

Town of Sunderland, Vermont



Annual Report

For the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30th, 2023



Notice

Town Business Meeting: Monday, March 4th, 2024 at 7 PM
Sunderland Elementary School, 98 Bear Ridge Road, Sunderland VT

Ballot Boxes Open for Australian Voting:

Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 from 10 AM until 7 PM

Sunderland Town Municipal Building

104 Mountain View Road, Sunderland VT



TOWN OF SUNDERLAND CONTACT INFORMATION

SUNDERLAND TOWN WEBSITE		SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
TOWN CLERK/TREASURER'S OFFICE		802-375-6106
<i>Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm</i>		TOWN@SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	KEVIN HEWES	802-379-4173
		DRHEWES@YAHOO.COM
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS	NEIL HUMPHREY	802-753-8265
	KATHLEEN JOHNSTON	802-375-9315
	AVIS HAYDEN	802-375-1503
FIRE WARDEN/BURN PERMITS	MARC JOHNSTON	802-375-2865
LISTERS		LISTERS@SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
SELECT BOARD		SELECTBOARD@SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/GARAGE		802-375-2865
<i>Hours: Monday through Friday 6:00 am - 2:00 pm</i>		HIGHWAY@SUNDERLANDVT.ORG
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE	JAMES AYREY	802-375-6952
	SALLY AYREY	802-375-6952
	JULIA HUTCHINSON-SMITH	802-430-7297
	TED RAPPAAHNN	TED.RAPPAAHNN@GMAIL.COM
	LORENE ZEIF	LZEIF@COMCAST.NET

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY CALLS - RESCUE SQUAD - FIRE - POLICE		911
STATE POLICE (non-emergency)		802-442-5421
FIRE DEPARTMENT (non-emergency)		802-375-2323
TRANSFER STATION-CASELLA'S		802-375-7345
<i>Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 7:30 am - 2:00pm & Sat. 7:30 am - 11:30am</i>		
BCRC	(Bennington County Regional Commission)	802-442-0713
ARLINGTON POST OFFICE		802-375-6904
MANCHESTER POST OFFICE		802-362-1170
MANCHESTER CENTER POST OFFICE		802-362-3070
MARTHA CANFIELD LIBRARY		802-375-6153
ARLINGTON TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE		802-375-2332
SANDGATE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE		802-375-9075
STRATTON TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE		802-896-6184
STATE FIRE SUPERVISOR	LARS LUND	802-777-4188
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	PATRICK LOWKES	802-747-8127

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Cover Photo: Vermont Quilt featuring Sunderland made and donated to the Town by Avis Hayden

**WARNING
TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The legal voters of the Town of Sunderland, Vermont in the County of Bennington are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Sunderland Elementary School at 98 Bear Ridge Road in said Town on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. to transact the following business: Articles 1 through 14 from the floor.

The legal voters of the Town of Sunderland, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Sunderland Town Municipal Building at 104 Mountain View Road in said Town on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. for voting by Australian Ballot: Articles 15 through 18.

To be acted upon on Monday, March 4, 2024:

Article 1. To elect a Town Moderator.

Article 2. Shall the voters of Sunderland authorize the payment of the personal and property taxes to the Town Treasurer in equal installments with the payments to be in the hands of the Treasurer by Tuesday, October 15th 2024 and Tuesday, April 15th 2025?

Article 3. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$70,000.00** to be added to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund?

Article 4. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$70,000.00** to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund?

Article 5. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be added to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund?

Article 6. Shall the voters of Sunderland establish a reserve fund to be called the Special Projects Fund to be used for projects that benefit the Town of Sunderland and its residents in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804 and fund this reserve fund using anticipated fund balances of up to \$200,000 from the Highway Fund and up to \$65,000 from the General Fund?

Article 7. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of **Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.** (Happy Days Playschool) to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article 8. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$11,000.00** for the support of **Northshire Day School** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article 9. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$1,500.00** for the support of **Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article 10. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$5,000.00** for the support of the **Recreation Park in Arlington** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article 11. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$9,100.00** for the support of the **Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc.** to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article 12. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$700.00** for the support of **Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging** to provide elder services to the residents of the town?

Article 13. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$150.00** for the support of the **Project Against Violent Encounters (P.A.V.E)** to provide victim services to the residents of the town?

Article 14. Discussion of other non-binding business that may come before this meeting.

The following articles will be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 2024:

Article 15. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$ 21,245.00** for the Cemetery Maintenance Budget?

Article 16. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$ 383,627.00** for the General Fund Budget?

Article 17. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of **\$ 544,090.00** for the Highway Fund Budget?

Article 18. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

Cemetery Commissioner – 3 year term

First Constable – 1 year term

Lister – 3 year term

Selectboard Member - 1 year term

Selectboard Member – 3 year term

Delinquent Tax Collector – 1 year term

Second Constable – 1 year term

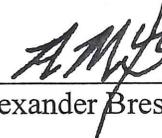
Auditor – 3 year term

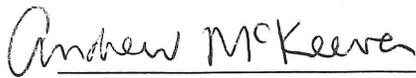
Selectboard Member – 1 year term

Town Moderator- 1 year term

DATED THIS 22 DAY OF JANUARY A.D., 2024
By the Select board members of the Town of Sunderland, VT


Richard Zens, Chair


Alexander Bresnick, Clerk


Andrew McKeever


Bruce Mattison


Martin Nadler

NOTICE TO VOTERS For Local Elections

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by February 4th, 2024. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 24th, 2024

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to mvp.vermont.gov.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at mvp.vermont.gov. The latest you can request ballots for the Annual Town Meeting Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on Monday, March 4th, 2024. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE OF TOWN OFFICIALS

(Unless otherwise warned)

Select Board

2nd and 4th Monday of each month at the Sunderland Town Office Building at 7:00PM

Cemetery Commission

2nd Wednesday of each month (excluding Winter months) at the Sunderland Town Office Building at 10:00AM.

Planning Board

4th Wednesday of each month at the Sunderland Town Office Building at 6:00PM.

Committee Meetings held as Warned.

**ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS
2023-2024**

TOWN MODERATOR

Vacant

TOWN CLERK (3 year term) Expires 2025

Susan Whitney

TOWN TREASURER (3 year term) Expires 2025

Susan Whitney

SELECT BOARD:

3 year term -Expires 2024 -Appointed

Martin Nadler

3 year term -Expires 2025

Andrew McKeever

3 year term -Expires 2026

Bruce Mattison, Road Liason

1 year term -Expires 2024

Richard Zens, Chair

1 year term -Expires 2024

Alexander Bresnick, Clerk

FIRST CONSTABLE (1 year term)

Wayne Godfrey

SECOND CONSTABLE (1 year term)

Kevin Hewes

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR (1 year term)

Richard Davis II

LISTERS:

3 year term -Expires 2024

Peter Van Vleck Jr.

3 year term -Expires 2025

Neil Humphrey

3 year term -Expires 2026

Robert Goodfellow

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS:

3 year term -Expires 2024

Avis Hayden

3 year term -Expires 2025

Neil Humphrey

3 year term -Expires 2026

Kathleen Johnston

AUDITORS:

3 year term -Expires 2024

Vacant

3 year term -Expires 2025

Sally Ayrey

3 year term -Expires 2026

Cathi Comar

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE-Elected November 2022

2 year term expiring February 2025

James Ayrey

2 year term expiring February 2025

Sally Ayrey

2 year term expiring February 2025

Julia Hutchinson Smith

2 year term expiring February 2025

Theodore Rappahahn

2 year term expiring February 2025

Lorene Zeif

**APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS
2023-2024**

(One year term unless otherwise noted)

ANIMAL CONTROL	drhewes@yahoo.com	Kevin Hewes
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	emergencymgmt@sunderlandvt.org	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT- COORDINATOR		Todd Lawrence
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT-ASSISTANT		Morgan Kelley
GREEN-UP CHAIRMAN		Jeff Dexter
HEALTH OFFICER	drhewes@yahoo.com	Kevin Hewes
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER		Vacant
POUND KEEPER		Vacant
SERVICE OFFICER	802-375-9510	Samuel Liss
TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN	802-375-2865	Marc Johnston
TREE WARDEN	802-375-2865	Marc Johnston
WEBMASTER	webmaster@sunderlandvt.org	Susan Whitney
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	zoningadmin@sunderlandvt.org	David Kiernan
PLANNING BOARD:	planningboard@sunderlandvt.org	
Term Expires 2024		Robert Zeif, Chair
Term Expires 2026	3 year appointment	Benjamin Travis
Term Expires 2025	2 year appointment	David Kiernan
Term Expires 2026	3 year appointment	Gordon Dossett
Term Expires 2024		Debra Clark-Fuentes
Term Expires 2024		Michael Pugliese
ZONING BOARD:	zoningboard@sunderlandvt.org	
Term Expires 2026	3 year appointment	Peter Van Vleck Jr.
Term Expires 2026	3 year appointment	Martin Nadler
Term Expires 2024		Matt Vanderberg
Term Expires 2025	2 year appointment	Peter Van Haverbeke
Term Expires 2024		Michael Pugliese
TOWN GRAND JUROR		James Ayrey
BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES: (BCRC)		Richard Zens Andrew McKeever

GENERAL FUND FY25 BUDGET

Account	Budget FY22/23	Actual FY22/23	Budget FY23/24	Anticipated FY23/24	PROPOSED BUDGET FY24/25
Payroll	90,000	74,866	88,000	84,000	93,000
Retirement	3,200	2,209	2,500	2,500	2,500
Fica/Medi/Emp Expense	9,000	7,352	9,000	8,500	9,300
Health Insurance	9,800	-	-	-	3,600
VT Child Care Tax	-	-	-	-	420
Office Equipment/lease	7,000	7,651	2,000	1,500	1,500
Software Maintenance/contracts	-	-	7,000	7,500	7,500
Office Supplies	5,000	4,573	5,000	5,000	5,000
Postage	-	-	1,000	1,300	2,000
Planning Expenses	1,000	-	500	500	200
Zoning Expenses	-	-	500	500	800
Town Meeting	-	-	500	500	500
Tabulator Programming	2,000	853	3,000	2,000	2,000
Town Meeting Officials	1,000	-	1,000	-	-
Town Reports	8,000	959	3,000	2,500	2,000
Electricity	1,500	1,350	1,500	1,500	1,500
Telephone/Internet	3,000	3,029	3,000	3,125	3,300
Heat	2,000	1,111	2,500	2,000	2,500
Office Maintenance	1,200	4,112	1,200	1,200	1,200
Technology Expense	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Office Building Alarm Sys	1,200	1,977	2,000	1,200	1,700
Janitorial	4,000	3,635	3,500	3,250	3,250
Office Bldg Debt Service	25,900	25,833	25,300	25,212	24,025
Dues	2,725	2,411	2,600	2,489	2,600
Benn County Court	14,000	13,360	14,000	17,500	17,900
BCRC	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Insurance	10,000	10,019	11,000	13,500	14,000
Ambulance/Rescue	26,750	26,750	26,750	26,750	26,750
Animal Control	2,000	175	1,000	1,000	500
Green Up Appropriation	50	50	50	50	100
Fire Protection	66,208	66,208	66,208	66,208	72,882
Fire Warden	50	-	50	50	50
Landfill/Recycling	8,800	7,046	8,800	8,300	8,500
Solid Waste Fees	7,000	6,881	13,000	8,000	8,000
Hazardous Waste	1,825	1,823	1,825	1,825	2,000
Law Enforcement	49,000	28,164	49,000	49,000	35,000
Legal	7,000	158	7,000	7,000	7,000
Legal Warnings	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Public Communications-GNAT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Training/Workshops	500	218	500	500	500
Audit	9,750	-	9,750	-	9,750
Employee Appreciation	-	-	-	-	200
Miscellaneous	100	15	100	100	100
General Fund Budget Subtotals	389,558	309,788	383,633	366,059	383,627
VOTED ARTICLES					
Appropriations	28,150	28,150	28,150	28,150	28,150
Tech Reserve-Transfer	-	-	-	-	-
Town Office Bldg-Transfer	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Voted Articles Subtotals	29,650	29,650	29,650	29,650	29,650
Total General Fund Budget with Separately Voted Articles	419,208	339,438	413,283	395,709	413,277

**GENERAL FUND (NON-PROPERTY TAX) REVENUE/INCOME BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1ST, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30TH, 2025**

Account	Budget FY22/23	Actual FY22/23	Budget FY23/24	Anticipated FY23/24	Budget FY24/25
Revenue-Beverage Licenses	115	115	115	115	115
Revenue-Dog Licenses	1,000	1,012	1,000	1,000	1,000
Revenue-Copier/Supply Reimbursement	5	6	5	5	5
Revenue -Zoning Fees	3,500	2,308	3,000	2,000	2,000
Revenue -Hauler Permit Fees	-	15	50	50	50
Revenue-Dog Fines	-	320	-	-	-
Revenue-Traffic Fines	2,500	706	2,400	500	500
Revenue-Checking Interest	500	2,659	500	3,000	2,000
Revenue-Delinquent Taxes Interest	-	2,758	-	1,316	-
Revenue -Late Taxes Interest	-	1,458	-	407	-
Revenue-Current Use Tax Adjustment	20,000	22,049	20,000	22,533	21,500
Revenue-State Property Tax Adjustment	-	11,248	-	12,742	-
Revenue-Fish & Wildlife Tax Adjustment	950	963	950	963	963
Revenue-Railway Tax Adjustment	275	276	275	275	275
Revenue-State Cannabis Control Bd. Fees	-	200	100	100	100
Revenue-Delinquent Taxes Collected	-	123,689	-	16,795	-
Revenue-ARPA Transfer	-	-	-	65,000	-
Revenue-Miscellaneous		1	-	-	-
Total Revenues (EXCLUDING TAXES)	28,845	169,783	28,395	126,801	28,508

Proposed FY24/25 General Fund Expense Budget

383,627

Services included in the General Fund Budget:

<i>Arlington Fire Protection</i>	72,882
<i>Arlington Resue Squad</i>	26,750
<i>GNAT</i>	2,000
<i>Green Up Vermont</i>	100

FY24/25 Articles to be Voted Upon:

Town Office Building Reserve Fund	1,500
Arlington Area Childcare Inc.	700
Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Services	1,500
Arlington Recreation Park	5,000
Martha Canfield Memorial Library	9,100
Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE)	150
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	700
Northshire Day School	11,000
SUBTOTAL	29,650

Proposed FY24/25 General Fund Expense Budget with Articles

413,277

HIGHWAY FUND FY25 BUDGET

Account	Budget FY22/23	Actual FY22/23	Budget FY23/24	Anticipated FY23/24	PROPOSED BUDGET FY24/25
Payroll	140,000	128,378	194,200	190,000	197,000
Retirement	7,550	5,950	9,700	9,500	9,900
Fica/Medi	11,000	10,276	15,600	15,275	15,825
Health Insurance	14,000	13,305	28,400	29,000	32,250
Dental Insurance	1,300	1,196	1,800	1,800	1,800
VT Childcare Tax	0	0	-	0	915
Electric	1,500	1,424	1,500	1,500	1,500
Telephone/Computer	1,500	1,514	1,550	1,515	1,550
Heat- Propane	4,000	2,970	7,500	4,400	5,600
Garage Maint/Supplies	4,500	5,063	4,500	4,500	4,500
Insurance	20,000	15,146	21,000	18,000	21,000
Storm Wtr Runoff St Permi	2,400	1,765	2,250	2,250	2,250
Sublet Services	7,000	6,650	8,000	4,875	3,000
Trash	1,500	618	1,000	850	1,000
Training/CDL/Testing	500	445	500	500	500
Uniforms	1,700	1,353	2,500	2,500	2,500
Tools/Safety	1,000	1,599	1,000	1,000	1,000
Road Signs	800	413	800	800	800
Culverts	4,000	4,068	5,500	5,500	5,500
General Truck Maintenance	45,000	42,499	50,000	50,000	55,000
Diesel & Gas	25,000	34,328	30,000	32,000	30,000
Radio Maint/Service	1,000	1,981	1,800	1,750	1,800
Erosion Control	1,500	1,511	2,000	2,000	2,000
Weed Control	-	380	-	0	-
Sand	23,000	22,632	25,500	25,500	25,500
Salt	55,000	56,463	60,000	60,000	60,000
Road Material-gravel/stone	30,000	28,370	35,000	35,000	35,000
Cold Patch	675	912	1,000	1,000	1,200
Chloride	12,000	11,998	16,000	16,000	16,000
Pavement Marking	8,000	29	8,750	8,750	8,750
Employee Appreciation	0	0	-	0	200
Miscellaneous	250	44	250	250	250
Highway Fund Budget Subtotals	425,675	403,280	537,600	526,015	544,090
Bridge Co-op Fund-Transfer	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
Equip Reserve Fund-Transfer	65,000	65,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Paving Reserve-Transfer	65,000	65,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Guardrail Reserve-Transfer	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	-
Road Projects Reserve-Transfer	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	-
Sun. Hill Rd Safety-Transfer	52,000	52,000	-	0	-
Voted Transfers Subtotals	203,500	203,500	161,500	161,500	140,000
Total Highway Fund Budget with Separately Voted Transfers	629,175	606,780	699,100	687,515	684,090

**HIGHWAY FUND (NON-PROPERTY TAX) REVENUE/INCOME BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1ST, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30TH, 2025**

Account	Budget FY22/23	Actual FY22/23	Budget FY23/24	Anticipated FY23/24	Budget FY24/25
Revenue-Overweight Permits	200	200	200	200	200
Revenue-Interest earned	400	363	300	2,300	400
Revenue-State Aid to Hwys	95,000	89,333	88,000	92,002	89,000
Revenue-Road Cut Permits	40	20	40	50	40
Revenue-National Forest	62,000	64,093	62,000	68,673	64,000
Revenue-ARPA Transfer	-	-	-	200,000	-
Total Revenues (EXCLUDING TAXES)	157,640	154,009	150,540	363,225	153,640
Proposed FY24/25 Highway Fund Expense Budget					544,090
FY24/25 Articles to be Voted Upon:					
Bridge Co-op Reserve Fund					-
Equipment Reserve Fund					70,000
Paving Reserve					70,000
Guardrail Reserve					-
Road Projects Reserve					-
SUBTOTAL					140,000
Proposed FY24/25 Highway Expense Budget with Articles					684,090

CEMETERY FUND FY25 BUDGET

Account	Budget FY22/23	Actual FY22/23	Budget FY23/24	Anticipated FY23/24	PROPOSED BUDGET FY24/25
Payroll	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	3,000
Fica/Medi	-	172	172	172	230
VT Childcare Tax	-	-	-	-	15
Sublet Mowing & Maint	13,000	10,800	13,000	13,000	13,000
Cornerstones/Foundation	-	5,270	-	-	-
Supplies	-	1,014	578	578	1,000
Headstone cleaning/repair	8,000	-	-	-	2,000
Mapping Services	-	-	-	-	2,000
Cemetery Fund Budget Totals	23,250	19,506	16,000	16,000	21,245

2023 Cemetery Commission Report

Commissioners have continued to authorize the cleaning and repair of headstones at the old portion of the Ira Allen Cemetery; including the large Perry headstone (1800's) which was in danger of toppling over.

Commissioners have authorized the mowing crew to remove large shrubbery from headstones at both Ira Allen and Lawrence Cemeteries to clear obstructions and prevent severe leaning of the stones.

Commissioners secured ARPA funds to engage our town historian, William Budde, to examine all three of our cemeteries (Lawrence, Mt. Pleasant, Ira Allen) to document the names and locations of those buried. As part of this work, Mr. Budde and his daughter will note the condition of the stones and highlight those in need of repair or cleaning. Because this work is more extensive than initially expected, Commissioners will request additional ARPA funds.

Commissioners purchased and mounted new signs for each of the three Sunderland cemeteries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Johnston
Avis Hayden
Neil Humphrey

2024-2025

Proposed Schedule of Salaries, Wages and Allowable Expenses

Animal Control Officer	\$ 225.00	Monthly
Auditors	\$ 20.00	Hourly
Board of Civil Authority	\$ 20.00	Hourly
Cemetery Commissioners	\$ 1,000.00	Annually
Constables	\$ 20.00	Hourly
Delinquent Tax Collector	Fees Collected	
Emergency Management-Coordinator	\$ 20.00	Hourly
Emergency Management-Assistant	\$ 20.00	Hourly
Health Officer	\$ 20.00	Hourly
Health Officer Deputy	\$ 20.00	Hourly
Listers	\$ 20.00	Hourly
Listers-Chairman	\$ 30.00	Hourly
Moderator	\$ 100.00	per Meeting
Planning Board Member	\$ 700.00	Annually
Recording Secretary	\$ 21.00	Hourly
Road Foreman	\$ 34.10	Hourly
Road Worker	\$ 26.25	Hourly
Road Worker	\$ 21.75	Hourly
Select Board- Chairperson	\$ 2,000.00	Annually
Select Board- Member	\$ 1,500.00	Annually
Service Officer	\$ 20.00	Hourly
Town Clerk	\$ 21,630.00	Annually plus Fees
Town Clerk/Treasurer Assistant	\$ 23.00	Hourly
Town Treasurer	\$ 16,222.50	Annually
Webmaster	\$ 2,400.00	Annually
Zoning Administrator	\$ 31.00	Hourly
Zoning Board - Chairperson	\$ 350.00	Annually
Zoning Board - Secretary	\$ 300.00	Annually
Zoning Board - Member	\$ 200.00	Annually

Mileage Reimbursement

Federal Rate per Mile

Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement

Cash Balance for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Bank of Bennington	6/30/2023 Statement Balance	1,133,627.28
Petty Cash on Hand	6/30/2023	100.00
Subtotal Cash Balance as of June 30th, 2023		1,133,727.28
Less Outstanding Checks (Payments Remaining Uncashed as of 6/30/2023)		(20,039.39)
Total Fund Balance as of June 30th, 2023		1,113,687.89

General Fund Cash Balance	6/30/2023	74,132.51
Highway Fund Cash Balance	6/30/2023	18,763.16
Cemetery Fund Cash Balance	6/30/2023	3,778.26
Reserve/Savings/Trust Funds Cash Balance	6/30/2023	728,413.59
ARPA (American Rescue) Fund Cash Balance	6/30/2023	288,600.37
Total Balance on Hand by Fund as of June 30th, 2023		1,113,687.89

Town Auditor's Statement of Opinion

The accompanying financial statements of the Town of Sunderland for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 were supplied by the Town Treasurer. The Auditors' responsibility is to review these financial statements and offer an opinion of the accuracy of the information contained therein. Based upon the review, it is our opinion that the financial position of the Town of Sunderland as of June 30, 2023, has been presented fairly and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Sally Ayrey
Catherine Comar
Town of Sunderland Auditors

Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2022	\$ 64,711.68
Fiscal 22/23 Revenues:	
Tax Revenues-Current	\$ 173,310.70
Tax Revenues-Delinquent Collected	\$ 123,689.34
Redeemed Property Revenue	\$ -
State of VT-Property Tax Adjustments	\$ 11,248.00
State of VT-Current Use Tax	\$ 22,049.00
State of VT-Railway Tax	\$ 276.03
State of VT-Fish & Wildlife Tax	\$ 962.61
Interest Earned	\$ 2,658.84
Interest-Delinquent Taxes	\$ 2,757.82
Interest-Late Paid Taxes	\$ 1,458.22
Dog Licenses & Penalties	\$ 1,332.00
Beverage Licenses	\$ 115.00
Hauler Permits	\$ 15.00
Zoning Fees	\$ 2,308.30
Traffic Fines	\$ 705.86
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 7.08
Cannabis Control Board Fees	\$ 200.00
Total Revenues	\$ 343,093.80
Fiscal 22/23 Disbursements:	
Orders PR 1- PR 52 Paid:	
Payroll - Wages & Retirement	\$ (77,075.15)
Payroll - Expenses	\$ (7,352.10)
Orders GF 1- GF 25 Paid:	
Office Building Debt Service	\$ (25,833.48)
Services, Insurance & Dues	\$ (170,262.06)
Operational Expenses	\$ (29,265.00)
Voted Appropriations	\$ (28,150.00)
Subtotal Disbursements	\$ (337,937.79)
Voted Transfers to Reserve Accounts:	
Tech Reserve Fund	\$ -
Town Office Building Reserve Fund	\$ (1,500.00)
Subtotal Inter-Fund Transfers	\$ (1,500.00)
Grand Total Disbursed	\$ (339,437.79)
Ending Balance- 6/30/2023	\$ 68,367.69
Plus Outstanding Payables	\$ 5,764.82
Cash On Hand (Bank & Petty)-6/30/2023	\$ 74,132.51

Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
HIGHWAY FUND

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2022	\$ 77,254.60
Fiscal 22/23 Revenues:	
Tax Revenues	\$ 394,280.00
Interest Earned	\$ 362.53
Overweight Permits	\$ 200.00
Road Cut Permits	\$ 20.00
State Aid to Highways	\$ 89,332.86
National Forest Revenue	\$ 64,093.00
Insurance Reimbursement	\$ -
Total Revenues	\$ 548,288.39
Fiscal 22/23 Disbursements:	
Orders PR 1- PR 52 Paid:	
Payroll - Wages & Retirement	\$ (134,328.44)
Payroll - Expenses	\$ (10,276.20)
Orders HF 1- HF 26 Paid:	
Equipment Maintenance & Supplies	\$ (76,826.80)
Road Maint. Materials & Supplies	\$ (128,374.67)
Operational Expenses	\$ (53,473.72)
Subtotal Disbursements	\$ (403,279.83)
Voted Transfers to Reserve Accounts:	
Bridge Co-op Reserve Fund	\$ (5,000.00)
Equipment Reserve Fund	\$ (65,000.00)
Paving Reserve Fund	\$ (65,000.00)
Road Projects Reserve Fund	\$ (15,000.00)
Sunderland Hill Rd. Safety Fund	\$ (52,000.00)
Guardrail Reserve Fund	\$ (1,500.00)
Subtotal Inter-Fund Transfers	\$ (203,500.00)
Grand Total Disbursed	\$ (606,779.83)
Ending Balance-Cash in Bank 6/30/2023	\$ 18,763.16

**Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
 Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
 CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND**

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2022	\$ 6,768.39
 Fiscal 22/23 Revenues:	
Tax Revenues	\$ 16,482.00
Interest Earned	\$ 33.86
Total Revenues	\$ 16,515.86
 Fiscal 22/23 Disbursements:	
Orders CEM 1- CEM 9 Paid:	
Payroll - Wages	\$ (2,250.00)
Payroll - Expenses	\$ (172.14)
Mowing and Maintenance	\$ (10,800.00)
Foundations/Stones	\$ (5,270.00)
Supplies	\$ (1,013.85)
Total Disbursed	\$ (19,505.99)
Ending Balance-Cash in Bank 6/30/2023	\$ 3,778.26

Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
RESERVES-INVESTMENT, SAVINGS & TRUSTS

Account	Beginning Balance 7/1/2022	Interest Earned	Transfers In & Other Revenues	Transfers Out & Expenses	Ending Balance 6/30/2023
Record Preservation	\$ 16,452.37	\$ 208.92	\$ 4,126.00	\$ (1,200.00)	\$ 19,587.29
Landfill Litigation	\$ 12,843.11	\$ 147.04			\$ 12,990.15
Municipal Building	\$ 7,195.77	\$ 98.13	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 8,793.90
Technology	\$ 6,049.20	\$ 65.52	\$ -	\$ (500.00)	\$ 5,614.72
Tri-centennial	\$ 288.47	\$ 3.31			\$ 291.78
Cemetery Trust	\$ 101,344.92	\$ 1,216.13	\$ 6,700.00		\$ 109,261.05
Highway Equipment	\$ 56,907.53	\$ 1,394.50	\$ 70,600.00	\$ -	\$ 128,902.03
Paving	\$ 70,849.19	\$ 1,361.87	\$ 65,000.00	\$ (73,960.20)	\$ 63,250.86
Bridge Co-op	\$ 42,514.09	\$ 536.59	\$ 5,311.27	\$ (700.40)	\$ 47,661.55
Housing Re-hab	\$ 6,299.74	\$ 72.14			\$ 6,371.88
National Forest	\$ 64,941.67	\$ 743.52			\$ 65,685.19
Guardrails	\$ 11,808.91	\$ 150.97	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 13,459.88
Reappraisal	\$ 125,319.41	\$ 1,475.37	\$ 5,958.50		\$ 132,753.28
Road Projects	\$ 30,865.66	\$ 687.52	\$ 36,506.73	\$ (8,698.51)	\$ 59,361.40
Sunderland Hill Rd. Safety	\$ 1,861.54	\$ 567.09	\$ 52,000.00		\$ 54,428.63
VLCT Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,494.00	\$ (1,494.00)	\$ -
	<u>\$ 555,541.58</u>	<u>\$ 8,728.62</u>	<u>\$ 250,696.50</u>	<u>\$ (86,553.11)</u>	<u>\$ 728,413.59</u>

**Town of Sunderland Treasurer's Statement
 Receipts & Disbursements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
 ARPA (American Rescue Plan) FUND**

Beginning Balance-Cash in Bank 7/01/2022	\$ 142,779.84
Fiscal 22/23 Revenues:	
Grant Revenues	\$ 142,656.62
Interest Earned	\$ 3,163.91
Total Revenues	\$ 145,820.53
Fiscal 22/23 Disbursements:	
NONE	\$ -
Total Disbursed	\$ -
Ending Balance-Cash in Bank 6/30/2023	\$ 288,600.37

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
TOWN CLERK'S STATEMENT OF
DOG LICENSE SALES
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 2023**

2022 - July 1st Through December 31st

2 New Neutered/Spayed	@ \$13.00	\$	26.00
1 New Males/Females	@ \$17.00	\$	17.00
2022 Subtotal			\$ 43.00

2023 -January 1st through June 30th

127 Neutered/Spayed	@ \$13.00	\$	1,651.00
26 Males/Females	@ \$17.00	\$	442.00
28 Late Neutered/Spayed	@ \$17.00	\$	476.00
4 Late Males/Females	@ \$23.00	\$	92.00
32 Late Fines	@ \$10.00	\$	320.00
2023 Subtotal			\$ 2,981.00

July 1st, 2022 through June 30th, 2023 Grand Total	\$ 3,024.00
Less Town Clerk Fees 188 @ \$4.00	\$ (752.00)
Less State of Vermont Fees 188 @ \$5.00	\$ (940.00)
Total General Fund Revenue	
\$ 1,332.00	

All dogs are required to be licensed by **April 1st** of each year.
The licenses for the new year are available beginning January 1st.
A copy of a current (non-expired) rabies vaccination certificate is **required** for licensing.



Second Chance Animal Center organizes a low-cost rabies vaccine clinic each March to help you comply with dog registration requirements. Watch their Facebook page or call 802-375-2898 to find out this year's schedule. They also offer a fee-waived pet food pantry, low-cost spay/neuter clinic, and other programs to assist Bennington County residents to care for their pets.

TAX RATES

			<u>Grand List</u>
General Fund Amount to be Raised	\$ 291,221.00	÷	\$ 1,566,791.28
			Rate = \$ 0.1859
Municipal Bldg. Debt Amount to be Raised	\$ 25,300.00	÷	\$ 1,566,791.28
			Rate = \$ 0.0161
Highway Fund Amount to be Raised	\$ 529,797.00	÷	\$ 1,566,791.28
			Rate = \$ 0.3381
Cemetery Fund Amount to be Raised	\$ 12,222.00	÷	\$ 1,566,791.28
			Rate = \$ 0.0078
Local Agreement to be Raised	\$ 5,243.35	÷	\$ 1,566,791.28
			Rate = \$ 0.0034

By the authority duly granted by Title 17 Sec. 2664 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, we do hereby establish the foregoing rates of taxation for the 2023-2024 fiscal year which concludes June 30, 2024

Bruce Mattison
 Bruce Mattison

Richard Zens
 Richard Zens

Andrew McKeever
 Andrew McKeever

Alexander Bresnick
 Alexander Bresnick

Sunderland Town Loan # 556 Series 2017-4
Vermont Municipal Bond Bank
Series 2013-1 Loan #21 Original Principal \$351,000

Date	Principal	Interest	Rebate	TTL Due
2013-11	0	3,947	0	3,947
2014-05	0	5,872	0	5,872
2014-11	17,550	5,872	0	23,422
2015-05	0	5,802	0	5,802
2015-11	17,550	5,802	0	23,352
2016-05	0	5,699	0	5,699
2016-11	17,550	5,699	0	23,249
2017-05	0	5,561	0	5,561
2017-11	17,550	5,561	-875	22,236
2018-05	0	5,392	0	5,392
2018-11	17,550	5,392	-238	22,704
2019-05	0	5,188	0	5,188
2019-11	17,550	5,188	-224	22,514
2020-05	0	4,955	0	4,955
2020-11	17,550	4,955	-248	22,257
2021-05	0	4,698	0	4,698
2021-11	17,550	4,698	-243	22,005
2022-05	0	4,416	0	4,416
2022-11	17,550	4,416	-245	21,721
2023-05	0	4,112	0	4,112
2023-11	17,550	4,112	-244	21,418
2024-05	0	3,793	0	3,793
2024-11	17,550	3,793	-782	20,561
2025-05	0	3,460	0	3,460
2025-11	17,550	3,460	-702	20,308
2026-05	0	3,110	0	3,110
2026-11	17,550	3,110	-686	19,974
2027-05	0	2,750	0	2,750
2027-11	17,550	2,750	-673	19,627
2028-05	0	2,380	0	2,380
2028-11	17,550	2,380	-663	19,267
2029-05	0	2,000	0	2,000
2029-11	17,550	2,000	-762	18,788
2030-05	0	1,610	0	1,610
2030-11	17,550	1,610	-660	18,500
2031-05	0	1,215	0	1,215
2031-11	17,550	1,215	-661	18,104
2032-05	0	813	0	813
2032-11	17,550	813	-573	17,790
2033-05	0	408	0	408
2033-11	17,550	408	-365	17,593
	351,000	150,415	(8,844)	492,571

Town of Sunderland Selectboard Annual Report 2023

This has been a great year for Sunderland, coming out of the Pandemic and turbulent storms in very good financial position and surviving minimal damage to our town. Our town Highway Crew has continued to do an amazing job, quickly clearing debris and snow from the many storms and keeping our roads safe year-round. Marc Johnston has added a 3rd member to the crew, ensuring full coverage during any unexpected hazards that we may experience.

The town has received \$285,246 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a federal program to help towns recovering for the Covid Pandemic. Our town's ARPA Committee has solicited suggestions from our residents for the best way to spend these funds that will benefit the town's population. A small portion of these funds have been committed to updating our aging computers and printers at Town Hall, and we are adding an audio/video system so community folks can view and interact with our boards' meetings via ZOOM.

Our Energy committee has been very active working to reduce our fossil fuel usage (saving the town & residents money). Window Dressers, a program for inexpensive storm windows, has residents volunteering to build and install these at minimal cost to businesses or homeowners. Sunderland's Energy Committee has also established Sunderland as the **FIRST** in southern Vermont as a "Green Procurement Town" which will offer suggestions on town purchases to minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

The Town has submitted a request to the State to establish a "Village Center" designation, which will allow the Town to apply for grants to form an official center on the Rte. 7A corridor. The Town will be working with Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) for planning the layout for our Village Center.

The Select board and Planning boards have been working together to install "Welcome to Sunderland" signs on Rte. 7A and possibly on Sunderland Hill Road. The Sunderland Elementary School had 26 students draw their ideas for a welcome sign. These were quite amazing artists!

Susan Whitney continues to do a fabulous job as our Town Clerk & Treasurer. Her efforts, with the help of Caroline Hartshorn, have kept our town running smoothly. THANK YOU!

Please check the Town's Web Site for announcements, meetings, agendas, and minutes for all our committees and boards. <https://sunderlandvt.org/>

Town of Sunderland Delinquent Tax Collectors Report

Delinquent Taxes as of 12/31/2023

<u>Parcel - Property Owner</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Total</u>
0459 - Phillip Ackermann				3683.44	3683.44
0186 - Ronnie Allaire				97.34	97.34
0229 - Ronnie Allaire				97.35	97.35
0835 - Phyliss Allen	41.50	83.28	82.22	78.66	285.66
0318 - William Caruolo				1255.43	1255.43
0567 - Gene Cole			888.06	849.57	1737.63
0646 - Valerie Donatelli	2583.75	2592.22	2559.34	2448.42	10,183.73
0472 - Donna Livingston				851.76	851.76
0689 - Richard Maddaloni				1226.62	1226.62
0632 - Richard Marzec			156.75	296.96	453.71
0832 - Barbara Porcaro	1028.09	5017.86	4954.24	4735.91	15,736.10
0762 - Gerald Wilcox			121.28	243.85	365.13

Richard Davis II

Sunderland Delinquent Tax Collector

2023 VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Name	Date of Event
Kelley, Foster Harris	2/16/2023
Horton, Genevieve Rose	3/28/2023
Travis, Barrett Thomas	5/23/2023
Lewicki, Scarlett Daniele	5/26/2023
Secoy, Phoebe Eve	6/15/2023
Murphy, Nathaniel John Eugene	6/27/2023
Wilkins, Bridger Harvey	7/13/2023
Antonez, Fiona Bea	11/1/2023
Smith, Sutton Ruth Anne	11/27/2023

DEATHS

Name	Date of Event
Fisher, Donald W.	1/28/2023
Jenks, Lillian Rose	4/1/2023
Kenney, Barbara Aileen	5/30/2023
Jenks, George Hugh, Jr.	6/18/2023
Arons, Martin	6/25/2023
Jamieson, Devon Michael	7/6/2023
Knapp, Jean M.	9/14/2023
Holden, Mark A.	10/26/2023
Pease, Emily	11/28/2023

MARRIAGES

Names	Date of Event
Harrington, Robyn Virginia	3/9/2023
McGunnigle, Brian Patrick	
Navarra, Juliann Carmela	5/4/2023
Filipkowski, Christopher Johnathan	
Neubauer, Becky Marie	6/16/2023
Wilkins, Shannon David	
Warren, Brenna A.	8/5/2023
Massaro, Joseph James	

**TOWN OF SUNDERLAND
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES AND RESULTS**

MARCH 6TH & 7TH, 2023

Select Board Chair, Jon French called the Town of Sunderland Annual Meeting to order at 7:00PM with an attendance of 37.

Board Chair French introduced the select board members, Alexander Bresnick, Andrew McKeever, Dixie Zens and Bruce Mattison and town clerk, Susan Whitney.

Article 1. To elect a Town Moderator. Board Chair French asked for nominations. Dixie Zens nominated Andrew McKeever. No other nominations were received. Alex Bresnick seconded the nomination. All in favor, Andrew McKeever was declared Moderator.

Moderator McKeever stated it had been 23 years since he last moderated and asked all to bear with him. He welcomed everyone back to the first in-person annual meeting since COVID. Moderator McKeever asked if this was anyone's first town meeting and received a show of hands.

Moderator McKeever asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the warning. Martin Nadler moved, Becca Herrington seconded, all in favor.

Article 2. Shall the voters of Sunderland authorize the payment of the personal and property taxes to the Town Treasurer in equal installments with the payments to be in the hands of the Treasurer by Monday, October 16th, 2023 and Monday, April 15th, 2024?

Alex Bresnick moved, Martin Nadler seconded. All in favor. Motion passed with no discussion.

Article 3. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$70,000 to be added to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund?

Melanie Virgilio moved the question. Martin Nadler seconded. Joe Boutin asked Road Foreman, Marc Johnston if there was a particular piece of equipment the money would be used for? Road Foreman Johnston stated a new dump truck would be the next item purchased and noted the current price for a truck is over \$200,000. Board Chair, Jon French stated there was \$127,938.96 in the reserve at this time. With no further discussion, Article 3 was unanimously approved.

Article 4. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$70,000 to be added to the Paving Reserve Fund?

The question was moved by Melanie Virgilio, seconded by Richard Goddard. Joe Boutin asked Road Foreman Marc Johnston which roads were being considered for paving? Road Foreman Johnston stated he was obtaining pricing to do Borough Road. The price would determine how far it could be done. Martin Nadler asked if there was a plan to pave Flynn Hollow Road? Road Foreman Johnston replied in the future. With no further discussion, Article 4 was unanimously approved.

Article 5. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Road Projects Reserve Fund?

Alex Bresnick moved the question. Seconded by JoAnn Rappahahn. All in favor. Motion passed with no discussion.

Article 6. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the State/Town Bridge Co-Op Reserve Fund?

The question was moved by Melanie Virgilio, seconded by Virginia Dexter. No discussion followed. Motion approved with all in favor.

Article 7. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$1,500 to be added to the Guardrail Reserve Fund?

Melanie Virgilio moved the question. Martin Nadler seconded. No discussion. Motion approved with all in favor.

Article 8. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$1,500 to be added to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund?

Martin Nadler moved the question, seconded by Melanie Virgilio. Joe Boutin asked if it was true that building maintenance spent that amount of money this past year? The select board and treasurer confirmed the building maintenance line is currently over budget. With no further discussion, the motion passed with all in favor.

At 7:12PM with the arrival of State Representatives Kathleen James, Seth Bongartz and David Durfee, Moderator McKeever paused the meeting and turned the microphone over to the State Representatives to address their constituents. The meeting resumed at 7:45PM.

Article 9. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$700.00 for the support of Arlington Area Childcare, Inc. (Happy Days Playschool) to provide services to the residents of the town?

Martin Nadler moved the question, seconded by Melanie Virgilio. No one was present from the organization to answer enrollment questions. Alex Bresnick asked if anyone knew why the request from Arlington Area Childcare was so different from Northshire Day School's request. Lauren McGrath said she could address how Northshire came to their number, but could not address how Arlington Area Childcare did. She stated Northshire is trying to close a deficit and to meet goals to make childcare more affordable and retain staff. Motion passed with all in favor.

Article 10. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$11,000.00 for the support of Northshire Day School to provide services to the residents of the town?

Article was moved by Martin Nadler and seconded by Suzanne Thompson. Irene Nadler read a prepared statement in support of the Northshire Day School and the importance of early childhood programs for the later school success. Suzanne Thompson stated her children are flourishing at Northshire Day School. Richard Goddard asked what age group was served? Lauren McGrath responded that they serve children from 6 weeks to kindergarten. Nick Gault stated the cost, without subsidy, to send his child to Northshire is \$313 per week, over \$16,000 per year. No further discussion, motion approved.

Article 11. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$1,500.00 for the support of Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc. to provide services to the residents of the town?

Melanie Virgilio moved the question. Martin Nadler seconded. No discussion. Motion approved with all in favor.

Article 12. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$5,000.00 for the support of Recreation Park in Arlington to provide services to the residents of the town?

Virginia Dexter moved the article, Martin Nadler seconded. No discussion. Motion approved with all in favor.

Article 13. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$9,100.00 for the support of Martha Canfield Memorial Free Library, Inc. to provide services to the residents of the town?

Martin Nadler moved the question. Jeff Dexter seconded. No discussion. Motion approved with all in favor.

Article 14. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$700.00 for the support of Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging to provide elder services to the residents of the town?

Caroline Hartshorn moved the question, Richard Goddard seconded. No discussion followed. Motion was approved with all in favor.

Article 15. Shall the voters of Sunderland vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$150.00 for the support of Project Against Violent Encounters (P.A.V.E.) to provide victim services to the residents of the town?

Virginia Dexter moved the article, Melanie Virgilio seconded. No discussion. Motion approved with all in favor.

Article 16. Discussion of other non-binding business that may come before this meeting.

Moderator McKeever introduced Jeff Dexter, Chair of the Sunderland Energy Committee. Jeff stated the committee has been reviewing energy efficiency at the town municipal buildings in conjunction with Act 172 Municipal Resiliency. The committee is also doing the Windows Dresser project for the third year. Window inserts are built to mitigate drafts and help residents save on their fuel bills. Costs for residents is very reasonable and residents may qualify for free inserts.

Jeff also spoke regarding the progress of the installation of a State of Vermont historical marker honoring Lucy Prince. The area where Lucy Prince lived was near Ondawa Road. Jeff acknowledged Avis and Jim Hayden for their research into Lucy's history and family, as well as Avis's contribution in the making of a quilt to honor Lucy.

Jeff noted Green Up day will be May 7th.

Jeff thanked the select board and town staff.

Dixie Zens, select board Solid Waste Representative, shared that a permanent hazardous waste facility is being built in Bennington and should be operational this summer.

Joe Boutin asked if zoning was being changed to encourage more housing? Board Chair Jon French said that would be through the Planning Board, but did not think they were addressing that yet. Joe Boutin asked if there was any Air BnB regulation being addressed. Board Chair French replied the Planning Board was currently working on it.

Moderator McKeever reminded everyone that Articles 17 through 20 would be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday from 10 AM until 7 PM and asked if there were any questions or discussion.

David Traver Adolphus asked Road Foreman Johnston how the costs of maintaining a dirt road, such as Flynn Hollow, compares to the cost of paving? Road Foreman Johnston would have to research and go back through the worksheets for those costs.

Joe Boutin asked if the town was going to have a reappraisal? Dixie Zens replied we are having a state mandated reappraisal. Melanie Virgilio asked about the reappraisal process. Does everyone's change once the reappraisal is finished, not as each one is done? Chairman French confirmed that is correct.

Jeff Dexter asked about the ARPA funds. Board Chair French said the select board had held a few meetings to discuss possible uses for the funds, but the meetings were not well attended. They will be scheduling additional meetings to receive more input.

Moderator McKeever asked if there were any more questions or discussion. With no further discussion, Jeff Dexter made the motion to adjourn this portion of the meeting. Seconded by Alyson Grzyb. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Polls were declared open on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 at 10:00AM by Town Clerk Susan Whitney and closed at 7:00PM. Balloting Results as follows:

Article 17. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$16,000.00 for the Cemetery Maintenance Budget?

YES - 147

NO - 11

BLANK – 8

Total - 166

Article 18. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$383,633.00 for the General Fund Budget?

YES - 147

NO - 11

BLANK – 7

OVERVOTE- 1

Total – 166

Article 19. Shall the voters of Sunderland approve the sum of \$537,600.00 for the Highway Fund Budget?

YES - 142

NO - 20

BLANK – 4

Total – 166

Article 20. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers, as required by law:

(* Denotes elected)

Auditor, Remaining 1 year of 3 year term

Write in	1
Blank	165
TOTAL	166

Cemetery Commissioner, 3 year term

Kathleen Johnston	142*
Blank	24
TOTAL	166

Auditor, 3 year term

Catherine Comar	138*
Blank	28
TOTAL	166

Cemetery Commissioner, Remaining 1 year of 3 year term

Avis C. Hayden	142*
Blank	24
TOTAL	166

Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year term

Write in: Richard Davis II	18*
Write in: Others	2
Blank	146
TOTAL	166

First Constable, 1 year term

Wayne Godfrey	130*
Write in	3
Blank	33
TOTAL	166

Second Constable, 1 year term

Kevin R. Hewes	132*
Write in	1
Blank	33
TOTAL	166

Lister, 3 year term

Robert Goodfellow	131*
Blank	35
TOTAL	166

Lister, Remaining 2 years of 3 year term

Neil Humphrey	140*
Blank	26
TOTAL	166

Select Board, 3 year term

Bruce Mattison	141*
Blank	25
TOTAL	166

Select Board, 1 year term- 2 positions

Alexander Bresnick	119*
Richard "Dixie" Zens	120*
Write in	1
Blank	92
TOTAL	332

Town Moderator, 1 year term

Write in: Others	9
Blank	157
TOTAL	166

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Whitney, Town Clerk

**SOUTHWEST VERMONT REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO V009
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 4TH AND MARCH 5TH, 2024**

The legal voters of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District Service Region (consisting of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, North Bennington, Pownal, Readsboro, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford) are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED to meet at the Southwest Tech School, Assembly Room, 321 Park Street, Bennington, Vermont or to participate in the meeting remotely via the Zoom computer application/program utilizing meeting ID: 401 249 4607 with Passcode: 5551212 or by dialing in at one of the following phone numbers 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247 or by joining using direct meeting link <https://svcdc.zoom.us/j/4012494607?pwd=c1JvUmNrV29SelpmR2VDM3FyOTFJZz09> on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 5:30 o'clock in the evening (5:30 PM) to transact the following business from the floor:

- ARTICLE 1: To establish the annual salaries of the District Directors at \$1,500 each.
- ARTICLE 2: To establish the annual salary of the District Treasurer at \$14,200.
- ARTICLE 3: To establish the annual salary of the District Clerk at \$1,200.
- ARTICLE 4: To establish the annual salary of the Assistant District Clerk at \$600.
- ARTICLE 5: To establish the annual salary of the District Moderator at \$100.
- ARTICLE 6: To authorize the School District Board to borrow money in anticipation of revenues to meet current operating expenses of the District for the 2024-2025 school year.
- ARTICLE 7: To hold a public informational hearing on articles to be voted upon by Australian Ballot on March 5, 2024.
- ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business found proper when met.

The legal voters of Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District #V009 are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED FURTHER to meet on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, when the polls will be open to transact business by Australian ballot as follows:

- ARTICLE A: To elect four (4) School Directors, who are legal residents of the Service Region as listed above in accordance with the bylaws of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District for three (3) year terms.
- ARTICLE B: Shall the voters of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District approve the school board to expend \$4,817,556 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?
- ARTICLE C: Shall the voters of the Service Region of Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District increase the existing Reserve Fund for Capital Improvements and existing Reserve Fund for Equipment by the sums of \$60,000 and \$20,000 respectively?

Voting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 shall be at large by Australian ballot. The polls will be open as indicated below for each respective town, as follows:

Residents of Arlington vote at Arlington Memorial High School, 529 East Arlington Road, Arlington, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Bennington vote at Bennington Fire Department, 130 River Street, Bennington, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Dorset vote at The Dorset School, 130 School Drive, Dorset, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Glastenbury vote at Shaftsbury Town Garage, 526 North Road, Shaftsbury, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Manchester vote at Manchester Town Hall, 40 Jeff Williams Way, Manchester Center, Vermont. Polls will be open from 8 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of North Bennington vote at North Bennington Trustees Office, 2 Depot Street, North Bennington, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Pownal vote at the Town Office, 511 Center Street, Pownal, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Readsboro vote at Readsboro Central School, 301 Phelps Lane, Readsboro, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Sandgate vote at the Sandgate Town Hall, 3266 Sandgate Road, Sandgate, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Searsburg vote at Searsburg Town Office, 18 Town Garage Road, Searsburg, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Shaftsbury vote at Town Garage, 526 North Road, Shaftsbury, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Residents of Stamford vote at Stamford Elementary School Community Room, 986 Main Road, Stamford, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

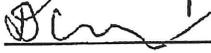
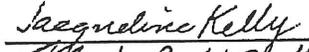
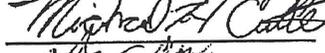
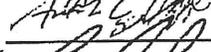
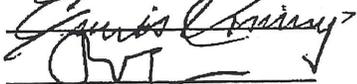
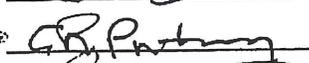
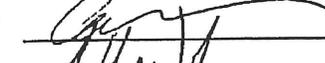
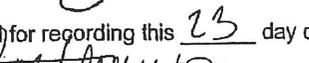
Residents of Sunderland vote at Sunderland Town Municipal Building, 104 Mountain View Road, Sunderland, Vermont. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

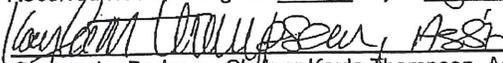
Residents of Woodford vote at Woodford Town Office Building, 1391 VT Route 9, Woodford, Vermont. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Register to Vote! Residents of Member Towns may register to vote at their Town Clerk's Office or online at www.olvr.sec.state.vt.us. Eligible residents registering on Election Day must do so at the polling place where they will cast their Town Meeting ballot.

Interpreting services for this meeting will be provided upon request. If this service is required, please notify the SVRTSD at 447-0220, at least three (3) days prior to the meeting.

Signatures

Kenneth Swierad, Chair	
Dane Whitman, Vice Chair	
Jacqueline Kelly, Clerk	
Michael Cutler	
Asher Edelson	
Leon Johnson	
Francis Kinney	
Timothy Kane	
Charles Putney	
Glen Sauer	
Anthony Williams, Jr.	

Received for recording this 23 day of January 2024.

Cassandra Barbeau, Clerk or Kayla Thompson, Assistant Clerk,
Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District

Arlington Rescue Squad

More than 50 years ago, a small group of residents dedicated their time, energy, and resources to start the Arlington Rescue Squad (ARS). ARS is a non-profit organization which provides 24/7 365 days-a-year emergency medical services to your town. The organization now employs a small staff to provide daytime coverage, seven days a week, but we continue to rely on volunteers to provide nighttime coverage. We are the only agency in the county who still relies on this "hybrid" model of paid staff and volunteers; we are sincerely grateful to all of our highly trained and dedicated providers who respond to 911 emergencies with up to Paramedic level capabilities. Our staff and volunteers engage in continuing education and training in order to maintain a high level of proficiency at their individual license level. While we usually respond to nearly 500 calls annually, our call volume continues to increase. We respond to medical emergencies and automobile accidents; we also assist the Arlington Fire Department with stand-by assistance for structure and brush fires. We respond to many calls in which we do not transport a patient; however, we incur the same expense for those calls. Unfortunately, most non-transport calls are not billable to insurance companies.

Despite the higher costs of operations—including costs out-of-our-control such as fuel and insurance—we are not seeking an increase in appropriations from the town of Sunderland.

We would like to sincerely thank the residents of Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate and N. Shaftsbury for their continued financial support through the generous Town appropriations. The financial support of these towns helps ARS remain financially solvent in order to respond to emergencies with a dedicated team. We are especially thankful to the members of the Arlington Fire department. They are there for us when we need extra help, whether it is driving an ambulance, assisting with a lift assist, or providing CPR support during a critical call. Thank you!

We were very happy to meet and get-to-know many in our community during several community events including Norman's Attic, Trunk-or-Treat at Arlington Memorial High School, the Lighted Tractor Parade, and several sporting events. In early November, ARS members participated in a Mass Causality Incident (MCI) training. This large-scale training was held in the area of Wilcox Flats on Route 7. ARS participated and collaborated in this training with Northshire Rescue Squad, and the Arlington and Manchester Fire Departments. This was an excellent training that provided our members the opportunity to hone their skills and work with other agencies in the area. Future large-scale trainings are in the planning phase, which will only serve to develop the collaboration with other agencies in our neighboring towns and assure that our members are trained and ready to respond when needed.

As we look to the future, we will be exploring the costs associated with replacing one of our two ambulances; we will continue to have a presence in the community; we will offer training to those who would like to become involved; and we will continue to provide exceptional medical care to those in our community. It is also our goal to recruit volunteers who might be interested in becoming involved with ARS. There is nothing more satisfying than helping those in your own community. If you would like to learn more about ARS, please give us a call. Our non-emergency number is (802) 375-6589. We would love to hear from you!

Finally, please remember to post your house number clearly so we can find you in an emergency. We would like to thank you again for your continued support. We could not do the work we do without you.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlington Rescue Squad Board of Directors

Martha Canfield Library Report for Town Report 2024

The Martha Canfield Library is here to help you expand your horizons in a variety of ways. Last year we learned all about owls, marveled at the talent of our local students in their gallery exhibit, learned about the science of soap bubbles as we stood inside a giant bubble, made Valentine cards for veterans, and made lots of crafts. We also helped people with emergency printing of documents, linked people to audio and e-books, answered reference questions, lent passes for museums, parks and historic sites, gave out free books to children, and much more. All in addition to traditional books, magazines, help with the internet, and summer family programming.

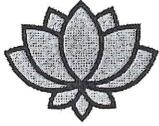
2023 was an active year for local history in the Russell Vermontiana Collection. Genealogy research continues to be important, but we saw an increase in house history questions this past year. Twelve presentations were given this year on Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Introduction to Genealogy, Our Lesser Known Artists, Revolutionary War History Minutes, early New England settlement, and local history for Arlington Middle School student research. There were sixteen donations including a Jack Towsley painting, additional photographs by the late Arlington artist Ellen Lipshutz, early McAuley family deeds and memorabilia dating from 1830, Equinox Hill Climb programs, a framed Dorothy Canfield photograph, booklets on the Carthusian lifestyle, a dinner ticket to an 1863 East Arlington Oyster supper, postcards of local scenes, four 1866 Harper's Weekly issues sent to a West Arlington subscriber, and a collection of vintage Vermont history books. Preparation is almost complete for the re-publication of the out-of-print Arlington Along the Battenkill in 2024. Finally, planning has started in preparation for the 250th Commemoration of the founding of the United States and the Vermont Republic.

We greatly appreciate your support through the years as we strive to provide services essential to a well-informed community. Let us know how we can help: check our webpage, follow us on Facebook, email with requests and questions, call us. If you would like to sign up for our monthly email newsletter, just let us know.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Skidmore, Director
Laura Crosslin, President, Board of Trustees

Martha Canfield Library, 528 East Arlington Rd., P.O. Box 267, Arlington, VT 05250

802-375-6153, marthacanfieldlibrary.org, martha_canfield_lib@hotmail.com,
russell_vermontiana_collection@hotmail.com.



**PROJECT AGAINST
VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS**

Mailing: P.O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201
Physical: 102 Dewey St, Bennington, VT 05201
Office: 802.442.2370 | Hotline: 802.442.2111
www.pavebennington.org

**We All Deserve Healthy
Love.**

November 27, 2023

Town of Sunderland;

PAVE believes that everyone deserves to experience healthy love. It is a core part of our mission to strive to promote a community and a world, where we all can experience the joy of healthy love.

With over 10 Million Americans affected by Domestic Violence a year, striving for a community where non-violent love is the norm, can be daunting. But we persist, because we believe our goal is not only possible but necessary.

Over the last year, PAVE has been able to help survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence reclaim their lives after fleeing abuse. We have been there at the moment of crisis; **fielding over 500 hotline calls** and **providing 4221 nights of emergency shelter**. We have been there as survivors start to stabilize and heal; helping to obtain **16 housing assistance vouchers**, and over **50 Protection Orders**.

PAVE also has been present before violence takes place, with the hope that through education we can promote healthy forms of love and stop the cycle of Domestic Violence before it even starts. PAVE has provided over **900 youth in Bennington County** with preventative education and helped train over **200 community partners on topics** related to Domestic & Sexual Violence. Our Advocates have dedicated themselves tirelessly to spreading the message of non-violent love at community events and in their day to day work with survivors.

We are requesting level funding for the coming year in the amount of \$150.00.

PAVE expresses their gratitude for the support and dedication the Town of Sunderland has shown to survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence.

With appreciation,

Lindsay Brillon, M.Ed. LSW

Executive Director
Project Against Violent Encounters

PAVE is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and your donation is fully tax deductible, less the value of any goods or services received. PAVE does not appraise the value of gifts. Our tax ID number is 03-0285583.

Rutland Office
143 Maple St
Rutland VT, 05701
(802) 786-5990



Bennington Office
160 Benmont Ave, Suite #90
Bennington VT, 05201
(802) 442-5436

Report to the Citizens of Sunderland

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older residents in Sunderland during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 10/1/2022 through 9/30/2023.

Nutrition Support

The Council helped provide 320 meals that were delivered to the home of 3 older residents in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 2 older Sunderland residents came to a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 114 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 7.25 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 3 residents of Sunderland.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 3 older residents in your community for a total of 23 hours. Case managers meet with an older resident privately in their home or at another agreed upon location and assess their individual situation. They will work with the older resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the older resident desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help residents connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail older Vermonters facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

- "Senior Helpline" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior Helpline staff provide telephone support to older Vermonters and others who need information on available programs and community resources.
- Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program.
- Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project.
- Information about issues and opportunities that directly affect older Vermonters via various agency articles and publications.
- Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician.
- Senior Companion support for frail, homebound older Vermonters.
- Outreach services to older Vermonters dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. This service is provided in cooperation with Rutland Mental Health.
- Transportation assistance.
- Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to older Vermonters in need of assistance.
- Money Management programs that offer either a volunteer bill payer or representative payee services to older Vermonters and younger disabled individuals.

December 26th, 2023

Town of Sunderland Select Board
104 Mountain View Rd
Sunderland VT 05250

Dear Members of the Select Board,

On behalf of the Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, I am writing to express our appreciation for the continued financial support of the board and the citizens of Sunderland. The Nursing Service is respectfully requesting that the board consider funding for the year 2024 in the amount of \$1500. The nursing service continues to provide financial support for those in need of medical assistance, as well as camp scholarships, support for the Red Stocking and summer lunch programs, and JISP/KAP participation for area students. We also continue to provide four rolling scholarships to graduating students pursuing careers in healthcare. We are excited to increase this scholarship amount in the 2024 academic year. We sincerely hope that you are able to grant our request, so we may continue to provide these important services in the community throughout the year.

On behalf of the thirty community members that comprise our Board of Trustees, thank you for your service to our town and for your continued support of our missions.

Sincerely,

Jessica Massey
President
Arlington Community Public Health Nursing Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 62
Arlington VT 05250
ArlingtonNurses.org
ArlingtonNurses@gmail.com

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) represents a partnership of 13 towns working together to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills through recycling, reuse, repair, and through other means of resource conservation. Since 2015, BCSWA has followed a solid waste implementation plan to assist residents, schools, businesses, and other organizations meet the requirements of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law.

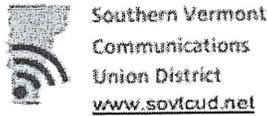
In July of 2023 BCSWA opened a new household hazardous waste collection facility at the Bennington Transfer Station. The facility was open one day per week throughout the fall and collected paint, pesticides, cleaning products, flammable liquids, and other landfill banned items from 225 families and small businesses in the area. The facility was built under budget at a cost of \$106,739.74. A grant from Vermont DEC financed 60% of the cost with the member towns of the Alliance funding the remainder. The Alliance projects that the facility will reduce annual operations costs when compared to the previous model of hosting disposal events, and that the savings will pay for construction costs in approximately 3 years.

The Alliance hosts a website at www.bcswa.org, and is present on social media at facebook.com/solidwastealliance, instagram.com/bcswa_vt, and youtube.com/@bcswa. Outreach on these channels provide resources and information to residents about:

- Scheduling a household hazardous waste drop off appointment
- Battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program
- Disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and select transfer stations
- Recycling of paint through the PaintCare program, including retail stores that accept paint
- Prescription drug disposal including drop-off locations
- Recycling of textiles by the Apparel Impact, Goodwill, and others
- Disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations and retail establishments
- Disposal of E-Waste at area transfer stations, Goodwill, Staples, and retail establishments
- Diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen containers
- Reduced price composting equipment available at the BCSWA online store
- Waste reduction resources for businesses, schools, events, institutions and residents

During 2023 the Alliance assisted 41 businesses, held composting and Recycling events at local libraries, produced regular content for public access television stations, and hosted tables at several farmers markets.

Visit bcswa.org for updates and details. The Alliance is funded by the thirteen member towns of the alliance proportional to their population, along with grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.



Southern Vermont Communications Union District 2023: Our Fourth Year

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) has had a very busy, and successful fourth year.

In September 2022, SoVT CUD and its partner, Consolidated Communications Inc. (CCI) were awarded a \$9,009,085 Act 71 Construction Grant to fund Phase 2 of fiber network construction in SoVT CUD territory. After Phase 1 was completed at the end of 2022, construction of Phase 2 began in early 2023 and was consistently ahead of schedule. To date, the Construction Grant has funded the passing of over 6,000 homes with fiber, including 1,300 that were unserved. Dozens of fiber distribution hubs (FDH) across all 14 member towns have been released for customer sales.

Phase 2 remained on track to be completed before the end of 2023, providing over 95% of homes in Bennington County with access to fiber optic internet service. With the wrap up of Phase 2, SoVT CUD has focused its efforts on providing service to the hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3 of network construction.

In August 2023, SoVT CUD and CCI held a ribbon cutting event at Bromley Mountain in Peru to celebrate the near completion of the fiber network in Bennington County. The event was attended by Senator Peter Welch, and other local and state officials. There has been significant media coverage of SoVT CUD's success, including a segment from Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT) and NBC Channel 5.

SoVT CUD is now focused on the approximately 20 hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3. These addresses are primarily located in Arlington and Pownal and are unserved according to state data. The CUD has begun initial outreach to these property owners to assess the status of their internet service and build a finalized list of Phase 3 addresses to be covered under the CUD's universal service plan.

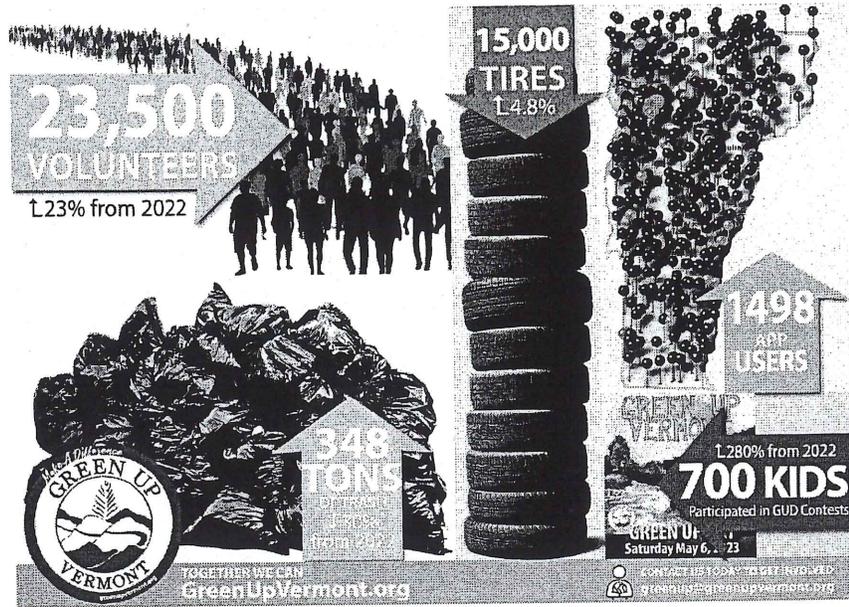
The CUD has greatly benefited from our partnership with the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC). The administrative assistance and expertise in navigating the public funding arena provided by Community and Economic Development Specialist Jonathan Cooper and Regional Planner Callie Fishburn has been invaluable. The CUD is especially indebted to BCRC's ability to keep us grounded in the broad development efforts of the region.

More information can be found on the website: sovtcud.net



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day
May 6, 2023



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

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

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

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

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or online at www.greenupvermont.org.

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



Thank You for Supporting GNAT-TV: Empowering and Connecting Our Community

Mission: To connect community and empower people through local media.

Vision: To engage, inform, and inspire the public, creating a vibrant community.

Purpose: To strengthen community ties through accessible and transparent local media

GNAT-TV Service Territory:

Arlington
Dorset
Londonderry
Manchester
Peru
Rupert
Sandgate
Stratton
Sunderland
Weston
Winhall

WAYS TO WATCH

COMCAST CABLE

CHANNELS:

1074 (PUBLIC)

1084 (GOVERNMENT)

1094 (EDUCATION)

GNAT-TV.ORG

YOUTUBE

ROKU & APPLE TV

LISTEN VIA PODCAST

Dear Community Members,

We extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support of GNAT-TV. Your contributions have been instrumental in our mission to connect the community and empower individuals through local media. As we continue to serve as a vital communication hub, your support has been the cornerstone of our success, especially notable during challenging times.

Our Impact: A Year in Review

GNAT-TV has made significant strides in 2023, underlining our commitment to engaging, informing, and inspiring the public. This year, we ran a total of 817 programs, reflecting our commitment to diverse and engaging community initiatives. Highlights of our efforts include:

- **Enhancing Local Government Transparency:** Committed to fostering civic engagement and promoting transparency, we successfully facilitated 214 local government meetings, **39 in Sunderland** specifically. This initiative strengthened community participation and broadened our reach. By integrating with modern streaming platforms like Roku, Fire TV, Apple TV, Youtube, and social media, we've made these essential civic meetings more accessible, inviting a broader audience to engage. This move to digital platforms demonstrates our ongoing effort to keep our community informed and actively involved in local governance.
- **Live Streaming Milestones:** Successfully broadcasted local school graduation ceremonies, ensuring these significant moments were shared with the entire community.
- **Technical Support and Training:** Provided essential technical assistance and training to the faith community for seamless online services.
- **Community Event Coverage:** Actively distributed and archived community events, preserving the vibrant spirit of your town.
- **Youth Engagement:** Launched the Youth Filmmaker's Club a platform celebrating and showcasing local children's talents and creativity.
- **Independent News Segments:** Produced 167 segments of local independent news, keeping the community informed and connected.

GNAT-TV Operating Revenue / Expense Summary Year Ending 9.30.2023

Operating Revenue

Mandated Cable Funding	\$424,497
Municipal Contributions (7 Towns)	\$14,000
Program Services, Contributions, Grants	\$69,031
Investments / Other	\$15,422
Net Asset Release from Restrictions	\$73,229
Total Operating Revenue	\$596,179

Operating Expenses

Program / Production	\$413,915
General / Management	\$98,503
Total Operating Expense	\$544,670

*FY23 operating balance will be transferred to the capital budget to replace studio equipment. Full financial reports and 990 available at gnat-tv.org

2023 Usage Data

807 Local Public Programs Produced

214 Government Meetings

85 Community Video Announcements

139 Community Bulletin Announcements

204,332 Online Video Views

214 Equipment & Facility Reservations

138 Training Sessions

295 People Trained

Your Support: Fueling Our Mission

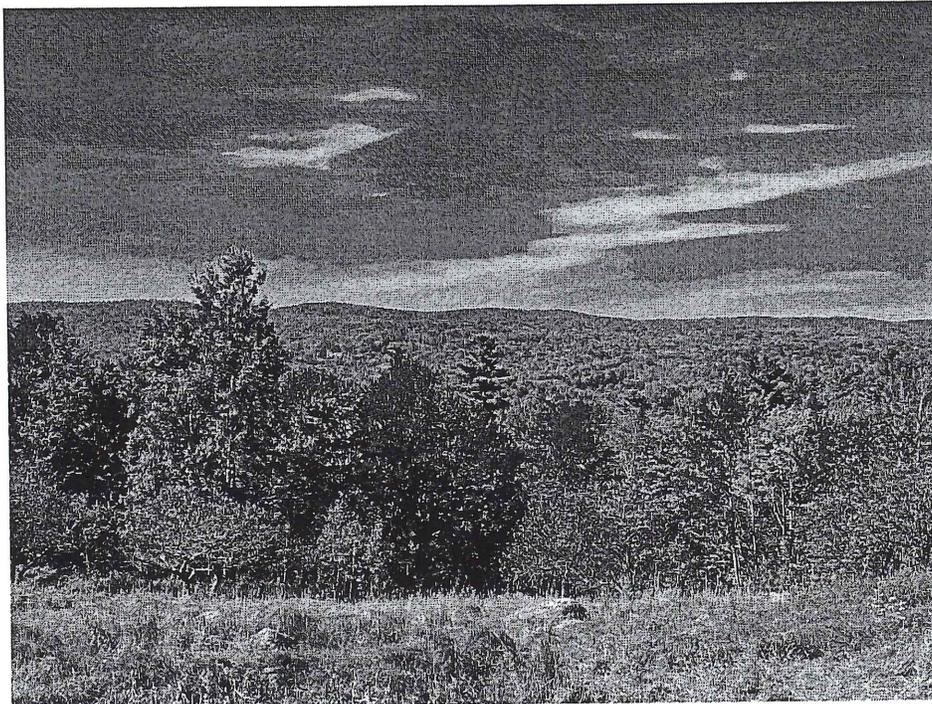
Your ongoing support is crucial for GNAT-TV to continue these impactful efforts. Local media is not just a platform; it is the lifeblood of a vibrant and informed community. Your financial contributions will empower us to further strengthen our communities, aligning with our purpose of providing transparent access to information and supporting local engagement.

Looking Forward: Together, We Can Achieve More

As we invite you to continue your support, remember that your contributions are not just donations; they are investments in the heart and soul of our community. Together, we can keep our community connected, informed, and inspired.

Thank you for considering your support for GNAT-TV. We are proud to be a part of this community, and with your help, we will continue to make a significant difference.

Greater Northshire Access Television is a 501c3 Not for Profit Organization
Created by Community Members Like You in 1995



USDA Forest Service Photo 1 Foliage at the base of Mount Abraham in Lincoln, Vermont.

Green Mountain National Forest

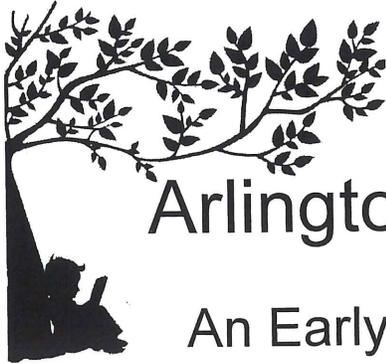
Town Meeting Report

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors. The Forest would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000-acre GMNF. Receiving several million outdoor recreation enthusiast visits annually, these visitors seek enjoyment in a natural setting while providing critical benefit to our local economies. The GMNF is proud to be a part of Vermont and your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of all people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. This has been another exciting year for us, and we have worked hard to support new opportunities on the National Forest that benefit the people and communities that we serve. The following is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

Our New Office

We are excited to report that we now have a new Forest Supervisor's Headquarters located at 4387 U.S. Route 4 East in Mendon, Vermont! Our visitor center will be staffed and open to the public over the winter months on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. In the spring, we will be open Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

****THE COMPLETE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE****



Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.

An Early Childhood Education Center

Arlington Area Child Care Annual Report 2023

As the new Executive Director of Arlington Area Childcare Inc. I am excited to write this Annual Report for you, highlighting all the fantastic accomplishments of the center as well as explaining our areas of need at this time.

In 2023, 68 students from Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate, and neighboring towns attended our program part-time or full-time. These children (aged six weeks- twelve years old) attended either our Early Education program, our Afterschool program, or our Summer Camp.

Accomplishments-

- Maintained our 4 STARS with the State of Vermont.
- Completing SEED AND SEW and becoming accredited through the company.
- Family Advocacy Program- We have worked hard to expand our program and added a diaper and wipes bank, as well as continuing our food shelf and adding a Christmas wish program that helped to assist three local families with Christmas essentials for their families.
- Fundraisers- Our center has worked hard in the last year to continue our essential annual fundraisers to help benefit the children within our program, such as Mac and Cheese, Pizza fundraiser, and Cheesecake fundraiser. Our staff, board, and families all unite to make this fundraiser successful.
- Staff Growth- We currently have 11 teachers enrolled in CCV, in either college courses or the Fundamentals for Early Childhood Professionals course to further their education. We also offer half- and full-day training to help our current staff members earn 30 professional development hours annually. We currently have all qualified staff working in-house. We have been able to offer our staff more competitive pay and time off as well.

- We launched a new Curriculum (Frog Street). Since 1989 — Serving early childhood educators for over 30 years - make learning joyful and purposeful. **Frog Street** provides the path to a bright tomorrow with engaging programs and materials.
- Camp Community Connections- This past Summer, we were excited to have our School Ageders for the entire summer time with around 20 campers per day. The campers engaged in many different enrichment programs. To highlight one, the Utica Zoo did an interactive presentation with our campers about three different types of animals. Our camp is the only one in our area for summer with a waiting list (a mile long). This is an essential program for our community. Vermont Afterschool has awarded a 40,000.00 grant to enhance our summer program to meet its full potential.
- We are currently partnering with many different community and state programs such as First Children Finance, Let's Grow Kids, VTAEYC, Vermont Afterschool, Building Bright Futures, Directors group of Bennington County, Arlington Area Alliance, NAEYC TEACH, and CCV.

Despite these strengths and accomplishments, Arlington Area Childcare faces severe concerns. Our building, which is 25 years old, needs significant renovations. Some of the most crucial needs relate to our HVAC system, duct work, and updating appliances so they can run more frugally, safely, and efficiently. As a result, we are forced to ask for increased funding from the towns we serve. The contribution from Sunderland has remained the same for many years, but, unfortunately, our expenses (like those of many other businesses) have grown. For Arlington Area Childcare to continue providing a quality setting for Sunderland children and families, we seek \$700.00 from the town of Sunderland. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you, again, to the area communities for continuing to support our program, special events, and fundraisers. We couldn't keep the program running without you!

Northshire Day School

The early childhood educators and staff at Northshire Day School wish to express our thanks to **Sunderland residents and the Town of Sunderland** for appropriating support to our program. **Last year, the voters approved our request for \$11,000 and we are hoping that voters will do the same this year!** Your support benefits our entire community by providing a nurturing and inclusive place where children grow and thrive while their families serve our community as bakers, builders, landscapers, cleaners, lawyers, electricians, mechanics, teachers, volunteers, veterinarians, firefighters, doctors, and so much more. The voters of Manchester and Dorset also supported NDS last year and we will be requesting their support again this year. The Manchester appropriation is \$87,000 and Dorset's is \$13,000. These numbers are based on the numbers of children served from those communities.

In June 2022, NDS achieved 5 STARS in the Vermont Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS), the highest quality rating for early childhood education in Vermont. We hire talented educators and staff, offer affordable access to families from all backgrounds, and are committed to providing top-quality early learning experiences. We strengthen families and communities through early childhood education, family support, and community partnerships.

What We Spend

Top-quality early childhood education is expensive. During the 2021-2022 school year, we invested \$17,950 in each child in our program, resulting in a total expenditure of \$1,555,744. Eighty-eight percent of our spending goes toward our employees. Northshire Day School has low student-to-educator ratios, which allows us to implement a rich emergent curriculum and offer individualized instruction. For the first time since the pandemic began, Northshire Day School is fully-staffed with credentialed educators. We are pleased to announce that as of January 2023, we currently have 6 licensed educators in our classrooms, with 5 more who will become licensed in 2023. The seven percent of our budget spent on classrooms, enrichment, and more includes administrative costs, activity supplies, playground equipment, and classroom enrichment programming - all of the non-human resources that make NDS a wonderful place for children to grow. The six percent of our spending going toward facilities includes cleaning supplies, building maintenance, and custodial expenses.

Our Revenue Sources

Family tuition covers 47% of the total cost of running our early childhood education program, with CCFAP and Act 166 PreK Funding also going toward tuition expenses. These funding sources combined to pay an average of \$13,350 per child during the 2021-2022 school year. Annual giving is our second most critical revenue source. The Growth Fund contributed \$155,821 last year. These investments enhance every aspect of our program. NDS relies on multiple grants each year to further support our program. In 2021-2022, NDS established the President's Fund, an endowed fund to build fiscal solvency.

Value Added

The difference between the \$17,950 we spend on each student and the \$13,350 received in tuition reflects the \$4,600 annual subsidy enjoyed by every family, thanks to the resources provided by endowment earnings, grants, and gifts. A quarter of our families receive additional subsidy and tuition relief based on their ability to pay. Our commitment to need-based tuition relief makes it possible for all families to access opportunities at NDS regardless of their family circumstances and explains why our actual revenue per child falls short of tuition. It is our goal to ensure that no family pays more than 10% of their income to NDS.

The Power of Your Appropriations

The \$4,600 subsidy per student leaves a significant annual gap. We rely on CCFAP subsidy from the State of Vermont, Act 166 PreK Funding, grants, scholarships, special programs, and endowment income to fill this gap. To secure our top-quality programming for the future, we must maintain the real purchasing power of our endowment in perpetuity. Our Board of Trustees has limited endowment spending and works to ensure that we do not rely on the endowment to fill the entire gap in our budget. Town Appropriations help NDS fulfill our commitment to deliver top-quality early childhood education to as many children and families as possible.

To view our Annual Report, please visit: <https://www.northshiredayschool.org/support-nds/growthreport/>

TACONIC AND GREEN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

Herbert G. Ogden, Board Chair

January 2024

Our full annual report is available at your Town Clerk's office or online at www.brsu.org/page/annual-and-town-reports. We hope you will read about the important issues facing our nine town district and give us your thoughts, especially regarding the possible regional middle school. When you get to the section on the budget, please note that Vermont has income sensitivity that reduces the property tax on primary residences for many people. Income sensitivity can also reduce renters' taxes.

We are trying something new for the Annual District Meeting, which will be held at Manchester Elementary Middle School on February 27th. From 6 to 6:30 p.m. we are hosting an informal get-acquainted time with board members and some of our Senators and Representatives. There will be refreshments. From 6:30 to 7, board members will be at several tables to discuss specific issues like the proposed district-wide middle school. At 7, the formal meeting begins, with floor votes including the election of the District Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer.

As always, voting on the budget, reserve funds, and high school tuition will be by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day, March 5th. **You will not automatically receive an absentee ballot.** If you want to vote by mail, you must request a mail ballot from your Town Clerk. Please read the Annual Report for detailed information as you consider the budget and the other issues listed in the Warning.

Developing a budget was only one of our tasks. Last year, the legislature considered some bills that would have severely limited high school choice, in reaction to a U. S. Supreme Court decision that most of us think was wrong. District leaders appreciate the time our legislators spent conferring with us and avoiding a bad outcome. The issue will return this year. Other issues include the poor performance of the Agency of Education, including its delay in enforcing the antidiscrimination rules that took effect in 2022. Locally, a board committee is hard at work studying the possibility of a regional middle school and welcomes everyone's input.

If you want to know more about how we operate or comment on our work, please attend one of our meetings either remotely or in person. We also welcome comments and questions by letter or email. We meet at least monthly. We begin at 6:30 p.m. and aim to end by 8:30. There is a ten minute public comment period at the beginning. Agendas, minutes, and information on how to attend remotely are available on the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union website - www.brsu.org/page/meeting-calendar.



December, 19, 2023

Dear Sending Towns:

The Board of Trustees of Burr and Burton Academy has approved sending town tuition at \$20,966 for the 2024–2025 school year, a 4.9% increase. Our tuition for private pay individuals (i.e., non-sending towns) will be \$23,589.

In reaching this figure, the board sought first and foremost to maintain affordability to our sending towns. The Vermont tax commissioner estimates that statewide education spending will increase 12% and overall taxes will increase 18%. We hope our tuition increase of 4.9% will help offset these onerous figures. Our tuition remains well below that of any of the other historic town academies as well as many public high schools.

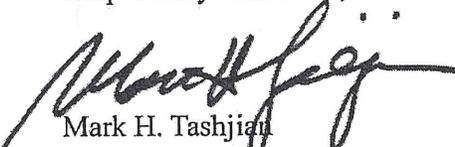
We also are deeply committed to the quality of education, and our costs will necessarily increase. We are supporting the faculty and staff in efforts to offset inflation not only in their lives, but in the face of skyrocketing healthcare costs, which are estimated to increase by 16% statewide this year. Our faculty and staff are the lifeblood of this school, and offering meaningful salaries and benefits allows us to attract and retain the absolute best teachers we can find.

We will also continue to keep a sharp eye on managing expenses so each dollar spent has maximum impact.

As always, our tuition does not cover the total cost of a BBA education. We supplement tuition revenues with private fundraising of \$1.5–\$2.0 million as well as an endowment draw of approximately \$1 million. In addition, we raise money privately for all capital projects so the beautiful facilities that serve all students come at no cost to taxpayers. No public debt, no public bonds.

Since 1829, Burr & Burton Academy has served the Northshire communities in partnership. We appreciate the support, and we do everything we can to continue to be a school that is a point of pride and worthy of support from all of you.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark H. Tashjian
Headmaster



Charley Stevenson
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

Bennington Local Health Office | 324 Main St. Bennington, VT
802-447-3531 | AHS.VDHBennington@Vermont.gov

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



Oral Health

The Bennington Local Health Office led or participated in 3 projects to improve dental access and oral health in Bennington County.

- A pilot program taught our Public Health Nurses to apply fluoride varnish. This service is available to those enrolled in our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program on a walk-in basis.
- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator hosted 2 dental services pop-up events in the town of Bennington.
- In August our office worked with the Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services to host a Remote Area Medical (RAM) event. The event provided free dental and vision services to people in need.



Benn High Redevelopment Project HIA

The Bennington Office of Local Health conducted a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on the plan to turn the empty downtown high school into housing co-located with community services.

- The HIA looked at our community's health needs and used different data sources to make recommendations for site design and programming.
- Health equity was a focus for this project. Bennington Local Health staff and others studied the connection between health, housing, social connection, public safety and community service access.
- The project would transform the former high school into mixed-income apartments co-located with community services for people of all ages, including a childcare facility, Bennington Senior Center and the Berkshire YMCA, among other services.
- To read about this project visit: www.healthvermont.gov/about/reports/health-impact-assessments



Scan to access
the report online



2023 Legislative Report

The 2023 legislative session addressed a number of prominent issues, including childcare, housing and homelessness, climate resilience, workforce, and the opioid epidemic.

Following an unusually large number of retirements, the House welcomed 50 new members in 2023. My experience gave me enough seniority to be appointed chair of the expanded Agriculture, Food Resiliency and Forestry Committee. This is a committee that has historically worked in a non-partisan way to assist Vermont's working lands and those who steward them. We worked on several key bills—including Universal School Meals, Right to Repair, and an emergency funding program for struggling organic dairy farmers—that ultimately passed the House with strong bipartisan support.

The legislature enacted several new laws during the session designed to support working families. As noted above, Universal School Meals will now be permanent and funded at the state level. A new landmark Childcare bill lowers costs for families and raises wages for caregivers, and has already resulted in the creation of 1000 new spaces across the state. The Affordable Heat Act began a process designed to make cleaner energy sources more accessible to low and moderate income Vermonters.

2023 saw the buildout of universal broadband, bringing high-speed internet access to every home and business in Sunderland. Building on a framework established by the Legislature over the past several years and with the support of federal and state funding, the Southern Vermont Communications Union District has made our region the first in the state to reach this milestone. Residents who previously had access to cable internet services now have more choices, and lower prices.

At the conclusion of the session in June, I took part in a training program run by the Council of State Governments in Chicago. The event provided a window into the workings of other state legislatures. Many of the attendees described environments where walk-outs, incivility, and disruptive behavior are normal. In contrast, Vermont's legislative culture continues to reflect the state's traditions of civility and respectful discourse.

We are now more than halfway through the 2024 fiscal year. Despite gloomy predictions, the economy has continued to grow and the outlook for the budget is promising. The latest forecast is for a surplus of \$108 million in General Fund revenue for the year. The surplus will be used to fund a variety of services, including food programs (Meals on Wheels and the Vermont Food Bank), public safety, flood relief and climate resiliency programs, the Vermont Veterans Home, PCB remediation work in schools, and emergency housing and shelters.

The Legislature will be returning to Montpelier after Town Meeting week, but I am at home most weekends if there is anything you would like to discuss in person. I am also available throughout the session by phone or email to speak with you or provide assistance with state matters. Feel free to email me at ddurfee@leg.state.vt.us, or call me at 802 828-2228 (Montpelier) or at home at 802 442-4414.

Respectfully submitted,

David Durfee, State Representative, Bennington 3

2024 Legislative Report: Reps. Kathleen James and Seth Bongartz

The 2024 legislative session began Wednesday, January 3. It's the second session of the two-year 2023–2024 biennium, with adjournment expected sometime in May.

During the session, representatives are in Montpelier every Tuesday through Friday and home every Saturday through Monday, with a one-week break over Town Meeting week in March.

The Vermont legislature meets in person at the State House. All floor sessions and committee meetings are livestreamed and archived for public viewing on the Vermont General Assembly website:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/>

Reps. Kathleen James and Seth Bongartz, who together represent the two-seat Bennington-4 district, are holding regular coffee hours during the 2024 session. Residents of this district (Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate and northwest Sunderland) are welcome to join these informal meetings. It's a great way to ask questions, raise concerns and stay informed about legislation. All meetings are held on Saturdays from 9 to 10:30 am.

James serves as ranking member of the House General and Housing Committee and as an assistant majority leader of the House Democratic Caucus. Bongartz serves as ranking member of the House Environment and Energy Committee and on the Legislature Committee on Administrative Rules.

Constituent Coffee Hours: 2024

January 13: Charlie's Coffee House
39 Bonnet Street, Manchester Center

February 10: Wayside Country Store
3307 Vermont Route 313, West Arlington

March 2: Bonnie and Clyde's
13 Old Mill Road, East Arlington

March 2—5: See you at your annual town and school meetings!

March 23: Charlie's Coffee House
39 Bonnet Street, Manchester Center

April 20: Wayside Country Store
3307 Vermont Route 313, West Arlington

May 11: Bonnie and Clyde's
13 Old Mill Road, East Arlington

June 8: Charlie's Coffee House
39 Bonnet Street, Manchester Center

Beyond these scheduled constituent meetings, it's easy to connect with your state legislators. We work hard to represent all residents with transparency, integrity and accountability. Please stay in touch and reach out anytime with questions or concerns. We respond to constituent correspondence as promptly as possible.

Note: To meet printing and mailing deadlines, this report was submitted to town clerks in early January. We provide frequent progress reports on social media and via our e-newsletter, delivered to your inbox throughout the session. Please join our mailing list by signing up at Kath's website. We also publish a mid-

session report that we distribute at Town Meeting and post online, plus an end-of-session report that we post online and distribute to town halls.

Rep. Kathleen James
Assistant Majority Leader
General and Housing Committee, Ranking Member

802.733.1435

KJames@leg.state.vt.us

Facebook: [Kathleen James VT State Representative](#)

Web: kathjamesforstaterep.com

To receive our joint e-newsletters, join our shared mailing list at Kath's website

Rep. Seth Bongartz
Environment and Energy Committee, Ranking Member

802.598.3477

SBongartz@leg.state.vt.us

Facebook: [Seth Bongartz Vermont State Representative](#)