

Whiting, Vermont Town Report



Fiscal Year 2023

January 1, 2023 through
December 31, 2023

Annual Report of the
Officers of the Town of Whiting

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BONE BUILDERS.....	20
CEMETERY REPORT.....	20
CONTACT INFORMATION.....	INSIDE BACK COVER
DATES TO REMEMBER.....	3
DELINQUENT TAX REPORT AND POLICY.....	12
DOG REGISTRATION.....	4
FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT.....	14-15
FIRST RESPONSE.....	16-17
LIBRARY REPORT.....	13
LISTERS REPORT.....	11
MEMORY TREE.....	18-19
OFFICE HOURS.....	INSIDE BACK COVER
OVUUSD BOARD REPORT.....	26-27
RNESU BOARD REPORT.....	28
RNESU SUPERINTENDENT REPORT	24-25
SELECTBOARD REPORT.....	6
TAX RATE.....	3
TOWN ASSETS.....	4
TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER’S REPORT.....	5
TOWN MEETING MINUTES 2023.....	29-32
TOWN MEETING WARNING 2024.....	33
TOWN OFFICIALS.....	2
TREASURE’S REPORT WITH THE GENERAL FUND.....	5
TRI-VALLEY TRANSPORTATION.....	23
VITAL STATISTICS.....	6
VSNIP.....	22
WHITING WATER CORP.....	21
WHITING FARMERS MARKET.....	20

Whiting Town Officials

Elected Town Officials

	Term Expires
Auditor	3 Years
Pat Mattison	2024
Suzanne Denis	2026
Alison Remy	2025
Delinquent Tax Collector	
Rani Fallon	2024
First Constable	
Rusty Brigham	2024
Justices of the Peace	2 years
Peg Allen	2025
Stacey Freeguard	2025
Patricia Mattison	2025
Carolyn Schmidt	2025
Jeanne Leno	2025
Library Trustees	
Heather Mattison	2025-3yrs
Jaime Quenneville	2025-2yrs
Peg Allen	2026-3yrs
Tara Trudo	2025-2yrs
Tammy Wilbur	2026-3yrs
Listers	3 years
Peg Allen	2025
Rani Fallon	2024
Stacey Freeguard	2026
Moderator-Town	
Pat Mattison	2024
Road Commissioner	
Select Board	
Select Board	3 years
Steve Quenneville	2026
Marcia King	2025
Chair- Bob Wood	2024
Town Clerk	3 Years
Heather Bouchard	2026
Town Treasurer	3 Years
Heather Bouchard	2026
Board of Civil Authority	
Town Clerk	
Select Board	
Justices of the Peace	

Appointed Town Officials

	Term Expires
Forest Fire Warden	
Delwin Fielder	June 2024 5yrs
Regional Planning Representative	
Jennifer Erwin	2024
Regional Planning Alternate	
Gary Freeguard	2024
Town Health Officer	
Jeanne Lamoureux	Aug 2026 3yrs
Planning Commission	
Heather Bouchard	2024-3yrs
Beverly Freeguard	2026-3yrs
Chair-Steve Quenneville	2025-3yrs
Greg Coleman	2025-2yrs
Bob Wood	2026-3yrs
Solid Waste Representative	
Eric Zuesse	2024
Solid Waste Alternate	
Carolyn Schmidt	2024
Town Juror	
Paul Quesnel	2024
Town Service Officer	
Larry Wilbur	2024
Fence Viewers	
Delwin Fielder	2024
Tracy Simonds	2024
Gerald Quenneville	2024
Road Foreman	3 years
Bob Wood	2025
Town Hall Custodian	
Tammy Wilbur	2024
Green Up Chairman	
Rebecca Bertrand	2024
Zoning Administrator	
Keith Arlund	2024
Zoning Board of Adjustment	3 years
Heather Bouchard	2024
Beverly Freeguard	2024
Gary Freeguard	2026
Mike Wilbur	2025
Chair-Steve Quenneville	2026
Tree Warden	
Gary Freeguard	2024

Cemetery Board: Peg Allen

State Representative: Joe Andriano

Emergency Management Coordinator: Larry Wilbur

State Senators: Ruth Hardy, Christopher Bray

2023 Report of Town Assets

ASSETS:

ARPA Fund -----	\$57,887.57
Building Fund	\$7,001.58
Checking Acct	\$172,425.00
Chloride Truck	\$5,000.00
Computer Replacement Fund	\$3,502.87
Equipment Fund	\$87,127.53
Fire Station	\$653,304.00
Grader Purchased in 1997	\$15,000.00
International Truck Purchased in 2015	\$25,000.00
Land Record Books Upkeep Fund	\$6,384.24
Library	\$260,793.00
Lister Reappraisal Fund	\$19,727.54
Loader Purchased in 2002	\$47,000.00
Old School	\$29,044.00
Recycling Shed	\$24,605.00
Sand/Salt Shed	\$102,418.00
Town Garage and Contents	\$307,562.00
Town Hall and Contents	\$1,062,025.00
Town Office and Contents	\$179,318.00
Truck Purchased in 1987	\$7,500.00
TOTAL ASSETS-----	\$3,072,625.33

2023 Tax Rates

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Homestead Education	\$1.2976	\$1.3472	\$1.4192
Municipal Rate	\$0.7281	\$0.7586	\$0.7434
Veteran's Exemption	\$0.0020	\$0.0159	\$0.0156
Total Homestead Rate	\$2.0277	\$2.1217	\$2.1782
Non-Residential Rate	\$1.5310	\$1.5456	\$1.6370
Municipal Rate	\$0.7281	\$0.7586	\$0.7434
Veteran's Exemption	\$0.0020	\$0.0159	\$0.0156
Total Non-Residential Rate	\$2.2611	\$2.3201	\$2.3960

Dates to Remember

- **Town Meeting:** Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 @ 7:15pm @ **The Town Hall**
- **Rabies Clinic:** March 11th, 2024, 5pm-6pm @ The Fire Station, \$20 per animal.
- **Dog Registration:** Due by April 1st, 2024
- **Green Up Day:** Saturday, May 4th, 2024
- **Taxes Due (in hand):** Sunday, December 1st, 2024 (you can put the taxes in the night drop, by 5:00pm on the 1st and they will be current, post marks are not excepted).

2023 Town Clerk and Treasurer Report

Business pertaining to the Town Clerks Office has returned to the way it was before Covid-19.

I took several different trainings/classes this year (notary, VT Pie general, VT Pie recordings, election trainings, things nobody tells you, etc.), some trainings/classes were in-person, and some trainings/classes were online. I have found that the online trainings/classes are just as informational as the in-person trainings/classes.

I have been working with Addison County Regional Planning on an energy grant for the town buildings.

If you need something from the Town Office, you can email me at townofwhiting@shoreham.net or call me at (802) 623-7813 or (802) 623-8152. I would like to thank the town residents for all the support they continue to give me. I would also like to thank Laurie Bertrand and Julie Delphia for all the guidance and help, they are great resources.

Annual Reminders:

April 1st is the deadline for registering your dog(s). This is State law, not a Whiting request. The purpose of the law is to continue the reduction of cases of rabies. You can register your dog(s) anytime between January 1st and April 1st, you will need a current rabies certificate and \$11.00 for a spayed or neutered dog or \$13.00 for a not spayed or neutered dog. After April 1st they are late, and the fee goes to \$15.00 for a spayed or neutered dog or \$19.00 for a not spayed or neutered dog.

Property Taxes are due (5:00pm) in hand by December 1st, 2024. You can bring your check to the town office (If you come outside of regular office hours, there is a secure drop box in the door.) or mail it to the town office (postmarks are not excepted, they must reach the town office by 12/1/2024). If you would like a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and I will mail you your receipt. You can prepay your taxes at any time.

Sincerely,
Heather Bouchard
Town Clerk/Treasurer

2023 Dog Registration

Income		Expenses	
Female Spayed	\$330.00	State Fees	\$320.00
Male Neutered	\$253.00	Animal Control	\$ 97.50
Female	\$ 39.00	<u>Supplies</u>	<u>\$ 71.95</u>
Male	\$104.00	Total Expenses	\$489.45
<u>Late Fees</u>	<u>\$ 26.00</u>		
Total Income	\$752.00		

All dogs are required to be registered by April 1st, 2024:

Spayed/Neutered Dogs \$11

Unspayed/Unneutered Dogs \$13

New Dogs are required to be registered within 30 days of adoption.

2023 Treasurers Report with the General Fund

Beginning balance	
NBM Checking Account	\$85,610.61
Equipment Fund	\$66,957.39
Lister Reappraisal Fund	\$17,447.85
Building Fund	\$4,001.58
Computer Replacement Fund	\$2,802.87
Land Records Book Repair	\$4,160.64
General Fund Total	\$180,980.94

Receipts	
ARPA Funds	\$ -
Building Fund Receipts	\$3,000.00
Computer Replacement	\$700.00
Current Land Use	\$50,190.00
Current Taxes 2023	\$721,278.82
Del Taxes Received	\$17,761.86
Del Tax Expenses Received	\$523.40
Del Tax Interest Received	\$1,083.54
Del Tax Penalty Received	\$2,153.26
Dispatching Service Reim.	\$1,275.00
Dog Licenses/Fines	\$752.00
Equipment Fund Receipts	\$20,000.00
Grant in Aid Project	\$0.00
Hats and Tees Sales	\$80.00
Insurance Audit Return	
Interest Income	\$979.53
Land Rec Book Repair Receipts	\$915.00
Lister Fund A	\$227.00
Listers Reappraisal	\$1,929.50
Misc	
Municipal Tax Adjustment	\$13,413.00
Office Receipts	\$3,152.00
Otter Valley Refund	
OV Vote Reimbursement	\$1,080.00
Overweight Permits	\$515.00
Pilot Program	\$178.68
Road Grant	\$11,000.00
State Aid for Highways	\$56,548.37
Town Hall Rent	\$320.00
Whiting Books	\$26.00
Zonina Permits	\$75.00

Bonds	
Town Garage Bond: Amount Due	\$9,500.00
Int. Rate 3.50%, Principal Balance	\$142,500.00
Fire Department Bond: Amount Due	\$9,750.00
Int. Rate 3.50%, Principal Balance	\$146,250.00

Disbursements	
Appropriations Budget	\$9,130.00
Building Budget	\$14,526.62
County Budget	\$2,737.90
Fire Department Bond	\$5,460.94
Insurance Budget	\$13,785.00
Line of Credit Orwell Bank Repay	\$0.00
Listers Budget	\$361.54
Payroll	\$47,036.58
Public Safety	\$29,387.73
Road Budget	\$151,576.56
Social Services Budget	\$2,700.00
Taxes to School District	\$485,157.13
Town Garage Bond	\$5,320.91
Town Office Budget	\$17,823.42
Total Disbursed	\$785,004.33

General Fund Ending Balance	
ARPA Fund	\$ 57,887.57
NBM Checking Account	\$172,425.00
Equipment Fund	\$87,127.53
Lister's Reappraisal Fund	\$19,727.54
Building Fund	\$7,001.58
Computer Replacement Fund	\$3,502.87
Land Records Book Repair	\$6,384.24
Del Taxes Due	\$10,396.38
Ending Balance	\$364,452.71

2023 Board of Selectmen's Report

Town Website: If you are looking for more information about what is happening in Whiting, be sure to check out our town website. The website address is www.WhitingVT.com. On our website, you will find meeting agendas and minutes, maps, pictures, a calendar, forms, some interesting pieces of Whiting history and more.

Roads: We did culvert work on North Road. Due to the bad weather this summer, the paving was not done. It will be done in 2024.

Just a reminder that the Town has a right of way along every public road in Whiting. The width can vary, but is usually 49.5 feet (24.75 feet on either side of the centerline). The Town has the right under State law to conduct work within the right of way, including clearing brush and trees for safety purposes and maintaining and improving the road, ditches, etc. Individuals, including abutting property owners, need a permit from the Town before undertaking work or building any structures or other improvements within the right of way. Please contact the Town if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Our Whiting, The Old Addison Railroad and The Addison Road: These three books have a lot of interesting information about the History of Whiting. If you would like one, they are available at the town office for a small fee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Wood
Steve Quenneville
Marcia King

Vital Statistics 2023

Births

Valentina Bustos Garcia de Alba

Owen Keith Fournier

Maverick Ron Hornbeck

Deaths

Roberta Carol Hatch

Joseph Carmine Salino

	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
CarryForward		85,611.00	172,425.00
Building Fund Receipts	2,000.00	3,000.00	
Computer Replacement	700.00	700.00	
Current Land Use	51,740.50	50,190.00	45,000.00
Taxes	730,179.89	739,040.68	
Delinquent Tax Expenses Re	27.75	523.40	
Delinquent Tax Interest	805.71	1,083.54	
Delinquent Tax Penalty	2,602.42	2,153.26	
Dispatching Service Reimb	1,275.00	1,275.00	1,275.00
Dog Licenses/Fines	1,076.00	752.00	700.00
Equipment Fund Receipts	12,000.00	20,000.00	
Federal ARPA Funds	61,458.27		
Grant in Aid Project			
Hat & Tee Income	30.00	80.00	
Insurance Audit Return	287.00		
Interest Income	117.47	979.53	
Land Rec Book Repair Receipt	1,308.00	915.00	
Lister's Fund A	-	227.00	220.00
Listers Reappraisal	1,929.50	1,929.50	
Misc	101.00		
Municipal Tax Adjustment	596.00	13,413.00	
Office Receipts	-		3,000.00
Certified Copies	20.00	30.00	
Fish & Wildlife Posting	5.00	15.00	
Green Mountain Passport	16.00	20.00	
Land Records	3,912.00	2,690.00	
marriage Licesence fee for T	20.00	10.00	
Vault Copies	431.00	304.00	
Vault Time	102.00	83.00	
Office Receipts - Other	5.00		
Otter Valley Refund	1,841.13		
OV Vote Reimbursement	2,232.50	1,080.00	
Overweight Permits	525.00	515.00	500.00
Penalties and Fines			
Pilot Program	178.68	178.68	175.00
Road Grant	40,125.73	11,000.00	
Sexton Fund	(10,418.64)		
State Aid for Highways	38,266.06	56,548.37	-
Town Hall Rent	40.00	320.00	
Traffic Tickets	-		
Whiting Books	20.50	26.00	
Zoning Permits	450.00	75.00	200.00
Total Income	946,006.47	994,767.96	223,495.00

Appropriations			
Green Up	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Humane Society	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
Library	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
MVAA	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,265.00
VLCT Dues	\$ 1,584.00	\$ 1,630.00	\$ 1,840.00
Whiting Cemetery Association	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total Appropriations	\$ 5,584.00	\$ 9,130.00	\$ 10,605.00
Bond Expenses			
Fire Department	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 5,460.94	\$ 15,500.00
Town Garage	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 5,320.91	\$ 15,500.00
Total Bond Expenses	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 10,781.85	\$ 31,000.00
Buildings Budget			
Buildings Fund	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Buildings Repairs	\$ 67,374.03	\$ 636.18	\$ 3,500.00
Buildings Supplies	\$ 14.31	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Electric Town Hall	\$ 363.64	\$ 561.82	\$ 700.00
Electric Town Office	\$ 535.45	\$ 569.05	\$ 700.00
Electric Town Shed	\$ 502.65	\$ 523.24	\$ 600.00
Grounds Care	\$ 2,520.00	\$ 2,882.00	\$ 3,000.00
Heating Fuel Town Hall	\$ 3,510.00	\$ 2,211.00	\$ 3,000.00
Heating Fuel Town Office	\$ 885.30	\$ 971.55	\$ 1,000.00
Heating Fuel Town Shed	\$ 2,315.55	\$ 971.55	\$ 1,000.00
Municipal Water	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
Street Lights	\$ 583.27	\$ 600.23	\$ 700.00
Total Buildings Budget	\$ 82,204.20	\$ 14,526.62	\$ 18,850.00
County Budget			
Addison Cty Court House Tax	\$ 2,098.00	\$ 2,179.00	\$ 2,348.00
Addison Cty Regional Planning	\$ 546.75	\$ 558.90	\$ 600.00
Total County Budget	\$ 2,644.75	\$ 2,737.90	\$ 2,948.00
	\$ -		
Election Grant			
Insurance Expense	\$ 18,634.50	\$ 13,785.00	\$ 15,000.00
Total Insurance Expense	\$ 18,634.50	\$ 13,785.00	\$ 15,000.00
Listers Budget			
Listers Apex Software Update	\$ 285.52	\$ 311.54	\$ 465.00
Listers Dues	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00
Listers Training	\$ 26.90	\$ -	\$ 700.00
Total Listers Budget	\$ 312.42	\$ 361.54	\$ 1,315.00
Payroll			

Animal Control	\$ 60.00	\$ 97.50	\$ 200.00
Assistant Town Clerk	\$ 600.00	\$ 532.50	\$ 1,500.00
Auditors	\$ 390.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 500.00
Del Tax Collecting Fees	\$ 3,199.41	\$ 2,543.13	
Election Costs	\$ 3,723.58	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 2,500.00
Listers Hours	\$ 5,715.00	\$ 7,605.00	\$ 9,000.00
FICA	\$ 4,501.88	\$ 4,287.51	\$ 5,000.00
Payroll Expenses - Other	\$ 97.52	\$ 1,410.94	\$ 550.00
Total Payroll Expenses	\$ 4,599.40	\$ 5,698.45	\$ 5,550.00
Selectboard	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Town Clerk	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 15,500.00
Town Clerk Insurance Stipend	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Town Hall Custodian	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Treasurer	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Website Coordinator	\$ 377.98	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,000.00
Payroll-other	\$ (27.32)		
Total Payroll	\$ 51,237.45	\$ 47,036.58	\$ 52,950.00
Public Safety			
911 Call Contract	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 2,600.00
Dog Registration Fees	\$ 491.18	\$ 320.00	\$ 500.00
Fire Department	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00
Fire Inspection	\$ 1,412.61	\$ 736.58	\$ 1,500.00
First Response	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Recycling	\$ 5,218.00	\$ 5,781.15	\$ 6,000.00
Whiting Tees and Hats	\$ 841.50		
Total Public Safety	\$ 28,013.29	\$ 29,387.73	\$ 30,600.00
Road Budget			
Brush Removal-Labor	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 15,000.00
Capital Construction-Paving	\$ 84,641.81	\$ 551.39	\$ 170,000.00
Diesel	\$ 4,732.09	\$ 5,074.96	\$ 6,000.00
Ditching-Labor	\$ 4,210.00	\$ 23,256.09	\$ 7,000.00
Equipment Parts	\$ 9,379.15	\$ 18,983.33	\$ 10,000.00
Equipment Repairs	\$ 6,408.30	\$ 11,180.25	\$ 12,000.00
Equipment Replacement	\$ 47,690.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Equipment Signs	\$ 777.50	\$ 503.13	\$ 1,000.00
Equipment Supplies	\$ 994.39	\$ 133.30	\$ -
Grant Road Work	\$ 21,284.35		
Highway Drug Tests-Drivers	\$ -	\$ 5.00	\$ 50.00
Liquid Chloride	\$ 4,635.00	\$ 5,175.00	\$ 12,000.00
Road Commissioner Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Road Gravel	\$ 19,864.70	\$ 13,419.76	\$ 30,000.00
Road Labor	\$ 16,843.00	\$ 14,350.00	\$ 20,000.00
Road Salt	\$ 19,125.46	\$ 19,346.50	\$ 20,000.00
Road Winter Sand	\$ 4,968.18	\$ 5,856.18	\$ 7,500.00
Roadside Mowing	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,500.00
Trucking	\$ 9,132.00	\$ 3,685.00	\$ 15,000.00
Watershed Management	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,056.67	\$ 1,150.00

Whiting Road Meeting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Road Budget	\$ 261,685.93	\$ 151,576.56	\$ 354,300.00
Social Services Budget			
United Way	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00
Whiting Food Shelf	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
Total Social Services Budget	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,200.00
Taxes to School District	\$ 409,337.84	485157.13	
Town Office Budget			
Advertising Meetings/Tax Sa	\$ 226.70	\$ 234.00	\$ 275.00
Bank Service Charges	\$ -	\$ (15.00)	
Website Expenses	\$ -	\$ 4,838.73	\$ 2,000.00
Computer Replacement	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Copier Maintenance	\$ 413.72	\$ 3,281.52	\$ 1,000.00
Election	\$ 467.24	\$ 227.13	\$ 600.00
Interest Expense	\$ -	\$ 1.03	\$ 1,000.00
Land Record Book Repairs	\$ -	\$ -	
Land Records Book Repair Fu	\$ -	\$ -	
Legal Fees	\$ 2,425.00	\$ 2,397.24	\$ 4,000.00
Office Repairs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Office Supplies	\$ 2,248.24	\$ 3,119.90	\$ 3,500.00
Tax Maps	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
Telephone & Computer Expe	\$ 1,783.52	\$ 1,788.87	\$ 1,900.00
Town Report	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Training-Town Clerk/Treasur	\$ 763.00	\$ 745.00	\$ 800.00
Training-Town Officers	\$ 28.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00
Zoning Administrator	\$ 395.00	\$ 485.00	\$ 600.00
Total Town Office Budget	\$ 9,450.42	\$ 17,823.42	\$ 19,125.00
Total Expense	\$ 898,705.40	\$ 785,004.33	\$ 538,745.00
TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	291,088.38	\$ (209,763.63)	\$ 315,250.00

LISTERS REPORT

The 2023 Grand List was filed with the Town Clerk totals of \$390,623.00 municipal, and \$383,534.00 education.

Listers grievances are generally held in June / July of each year, at which time any property owner may meet with us (In person or over the phone) to discuss their assessment. If you would like to request a grievance hearing with us, please do so in writing at any time during the year, and we will hold your letter until the next grievance period.

The Listers would like to remind everyone that if you own and occupy your Vermont residence as your primary dwelling on April 1, 2023, you must file your Homestead Declaration, Form HS-122, with the Vermont Department of Taxes on or before April 15th to ensure that the correct tax rate is billed.

If you have a survey of your property which has not been recorded with the Town Clerk's office, please consider bringing it in to our office so that we can make our tax maps as accurate as possible. Also, if you have a change of address in State or out of State, please notify us in a timely manner.

Our office is by appointment only. Please feel free to call (802-623-7813) if you have any questions about your valuation. Our office is a resource for Property Record Cards, Tax Maps, Current Use, as well as other information relating to a parcel.

What do these numbers mean?

The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) in 2023= 76.25%: Having the CLA greater than 100% results in a downward adjustment of tax rates, and a CLA less than 100% will result in upward adjustment.

The Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) in 2023 = 17.25% A COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal as that means many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share, and many are paying less. This number measures how fairly distributed the property tax is in our town.

We took an oath to be fair and equitable while we assess all property at Fair Market Value, we are required to work within the guidelines of constantly changing, and increasingly complex Vermont Legislation and mandates. We take many online classes and seminars to improve our knowledge and serve you better.

As always, we would like to thank you for the courtesy and cooperation extended to us during our visits to your property.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Freeguard
Marguerite (Peg) Allen
Rani Fallon

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

It is important to remember that the Town needs to collect all the tax dollars owed to run smoothly. When tax dollars are not collected, the Town must borrow money to cover the shortfall. If you are currently delinquent, please take this into consideration and contact me to make acceptable payment arrangements at (802) 623-6221.

Respectfully submitted,

Rani Fallon, Delinquent Tax Collector

Grand total owed to the Town as of 12/31/2023 - \$10,396.38

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S POLICY Town of Whiting

1. All payments must be **in hand** on or before December 1. After December 1, they will be considered delinquent and subject to interest and fees.
2. It is requested that all back taxes be paid before current taxes are paid.
3. Partial payments will be taken at the tax collector's discretion, along with a signed contract and agreement that payment must be large enough to pay off the delinquent tax before the next current tax is due. Payments will be applied to interest and fee first and the remainder on the tax.
4. No post-dated checks will be accepted.
5. All bad checks will be redeposited and charged a \$30.00 fee.
6. Accounts 60 days delinquent can be sold at a tax sale at the discretion of the delinquent tax collector. (If no agreement has been arranged.)
7. All payments must be paid to the delinquent tax collector or the town clerk.
8. All taxpayers must notify the town of a change of address, in state or out of state, in a timely manner.

Whiting Free Library 2023 Annual Report

At the 2023 Whiting Town Meeting, voters approved a budget for the library that allowed us to maintain our website, online book catalog, and access to Libby through the Green Mountain Library Consortium. We have had a busy year.

Library trustees have spent the year entering books into the online catalog and have entered over 4000 books to date. We have more to go, so double-check with us if you don't find what you want online. Check out the online catalog here: <https://whitingfreelibrary.mlasolutions.com/>

The new system allowed us to join the Green Mountain Library Consortium, which gives everyone with a Whiting Free Library card free access to thousands of eBooks and audiobooks through the Libby app. Our library users have read over 200 books using the Libby app this year!

If you haven't gotten a library card yet, please stop by the library on a Saturday to fill out the form and get your library card number.

We have opened almost every Saturday this year, and during the summer, we were open for story time on Wednesday mornings and coffee hour on Wednesday evenings. 116 number of people have come to the library throughout the year.

Check out our website, which gives access to our online catalog and other resources, along with the notes from the Library Trustee meetings: <https://www.whitingpubliclibraryvt.org/>

Weather permitting, the library is open every Saturday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Whiting Free Library Financial Report 2023

Starting Balance	\$3,706.66
Debits	
Books & Supplies	835.54
Technology	\$1429.00
Postage	\$100.80
Credits	
Town Contribution	\$2000.00
Book Sale	\$330.37
Interest	\$1.31
Ending Balance	\$3673.00

*At time of printing, the Library Account was not audited.

WHITING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

We began the year with a checkbook balance of \$22,466.80, \$36,354.56 in our savings account and \$10,493.42 in the cadet program. Our expenses for the year were \$45,028.37. The breakdown is as follows:

New Truck	17,162.00
ACFA/VSFA	1,951.00
Building	536.74
Gas & Oil	2,602.96
Insurance	11,123.00
Miscellaneous	863.61
New Equipment & Repairs	1,320.00
Raffle	1,800.00
Truck Repair	5,083.49
<u>Utilities</u>	<u>2,585.49</u>
TOTAL	\$45,028.37

We had an income of \$52,608.08. We ended the year with \$29,342.59 in the checkbook, \$36,725.88 in the savings account and \$10,353.42 in the cadet program as of December 31, 2023.

Our income was from the following sources:

50/50 Raffle	3,708.00
Gun Raffle	6,150.00
Coin Drop	1,604.00
Donations	4,957.08
Memory Tree	1,183.00
Town of Sudbury	17,500.00
<u>Town of Whiting</u>	<u>17,500.00</u>
TOTAL	, \$52,602.08

ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 2023

50/50 Raffle	1,800.00
Gun Raffle	5,000.00
Coin Drop	1,000.00
Donations	2,000.00
Memory Tree	900.00
Town of Sudbury	17,500.00
<u>Town of Whiting</u>	<u>\$17,500.00</u>
TOTAL	\$45,200.00

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 2023

Dues and Fees	3,000.00
Gas & Oil	3,500.00
Insurance	12,000.00
Maintenance of Buildings	500.00
Maintenance of Trucks	5,000.00
Miscellaneous	1,200.00
New Equipment	10,000.00
Raffle Payments	1,800.00
<u>Utilities</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$40,000.00

Thank you to all the townspeople for their continued support. I would also like to thank all members for their dedication, time and support.

Your present firemen are:

Steve White, Chief	Thomas Curran
Tom Bouchard, Assistant Chief	Randy Denis
Cody Quesnel, Assistant Chief	Gary Freeguard
Jonathan Ashley, Captain	Calvin Hogan
Austin Quesnel, Captain	Danielle Morse
Bob Wood, Captain	Lawrence Quesnel
Randy Bertrand, Training Officer	Larry Wilbur
Greg Kokinis, Training Officer	Mike Wilbur
Danielle Morse, Training Officer	Tiffany Wilbur
Stacey Freeguard, Secretary/Treasurer	
David Curran	Cadets: David Bertrand, Olivia Quinn

If you have a problem or question other than a fire, please call me personally at 462-2336. Please do not use the fire number except in emergencies. Call 911 for emergencies in our area for fire, medical or police to respond.

Thank you for your support.
Respectfully submitted,
Steve White, Chief

2023 Whiting First Response Report

During calendar year 2023 Whiting First Response received 60 calls for assistance in Whiting and Sudbury and one mutual aid call in Leicester. We continue to be available for mutual aid to our neighboring towns when needed and able. Our transport agencies are Middlebury Regional EMS for Whiting and Brandon Area Rescue Squad for Sudbury. Both agencies continue to bring a high degree of professionalism and have served our towns well this past year. As a squad we have kept current with the required training, protocol updates and use of the electronic medical records system as required by the Vermont State EMS office. All of our active members are currently certified at the EMT or EMR level.

We would like to thank the towns of Whiting and Sudbury for their continued support in our efforts to provide a professional service to both communities. As we mentioned last year, our members are getting older and some new and younger members would be a welcome addition to our squad.

The entry level of EMS certification here in Vermont is the Vermont EMS First Responder. The Vermont EMS First Responder (VEFR) course and level of certification are designed to introduce new individuals to EMS and provide additional basic first responders for local communities. The VEFR has a limited scope of practice including CPR, AED, bleeding control, assisting with an epinephrine auto-injector for anaphylaxis, assisting with a prescribed metered dose inhaler (rescue inhaler) with an asthma attack or COPD exacerbation, or administering naloxone. VEFR personnel's role will vary by agency and may include community first response, event standbys, community demonstrations, or acting as a driver for a licensed ambulance crew. Eligible candidates must be at least 16 years old at the time the course begins and be willing to commit about 30 hours to online course preparation (self-paced) and 7 to 9 hours for an in person skills and simulation lab. The VEFR level of certification would be a good introduction to Emergency Medical Services here in Vermont and help us provide initial care on scene here in Whiting and Sudbury. Further education and training at the EMR level and above can be obtained at a later date.

Whiting First Response meets the 3rd Monday of every month (7:00 PM) for a business meeting and the 4th Tuesday (7:00 PM) for training. We hold our meetings at the Whiting Fire Station.

We would like to encourage everyone in both towns to spend some time familiarizing themselves with Hands Only (compression only) CPR and the signs of a stroke. You can find Hands Only CPR training videos and information on stroke symptoms and warning signs on the American Heart Association web site. Please contact our squad if you have some interest in learning more.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Hartline, Head of Service

Head of Services - Keith Hartline (EMT) 802-623-6686
Vice President - Rick Iffland (EMT)
Secretary - Tammy Wilbur (EMT)
Treasurer - Keith Hartline (EMT)
Training Officers - Larry Wilbur (EMT) / Tammy Wilbur (EMT)
Health Officer - Elizabeth Curran (EMT)
Safety Officer - Grant Thurston (EMR)
District Board Representative - Elizabeth Curran (EMT)

Members - Anna Kranz (CPR), Timothy Curran (CPR)

2023 Accounting - Whiting First Response

Balance Forward 2022: **\$18820.69**
 \$17965.14 in Savings and \$855.55 in Checking

Income 2023		Expenses 2023	
Interest	\$17.24	Medical Supplies	\$4888.73
Rescue 1	\$500.00	Office/Station Expenses	\$374.97
Donations	\$450.00	Outreach Expenses	\$418.52
Sudbury (2024)	\$2500.00	Vehicle Expenses	\$829.09
		Training Expenses	\$150.00
Total	\$3467.24*	Total	\$6661.31

Beginning Balance 2023	\$18820.69
Income 2023	<u>\$3467.24</u>
Total	\$22287.93
<u>Expenses 2023</u>	<u><\$6661.31></u>
Balance Forward for 2023	\$15626.62

As of 12/31/2022 - \$15132.38 Savings and \$494.24 Checking

***Note - Whiting 2024 appropriation deposited 1/8/2024**

2023 Town of Whiting Memory Tree

Amstein, Alex	Brockman, Hughette	Desautels, Laurie
Amstein, Doris	Brunnet, Mr & Mrs. Elgeor	Douglas, Judy
Amstein, Michael	Bull, Lola	Duclos, Norma
Amstein, Susan	Burke, Betty	Dumas, Mary
Audet, Paul	Butler, Doug	Eagan, Patrick
Audet, Marcel	Butterfield, Marie	Ethier, Aimie
Baah, Charles	Cameron, Barbara	Ethier Family
Bailey, Mr & Mrs. Frank	Cameron, Charles	Fleury, Elizabeth
Bailey, Marion	Cameron, Cynthia	Flynn, Carrie
Bailey, Richard	Cameron, Peggy	Flynn, Kevin
Baker, Cushman	Capek, Michelle	Flynn, Terry
Baker, Ellen	Capek, Patricia	Flynn, Tyler
Baker, Jack	Capek, Stanley	Flynn, Olin
Baldwin, Cynthia	Cattell, Bill	Flynn, Unice
Baldwin, Russell	Cawthra, TJ	Foster, Robert
Baldwin, Wayne	Chadbourne, Joan	Fontaine, Leonard
Bathalon, Sheryl	Charron, Denny	Forrest, Dave
Benjamin, Jack	Chartrand Family	Freeguard, Angel
Bennett, Danielle	Cody, Brian	Freeguard, Anthony
Bergeron, Melissa	Coe, Pete	Freeguard, Casey
Berry, Barbara	Coleman, Cristin	Freeguard, Roger
Berry, Dudley	Coleman, Matthew	Gibeault, Lionel
Bertrand, Leo	Compagna Family	Gibeault, Reg
Bertrand, Louise	Condon, Douglas	Gifford Marie (Seguin)
Bilodeau, Diane	Condon, Elizabeth	Gill, Jim
Bilodeau, Gaston	Condon, Steven	Goodnow, Earl
Bilodeau, Germain	Coons-Cornell, Martha	Goodnow, Susan
Bilodeau, Justin	Cornell, Brad	Grandchamp, Vicky
Bilodeau, Laval	Cota, Arthur	Grassi, Carlo
Bilodeau, Matt	Cota, Vera	Grassi, Vreni
Bilodeau, Michael	Cousineau, George	Grein, Hans
Bilodeau, Michele	Cousineau, Rita	Heath, Bea
Bilodeau, Pauline	Cousineau, Scott	Heath, Beatrice
Bilodeau, Pierre	Crawford, Robert	Heath, Floyd
Birchmore, Chief	Cunningham, Alberta	Heath, Floyd Sr.
Birchmore, Clarence	Cunningham, David Jr.	Higbee, Margret
Birchmore, Elise	Currier, Charlie	Hogan, Beth
Birchmore, Elsie	Currier, Grace	Hoover, Anne
Birchmore, Floyd	Currier, Roger	Hornbeck, Charles
Birchmore, Luke	Currier, Scott	Hornbeck, Danny
Birchmore, Raymond	Currier, Wayne	Hornbeck, Ed
Bishop, Margret	Curtis, Patty	Hornbeck, Edward
Bissonette, Diane	Davis, Kirk	Hornbeck, James
Bissonette, James	Davis, Rita	Hornbeck, Jim
Bissonette, Kenneth Sr.	Davison, Ray	Hornbeck, Marie
Bissonette, Ronald	DeLong, Jane	Hornbeck, Ron
Blair, Eddie	Denis, Laurence	Hornbeck, Ronald
Boise, Brent	Denis, Madeline	Huber, John R. Jr
Boudette, M. Elaine	Denis, Paul	Huber, John R. Sr.
Bourassa, Leona	Dixon, David	James, Kelly & Vivian
Brenner, Jordie	Doane, Mabel	Kerr, Sherry

King, Jill	Peters, Betty	Trayah, Raymond
Kritkauský, Anthony R.	Peters, Pete	Trombley, Ada
Kritkauský, Joyce	Piper, Michael	Trombley, Tim
Kurrelmeyer, Ellen	Plasse, Dorothy	Turpin, Paul
Kurrelmeyer-Travis, Ellen	Plasse, Ed	Vacca, Betty
Ladabouche, George	Pop, Breanna	Vacca, Nicholas
Lamoureux, Amie	Quenneville, Ashley	Viets, Diana
Lamoureux, Edgar	Quenneville, Claudette	Wadsworth, Richard & Bodil
Lamoureux, Janet	Quenneville, Guy	Walker, David
Lamoureux, Jeanne	Quenneville, Lorraine	Warren, Howard Sr,
Lamoureux, Larry	Quenneville, Lucas	Weber, Hanna
Lamoureux, Mr. & Mrs. Leon	Quenneville, Lucille	Weber, Max
Lamoureux, Marie	Quenneville, Rene	Wetmore, Brian
Lamoureux, Real	Quenneville, Roger	Wetmore, Marilyn
Lamoureux, Tristan	Quenneville, Romeo	Whalen, Kenny
Langeway, Linda	Quenneville, Vince	Wheeler, Kristle
Lawrence, Ceceill	Quesnel, Alice	White, Ron
Leno, Darlene	Quesnel, Clara	WhiteHill, Thomas
Leno, Emory	Quesnel, Dominique	Whitney, Rodney
Leno, Grandma	Quesnel, JD & Clara	Wilbur, Annette
Leno, Kenny	Quinn, Tristan	Wilbur Family
Litch, Josh	Rawson, Curtis	Wilbur, Grandpa
Little, Christa Quenneville	Rawson, Curtis M.	Wilbur, Robert
Loizeaux, Connie	Rawson, Margaret	Williams, Ben
Loizeaux, Richard	Rawson, Robert	Williams, Lillian
Lonergan, Margaret	Reeve, Karen	Wilson, Susan White
Lord, Nate	Roorda, Garry S.	Wimmet, Arlene
Luca, Fred	Roorda, Gary	Witham, Viola
Luca, Gemma	Ryan, Jane L.	Wood, Bob
Mason, Travis	Sabatini, Karen	Wood, Lillian
Marcelle, David	Salino, Joe	Wood, Randy
Martella, Glenn	Scholten Family	Wood, Roy
Martella, Joe	Schmidt, Esther	Ziomek, Peggy
Minor, Louise (Seguin)	Schmidt, Lawrence	
Morin, Ryan	Seguin, Alban	Worcester, MA Firefighters who died December 3rd, 1999
Mottoa, Olga	Seguin, Dorothy	Paul A. Brotherton
Mottoa, Vinicio	Senecle, Larry	Joseph P. McGuirk
Munger, David	Sherman, Joshua	Timothy P. Jackson
Munger, Floyd	Simonds, E. Rich	Jeremiah M. Lucy
Munger, Lucy	Simonds, Frances	James F. Lyons
Munger, Skip	Simonds, Rich	LT. Thomas Spencer
Nelson, Arden	Simonds, Wilson	
Nokes, Arthur	Simonds, Wilson (Bill) J.	In Memory of past Whiting Fire Chiefs
Nokes, Gladys	Smith, Jason	Clayton Sawtelle
Norton, Anna	Sulik-Doty, Ethan	Bill Palmer
Ouelette, Edmond	Sweeney, Norman	Clarence Birchmore
Page, Aime	Swington, John	
Page, Fleur Ange	Tanzer, Mike	
Page, Marcel	Taylor, William (Bill)	
Page, Monita	Tilgner, Bill (Till-ner)	
Pepe, Louis	Trayah, Lois	

2023 Whiting Cemetery Association

The annual meeting was held August 21, 2023 at the Whiting town hall. The current officers were re-elected: Beverly Freeguard, President and Sec/Treas, Peg Allen.

Jeremy New of Leicester had the mowing contract for 2023, and has verbally agreed to mow in 2024 for the same rate if expenses don't change substantially.

The cemetery will be contacting the VT Old Cemetery Association for help / advise with the broken and leaning stones in the older part of the cemetery.

The cemetery receives \$1000 from the town each year. Other income comes from the sale of plots and interest income.

Peg Allen
Secretary/ Treasurer

Bone Builders

Bone Builders classes are free to anyone male or female who would like to participate. The classes are Tuesday & Thursday at 8:30 AM at the Whiting Church. Some weights are supplied to those who need them. For more information please contact Beverly Freeguard (802)623-8033. We hope to see you there.

2023 Whiting Farmers Market

A group of residents opened a farmers market on Wednesday afternoons from 4 – 6 pm at the town hall parking lot during July and August 2023.

We plan to do it again in 2024. No charge for town residents, nominal fee for non-residents. Check the town bulletin boards in June for more information.

The Whiting Farmers Market Committee

Whiting Water Corp

The water corp was established in 1961 by several village residents when the HP Hood milk plant closed, and the balance of the lease on the water source was available.

The source is a leased spring south of the village and the distribution system extends from the Whiting school building to 77 North Main St.

The pump house and distribution system were replaced in 2009-10 per order of the VT Water Supply Division. The project included the new pump house behind the firehouse, new water line through the village and reconnecting buildings to the new line.

Because the system does not have meters, the officers do their best to create a budget / rate balance that meets our obligations. Ongoing expenses include mortgage, insurance, sampling/testing and the electric bills. Unexpected expenses are dealt with as they occur.

Any household or other entity attached to the system is considered a member of the corp and is invited to attend the annual meeting.

The system is very fortunate to have a long time president/operator and treasurer. These individuals have volunteered their time to keep the system running since 1995 and 2001 respectively.

Note: The Whiting Water Corp does not receive funding from the town other than the assessed water rates.

VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program

TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSA). Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, resources are limited by the number of dogs licensed as required by law by 6 months of age. A rabies vaccination is required to be licensed. The first vaccination can be given at 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a vet office, Community Animal Aid (free to those on public assistance: 734-0259 at the E. Barre Fire Station) & Tractor Supply host monthly clinics. After vaccinating, contact your Town Clerk to license your dog. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be seized. Rabies is in Vermont and it is deadly.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event bitten by an animal, but would still need immediate medical attention. Vaccinations and licensing protect if they bite another animal or person, which could result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanized. If not proven by being licensed to be currently vaccinated, testing for rabies requires the brain to be examined.

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: VSNIP.Vermont.Gov. VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you'll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. **Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.**

Facts: Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The "mom" cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if not neutered. Resolve Carpet Cleaner and a single moth ball in its place will help deter from repeat markings. (Do not use moth balls with young children in the house.) 70% of cats and 15% of dogs using VSNIP are reported as strays or abandoned, which is cruel and illegal. Please do promote VSNIP, helping those that cannot afford to neuter, that will otherwise reproduce over and over. Repeat litters can cause uterine infection, mammary tumors, kidney failure, etc., leading to death. "Farm" cats are especially at risk. Be wary of any seller of animals that won't allow you to see how they are kept before acquiring and want to meet in a parking lot. Animals are often used as a means of making money, and their life may be inside a room or cage. Please be the voice for those that cannot speak. Purchasing does not 'save' one, it 'enables' those to continue to misuse animals for money. Thank you for promoting this time proven program.

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard "Snook" Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are! ***Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!*** 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP Executive Director: VVSA

REPORT TO WHITING ON TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT (TVT) SERVICES

Thank you for the Town of Whiting's generous support last year. During the past four years, your support helped us provide an annual average of **352 free Dial-a-Ride trips** for Whiting residents either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles, including TVT owned vehicles operated by Elderly Services, Inc. TVT's Dial-a-Ride and Shuttle Bus Systems provided a total of 180,335 rides for the year. All TVT's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

Dial-a-Ride Programs – Focus on specialized populations including elders, persons with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who are unable to access the bus system. **In Whiting, Dial-a-Ride offers direct access from home to: medical treatments, meal site/senior programs, adult day care services, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, radiation & dialysis and substance abuse treatment.**

Bus System – Promotes economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence and quality of life. **Whiting residents coming into Leicester can access an extensive shuttle bus system that can take them around the county, north to Burlington or south to Rutland.**

The state and local grants through which we provide these services require us to raise up to 20% "local match" dollars. TVT's requests from towns account for approximately 5% of the 20% requirement.





Kristin Hubert, EdD
Superintendent of Schools
khubert@mesu.org

Dear Residents of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, & Whiting:

I am pleased to write this report to capture RNESU, Otter Valley Unified Union and Barstow Unified Union activities for 2022-2023. Although each town and school within our system is unique, we are committed to supporting OVUU and BUU working together toward achieving RNESU’s vision and mission of educating every child in our eight towns. This report summarizes the talent and dedication of the staff in providing learning opportunities for all students despite the lingering challenges of the pandemic. I want to emphasize how honored and privileged I am to continue to work within such a resilient, passionate, and innovative community.

Over this current school year, we began the collaborative process to identify the hopes, dreams, and aspirations we have for our children and the competencies that best reflect the skills, characteristics, and traits needed to achieve that vision, otherwise known as “**Strategic Planning.**” We will build on past experiences to ensure that current and future students have opportunities to explore their interests and leave prepared to engage as positively contributing members of an ever-evolving society. This cohesive work will provide our roadmap for our work as we journey towards becoming a district of excellence.

In 2022-2023, each of our schools across the system took stock and measure of our academic, social, emotional, and behavioral growth priorities to support positive student outcomes. RNESU educators across the system prioritized the core work of teaching and learning, working to develop and refine student-focused measurable outcomes. It is through a focus on these outcomes, and other data sources, that our schools and educators are able to honestly reflect on how well our systems are operating and where we need to improve. In 2022-2023, RNESU schools and educators focused on the work of attending to Vermont’s Act 173 legislation, asking for a commitment to:

1. Ensure elementary Tier 1 core instruction meets the needs of most students;
2. Provide additional instructional time outside core subjects aligned to the core instruction, to students who struggle, rather than providing interventions instead of core instruction;
3. Ensure students who struggle receive all instruction from highly skilled teachers;
4. Create or strengthen a systems-wide approach to supporting positive student behaviors based on expert support; and
5. Provide students having more intensive support needs with specialized instruction from skilled and trained experts.

Debbie Alexander
Asst. Supt. of Curriculum,
Instruction & Assessment
dalexander@mesu.org

Alexis Blake
Director of Technology
ablake@mesu.org

Marsha F. Bruce
Dir. of Student
Support Services
mbruce@mesu.org

Brenda L. Fleming
Dir. of Business & Finance
bfleming@mesu.org

Tyler Weideman
Dir. of Safe Schools
tweideman@mesu.org



**RUTLAND NORTHEAST
SUPERVISORY UNION**

49 Court Drive, Brandon, Vermont 05733

802.247.5757

www.mesu.org

Kristin Hubert, EdD
Superintendent of Schools
khubert@mesu.org

In RNEU schools and across Vermont, we are committed to making sure each and every student thrives, improving outcomes for ALL students, while also accelerating growth for students that need the most support. In the 2022-2023 school year, we also sought to amplify the voices of our students - those most affected by District decisions – by developing a Student Advisory Council and engaging in “listening walks” in each of our schools. This focus and commitment continues in 2023-2024, with expanded opportunities for student voice in each of our schools, and engagement with student groups around Strategic Planning.

As you review the 2022-2023 annual report, I hope you take the time to reflect on this past school year and all that we accomplished together, while knowing that we still have much work to do as a school system and community. This proposed budget reflects the services and resources to support a student-centered educational program that will help our students flourish. I know from personal experience the transformational power of a great public education and have seen the positive difference it makes for individuals, families, and communities. The health of our greater community depends on the excellence of our public schools, and I am committed to making them work for every one of our children. Thank you for your continued support of each and every student. Together, we can ensure that our children receive the public education they deserve and support they need to achieve their hopes and dreams.



In partnership,
Kristin Hubert, Superintendent
RNEU

**Please read the full
Otter Valley Unified Union School
District Annual Report
provided separately via mail and
available online at www.rnesu.org.**



Debbie Alexander
Asst. Supt. of Curriculum,
Instruction & Assessment
dalexander@mesu.org



Marsha F. Bruce
Dir. of Student
Support Services
mbruce@mesu.org



Brenda L. Fleming
Dir. of Business & Finance
bfleming@mesu.org

Tyler Weideman
Dir. of Safe Schools
tweideman@rnesu.org

**OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL BOARD REPORT
JANUARY 2024**



Happy New Year!

COVID still haunts us. We are still seeing the impact of the pandemic on our kids' academics and their social and emotional well-being. Our administration, teachers and staff are doing everything possible to keep the learning going in our classrooms and schools. Now we find ourselves on the edge of the ESSER Cliff that is making for some hard decisions. As many of you know, ESSER were funds from the Federal Government to help us work thru the pandemic by allowing us to hire more staff to help our students who had fallen behind academically and to help with their social and emotional health as we navigated a return to our new "normal". These positions were temporary as the funding only lasted for three years. We are currently in that final year. We have had to make decisions about which positions we felt were necessary to keep in our local budgets that had previously been paid with federal funding (ESSER).



Not only did we have to make those hard decisions, but new legislation from the State of Vermont in the form of Act 127 also challenged those decisions. Starting with the 2024-2025 budget, Act 127 states that if we kept our per pupil spending below a 10% increase, (what they are calling guardrails), then our communities would only see an increase of 5% on our tax rate. Also, if we stayed within the guardrails this year, we could continue to use this method for the next 4 years. This all sounds like great news right? However, there is one piece of the puzzle that is out of our control. That is the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) in each of our towns. Home sales have been much higher in all of our towns than what is reflected in the grand lists. Therefore, the CLA in all of our towns has dropped significantly this year. This means that although we are capped at a 5% increase in the school tax rate, the CLA will adjust that tax rate for each town. Unfortunately, the School Board does not have any control over the CLA. However, due to the drops in each of our member towns, each town will be seeing a significant jump in their tax bill.



The Board has been looking down the road 5 to 10 years and have renewed their vision of the possibility of a middle school model and how that might look in our schools. Currently, a middle school model encompasses grades 6 thru 8. To have the most effect, all 3 of those grades should be in the same spot. The Board will be looking at how we might add on to Otter Valley to accommodate that vision. We are just starting this endeavor, so feel free to let us know what you think.





While I am on that topic, the Board has been discussing ways to engage the community. We realize that we need to start coming to the people and wonder how we might be able to do that. If you have any suggestions, we would love to hear them. We want to work together for the success of all of our students.

If you or someone you know are thinking about a career change, we are currently hiring bus drivers and paraprofessionals. Come join the team!

The last thing I would like to do is say thank you to Rebecca Watters and Greg Bernhardt who have been outstanding board members, as they will not be seeking re-election this year. They will certainly be missed.

Thank you for your support of our kids, staff and schools! As always, feel free to contact a Board Member with any questions you might have, or use the Reach Out! button on any school website. We look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bertrand
OVUU Board Chair



**RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
ANNUAL BOARD REPORT
January 2024**

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) Board has been dealing with the ESSER Cliff that I mentioned to you last year. This means that all of the COVID monies we had received from the Federal Government have been depleted. The Administration has made some very hard decisions about what positions to keep within our budget that benefits our children the most. We decided that it made sense to keep the following previously ESSER funded positions in the current budget: a communications coordinator, elementary special education coordinator, a school psychologist, a mental health coordinator, and an out of district LEA. The Board made the decision this year to increase the number of Pre-K lottery slots from 5 to 10. This will allow additional families who cannot access our Pre-K programs to use state funds to attend a Pre-K program outside of our district. We are faced with a 16.4% increase in health care costs for our staff that is negotiated at the state level and is out of our control. Therefore, our budget reflects an 11.85% increase in spending. We have made no significant changes in programming.

We are currently hiring for bus drivers and paraprofessionals, so if you or someone you know are looking for a rewarding position, check us out!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rebecca Watters for her tireless work on behalf of the RNESU Board, as she is not seeking re-election. It is with a mixture of sadness and pride that we say goodbye to our Special Education Director, Marsha Bruce, who is retiring after many years of selfless dedication to our students.

Thank you for your support of our schools, staff and students! We are committed to the education of all of our students. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a board member or use the Reach Out! button on any school website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bertrand
RNESU Board Chair



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

The legal voters of the Town of Whiting, Vermont meet at the Town Hall, in said Whiting on Tuesday March 7th, 2023 at 7:15pm to transact the following business:

Meeting came to order @ 7:15pm.

Rep. Joe Andriano (Addison-Rutland District) ask if he could speak to the townspeople, about what is being discussed and voted on in the House. Permission was granted. Joe handed out a paper (see attached) with the different topics that are being discussed and voted on.

Greg Coleman wanted to know if Joe has any alternative ideas for the Affordable Heat Act. Greg stated that he thinks the state needs to go more toward solar.

Mike Bertrand feels that people will not be able to afford the increase in heating.

Joe said he is going to vote no for the Affordable Heat Act, and he thinks the Gov. will veto it. He encouraged everyone to call Chris Bray or Elizabeth Harding to voice their concerns.

ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Heather Bouchard nominated Pat Mattison, Stacey Freeguard Seconded. No other nominations or discussion.

Motion made by Carolyn Schmidt Seconded by Stacey Freeguard for the Clerk to cast one ballot for Pat Mattison. All voted in favor. Clerk cast one ballot for Pat Mattison.

ARTICLE II: The receive and act upon the report of the Town Officers. Motion made by Elizabeth Curran, seconded by Carol Brigham. Moderator asked if there were any questions for discussion?

Carol Brigham wanted to know who picked the roads to be fixed last year. The select board explained that the town had received grants for the roads that were fixed, and they had to be completed in 2022. She wanted to know if there is a plan for what roads will be worked on in 2023. Steve Quenneville said that the roads they are planning on repairing during 2023 are: Stickney, Galvin, and Barnes. They are trying to do roads at the North End of town this year.

Carol Brigham wanted to express her concerns about the roads being winged back so far. She feels it gives people a false sense of security. Bob Wood stated that if he runs just the plow it will only be 8' wide, and if he runs the plow and wing it will be about 12' wide. This is to prevent the road from getting to narrow with multiple storms.

Rani Fallon said he has to put the snow somewhere; people need to slow down.

Carol Brigham asked Heather Bouchard (clerk) what classes she had taken?

Heather Bouchard (clerk) said Open Meeting Laws, VTPIE, Notary, Elections and some other ones she could not think of off the top of her head.

Stacey Freeguard said that Heather had taken classes on tax billing and she would be taking more.

All voted in favor by all.

ARTICLE III: Will the Town elect the Officers as required by law in the following order:

- A. Town Clerk for 3 years, incumbent is Heather Bouchard. Motion made by Stacey Freeguard for Heather Bouchard, seconded by Carolyn Schmidt. All voted in favor.

- B. Town Treasurer for 3 years, Heather Bouchard. Motion made by Stacey Freeguard for Heather Bouchard, seconded by Rani Fallon. All voted in favor.
- C. Select Board Member for 3 years -incumbent Steve Quenneville. Motion made by Stacey Freeguard for Steve Quenneville, seconded by Rani Fallon.
Jennifer Erwin asked to speak. She said that she has lived in town for three years, and talked about positions she has held in other towns.
Motion made by Nina Dillingham for Jennifer Erwin, seconded by Peter Weber.
Mike Bertrand said that Steve Quenneville does a lot for this town, at 2am he is out fixing the broken plow truck, and when other stuff needs attention, he is always there.
Elizabeth Curran requested a paper ballot.
Vote results were Steve Quenneville 32, Jennifer Erwin 10. Select Board member is Steve Quenneville for 3 years.
- D. Lister for 3 years - incumbent Stacey Freeguard. Motion made by Elizabeth Curran for Stacey Freeguard, seconded by Mike Bertrand. One nay, the rest were I's.
- E. Auditor for 3 years -incumbent Suzanne Denis. Motion made by Elizabeth Curran for Suzanne Denis, seconded by Rani Fallon. All voted in favor.
- F. First Constable for 1 year -incumbent Rusty Brigham. Motion made by Carolyn Schmidt for Rusty Brigham, seconded by Elizabeth Curran.
Heather Bouchard said that Rusty Brigham had gone around last year and reminded dog owners that the dog registrations were due. That helped a lot with dog registrations.
All voted in favor.
- G. Collect of Delinquent Taxes for 1 year -incumbent Rani Fallon. Motion made by Stacey Freeguard for Rani Fallon, seconded by Elizabeth Curran. All voted in favor.
- H. Library Trustee for 2 years -incumbent Jaime Quenneville. Motion made by Tammy Wilbur for Jaime Quenneville, seconded by Stacey Freeguard. All voted in favor.
- I. Library Trustee for 2 years -incumbent Tara Trudo. Motion made by Tammy Wilbur for Tara Trudo, seconded by Stacey Freeguard. All voted in favor.
- J. Library Trustee for 3 years -incumbent Peg Allen. Motion made by Stacey Freeguard for Peg Allen, seconded by Tammy Wilbur. All voted in favor.
- K. Library Trustee for 3 years -incumbent Tammy Wilbur. Motion made by Stacey Freeguard for Tammy Wilbur, seconded by Heather Mattison. All voted in favor.

ARTICLE IV: Shall the Town authorize the Treasurer to collect real property taxes to the Treasurer on or before Friday, December 1, 2023? (In Hand, Postmarks not accepted) Motion made by Carolyn Schmidt to except Article IV, seconded by Elizabeth Curran. All voted in favor.

ARTICLE V: Will the Town give the Delinquent Tax Collector the power to collect delinquent taxes? Motion made by Elizabeth Curran to except Article V, seconded by Carolyn Schmidt. All voted in favor.

ARTICLE VI: Will the Town appropriate \$455,260.00 expenses and indebtedness of the town of which \$289,304.00 will come from taxes? Motion made by Elizabeth Curran, Second by Carol Brigham.

Heather Mattison wanted to know why the library was only in for \$1000.00, instead of the \$2000.00 they requested?

Steve Quenneville state that the board had put it up to the original amount.

Heather Mattison explained that the program they are trying to implement for people to use would cost between \$800-\$900 per year. This is an electronic system where you could borrow books and see what books are at the library.

Carolyn Schmidt asked if it was electronic books only?

Heather Mattison said that the books you borrow are electronic, but the ones you can look up in the library are regular books.

Elizabeth Curran stated that she would like to see it for a year and then re-evaluate.

Elizabeth Curran made a motion to change the library appropriation to \$2000.00, seconded by Nina Dillingham. One nay, the rest ayes. The budget was amended to \$456,260.00 expenses and indebtedness of the town of which \$290,304.00 will come from taxes. This vote on the budget as amended passed unanimously.

All voted in favor.

ARTICLE VII: To transact any other nonbinding business deemed necessary and proper when met.

Mike Bertrand, Carolyn Schmidt, Suzanne Denis, and Pat Mattison: They wanted to thank the people (Gary Freeguard, Steve Quenneville, Bob Wood, Marcia King, Tom & Heather Bouchard) take did all the work on the town hall. They all thought it looked great.

Tammy Wilbur said if you would like to join the First Response, please contact her.

Peter Weber wanted to know about the store.

Heather Bouchard said she had talked to them, and they are planning on opening sometime this spring?

Greg Coleman wanted to know about the removal of the trees on West RD. He is afraid his tree's will be cut.

Elias Erwin responded that the town needs a Tree Warden.

Bob Wood responded that the trees were dying, so the select board looked into it, they talked to a tree service company.

Carolyn Schmidt said, she thinks the property owners should be notified.

Heather Mattison stated that she had this happen to her several years ago. She said that the State allows this, and her insurance company told her if something happened with the trees it would be her responsibility for damages. She was glad the town took care of the trees.

Jeanne Lamoureux said, they were notified.

Anne Coleman wanted to know who determined this?

Steve Quenneville responded that it was a combination select board and road crew.

Elias Erwin referenced a previous select board meeting stating, Bob Wood made the motion and Marcia seconded it.

Heather Bouchard said, it was voted on by the whole select board.

Tammy Wilbur suggested that in the future a letter be sent to property owners. She also stated that she had been concerned about the trees not being safe when she was walking with her grandchildren. She had asked the select board to do something about them.

Jennifer Erwin said, that the select board is required to appoint a Tree Warden.

Heather Bouchard said, the select board could not appoint a Tree Warden because they could not find anyone to take the position. The select board had been working hard to find someone and they have.

Pat Mattison read the Town Highway/Right-of-way Maintenance and Tree Removal that is published by VLCT.

Carolyn Schmidt said she would like a procedure in place.

Elias Erwin said, it is outlined in the VT Tree Laws.

Larry Wilbur said, he understands the emotional part. This was done on Murray Rd. and the road is a lot better now. When he is driving farm equipment it is safer.

Jeanne Lamoureux said, the town needs a tree warden.

Greg Coleman said he wants notifications to go out.

Jennifer Erwin thanked Pat Mattison for reading the Town Highway/Right-of-way Maintenance and Tree Removal.

Gary Freeguard said, 20 years ago when he was on the select board the state came in and wanted 18' roads then.

Larry Wilbur said, if the state comes in the trees will not be there.

Gary Freeguard wanted to thank everyone for the extra money for the Fire Department.

Stacey Freeguard reminded everyone the Rabies Clinic is March 23rd, 2023 at the Fire Station.

Tammy Wilbur invited everyone to come up and see the Library.

Mike Bertrand made a motion to adjourn, Ryan Balfe seconded it. All voted in favor.

Adjourned at 8:43pm

Pat Mattison 3/14/2023
Wadington Moderator

Stacey Freeguard 3/14/2023
Justice of the Peace

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Whiting, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall, in said Whiting on Tuesday March 5th, 2024 at 7:15pm to transact the following business:

ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE II: The receive and act upon the report of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE III: Will the Town elect the Officers as required by law in the following order:

- A. Select Board Member for 3 years -incumbent Bob Wood
- B. Lister for 3 years - incumbent Rani Fallon
- C. Auditor for 3 years -incumbent Pat Mattison
- D. First Constable for 1 year -incumbent Rusty Brigham
- E. Collect of Delinquent Taxes for 1 year -incumbent Rani Fallon

ARTICLE IV: Shall the Town authorize the Treasurer to collect real property taxes to the Treasurer on or before Sunday, December 1, 2024? (In Hand or Secure Box by 5:00pm, Postmarks not accepted)

ARTICLE V: Will the Town give the Delinquent Tax Collector the power to collect delinquent taxes?

ARTICLE VI: Will the Town appropriate \$487,675.00 expenses and indebtedness of the town of which \$315,250.00 will come from taxes?

ARTICLE VII: To transact any other nonbinding business deemed necessary and proper when met.

Select Board Chair:

Bob Wood

Steve Quenneville

Marcia King

- Bob Wood 1-22-24

Marcia King 1/22/24

Steve Quenneville 1/22/24

Attested By:

Heather Barkard

Town Clerk

Town of Whiting

29 S. Main St.

Whiting, VT 05778

www.WhitingVT.com

OFFICE HOURS

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER

Heather Bouchard
(802) 623-7813
townofwhiting@shoreham.net

Monday 7:30-11:00am

3:00-5:00pm

Wednesday 7:30-11:00am

And by appointment

BOARD OF LISTERS

(802) 623-7813
Listers@WhitingVT.com

Available by
appointment only.

RECYCLING:

2nd and 4th Saturday of month

9:30 – 11am at Town Shed

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE:

Peg Allen
Stacey Freeguard
Patricia Mattison
Carolyn Schmidt
Jeanne Leno

REGULAR MEETINGS

SELECTBOARD

4th Mondays at 5:00pm

Held at Town Office

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1st Monday at 7:30pm

(Business Meeting)

2nd Tuesday 6:30pm(Training)

Special Trainings TBA

Both held at Firehouse

FIRST RESPONSE

3rd Monday at 7pm

(Business Meeting)

4th Monday at 7pm (Training)

Both held at Firehouse

CONTACT INFORMATION

1st Constable:	Rusty Brigham	345-6906
Animal Control:	Stacey Freeguard	623-6065
Auditors:	Alison Remy	623-7813
Board of Listers:	Stacey Freeguard	623-7813
Cemetery Board:	Peg Allen	623-6211
Delinquent Taxes:	Rani Fallon	989-2614
Fire Dept non-emer:	Steve White	989-2773
Fire Warden:	Delwin Fielder	989-8986
First Resp non-emer:	Rick Iffland	236-1469
Food Shelf:	Melissa O'Neil	989-1575
Green-Up Chair:	Rebecca Bertrand	623-6325
Health Officer:	Jeanne Lamoureux	623-6385
Planning Comm:	Steve Quenneville	623-7813
Roads:	Select Board	623-7813
Select Board:	Bob Wood	623-7813
Town Clerk & Treasurer:	Heather Bouchard	623-7813
Town Hall:	Tammy Wilbur	623-7862
Zoning Admin:	Keith Arlund	465-8098
Zoning Board:	Steve Quenneville	623-7813

**TOWN OF WHITING
29 S. MAIN STREET
WHITING, VT 05778**

Please bring this report with you to:

TOWN MEETING

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:15 pm
at the Whiting Town Hall**