

**TOWN REPORT OF WALDEN, VERMONT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 2022**



Cover photo courtesy of Vermont Agency of Transportation

March 7, 2023

Walden School Multipurpose Room

The Town Meeting will begin at 10:00 am

Australian Ballot voting will take place from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

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TOWN OFFICERS

Office	Elected	Term Expires
Moderator	Roger Fox	2023
Clerk/Treasurer	Lina Smith (Resigned) Deborah Messier (appointed)	2023
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	Diane Banister (appointed)	2023
Assistant Clerk	Dia Michaud (appointed)	2023
Selectboard	Robert Hatch	2023
	Randolph Wilson	2024
	Brenda Huntoon	2025
Listers	Dia Michaud	2023
	Diane Banister	2024
	Annette Foster	2025
Auditors	Vacant (3 year term)	2023
	Judith Clifford	2023
	Willhelm Woelfle	2024
First Constable	Eugene McAllister	2023
Delinquent Tax Collector	Lina Smith	2023
Library Trustees	Whitney Richardson	2023
	Anne Smith	2024
	Victoria Foster	2025
	Elizabeth Larrabee	2026
	Martha Bissell	2027
Cemetery Commissioners	Lynette Farnham	2023
	Larry Hubner	2024
	James Dailey	2025
	Daniel Mencucci	2026
	Judith Clifford	2027
Justices of the Peace	Diane Cochran	Jan 31, 2025
	Michael Coffey	Jan 31, 2025
	Annette Foster	Jan 31, 2025
	Roger Fox	Jan 31, 2025
	Annie Gaillard	Jan 31, 2025

TOWN OFFICERS APPOINTED BY SELECTBOARD

Forest Fire Warden	Rodney Hooker	563-9926
Health Officer	Val Covell	563-2513
Pound Keeper	Cheryl McQueeney	563-2912
E911/Emergency Management Coordinator	Marvin (Butch) Greaves, Jr.	424-7024
Inspector of Lumber	Ralph Bissell	
Weigher of Coal	James Teuscher	
Representative to CVSWD	Vacant	
Tree Warden	David McMath	
Green Up Coordinator	Vacant	

**WARNING FOR WALDEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TO BE HELD ON MARCH 7, 2023**

The legal voters of the Town of Walden, Vermont in the county of Caledonia are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Walden School in said Walden, Vermont on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 10:00 am to act upon the following business for the Town. Voting for Town Officers will be by Australian Ballot. The polls will be open from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior to the meeting by visiting the Town Clerk's office or going online to olvr.vermont.gov.

Absentee Ballots for voting for the Town Officers may be requested by the voter or an authorized person until 4:00 PM on Monday, March 6, 2023.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town to govern said meeting and for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot: Town Clerk – 1 year term; Treasurer – 1 year term; Selectboard – 3-year term; Lister – 3 year term; Auditor – 2 year term; Auditor – 3 year term, Constable – 1 year term; Tax Collector – 1 year term; Library Trustee – 5 year term; Cemetery Commissioner – 5 year term;

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to have property taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before 5:00 PM EST on Thursday, November 2, 2023.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the voters will approve total highway fund expenditures of \$586,631.80 of which \$443,289.88 shall be raised by taxes and \$143,341.92 by non-tax revenues, for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the voters will approve total general fund expenditures of \$338,125.68, of which \$234,685.55 shall be raised by taxes and \$103,440.13 by non-tax revenues, for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024

ARTICLE 6: To see if the voters will approve an expansion to the Municipal Office at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.

ARTICLE 7: To transact any other proper business.

Dated at Walden, Vermont this 30th day of January, 2023.

Selectboard: Randolph Wilson
Robert Hatch
Brenda Huntoon

Town Clerk: Debbie Messier

AUDITORS' REPORT

In accordance with Title 24, Section 1681 of the Vermont Statutes, we have examined the records as presented to us by the town officers for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

To the best of our knowledge the financial statements represent the financial position of the Town of Walden as of June 30, 2022.

Judy Clifford
Wilhelm Woelfle

TOWN OF WALDEN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES June 30, 2022

Assets

Delinquent Tax Due	\$37,407.32
Town Real Estate	\$805,300.00
Town Equipment	\$749,420.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$69,357.36
Town Clerk's Account	\$197.07
TC Renovation/Construction Fund	\$32,414.33
General Fund Balance	\$21,176.63
Highway Fund Balance	\$33,311.32
Highway Equipment Fund	\$30,115.14
Neighborhood Watch Fund	\$556.84
Preservation Funds	\$9,949.43
Reappraisal Fund	\$4,793.60
Fire Department Checking Acct	\$14,079.97
Fire Department Truck Fund	\$34,323.06
Fire Department Trucks & Inventory	\$743,500.00
Cemetery Commission CD	\$27,098.31
Cemetery Checking	\$2,223.46
Cemetery Inventory	\$4,500.00
Community Library Savings Account	\$4,702.12
Community Library Family History	\$1,145.88
Community Library Family History CD	\$1,778.48
Total Assets	\$2,627,350.32

Liabilities

Mack Truck Loan	\$16,953.13	To be retired in FY2024
Loader Loan	\$78,945.31	To be retired in FY2025
Total Liabilities	\$95,898.44	
Net Worth of the Town	\$2,531,451.88	

2021/22 TAX RATE

Residential Tax Rate		Non-Residential Tax Rate	
Municipal	\$0.6154	Municipal	\$0.6154
Local Veteran Exemption	\$0.0063	Local Veteran Exemption	\$0.0063
Homestead Education	<u>\$1.6628</u>	Non-Residential Education	<u>\$1.6667</u>
Total	\$2.2845	Total	\$2.2884

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

Real Estate	104,253	
Veterans Exemption	(480,000)	
Land Use	835,600	
 Net Grand List	 954,168	 (1% of Net Real Estate)

	<u>Grand List</u>	<u>Residential Rate</u>	<u>Non-Residential Rate</u>	<u>Taxes Raised</u>
Town				
Municipal	954,168.00	0.6154	0.6154	587,194.99
 School				
Non-Residential	457,969.20		1.6667	691,915.92
Homestead Education	500,113.80	1.6628		831,589.23
Local Veteran Exemption	954,168.00	0.0063	0.0063	4,360.81
Total School				1,527,865.96
 Penalties Billed				60.00
Grand Total				2,115,060.95

Taxes transferred to CCSD \$1,394,553.37

STATE OF VERMONT PAYMENTS:

Steam Mill Brook (PILOT)	39,400.76
Hold Harmless (Current Use)	<u>47,368.00</u>
Total in Lieu of Taxes	86,768.76

ACREAGE:

Fish and Wildlife	5,901.87
736 Taxable Parcels	17,811.37
9 Non Taxable Parcels	<u>64.00</u>
Total Acres	23,777.24

GRAND LIST AND TAX RATE COMPARISON

Year	Grand List	Municipal	Veterans	Homestead	Education Tax	Total Tax Rate	Non Residential
					Non Residential		
2009	851,312	0.6017	0.0028	1.1153	1.4190	1.7198	2.0235
2010	857,386	0.5648	0.0029	1.1891	1.4957	1.7568	2.0634
2011	864,215	0.5030	0.0029	1.2013	1.6158	1.7072	2.1217
2012	858,729	0.5830	0.0025	1.4296	1.6699	2.0151	2.2554
2013	864,914	0.5584	0.0034	1.5503	1.7049	2.4487	2.6033
2014	908,684	0.6275	0.0040	1.5029	1.6727	2.1344	2.3042
2015	914,395	0.6577	0.0033	1.2584	1.5668	1.9194	2.2278
2016	920,365	0.6293	0.0023	1.3397	1.5854	1.9713	2.2170
2017	6 Month Transition						
FY18	925,745	0.6527	0.0052	1.3441	1.5593	2.0020	2.2172
FY19	924,064	0.6317	0.0044	1.3658	1.5533	2.0019	2.1894
FY20	935,120	0.6184	0.0047	1.4141	1.5452	2.0372	2.1683
FY21	948,019	0.5761	0.0046	1.46	1.5518	2.0407	2.1325
FY22	954,168	0.6154	0.0063	1.6628	1.6667	2.2845	2.2284



SELECTBOARD REPORT 2022

As of mid-January, we are looking forward to the first in-person Town Meeting since the pandemic began.

The Walden Selectboard has always relied on our Town Clerk to do many of our administrative duties. This small-town arrangement saves us excess expenses. We are at a population point where this could change. We are fortunate to have a continuation of that through our Town Clerk changes. Lina Smith resigned as Town Clerk/Treasurer in May. The selectboard then appointed Deborah Messier as Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Lina was generous with time for training and guidance. Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Diane Banister and Assistant Clerk Dia Michaud are continuing to be helpful after being crucial to the seamless transition.

Overall, we closed our FY22 budgets with a combined surplus. With the economic spike in some expenses, we are remaining within our FY 23 budgets. The FY24 Highway budget will have a 5.4% increase. This budget shows increases in diesel fuel, propane, labor, gravel, insurance, electricity and contracted labor. The FY24 General Budget will have a 5.8% increase. This budget shows increases in insurance, electricity, heating fuel, policing and appropriations.

Our road crew remained diligent with routine jobs and our ongoing road inventory repairs. The increase in contracted labor is partially due to culvert failures that are at times an emergency. During the 2023 construction season Capital projects are planned for the Noyestar entrance to Rt 15 and for the Bayley-Hazen Road entrance to Rte 15. Both long overdue projects. We were put on notice to plan for a large culvert replacement due to failure. The replacement will be a six-foot box culvert sixty feet long. These projects are only achievable with matching structures grants from the State. The culvert may be replaced in 2024 or later depending on planning, grant acceptance, and contractor availability.

The board received requests to take over a private road and another road to just discontinue. We also received a petition to upgrade a class 4 road to class 3 that was required to go through a statutory process that takes time. Lacking a Town Plan or other guidance about consistent road up-grades the board can only work within our current Highway budget. We count seven or eight roads that would benefit from class 3 town management. The management costs must be in place before we can consider any up-grades. All these requests were denied. The request to discontinue was on a through legal trail (12 feet of right of way). The request to take over a private road involved about 17 residences and a state fishing access. This road should be a planned upgrade along with several others. The petition to upgrade Weeks Place should have involved a pre-emptive visit to a meeting of the selectboard. This road has an un-safe narrow 150 feet with the steepest of drops on one side into a brook and has a rock cliff on the other. It was too late in the construction season to fix any of the other problems and the cost of blasting and widening with guardrails is probably too expensive for the residents or Town without extensive planning.

SELECTBOARD REPORT 2022

In late January 2022 the U.S. Treasury issued the Final Rule for allocations of local ARPA funds. The problems and restrictions were basically removed so local municipalities without water and wastewater capital projects could apply the funds to any capital project and several other needed areas, almost without restrictions. The board has allocated 40 % of the ARPA funds as of January 2, 2023. We allocated money for substitute teacher incentive pay. We have given funds to two local food shelves, the office started the digitalization of land records, and the Fast Squad received funds for high reflective jackets. Our local communication district received a \$40,000.00 allocation. The board is discussing a rather large allocation for our Fire Department with the remaining funds going into our Capital fund. The free 911 signs were a success while giving our Fast Squad and Ambulance Services more guidance in town. The board also allocated money for cyber security and computer upgrades for remote meetings during the pandemic.

The board offers a complicated question to the floor with Article 6. We have the funds for an on-site expansion of the Town Clerk's office. This will solve the overcrowded vault problem. The cost may seem high due to the unpredictable groundwork involved and the limited space. The other possibility would involve a land purchase for a new Municipal Building. We have funds to buy land and start a planning process to bring a cost and location question to our 2024 Town meeting.

Although it was an eventful year with its unique events and economic shock waves the Board presents budgets with minimal growth. Our road crew remained on task while our office maintained its consistent reliability.

Please register your dogs.

We hope to see everyone at Town Meeting

Thank you

Robert Hatch

Randolph Wilson

Brenda Huntoon

TOWN REAL ESTATE AND TOWN EQUIPMENT

TOWN REAL ESTATE (FY22 Grand List Values)

Picnic Ground - Coles Pond	\$	126,600.00
Town Forest - South Walden	\$	19,900.00
Emergency Services and Town Office Building	\$	247,900.00
Emergency Services and Town Office Building Lot	\$	42,100.00
Recreation Field	\$	25,700.00
Town Garage Lot	\$	59,700.00
Town Garage	\$	283,400.00
Total	\$	805,300.00

TOWN EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Office Equipment	\$	15,000.00
2016 John Deere Grader	\$	250,000.00
2013 International Truck with wing	\$	40,000.00
2016 International Truck with wing and sander	\$	90,000.00
2020 Mack Truck with wing and sander	\$	150,000.00
1978 GMC	\$	2,000.00
Rock Rake	\$	1,200.00
Small Tools	\$	15,000.00
Two-Way Radios (8)	\$	7,000.00
Pressure Washer	\$	500.00
Culvert Thawer	\$	6,500.00
20 Ton Trailer	\$	4,000.00
2021 John Deere 544	\$	160,000.00
2022 Hay Mulcher	\$	7,120.00
2022 Blade Lifter	\$	1,100.00
Total	\$	749,420.00

FINANCIAL REPORTS

GENERAL FUND is the general operating fund of the Town.

HIGHWAY FUND is the operating fund specifically for Highway Maintenance. State law dictates that taxes raised for the maintenance of highways must be used only for that purpose.

RESERVE FUNDS are designated for specific purposes. The Town has a reserve Highway Equipment and Major Repair Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Fire Truck Replacement and/or Major Repair Fund, Reappraisal Fund, Preservation Fund and Town Clerk Renovation/Construction Fund. Once voters have approved monies to be designated to a fund the Selectboard has authorization to spend it for those purposes.

TRUST FUND: The Cemetery Perpetual Funds are a trust fund and the principal is not to be spent. The interest earned on this fund is used for the maintenance of the cemeteries.

GENERAL BUDGET

	FY 2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actual to Date	FY 2024 Proposed
FY 2022 Surplus					6,840.13
FY 2021 Surplus	0.00	0.00	21,176.63	21,176.63	0.00
FY 2020 Surplus	10,046.87	10,046.87	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Tax Revenue					
Municipal Property Taxes	244,538.84	140,646.16	202,705.50	51,708.54	234,685.55
Prepaid Taxes	0.00	13,183.17	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
Delinquent Taxes	0.00	102,286.83	0.00	113,566.06	0.00
Delinquent Tax Interest	8,000.00	6,329.02	8,000.00	2,427.32	8,000.00
Delinquent Tax Penalty	8,000.00	8,141.60	8,000.00	9,750.46	8,000.00
Reconcilaiaion from State	0.00	16,724.42	0.00	13,394.21	0.00
Total Property Tax Revenue	260,538.84	287,311.20	239,882.13	214,523.22	257,525.68
Other Income					
Fines	247.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Green Up Income	750.00	736.00	750.00	0.00	750.00
Hold Harmless	20,000.00	19,890.36	20,000.00	23,245.00	20,000.00
Interest	300.00	550.16	300.00	683.88	300.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	25.64	100.00	146.66	100.00
School Elections Reinbursement	0.00	776.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
Online Records Income	0.00	162.00	200.00	130.00	200.00
Parcel Payment	7,000.00	7,068.00	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
Tax Penalties	300.00	247.92	150.00	0.00	150.00
Town Clerk Fees	10,000.00	13,690.00	12,000.00	6,337.47	12,000.00
Steam Mill Brook (PILOT)	39,000.00	39,400.76	39,000.00	39,909.03	39,900.00
Transfer from Library	0.00	900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Reappraisal fund	10,700.00	10,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Cemetery Fund	0.00	7,232.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Capital Equip. Fund/ Roof Repair	0.00	16,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vt Assoc. of Conservation	0.00	2,401.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Income	88,397.00	120,581.48	79,700.00	70,452.04	80,600.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	358,982.71	417,939.55	319,582.13	284,975.26	80,600.00

GENERAL BUDGET

	FY 2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actual to Date	FY 2024 Proposed
Salaries & Benefits					
Town Clerk & Treasurer	47,470.00	54,847.55	50,832.00	21,486.52	46,800.00
Asst Clerk/Treasurer	15,000.00	14,949.10	15,885.00	8,357.54	20,000.00
Assistant Clerk	500.00	644.00	500.00	598.50	600.00
Auditor	1,500.00	1,470.00	1,500.00	728.00	1,500.00
Board of Civil Authority	1,000.00	575.77	1,200.00	646.35	1,000.00
Constable	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	8,000.00	8,133.77	8,000.00	8,613.34	8,000.00
E911 Coord/Emergency Mngmt	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Fire Chief Stipend	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Forest Fire Warden	500.00	1,000.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Health Officer	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
Selectboard Stipend	3,000.00	2,960.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
HRA Employer Contribution	1,500.00	1,480.14	1,500.00	20.00	1,250.00
Dental Insurance	400.00	254.55	400.00	0.00	400.00
Health Insurance	6,934.50	3,602.54	6,000.00	8,437.64	23,300.00
Mileage	300.00	406.23	300.00	93.28	300.00
Life Insurance	225.00	241.23	230.00	112.86	350.00
Pension	3,300.00	3,939.83	3,500.00	1,148.28	3,100.00
Training	150.00	96.00	150.00	33.46	150.00
Social Security/Medicare	6,000.00	6,697.64	6,500.00	1,539.31	5,683.00
VT Unemployment Insurance	125.00	256.65	250.00	218.65	300.00
Workman's Comp	400.00	395.41	550.00	397.30	370.00
Salaries & Benefits Other	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Salaries & Benefits	98,854.50	105,450.41	103,347.00	52,431.03	119,153.00
Town Clerk Office Operations					
Ads & Notices	300.00	356.59	300.00	408.00	350.00
Electricity	1,300.00	1,615.78	1,500.00	883.64	1,900.00
Heating Fuel	3,000.00	1,894.60	3,000.00	2,031.96	4,000.00
Office Equipment - New & Repair	500.00	795.00	500.00	4,053.26	500.00

GENERAL BUDGET

	FY 2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actuals to Date	FY 2024 Proposed
Town Clerk Office Operations continued					
Office Supplies	4,000.00	7,364.24	4,000.00	1,435.43	4,000.00
T.C./Firehouse Repairs / Roof	0.00	16,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
T.c./Firehouse Repairs / Other	2,500.00	455.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	2,500.00	2,894.24	2,705.00	1,353.67	2,742.00
Cyber protection & emails	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,592.90	3,840.00
Town Report Printing	800.00	715.00	800.00	0.00	800.00
Mowing	780.00	720.00	780.00	780.00	780.00
Land Record Digitization	0.00	2,077.00	0.00	960.00	2,000.00
Total Town Clerk Office Operations	15,680.00	35,687.45	16,085.00	14,498.86	23,412.00
 General Expenses					
Animal Control	300.00	368.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
CALEX Ambulance Service	7,820.00	7,820.00	8,617.00	8,617.68	9,000.00
County Taxes	10,450.00	11,313.00	11,000.00	11,610.00	11,500.00
Dues and Subscriptions	5,000.00	6,373.31	6,000.00	5,995.18	6,000.00
Forest Fire Warden Supplies	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Generator Maintenance	1,600.00	1,058.00	1,600.00	1,260.00	1,100.00
Grader Payment	41,141.83	42,039.99	0.00	0.00	0.00
Green Up	2,500.00	2,376.11	2,500.00	0.00	2,800.00
Insurance	6,500.00	4,982.24	6,000.00	4,096.59	6,000.00
Loan for 2017 6 month budget	20,802.00	20,800.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
Law Enforcement	7,500.00	8,493.00	7,500.00	4,105.50	10,000.00
Mowing Ball Fields	1,220.00	1,220.00	1,220.00	1,035.00	1,500.00
Professional Fees	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Truck Payment	16,953.13	16,953.13	16,953.13	16,953.13	16,953.13
Loader Payment	0.00	21,054.69	21,054.69	21,054.69	21,054.69
Total General Expenses	122,586.96	144,852.22	83,644.82	75,227.77	87,107.82
 Cemetery Commission (see pages (31-32))					
Total Cemetery Commission	4,000.00	11,232.68	7,000.00	12,090.00	7,000.00

GENERAL BUDGET

	FY 2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actuals to Date	FY 2024 Proposed
Library (see page 33)					
Wages	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Social Security/Medicare	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Operations	4,500.00	4,252.26	4,500.00	1,565.90	4,500.00
Listers Office					
Wages	2,500.00	3,073.10	2,500.00	1,523.72	2,500.00
Social Security/Medicare	191.25	235.09	190.00	233.14	190.00
Supplies	2,500.00	3,906.23	2,500.00	2,068.00	2,500.00
Consultant/Contract Services	24,000.00	20,920.00	4,000.00	6,600.00	4,000.00
Travel Reimbursement	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
Total Listers Office	29,241.25	28,134.42	9,240.00	10,424.86	9,240.00
Fire Department (see pages 28-30)					
Fire Department Operations	57,000.00	56,987.61	58,000.00	14,356.30	58,000.00
Stipends	8,000.00	6,728.13	8,000.00	7,250.00	8,000.00
Insurance	1,000.00	1,035.24	1,000.00	509.74	1,000.00
Truck Fund	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Workman's comp	2,600.00	1,219.00	2,000.00	1,219.00	2,000.00
Total Fire Department	74,600.00	71,969.98	75,000.00	29,335.04	75,000.00
Approp. To Reserve Accounts					
Reappraisal Fund	0.00	0.00	9,500.00	9,500.00	0.00
Total Approp. To Reserve Accounts	0.00	0.00	9,500.00	9,500.00	0.00
Appropriations (see pages 34-35)					
AWARE	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Caledonia Home Health	325.00	325.00	325.00	325.00	325.00
Fairbanks Museum	780.00	780.00	780.00	780.00	780.00
Green Up Vermont	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Hardwick Area Food Pantry	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00

GENERAL BUDGET

	FY 2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actuals to Date	FY 2024 Proposed
Appropriations continued					
Hardwick Emergency Rescue	2,500.00	2,500.00	4,300.00	4,291.46	5,142.86
Joe's Pond Association	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Neighbors In Action	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Northeast Kingdom Human Serv.	1,870.00	1,870.00	1,870.00	1,870.00	1,870.00
Northeast Kingdom Learning Serv	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	250.00
Northeast Kingdom Youth Service	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Rural Community Transporation	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Umbrella	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
VT Ctr for Independent Living	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00
West Danville Community Club	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Total Appropriations	9,520.00	9,520.00	11,320.00	11,311.46	12,712.86
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	358,982.71	411,099.42	319,582.13	216,384.92	338,125.68
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	358,982.71	417,939.55	319,582.13	284,975.26	338,125.68
Surplus or (Deficit)	0.00	6,840.13	0.00	68,590.34	0.00

HIGHWAY BUDGET

	FY 2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actuals	FY2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actuals to Date	FY 2024 Proposed
FY 2021 Surplus	0.00	0.00	33,311.32	33,311.32	0.00
FY 2020 Surplus	17,208.19	17,208.19	0.00	0.00	0.00
FY 2022 Deficit					-8,658.08
Highway Property Taxes	322,125.97	322,125.97	371,438.68	371,438.68	443,289.88
Cabot Road Paving Grant		147,840.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Highway Supplement		10,205.88	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants in Aid	11,300.00	14,020.00	34,000.00	33,873.32	12,000.00
Grants in Aid/Equip Purchase	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	5,696.00	0.00
Pacif 2022 Grant / Blade Lifter	0.00	0.00	1,102.50	1,102.50	0.00
Hold Harmless (current use)	32,000.00	27,477.64	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00
Sale of Trailer		250.00	0.00	2,300.00	0.00
State Highway Aid - Class 3	52,500.00	53,154.42	53,000.00	27,295.47	53,000.00
State Highway Aid - Class 2	38,500.00	39,058.46	39,000.00	20,059.40	39,000.00
Better Roads Grant	18,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
Transfer from Highway Equipment	0.00	6,135.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from ARPA Funds	0.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND REVENUE	491,634.16	672,475.56	585,852.50	523,076.69	586,631.80

HIGHWAY BUDGET

HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits

Labor - Highway	110,000.00	108,081.41	116,490.00	54,248.04	120,000.00
Dental Insurance	1,200.00	1,760.98	1,600.00	812.76	1,625.00
HRA Employer Contribution	3,000.00	3,153.81	3,000.00	528.19	3,000.00
Health Insurance	45,359.16	41,769.52	38,910.00	17,861.88	42,742.80
Life Insurance	500.00	583.05	500.00	321.57	600.00
Mileage	350.00	58.77	350.00	0.00	350.00
Pension	6,100.00	6,750.88	7,400.00	3,674.28	7,800.00
Training	200.00	210.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Social Security/Medicare	8,400.00	8,268.24	8,900.00	765.54	9,240.00
Uniforms	3,000.00	3,795.86	3,500.00	2,677.81	4,000.00
VT Unemployment	200.00	473.35	400.00	135.00	524.00
Workman's Comp	8,700.00	5,167.49	8,500.00	6,215.60	6,000.00
TOTAL SALARIES & BENEFITS	187,009.16	180,073.36	189,750.00	87,240.67	196,081.80

HIGHWAY BUDGET

	FY 2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actuals to Date	FY 2024 Proposed
Town Garage					
Electricity	2,100.00	2,041.56	2,100.00	923.52	2,500.00
Garage Maintenance	3,500.00	2,486.49	3,500.00	1,436.98	3,500.00
Heating Fuel - Propane	3,000.00	5,209.86	5,000.00	1,177.85	6,000.00
Insurance	4,300.00	4,036.12	4,300.00	3,015.02	4,300.00
Telephone	600.00	750.68	600.00	302.75	750.00
Total Town Garage	13,500.00	14,524.71	15,500.00	6,856.12	17,050.00
Highway Maintenance					
Bridge Materials	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Brushing/Chipping	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Chloride	20,000.00	29,475.00	20,000.00	13,945.17	20,000.00
Cold Patch	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Contracted Labor	2,500.00	8,760.00	4,000.00	10,087.50	10,000.00
Culverts	3,000.00	3,205.19	4,000.00	2,496.06	5,000.00
Diesel	27,500.00	38,609.68	35,000.00	21,335.26	50,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	27,500.00	38,155.09	40,000.00	30,132.45	40,000.00
Equipment Rental	5,000.00	2,810.11	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Gravel	50,000.00	61,927.40	60,000.00	44,287.40	65,000.00
Guard rails	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Ice Control	15,000.00	10,111.20	15,000.00	5,807.12	15,000.00
Mowing	6,000.00	5,950.00	6,000.00	6,600.00	7,000.00
MRGP permit fees	1,500.00	1,350.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Mulching Hay & Seed	1,000.00	482.24	1,000.00	499.04	1,000.00
New Equipment	500.00	0.00	500.00	1,102.50	500.00
Sand/Screening	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Signs	1,000.00	2,099.36	1,500.00	878.15	2,000.00
Winter Sand	15,000.00	15,708.00	15,000.00	14,868.00	15,000.00
Total General Highway Maintenance	182,000.00	218,643.27	214,500.00	152,038.65	243,500.00

HIGHWAY BUDGET

	FY 2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actuals to Date	FY 2024 Proposed
Construction Projects					
Better Roads Project	20,000.00	5,668.33	18,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
Cabot Road Paving	0.00	184,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Municipal Grants-In-Aid	14,125.00	2,423.97	9,000.00	9,627.53	12,000.00
Total Construction Projects	34,125.00	192,892.30	27,000.00	9,627.53	32,000.00
Appropriations. to Reserve Accounts					
Capital Improvement Fund	35,000.00	35,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	54,000.00
Highway Equipment Fund	40,000.00	40,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	44,000.00
Total Appropriations to Reserve Accounts	75,000.00	75,000.00	110,000.00	110,000.00	98,000.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES	491,634.16	681,133.64	556,750.00	365,762.97	586,631.80
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND REVENUE	491,634.16	672,475.56	556,750.00	523,076.69	586,631.80
Surplus or (Deficit)	0.00	(8,658.08)		143,343.14	

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

Income	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Fund Beginning Balance	\$ 13,001.94	\$ 53,058.74	\$ 30,115.14	\$ 80,175.14	\$ (55,764.86)	\$ (15,704.86)	\$ 24,355.14
Appropriation From Town	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Loan		100,000.00					
Interest/misc.	\$ 56.80	\$ 91.40	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
Total Income	\$ 53,058.74	\$ 193,150.14	\$ 80,175.14	\$ 124,235.14	\$ (15,704.86)	\$ 24,355.14	\$ 64,415.14

Expenses	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
2016 International				\$ 180,000.00		-	
2013 International							
2020 Mack							
Loader - 2021		\$ 156,900.00					
Grader 2016							
Truck Tires		\$ 6,135.00					
Fire Truck							
15 Ton Trailer							
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ 163,035.00	\$ -	\$ 180,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Balance	\$ 53,058.74	\$ 30,115.14	\$ 80,175.14	\$ (55,764.86)	\$ (15,704.86)	\$ 24,355.14	\$ 64,415.14

The equipment fund is designed to lessen the impact of equipment purchases and repairs and will not cover the entire replacement cost
 Plow trucks are traded every 8-10 years or as needed. Fire trucks every 20 years or as needed.

TOWN OF WALDEN - ANNUAL ENERGY PURCHASES

Type - Dept./Facility	Unit	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Gasoline - Highway	Gal.	135.4	87.8	131.5
Diesel - Highway	Gal.	11,470.6	10,121.8	10,460.0
LP - Garage	Gal.	2,762.0	2,319.4	1,831.7
Electricity - Garage	kWh	8,637.0	8,283.0	8,146.0
Heating Oil - Town Clerk & Firehouse	Gal.	1,074.5	1,101.6	1,213.1
Electricity - Town Clerk & Firehouse	kWh	4,706.0	5,669.0	5,083.0
Diesel - Emergency Services	Gal.	-	330.6	346.6

CAPITAL FUND

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Income	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Fund Beginning Balance	\$ 1,039.19	\$51,087.39	\$ 69,357.36	\$129,357.36	\$183,357.36	\$243,357.36	\$ 303,357.36
Appropriation From Town	\$50,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Interest/misc.	\$ 48.20	\$ 69.97					
Total Income	\$51,087.39	\$86,157.36	\$ 129,357.36	\$183,357.36	\$243,357.36	\$303,357.36	\$ 363,357.36

Expenses	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2026
Paving Rte 215							20,000.00
TC/Fire Dept Roof Repairs	\$ -	\$16,800.00					
Cabot & Orton Culverts							
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$16,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
Balance	\$51,087.39	\$69,357.36	\$ 129,357.36	\$183,357.36	\$243,357.36	\$303,357.36	\$ 343,357.36

Paving is done every 8 years

Sometimes capital projects may be funded through the General or Highway account. This account serves to supplement larger projects.

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT FUND

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance 07/01/2021 **\$ 53,058.74**

Income

Appropriation from town	\$ 40,000.00
Interest	\$ 91.40
Transfer from General Fund	
Loan for Loader from Union Bank	\$ 100,000.00
Total	<hr/> \$ 140,091.40

Expense

New Equipment (Loader)	\$ 156,900.00
Truck Tires	\$ 6,135.00
Total	<hr/> \$ 163,035.00

Balance 6/30/2022 **\$ 30,115.14**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Balance 7/1/2021 **\$ 51,087.39**

Income

Interest	\$69.97
Appropriation	<u>\$35,000.00</u>
Total	\$35,069.97

Expense

Roof Repairs to Town Clerk Office and Firehouse	\$8,400.00
Paving	<u>\$8,400.00</u>
Total	\$16,800.00

Balance 6/30/2022 **\$ 69,357.36**

TC RENOVATION/CONSTRUCTION FUND

Balance 7/1/2021 **\$ 32,304.97**

Interest	109.36
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CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Passumpsic Bank @ .25% matures 5/18/2023

Balance 6/30/2022 **\$ 32,414.33**

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FUND

Balance 7/1/2021		\$556.70
Sign Sales	0.00	
Interest	0.14	
	<u>0.14</u>	
Balance 06/30/2022		\$556.84

REAPPRAISAL FUND

Balance 7/1/2021		\$15,489.79
Interest	3.81	
Transfer to General Account	10,700.00	
Balance 6/30/2022		\$4,793.60

PRESERVATION FUND

Established by the legislature July 1, 2019, when recording fees were increased to provide towns with money to preserve town records. \$4.00 of each \$15.00/page is deposited into this account and used for supplies and preservation.

Balance 7/1/2021		\$6,193.43
Income: Recording fees	\$3,756.00	
Expenses: Recording supplies	\$ 0.00	
Balance as of June 30,2022		\$9,949.43

ARPA FUND

Balance 7/1/2021		\$49,883.71
Deposits	\$92,554.54	
Transfer to General Account for Expenses	\$25,093.28	
Balance 6/30/2022		\$117,344.97

TOWN CLERK'S ACCOUNT

Checkbook	\$ 150.00
Cash	\$ 50.00
Balance 07/01/2021	\$ 200.00

Income

Vault Copies	\$ 856.20
Vault time	\$ 138.25
Certified Copies	\$ 230.00
Interest	\$ 0.96
DMV	\$ 2,016.00
Dogs	\$ 1,509.50
Misc.	\$ 84.91
Copies (Misc)	\$ 80.25
Total Income	\$ 4,916.07

Expenses

DMV	\$ 1,875.00
Dog Licenses	\$ 744.00
Transfer to General Account	\$ 2,300.00
Total Expenses	\$ 4,919.00

Checkbook	\$ 147.07
Cash	\$ 50.00
Balance 6/30/2022	\$ 197.07

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2021-22 year was another busy one. Town meeting for the second year was not in person because of COVID restrictions. The town office purchased a meeting Owl which helped to facilitate the many Zoom meetings that became the new normal and our office worked more online than ever before. Digitizing land records continued and on the advice of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, we requested ARPA funds to address cybersecurity, contracting with RbTechnologies for support. We registered as a .GOV entity and launched a basic website that I expect will expand as time goes on.

The town received ARPA funds that were to be used initially to cover pandemic related expenses. As time went on the rules were amended to include helping non-profits and businesses that had struggled through the pandemic as well as many other things that could benefit the community. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns encouraged towns to think "big picture", perhaps leverage the money for grants, and engage the community to get ideas for what this one time money could do for the town.

The town auditors, in an effort to make sure the community had the opportunity to weigh in on the use of these funds, facilitated the formation of the ARPA Committee. Before I left in April, I had the pleasure of serving on this committee and was impressed with the focused discussions that took place identifying the needs of the community. They sent out a survey asking for input from community members on how the community was affected by the pandemic with an eye to where ARPA funds could be used. I hope you will take the time to read the report they have submitted for a full picture of the work they did.

I wanted to acknowledge and thank the ARPA committee that met to help the Selectboard in researching all the ins and outs of ARPA funds and who made the effort to engage the community. Although the committee was not welcomed by the Selectboard, they should be commended for the extensive research they did. They pushed for installation of a cabinet in Walden for broadband. This will speed up the installation for Walden residents. I don't believe that would have happened without the Committee's advocacy. This kind of community involvement is so important.

As I write my last report I can't help but reflect on the past 35 years living in Walden and the last 20 as Town Clerk, Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector. I have always appreciated the independent way of life that Walden offered and there was no better place to raise my children. I can't say I'll miss the overabundance of cold and snow but I will miss the interactions I have had with many of you.

I want to thank Diane Banister for serving with me all that time. She has always brought a quiet, efficient work ethic that supported me and made me look better than I was.

I also want to thank the community for their support. I appreciate you putting your confidence in me. Being a town clerk gave me a unique opportunity to meet and interact with everyone in town. It was both interesting and challenging at times. But, it was never boring.

As I make plans to leave Walden and move closer to my children, I wish you all well and again thank you for your support. I would encourage you to be more involved in town government and in your community.

My best to you all,

Lina Dagenais-Smith

DELINQUENT TAX REPORT

YEAR	Delinquent Taxes Due	Taxes Collected	Taxes Uncollected
2018	\$ 1,455.71	\$ 1,455.71	\$ -
2019	\$ 3,724.53	\$ 3,724.53	\$ -
2020/21	\$ 23,794.26	\$ 19,616.49	\$ 4,177.77
2021/22	<u>\$110,719.65</u>	<u>\$ 77,490.10</u>	<u>\$ 33,229.55</u>
	\$139,694.15	\$ 102,286.83	\$ 37,407.32

TAX COLLECTIONS	\$102,286.83
COLLECTORS FEE	\$ 8,141.60
INTEREST - 1% FEES	<u>\$ 6,329.02</u>
Total Remitted to Treasurer	\$116,757.45

2021 & 2022 Delinquent Taxes as of Town Report Printing:

Corrine & Gaetan Brochu
Renee Carpentino
Katherine Cates
Dustin Dunbar
Gertrude Lakus
Eugene & Shannon Miller
Lawrence & Katie Sherman
Priscilla & Dwayne Spencer
Angela Wilkie

Respectfully
submitted,
Lina Smith

Town Salaries 2021/2022

Auditor	Judith Clifford	462.00
	Wilhelm Woelfle	406.00
	Robyn Cook-Hubner	602.00
Clerk/Treasurer	Lina Smith	54847.55
Clerk/Treasurer Assistant	Diane Banister	14949.10
Clerk Assistant	Dia Michaud	644.00
Constable	Eugene McAllister	500.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	Lina Smith	8,133.77
E911/Emergency Management	Marvin Greaves Jr.	1,000.00
Fire Chief	Jason Larrabee	1,000.00
Fire Warden	Douglas Rivers	500.00
Fire Warden	Rodney Hooker	500.00
Lister	Diane Banister	1,701.10
	Dia Michaud	1,372.00
	Annette Foster	-
Library	Martha Bissell	900.00
Road Foreman	Robert Bell	62,993.26
Road Crew	Stanley Linkovich	45,088.15
Selectboard	Brenda Huntoon	1,080.00
	Robert Hatch	800.00
	Randolph Wilson	1,080.00
Board of Civil Authority & Election Workers	Annette Foster	85.19
	Randolph Wilson	38.19
	Judith Clifford	47.00
	Robert Hatch	38.19
	Brenda Huntoon	38.19
Fire Department Stipends	Rick Cochran	400.00
	Paul Greaves	400.00
	Daniel Greaves	100.00
	Marvin Greaves Jr.	400.00
	Brenda Huntoon	600.00
	Jason Larrabee	600.00
	Elizabeth Wilkel	600.00
	James Clark	200.00
	Lawrence Chadderton	50.00
	Kurtis Greaves	400.00
	Alec Larrabee	600.00
	Chad Mayo	600.00
	Donna Molleur	50.00
	Deborah Peterson	50.00
	Douglas Rivers	600.00
Grant Writing	Robyn Cook-Hubner	1,000.00
Total		205,455.69

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT COMMITTEE

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed by Congress in March of 2021 to help the country recover from the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific funds were allocated for Vermont towns and villages to use toward recovery efforts. Walden received \$284,877.

In November 2021 the Walden Town Auditors recruited and the Selectboard appointed the ARPA Committee to determine our community's needs for recovery. Members represented the business community (brick-and-mortar, home-based, self-employed), agricultural interests, schools, town government services, and community members.

The federal ARPA funds allow the Town to solve problems and address needs that are ordinarily beyond the reach of our tax base. While the federal definition of allowable expenses was eventually broadened to include just about anything, the Walden ARPA Committee continued to use their original criteria for reviewing proposals for ARPA funding: Was the entity affected by Covid restrictions? Would the use of ARPA funds for the project benefit the larger community? Are there other funds available that could be used instead of ARPA funds? Would the use of ARPA funds help the community recover from the pandemic and prepare for any future pandemics?

The Committee developed a survey to collect input from Walden residents, and spoke directly to many residents. The survey responses were ranked on a self-selecting 5-point scale ranging from very negatively affected to very positively affected. Here is a summary of the results:

The health of the Community. (4.5% very negatively - 18.2% negatively - 68.2% moderately - 6.8% positively - 2.3% very positively). In addition to contracting Covid the negative effects included isolation, stress and depression. Respondents reported difficulty getting medical attention, and were going to doctors less to avoid exposure. On the positive side, respondents reported they were taking better care of themselves and were grateful for the vaccine.

The economics of the Community. (*Work:* 2.4% very negatively - 19% negatively - 61.9% moderately - 11.9% positively - 4.8% very positively. *Financial:* 12.2% very negatively - 12.2% negatively - 53.7% moderately - 12.2% positively - 9.8% very positively). Respondents reported lost work and wages, and having to lay off employees. Inflation and supply chain issues were also reported. On the positive side, respondents reported gratitude for receiving the stimulus checks, being able to work at home, and some were paid more for redefined rolls at work.

The schools. (9.1% very negatively – 9.1% negatively – 75.8% moderately – 3% positively – 3% very positively). School closures were challenging. Remote learning requirements were exacerbated by lack of internet coverage, and social experiences were lost. There was tough competition to retain substitute teachers.

Child care. (7.7% negatively – 88.5% - moderately – 3.8% positively). Respondents reported that the few choices available were unreliable due to frequent closures. Others reported that while their overall experience was negative, it was not unexpected or disruptive.

Food security. (10% very negatively – 7.5% negatively – 75% moderately – 2.5% positively – 5% very positively). Respondents reported higher food prices and empty shelves at local food banks. On the positive side, respondents reported they were eating healthier by growing more of their own food and taking advantage of the generosity of our local produce farmers.

Housing. (5.4% very negatively – 5.4% negatively – 78.4% moderately – 10.8% positively). Respondents reported that loss of income made it difficult to keep up with rent, mortgage, and/or property taxes. Others reported that they found the incentive to go from renting to home ownership.

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT COMMITTEE

Businesses. (65.8% negative / 22.6% not impacted / 11.6% positive). Businesses were negatively impacted by the pandemic. Most respondents reported limited access to customers, and their businesses closed or slowed down. Increased prices and supply chain issues were also a problem. A smaller number of respondents reported they were busier than ever, were traveling less, and there was a higher demand for local shopping. Some discovered that working at home or running their business from home turned out to be an advantage.

Internet. (50.1% poor or no internet connection / 29.5% average connection / 20.4% good or excellent connection). This category generated the most comments on the survey. Respondents reported their connection was “terrible” or “beyond horrible”. Some expressed concern that Walden would be bypassed by the broadband installation project. Others complained that school children had to sit in cars in hot spots in order to participate in remote learning. Some were unable to access telehealth services.

The survey also asked open-ended questions about how the Community was affected by the pandemic (losses and challenges) and what could be done to recover. Respondents stated that there was a lack of communication (information resources), socialization, and community meeting spaces. Respondents expressed concern about the social division created by mask and vaccine policies and expressed a desire for tolerance, more respectful dialogue, and less condemnation. There was a strain on our volunteer fire and EMS services with aging gear, inadequate masks and shared breathing apparatus providing sub-par protection from the virus. Respondents asked for outdoor recreation opportunities, greater access to the rail trail, more community events, better cell service, increased access to the library, and an online community bulletin board.

There were 2 survey responses commenting that the pandemic was political and mishandled by the federal government, and that the mandates were unnecessary. One of these responses suggested that the town should not take federal money, and that we should stop listening to mainstream media.

With respect to the responses on the survey, the Selectboard approved the following recommendations made by the ARPA Committee:

\$1,862 was provided to Walden School to address the competitive nature of retaining substitute teachers during the pandemic. The funding was made available to pay a daily bonus to substitute teachers and reimburse their out-of-pocket expenses for required training and fingerprinting.

Approximately \$85,000 was appropriated to the Walden Volunteer Fire Department to provide safety equipment (self-contained breathing apparatus, masks, turn-out gear, Fast Squad reflective jackets).

\$2,000 was used to help out with the increased need for food assistance. \$1,000 each was sent to the Hardwick and Cabot food shelves.

\$403 was spent on mailing the ARPA Community Survey.

\$40,000 was given to NEK Broadband. This allocation leveraged 2 additional 1-to-1 matching grants, bringing the total invested on behalf of Walden to \$120,000. The funds are earmarked to install the electronics cabinet that will provide the broadband connection to the entire community.

\$1,500 was allocated to provide a free 911 address sign to any Walden resident who wants one.

The Town Clerk submitted a request for \$7,654 for the digitalization of municipal records and cybersecurity. These efforts were recommended by the town’s insurance through the Vermont League

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT COMMITTEE

of Cities and Towns. Also, \$1,008 was used to purchase a circular camera to use for remote access municipal meetings.

The Selectboard appropriated \$15,000 to purchase gravel.

The ARPA Committee recommended, but the Selectboard to date has not approved, the use of additional recovery funds for the following items. Without these appropriations certain expressed community needs will go unmet.

In response to the community's desire for increased and accessible communication the Committee recommended \$2,110 for evaluation of and improvement to the town's website if needed.

In response to the community's desire for public outdoor gathering space, the Committee recommended construction of a pavilion like the one at Joe's Pond (\$54,000), and a portable ice skating rink (\$3,795 + \$1,890 for maintenance equipment). Ice skating rinks are very popular in neighboring towns.

Two local non-profits requested recovery funds for lost revenue. The Walden Methodist Church (Noyesville) is the official emergency shelter for the Walden School in the event of an emergency at the school. In addition, the church provides public space for secular community events such as the Fall Foliage Festival. The church asked for \$5,250 to compensate for revenue lost due to restrictions on public gatherings. The Coles Pond Sledders maintain a trail system throughout the town that is used for both motorized and non-motorized recreation. The Sledders also experienced loss of revenue due to lost fundraising event opportunities (\$2,000).

Respectfully Submitted, Robyn Cook-Hubner, Chair

Judy Clifford

Diane Cochran

Mike Coffey

Susan Coffey

Lynette Farnham*

Victoria Foster*

Bob Hawk

Brenda Huntoon

Jason Larrabee

Sarah Lyons

Lina Smith*

Kilee Willey*

Wilhelm Woelfle*

*currently inactive

LISTERS' REPORT

Exterior renovation and new construction inspections continued in Walden in 2022. 732 Change of Appraisal notices were mailed out resulting in 19 grievances being heard by the board.

Property Valuation and Review allows for any town to perform a statistical reappraisal under specific guidelines. The primary requirement is a cyclical, ongoing inspection program for the purpose of keeping data current. In 2016, the Board of Listers started three-year cycles of town-wide inspections. This entailed inspections of both interior and exterior facets of the properties in Walden with the Town having been divided into thirds during each of 2016, 2017, and 2018. Once we had that foundation in place, we maintained our statistical data in addition to regular exterior observations with interior inspections as needed.

The state requires a reappraisal if a town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) falls below 85% or has a Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) greater than 20%.

The CLA for the 2021 Grand List was 96.72% and the COD was 20.33% and the state mandated a town-wide reappraisal. We had expected to conduct the reappraisal for the 2021 grand list but that was not possible due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The CLA for the 2022 Grand List was 90.67% and the COD was 17.32%, fine numbers, but the state does not allow us to not reappraise once we are directed to do so. Therefore, we performed a statistical reappraisal in 2022.

This statistical reappraisal resulted in a one-time CLA of 111.70% for education tax calculation purposes for the 2022/2023 tax bill. For the upcoming 2023 Grand List the CLA is 100.59% and the COD is 9.79%. These numbers are excellent and, now that we have our foundational statistical data, we hope to avoid the need for any near-future town wide reappraisals.

The Board is again very pleased to report that we continue to receive excellent feedback from residents regarding the inspections and the appraisers who perform them. We remain committed to continually improving our communication with property owners and offering several appointment options to better accommodate owners' schedules.

Because Walden has no permitting process, and desires to keep it that way, the Board of Listers has no firsthand knowledge of alterations made to properties. Therefore, there will always be inconsistencies in the Grand List. To minimize the impact, we make note of any changes we learn "through the grapevine" and send our independent appraisers to inspect each year.

We all understand the importance of correct, just, and unbiased assessments. To all the property owners and tenants who have assisted us in this important task, we thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Walden Board of Listers

Diane Banister
Annette Foster
Dia Michaud

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY REPORT

The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) is composed of Walden's justices of the peace, select board members, and town clerk. Our responsibilities include reviewing the accuracy of the town voter checklist, overseeing and staffing elections, and hearing "tax appeals" of lister property valuations.

We also serve as the Board of Abatement for property taxes, along with the town listers and treasurer.

In 2022 BCA members helped conduct the March town elections, the Caledonia Cooperative School District budget vote and officer election in April, and the August primary and November general elections. Walden voters continued to favor their ability to vote by absentee ballot, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued: with 477 total ballots cast in the general election, 358 were absentee. Following the election, the BCA met to approve the removal from the checklist of 17 provisional voters who had not responded to previous challenges and had not cast ballots in the last two general elections.

As has typically been the case in recent years, the BCA received no property valuation appeals. No abatement requests were considered.

At year-end Walden had 733 registered voters, of which 56 are provisionals whose current residency remains unconfirmed (including a number of people who no longer reside in town but haven't registered to vote elsewhere and are required to be retained on our checklist through the 2024 general election.) These totals compare to 718 and 80 a year ago. Note that Vermont provides various ways to register to vote, including online or when applying for a driver's license or motor vehicle registration, and new voters may register at any time up to and including the day of an election. More information is available at the Vermont Secretary of State's website: <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>

The BCA meets in connection with elections and abatements as necessary and convenes during the summer if tax appeals have been filed. Our meetings are open to the public, except for deliberations leading to written appeal and abatement decisions. Meeting notices are posted in advance at the town clerk's office and the Corner Stop Inn Shop in South Walden.

Respectfully submitted,

The Walden Board of Civil Authority

Diane Cochran	Michael Coffey	Annette Foster
Roger Fox	Annie Gaillard	Bob Hatch
Brenda Huntoon	Debbie Messier	Randolph Wilson

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Walden Fire and EMS responded to 98 calls in 2022. Thirty-seven calls were fire calls with just the Fire Department responding. Walden EMS responded to 45 medical calls, and 17 calls required both Fire and EMS.

This year, Walden Fire had three firefighters complete the 45-hour Exterior Firefighting course. The 45-hr class is an introductory class for the basics of firefighting and is important for safety and general firefighting knowledge. In June, we sent two junior firefighters to a week-long Cadet program at the Vermont State Fire Academy in Pittsford, VT. The State Fire Academy has an extensive Cadet fire training program accessible to junior members up to the age of 18. At the academy, our junior members learned about fire behavior, tactics, communication, vehicle extraction, pumping, correct use of ladders, and fire suppression, among other things.

In 2022 Walden Fire and Rescue gained two more Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to add to our roster. EMS members have been doing joint training with other area EMS providers to expand their knowledge. They have worked closely with Hardwick Rescue and Calex Ambulance Service. These joint trainings expand the working relationships with our ambulance providers and improves skills, care, and communications in crisis situations.

Walden Fire and Rescue worked hard this year to secure extra funding for necessary equipment that is also very costly. We owe Robin Cook-Hubner a huge debt of gratitude for working countless hours writing a Federal grant from the Federal Emergency Management Administration, or FEMA. We were asking FEMA for replacement Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and money to upgrade our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Our current SCBA equipment is nearing 20 years old, and the breathing masks are shared among all members without the ability to clean them during a call. PPE is only recommended to be in service safely for ten years and we have some PPE that is over 15 years old. Unfortunately, we found out in December that the FEMA grants were underfunded and, though our needs were important, there were other departments that were in more dire need of what funds were available.

The AARPA committee and select board agreed that the equipment we were requesting from FEMA warranted replacement for the safety of our members and stepped in to fill the void. Currently, we have purchased blood-borne pathogen blocking jackets and N95 masks for our EMS personnel. We are in the process of researching and purchasing 8 SCBAs with masks that will eliminate the need for our interior firefighters to share masks, and multiple sets of turnout gear for our firefighters.

The Open House in September of 2022 was not as well attended as previous years. We encourage all Walden residents to stop in and interact with the fire and EMS members during this yearly event. We feel it is important for the children (and adults!) in our community to learn about what to do in the case of a fire or medical emergency and to have a positive interaction with the people who may come to their aide in an emergency. We would like to thank Hardwick Rescue for attending again this year and doing some first aide and CPR education with attendees!

As always, we encourage members of our community to think about joining the Walden Fire or EMS in the coming year. There are many different ways people can contribute to the Fire Department or EMS and we are always in need of a variety of skills. If you have any interest at all, please contact Chief Jason Larrabee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Jason Larrabee

FIRE DEPARTMENT (continued)

FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES

	FY2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actual (7 mo)	FY 2024 Proposed
Communications	20000	14893.85	20000	6173.23	20000
Equip Maint & Repair	4000	-686.91	4000	468.93	4000
Trucks	4000	6209.97	4000	449.3	4000
Training	2000	2500.13	2000	-230.05	2000
Insurance	10000	8731	10000	0	10000
Medical Supplies	5000	4127.78	5000	689.19	5000
New Equipment	5000	4746.75	5000	11.99	5000
PPE/Apparel	6000	10776.98	6000	3760.05	6000
Subscriptions/Office	1000	5688.06	2000	781.1	2000
	57000	56987.61	58000	12103.74	58000

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHECKING

Balance 7/1/2021 **\$ 6,532.65**

Income

Donations	\$8,744.00
Sign Sales	<u>\$ 165.00</u>
Total	<u>\$8,909.00</u>

Expenses

Recognition dinner/Gift	\$1,361.68
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Balance 6/30/2022 **\$ 14,079.97**

FIRE TRUCK REPLACEMENT AND/OR MAJOR REPAIR FUND

Balance 7/1/2021 **\$ 28,314.95**

Income

Interest	\$ 8.11
Appropriation from Town	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
Total	<u>\$6,008.11</u>

Balance 6/30/2022 **\$ 34,323.06**

FIRE DEPARTMENT (continued)

Emergency Medical Service Inventory

Item	Each	Total
6 Zoll Defibrilators/Pads/Batteries	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
7 Oxygen Tanks/Regulators/Bags	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,050.00
8 Oxygen Tanks	\$ 70.00	\$ 560.00
4 Backboards with Straps	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
1 Kendrick Extrication Device	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00
1 Stokes Stretcher	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
4 Rescue Rope Bags	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00
1 Mass Casualty Incident Triage Kit	\$ 270.00	\$ 270.00
1 Traverse Rescue Male II	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
7 Responder Equipment Setups	\$ 800.00	\$ 5,600.00
Medical Supplies		\$ 4,500.00
Training Supplies		\$ 1,100.00
Total		\$ 25,700.00

Fire Trucks & Equipment

1997 Ford Rescue Pumper	\$ 65,000.00
2000 International V-Tec Tanker	\$ 80,000.00
2015 International Pierce Responder	\$ 250,000.00
18 Sets of Turnout Gear @ \$5500.00 each	\$ 99,000.00
Communication Equipment	\$ 35,000.00
Breathing Apparatus, Bottles, and Air Compressor	\$ 75,000.00
3 Generators and Portable Pump	\$ 9,500.00
2 Thermal Imaging Cameras	\$ 15,000.00
Jaws and Airbags	\$ 33,500.00
Nozzles and Hose	\$ 16,700.00
2 chain saws, 2 exhaust fans, jacks, cords, litter, cordless tools wrenches, socket sets, portable heaters etc.	\$ 16,800.00
gear racks, desk, tables, chairs, popcorn popper, hose rack, tool cabinet, hand tools, file cabinets etc.	\$ 18,800.00
Ladders	\$ 3,500.00
Total	\$ 717,800.00

CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

The Walden Cemetery Commission has overseen one burial and the placement of a memorial ground stone for an infant this summer. We met three times to work, conduct business and plan for future action in the Walden Cemeteries. Early this cemetery season, commissioners and family members replaced the flagpole at Heights Cemetery with a telescoping pole, topped with a solar light and new flag. The area was raked, seeded and prepared for mowing. Thanks to Perley Greaves for moving soil.

The sonar graphing of the North Walden Cemetery has been completed; waiting on a final report and map to proceed with more work at the site. Funds were spent to mend and straighten stones in North Walden this past fall. A number of lots were sold in Houston Hill Cemetery, corner posts were put in place and the lot posts and chain of Sgt. Josh Corson, Revolutionary War veteran, were restored. The white fences at North Walden and South Walden Cemeteries are aging beyond repair and the plan is to remove them as they fall, simply designate the gates and plant trees as natural borders when appropriate rather than rebuilding the fences.

The commissioners are interested in offering a plot of land for "green burials" if anyone has suggestions and/or land available. After a number of years of work by Lina Smith, Walden Town Clerk, a new 2nd Edition of Walden Cemetery Book to 2021 has been completed for distribution. This book takes the information from the 1st Edition printed after 1976, adds graphed maps, both alphabetical and individual cemetery listings and contains cemetery photos and historic facts by Judy Clifford. This new Walden Cemetery Book, published by the Walden Historic Committee, is now on sale at the Town Clerk's Office and copies will be available or on order at the 2023 Town Meeting for \$25 each. We thank Jeff Bedore and Patriot Landscape for mowing and trimming to keep care of our town cemeteries and Lynette & Carson Farnham for placing annual memorial flags for our veterans.

Cemetery Commissioners
Judy Clifford
Jamie Dailey
Lynette Farnham
Larry Hubner
Daniel Mencucci

CEMETERY INVENTORY

Shed	2,850.00
Push Mower	150.00
Wells Fargo Storage Trailer	-
Echo Weed trimmer Model SRM-225	250.00
Craftsman riding mowers XT4000	600.00
Craftsman push mower	50.00
Lawn Boy push mower (parts)	-
Craftsman Mulching Mower	300.00
Wheelbarrow, Gas Cans and Hand tools	150.00
Fence building materials	150.00
Total	4,500.00

CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

	FY 2022 Proposed	FY 2022 Actuals	FY 2023 Proposed	FY 2023 Actuals 7mos	FY 2024 Proposed
Beginning Balance	2,435.00	7,095.54	7,095.54	2,103.46	0.00
Income					
Appropriation from Town	4,000.00	4,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Interest transferred from CD	50.00	393.04	50.00	77.34	50.00
Matured C/D transferred				13,000.00	
Checking Account Interest	0.00	7.56	5.00	5.40	5.00
Cornerstones	0.00	150.00	500.00	600.00	500.00
Cremation Burial	0.00	900.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
Cemetery Lot	0.00	100.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Grave Openings	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
Upkeep	0.00	400.00	4,000.00	2,800.00	400.00
Total Income	4,050.00	5,950.60	13,905.00	24,482.74	10,305.00
Expenses					
Ads	25.00	120.00	25.00	0.00	25.00
Association Dues	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	25.00
Burial costs	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Cemetery Labor & Payroll Taxes	4,000.00	1,382.68	0.00	250.00	0.00
Cemetery Supplies	700.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Equipment Repairs	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fence Painting/Repairs	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Flag Grave Markers	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Mowing	0.00	7,540.00	7,600.00	7,280.00	7,600.00
Corner Stone	0.00	700.00	600.00	560.00	600.00
Stone Cleaning	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	4,000.00	2,500.00
Training	60.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
Tree/Brush/Stump Removal	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Underground Sonar Mapping	1,000.00	1,200.00	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00
Total Expenses	6,485.00	10,942.68	15,710.00	12,090.00	15,710.00
Ending Balance	0.00	2,103.46	5,290.54	14,496.20	(5,405.00)

CEMETERY PERPETUAL FUNDS

UNION BANK CD matures	08/12/2022	\$14,029.19
UNION BANK CD matures	08/23/2022	\$13,069.12
Balance	06/30/2022	\$27,098.31

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library board of Trustees has kept the Walden Community Library open by appointment only this past year. The results of our Community Survey showed that there was no best time to be open. All the responses were vastly different in regard to the times that people would like to visit the library. With that in mind, we decided to keep the library open by appointment only through the winter. We hope to increase the amount of browsing appointments and revisit the scheduling during the summer months. Thank you and we look forward to another year!

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Bissell
Anne Smith
Betty Larrabee
Whitney Richardson
Victoria Foster

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance 7/1/2021	6,058.53
Interest	4.76
Transferred to General Fund for Automation	900.00
Transferred to General Fund for Operations	461.17
Ending Balance 6/30/2022	4,702.12

Note: The savings account is designated as follows:

Gates Grant	1,299.47
Automation Funds	1,044.08
Operations Funds	<u>2,358.57</u>
Total	4,702.12

FAMILY HISTORY SAVINGS ACCT

(Donations to be used for library enhancements)

Beginning Balance 7/1/2021	1,144.93
Interest	0.95
Ending Balance 6/30/2022	1,145.88

FAMILY HISTORY FUND CD

(Grant Funds to be used for automation)

CD Matures 6/10/27 at .65%	
Beginning Balance 7/1/2021	1,757.17
Interest	21.31
Ending Balance 6/30/2022	1,778.48

TOWN OF WALDEN
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WINTER OPERATIONS POLICY

1. Plow routes are set up to open the major traffic and school bus routes first. After these are open and cleared, the remainder of the roads will be plowed at the discretion of the Highway Foreman, taking into account traffic volume, steepness and curves.
2. The Town of Walden has two full time and one call in contractor to do winter maintenance on approximately 49 miles of town highways. Each employee has a specific route that takes approximately 4-5 hours to complete. Generally these routes will vary only for emergency situations such as fire and ambulance calls.
3. The Town will enforce NO Parking at all times on the travelled portion of all highways within the town's right-of-way, town parking lots and in school bus and plow truck turnarounds. Vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.
4. The town does not plow any private roads or Class 4 Highways.
5. The town crew usually starts their day at 3:30 AM during a snow storm in order to have major traffic and bus routes open and clear by 7 AM. In most cases there will be no winter maintenance between the hours of 8:00 PM and 3:30 AM in order for town personnel to get required rest.
6. The Town of Walden does not have a bare roads policy. Travelers who use town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution during changing weather conditions. Plan for your own safe travel including maintaining your vehicle with proper snow tires.
7. Salt will be applied to paved roads as necessary.
8. Sand will be applied on all gravel roads as necessary. Sand may contain particles as large as 9/16 inches in size and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should maintain a safe driving distance when following other vehicles or town trucks. The town will not pay for any vehicle repair such as replacement of windshields.
9. Objects in the town's right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk and the town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of the state's statutes. Common items are trees, fences, flowers, stone walls, and mailboxes. The town is not responsible for damage to mailboxes.
10. State law (23 V.S.A. section 1126a) prohibits plowing snow or shoveling snow from a private road or drive across or onto town or state highways. Violators may be subject to a fine or penalty.

Adopted by Walden Selectboard on January 10, 2018 and is effective immediately.

Jonathon Augeri
Randolph Wilson

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

(Full letters are on file at the Town Clerk's Office)

A.W.A.R.E (\$1,000): During the past year AWARE served 176 women, men and children, who were directly affected by violence, 113 children who were exposed to violence, answered over 1000 hotline and in-person requests for assistance. AWARE educated over 1,600 people through community events and outreach and educated 83 professionals about domestic and sexual violence. Those served by AWARE received services such as crisis intervention, legal support and advocacy, information and referrals, safety planning, emergency provisions, housing assistance, transportation, and education about domestic and sexual violence.

Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice (\$325): Provides home health and hospice services. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life of individuals and families by providing compassionate, accessible and affordable patient-centered health services to the community.

Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium (\$780): The Fairbanks Museum invites Walden residents to take full advantage of their unlimited free general admission to the Museum to explore the nature, beauty, and wonders of our world. Your municipal appropriation provides essential support for the care of the Museum's historic building and maintenance and exhibition of the most extraordinary educational collections in Northern New England. These are among our region's most prized assets. Each year the Museum offers new opportunities for exploration and discovery, so do come for a visit!

Green Up Vermont (\$50): Green Up Vermont is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day and raising public awareness about the health, economic, and visual benefits of a litter-free environment year-round. Through this pandemic we learned that Vermonters feel Green Up Day was the one event that shouldn't ever be canceled and found safe ways to continue it. Let's keep building strong communities by working together for our beautiful way of life.

Hardwick Area Food Pantry (\$500): The food pantry serves people in need primarily from Hardwick, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Stannard, Walden, Albany & Wolcott. Occasionally we have homeless clients and clients from Cabot, Calais, Danville, Johnson, Morrisville and Woodbury. The Pantry purchases a portion of distributed food from local producers and vendors, supporting our local economy. We very much appreciate your support in the past and hope you will continue this support.

Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad (\$5,142.86): Hardwick Rescue Squad is on pace for another banner year. HRS has had over 750 calls for service already. Many of the issues that plagued our service over the last few years have continued with low staffing, increased cost for supplies, fuel and supply chain issues. Despite all of that, HRS volunteers have continued to provide compassionate care to their fellow community members. The towns we serve will see minimal changes in appropriations this year with a slight overall increase. The gift the HRS members provide to the community does come at a cost and without the dedication of the members the cost to provide paid 24/7 coverage would almost triple our budget. To staff an ambulance with our three person model is 24, 208 hours of volunteer time excluding our one paid employee. This would put basic payroll without insurance and other benefits at \$500,000 for EMT and AEMT staffing.

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS (continued)
(Full letters are on file at the Town Clerk's Office)

Joe's Pond Aquatic Nuisance Control Project (\$500): Monitoring program for inspection of visiting boats to prevent the infestation of milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants which would severely impact swimming, boating and fishing at Joe's Pond. Thanks to monies received from towns plus additional funding from a state grant and the Joe's Pond Association, the Vermont State Fishing Access was staffed from the middle of June through Labor Day. Greeters/educators inspected 175 watercraft that had previously been launched in thirty different waterbodies, some known to have Eurasians watermilfoil. A biological survey was conducted in 2022 and no invasive species were found.

Neighbors in Action (\$500) A non-profit located in Cabot that distributes free food in our region. Provides social and health services for senior citizens. With food insecurity on the rise again, demand for our free services has increased substantially over the past 4 months.

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging (\$300): NE Kingdom Council on Aging has been serving older Vermonters for over 44 years. In FY 2022, the Council aided over 4,350 residents of the NE Kingdom and with our congregate and home-delivered meals program, delivered 224,343 meals. We also offer a Helpline, Medicare counseling and exercise programs, family and caregiver support programs, support to apply for fuel, food and pharmacy programs. Our nutrition programs partially fund 14 meal sites and home delivered meals. Our work is supplemented by over 320 volunteers.

Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc. (\$1870): Your financial support to NKHS goes directly to care for your community members in need of mental health, substance use, and intellectual disabilities services. In 2022 we served 6 from your community providing services for Town of Walden individuals.

Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc. (\$250): Since the late 1960s, NEKLS has been serving residents of Orleans, Essex and Caledonia counties. NEKLS began in one location in Newport, and has since expanded to provide free services in five Community Learning Centers as well as various off-site and in-home educational programs. Residents of three counties who have accessed NEKLS services have worked toward obtaining a high school diploma or GED, gained job skills, and prepared for college courses, in addition to continuing support for the Orleans and Northern Essex County Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

Northeast Kingdom Youth Services (\$100): NEKYS' mission is to create opportunities for youth, adults, and families to strengthen life skills and resiliency in the face of adversity. NEKYS' Family and Youth Programs staff are available 24 hours/7 days a week to support youth and their families at times of crisis, including addressing family conflict as well as supporting youth as they transition in adulthood.

Rural Community Transportation (RCT) (\$500): RCT is a non-profit corporation providing transportation services throughout Caledonia, Orleans, Essex and Lamoille Counties. Request-based rides are available to residents of Walden year-round. In FY22, RCT continued to provide safety-focused, demand based rides in COVID-19 pandemic conditions without interruption in service.

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS (continued)
(Full letters are on file at the Town Clerk's Office)

Umbrella, Inc. (\$250): Since 1976, Umbrella has ensured that communities in Caledonia, Orleans and Essex counties have access to services that cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression. Umbrella operates 4 multi-faceted, client-centered programs and plays a crucial role in decreasing the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual violence. Given that some services are provided anonymously, it is difficult to provide each town with a precise number of people served by Umbrella. However, at least 4 households in Walden were serviced by Umbrella in 2022.

Vermont Center for Independent Living (\$145): For the over 43 years, VCIL has been teaching people with disabilities and the deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life. During FY'22, 3 residents of Walden received services.

West Danville Community Club (\$500): The club operates and maintains the public free beach at Joe's Pond, one of the few free public beaches remaining. The beach had increased use since it has become a Trailhead for the LVRT from West Danville to St. Johnsbury open to pedestrians, bikers, and horses.

NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

PO Box 157
3339 Main Street
Cabot VT 05647

Re: Appropriations request

Neighbors in Action is a non-profit located in Cabot VT that distributes free food to the food insecure in our region. We also provide social and health services for senior citizens at the Cabot location.

Our offerings are free to Walden residents, many of whom access them in Cabot.

The Town of Walden generously allocated ARPA funds to our organization this past year, which have been used to feed and serve many members of the community. We are grateful for these funds. As you may be aware, food insecurity is on the rise once again. Demand for our free services has increased substantially over the past 4 months and we continue to pursue funding to support our programs.

We respectfully request that the Town of Walden consider an appropriation of \$500 to Neighbors in Action in support of our services.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Judith Dunnan
Chairperson, Neighbors in Action

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



NEK Broadband had a successful and busy year. Construction continued throughout 2022, and customers in Concord, Waterford, and Lunenburg were connected to our fiber-optic internet network! We prepared multiple grant applications, received significant funding from a multitude of sources, and were able to procure and purchase a majority of the materials needed to continue construction throughout our district.

PREPARING FOR CONSTRUCTION

- We purchased over 700 miles of fiber optic cable.
- More than \$2 million in hardware and equipment was ordered.
- We submitted the necessary applications to eight electric and communication utility companies, giving us access to more than 12,000 utility poles spread over 500 miles of roadways in 24 towns. We are now able to prepare these poles for installation.

BUDGET SUMMARY

2022 Budget to Actual (Projected)			2023 Proposed Budget	
NEK BROADBAND	BUDGET	ACTUAL (Projected)	Projected Surplus from 2022	\$145,016
Administrative Grant Revenue	\$494,750	\$762,985	Administrative Grant Revenue	\$2,252,718
Operations Revenue	\$203,000	\$49,138	Operations Revenue	\$747,787
Capital Grant Revenue	\$26,006,250	\$5,565,444	Capital Grant Revenue	\$28,785,268
Total Cash In	\$26,703,000	\$6,377,567	Total Cash In	\$31,930,799
Administrative Cost	\$494,750	\$517,969	Administrative Cost	\$1,847,193
Operational Cost	\$215,900	\$97,353	Operational Cost	\$586,601
Construction Cost	\$25,705,000	\$5,565,444	Construction Cost	\$28,785,268
Total Cash Out	\$26,415,650	\$6,280,766	Total Cash Out	\$31,219,061
Annual Net Cash Flow	\$433,134	\$96,801	Annual Net Cash Flow	\$711,737
Increase in Capital Assets	\$25,706,000	\$5,565,444	Increase in Capital Assets	\$28,785,268



GRANTS & FINANCING

- This year, the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved \$8,023,915 in Pre-Construction Grants and \$20,865,889 in Construction Grants.
- We secured American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds from 13 towns, totaling \$941,750 plus an added \$941,750 in matching funds from the VCBB.
- We secured and completed a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to build seven miles, serving 90 premises.

BUILDING CAPACITY

- We hired three full-time employees in 2022, and are in the process of hiring additional staff.
- Contracts have been finalized with all major construction and operations companies.
- We secured warehouses in both Saint Johnsbury and Brighton.


CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE PROJECTED GROWTH BY YEAR

2022
3 TOWNS SERVICED
32 MILES BUILT
432 ADDRESSES SERVICED

2023
(Projected)
36 TOWNS SERVICED
370 MILES BUILT
2700 ADDRESSES SERVICED

2024
(Projected)
44 TOWNS SERVICED
520 MILES BUILT
6193 ADDRESSES SERVICED

432 
SERVICE AVAILABILITY
OUR SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO 432 ADDRESSES IN CONCORD, WATERFORD, AND LUNENBURG.

36 
MILES BUILT
IN 2022, WE BUILT 36 MILES OF OUR NETWORK THROUGHOUT THE NEK BROADBAND DISTRICT.

ABOUT NEK BROADBAND

We are a Communications Union District (CUD), a municipal entity representing our 51 member communities in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties, plus Wolcott in Lamoille County. Our district is building high-speed broadband internet infrastructure for underserved communities in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form at get.nekbroadband.org.



Compassionate professionals delivering the highest quality emergency medicine, specialty care, and training to our providers and communities.

2022 has been one of our most challenging years in EMS that I can remember. Coming off a busy year towards the end of the pandemic, this year has had some unique challenges. The two main factors making this a very dynamic and challenging year is the current state of the EMS workforce, coupled with the challenges in EMS funding. One of our primary noted changes in 2022 was the reduced amount of inter-facility transports due to decreased staffing and overwhelmed tertiary care centers we commonly transfer too. Our agency relies heavily on inter-facility transports to support our budget as our 911 transports do not cover the expenses to maintain a 24/7/365 Paramedic level EMS service. This is not unique to CALEX as most EMS agencies rely on inter-facility transports to help support their budgets and to keep town funding requests as reasonable as possible. State and Federal reimbursements, specifically Medicare and Medicaid, do not cover the actual costs. Roughly, we lose about 51.65% due to fee schedules that we don't have control over. We only get paid by Medicare / Medicaid what they reimburse and that is not the actual costs to deliver the service. Inter-facility transports, due to the longer distance billable loaded miles, generates a more substantial part of the budget. In 2022, what we have experienced is a drastic reduction in requests for two reasons: First, the current state of the healthcare workforce along with increased demand for healthcare. Many of our tertiary care centers (DHMC and UVMHC) have not been accepting patients due to decreased staffing and being overwhelmed. This forces our local hospital to keep patients here longer and care for them without transfer. Second, we have noticed increase in demand but a decrease in patient acuity. Meaning less acute illnesses or traumatic injuries that would require transfer. We have seen a reduction of roughly 125 inter-facility transfers this year as compared to 2021. This represents a significant loss in revenue. We really don't know what to expect for 2023, but we know if we continue to see these similar numbers next year, we will have to make some significant changes. Many EMS systems are struggling around the state and nationally with funding due to rising costs to provide the service, however the reimbursements are not keeping up with those increases. The workforce, since the pandemic, has also created challenges as many other careers are paying much higher hourly rates than we can afford in EMS. This is currently a point of discussion that state leaders and legislators are looking to find some funding mechanisms to support. We will closely monitor this and support any opportunities to assure EMS is an essential service supported appropriately to provide workforce professionals that stand ready 24/7/365.

The workforce remains a top priority for all of us in Public Safety and beyond. Our staffing has stepped up in a big way to meet the needs to fill the current openings. We have teamed up locally to partner with St. Johnsbury Academy Adult Education program to offer our very first EMT course out of the newly renovated space on Eastern Ave. We were successful last year, with hiring two full-time EMT's out of this program. We are looking forward to beginning another EMT course in early January and are hopeful for some additional staffing from this program.

CALEX continues to provide the highest quality of prehospital care to all the towns we serve providing 911 coverage at the Paramedic level 24/7/365. We have been asked to provide services to Granby this year, so we are now serving 10 towns – Saint Johnsbury, Waterford, Barnet, Concord, Kirby, Victory, Granby, Danville, Walden and Peacham. Our volumes were down a bit overall this year due to the reasons I mentioned above. 911 responses were slightly higher while transfers were less. CALEX responded to 2,387 911 responses and 469 being Interfacility Transfers and Medical transports. Our average response time to the scene for our entire service area 8 minutes 15 secs. Overall, our agency responded to 2,856 requests for service. These interfacility transports are a critical part of our service, reducing any delays of getting our patients to definitive care whether it be trauma services, cardiac care, or other specialty services at a higher-level care facility such as DHMC or UVMHC and other hospitals across the New England. This year we transported as far as Albany, NY several times due to other hospitals declining admissions.

In 2022, we reduced our fleet of 5 ambulances to 3. We will take delivery of our next replacement ambulance, June 2023. Our current fleet is in great shape, and we feel will be a bonus to our budget next year.

As we end 2022, I look forward to a safe and successful year of providing the very best pre hospital care to our communities. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and experienced team providing care for when it is needed. We hope you will continue to support us and approve our funding requests so we can continue providing the very best Emergency Medical Care to the region. Lastly, please take some time and learn CPR /AED use, we would be glad to assist you. You could save a life!

In closing, I would like to thank all of our staff, their families, and the CALEX Board of Directors and our dedicated dispatchers for their continued support and dedication to the Agency's mission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Wright, NRP
Chief Executive Officer



State of Vermont
Department of Health
St. Johnsbury Local Health Office
107 Eastern Avenue, Suite 9
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

[phone] 802-748-5151
[toll free] 800-952-2936
HealthVermont.gov

Local Health Office Annual Report 2022

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. Your district office is at the address and phone number above and serves Caledonia, Southern Essex, and Orange counties. We provide essential services and resources to towns in order to protect and promote the health and well-being of people in Vermont. For example, in the past year and beyond, St. Johnsbury Local Health Office:

Protected communities from COVID-19: Since the pandemic began three years ago our doors have remained open, and we've been able to serve communities thanks to individuals, families, schools, businesses, first responders, and countless others that worked with us to meet the needs of local towns. We provided vaccine, testing, and information, along with other key public health services.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In collaboration with community partners, since COVID-19 response efforts began, we hosted over 70 COVID-19 vaccination clinics and provided over 5,800 COVID-19 doses. Since August 2021, all local health offices have also documented and helped manage 8,125 COVID-19-related situations, including 1,271 COVID-19 outbreaks.

Ensured local preparedness for future emergencies: We worked with partners like schools, hospitals, and emergency personnel to ensure effective pandemic response and support preparedness to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during public health emergencies. This year, we responded to the emergence of human monkeypox virus by sharing information and providing vaccine to community members. As of November 15, 2022, 7 hMPXV vaccine doses have been administered.

Stayed attentive to people and communities most underserved: We provided services and resources to people who are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes due to health inequities. For example, we provided vaccine at schools without access, shelters, meal, and food distribution sites, farms, and more.

Collaborated with Town Health Officers around environmental health: To help Vermonters better understand the relationship between their environment and their health, we collaborated with towns and other local partners. Find information about environmental health including lead, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), food safety, drinking water, climate change, healthy homes, healthy schools, and more at www.healthvermont.gov/environment.

Provided WIC services and resources to families and children: Provided WIC nutrition education and support to 1,061 individuals between July 1, 2021 and June 31, 2022, while enabling them to save on groceries so they can have more to spend on other things their family needs. WIC also empowers families with breastfeeding/chestfeeding support and provides referrals to other health and nutrition services. Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov/wic.

Supported student health and youth empowerment: According to the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, only 55% percent of students in Caledonia County, 59% in Essex County, and 54% in Orange County agree or strongly agree that they "believe they matter to people in their community." Regionally, efforts like mentoring and after-school enrichment programs help to ensure youth feel valued and included.

Promoted health in all policies: Health is not just individual behaviors and access to care, it's also housing, transportation, food access, education, natural resources, and other social determinants of health. We worked with towns, schools, worksites, healthcare providers, and other community organizations to establish plans, policies, and programming that improve health and wellness. To achieve health, we must continue to work together to improve opportunities for health across all sectors and periods of our lives.

Learn more about what we do at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local/St-Johnsbury>



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day
May 6, 2023



Green Up Day on May 7, 2022 was a wonderful success thanks to 19,141 volunteers statewide who participated on Green Up Day. The infographic shows that all your hard work to beautify Vermont is crucial and that it makes where we get to live, work, and play, a truly special place. As one of Vermont's favorite unofficial holidays, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, 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 again for Green Up Day 2023.

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

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your town's support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. **Thank you for your support of 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 anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org.

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

CVSWMD 2023 Annual Report, December 2022

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) serves 19-member cities and towns and approximately 52,000 residents. CVSWMD's mission is to provide education, advocacy, and services for residents and businesses in reducing and managing their solid waste in order to protect public health and the environment. CVSWMD is committed to providing quality programming, meeting state mandates, and providing information and resources to our member communities. The per capita assessment has been established at \$1.00 for fiscal year 2024.

Walden currently does not have an appointed representative to CVSWMD's Board of Supervisors. Please contact administration@cvswmd.org for more information.

CVSWMD continues to provide valuable programs and services to its residents, including:

Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC): The ARCC is located in Barre City, Vermont. We work with the State of Vermont to recycle TVs, computers and computer peripherals, architectural paint, household batteries, mercury bulbs and thermostats for free for Vermont residents. We also accept dozens of hard-to-recycle items that cannot be recycled in curbside recycling. In FY22, 403,896 lbs. of materials were collected and diverted from the landfill.

Grants: In FY22, CVSWMD awarded \$33,218 in grant funding to towns, businesses, organizations and schools in our District. Through our Municipal Services Program (MSP), the city of Barre received \$5,000 and the town of Chelsea received \$2,764 for solid waste management projects. Samuel Morey Elementary School and Walden School were granted \$2,000 and \$2,500 respectively through our School Zero Waste (SZW) program to reduce solid waste and achieve sustainability goals. And, finally, the Green Mountain Returned Peace Corp Volunteers received \$285 from our Organizational Waste Reduction and Reuse Program (OWRRP) for their Pedals for Progress collection event in Montpelier. Green-Up Day grants of \$400 are available to each of CVSWMD's member municipalities.

Outreach and Education: CVSWMD maintains its website with useful information on what can (and can't) be recycled, what is landfill banned (and how to dispose of those), what can be recycled at our Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC), what can be composted, how to safely store and dispose of household hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, and an A-Z Guide providing guidance to dispose of all types of waste. CVSWMD provides monthly newsletters and is active on social media, communicating waste management information and program updates to residents. Our knowledgeable staff provides guidance to residents and local businesses regarding all their waste management questions and concerns.

Household Hazardous Waste: In FY22, CVSWMD held five one-day collections throughout the District and helped 637 resident households dispose of their hazardous waste. CVSWMD continues to work to acquire land and site a year-round collection facility within the District that will be conveniently accessible to all residents, and small business generators of waste.

CVSWMD 2023 Annual Report, December 2022

School Program: The School Zero Waste Program continued to deliver services to CVSWMD member schools in FY22. A total of 941 students in grades K-12 were reached through the delivery of 97 programs and initiatives that included: programs on living sustainably, recycling, and composting; support of student Farm-to-School groups, recognition of student leadership efforts in on-campus food scrap disposal, school community zero-waste events, field trips to the Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC), and support for the 2022 VT Youth Climate Rally. Informational take-home packets were provided for primary grade students, which reached upwards of 350 households. School food services departments continued to be supported in reducing cafeteria waste, and school custodial and facilities staff were supported in proper disposal of books, batteries, mercury-containing bulbs, and electronic waste through the ARCC, as well as the management and proper disposal of school-generated hazardous waste via District collection events. Our School Zero Waste Coordinator also tabled at 3 farmers markets and one community event.

Compost and Zero Waste: CVSWMD sells Green Cone food digesters, Soil Saver composting bins, recycling bins, and kitchen compost buckets to district residents at discounted rates. We also continue to offer our Event Kit and Bin Loan programs on a first-come, first-serve basis to help reduce and manage waste at events held within the District.

DEAN SHATNEY, SHERIFF
CALEDONIA COUNTY
970 Memorial Drive
ST. JOHNSBURY, VT 05819
802-748-6666 FAX 802-748-1684
E-MAIL: dean.shatney@vermont.gov

ANNUAL REPORT

For 2022

We completed another audit for our office in 2022 and it resulted in no findings or problems of any kind. The state of the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department is very good. We have kept our rates for service the same for the past few years and have a slight increase with construction and traffic. This increase is do to the fuel prices. We continue to add vehicles to our fleet, 3 new cars were purchased, replacing cars that have served us well. We have 9 marked cars, a 2014 van for prisoner transports, one unmarked car being used for civil process service. The radar cart is working well and in many towns. We have a large enclosed trailer that we use as an office at the fair and other security details. This trailer may be utilized as a command post at a mass casualty incident as well. We continue to do town patrols and we feel that the towns that we patrol are a safer place to live & drive in because of our presence. The patrols are community based. Which means each town is different, so the patrols may be different. We are taking a proactive response instead of a reactive response. This effort has helped with both fighting crime and communications with the towns. The Sheriff's Department has 8 Law Enforcement Officers to start the new year, with hopes to send a couple new hires to the academy in the spring. Our goal is to have 20 to 25 deputies to cover all details. We have become more active with local schools to ensure the safety of students and staff. We have been involved with drills and evacuation plans and will continue to assist as needed. We continue to look at 24 hour dispatching for the county, but are unable to do that right now. Our new location is wonderful and working as it should. We've had a lot of visitors and people stopping by with question. We are more visible and easier to reach. Plus the savings on the tax payers went from \$62,000, down to \$30,000. In 8 years, that expense will go away and the county will own the building.

We will again do snowmobile patrols throughout the county. Doing our best to keep the trails as safe as possible, and we will again answer snowmobile related complaints. James Hemond was sworn in on Feb 1st as your new sheriff. After 25 years with the department, it's time for me to step away. It was an honor to serve you and thank you for the support. Please continue that support with the new sheriff. Please check out our facebook page. Thank You and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Sheriff Dean Shatney



HARDWICK EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD

PO Box 837, Hardwick VT 05843

Phone/Fax # 802-472-6343

It takes a special person to answer a call and take the time to volunteer for their community. Currently we carry a roster of 45-50 volunteers to cover over 95% of our schedule, but it is not enough. Many of our members work out of town and we struggle like many local fire departments to cover weekday and weekend schedules. Many of our volunteers come from outside of our response area and must stay at an aging building with sub-par accommodations. Our membership is in the process of finding a new larger home for HRS, and we hope as community members you not only continue to support our noble cause but are willing to support our building campaign. Our next building will be for our future. This will allow us to have more appropriately sized meeting and training space, private gender neutral bathrooms and sleeping quarters. HRS is at a critical juncture where we must walk the fine line between our ability to stay a volunteer service supplemented by paid staff or move into a more career structure.

Our membership deeply desires to maintain our heritage as a volunteer service. HRS is working hard to become a more supportive, open and inclusive organization. We open our doors to all walks of life. If you are looking for a place to make new friends and give back to your community we welcome you.

I remain humbled to lead an organization of such fine individuals. Thank you for your support. During a time where it is hard enough to find paid workers, please thank all those who volunteer their time regardless of the way.

Happy Holidays to you and yours from your ever devoted HRS family.

Respectfully,

Lindsay O'Steen, President of HRS.

TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (**VSNIP**), under the VT Department of Children & Families, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. **Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law by six months of age.** Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores hold monthly clinics as well as humane societies during the month of March. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly

Licensing a dog:

- Helps identify your dog if lost.
- Provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but still needs immediate medical attention}.
- Protects your animal if they bite another animal {or person – which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanized in order to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated}.
- Pays for this necessary program addressing the population situation in VT.

For an Application for VSNIP and a List of Participating Offices, send a S.A.S.E. (a 9" Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope) to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Or, to download and print, go to: VSNIP.VERMONT.GOV Indicate if it's for a cat, dog or both. Once *fully* completed, you will mail it back. If approved, you will receive your Voucher and instructions.

The cost for the surgery to you is only \$27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pay the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog registration. Please be SURE your cat or dog is completely flea and tick free **before** the visit. Animals left UN-neutered are more prone to forms of cancer.

Thank veterinarians for their participation in this important program. If your veterinarian is not a participant, please encourage them to join. Several veterinarians have retired, leaving a reduced number of participating offices. VSNIP offices are accepting less reimbursement than what they would usually charge for their services. We NEED them :) Let them know you appreciate the difference they've made in our state over the years when euthanasia was the means of animal over-population control. Those days are behind us ~ let's keep it that way!

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator 1-800-HI VSNIP (1-844-448-7647)

LOW COST SPAY NEUTER OPTIONS: LOOK UP THEIR WEB SITES

Frontier Animal Society, Orleans, VT 754-2228 Cats ONLY

Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter: 802-754-2228 Orleans, VT Cats ONLY

Second Chance Animal Rescue Inc.: 603-259-3244 Littleton, NH

N.E. Kingdom Spay-Neuter Program: 802-334-7393 Orleans, Essex County added a spay day to their schedule.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Caledonia County Sheriff	748-6666	
Constable (dog issues)	424-6655	Eugene McAllister
Fish and Wildlife - St. Johnsbury	751-0100	
Health Officer	563-2513	Valerie Covell
State Police, St. Johnsbury	748-3111	
Superintendent's Office	684-3801	
Town Clerk's Office	563-2220	tc@waldenvt.gov
Town Garage	563-2504	
Walden School	563-3000	
Library	563-2195	
Representative Joseph "Chip" Troiano	828-2228	ctroiano@leg.state.vt.us
Senator Jane Kitchel	684-3482	jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CONTACTS

Linda Fox	563-2321
Crime Stoppers	748-2222
Vermont State Police	748-3111

Town Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday 9:00-4:00, Thursday 9:00-5:00
Open Fridays by appointment

Select Board Meetings

Every other Monday at 6:30 pm
Firehouse or Town Clerk's office

Library Trustee Meetings

Quarterly Meetings 1st. Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Walden Community Library

Fire Department

First Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm
Firehouse

GREEN UP DAY – MAY 6, 2023

TOWN WEBSITE: WALDENVT.GOV