group counseling and is available to anyone in the community experiencing the loss of a loved one, regardless of whether they have used our hospice care services.
- **Advance Care Planning:** In partnership with the Vermont Ethics Network, the *Taking Steps Brattleboro* program overseen by BAH pairs volunteer facilitators with individuals to complete advance care planning documents outlining healthcare directives.
- **Community Outreach & Education:** As a community resource on issues of death, dying and grief, BAH offers free training, classes and workshops, as well as a lending library that is available to the public. BAH hosts volunteer training opportunities for those interested in becoming hospice and/or bereavement volunteers. These comprehensive training sessions are open to the community.

In 2022/23, 6 unduplicated Halifax residents received services from BAH: There were 5 Hospice Care and 1 Bereavement Care clients. One Halifax resident is an active BAH volunteer.

All BAH services are free of charge to Halifax residents. We receive no insurance and state or federal funding; therefore, we rely on local support to fund our work. (Our thrift shop, Experienced Goods, provided 64% of our operating budget last year.) We are especially grateful for the financial assistance provided by the towns we serve. Thank you for considering our funding request.

Sincerely,

 Susan Parris, Executive Director

2023 Deerfield Valley Food Pantry Town Annual Report

The Deerfield Valley Food Pantry has remained open and busy during the 2022-2023 year with the use of the normal distribution method in which items are chosen as needed. We continue to provide a week's worth of supplemental food assistance to our neighbors in Wilmington, Whitingham, Marlboro, Halifax, Dover, Readsboro and Searsburg.

The items we offer include non-perishable staples, health care products, meats, eggs, dairy, fresh produce and bread at every distribution. All families are offered the same foods and their family size determines the amount.

Fundraising events and food drives by local schools and businesses were held and their support is very much appreciated. It is important to emphasize that items donated have to be in date. We have also received monetary donations to purchase foods from area businesses and the Vermont Food Bank. Our many sources of food allows us to be very efficient in the spending of funds donated to us.

Our family numbers remained roughly the same as in 2021-2022 for most of the year, fluctuating a little up or down. The weather does not affect us, and it usually does not affect those who need food. We have always been busy and open to serve those who need us.

Local dedicated volunteers assist Board Members in distributing the food to our customers. We do our best to have a friendly atmosphere, clean, safe buildings to work in and welcome any interested person to contact a member of our Board of Directors to join us. This year we were humbled to receive the American Legion's Citizenship Award at this year's Memorial Day Celebration.

Respectfully submitted,
Evon Mack, President



Annual Report of Activities Through September 30, 2023

Welcome

We are pleased to share with you our accomplishments through our first three years.

Years One & Two (2021-2022)

Our volunteers established our organization, formed a public/private partnership with Great Works Internet (GWI), received \$26 million in grant funding, and connected pilot customers.

Year Three (2023)

DVFiber started network construction and connected its first customers in Readsboro.

Next Up for Connection:

- Halifax (2024-2025)
- Marlboro (2024-2025)
- Stamford (2023-2024)
- Whitingham (2023-2024)

Towns Post-2025:

- Brattleboro, Brookline, Dover,
- Dummerston, Guilford, Jamaica,
- Londonderry, Newfane,
- Putney, Searsburg, Stratton,
- Townshend, Vernon, Wardsboro,
- Westminster, Weston,
- Wilmington, Windham & Winhall

Who Are We

DVFiber was formed in 2020 as a municipality for the special purpose to bring universal high-speed fiber optic Internet service to all homes and businesses in our 24 town district. We are governed by a board whose members are appointed by the Select Boards in each member town. When completed, the network will be community owned and operated under contract providing service to its customers that meets or exceeds national standards.

Year Four Budget

	FY 2023		FY 2024
	Budget	Actual (Projected)	Budget
Operating Revenue	\$453,805	\$3,706	\$503,697
Grant Revenue - Construction	\$9,990,031	\$6,335,630	\$9,158,716
Grant Revenue - Ops		\$485,081	\$794,608
Other Revenue	\$15,000	\$216,700	\$50,000
Net Revenue	\$10,458,836	\$7,041,117	\$10,507,021
Expenditures			
Admin Costs	\$499,354	\$350,888	\$534,670
Operating Costs	\$693,452	\$321,792	\$813,635
Construction Costs	\$9,376,819	\$6,335,630	\$9,158,716
Total Expenditures	\$10,569,625	\$7,008,310	\$10,507,021
Annual Net Cash Flow	\$(110,789)	\$32,807	-

*FY 2022 Financial Statements can be found in our FY 2022 Audit



Stay Connected

Scan the QR code or visit DV Fiber.net to order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter.

Contact Us

844.383.6246
info@mydvfiber.net

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

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

The services provided included all of HCRS' programs resulting in a wide array of supports for the residents of Halifax.

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

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

Brattleboro Local Health Office | 232 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT
802-257-2880 | AHS.VDHBattleboro@Vermont.gov

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



Women, Infants & Children (WIC), Family and Child Health

WIC continues to be an important part of the Brattleboro Local Health Office.

- We have provided WIC food benefits, nutrition support and breast/chest feeding education to nearly 700 families.
- Our team has prioritized translating resources to meet the needs of *all* of our clients. Through advocating at state and federal levels we are proud to now offer resources in Dari and Pashto to our clients from Afghanistan.
- To help parents struggling with substance use, we created a group of community providers, health professionals and recovery experts. This Substance Use, Recovery and Perinatal Health (SURPH) Coalition brings professionals and the community together to improve outcomes for families.



Immunizations and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Our team has been a leader in vaccinations for our community.

- We host monthly vaccination clinics at the Needle Exchange Program and through our partnership with the Ethiopian Community Development Council have vaccinated New Vermonters from Afghanistan, Ukraine and Central America.
- With a focus on the most underserved in our community, we work towards preventing the spread of illness through education and outreach at vaccine clinics held in local homeless shelters and motels. Our goal is to ensure access for every member of our community.
- We have established strong partnerships with local long-term care facilities to handle illness outbreaks and help keep residents and staff safe.



Community-Wide Impact

We prioritize making community-wide impacts.

- In response to the historic flooding in our area, we distributed hundreds of water testing kits in the community. We also offered resources at Disaster Recovery Centers, working together with FEMA.
- We work extensively with local partners to improve access to physical activity and healthy foods.
- We partnered with local organizations to install sunscreen dispensers and provide skin cancer prevention information at Retreat Farm and Living Memorial Park.



Southeastern Vermont Community Action

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

In the community of Halifax we provided these services during FY2023:

Weatherization: 5 homes (14 people) received weatherization services.

Emergency Heating System Replacement: 1 home (1 person) received an emergency repair or replacement of a non-functioning heating system.

Emergency Home Repair: 1 household (2 people) received emergency home repairs to address immediate health or safety concerns in their home.

Tax Preparation Services: 2 households (3 people) received free income tax preparation services.

Family Services: 5 households (10 people) received 15 services (crisis resolution, financial counseling, nutrition education, forms assistance, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services)

Fuel & Utility Assistance: 5 households (17 people) received 6 assists for emergency heating fuel or assistance with utilities disconnects.

The combined value of services provided to assist Halifax residents exceeded \$44,561.00.

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

Kathleen Devlin, Interim Executive Director
Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)
91 Buck Drive, Westminister, VT 05158
(800) 464-9951 or (802) 722-4575
sevca@sevca.org email; or www.sevca.org website.

Town of Halifax

The MOOver

We celebrated our 27th anniversary in 2023. We're so fortunate to have the support of the town of Halifax, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, Senator Patrick Leahy, and the businesses, residents, and guests in the Deerfield Valley. Thanks also to our staff and Board of Directors. A few people thought we'd never survive the first year, but with the support of those above we have provided nearly six million rides since.

Each week we provide rides for Valley seniors to shopping, meal sites, adult day care, the doctors', and social events. This service has improved the quality of life for over 60 Valley residents by getting them out regularly and allowing them to live at home longer in life.

We thank the residents of Halifax for their support. Please call us with questions/comments at 464-8487, and thanks for riding the MOOver!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Schoonmaker



Whitingham Free Public Library



2022 - 2023 REVIEW

Our Mission

The mission of the Whitingham Free Public Library is to promote the benefits of life-long learning and to expand the horizons of the community by filling its educational, recreational, and technological needs.

Vermont Afterschool Inc.'s Expanding Access Grant Funds Library Summer Camp



Summer Reading Camp
"All Together Now!"

The library was awarded \$12,803 to expand its existing one week Summer Reading Camp to two weeks. The Grant was a reimbursement grant that funded staff, equipment, supplies, and enrichment programs. We partnered with Wings Community Programs. 25 children registered, as well as additional attendees at our open afternoon programs including a magic show and story tellers.

Camp enrichment programs

Activity Backpacks

Have you checked out our themed Activity Backpacks?

Each backpack features a variety of fiction and non-fiction books, art and science activities, games and more!

Themes:

- Construction
- Forest Friends
- Ocean
- Dinosaurs
- Space
- Gardening

included hands on science activities with The Grafton Nature Museum, Bonnyvale Environmental Center, Southern Vermont Natural History Museum and The Museum of Innovation and Science. We enjoyed interactive storytelling presentations with renowned storytellers, Diane Edgecomb and Simon Brooks. We were amazed by Tom Joyce and his Comedy Magic Show. To the delight of the children, Whitingham's own, Angel Colford, led a creative art class featuring the 4 seasons.

The children also enjoyed arts and crafts, stories, games, independent exploration and play and face painting.

Our partnership with Wings included free lunch and snacks funded through the FDA Summer Food Program and was graciously delivered to the library daily by the kitchen staff at Twin Valley Elementary School.

We hope to secure future funding to continue these amazing enrichment programs for library summer camp.

Looking forward to Summer Camp 2024:
"Adventure Begins at Your Library!"



Thank you!

Thank you to the towns of Whitingham & Halifax for your continued support and patronage.

Kristine, Lois, Lisa and Trustees:

Edie Brigham, Tanya Bernard, Kristin Breeden, Cathy Bell, Adam Ranslow and Wendy Sergeant

2022-2023 Statistics

- 6,250 PATRON VISITS
AN INCREASE OF 22%
- 7,520 ITEMS CIRCULATED
AN INCREASE OF 15%
- 7,810 WIFI SESSIONS
AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 50%
- WE BORROWED OVER 200 ITEMS AND LENT 50 ITEMS THROUGH THE VERMONT INTERLIBRARY LOAN SYSTEM.

Library of Things

- MUSEUM PASSES
- SNOWSHOES
- 3 IN 1 OUTDOOR GAME (PICKLEBALL, BADMITTON, VOLLEYBALL)
- HOUSHOLD TOOLS
- PUZZLES
- GIANT GAMES
- ACTIVITY BACKPACKS
- LAPTOPS & PORTABLE PRINTER
- PORTABLE DVD PLAYER
- CD PLAYER

Community Food Shelf

Our little Community Food Shelf sees many food and non-food items come and go anonymously throughout the week. Please help yourself to what you need, leave what you don't and donate what you can.

Thank you for your donations!



Our volunteers braved cold rainy weather in April to host a Pet Food Drive at the Shaw's in Wilmington, securing \$200 worth of pet food for the Deerfield Valley Food Pantry. And WinDART volunteers once again participated in several community events throughout the summer and fall promoting our message that pets should be included in all levels of emergency preparedness—

starting with being part of their family's emergency response plan.

We distributed disaster planning materials at the Jacksonville Blueberry Festival Market & Music event, the Wilmington Antique and Flea Market, the Windham County Humane Society's Walk for Animals, and the Wilmington Trunk or Treat.



In September, WinDART organized a free Pet First Aid class instructed by Halifax veterinarian Dr. Sue Kelly and hosted by the Vermont EMS Academy in Newfane. Members of the team and the general public learned how to identify and manage some common issues like burns, lacerations, chemical exposures and hypothermia until their pets could be brought to a veterinarian for follow-up treatment.



WINDHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Mark R. Anderson
PO Box 8126, Brattleboro VT 05301
Tel: (802) 365-4942
Fax: (802) 365-4945



Town of Halifax Report

I'm pleased to report our efforts working with our towns regarding improvement of regionalized policing in Windham County. Regionalizing services is not a new recommendation for Vermont. There have been countless studies for many decades recommending Vermont transition to regional systems to save funds and allocate services more appropriately. The Windham County Sheriff's Office has held two meetings inviting nineteen towns (specifically, towns who don't have a police department) to the discussion on how to provide an improved regionalized policing service from what services we provide now. We've begun with the problem statement: "Members of the public within Windham County receive inconsistent and non-uniform policing, resulting in lack of response to reported crimes, being disenfranchised by lack of access to services, and an increased propensity for vigilantism." As my office works with the towns to tackle that problem statement, two questions to answer become immediately clear: How is a regional service governed? How is a regional service funded?

Call Types	Count	
Abandoned Vehicle	1	Of the nineteen towns invited, seventeen have indicated their interest in the discussion, including the Town of Halifax, on how we materialize improvement of policing in Windham County. We are excited to work with the towns and public to develop the answers to these questions that allow for stability to town budgets which also meets the public's general expectations of access to emergency services, including policing.
Accident -Leaving Scene	1	
Animal - Welfare	1	
Assist - Citizen	2	
Assist - Motorist	2	
Traffic Stop	5	
Vandalism	1	
Grand Total	13	Our Regional Animal Control Officer (ACO) program continues to grow each year now representing nine towns.

The initial work of the member towns has been a remarkable success, addressing animals that are vicious; at-large; neglected; unregistered; and in need of quarantine. If this is something the voters of Halifax are interested in, please reach out to your selectboard.

Our Regional Emergency Communications Center received upgrades this year as well, providing better workspaces for those answering emergency and non-emergency calls. We have increased from two workstations to four, providing opportunities to better align the public's access to emergency services with best practices. Our Center answers approximately 43,780 phone calls each year, which generates 12,008 responses the communities we serve.

The Windham County Sheriff's Office is pleased to serve the people of Halifax and look forward to the upcoming year. If you have a need for our services, please don't hesitate to contact our office at 802-365-4942 for non-emergencies or 911 for emergencies.

Respectfully submitted, Sheriff Mark R. Anderson



Wings' Vision Statement: Wings will actively engage students in experiences to help them be successful in school and in life as they grow into productive adults.

Wings' Mission Statement: Wings provides creative academic, enrichment, and physical/wellness programming to all children and their families within the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union.

Wings Community Programs has enjoyed another wonderful year serving Halifax youth and families through the provision of after-school and summer programming. The Wings Staff is excited to welcome Sarah Barnett who is joining Christine Stafford on board as a co-site coordinator as of August 2023. Wings would also like to express sincere gratitude to all of the talented and invested program leaders who have planned, prepared, and led engaging, high-quality after-school and summer programs.

Program highlights include:

- Across the 2022-2023 school year, 61 Halifax youth engaged in high-quality, enriching after school programs, totaling 10183.50 student hours.
- Halifax students enjoyed a wide variety of programming options including: Ultimate Disc Golf, Lego Robotics, Outdoor Games & Sports, and PAWS just to name a few!
- Wings summer camp 2023 filled 467 summer slots focusing on fun, connection, and joy! Wings partnered with the Whitingham Free Public Library and the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum to offer additional summer camp programs during the summer 2023. In addition to other Wings camps including Celebrate Summer, Outdoor Adventures, Possible Futures, Performing Arts, and Readsboro Summer Fun. Transportation was provided for Halifax children to be safely escorted to Celebrate Summer camp in Wilmington. 83 children used this service.

Wings is deeply appreciative of the support of the town, school district, parents, administrators, teachers, building support staff, and the community at large. In addition, Wings is especially grateful for the dedicated and committed professionals who share their own talents and passions with the children of Halifax.

Halifax Site Coordinators - Christine Stafford and Sarah Barnett

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Boyd and Keli Gould, Project Co-Directors



tubes, ballasts, lead-acid and household batteries, waste oil and oil filters, paint, sharps/syringes, textiles, books, tires, and household hazardous waste. Use of the transfer station is limited to residents and businesses from member communities and requires the purchase of an access sticker at \$50/year. Approximately 3,000 customers purchase annual access stickers. There is no additional charge for recycling and composting. Fees are presented at www.windhamsolidwaste.org.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF): The District voted to close the MRF in July 2017 but continues to accept cardboard from commercial sources. Cardboard is baled and sold, generating revenue for the District. Revenue in FY23 was \$55,851, a significant decrease from the prior year due to declining markets for recycled cardboard. Industry projections suggest higher commodity prices for cardboard in FY24.

Composting Facility: Of all recyclable materials handled by the District, the only ones that are reused locally are food scraps and yard debris. The food scrap composting facility is in its 10th year of operation and is the 2nd largest food scrap composting facility in Vermont. WSWMD donates compost for school and community gardens.

As the food scrap composting mandates of Act 148 have been phased in, the total quantity of food scraps processed at the site have increased each year, and therefore the District will be constructing a new composting facility that will have a building with aerated windrows, air collection for odor control, as well as rainwater and liquid management systems for the compost piles. The expansion will allow the District to continue to locally manage organic wastes while meeting state permitting requirements for a larger capacity facility. Funding for the new facility is from federal and state grants, as well as District funds. Non long-term debt is anticipated.

Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP): All towns in Vermont are required to meet state solid waste management requirements through implementation of an authorized SWIP. The District writes and implements a SWIP on behalf of all its member towns, and so provides compliance and the accompanying services to each member town. 2023 was the third year of the five-year term of the current SWIP, which addresses household hazardous waste collection, education and outreach, as well as numerous other requirements.

Solar Array: WSWMD leases its capped landfill to Greenbacker Capital to operate a 5 mega-watt solar array, the largest group net-metered project in the state. Greenbacker has contracted to provide solar power for 20 years to the towns of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Halifax, Newfane, Readsboro, Vernon, Wardsboro, and

Youth Services

Report to the Town of Halifax

Youth Services celebrated 50 years in 2022. We provide programs in prevention, intervention and restorative justice services for area young people, individuals, and families in Windham County communities. We help youth and young adults living in difficult circumstances learn the life skills that will assist them in living successfully on their own and as engaged and productive community citizens. Our broad array of program services include:

- Therapeutic case management services, support, and referral
- Transitioning youth in foster care to independent living as young adults
- Assistance to teens leaving home or at-risk for running away with counseling, family mediation, and housing
- Restorative justice-based programming with the Brattleboro Community Justice Center and Windham County Court Diversion & Pre-Trial Services. Program services engage with community members and referred individuals to repair harm caused by conflict and crime as an alternative to the traditional court system.
- Workforce and career development programs for high school students and young adults
- Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program-substance use prevention for youth and young adults
- Counseling services for young adults including Assessment, Intervention and Recovery
- Youth-led screen-printing business start-up named DemoGraphiX

This year, we respectfully request \$200 from the Town of Halifax to help fund our agency's services. We served several residents from Halifax during Fiscal Year 2023 and remain available to provide services in the future. Your continued support is beneficial to the children, youth and families in your town.

For additional information please see our website at www.youthservicesinc.org, call 802-257-0361 or email info@youthservicesinc.org. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Russell Bradbury-Carlin
Executive Director
Transforming Lives, Inspiring Futures

WARNING
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
HALIFAX, VERMONT

The inhabitants of the Town of Halifax, Vermont who are legal voters in the Town School District Meeting in said Town of Halifax, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the West Halifax Elementary School multi-purpose room in West Halifax on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The Annual Town School District Meeting is called at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot between the hours of 10:00 a.m. (at which time the polls open) and 7:00 p.m. (at which time the polls will close) for the purpose of voting on Article I. All other Articles to be taken up at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

ARTICLE I

To elect a Halifax School Director for (3) years. (By Australian Ballot)

ARTICLE II

Shall the voters of the Halifax School District appropriate
\$2,284,550 necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2024?

ARTICLE III

Shall the voters of the Halifax School District authorize the School Directors to borrow money on
the notes of the Town School District or otherwise in anticipation of taxes.

Dated at Halifax, Vermont, this 24th, day of January 2024

Homer Sumner



Paul Blais



Amy Kamstra

Halifax School Directors