

# TOWN OF HALIFAX, VERMONT

# **ANNUAL REPORT**



**FOR FY23**

**JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023**

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

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# Town Reports

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY  
MEETING DATES AND TIMES  
[www.halifaxvt.com](http://www.halifaxvt.com)

**Town Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday and Friday	8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Wednesday	12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Saturday	By appointment (802) 368-7390

**Meeting Schedules (unless otherwise posted)**

Board of Selectmen	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, monthly At Town Office, 6:00 P.M.
School Directors	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, monthly 6:00 P.M.
Planning Commission	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, monthly At Town Office, 7:00 P.M.
Zoning Commission	Meets as necessary
Halifax Community Club	2nd Monday, monthly At Copeland's Home, 6:45 P.M. Hanson Rd
Conservation Commission	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday, monthly, 7:00 P.M.

**Telephone Numbers**

Town Clerk's Office	368-7390	Patricia Dow
Town Clerk email:	<a href="mailto:halifax@myfairpoint.net">halifax@myfairpoint.net</a>	
Selectboard Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:halifaxsecretary@gmail.com">halifaxsecretary@gmail.com</a>	
Lister's Office (open Wednesdays 8-3:00)	368-2080	
Listers email:	<a href="mailto:halifaxlisters@myfairpoint.net">halifaxlisters@myfairpoint.net</a>	
Highway Garage	368-2803	
Halifax Elementary School	368-2888	
Zoning Administrator	802/380-4535	Kyle Farnsworth
Health Officer	451-9363	Susan Kelly, DVM
Road Commissioner	368-2803	Michael Fournier
Treasurer/Tax Collector	368-7390	Patricia Dow

**Non-Emergency Contact Information**

First Constable	380-1986	Cell (Andrew Rice)
Constable email:	<a href="mailto:halifaxconstable@gmail.com">halifaxconstable@gmail.com</a>	
Second Constable	368-2948	Home (Roy Richardson)
State Police Chester/Rockingham	802/875-2112	fax 802/875-2176
Fire Department	368-7673	
Fire Warden	368-2484	Malcolm Sumner

**Emergency Numbers**

Fire	Rescue	Ambulance	911
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TOWN OF HALIFAX VERMONT ANNUAL MEETING WARNING

March 5, 2024

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

Article 1: To hear the reports of Town officers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\$550	Senior Solutions (Council on Aging for Southern Vermont)	Services for seniors
\$790	Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)	Anti-poverty programs & services
\$2184	Southern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS)	Workforce & economic coordination services
\$500	The Gathering Place Adult Day Program	Elders & adults with disabilities programming
\$1900	Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire, Inc	Hospice & home health
\$3000	Whitingham Fireman's Association	Emergency Medical Services
\$5000	Whitingham Free Public Library	Library services
\$500	Windham County Disaster Animal Response Team (WinDART)	Emergency animal sheltering
\$700	Women's Freedom Center	Domestic violence survivors support
\$200	Youth Services	Restorative justice, prevention & intervention for youth

Article 8: Shall the town assess a one percent (1%) tax on rooms in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138(b).

The following articles will be voted by Australian ballot:

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

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

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

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2024

Signatures:

	PETE SILVERMAN
	Edee L Edwards
	KAREN A. CHRISTOFFERSON
	Tristan Roberts
_____	

Town of Halifax, Vermont  
 OFFICIAL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING BALLOT  
 OFFICIAL ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT  
 Tuesday, March 5, 2024

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:** To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, mark a cross (X) in the square at the right of that person's name. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name on the blank line and cross (X) the appropriate block.

For **Town Moderator**, for 1 year  
 Vote for not more than ONE

PAUL G. BLAIS

WRITE-IN

For **Collector of Delinquent Taxes**, for 1 year  
 Vote for not more than ONE

MARY BREWSTER

WRITE-IN

For **Selectboard Member**, for 3 years  
 Vote for not more than ONE

BOB TEREER

WRITE-IN

For **Trustee of Public Funds**, for 3 years  
 (Eames Fund & Cemetery Funds)  
 Vote for not more than ONE

LAUREL COPELAND

WRITE-IN

For **Selectboard Member**, for 2 years  
 Vote for not more than ONE

KAREN CHRISTOFFERSON

WRITE-IN

For **Cemetery Commissioner**, for 3 years  
 Vote for not more than ONE

MARY BLAND

WRITE-IN

For **Lister**, for 3 years  
 Vote for not more than ONE

PATRICIA DOW

WRITE-IN

For **Halifax School Moderator**, for 1 year  
 Vote for not more than ONE

PAUL G. BLAIS

WRITE-IN

For **Auditor**, for 3 years  
 Vote for not more than ONE

WRITE-IN

For **Halifax School Director**, for 3 years  
 Vote for not more than ONE

JUSTIN STAFFORD

WRITE-IN

For **Auditor**, for 2 years  
 Remainder of 3 year term ending in 2026  
 Vote for not more than ONE

WRITE-IN

For **Trustee to the Whitingham Library**  
 for 3 years  
 Vote for not more than ONE

MARK HALVERSON

WRITE-IN

For **Auditor**, for 1 year  
 Remainder of 3 year term ending in 2025  
 Vote for not more than ONE

WRITE-IN

## **PLEASE NOTE**

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

Town of Halifax, VT - FY25 Budget						Run date ==>	02-Feb-24
Selectboard Proposed Budget FY25 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)							
Acct. #	Acct. Description	Budget FY22	Budget FY23	Spent FY23	Budget FY24	Proposed FY25	Fixed, Commodity or Flexible
6110	Selectboard	\$5,400	\$9,000	\$8,265	\$9,000	\$9,000	Fixed
6112	Selectboard Secretary	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	Flexible
6113	Selectboard Administrative Assistant	13,000	13,000	14,080	13,000	17,600	Flexible
6120	Town Clerk Salary	25,000	25,000	25,000	26,250	26,250	Flexible
6121	Town Clerk Assistant	2,000	3,100	4,145	4,600	4,600	Flexible
6130	Lister Wages, Regular	25,000	26,000	14,094	26,000	25,000	Flexible
6140	Planning Comm/ZBA Sec'y	1,500	1,500	992	1,500	1,500	Flexible
6152	EMD Compensation	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	Flexible
6160	Auditors	3,500	0	0	3,500	3,500	Flexible
6165	Constable	5,000	5,000	4,600	5,000	5,000	Flexible
6180	Assistant Treasurer	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Flexible
<b>6100 Total</b>	<b>Wages**</b>	<b>87,900</b>	<b>90,100</b>	<b>78,676</b>	<b>96,350</b>	<b>96,950</b>	
6210	Conferences/Training	750	750	300	750	500	Flexible
6240	Retirement	1,425	1,450	1,625	1,772	1,838	Fixed
<b>6200 Total</b>	<b>Employee Benefits</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>2,338</b>	
9710	Medicare	5,642	5,591	5,684	8,800	7,052	Fixed
9720	FICA	23,589	23,908	24,305	27,200	30,154	Fixed
Pending	Child Care Tax Act 76	0	0	0	0	2,140	Fixed
<b>9700 Subtotal T</b>	<b>Payroll Exp</b>	<b>29,231</b>	<b>29,499</b>	<b>29,989</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>39,346</b>	
6251	Repairs & Maintenance	1,500	1,500	1,560	1,500	1,500	Flexible
6252	Telephone/Internet	4,500	4,500	4,142	4,500	4,500	Fixed
6253	Dues & Subscriptions	4,000	6,000	4,397	6,000	6,000	Fixed
6254	Ad & Legal Notices	1,000	1,000	610	1,000	1,000	Flexible
6255	Office Supplies Town Clerk	2,000	3,800	1,148	2,000	2,000	Flexible
6256	Listers Supplies (& Mileage)	1,500	1,500	5,888	1,000	1,000	Flexible
6260	Selectboard Supplies & Mileage	1,500	3,000	422	2,500	1,000	Flexible
Pending	Computer and Software	0	0	0	0	2,500	Flexible
6261	Planning Comm. Supplies & Expenses	750	750	447	750	750	Flexible
6262	EOC Emergency Supplies & Exp*	10,000	10,000	2,955	10,000	1,200	Flexible
6265	Lease Agreements	3,000	3,000	2,750	3,000	1,050	Fixed
6266	Broadband Committee Expenses	0	500	0	500	0	Flexible

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

Acct. #	Acct. Description	Budget FY22	Budget FY23	Spent FY23	Budget FY24	Proposed FY25	Fixed, Commodity or Flexible
6753	Short Term Interest	0	0	0	0	0	Fixed
6754	Vt Education Property Tax	0	0	0	0	0	Fixed
6755	Property Tax Refunds	0	0	0	0	0	Flexible
<b>6750 Total</b>	<b>Taxes and Interest</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>9,573</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	
6820	Rent	11,000	11,000	11,000	0	25,000	Fixed
<b>6800 Total</b>	<b>Town Share of School Exp.</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,000</b>	
6851	Empl. Practices Liability	2,117	2,117	2,137	2,186	2,238	Fixed
6852	Public Official Liability	1,085	1,085	1,043	991	950	Fixed
6853	Workers Comp	18,197	18,197	14,605	17,591	16,661	Fixed
6854	Property & Casualty	8,420	8,420	9,555	9,977	11,398	Fixed
6855	Unemployment Insurance	305	305	804	1,068	904	Fixed
<b>6850 Total</b>	<b>Insurance</b>	<b>30,124</b>	<b>30,124</b>	<b>28,144</b>	<b>31,813</b>	<b>32,151</b>	
6910	Service Charges	0	0	315	0	0	N/A
6920	Returned Check Fees	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
6930	Late Fees and Finance Charges	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
6945	Bank Charges and Fees	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
<b>6900 Total</b>	<b>Bank Charges and Fees</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>6000 Total</b>	<b>Selectboard Account</b>	<b>354,264</b>	<b>364,773</b>	<b>294,010</b>	<b>308,989</b>	<b>377,558</b>	
<b>9300 Total</b>	<b>Reappraisal RESERVE FUND</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000</b>	N/A
	<b>Municipal Subtotal</b>	<b>354,264</b>	<b>364,773</b>	<b>294,010</b>	<b>308,989</b>	<b>382,558</b>	
<b>Income against expenses</b>	Paid by Eames Fund	1,500	1,500	5,000	0	1,700	N/A
	Scott Fund on SB side starting in FY25	0	0	0	0	14,000	N/A
	Fees & Interest Earned	20,000	20,000	29,342	35,000	35,000	Fixed
	Other Funding	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	<b>Total Income Against Expenses</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>34,342</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>50,700</b>	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Raise &amp; Appropriate - Selectboard</b>	<b>332,764</b>	<b>343,273</b>	<b>259,668</b>	<b>273,989</b>	<b>331,858</b>	
	<b>SUBTOTAL HIGHWAY &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>1,287,962</b>	<b>1,277,435</b>	<b>1,600,777</b>	<b>1,260,137</b>	<b>1,868,663</b>	
	<b>Income Against Expenses: Highway</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>177,057</b>	<b>183,500</b>	<b>414,000</b>	
<b>B.</b>	<b>Raise &amp; Appropriate -Highway</b>	<b>1,117,962</b>	<b>1,107,435</b>	<b>1,423,720</b>	<b>1,076,637</b>	<b>1,454,663</b>	
<b>C.</b>	<b>Budget Deficit - FY23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>180,797</b>	
<b>Raise &amp; Appropriate</b>	<b>Selectboard and Highway Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,450,726</b>	<b>\$1,450,708</b>	<b>\$1,683,388</b>	<b>\$1,350,626</b>	<b>\$1,967,319</b>	

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

Acct #	Acct. Description	Budget FY22	Budget FY23	Actual Spent FY23	Budget FY24	Proposed FY25	Fixed, Commodity or Flexible
7435	Stone, Crushed & Ditched	5,000	10,000	38,381	52,500	52,500	Commodity
7436	Trucking Materials	95,000	95,000	0	0	0	N/A
7440	Chloride	10,000	20,000	20,642	25,000	25,000	Commodity
7450	Const. - Other (salt shed)	0	0	5,605	2,000	2,000	Flexible
7455	Miscellaneous Road Repairs	0	0	0	0	1,500	Flexible
7460	Resurfacing - FUND	160,000	160,000	348,923	0	200,000	Flexible
7462	Cold Patch & Culverts	15,000	15,000	15,653	15,000	27,000	Flexible
7475	Supplementary Road Assistance (FEMA)	0	0	0	0	206,000	Fixed
7480	Road Signs	1,500	1,500	1,488	1,500	1,500	Flexible
7490	Safety Gear	500	1,200	220	1,200	1,200	Flexible
<b>7400 TOTAL ROAD SUPPLIES &amp; APPLIC.</b>		<b>483,000</b>	<b>488,700</b>	<b>789,332</b>	<b>459,200</b>	<b>896,300</b>	
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY BUDGET</b>		<b>939,230</b>	<b>955,935</b>	<b>1,230,306</b>	<b>961,537</b>	<b>1,456,614</b>	
<b>EQUIPMENT BUDGET</b>							
	Equipment Reserve Fund	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
7615	Excavator (Lease)	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
7640	Grader (Lease)	34,232	0	0	0	0	N/A
7655	Loader/Tractor (Lease)	17,000	17,000	14,830	0	0	N/A
7696	Trucks (Financing)	98,000	80,000	72,617	80,000	117,951	Fixed
7695	Interest on Truck Financing	0	0	7,061		18,098	Fixed
<b>7605 TOTAL EQUIPMENT FINANCING</b>		<b>149,232</b>	<b>97,000</b>	<b>94,508</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>136,049</b>	
7610	Blower					0	N/A
7611	Excavator Repairs					0	N/A
7612	Grader Repairs					0	N/A
7613	Loader/Tractor Repairs					0	N/A
7620	Trimmer					0	N/A
7625	Rake					0	N/A
7630	Pressure Washer					0	N/A
7635	Chloride Distributor					0	N/A
7644	Shop Equipment	1,000	1,000	712	1,000	0	Flexible
7645	Shop Supplies & Tools	500	500	1,215	500	1,500	Flexible
7650	Power Saws			401	0		N/A
7660	All Equipment	0	0	2,500	0		N/A
7665	Trucks	0	0	0	0		N/A
7670	Property & Casualty Insurance VLCT	13,000	13,000	16,962	17,600	21,000	Fixed
7675	Chipper						

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

**Calculation of Article 3 - "Raise & Appropriate" for Taxes**

	Total Expenses FY25	Income Against Expenses	Raise & Appropriate via Taxes
A. Selectboard Municipal Subtotal	\$382,558	\$50,700	\$331,858
B. Highway	1,868,663	414,000	1,454,663
Total Highway & Selectboard	2,251,222	464,700	1,786,522
C. Fund Deficit (if any)	180,797	0	180,797
Total Funding Requirement	<u>\$2,432,019</u>	<u>\$464,700</u>	<u>\$1,967,319</u>

Raise & Appropriate Article 3 Details	
Approve Hwy & Selectboard Expenditures:	<b>\$2,432,019</b>
How much shall be Non Tax Revenue?	<b>\$464,700</b>
How much shall be raised by Taxes?	<b>\$1,967,319</b>

**Excludes FY24 Town Meeting Reserve Articles**

	Total Expenses FY24	Income Against Expenses	Raise & Appropriate via Taxes
A. Selectboard Municipal Subtotal	\$308,989.00	\$35,000.00	\$273,989.00
B. Highway	1,260,137.00	183,500.00	1,076,637.00
Total Highway & Selectboard	<u>\$1,569,126.00</u>	<u>\$218,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,350,626.00</u>

FY24 Town Meeting Reserve Articles:	Balance Transferred	New Funds	Total Per Article	7-Mar-23
Audit Reserve Fund	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Article 8
Resurfacing Reserve Fund - Balance Transfer	89,000	0	89,000	Article 9
Resurfacing Reserve Fund	0	300,000	300,000	Article 10
Bridge Reserve Fund - Balance Transfer	59,995	0	59,995	Article 11
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund- Balance Transfer	11,329	0	11,329	Article 12
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund	0	18,691	18,691	Article 13
Reappraisal Reserve Fund	0	5,000	5,000	Article 15
Building Maintenance Fund - Balance Transfer	7,806	0	7,806	Article 16
Grant Reserve Fund - ARPA Balance	193,956	0	193,956	Article 17
<b>Total FY24 - Town Meeting Articles</b>	<u><b>\$362,086</b></u>	<u><b>\$328,691</b></u>	<u><b>\$690,777</b></u>	

# Town of Halifax - BUDGET FY25

As of: 02-Feb-24

## Surplus(Deficit) From Town Operations

### Unaudited - Cash Basis FY23

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

#### Revenues Town Operations: \$3,194,247

#### Revenues Self Funding Activities: \$138,713

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

#### Expenses Town Operations: \$3,221,519

#### Expenses Self Funding Activities: \$51,089

#### Surplus(Deficit) Operations: (\$27,271)

#### Surplus(Deficit) Self Funded Activities: \$87,625

FY24 Tax Revenue Shortfall	(218,500)
Rebate from School (State Reconciliation)	64,974
<b>Net FY24 Tax Revenue Shortfall</b>	<b>(153,526)</b>

<b>Surplus(Deficit) Self Funded Activities:</b>	<b>\$87,625</b>
<b>Surplus(Deficit) Operations:</b>	<b>(27,271)</b>

#### Total Surplus(Deficit) from Operations:<sup>3</sup> (\$180,797)

#### Unaudited Cash Basis P&L - FY2023 \$60,353

**Footnotes:**

- 1 Net of \$177,057 Income against Expenses FY23
- 2 Net of \$34,342 Income against Expenses Fy23
- 3 Included in Raise & Appropriate for Proposed FY25 Budget
- 4 Includes Primarily Delinquent Tax Penalties, Grants, Restoration & Office Equipment

**Town of Halifax**  
 Vehicle and Equipment Schedule

As of Date:

02-Feb-24

**Town of Halifax Equipment Schedule (2024)**

Model Year	Truck Fleet	Truck Number	Purchase Price	Normal Life Span (years)	Optimal Life Span (years)	Target Replacement	Notes	7 year Optimal Trade In Estimate	Estimated Replacement Cost (x/Trade in)	Current Mileage as of 12/1/2023
2013	International Tandem Dump Truck	7	\$189,000.00	10	7	2020	1	\$40,000	\$250,000	138,387
2014	Ford F550 Truck	5	\$79,000.00	7	7	2021	2	\$50,000	\$150,000	72,624
2015	GMC Pickup	6	\$33,000.00	7	7	2022	3	\$15,000	\$72,000	146,621
2016	International Tandem Dump Truck	1	\$197,000.00	10	7	2023	4	\$85,000	\$250,000	75,055
2020	Western Star Single Axle AWD Dump Truck	4	\$191,191.00	10	7	2027	5	\$120,000	\$250,000	10,119
2022	Western Star Tandem Axle Dump Truck	2	\$171,894.00	10	7	2029	6		\$250,000	23,243
2023	Western Star	3	\$231,215.00		7	2030	7	\$140,000	\$250,000	692

*The Town of Halifax purchases the heavy equipment via prevailing bank or dealer financing available at the time of purchase. As a result, the Purchased /Lease column provided in FY2023 has been eliminated from this schedule.*

**Notes:**

The Column headed "Normal Life Span" was used in Town Meeting Materials dated March, 7, 2023

The Column headed "Optimal Life Span" is shown as a target in order to maximize Trade In Value and reduce Maintenance and Repair Costs per vehicle.

- 1 Currently in service as a "Spare Truck" and is currently under extensive use and further diminishing trade in value. Originally operated on a 10 year cycle.
- 2 Truck on order and delivery is expected during winter 2024/2025
- 3 Overdue for replacement.
- 4 Out of warranty. All vehicle repairs expenses are now Town funded.
- 5 Will be out of warranty at 2027 replacement year.
- 6 At purchase, the vehicle body was re-chassied from a 2014 vehicle and is showing increased repair risk.
- 7 Newest vehicle in fleet with 7 year warranty including roadside repair and towing.

### Town of Halifax Equipment Schedule (2024)

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

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

### Town of Halifax Future Equipment (2024)

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

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

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

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

As of Date: 02-Feb-24

EXISTING FLEET (ACTUAL)	2014 New Holland Tractor	2020 Western Star Single Axle Dump Truck	2022 Western Star Tandem Axle Dump Truck	2023 Western Star	Total Existing Fleet
	N/A	Truck No. 4	Truck No. 2	Truck No. 3	
Purchase Price:	\$74,149.00	\$191,191.00	\$171,894.00	\$226,670.00	
Term:	5 YEARS	5 YEARS	5 YEARS	5 YEARS	
Interest Rate (Fixed):	3.10%	2.40%	2.25%	6.53%	
Add to Fleet:	Existing	Existing	Existing	Existing	
Principal	\$14,829.80	\$38,238.20	\$34,378.80	\$0.00	\$87,446.80
Interest	448.24	2,745.50	3,867.62	0.00	7,061.36
<b>2023 Total</b>	<b>\$15,278.04</b>	<b>\$40,983.70</b>	<b>\$38,246.42</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$94,508.16</b>
Principal	\$0.00	\$38,238.20	\$34,378.80	\$0.00	\$72,617.00
Interest	0.00	1,896.61	3,083.35	0.00	4,979.96
<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$40,134.81</b>	<b>\$37,462.15</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$77,596.96</b>
Principal	\$0.00	\$38,238.20	\$34,378.80	\$45,334.00	\$117,951.00
Interest	0.00	917.72	2,378.58	14,801.55	18,097.85
<b>2025 Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$39,155.92</b>	<b>\$36,757.38</b>	<b>\$60,135.55</b>	<b>\$136,048.85</b>
Principal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,378.80	\$45,334.00	\$79,712.80
Interest	0.00	0.00	1,547.05	11,841.24	13,388.29
<b>2026 Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$35,925.85</b>	<b>\$57,175.24</b>	<b>\$93,101.09</b>
Principal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,378.80	\$45,334.00	\$79,712.80
Interest	0.00	0.00	773.52	8,880.93	9,654.45
<b>2027 Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$35,152.32</b>	<b>\$54,214.93</b>	<b>\$89,367.25</b>
Principal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,334.00	\$45,334.00
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,920.62	5,920.62
<b>2028 Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$51,254.62</b>	<b>\$51,254.62</b>
Principal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,334.00	\$45,334.00
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,960.31	2,960.31
<b>2029 Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$48,294.31</b>	<b>\$48,294.31</b>

Source: Town Report Equipment Schedule 2023\_20231208

**Notes:**

Principal amount is stated within the loan documents from the lending institution. The principal amount is the same throughout the loan term.

Interest amount is estimated for each year based on an amortization schedule obtained from the lending institution.

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

As of Date: 02-Feb-24

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

Source: Estimates based on Current Market Information

N/A = Interest estimates are not available as they are dependent upon prevailing rates at time of purchase.

TOWN OF HALIFAX  
TAX RATE  
FISCAL YEAR 2024

MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST	\$1,255,594.00
+/- Tax Appeals/Abatements	
NET MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST	<u>\$1,255,594.00</u>

MUNICIPAL BUDGET	
SELECTMEN'S BUDGET Article 4	\$1,132,126.00
TREASURER'S BUDGET Article 5	\$24,000.00
AUDIT RESERVE FUND Article 8	\$5,000.00
RESURFACING RESERVE FUND article 10	\$300,000.00
CEMETERY PERPTUAL CARE FUND Article 13	\$18,691.00
REAPPRAISAL RESERVE FUND Article 15	\$5,000.00
CARING FOR CANOPY Article 18	\$5,000.00
WHITINGHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY Article 19	\$5,000.00
<sup>e</sup> SEVEDS Article 20	\$2,184.00
OTHER VOTED NON-PROFITS	\$15,890.00
TOTAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET	<u>\$1,512,891.00</u>

STATE HOLD HARMLESS PAYMENT	(\$126,173.00)
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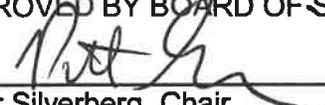
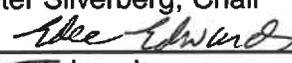
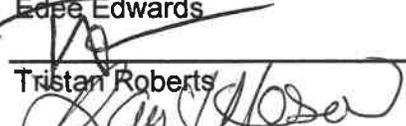
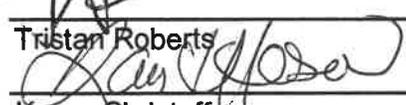
TOTAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET MINUS HOLD HARMLESS	<u>\$1,386,718.00</u>
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TAX on LOCAL AGREEMENTS (Town Voted Exemptions)	\$8,687.43
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TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAXES TO BE RAISED	<u>\$1,395,405.43</u>
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MUNICIPAL TAX RATE	1.1044
LOCAL AGREEMENTS TAX RATE	0.0069
TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAX RATE	1.1114
SCHOOL TAX - HOMESTEAD RATE	1.4359
SCHOOL TAX - NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE	1.6252
TOTAL HOMESTEAD TAX RATE	<b>2.5473</b>
TOTAL NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE	<b>2.7366</b>

APPROVED BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON JULY <sup>20 11</sup> ~~18~~, 2023

 Peter Silverberg, Chair
 Edge Edwards
 Tristan Roberts
 Karen Christofferson
Patrick McAllister

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moderator Blais read the Warning in its entirety.

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

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

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

ARTICLE 3: Voted to collect taxes for the Town and the Halifax School District as follows: Taxes will be due on or before September 30, 2023 payable to the Town Treasurer. Taxes will become delinquent after September 30, 2023 and payable with penalties and interest to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

ARTICLE 4: Voted to approve Select Board and Highway expenditures of \$1,250,626 of which \$1,032,126 shall be raised by taxes and \$218,500 by non-tax revenues to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Town for FY24 with the amendment to increase the highway gravel budget by \$100,000. Amending the article to read: Voted to approved Select Board and Highway expenditures of \$1,350,626 of which \$1,132,126 shall be raised by taxes and \$218,500 by non-tax revenues to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Town of FY24.

ARTICLE 5: Voted to set the Town set the Treasurer's budget for salary and collection of current taxes at \$20,000 plus \$4000 for expenses for FY24.

ARTICLE 6: Voted to Passover this article, that the Town assess a one percent (1%) tax on rooms pursuant to 24 VSA & 138(b). Passover vote is as follows: Yes 44 votes, No 22 votes, passing over this article passed with a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE 7: Voted to authorize audits to be provided by a public accountant licensed in this state every third year starting with an audit of FY25

ARTICLE 8: Voted to establish a reserve fund called the Audit Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding audits performed by a public accountant in accordance with 24 VSA & 2804 and fund by raising and appropriating \$5000 in FY24..

ARTICLE 9: Voted to establish a reserve fund called the Resurfacing Reserve Fund for the resurfacing and maintenance of paved roads in accordance with 24 VSA & 2804 to be funded with \$89,000.31 which is the current balance from FY22.

ARTICLE 10: Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 in FY24 to be deposited into the Resurfacing Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 11: Voted to establish a reserve fund called the Bridge Reserve Fund to be used for the construction and maintenance of bridges in accordance with 24 VSA & 2804 to be funded with \$59,994.86 which is the current balance of FY22.

ARTICLE 12: Voted to establish a reserve fund to be called the Cemetery Perpetual Care Reserve Fund to be used for the construction and maintenance of cemeteries in the Town of Halifax in accordance with 18 VSA & 5306 to be funded with current balance of \$11,328.84.

ARTICLE 13: Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,691 to be deposited into the Cemetery Perpetual Care Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 14: Voted to establish a reserve fund to be called the Reappraisal Reserve Fund to be used for future town wide reappraisal in accordance with 24 VSA & 2804.

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

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

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

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

#### DEDICATION TO WAYNE COURSER

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

#### DEDICATION TO LAURA & LEWIS SUMNER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE 20: Voted to appropriate the sum of \$2,184.00 to be raised by taxes for the support of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region.

ARTICLE 21: Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of:

\$250	American Red Cross
\$200	Brattleboro Area Hospice
\$500	Deerfield Valley Community Partnership
\$500	Deerfield Valley Food Pantry
\$50	Green Up Vermont
\$2,000	Halifax Community Club
\$1,000	Halifax Fire Company
\$750	Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)
\$550	Senior Solutions (Council on Aging for Southern Vermont)
\$790	Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)
\$500	The Gathering Place Adult Day Program
	Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of Vermont and New
\$1,900	Hampshire, Inc.
\$3,000	Whitingham Fireman's Association
\$500	Windham County Disaster Animal Response Team (WinDART)
\$2,500	Wings Community Program
\$700	Women's Freedom Center
\$200	Youth Services

ARTICLE 22: Discussed the following non-binding business:

ANDY RICE: If you call 911, please state where do you live, what's the number, if you don't have a number of your house, the fire department has a fundraiser to place numbers at your driveway. Contact them and they will put reflective number at the end of your driveway.

LEWIS SUMNER: I would like to thank all the Select Board members that I have ever had to work with for putting up with me. I have enjoyed working with them all. I hope they enjoyed working with me. Thanks everyone.

GARY RAND: (Cemetery commissioner): We have been doing restoration work on the cemeteries. Linda Swanson and I are members of VOCA VT Old Cemeteries Association, a non-profit group that gives assistance. They have been asked to help to do restoration work on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you want to volunteer and help out, there will be food afterwards. The restoration work will include scraping stones, cleaning stones, etc.

JOAN COURSER: I wish there was a way to make the drivers slow down going through the village. The speed limit is 25 mph and they go 40-45 mph.

MARY BREWSTER: Really appreciate all the former Select Board members that came and went that made a 5 member Board work. Thank you

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

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

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

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

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

ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF HALIFAX, VERMONT  
For the Fiscal Year 2024

<u>TOWN OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
TOWN MODERATOR (1 yr)	Paul G. Blais	2024
TOWN CLERK (3 yrs)	Patricia Dow	2026
TOWN TREASURER (3 yrs)	Patricia Dow	2026
SELECTMEN (3 yrs)	Tristan Roberts	2025
	Patrick McAllister	2026
	Peter Silverberg, Chair	2024
SELECTMEN (2 yrs)	Edee Edwards	2025
	Karen Christofferson	2024
LISTERS (3 yrs)	Tina Blais	2026
	Mary L. Brewster	2025
	Patricia Dow	2024
AUDITORS (3 yrs)	Charles Lee Todd, Appointed	2024
	Erin L. Lovern, Appointed	2024
	Vacant position	2024
COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES (1yr)	Mary Brewster	2024
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS (3 yrs)	Steven M. Cohen	2025
	Patrick McAllister	2026
	Laurel A. Copeland	2024
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS (3 yrs)	Laurel A. Copeland	2026
	Gary Rand	2024
	Linda Swanson	2025
HALIFAX SCHOOL MODERATOR	Paul G. Blais	2024
HALIFAX SCHOOL DIRECTORS	Homer "Chum" Sumner	2025
	Paul G. Blais	2026
	Amy Kamstra	2024
TRUSTEE TO THE WHITINGHAM LIBRARY	Catherine Bell	2024
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (2 yrs)	Joan Wonsey-Courser	2025
	Patricia Pusey	2025
	Kaitlin Stone	2025
	Craig J. Stone	2025
	Malcolm K. Sumner	2025

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

Andrew Rice  
Roy Richardson  
Malcolm Sumner – Term Expires 2025

NEWSPAPERS OF RECORD

*Deerfield Valley News*  
*The Commons*

SELECTMEN'S MEETING DATES

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

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

## APPOINTMENTS BY THE SELECTBOARD

Starting March 2023

SELECTBOARD CHAIR (1 yr)	Peter Silverberg
SELECTBOARD VICE CHAIR (1 yr)	Edee Edwards
SELECTBOARD SECRETARY/ADMIN. ASSISTANT (1 yr)	Alison Crossley
HALIFAX PLANNING COMMISSION (3 yrs) (5 members)	E. Turner Lewis – Term Expires 2025
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (3 yrs) (5 members)	Tom Fox - Term Expires 2026
	Thomas Tefft – Term Expires 2024
	William Pusey - Term Expires 2024
	Kaitlin Stone – Term Expires 2025
HALIFAX CONSERVATION COMMISSION (5 members)	Stephan Chait – Term Expires 2027
(4 yrs)	Laurel Copeland – Term Expires 2027
	Mary Horne – Term Expires 2025
	Leslie Pollitt – Term Expires 2024
	David Towler – Term Expires 2025
HALIFAX CELEBRATION COMMITTEE (1 year term each) (7 members)	Patricia Dow
	Paul G. Blais
	Tina Blais
	Joan Courser
	Gary Rand
	Andrea Rand
	<i>(position open)</i>
BROADBAND COMMITTEE (1 year term each) (5 members)	Tristan Roberts
	Stephan Chait
	Jennie Strowe
	David Jones
	Thomas Fischer
DVFIBER HALIFAX REPRESENTATIVE <sup>1</sup> (1 year)	<i>(David Jones, resigned)</i> / Detlef Ronneburger
DVFIBER HALIFAX ALTERNATE (1 year)	Tristan Roberts
DVFIBER HALIFAX ALTERNATE (1 year)	Edee Edwards
ROAD COMMISSIONER (1 yr)	Michael Fournier
TREE WARDEN (ongoing, but report to state annually)	Sue Kelly
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (1 yr)	Andrew Rice
REPRESENTATIVE TO SENIOR SOLUTIONS (1 yr)	<i>(Bettye Roberts, resigned; position open)</i>
WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS (1 yr)	Stephan Chait & Edee Edwards
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR (4 yrs)	Kyle Farnsworth - Term Expires 2024
ACTING ZONING ADMINISTRATOR (4 yrs)	Rick Gay - Term Expires 2027
WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT REPS (1 yr)	Lewis Sumner and Stephen Chait
LOAN REVIEW COMMITTEE (1 yr)	Allan Dacey and Andrew Rice
ADA COORDINATOR (1 yr)	Robert Leete
E-911 COORDINATOR (1 yr)	Dennis Annear
RECYCLING COORDINATOR (1 yr)	Lewis Sumner
GREEN-UP VERMONT, INC. (1 yr)	Jessica Cooney
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR (1 yr)	Paul Blais
TOWN HEALTH OFFICER (3 yrs)	Susan M. Kelly, D.V.M. Expires 2026
CITATION TICKET RESPONSIBILITY (1 yr)	Andrew Rice
ENERGY CONSERVATION OFFICER (1 yr)	Robert Leete

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<sup>1</sup> Deerfield Valley Communications Union District (DVCUD), dba DVFiber, allows one voting member and any number of alternates

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

Andrew Rice  
Roy Richardson  
Malcolm Sumner – Term Expires 2025

NEWSPAPERS OF RECORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING DATES

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

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

# Department Reports

## **Town of Halifax – Auditors Annual Report**

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Halifax as presented in this report for the year ending June 30, 2023. These financial statements are the responsibility of those town officers authorized by law to draw orders and keep accounts. Our responsibility as Auditors is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We reviewed the financial statements and records provided by the Town Treasurer, Road Commissioner, Cemetery Commission, Delinquent Tax Collector, and Trustees of Public Funds. We looked at bank statements for these accounts covering the same period. We used sampling to examine certain transactions in detail. Through these reviews, we were able to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial records presented in this annual report are free from material misstatement.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Lee Todd II, Chair  
Erin Lovern

Appointed Auditors for FY 2023

## Halifax Broadband Committee 2023 Activity Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tristan Roberts  
Chair

P.S. Again, please sign up here:

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

## HALIFAX CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone for their continued interest and excitement in the Town Celebration Days. We are sad that we were not able to host another one in 2023. We are hoping to plan something small during 2024 and will be working on that soon.

2025 will be the year for the 275<sup>th</sup> Old Home Day Celebration. The Celebration team has been working on this project for a couple of years now. We hope this will be a multi-day event with daily and/or evening activities for everyone to enjoy. This will be a very large undertaking and we are seeking interested people to help plan and volunteer. If you have special ideas or interests for our Old Home Day celebration days we would love to hear from you. Meeting for that will be posted. Until then, if you wanted to drop your name and contact info off at the Town Office we can add you to the list.

We expect to have several fund raising events to help cover the cost of a multi-day celebration, and as always, we try to keep the costs low so everyone can enjoy the festivities. Our goal is to have all community groups involved in this process. We all look forward to your input and help and lets make 2024 and 2025 fantastic years !!!!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Your Celebration Committee

### CELEBRATIONS Town of Halifax Fund Balance July 2022 through June 2023

<b>Fund Balance, July 1, 2022</b>		<b>\$16,749.58</b>
<b>Income</b>		
<b>3000 · INCOME</b>		
3200 · Donations and Sponsors	86.72	
3400 · Dinner income	378.28	
3500 - Raffles, Contests and Games	1,661.50	
3600 · Sales of Textiles and Products	556.50	
3700 · Interest Income	8.57	
3800 · Gift Cards Donated	75.00	
<b>Total 3000 · INCOME</b>	<b>2,766.57</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,766.57</b>	<b>2,766.57</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>4000 · EXPENSES</b>		
4100 · Advertising signs and displays		
4200 · Fund raising meals expenses		
4220 · Food Supplies Expense	536.60	
4230 - Paper Products Expense	40.78	
4310 - Contest game winning prizes	430.78	
4500 · Events expenses		
4510 - Decorations Expenses	159.48	
4520 · Games and Activites (sm)Expense	299.98	
4600 · Musical Entertainment Expense	900.00	
<b>Total 4500 · Events expenses</b>	<b>2,367.62</b>	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$2,367.62</b>	
<b>Net Income/loss</b>		<b>\$398.95</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2022</b>		<b>\$17,148.53</b>

**Note: The above expenses and income was mostly from the celebration in 2022.**

## **Cemetery Commission Report**

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

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

### **Commissioners:**

Linda Swanson

Gary Rand

Laurel Copeland

## **Halifax Community Club**

The Halifax Community Club, active since 1952, is a volunteer-staffed community service organization, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit [EIN 82-1158399]. It is dependent for support on fundraising activities, the Town of Halifax, annual dues (\$5), and private donations. It owns and maintains the historic Halifax Community Hall at 20 Brook Road in West Halifax, a venue for Halifax events. In June 2023, the Community Club initiated the Halifax Café, a community gathering space in the Hall open two days a week, Thursday & Saturday, from 10 am to 1 pm. The Café is staffed and provisioned by volunteers; donations received support the Community Club or other Halifax non-profit. The Halifax Community Club provides Senior Meal on the 3rd Friday of each month as well as various events throughout the year. The Halifax Community Club also arranges rental of, or sponsors the use of, the Hall for a wide variety of public and private events: talks, meetings, yoga, environmental education seminars, baby and bridal showers, birthday and anniversary parties, funeral and memorial gatherings, benefit suppers, concerts, and holiday events.

Contacts: Joan Courser at **JWCinVT@gmail.com** or (802) 368-7733 to reserve the Hall; **LaurelACopeland@gmail.com** or (802) 368-2439 or <https://czresearch.com/halifax/> for general information.

**Collector of Delinquent Taxes**

UPDATED: June 30, 2023

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

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



## **Report of the Halifax Conservation Commission**

### **Mission Statement**

The Halifax Conservation Commission (HCC), through education, advocacy, and action, is dedicated to the preservation, protection, and restoration of the natural environment and wildlife in balance with the surrounding cultural resources.

### **Meetings**

The HCC holds remote video and teleconference meetings via zoom on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Agendas and minutes are posted on the Town website, [halifaxvt.com](http://halifaxvt.com). All are welcome to attend and participate in our meetings.

### **Invasive Plants and Invasive Jumping Worms**

The HCC has prepared six fliers to provide the residents of Halifax information about invasive plants, Asiatic Bittersweet, Barberry, Common Buckthorn, Japanese Knotweed, Phragmites, and Wild (Poison) Parsnip and to explain the harm these plants can do to the landscape and in some cases to human health. The flier provides useful web sites to help with identification and removal. Our easy-to-read fliers assist residents who may not have access to the Internet. The HCC is working on a flier about Jumping Worms to assist the residents of Halifax in identifying them and offering means of trying to remove them. These invasive worms are spreading rapidly and can devastate local gardens and forests.

### **Cost-Effective Means of Protecting Culverts**

The HCC has worked with the Selectboard and the Road Commissioner to protect the town's culverts in a cost-effective way. The most cost-effective means of protecting a culvert is to construct a flow-control device that lets beavers do what beavers do, without damaging culverts and roads. This approach avoids repeated expenses of repairing blocked culverts and flooded roads and is environmentally beneficial by not killing beavers. By participating in the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC) Beavers in Halifax Project, HCC has provided Halifax residents information about rivers, floodwater management and role of beavers.

### **Ash Tree Inventory**

The HCC participated in the ash tree inventory organized by the Halifax Tree Warden. This work was part of a statewide effort due to the destructive consequences of the emerald ash borer beetle and the need to manage the expected widespread damage and loss of trees.

### **Vermont Legislative Process**

In order to have more effective input into the legislative process, State Representative Tristan Roberts provided an overview of the process and how citizens can participate. The HCC is interested in legislation regarding the regulation of trapping and use of dogs in hunting.

Stephan Chait, Chair

Conservation Commission email - [halifaxvtconserv@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxvtconserv@gmail.com).

## **Report of the Halifax Fire Company, Inc. for 2023**

To the Honorable Citizens of the Town of Halifax:

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

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

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

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

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

our monthly 50/50 Raffle, contribute and or buy items at the annual auction and for those that attend our Clambake.

The department is working hard to meet the National Standards for a Fire Department. We have started with protecting our personnel first. The Protective Gear is being replaced by purchasing at least two sets a year. This is difficult as a full set of Gear, consisting of pants, coat, boots, gloves, hood and helmet cost approximately \$5000.00 and according to the National Standards and VOSHA need to be replaced every 10 years. We have also worked on replacing expired air bottles for the breathing apparatus and getting the apparatus tested. We need to provide the best protection we can to our volunteer firefighters. These firefighters donate all of their time to serve you the citizens and we need to protect them the best that we can.

The department also has a fundraiser that provides reflective house numbers to anyone who orders one. These are a valuable resource not only for us but for the other agencies that respond to medicals and the Vermont State Police. These can be ordered by completing a form available at the Town Hall or by contacting any member of the Department. They can also be ordered by emailing [HalifaxVTFire.91C1@gmail.com](mailto:HalifaxVTFire.91C1@gmail.com). The cost is \$20.00 or \$30.00 if you need a post to mount the sign on.

We look forward to serving the Town of Halifax in 2024. If you want to keep up with what we are doing you can visit our Facebook page Halifax Fire Company Inc. or you can stop in the station and see our equipment on the First and Third Monday evening of the month. We are always looking for new members and especially in the next year we are looking for individuals who would be interested in getting certified to respond on medicals.

In 2024 we will be concentrating on Training and learning to do our job better.

Thank you the citizens, the firefighters and their families for allowing me to serve the Town of Halifax providing quality Emergency First Response to your emergencies.

Respectfully,

Dennis M. Annear – Fire Chief/NREMTF

## Halifax Listers' Report

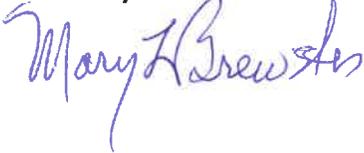
2023

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

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

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

Mary L. Brewster



Tina Blais



Patricia Dow



## **PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

During the Fiscal year 2022- 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023) the Planning Commission kept busy with 5 subdivision hearings, (of which all were approved,) and two regular meetings being held.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment had no hearings to report on, and just two regular meetings being held in the Fiscal year 2022 – 2023.

Regular Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM beginning with the Zoning Board, Planning Commission directly following. The meetings are held at the Halifax Town Office meeting room, located at 246 Branch Road. Agendas and minutes are available on the Town Website, [www.halifax.com](http://www.halifax.com). Citizens are encouraged to attend and contribute their comments, concerns and ideas.

**Turner Lewis, Chair**

**Planning Commission**

**Zoning Board of Adjustment**

## Road Commissioner Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you - Mike Fournier

## **Town of Halifax Selectboard Report for FY23**

The Halifax Selectboard met approximately 47 times since the 2022 election. The Selectboard held 21 Regularly scheduled Meetings, 20 Special Meetings to discuss topics of specific Town interest, 5 Finance Committee meetings and 2 Emergency meetings (One with respect to a severe weather event and the other during FY25 budget discussions). The Board held in person meetings and provided remote video and call in options.

The FY25 Town budget was unanimously approved by the board in January of 2023 for submission to the voters Town Meeting. In our recent meetings to plan the FY2025 budget, we found that an error had been made in Article 4 on the ballot for the 2023 Town Meeting. We found that a transposition error occurred when the article was written resulting in \$218,500 not being included in the “Raise and Appropriate” amount in the article. As a result we set the tax rate too low and will not be able to fund all of the Town’s obligations through the end of the fiscal year. We have had several meetings to discuss and resolve the situation. In the short term, we will ask the Trustees of Public Funds to borrow the amount of the shortfall to fund our obligations through June 30th and have added the amount to the FY2025 budget. We look forward to discussing the matter at Town Meeting. We will discuss how the mistake was made, steps taken to mitigate future occurrences and the resolution taken, which the Selectboard believed was the most cost efficient solution.

Edee Edwards has returned to the board and Karen Christofferson was elected to the board for the first time. Appointments were made for the various town committees at the first Selectboard meeting after the 2023 election. The Selectboard also appointed a Chair and Vice-chair for the board at that time. During the course of the year, two of three Auditor appointments were made and accepted.

The Selectboard established the Selectboard Finance Committee as approved by the Selectboard on April 4, 2023 . As currently constituted, the committee shall consist of at least two members nominated by the Selectboard, with at least one of the committee members being a sitting member of the Selectboard. The committee shall be active for a period from the date of its first meeting to the first Selectboard meeting after Town Meeting. It may be extended every year for an additional one-year term by the Selectboard. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for the following:

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

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

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

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

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

- to facilitate remote meeting access at the town office
- to replace failed windows at the town office
- to make long term investments in equipment for the highway department

Regular and Special meetings as needed are warned by posting the agenda on the town website <https://halifaxvt.com/selectboard/meeting-agenda/> and on the town's bulletin boards. The bulletin boards are located at the Town Office, Post Office and by the mailboxes in Halifax Center. Emergency meetings are held as needed. The Selectboard encourages citizens to attend meetings in person, via remote video or via telephone to stay informed about and participate in town affairs. The link to the video meetings and the call in number are provided on each agenda.

As of January 2024, the Town's email distributions are reaching 53 members of the community. We encourage anyone interested in learning more about activities in Town and to subscribe. In particular, anyone who wishes to receive Selectboard meeting agendas and/or other Town related communications by email should send a request to the secretary at [halifaxsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxsecretary@gmail.com) or subscribe to the email list on the Selectboard page on the town website <https://halifaxvt.com/selectboard> .

If you are interested in any of the town's appointed positions listed in this Town Report, please submit a letter to the Selectboard or email the secretary at [halifaxsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxsecretary@gmail.com). Appointments are made during the first two meetings following the Town Meeting. We look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Silverberg, Chair  
Edee Edwards, Vice Chair  
Patrick McAllister  
Tristan Roberts  
Karen Christofferson

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

**Appointments Made By Town Clerk**

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

**Vital Records Filed**

Marriages	5
Deaths	10
Births	3

**Land Records Recorded**

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

Town Clerk's Report continued

Warranty Deed	38
Wastewater & Potable Water Supply	5
Wastewater Installer Certificate	1
Water Supply Replacement	

Total Documents Recorded: 281      Total Pages Recorded: 782

**Town Clerk Fees Turned Over to Town Treasurer**

Recording Fees	\$ 11,375.00
Examination of Records & Copies	\$ 1,764.00
Notices for Posting of Land	\$ 75.00
Fish & Wildlife Licenses	\$ 40.50
Map Sales	\$ 40.00
Marriage Licenses	\$ 50.00
Green Mountain Passports	\$ 16.00
Burial Transit Permits	\$ 5.00
Town Plan/Zoning Books	\$ 0.00
Dog Licenses (Town Clerk Fees)	\$ 384.00
Certified Copies of Vital Records	<u>\$ 300.00</u>
<b>TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES</b>	<b>\$ 14,049.50</b>

Town Portion of Dog licenses \$ 561.00

**Total Dogs Licensed in calendar year 2023**

207 Dogs    **Total Fees Collected**    \$ 1,924.00  
 1 pet breeder license

**Accounting of All Dog License Fees Collected in calendar year 2022**

State Rabies Fund	190 Dogs @ \$ 1.00 per dog	\$ 190.00
State Neutering & Spaying Fund	196 Dogs @ \$ 4.00 per dog	\$ 756.00
Town Clerk Fees	207 Dogs @ \$ 2.00 per dog	\$ 414.00
Balance Remitted to Town Treasurer		<u>\$ 564.00</u>
<b>Total Dog License Account</b>		<b>\$ 1,924.00</b>

\$ 4.00 of every \$ 15.00 recorded item is split between the Restoration of Records Fund and the Office Equipment Fund each year.

Restoration of Records Funds for Fiscal year 2022-2023	\$ 1,542.67
Office Equipment Fund for Fiscal year 2021-2022	\$ 1,542.67

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

Prepared by:  
 Patricia Dow, Treasurer

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

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

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

Prepared by:  
 Patricia Dow, Treasurer

5800 · REVENUE TO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
5810 · State Highway Aid	152,056.79	
5820 - Materials Sales and Service	691.82	
5830 · Excess Weight Permits	150.00	
5850 - Refunds	928.72	
5860 - Insurance Claims	10,508.53	
5885 - Equipment Appropriated Budget	11,000.00	
5890 - Grants	217,500.00	
<b>Total 5800 · REVENUE TO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT</b>		<b>392,835.86</b>
5501 · SELF FUNDING		
5210 · Zoning	2,135.00	
5211 - Zoning Appeals	150.00	
5585 - Office Equipment Fund	2,542.67	
5590 · Delinquent Tax Penalty	13,460.52	
6680 - Record Restoration Fund	1,542.67	
<b>Total 5501 · SELF FUNDING</b>		<b>19,830.86</b>
5650 - CEMETERY INCOME		
5616 - Cemetery Account	5,060.00	
5655 - Cemetery Appropriated Funds	5,000.00	
5656 - Cemetery Plot Sales	200.00	
5657 - Cemetery Restoration Donations	100.00	
<b>Total 5650 - Cemetery Income</b>		<b>10,360.00</b>
5300 · ANNUAL PROJECT FUNDING		
5320 · Reappraisal	5,576.00	
<b>Total 5300 · ANNUAL PROJECT FUNDING</b>		<b>5,576.00</b>
1310 - Escrow CD opening/interest from tax sales		90.33
<b>COMBINED REVENUES</b>		<b><u><u>3,599,708.60</u></u></b>

SELECTBOARD EXPENSES	EXPENSE	TOTALS
6100 · SALARIES & WAGES - Town		
6110 · Selectboard Salary	8,265.00	
6112 · Selectboard Secretary	3,000.00	
6113 · Selectboard Assistant	14,079.66	
6120 · Town Clerk Salary	25,000.00	
6121 · Town Clerk Assistant	4,145.00	
6130 · Lister Wages/ Regular	14,094.00	
6140 · Plan/Zone Secretary Wage	992.00	
6152 · EMD Compensation	3,500.00	
6165 · Constable Salary	4,600.00	
6180 · Assistant Treasurer	1,000.00	
<b>Total 6100 · SALARIES &amp; WAGES</b>		<b>78,675.66</b>
6200 · EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
6210 · Workshops/Conferences/Training	300.00	
6240 · Retirement-Town Share-Town Clerk	1,625.06	
<b>Total 6200 · EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		<b>1,925.06</b>
9700 - PAYROLL EXPENSES		
9710 - Medicare	5,684.20	
9720 - FICA	24,304.85	
<b>Total 9700 PAYROLL EXPENSES</b>		<b>29,989.05</b>

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

Prepared by:  
 Patricia Dow, Treasurer

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

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

Prepared by:  
 Patricia Dow, Treasurer

6280 - APPROPRIATED FUNDS		
6281 Cemetery Appropriated Funds	5,000.00	
Total 6280 APPROPRIATED FUNDS		5,000.00
6900 - BANK CHARGES AND FEES		
6910 - Service Charges	314.92	
Total 6900 - BANK CHARGES AND FEES		314.92
6950 - PROPERTY TAX OVERPAYMENTS		
6951 - Property Tax Overpayments	22,215.24	
Total 6950 PROPERTY TAX OVERPAYMENTS		22,215.24
Total 6000 · SELECTBOARD ACCOUNT		316,225.37
7000 · HIGHWAY ACCOUNT		
6550 · NEW TOWN GARAGE		
6551 · BOND INTEREST PAYMENT	10,000.00	
6552 · BOND PAYMENT	31.00	
Total 6550 · NEW TOWN GARAGE		10,031.00
7100 · Salaries & Wages		
7110 · Road Crew Gross Wages	240,411.14	
7115 · Road Crew Overtime Wages	35,899.86	
7120 · Road Commissioner Salary	7,200.00	
Total 7100 · Salaries & Wages		283,511.00
7200 · Employee Benefits & Expenses		
7210 - Training & Education	2,075.00	
7220 · Health Insurance	100,714.13	
7230 · Life Insurance	724.20	
7260 · Retirement-Town Share	17,919.60	
7270 · Uniform Town Contribution	3,774.69	
7280 · Advertisements	1,176.60	
7295 - Miscellaneous	471.82	
Total 7200 · Employee Benefits & Expenses		126,856.04
7300 · Garage Expenses		
7310 · Electric	1,838.28	
7320 · Heating Fuel	8,544.46	
7330 · Telephone	2,235.85	
7340 · Building Repair & Maint	5,016.82	
7360 · Office & Cleaning Supplies	993.16	
7370 · Trash Collection	1,728.00	
7380 · Shop Supplies	10,250.63	
Total 7300 · Garage Expenses		30,607.20
7400 · Road Supplies & Applications		
7435 · Stone	38,381.21	
7410 · Sand	124,944.00	
7420 · Salt	31,935.96	
7430 · Gravel	201,539.06	
7440 · Chloride	20,642.15	
7450 · Construction	5,605.42	
7462 · Cold Patch & Culverts	15,653.10	
7460 - Resurfacing	348,922.73	
7480 - Road Signs	1,488.36	
7490 · Safety Gear	220.00	
Total 7400 · Road Supplies & Applications		789,331.99

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

Prepared by:  
 Patricia Dow, Treasurer

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

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

Prepared by:  
 Patricia Dow, Treasurer

9600 · SPECIAL FUNDS-voted at town mtg		
9612 · VISITING NURSE ALLIANCE	1,900.00	
9614 · Brattleboro Area Hospice	200.00	
9615 · Council on Aging for SE Vt	550.00	
9616 · Halifax Historical Society	3,500.00	
9617 · Healthcare & Rehab Services	750.00	
9618 · Whitingham Free Library	4,500.00	
9619 · Women's Crisis Center	700.00	
9620 · Whitingham Ambulance	3,000.00	
9623 · Wings Community Program	2,500.00	
9625 · Halifax EMS/Fire Company	1,000.00	
9626 · Youth Services	200.00	
9627 · Halifax Community Club	2,000.00	
9629 · SEVCA So.East VT Comm Act	790.00	
9630 · The Gathering Place	500.00	
9631 · Green Up Vermont	50.00	
9632 · American Red Cross	250.00	
9635 · Deerfield Valley Community Part	500.00	
9636 · Deerfield Valley Food Pantry	500.00	
9638 · WINDART	500.00	
Total 9600 · SPECIAL FUNDS-voted at town mtg		23,890.00
6570 · CEMETERY ACCOUNT		
6571 - Other	944.07	
6572 · Equipment Rental	2,913.60	
6573 · Wages	2,365.25	
6575 - Contracted Maintenance	13,187.50	
Total 6570 · CEMETERY ACCOUNT		19,410.42
9900 - School taxes paid to school district		1,472,986.58
<b>TOTAL COMBINED EXPENSES</b>		<b>3,539,355.32</b>

## Tree Warden Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Kelly  
Halifax Tree Warden

## Trustees of Public Funds (Consolidated Report)

Trustees:

- Steven M. Cohen (Cael Fund)
- Laurel Copeland: (Eames Fund and Cemetery Fund)
- Patrick McAllister: (Scott Fund and Wicks Cemetery Fund)

The three Trustees managed five town funds in Fiscal Year 2023 with a combined value at the beginning of the fiscal year of \$567,132. Over the course of the year these funds earned \$17,023 in interest and dividends (about 3%), but due to unfavorable economic conditions, funds held in investment accounts lost \$18,578 in market value (a decline of just under 6%). The funds distributed \$24,150 to the town and ended the year with a combined value of \$541,223 as of 30 June 2023. The funds are described below.

**Scott Fund** was created as a bequest of Henry M. Scott and transferred to the town in 1963 for “the general purposes of the town”. The fund is currently held in an investment account at Edward Jones.

**Cael Fund** was established in 1968 as a bequest by Donald D. Cael for the purpose of providing scholarships to Halifax residents pursuing post-secondary education, with the stipulation that the funds be “kept under deposit in a Vermont bank” and awards be made from the interest only of the fund. Donations from past and present Halifax residents are also invested in the fund, which provides the following school awards of \$10-\$25 for excellence: Mary P. Butterfield Citizenship Award; Hank Wonsey Outstanding Poet Award; Elizabeth Scott Willingness Award; William Ashcroft Academic Progress Award; and Sam Maltese Writing Award. Recipients of Cael scholarships are selected by the Scholarship Committee, comprised of the Halifax School District Board and the Selectboard. School award recipients are determined by the principal and faculty. Cael scholarship applications are available from the Town Clerk. No applications were received for FYE2023, therefore the Cael Scholarship was not awarded this year. The fund is currently held in CDs at Brattleboro Savings and Loan.

**Eames Fund** was established in 1980 from the estate of Halifax resident Edward Eames (1895-1980) who lived on Collins Road, at times in Halifax and otherwise in Whitingham. Mr. Eames left approximately \$130,000 each to the towns of Halifax

## Trustees of Public Funds (Consolidated Report)

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

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

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

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

### FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

# Regional Reports

**Brattleboro Area Hospice**

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

January 8, 2024

Attention: Selectboard, Town of Halifax

Dear Select Board,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

 Susan Parris, Executive Director

## Deerfield Valley Community Partnership

The Deerfield Valley Community Partnership (DVCP) is celebrating its 29<sup>th</sup> year of working on preventing alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among our youth. We have sponsored the following programming and activities in our schools and communities:

- Hosting Community Family Substance Free Events (Family Halloween Event, February Break Family Extravaganza, Blueberry Family Fun Frenzy)
- Implementing prevention curriculum for all students in grades 4-8
- Implementing Sticker Shock- collaborating with local retailers and youth on a community campaign to eliminate liquor sales to minors
- Doing advocacy work at the state level with middle and high school students
- Hosting alcohol, tobacco and other drug trainings for teachers
- Sending newsletters on alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues
- Sponsoring empowerment/leadership groups for middle and high school students
- Sponsoring tobacco awareness activities and offering virtual vaping/smoking cessation programs for high school students
- Supporting the Voices of Hope Group
- Partnering with the Department of Liquor Control and local retailers for retailer training on alcohol and tobacco sales to prevent selling to minors
- Recognizing local retailers that pass state compliance checks
- Working to make outdoor spaces smoke-free and installing cigarette buttlers at businesses with 802 Quits Cessation information
- Supporting the Student Assistance Program at the Twin Valley Middle High School
- Informational mailings/newsletters, speaker events, and presentations for parents
- Choose Snow (collaboration with Mount Snow for student/parent educational presentations and student season passes)
- Supporting the creation of a teen room (the Vault) and free teen clothing distribution at OSEC
- Promoting Take Back Day and distributing RX return envelopes

Most DVCP initiatives are funded by state and federal grants. Town funds assist in paying for other direct programming with youth and parents.

DVCP holds meetings every other month with all (adults and youth) encouraged to attend. Partnership meetings include dinner, reports of activities that have happened over the past month, brainstorming new ideas, and making decisions on use of grant funds. The DVCP office is located at the Old School Community Center at 1 School Street, Wilmington.

For more information: check our website at [www.DVCP.org](http://www.DVCP.org) or find us on Facebook or call 802-464-2202.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Hayford-DVCP Director, Jen Nilsen-Community and School Programs Coordinator,  
Shelley Park, Family Engagement Coordinator

## **2023 Deerfield Valley Food Pantry Town Annual Report**

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Evon Mack, President



Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. is a volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to providing 24/7 quality pre-hospital emergency medical care and transport to the people of our community. We maintain 3 ambulances and cover 247 square miles. The core of our agency is made up of approximately 14 volunteers five full time paid staff and part time paid seasonal attendants. DVR has responded to 904 calls as of October 2023 of which 52 were in the town of Halifax.

This past year has once again been a very challenging year for us. Our volunteer ranks are shrinking and the cost of operating continues to rise. The nation's EMS system is facing a crippling work force shortage. In 2022 we had 11,280 volunteer hours in 2023 we had 9975 hours. This results in having to pay for the coverage from per-diem outside employee's. The Government sets the National fee schedule for ambulances at the first of every year. Ambulance providers must accept this rate as payment in full for services provided to Medicare and Medicaid patients. In 2022 this resulted in \$108,786.61 in Medicare charges and \$61,9763.45 Vermont Medicaid charges being written off for DVR. When fuel prices increased, we didn't get an increase in what we could charge we have to absorb this expense. Last year fuel cost was \$7,744.03 this year \$12,772.52.

It would not be possible for DVR to operate without the continued personal support from the community. This through your town contribution and annual subscription drive continues to be a large source of our funding. In addition to raising funds for our daily operation, we are always striving to improve our services and upgrade equipment. If you have not sent your subscription, please do so and please consider making an additional donation towards this goal. Another way to help support DVR is through the Propane Dover Group. For an Annual donation of \$50.00, you can gain access to the negotiated group pricing with Suburban Propane. For more information on this, go to <https://propanedover.com>.

Once again, we would like to thank all those who have supported us through the years. Our membership looks forward to another year of committed service to the residents of our community and the visitors to our area.

Respectfully submitted!

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Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc.

Phone: 802-464-5557

P.O. Box 854

Fax: 802-464-4728

34 Route 100 South  
Wilmington, VT 05363

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



*Annual Report of Activities Through September 30, 2023*

**Welcome**

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

**Years One & Two (2021-2022)**

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

**Year Three (2023)**

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

**Next Up for Connection:**

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

**Towns Post-2025:**

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

**Who Are We**

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

**Year Four Budget**

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

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



**Stay Connected**

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

**Contact Us**

☎ 844.383.6246

✉ info@mydvfiber.net



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

**Green Up Day**  
**May 6, 2023**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HOUSING REHABILITATION COMMITTEE Halifax-Marlboro-Whitingham

The Housing Rehabilitation Committee, a consortium of our three towns, continues to distribute funds in low-interest loans to income-eligible residents for a variety of rehabilitation projects, ranging from septic and well installations, heating, and roofing, to plumbing and electrical repairs and upgrade. We are currently serving 12 clients, three from Halifax, five from Marlboro, and four from Whitingham, with current loans amounting to \$184,576.00 in principle. Funds available for new loans to income-eligible applicants are \$144,356.00 .

Our Committee is one of the few in Vermont that remain active and self-sufficient in the administration of funds recycling from repaid loans. The Committee has funds to lend and invites the residents of our three towns who may have a necessary rehabilitation project to apply to see if they meet eligibility guidelines. Please contact us through any of the Committee members listed below. Applications are also available from the three Town Clerks.

Andy Rice, Chair  
257-7982

Al Dacey  
257-5879

Don McKinley  
368-2376

T. Hunter Wilson  
464-5129

Patty Webster  
464-8153

Linda Donaghue  
368-2313

# Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

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

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



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

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

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



## Immunizations and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

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

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



## Community-Wide Impact

**We prioritize making community-wide impacts.**

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



# SENIOR SOLUTIONS

## Detailed Report to the Town of Halifax for 10/01/2022-9/30/2023

Senior Solutions, Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. has served the residents of Halifax and Southeastern Vermont since 1973. We have offices in Springfield (main office), Windsor, and Brattleboro. Our mission is to promote the well-being and dignity of older adults.

**Information & Assistance:** 14 Calls or Office Visits. Our HelpLine (1-802-885-2669 or 1-866-673-8376 toll-free) offers information, referrals and assistance to older Vermonters, their families, and their caregivers to problem-solve, plan, and access resources. We assist with health insurance problems, long-term care applications, fuel assistance, applying for benefits, and many other needs. Extensive resources are also on our website: [www.SeniorSolutionsVT.org](http://www.SeniorSolutionsVT.org)

**Medicare Assistance:** 12 Calls or Office Visits. Halifax residents received assistance with Medicare issues through our State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides Medicare education and counseling, classes for new Medicare enrollees, and help enrolling in Part D and choosing a drug plan.

**In-Home Care Coordination Services:** We provided 7 residents with in-home case management or other home-based assistance (totaling 62.5 hours) to enable them to remain living safely at home. A Senior Solutions' case manager meets clients at home to create and monitor a person-centered plan of care. Based on this plan, case managers work to secure the services needed to support the client in the community. We also support clients with self-neglect behaviors, and help those who experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

**Nutrition services and programs:** 4 residents received 821 Home-Delivered Meals provided by The Dumaine House. We also supported community meal gatherings at other meal sites in our region.

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

**Volunteer Visitors:** Our volunteers provided home visits, telephone reassurance, and help with shopping or other errands. Our Vet-to-Vet program matched Veteran volunteers with Veteran recipients.

*Senior Solutions is enormously grateful for the support of the people from the Town of Halifax. Submitted by Mark Boutwell, Executive Director*

## Southeastern Vermont Community Action

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **SeVEDS Impact Statement for Halifax Town Report March 2024**

Improving wages, creating jobs, & attracting and keeping people in the region is critical economic development work that is beyond the capacity of any single community to do on its own. **Southeastern VT Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) was founded as an affiliate of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) in 2007 to create regional strategies and attract resources that help us act together to build a thriving economy.** BDCC, Southeastern Vermont's Regional Development Corporation, contracts with SeVEDS to develop and implement these strategies in the Windham Region.

Our work is guided by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a 5 year regional plan with simple goals: **Strengthen Business, Support People.** It was developed with input from communities across Southern Vermont, and is available online at [www.vermontzone.com/ceds](http://www.vermontzone.com/ceds). A new CEDS input process will be completed in 2024.

### **Background & Request**

To support this work, SeVEDS requests funding at \$3.00 per person from all 27 towns we serve. **Therefore, we are asking the Town of Halifax to appropriate \$2,184 (based on a population of 728) to support SeVEDS.**

In 2023, 21 communities, representing 86% of Windham region residents, voted to invest in SeVEDS. We use this municipal funding in three key ways:

1. To directly **fund implementation** of programs & projects serving local communities, businesses and people.
2. To build **regional economic development capacity.** SeVEDS uses municipal funding to create programs, conduct research and planning, secure and administer grants, and to help regional partners.
3. As **seed funding.** We leverage your dollars to bring additional money to the region to provide technical assistance and programs: **every dollar contributed by towns is matched to bring in outside funding.** In FY23 we helped bring close to **\$7 Million** to our region – funding that supports the work of our region's towns, businesses and nonprofits.

### **Program Impacts**

- We support jobs for the majority of Halifax town folks, many who commute out of town to work, by working with hundreds of businesses, including many of the area's largest employers
- Our **Business Services Team** provides access to technical assistance, microlending, and business succession services for businesses of all sizes. We work with businesses from startup to retirement. We encourage any local small businesses or entrepreneurs to reach out!
- Our **Workforce Team** creates programs like **Pipelines and Pathways:** a program that in 2023 provided career training and support to students in area High Schools. Halifax students attending **BUHS, Twin Valley Middle/High School, or the Windham Regional Career Center** benefit directly from this work.
- **The Welcoming Communities** program has supported **80** New Americans who have filled positions in **48** local companies, keeping our regional economy thriving.
- Our **Community Programs** include the **Community Facilities Technical Assistance Program** and **The Southern Vermont Economy Project**, both of which help towns and non-profits improve community vibrancy through local projects. Since 2017 SVEP has provided 100+ trainings with over 2,000 participants to help community projects solve problems and find resources.
- SVEP came to Halifax for a series of **Community Meetings** to help the Select Board and Halifax residents establish shared goals and a list of local projects in the spring of 2023. The resulting report has helped Halifax take better advantage of state programs like the Municipal Technical Assistance Program. 1 Halifax resident is also taking **SoVT Get on Board**, a program designed to foster and support local leadership.

### **More SeVEDS-Led Programming**

For a deeper overview of our programs, visit our website at [www.brattleborodevelopment.com](http://www.brattleborodevelopment.com). There you can sign up for our e-newsletter to get updates including state and federal economic and community development resources, or download our annual report (you can also call the office to receive your own copy: 802-257-7731 x2)

To learn more about the CEDS, CEDS projects the Southern Vermont Economy Summit visit [www.vermontzone.com](http://www.vermontzone.com).

## Town of Halifax

### The MOOver

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Schoonmaker





Town of Halifax  
P.O. Box 127  
Halifax, VT 05358

October 5, 2023

Dear Council Members and Citizens of Halifax;

We at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) would like to offer our heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to have our appropriation request included in 2023 funding. **VNH respectfully requests \$1,900. This represents level funding from last year's request.**

As an integral part of the community healthcare system in Halifax, VNH serves to breach an otherwise significant gap in the community's continuum of care. Last year, VNH provided 80 visits to 4 residents of all ages and at all stages of life. VNH is also the foremost team of hospice and home health experts for over 140 communities in Vermont and New Hampshire. We deliver nursing, hospice and rehabilitation services at home with proven effectiveness, integrity and compassion. Just as local families have counted on us since 1907, you can count on us today.

Having our patients maintain their independence is key. Our nurses, therapists and social workers provide assessments, medical care and education to assist people in leading a more self-sufficient life. This includes patients who are frail, elderly and disabled, people with terminal illness, those recovering from major surgery or illness and children with chronic medical needs. They all benefit by receiving the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home.

Town funding is what allows us to bring down the cost of services provided to those in need. With adequate town funding, we are able to provide an affordable option for home healthcare in the community. To continue meeting these needs, we urge the Town of Halifax to budget continued financial support of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire.

On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

With kind regards,

*Anthony Knox*

Anthony Knox  
Community Relations Manager  
[aknox@vnhcare.org](mailto:aknox@vnhcare.org)  
(603) 790-3172

# Whitingham Free Public Library



## 2022 - 2023 REVIEW

### Our Mission

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

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



Summer Reading Camp  
"All Together Now!"

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

Camp enrichment programs

### Activity Backpacks

Have you checked out our themed Activity Backpacks?

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

#### Themes:

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

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

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

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

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

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



Thank you!

Thank you to the towns of Whitingham & Halifax for your continued support and patronage.  
Kristine, Lois, Lisa and Trustees:  
Edie Brigham, Tanya Bernard, Kristin Breeden,  
Cathy Bell, Adam Ranslow and Wendy Sergeant

### 2022-2023 Statistics

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

### Library of Things

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

### Community Food Shelf

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

Thank you for your donations!



## The Windham Disaster Animal Response Team (WinDART)

### 2023 Annual Report



2023 was a busy year for the Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team's (VDART's) regional response teams in Windham County and beyond. WinDART was activated by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets in March to provide pet sheltering services alongside the American Red Cross's human services after a long-term power outage in Brattleboro, VT caused the opening of a warming shelter at the Brattleboro Union High School. Only one person took advantage of the shelter (with her German Shepherd pictured here), and we were able to provide a warm and safe place for both of them to stay together.

In July, the catastrophic flooding that Vermont experienced once again triggered an activation for pet sheltering services. With assistance from teams across the state, including WinDART, the Central Vermont DART stood up a pet shelter near the Barre Auditorium, where dozens of residents from Barre and Montpelier were evacuated to safety. Under CVDART's leadership, 47 volunteers provided 1,700 hours of round-the-clock assistance to 72 animals (including this rain-soaked kitty) for a period of 26-days, assisting 38 families. Several animals will remain in foster care until they can be reunited with their families. This was an unprecedented response for VDART and its local teams, and demonstrated that our year-round training and drills allow us to respond efficiently and effectively in order to keep pets and their families together through crisis.



In exciting news, WinDART recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Town of Wilmington to use the Old School Community Center as a pet sheltering location for the Deerfield Valley. This will ensure that animals have a designated area to be sheltered close to their human families. WinDART will be participating in a state-wide drill being organized by the Vermont Emergency Management Agency in 2024, and hopes to use the space as part of the drill to test its suitability. WinDART is grateful to the towns of Whitingham, Wilmington, Dover, Halifax and Newfane for recognizing the importance of our work and supporting these life-saving services with yearly town meeting allocations.



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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Windham & Windsor Housing Trust

68 BIRGE STREET

BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

Ph/TTY (802) 254-4604 Fax (802) 254-4656

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



CHARTERED MEMBER



# WINDHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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



## Town of Halifax Report

I'm pleased to report our efforts working with our towns regarding improvement of regionalized policing in Windham County. Regionalizing services is not a new recommendation for Vermont. There have been countless studies for many decades recommending Vermont transition to regional systems to save funds and allocate services more appropriately. The Windham County Sheriff's Office has held two meetings inviting nineteen towns (specifically, towns who don't have a police department) to the discussion on how to provide an improved regionalized policing service from what services we provide now. We've begun with the problem statement:

“Members of the public within Windham County receive inconsistent and non-uniform policing, resulting in lack of response to reported crimes, being disenfranchised by lack of access to services, and an increased propensity for vigilantism.” As my office works with the towns to tackle that problem statement, two questions to answer become immediately clear: How is a regional service governed? How is a regional service funded?

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted, Sheriff Mark R. Anderson



The mission of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) is to assist towns in southeastern Vermont to provide effective local governance and to work collaboratively with them to address regional issues. The region is comprised of 27-member towns: the 23 towns of Windham County; Readsboro, Searsburg and Winhall in Bennington County; and Weston in Windsor County.

The Commission, a political subdivision of the state, is composed of and governed by town-appointed Commissioners. Towns choose their own representatives to serve on the Commission. After town meeting, each Selectboard appoints up to two representatives to serve on the Commission for a one-year term. Halifax is currently represented by Stephan Chait and Edee Edwards. Each Commissioner represents their town's interests within a regional context before the Commission, brings information from the Commission back to their town, and serves on at least one of a number of WRC committees that address regional and municipal issues and concerns. All WRC meetings are open to the public and subject to Vermont open meeting law. Committees and meeting schedules can be found on our website [www.windhamregional.org](http://www.windhamregional.org).

WRC assists towns with a wide variety of activities, including updating town plans and bylaws; community and economic development; local emergency and hazard mitigation planning, including flood hazard area and river corridor bylaw assistance; addressing natural resource issues, including watershed restoration projects and implementation of the state's clean water law; energy resilience and planning; transportation related projects, including traffic counts (automotive, bicycle, pedestrian), inventories (bridges, culverts, signs, road erosion), and road foremen training; redevelopment of Brownfields sites (sites that may be contaminated by hazardous substances); review of projects submitted for review through Act 250 (land use), Section 248 (energy generation and transmission, telecommunications), and federal permitting processes; grant application and administration; training of municipal officials and volunteers across a range of topics; and mapping and geographic information system (GIS) analyses. The maps in your town office were likely produced by the WRC.

We help towns, both individually and collectively, make the most of the financial and human resources they have, assisting with projects in, between, and among towns, building and augmenting the capacity of volunteer-based town boards and commissions, and providing professional services to towns that may want to take on a project that is beyond what they can comfortably manage with their own staff and volunteers. Our relationship with towns is inherently collaborative. For instance, towns may choose to have their town plans reviewed by the Commission; town plan review and approval by the WRC is not mandatory, but is a requirement of some state municipal grant programs. The regional plan, which was readopted in 2021, is developed in consultation with member towns, reflects town plan policies, and is ultimately approved by our towns.

2023 will most likely be noted for weather-related disasters, beginning with the late-December heavy snow and flooding, the historical heavy snow and related damage from the March storm, and the summer flooding, with the July 8<sup>th</sup> flooding being the worst since Irene for the towns in the northwest of the region. WRC staff support municipal disaster preparedness, hazard mitigation, response, and recovery, as well as direct support of State Emergency Operations Center functions. It was also a year when the governor and legislature recognized the limited capacity of rural towns. Programs like the Municipal Energy Resilience Program in support of town building efficiency, and the Municipal Technical Assistance Program in support of high-need towns, will hopefully become models for future statewide initiatives.

Funding for the WRC is provided through contracts with state agencies, federal and other grants, and town assessments. Town assessments made up approximately 5 percent of our total budget. Each town's individual assessment makes it possible for us to leverage the resources to serve all towns. The town's assessment for this year is \$2,056.26. To see our detailed Work Program and Budget for FY2024 and 2023 Annual Report, visit our website, [www.windhamregional.org](http://www.windhamregional.org), and click on the heading "About Us."



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

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

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

Program highlights include:

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

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

Halifax Site Coordinators - Christine Stafford and Sarah Barnett

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Boyd and Keli Gould, Project Co-Directors





WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
327 OLD FERRY ROAD, BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301  
(802) 257-0272 windhamsolidwaste.org

2023  
ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBER TOWNS  
Bob Spencer, Executive Director

**History and Current Status:** The Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) was formed in 1988 by eight towns who cooperatively managed a 30-acre landfill on Old Ferry Road, Brattleboro until it closed in 1995. As more towns joined the District, a regional materials recovery facility (MRF) was constructed by the District adjacent to the closed landfill and processed dual-stream recyclable materials for 20 years until it stopped operating in 2017. Currently 18 towns are members of WSWMD which employs 6 full-time and 3 part-time persons to provide educational programs and operate the transfer station and composting facility on Old Ferry Road.

**Town Solid Waste Services:** Seven member towns, Dover, Jamaica, Readsboro, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Wilmington operate transfer stations for trash and recyclable materials. Other materials such as tires and electronics are also collected by some transfer stations, and most of the single stream recyclables are processed at the Casella MRF in Rutland. All town transfer stations are required to provide containers for drop-off of food scraps. Three towns, Brookline, Halifax, and Marlboro provide 24-7 drop-off sites for recyclables. Three towns, Brattleboro, Vernon, and Westminster provide residential curbside trash and recycling collection. Five towns, Dummerston, Guilford, Newfane, Putney, and Somerset do not provide any trash or recycling services. Residents and businesses can contract with haulers for trash and recycling collection services. There are also two companies providing subscription collection of food scraps. The WSWMD website has a map showing the services provided by each town.

**Financial Report:** WSWMD finished fiscal year 2023 (FY23) with a budget surplus of \$64,693, a portion of which has been allocated toward the construction of the expanded compost facility. Revenues of \$1,461,136 off-set total expenses of \$1,294,617 and \$102,443 of capital plan and facility reserves.

The annual assessment to member towns for fiscal year 2024 was kept to a 4% increase.

**Transfer Station:** The WSWMD transfer station is a regional drop-off center for trash, recyclables, organics/food scraps, construction & demolition debris, scrap metal, and appliances. The transfer station also handles electronics, fluorescent

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wilmington.; schools in Brattleboro, Marlboro, Putney, and Vernon; as well as Landmark College, Marlboro College, and the Brattleboro Retreat. The project provides significant cost savings for municipal and school budgets. Greenbacker Capital has a 20-year lease and pays the District a minimum of \$120,290/year for use of the landfill, as well as 50% of renewable energy credits, for total annual revenue of over \$250,000.

**Household Hazardous Waste:** Management of household hazardous waste is a costly and difficult service required by state regulations. Member towns benefit by having the District provide this service to all District residents and small businesses at the WSWMD Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot in Brattleboro (and occasional one-day special events in member towns, although none were hosted in 2023). The HHW Depot is open by appointment one day each week from May through October. This year participation continued to increase, with 377 households and 14 small businesses served by the program. The average disposal cost per user also increased almost 30% to \$103, for a total program cost of \$52,100 including indirect costs. The costs are offset by a Vermont DEC grant program, operating costs of the District, and a nominal user fee of \$10 per visit. The Depot provides a convenient way for residents and small businesses to dispose of their hazardous waste.

**Community Outreach & Technical Assistance:** The District continues to provide technical assistance for schools, businesses, and towns. In 2023, WSWMD completed work on a grant from the US Department of Agriculture which resulted in a suite of videos that are available on our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/@wswmd](https://youtube.com/@wswmd)). The videos won the 2023 Municipal Partner Award from Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV). Throughout the year the District was also able to provide educational resources including in-person tours or workshops to the Dover, NewBrook, and Vernon schools, and virtual classroom workshops to Guilford, Jamaica, NewBrook, and Townshend schools. For the towns with transfer stations (Dover, Jamaica, Readsboro, Stratton, Townshend, and Wilmington) the District has continued to provide more signage and technical assistance. In 2023, the District assisted over 40 businesses with their waste management needs.

**Special Event Outreach and Technical Assistance:** The WSWMD Special Event Bin lending program grew in popularity in 2023 with our new improved bins and with the pandemic receding. The bins, used to separately collect recyclables, food scraps, and trash, were used at 24 special events this year. They are available to towns, businesses, residents, and institutions for use at fairs, festivals, weddings, etc. In addition, WSWMD offers free technical assistance to help events reduce their waste.

## **Youth Services**

### **Report to the Town of Halifax**

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

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

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

For additional information please see our website at [www.youthservicesinc.org](http://www.youthservicesinc.org), call 802-257-0361 or email [info@youthservicesinc.org](mailto:info@youthservicesinc.org). Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Russell Bradbury-Carlin  
Executive Director  
*Transforming Lives, Inspiring Futures*

# School Reports

WARNING  
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING  
HALIFAX, VERMONT

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

ARTICLE I

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

ARTICLE II

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

ARTICLE III

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

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

Homer Sumner



Paul Blais



Amy Kamstra

**Halifax School Directors**

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF HALIFAX  
ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING  
MARCH 7, 2023**

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

RECESS: Moderator Blais called a brief recess to hear a report from District Representative Tristan Roberts.

Moderator Blais brought the meeting to order at 1:46 PM, gave the guidelines for the conduct of the meeting and read the Annual Town School district Warning in its entirety.

The following business was transacted:

The results of the election by Australian Ballot for school district officers were as follows:

ARTICLE 1:	School Moderator	Paul G. Blais
	Halifax School Director	Paul G. Blais

ARTICLE II: Voted to authorize the School Directors to allocate \$42,899 from the current surplus General Fund Balance to the approved Maintenance Reserve.

ARTICLE III: Voted to appropriate \$2,084,485 necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2023.

ARTICLE IV: Voted to authorize the School Directors to borrow money on the notes of the Town School District or otherwise in anticipation of taxes.

NOTE: The foregoing is a summary of the certified record of the minutes of the March 7, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, which is recorded in Volume 6, Pages 342-343.