



Town of East Montpelier, Vermont *174th Annual Report*

**Reports of Town Officers
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**



TOWN OFFICES at 40 Kelton Road
Phone: 802-223-3313 • Fax: 802-223-4467
<https://eastmontpeliervt.org>

Mailing address: P.O. Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Monday – Thursday 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Friday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON

Closed on official holidays.

Town Clerk: Rosie Laquerre – ext.201

email: clerk@eastmontpeliervt.org

Town Treasurer; Tax Collector: Michele Pallas – ext.207

email: treasurer@eastmontpeliervt.org

Town Administrator: Gina Jenkins – ext.204

email: manager@eastmontpeliervt.org

Zoning Administrator: Mikaela Eckert – ext.205

email: zoning@eastmontpeliervt.org

Listers' Office: ext.206

Ross Hazel, Chris Racanelli, Deborah Fillion

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON

email: listers@eastmontpeliervt.org

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: Medical, Fire, Police	911
East Montpelier Fire Dept. (Fire or Ambulance Call)	911
East Mont. Fire Dept. (Non-emergency Calls)	802-225-6245, 225-6247
State Police (Non-emergency Calls)	802-229-9191
Fire Chief	Albert Petrella 802-225-6245
Fire Warden, Open Burn Permits	Ty Rolland 802-229-1153
Permits for Fireworks	802-225-6247
Town Garage	Guthrie Perry 802-223-5870
Town Constable	Jon Boucher 802-917-4855
Elementary School	802-223-7936
U-32 Middle & High School	802-229-0321
Washington Central Unified Union School District	802-229-0553
State Rep. Ela Chapin	echapin@leg.state.vt.us 802-828-2228
Animal Control Officer	Carl Etnier 802-441-3337
Second Animal Control Officer	Amber Perry 802-498-5140
Town Health Officer	Seth Gardner 802-272-3478
Truant Officer	Alicia Lyford 802-223-7936
Town Service Officer	Rachael Grossman 802-223-3177

~ FRONT COVER ~

*Flood waters receded to reveal extensive damage to lower
Horn of the Moon Road, July 2023. Photo © Deborah Fillion*

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In Appreciation

We, the townspeople of East Montpelier, thank the following citizens for their years of public service as town officials. Many of the people listed here have served, or continue to serve, in other town offices as well.

We appreciate their contributions to our community.

Judith Dillon	Selectboard	
Jon Jewett	Selectboard, Capital Improvement Committee	
Amy Willis	Selectboard	
Lindy Johnson	School Director, Funding Request Study Committee	
	Justice of the Peace, Energy Committee	
Stephen Looke	School Director	
Eric Andersen	School Director	
Rosie Laquerre	WCUUSD Clerk	
Tyson Brown	Zoning Administrator	
Scott Hess	Planning Commission	
Lauren Oates	Development Review Board	
Ginny Burley.....	Town Health Officer	
Elliott Morse	Cemetery Sexton	
Tim Lamson	Cemetery Committee	
Chris Racanelli	Green Up Co-Coordinator	
Jan Aldrich	Recreation Board	
Mike Blanchard	Recreation Board	
Alex Rob	Recreation Board	
Kate Rader	Funding Request Study Committee	
Frank Pratt	East Montpelier Village Committee	
Alice Smith (<i>dec.</i>).....	East Montpelier Village Committee	
Becca Schrader	Revolving Loan Fund Committee Advisor	
Marshall Cottrell	CVFiber Governing Board Alternate Town Rep.	
Tom Fisher	Energy Committee	
Cort Richardson	Energy Committee	
Carl Etnier	Energy Committee	
Steve Knowlton	Energy Committee	
Bob Morey	Energy Committee	
Town Garage Facility Improvements Committee:		
Guthrie Perry	Seth Gardner	Gene Troia
Town Treasurer Selection Committee:		
Seth Gardner	Amy Willis	Rosie Laquerre
Kim Watson	Norman Hill	Rachael Grossman
Ryan Black-Deegan		
Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee:		
Seth Gardner	Ginny Callan	Bob Morey
Andy Shapiro	Zach Sullivan	



EAST MONTPELIER TOWN FORUM
MONDAY, March 4, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.
at the East Montpelier Town Office Building
40 Kelton Road, East Montpelier

The Citizens of East Montpelier are invited to attend a Public Hearing and Informational Meeting hosted by the East Montpelier Selectboard, conducted in person and utilizing Zoom remote conferencing services (see page 12 for participation options), to discuss the Articles on the 2024 Town Meeting Warning.

NAMES TO BE PRINTED ON THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

East Montpelier Town Meeting — Tuesday, March 5, 2024
at the East Montpelier Elementary School, 665 Vincent Flats Road
Australian Ballot Voting
7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

WCUUSD, CVCC and Presidential Primary Australian Ballot
voting will also occur at the above place and time.

OFFICE FILED FOR

CANDIDATE(S)

TOWN MODERATOR for 1 year	MICHAEL DUANE
SELECTBOARD MEMBER for 3 years	THOMAS “TOM” BRAZIER
(Vote for not more than ONE)	NIKHIL “NIK” KHOSLA
SELECTBOARD MEMBER for 2 years	SETH B. GARDNER
SELECTBOARD MEMBER for 2 of 3 years	ZOE CHRISTIANSEN
LISTER for 3 years	ROSS HAZEL
AUDITOR for 3 years	EDWARD “ED” DEEGAN
PLANNING COMMISSIONER for 3 years	BENJAMIN “BEN” MCCALL
(Vote for not more than THREE)	NO CANDIDATE
.....	NO CANDIDATE
PLANNING COMMISSIONER for 2 of 3 years.	ZOE CHRISTIANSEN



TOWN OFFICERS, ELECTED

Town Moderator: 1-year term; Expires 2024 Michael Duane

Selectboard:

3-year term; Expires 2024 Seth B. Gardner
 2-year term; Expires 2024 Jon Jewett (*resigned 12/18/2023*)
 3-year term; Expires 2025 Carlton “Carl” Etnier
 2-year term; Expires 2025 Scott Hess
 3-year term; Expires 2026 Zoe Christiansen (*appointment expires 2024*)

Listers: 3-year term

Expires 2024 Ross Hazel
 Expires 2025 Chris J. Racanelli
 Expires 2026 Deborah Fillion

Auditors: 3-year term

Expires 2024 Ed Deegan
 Expires 2025 Deborah Fillion
 Expires 2026 Carla (Neary) Occaso

First Constable: 1-year term; Expires 2024 Jonathan A. Boucher

Planning Commission: 3-year term

Expires 2024 Mark Lane
 Expires 2024 Richard H. Hall
 Expires 2024 Gianna Petito
 Expires 2025 Zachary Sullivan
 Expires 2025 Kim Watson
 Expires 2025 Erica Zimmerman
 Expires 2026 Clarice Cutler
 Expires 2026 Nikhil “Nik” Khosla
 Expires 2026 Maia Stone

Justices of the Peace: 2-year term; 2/1/2023–1/31/2025 (*elected in Nov. 2022*)

Janice “Jan” Aldrich (I)	Edith “Edie” Miller (I)	Elise Thorsen (D)
Virginia “Ginny” Burley (I)	Kate Phillips (D)	Jennifer Zollner (D)
Edward “Ed” Deegan (D)	Rebecca “Becky” Reed (D)	
Richard “Jez” Harrington (I)	Janice Waterman (I) (<i>appointed</i>)	

Board of Civil Authority:

Town Clerk, Selectboard and Justices of the Peace

Town Board for the Abatement of Taxes:

Board of Civil Authority, Listers and Town Treasurer

WCUUSD Directors from East Montpelier:

Expires 2024; 3-year term Zach Sullivan (*appointed*)
Expires 2025; 3-year term Flor Diaz Smith
Expires 2026; 3-year term Amelia Contrada (*appointment expires 2024*)

TOWN OFFICERS, APPOINTED

Town Administrator Gina Jenkins
Town Clerk (1 year; exp. June 2024) Rosie Laquerre
Town Treasurer (1 year; exp. June 2024) Michele Pallas
Collector of Current Taxes (1 year; exp. June 2024) Michele Pallas
Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1 year; exp. June 2024) Michele Pallas
Zoning Administrator (1 year; exp. June 2024) Mikaela Engert
E-911 Coordinator (1 year; exp. June 2024) Gina Jenkins
Municipal Assistant Patricia Canada
Assistant Town Clerk (1 year; exp. June 2024) Patricia Canada
Assistant Town Treasurer (1 year; exp. June 2024) Patricia Canada
Road Foreman Guthrie Perry
Road Commissioner (1 year; exp. June 2024) Seth Gardner
Road Commissioner (1 year; exp. June 2024) Gina Jenkins
Acting Zoning Administrator (1 year; exp. June 2024) vacant
Town Attorney Jim Barlow
First Constable Jon Boucher
Town Health Officer (3 years; exp. Dec. 31, 2026) Seth Gardner
Second Town Health Officer (1 year; exp. 2024) Rachael Grossman
Town Service Officer (1 year; exp. 2024) Rachael Grossman
Animal Control Officer (1 year; exp. 2024) Carl Etnier
Assistant Animal Control Officer (1 year; exp. 2024) Amber Perry
Town Fire Warden (5 years; exp. 2028) Ty Rolland
Emergency Management Director (Selectboard Chair) Seth Gardner
Emergency Management Director (Selectboard Vice-Chair) Carl Etnier
Emergency Management Coordinator (1 year; exp. 2024) Toby Talbot
Second Emergency Management Coordinator (1 year; exp. 2024) Jon Boucher
Town Tree Warden (1 year; exp. 2024) Paul Cate
Deputy Tree Warden (1 year; exp. 2024) vacant
Cemetery Sexton (1 year; exp. 2024) James Mangan
Solid Waste District Representative (1 year; exp. 2024) vacant

Regional Planning, Town Representative (1 year; exp. 2024) vacant
 Alternate (1 year; exp. 2024) Clarice Cutler
 Transportation Advisory Committee Rep. (1 year; exp. 2024) vacant
 Regional Emergency Management Committee,
 Town Representatives (1 year; exp. 2024) Seth Gardner, Jon Boucher
 Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Rep. (3 years; exp. 2023)..... Kim Kendall
 Four Corners Schoolhouse Assoc. Rep. (1 year; exp. 2024)..... Carolyn Shapiro
 State Police Community Advisory Board (1 year; exp. 2024) Carol Welch
 State Police Community Advisory Board (1 year; exp. 2024) Don Welch
 Green Up Co-Coordiators (1 year; exp. 2025) Erin Borland
 CVFiber Governing Board, Town Rep. (1 year; exp. 2024)Tom Fisher
 Alternate (1 year; exp. 2024) Nik Khosla
 Revolving Loan Fund Advisor (1 year; exp. 2024) Rebecca Schrader

Development Review Board: 3 years

Steve Kappel, <i>Chair</i> (2026)	Kim Watson (2026)	Nik Khosla (2026)
Mark Lane (2024)	Clarice Cutler (2024)	Glenn Weyant (2024)
Jeff Cueto (2025)	Norman Hill (2025)	Steve Justis (2025)

Cemetery Committee: 1 year; Exp. 2024

Jon Boucher, <i>Chair</i>	Mark Lane	Pam Biron
Rosie Laquerre, <i>Town Clerk</i>	Emily Goyette, <i>Clerk</i>	

Resilient Roads Committee: No term set

Jeff Cueto, <i>Chair</i>	Paul Cate	Mark Lane
Steve Justis	Guthrie Perry	

Forest Committee: 3 years

Paul Cate, <i>Chair</i> (2025)	Mark Lane (2026)	Colin Blackwell (2025)
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Conservation Fund Advisory Committee: 3 years

Brian Lusignan (2026)	Ginny Callan (2026)	
Bruce Howlett (2025)	Nora Duane (2025)	Hannah Phillips (2025)

Capital Improvement Committee: 1 year; Exp. 2024

Ed Deegan, <i>Chair</i>	Scott Hess	Michele Pallas
Kim Watson	Don Welch	

Recreation Board: 3 years

Jack Zeilenga, <i>Chair</i> (2025)	Darci Coleman-Graves, <i>Vice Chair</i> (2025)	
Kate Bean (2024)	Ashley Demers (2025)	Karin Coiffi (2026)
Jason DeForge (2024)	Bob Fitch (2026)	Youth Member: vacant
Anne Lamere (2024)	Nick Van Den Berg (2026)	

Funding Request Study Committee: 1 year; Exp. 2024

Ginny Callan	Paul Erlbaum	Alison Underhill
Sarah Kinter	Kimberly Meeks	

Emergency Management Committee: No term set

Selectboard Members	Emergency Management Coordinator(s)	
Planning Commission Chair and Vice-chair (or chosen delegates)		
EMFD Chief	Town Administrator	Town Road Foreman

Emergency Preparedness Committee: No term set

Rachael Grossman, <i>Chair</i>	Lydia Faesy	Jennifer Zollner
Renee Kievit-Kylar	Patty Giavara	

East Montpelier Village Committee: No term set

Michelle McFadden, <i>Chair</i>	Bob Morey	Jean Vissering
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Energy Committee: No term set

Andy Shapiro	Stephen Miracle	Emily Levin
Ben McCall	Austin Cate	

Town Charter Committee: No term set

Edie Miller, <i>Chair</i>	Richard Brock	Ed Deegan
Michael Duane	Carl Etnier	Karen Gramer
Norman Hill	Jack Pauly	Kim Watson



TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER
ARTICLES OF WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
March 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the East Montpelier Elementary School in said Town, on **Tuesday**, the **fifth (5th)** day of **March, 2024** at **9:30 a.m.** to transact the following business and to vote by Australian Ballot from **7:00 a.m.** to **7:00 p.m.** on those Articles so noted.

ARTICLE 1: To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year. (To be voted by Australian Ballot)

Town Moderator, 1-year term
Selectboard Member, 3-year term
Selectboard Member, 2-year term
Selectboard Member, remaining 2 years of 3-year term
Lister, 3-year term
Auditor, 3-year term
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Planning Commissioner, remaining 2 years of 3-year term

ARTICLE 2: To hear the reports of the several Town Officers and to act thereon.

ARTICLE 3: To discuss the replacement of the town garage.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$2,261,263** as proposed by the Selectboard, for laying out and repairing highways and for other necessary Town expenses for fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025). **(To be voted by Australian Ballot)**

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town authorize all property taxes for the fiscal year 2025 to be paid to the Town Treasurer, without discount in two installments and received by the Treasurer at the East Montpelier Municipal Building as follows: The first installment will be due and postmarked on or before Friday, November 15, 2024 and the second installment will be due and postmarked on or before Thursday, May 15, 2025.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$51,960** for Kellogg-Hubbard Library for the support of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. **(To be voted by Australian Ballot)**

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$4,500** for the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association for operating expenses during fiscal year 2025.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$12,000** for the East Montpelier Signpost to provide for the production and mailing of six issues of the East Montpelier Signpost for each East Montpelier resident household and non-resident property owner during fiscal year 2025.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$4,000** for East Montpelier Trails, Inc. for the enhancement, development, administration and maintenance of the trail network in East Montpelier during fiscal year 2025.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$9,700** for the Montpelier Senior Activity Center for operating expenses during fiscal year 2025.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$6,000** for Twin Valley Seniors, Inc. for operating expenses during fiscal year 2025.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$6,500** for Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice for operating expenses during fiscal year 2025.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$7,834** for the support of Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT) to provide services to residents of the Town of East Montpelier, including \$6,834 as its RCT portion of the fiscal year 2025 share of the annual ongoing cost of providing the commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into East Montpelier and \$1,000 as its fiscal year 2025 share of the annual ongoing cost of providing the commuter bus service along Routes 14 & 15 with service into East Montpelier. This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$1,499** as its Green Mountain Transit portion of the fiscal year 2025 share of the annual ongoing cost of providing the commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into East Montpelier. This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise the amounts listed below as recommended by the Town's Funding Request Study Committee for the following organizations for fiscal year 2025.

1) American Red Cross	\$ 250
2) Big Heavy World.....	\$ 250
3) Capstone Community Action (formerly CVCAC).....	\$500
4) Central VT Adult Basic Education	\$750
5) Central VT Council on Aging	\$1,875
6) Central VT Disaster Animal Response Team (CVDART) ...	\$200
7) Central VT Habitat for Humanity.....	\$350
8) Central VT Memorial Civic Center	\$1,000
9) Circle	\$675
10) Community Connections.....	\$2,500
11) Community Harvest of Central VT	\$400
12) Downstreet Housing & Community Development	\$150
13) Elevate Youth Services.....	\$500
14) Family Center of Washington County	\$500
15) Friends of the Winooski River.....	\$300
16) Good Beginnings of Central VT.....	\$300
17) Good Samaritan Haven	\$2,000
18) Green Mountain Transit (GMT)	\$1,366
19) Green Up Vermont	\$150
20) HomeShare Vermont	\$800
21) North Branch Nature Center	\$1,000
22) Onion River Food Shelf, Inc.	\$1,000
23) OUR House of Central VT	\$250
24) People's Health & Wellness Clinic.....	\$1,250
25) Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$300
26) T W Wood Gallery	\$750
27) VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$150
28) Vermont Bar Foundation.....	\$2,000
29) VT Center for Independent Living	\$400
30) VT Family Network	\$500
31) Washington County Diversion Program.....	\$600
32) Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District	\$600
33) Youth First Mentoring (formerly Girls/Boyz First Mentoring)....	\$300
TOTAL	\$23,916

ARTICLE 16: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN FORUM**Monday, March 4, 2024****6:30 P.M. at the East Montpelier Town Office Building****40 Kelton Road, East Montpelier**

The Citizens of East Montpelier are invited to attend a Public Hearing and Informational Meeting hosted by the East Montpelier Selectboard, conducted in person and utilizing Zoom remote conferencing services (see page 12 for participation options), to discuss the Articles on the 2024 Town Meeting Warning.

A. 6:30 P.M. CALL TO ORDER**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA****PUBLIC COMMENT****B. REVIEW OF & DISCUSSION ON 2024 TOWN MEETING ARTICLES****[Public Comment Will Be Allowed On All Articles]**

Article 2: Town Officer Reports

Article 3: Replacement of town garage

Article 4: FY2025 Budget

Article 5: Property Tax Protocol

Article 6: Kellogg-Hubbard Library Appropriation

Article 7: Four Corners Schoolhouse Association Appropriation

Article 8: East Montpelier Signpost Appropriation

Article 9: East Montpelier Trails, Inc. Appropriation

Article 10: Montpelier Senior Activity Center Appropriation

Article 11: Twin Valley Seniors, Inc. Appropriation

Article 12: Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice Appropriation

Article 13: Rural Community Transportation, Inc. Appropriation

Article 14: Green Mountain Transit Appropriation

Article 15: Funding Request Study Committee Recommendation for
Appropriations to Organizations

Article 16: Other Business

C. OTHER BUSINESS**D. ADJOURN****** TO ATTEND PUBLIC HEARING REMOTELY, SEE FOLLOWING PAGE ****

**TO ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING AND
INFORMATIONAL MEETING REMOTELY:**

To join by web browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84447068796>

By phone: 1 + (646) 558-8656 [this is not a toll-free number]

Meeting ID: 844 4706 8796

Meeting documents and complete participation options can be seen here:
<https://eastmontpeliervt.org/march-4-2024-town-forum/>

If you have difficulty accessing the forum, please call or email

Town Administrator Gina Jenkins:

(802) 223-3313 x 204 or manager@eastmontpeliervt.org

You may also email comments to Ms. Jenkins in advance of
or during the forum.

Dated at East Montpelier, Vermont, this 22nd day of January, 2024.

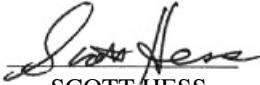
East Montpelier Selectboard:



SETH GARDNER



CARL ETNER



SCOTT HESS



ZOE CHRISTIANSEN

East Montpelier Town Clerk's Office, 23rd day of January A.D. 2024
at 9:30 a.m. received the foregoing East Montpelier Annual Town
Meeting Warning for posting as required by law.

Attest: Rosie Laquerre, Town Clerk



★ ★ ★ VOTING IN 2024 ★ ★ ★

Town Meeting on March 5 has four (4) ballots for voter consideration:

- The **Town** and **School** district ballots will be mailed to all active registered voters. Challenged voters may request an early ballot or vote at the polls upon affirmation of residence.
- Remember to attend Town Meeting if you are able. There are several items on the Warning that are voted in-person by those present at Town Meeting.
- Ballots for the **Central Vermont Career Center** are available for early or absentee voting by request and will be available at the polls.
- **Presidential Primary** is March 5. Ballots are available for early or absentee voting by request and will be available at the polls. Voters are required to state which party they wish to vote for prior to receiving a Presidential Primary ballot. This requirement is for early voting as well as voting at the polls and is the only time over a four-year period when you will be asked to state a party. Stating a party for the purpose of voting does not register you in that party.

The State-wide primary is being held on Tuesday, August 14.

- Ballots are by request for early voting and available at the polls
- Voters are provided ballots for all three parties – Democratic, Republican and Progressive. You will vote for only ONE party and send all ballots back. Your voted ballot will be sent in the voter certification envelope; the unvoted ballots will be returned in the unvoted envelope provided.

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5.

- There is one ballot containing the Presidential race, state-wide races, and local Justice of the Peace races.
- Ballots will be mailed by the Vermont Secretary of State to all active registered voters. Challenged voters may request an early ballot or vote at the polls upon affirmation of residence.

Polling Hours: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Polling Place: East Montpelier Elementary School
665 Vincent Flats Rd, East Montpelier VT 05651

During elections when ballots are mailed, please **bring your mailed ballot with you when voting at the polls**. If you do not have your ballot with you, you will be asked to complete an Affidavit stating that you have not yet voted, and your ballot was lost or destroyed.

Early/absentee ballots can be returned by mail, in-person or left in the secure blue drop box at the side of the Town Office building.

You can register to vote online at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/> or in person at the Town Office. When your registration is completed by the Town Clerk, voters can use My Voter Page at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> to request ballots, check the status of absentee ballots, find your polling location and more.

To request early/absentee ballots by phone or get answers to questions about elections, please contact Town Clerk, Rosie Laquerre at 802-223-3313 x201.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

The town continues to respond to the ever-changing uncertainties of the world today and leverage local resources and talent to support the community. Some of the highlights of 2023 included some changes to the Selectboard composition, continued transition in town office and the catastrophic floods impacting our local region.

The Selectboard membership changed in 2023 with two board member seats. Amy Willis decided to step down from her Selectboard seat in 2023 and did not run for re-election. Amy was a member of the Selectboard from 2017 until 2023. The Selectboard benefited from Amy's professional background in finance/economics and active involvement in the local community for her six-year tenure. Judith Dillon also did not run for re-election to her position on the Selectboard in 2023. Judith was a Selectboard member from 2020 until 2023 providing a unique perspective to the Selectboard with her legal background and engagement in local organizations. On December 18, 2023, Selectboard member, Jon Jewett, resigned his position as a member of the town's Selectboard. Jon's background in town government management and as a native Vermonter helped guide many initiatives for the town. The Selectboard appreciates the contributions of these members. The Selectboard welcomed two new members during 2023. Scott Hess ran for the open 2-year seat on the Selectboard at the Annual Town Meeting. As a member on the Planning Commission for a decade, Scott was well versed in town operations and brings a different perspective from his background in commercial finance and commodities combined with his extensive involvement in local organizations to the Selectboard.

Zoe Christiansen was appointed to the Selectboard to fill Judith's position in April. As a native town resident, Zoe brings a fresh perspective and historical understanding of the town to her position on the Selectboard. The Selectboard will be welcoming a new member in 2024 and look forward to the contributions that the new member will bring in leading the town.

The town office transition continued in 2023 with the departure of Jessica Adam as the Municipal Assistant in January. During her 5-month tenure, Jessica supported the office and assisted the team in the transition of the new team. In making her difficult decision to leave, Jessica couldn't pass up an opportunity to work closer to home. In June, the office welcomed Patricia Canada as the Municipal Coordinator. Patricia brings many years of administrative experience to her position and has hit the ground running. She has quickly become an integral member of the team and continues the work on ushering the town office into its new era. Tyson Brown took the helm as Zoning Administrator in June 2022 and oversaw the town's zoning process until October. Tyson left us to rebuild his family's business after it was damaged in the July 2023 flood. Mikaela Engert joined the town staff in October as the Zoning Administrator and is quickly acclimating to her new role. Patricia and Mikaela join Town Administrator Gina Jenkins, Town Clerk Rosie Laquerre and Town Treasurer/Business Manager



Photo: Deborah Fillion

Replacing one of many flood-damaged culverts on Horn of the Moon Road.

Michele Pallas to round out the talented town office team. The Selectboard thanks the departing staff members, welcomes the new staff members, and appreciates all the town office team wholeheartedly.

The Road Crew continued to excel under the steady leadership of Road Foreman Guthrie Perry. Road Crew members Frank Campbell, Ken Lorden, and Craig Seadeek welcomed a new part-time road crew member, Steve Levenberg to the team in 2023. 2023 turned out to be one of the most challenging years faced by this road crew with the July flood and continuous heavy rain experienced by the region. The town's talented road crew fought on the evening of July 10th to mitigate as much of the flood damage as possible and worked very hard in the weeks/months that followed to repair the roads as much as possible before winter. The Selectboard is tremendously thankful for the seasoned road crew's efforts in maintaining the town's 64 miles of roads.

2023 will forever be marked by the flood experienced in July. East Montpelier fared better than neighboring towns overall but sustained significant damage to many of the town's roads. Road Foreman Perry and TA Jenkins led the efforts to manage the town's response and continue to work with federal and state representatives to repair the damage. The Selectboard appreciates the contributions and hard work by the team to respond to the flood and manage the process of rebuilding.

The town has continued identifying and funding town projects and improvements with the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds received in response to the pandemic. The funds have been used thus far to improve the information technology for the town office to enhance the resiliency of the systems, for repairs to the aging town hall building, to replace the town office furniture, to digitize land records, ash tree management, the purchase of a fire engine chassis and the purchase of a new 10-wheel dump truck and supporting the mold remediation efforts at the historic Four Corners Schoolhouse. The Selectboard has taken the opportunity to use the ARPA funds to invest in and improve the town's infrastructure while preserving funds in the capital reserve that may have otherwise been used to fund these efforts.

The Town is embarking on a significant project to replace the current town garage at its current site. The garage is outdated and does not meet the needs of the town. The town issued a Request for Proposals ("RFP") in November to identify and hire a firm to perform architectural and engineering services to design a new town garage. More information on the project will be available in 2024. Rest assured that the Selectboard will engage residents in the process as the project unfolds.

The East Montpelier Fire Department entered 2023 being led by interim Chief Albert Petrella. Albert was officially voted in as Chief at the May 2023 meeting. The department has continued efforts to focus on training and staff development while implementing a pay structure to attract and retain talent.

The FY2025 budget reflects the town's effort to manage expenses in a difficult economic environment. The general fund has increased 3.0% due to an increase in EMFD costs (\$30.1K or 1.4%), increased highway management costs (\$26.4K or 1.2%) and salaries and benefits costs (\$18.9K or 0.9%). The resulting tax rate is increasing 4.7% or 3.4 cents due to the Grand List staying relatively flat from FY2024 to FY2025 and the increase in the overall Selectboard budget.

As we look forward to 2024, the Selectboard looks forward to welcoming new members to the Selectboard and furthering the great work of the past Selectboard members.

SETH GARDNER, *Chair*
CARL ETNIER, *Vice Chair*
SCOTT HESS
ZOE CHRISTIANSEN

Projected FY2025 Tax Rate with Preliminary Education Rates
and Financial Impact of Warned Articles on the FY2025 Tax Rate

Prepared for the East Montpelier 2024 Town Meeting

TM2024 Article	Warned Amount		Impact on Tax Rate	
	Actual FY2024	Estimate FY2025	Actual FY2024	Estimate FY2025
4	2,196,054	2,261,263	0.6958	0.7167
6	46,764	51,960	0.0148	0.0165
7	4,500	4,500	0.0014	0.0014
8	12,000	12,000	0.0038	0.0038
9	4,000	4,000	0.0013	0.0013
10	9,700	9,700	0.0031	0.0031
11	6,000	6,000	0.0019	0.0019
12	6,500	6,500	0.0021	0.0021
13	7,834	7,834	0.0025	0.0025
14	1,499	1,499	0.0005	0.0005
15	22,166	23,916	0.0070	0.0076
Adjustment	(34,400)	-	(0.0109)	0.0000
	2,282,617	2,389,172	0.7233	0.7573

Grand List	3,156,000	3,155,000
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Homestead Education Rate	1.7968	2.2260	(1)
Non-Homestead Education Rate	1.6765	2.6447	(2)
Town Local Agreements Rate	0.0029	0.0036	
Total Tax Rate - Homestead	2.5230	2.9869	
Prior Year Actual Tax Rate	2.3854	2.5230	
Change	0.1376	0.4639	
Total Tax Rate - Nonhomestead	2.4027	3.4056	
Prior Year Actual Tax Rate	2.3118	2.4027	
Change	0.0909	1.0029	

- (1) The homestead education rate is the estimated tax rate with the 5% cap as presented on WCUUSD's FY25 Budget Development Budget Meeting #3 Presentation dated Jan. 17, 2024.
- (2) The non-homestead rate is the Average tax rate of \$1.86 presented on the VT Dept of Taxes letter dated November 30, 2023 adjusted for the 2023 EM CLA of 70.33%. This is consistent methodology as presented in prior years.

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER REVENUES

CASH & RECEIPTS

AVAILABLE CASH ON HAND:		\$	150,000	0	(150,000)	150,000	100,000	(50,000)	-33.3%
NON-TAX RECEIPTS:									
Dog Licenses	2,000	2,004	4		2,000	2,000		-	0.0%
Excess Weight Fees	400	515	115		400	500	100	100	25.0%
Liquor License Fees	100	325	225		100	200			100.0%
Recording/Copy Fees	20,000	18,062	(1,938)		20,000	20,000	-	-	0.0%
Vault Fees	4,000	3,033	(967)		4,000	4,000	-	-	0.0%
Zoning Fees	4,000	7,138	3,138		6,000	6,000	-	-	0.0%
Total Fees	30,500	31,077	577		32,500	32,700	200		0.6%
Better Roads Grants	-	-	-		-	28,500	28,500		N/A
Roadside Management Grants	-	56,565	56,565		-	-	-		N/A
Total Grants	-	56,565	56,565		-	28,500	28,500		N/A
Current Use Hold Harmless	102,000	109,651	7,651		102,000	107,000	5,000		4.9%
ESF Bond Reimbursement - Calais	49,156	49,156	(0)		47,618	46,032	(1,586)		-3.3%
State aid highways	160,000	154,289	(5,711)		160,000	160,000	-		0.0%
ANR Pilot Program	600	643	43		600	600	-		0.0%
General State Building Pilot Program	3,400	4,620	1,220		3,400	4,000	600		17.6%
State Equalization Reimbursement	-	1,248	1,248		-	1,000	1,000		N/A
Traffic fines	1,000	1,539	539		1,000	1,000	-		0.0%
Total Reimbursements	316,156	321,146	4,990		314,618	319,632	5,014		1.6%

Interest / Money Market	1,000	27,589	26,589	1,000	36,000	35,000	3500.0%
Investment Gains/Losses	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	N/A
Miscellaneous income	100	2,712	2,612	100	500	400	400.0%
Total Other	1,100	30,301	29,201	1,100	46,500	45,400	4127.3%
Interest on delinquent taxes	9,000	12,534	3,534	9,000	9,000	-	0.0%
Penalty on delinquent taxes	10,000	17,925	7,925	10,000	9,000	(1,000)	-10.0%
Principal on Delinquent Taxes	-	4,000	4,000	-	-	-	N/A
Interest on late taxes	6,000	8,990	2,990	6,000	7,000	1,000	16.7%
Education retention fees	10,000	10,254	254	10,000	10,000	-	0.0%
Land Use Change Tax	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	N/A
Total Tax Related Charges	35,000	55,703	20,703	35,000	35,000	-	0.0%
TOTAL NON-TAX RECEIPTS	382,756	494,792	112,036	383,218	462,332	79,114	20.6%
TAXES							
Selectboard Budget	2,000,127			2,196,054	2,261,263	65,209	3.0%
Other Money Articles	120,663			120,963	127,909	6,946	5.7%
Total Current Taxes	2,120,790			2,317,017	2,389,172	72,155	3.1%
Adjustment	-			(34,400)	-	34,400	-100.0%
Net Current Taxes	2,120,790			2,282,617	2,389,172	106,555	4.7%
Grand List (estimated for FY2025)	3,121,000			3,156,000	3,155,000	(1,000)	0.0%
Local Tax Rate (estimated for FY2025) .	0.6796			0.7233	0.7573	0.0340	4.7%
TOTAL TAXES	2,120,790	2,165,986	45,196	2,317,017	2,389,172	72,155	3.1%
TOTAL CASH & RECEIPTS	2,653,546	2,660,778	7,232	2,850,235	2,951,504	101,269	3.6%

**TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER
EXPENDITURES**

GENERAL EXPENSES:

Town Officers

	FY23 Budget (7/1/22- 6/30/23)	FY23 Actual (7/1/22- 6/30/23)	Over (Under) FY23	FY24 Budget (7/1/23- 6/30/24)	FY25 Proposed Budget (7/24-6/25)	Change from FY24 Budget Increase (Decrease)	Change fr. FY24 Budget (+/-) %
Municipal Employees	270,000	288,319	18,319	302,300	326,300	24,000	7.9%
Health Officer	1,500	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
Tree Warden	2,000	1,000	(1,000)	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
Selectboard	5,500	5,500	-	5,500	5,500	-	0.0%
PC Stipend	4,750	3,585	(1,165)	4,750	4,750	-	0.0%
Town Auditors	7,000	6,726	(274)	7,500	7,900	400	5.3%
Town Listers	23,000	32,439	9,439	24,500	25,500	1,000	4.1%
Animal Control Officers	2,000	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
Constables	1,500	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
Total Town Officers	317,250	342,569	25,319	351,550	376,950	25,400	7.2%

Employee Benefits/Insurances

Social Security/Medicare	46,000	44,208	(1,792)	47,800	49,800	2,000	4.2%
VT Child Care Contribution Tax	-	-	-	-	2,900	2,900	N/A
Municipal Retirement	38,000	35,778	(2,222)	43,900	43,600	(300)	-0.7%
Unemployment	3,500	2,848	(652)	2,500	3,100	600	24.0%
Health Insurance	159,000	201,594	42,594	245,200	214,000	(31,200)	-12.7%
Dental Insurance	3,300	3,716	416	4,100	4,200	100	2.4%
Life & Disability Insurances	3,600	4,519	919	3,600	4,600	1,000	27.8%
Town Liability Insurance	5,800	6,797	997	6,500	8,400	1,900	29.2%
Workers Compensation	16,300	17,820	1,520	17,000	18,400	1,400	8.2%
Total Employee Benefits/Insurances	275,500	317,279	41,779	370,600	349,000	(21,600)	-5.8%

Law Enforcement Expenses						
Community Advisory Board	100	-	(100)	100	-	0.0%
Vermont State Police	17,000	3,915	(13,085)	19,500	1,500	8.3%
Total Law Enforcement Expenses	17,100	3,915	(13,185)	19,600	1,500	8.3%
Professional Fees						
Contracted Payroll Services	1,000	-	(1,000)	200	(800)	-80.0%
External Audit	15,800	15,400	(400)	18,000	1,500	9.1%
Legal Fees	8,000	931	(7,069)	5,000	(3,000)	-37.5%
Total Professional Fees	24,800	16,331	(8,469)	23,200	(2,300)	-9.0%
Municipal Building						
Office Custodial	2,700	3,920	1,220	5,200	2,200	73.3%
Office Electricity	3,300	3,538	238	3,800	-	0.0%
Office General Expenses	1,000	2,124	1,124	1,000	-	0.0%
Office Heating Fuel	500	117	(383)	250	(250)	-50.0%
Office Repairs/Maintenance	3,000	2,165	(835)	2,500	(500)	-16.7%
Office Telephone/Internet	3,200	3,469	269	5,000	1,800	56.3%
Office Water (Crystal Springs)	1,000	801	(199)	1,000	-	0.0%
Total Municipal Building	14,700	16,135	1,435	18,750	3,250	21.0%
Municipal Operations						
Advertising	1,500	1,725	225	1,500	-	0.0%
Copier Lease	3,000	3,651	651	3,600	600	20.0%
Education/Seminars	1,200	1,176	(24)	1,600	400	33.3%
Personnel Fees	-	1,545	1,545	-	-	N/A
Equipment Purchases (over \$200)	1,000	-	(1,000)	1,000	-	0.0%

EXPENDITURES (continued)	FY23 Budget	FY23 Actual	Over (Under)	FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Change (+/-) %
<i>Municipal Operations (continued)</i>							
Gifts/Special Occasions	700	302	(398)	700	700	-	0.0%
Employee Travel Costs	-	773	773	800	1,000	200	25.0%
Mileage/Travel Expense	1,200	1,058	(142)	700	1,100	400	57.1%
Operations Fees	1,800	272	(1,528)	1,800	500	(1,300)	-72.2%
Grounds Maintenance	11,500	15,480	3,980	11,500	12,500	1,000	8.7%
Records Storage	-	-	-	-	720	720	N/A
Office Supplies	5,000	5,658	658	5,000	5,500	500	10.0%
Postage	3,700	5,446	1,746	3,700	4,500	800	21.6%
Printing	2,100	5,156	3,056	2,100	2,500	400	19.0%
Town Report Printing and Mailing	5,800	6,289	489	6,500	6,800	300	4.6%
Property and Casualty Insurance	13,000	11,800	(1,200)	13,000	14,000	1,000	7.7%
Public Records Management	10,000	8,579	(1,421)	10,000	9,600	(400)	-4.0%
Street Lights	6,300	6,650	350	6,300	6,800	500	7.9%
Subscriptions/Memberships	450	75	(375)	450	500	50	11.1%
Town Document Updates	3,000	-	(3,000)	3,000	3,000	-	0.0%
Total Municipal Operations	71,250	75,635	4,385	72,250	77,420	5,170	7.2%
<i>Loans and Interest</i>							
Bond Interest for ESF (20-year)	42,467	42,467	0	37,852	33,096	(4,756)	-12.6%
Bond Principal for ESF	105,000	105,000	-	105,000	105,000	-	0.0%
Tax Anticipation Interest	1,000	-	(1,000)	1,000	250	(750)	-75.0%
Total Loans and Interest	148,467	147,467	(1,000)	143,852	138,346	(5,506)	-3.8%
<i>Computers</i>							
IT Equipment/Hardware Purchases	2,500	-	(2,500)	2,500	2,000	(500)	-20.0%

IT General Services/Maintenance	16,000	22,933	6,933	18,000	24,000	6,000	33.3%
GIS Mapping Services	4,500	4,200	(300)	4,800	5,000	200	4.2%
Software	1,500	1,951	451	1,800	2,000	200	11.1%
Total Computers	24,500	29,084	4,584	27,100	33,000	5,900	21.8%
Town Clerk Budget							
Election Workers	3,000	7,460	4,460	4,000	3,000	(1,000)	-25.0%
Ballot Printing and Mailing	-	-	-	-	4,800	4,800	N/A
Dog Licensing - Tags and Licenses	350	325	(25)	350	350	-	0.0%
Election Equipment	3,000	292	(2,708)	2,000	200	(1,800)	-90.0%
Record Restoration/Preservation	3,000	-	(3,000)	3,500	2,500	(1,000)	-28.6%
Vault Expenses/Town Records	1,000	1,788	788	100	100	-	0.0%
Total Town Clerk Budget	10,350	9,865	(485)	9,950	10,950	1,000	10.1%
Dues and Fees							
CV Economic Development	900	900	-	900	900	-	0.0%
CV Regional Planning Commission	3,456	3,455	(1)	3,456	3,456	-	0.0%
CV Solid Waste Mgt. Dist.	2,598	2,598	-	2,573	2,573	-	0.0%
VT Association of Conservation Districts	100	-	(100)	100	100	-	0.0%
VT. League Cities & Towns	4,369	4,369	-	4,524	4,663	139	3.1%
Washington County Court Expense	25,277	25,277	-	26,710	25,733	(977)	-3.7%
Wrightsville Beach Dist.	3,986	6,495	2,509	6,690	6,891	201	3.0%
Total Dues and Fees	40,686	43,094	2,408	44,953	44,316	(637)	-1.4%
Budget Requests							
Fire Department	125,673	125,673	-	133,128	139,973	6,845	5.1%
Ambulance Service	242,167	242,167	-	260,599	283,806	23,207	8.9%
Recreation Board	4,000	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%

EXPENDITURES <i>(continued)</i>	FY23 Budget	FY23 Actual	Over (Under)	FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Change (+/-) %
<i>Budget Requests (continued)</i>							
Cemetery Committee	20,000	20,000	-	30,500	24,130	(6,370)	-20.9%
Total Budget Requests	391,840	391,840	-	428,227	451,909	23,682	5.5%
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,336,443	1,393,215	56,772	1,507,582	1,543,441	35,859	2.4%
GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS							
Invasive Species Control	300	-	(300)	300	300	-	0.0%
Front Porch Forum	500	-	(500)	500	500	-	0.0%
Roadside Management Expense	15,000	-	(15,000)	15,000	15,000	-	0.0%
Better Roads Grant Expense	-	16,750	16,750	-	7,000	7,000	N/A
Capital Reserve Fund	459,690	459,690	-	459,690	469,654	9,964	2.2%
Total Grants and Special Projects	475,490	476,440	950	475,490	492,454	16,964	3.6%
TOTAL GRANTS & SPEC PROJECTS	\$ 475,490	476,440	950	475,490	492,454	16,964	3.6%
HIGHWAY BUDGET							
Highway Operations							
Chloride	27,000	28,915	1,915	27,000	27,000	-	0.0%
Crack Sealant	12,000	9,600	(2,400)	12,000	14,000	2,000	16.7%
Culverts	7,600	19,937	12,337	7,600	12,000	4,400	57.9%
Diesel	58,000	56,547	(1,453)	58,000	58,000	-	0.0%
Education/Seminars - Highway Personnel	600	60	(540)	600	600	-	0.0%
Equipment Rentals	7,000	8,950	1,950	7,000	7,000	-	0.0%
Erosion Stone	8,000	162	(7,838)	8,000	8,000	-	0.0%

Highway General Supplies	14,500	4,202	(10,298)	14,500	14,500	-	0.0%
Gravel	115,000	134,526	19,526	115,000	125,000	10,000	8.7%
Green Up Expenses	600	-	(600)	600	600	-	0.0%
Guardrails	5,000	-	(5,000)	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
Haz Mat disposal	750	3,377	2,627	750	750	-	0.0%
Hydroseeder Mulch	2,000	616	(1,384)	3,000	3,000	-	0.0%
Pavement Management	4,000	126	(3,874)	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
Pavement Markings	5,200	-	(5,200)	5,200	5,200	-	0.0%
Permit Fees	2,000	1,765	(235)	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
Reciprocal Road Maintenance	1,300	1,313	13	1,350	1,350	-	0.0%
Road Fabric	3,500	-	(3,500)	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
Salt	62,000	40,721	(21,279)	68,000	68,000	-	0.0%
Sand	42,000	14,931	(27,070)	42,000	42,000	-	0.0%
Signs	4,000	654	(3,346)	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
Stabilization Fabric	-	300	300	-	-	-	N/A
Uniforms	6,000	6,162	162	6,500	6,500	-	0.0%
Weather Reporting	1,000	-	(1,000)	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
Total Highway Operations	389,050	332,864	(56,186)	396,600	413,000	16,400	4.1%
Town Garage Expenses							
Garage Electricity	1,800	1,482	(318)	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
Garage General Expenses	2,000	-	(2,000)	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
Garage Heating Fuel	7,000	7,210	210	8,000	8,000	-	0.0%
Garage Bldg Repairs and Maintenance ..	3,000	2,738	(262)	3,000	3,000	-	0.0%
Garage Trash	3,000	3,910	910	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
Garage Security	400	684	284	400	400	-	0.
Garage Telephone/Communications	2,700	1,449	(1,251)	2,700	2,700	-	0.0%
Total Town Garage Expenses	19,900	17,474	(2,426)	21,600	21,600	-	0.0%

EXPENDITURES *(continued)*

	FY23 Budget	FY23 Actual	Over (Under)	FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Change (+/-) %
Vehicle Equipment/ Repairs							
Vehicle-Gas/Oil/Grease		7,646				-	N/A
Vehicle - Maint/Supplies/Equipment ...		12,437				-	N/A
Vehicle - Plows/Blades		2,888				-	N/A
Vehicle - Tires/Chains		10,229				-	N/A
2013 GMC Sierra Pickup		1,693				-	N/A
2022 Dodge Pickup		184				-	N/A
2019 John Deere Grader		654				-	N/A
2008 Volvo Excavator		1,092				-	N/A
2018 Komatsu Loader		38				-	N/A
2018 John Deere Tractor & Mower		1,162				-	N/A
2020 Kubota Tractor & Snowblower ...		155				-	N/A
2024 Mack Truck		47				-	N/A
2018 Mack Truck		6,448				-	N/A
2017 Mack Truck		4,587				-	N/A
2013 Mack Truck		6,685				-	N/A
2015 International 7400		449				-	N/A
2012 Freightliner Truck		2,916				-	N/A
1998 MorBark Brush Chipper		100				-	N/A
York Rake		-				-	N/A
Sander		-				-	N/A
Total Vehicle Equipment/ Repairs	65,000	59,408	(5,592)	70,000	80,000	10,000	14.3 %
Highway Labor							
Total Highway Labor	247,000	237,359	(9,641)	258,000	273,100	15,100	5.9%
Total Highway Labor	247,000	237,359	(9,641)	258,000	273,100	15,100	5.9%

TOTAL HIGHWAY BUDGET	\$ 720,950	647,104	(73,846)	746,200	787,700	41,500	5.6%
TOTAL SELECTBOARD BUDGET ...	\$ 2,532,883	2,516,759	(16,124)	2,729,272	2,823,595	94,323	3.5%
VOTED ARTICLES & FUNDING REQUESTS							
Voted Articles							
Four Corners Schoolhouse	4,400	4,400	-	4,500	4,500	-	0.0%
Kellogg-Hubbard Library	46,764	46,764	-	46,764	51,960	5,196	11.1%
Land Conservation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
East Montpelier Signpost	12,000	12,000	-	12,000	12,000	-	0.0%
Rural Community Transportation	7,834	7,834	-	7,834	7,834	-	0.0%
GMTA Rte 2 Commuter Bus Service ...	1,499	1,499	-	1,499	1,499	-	0.0%
Montpelier Senior Activity Center	9,000	9,000	-	9,700	9,700	-	0.0%
East Montpelier Trails	4,000	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
Central VT Home Health & Hospice ...	6,500	6,500	-	6,500	6,500	-	0.0%
Cross Vermont Trail Association	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Twin Valley Seniors, Inc.	5,000	5,000	-	6,000	6,000	-	0.0%
Total Voted Articles	96,997	96,997	-	98,797	103,993	5,196	5.3%
Funding Requests							
American Red Cross	250	250	-	250	250	-	0.0%
Big Heavy World	250	250	-	250	250	-	0.0%
Capstone Community Action	500	500	-	500	500	-	0.0%
Central Vermont Adult Basic Education .	750	750	-	750	750	-	0.0%
Central Vermont Council on Aging	1,875	1,875	-	1,875	1,875	-	0.0
Central VT Disaster Animal Response Team	200	200	-	200	200	-	0.0%
Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity .	350	350	-	350	350	-	0.0%
Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%

EXPENDITURES (continued)	FY23 Budget	FY23 Actual	Over (Under)	FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Change (+/-) %
<i>Funding Requests (continued)</i>							
Circle	675	675	-	675	675	-	0.0%
Community Connections	2,500	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
Community Harvest of Central VT	250	250	-	250	400	150	60.0%
Downstreet Housing & Community Dev	150	150	-	150	150	-	0.0%
Elevate Youth Services	400	400	-	400	500	100	25.0%
Family Center of Washington County ..	500	500	-	500	500	-	0.0%
Friends of the Winooski River	200	200	-	400	300	(100)	-25.0%
Good Beginnings of Central VT	300	300	-	300	300	-	0.0%
Good Samaritan Haven	2,000	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
Green Mountain Transit	1,366	1,366	-	1,366	1,366	-	0.0%
Green Up Vermont	150	150	-	150	150	-	0.0%
HomeShare Vermont	800	800	-	800	800	-	0.0%
Mosaic Vermont (Sexual Assault Crisis Team)	250	250	-	250	-	(250)	-100.0%
North Branch Nature Center	750	750	-	750	1,000	250	33.3%
Onion River Food Shelf Inc.	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
OUR House of Central VT	250	250	-	250	250	-	0.0%
People's Health & Wellness Clinic, Inc. .	1,250	1,250	-	1,250	1,250	-	0.0%
Prevent Child Abuse of Vermont	300	300	-	300	300	-	0.0%
T W Wood Gallery	500	500	-	500	750	250	50.0%
VT Association for Blind & Visually Impaired	150	150	-	-	150	150	N/A
Vermont Bar Foundation	1,500	1,500	-	-	2,000	2,000	N/A
Vermont Cares	150	150	-	300	-	(300)	-100.0%
Vermont Center for Independent Living	400	400	-	400	400	-	0.0%
Vermont Family Network	200	200	-	200	500	300	150.0%
Washington County Diversion Program .	600	600	-	600	600	-	0.0%

Washington County Mental Health Services	800	800	-	800	-	(800)	-100.0%
Winooksi Natural Resources Conservation Dist.	800	800	-	600	600	-	0.0%
Youth First Mentoring	300	300	-	300	300	-	0.0%
Total Funding Requests	23,666	23,666	-	22,166	23,916	1,750	7.9%
TOTAL VOTED ARTICLES & FUNDING REQUESTS							
	\$ 120,663	120,663	-	120,963	127,909	6,946	5.7%
GRAND TOTAL TOWN EXPENSES ..	\$ 2,653,546	2,637,422	(16,124)	2,850,235	2,951,504	101,269	3.6%

TOWN BUDGET SUMMARY		FY19:	FY20:	FY21:	FY22:	FY23:	FY24:	FY25:
		7/18-6/19	7/19-6/20	7/20-6/21	7/21-6/22	7/22-6/23	7/23-6/24	7/24-6/25
Selectboard w/o Voted Articles		2,204,612	2,236,350	2,339,199	2,396,272	2,532,883	2,729,272	2,823,595
Less: Cash on Hand		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	150,000	150,000	100,000
Subtotal		2,104,612	2,136,350	2,239,199	2,296,272	2,382,883	2,579,272	2,723,595
Less: Proposed Non-Tax Receipts		378,116	386,586	367,976	369,240	382,756	383,218	462,332
Municipal Proposed Taxes w/o Articles		1,726,496	1,749,764	1,871,223	1,927,032	2,000,127	2,196,054	2,261,263
Plus: Voted Articles		119,896	124,296	103,396	111,021	120,663	120,963	127,909
Total Town Current Taxes		1,846,392	1,874,060	1,974,619	2,038,053	2,120,790	2,317,017	2,389,172
Percent change			1.50%	5.37%	3.21%	4.06%	9.25%	3.11%

DEBT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Notes Payable:	Payments Due					
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Emergency Services Facility*						
VT Municipal Bond Bank						
Loan Balance: \$945,000						
Principal payments:	\$ 105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000
Interest payments:	42,467	37,853	33,096	28,235	23,273	18,228
Debt Payments:	\$ 147,467	142,853	138,096	133,235	128,273	123,228
Outstanding Principal						
at Fiscal Year End:	\$ 840,000	735,000	630,000	525,000	420,000	315,000

On June 30, 2023, the Town of East Montpelier owed \$840,000 principal and \$164,362 interest on the Emergency Services Facility Bond.

*** FY11 Emergency Services Facility Bond:**

Upon completion of construction in FY10, a twenty (20) year bond for the full construction costs including the interest on the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) was executed in the authorized amount of \$2.1 million (East Montpelier 2/3 share = \$1,400,000; Calais 1/3 share = \$700,000). Beginning in FY12, principal payments are constant (\$105,000 total: East Montpelier = \$70,000; Calais = \$35,000). Interest rate ranges from 1.54% to 5.05%; interest payments decline each year as the principal amount is reduced, resulting in a constantly declining annual payment in subsequent years. Payments are made twice a year. In FY23, East Montpelier's share was \$98,312 of the \$147,467 due. In 2016 a bond refinancing generated interest savings for FY17, FY18, and FY19; the original interest schedule resumed in FY20. Final payment of the bond is due in December 2030.



MODIFIED BALANCE SHEET

	FY22	FY23
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,171,393	\$ 2,982,288
Investments	153,888	154,811
Receivables	188,836	230,306
Loan Receivable	224,049	
Prepaid Expenses	38,972	10,754
Capital Assets:		
Land	408,702	408,702
Construction in Progress	67,565	156,200
Other Capital Assets, (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	4,936,153	5,893,835
Total Assets	<u>9,189,558</u>	<u>9,836,896</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred Outflows of Resources Related to the Town's Participation in VMERS	96,760	187,071
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>96,760</u>	<u>187,071</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	69,367	91,249
Accrued Payroll and Benefits Payable	19,050	27,047
Unearned Revenue	381,280	395,948
Accrued Interest Payable	7,455	6,701
Noncurrent Liabilities:		
Due within One Year	112,915	105,000
Due in More than One Year	1,083,739	1,174,591
Less Total Liabilities	<u>1,673,806</u>	<u>1,800,536</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Prepaid Property Taxes	4,435	9,036
Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to the Town's Participation in VMERS	113,728	7,119
Less Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>118,163</u>	<u>16,155</u>
	<u>\$ 7,494,349</u>	<u>\$ 8,207,276</u>
NET POSITION		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	4,474,172	5,618,737
Restricted For:		
Community Development	247,886	262,629
Cemetery	101,475	102,600
Other	55,275	83,396
Unrestricted	2,615,541	2,139,914
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 7,494,349</u>	<u>\$ 8,207,276</u>

*Adapted from FY22 & FY23 audits performed by Sullivan, Powers & Co, CPAs, of Montpelier.
Final audits are available at the Town Office and town website at <https://eastmontpelier.vt.org>*

EAST MONTPELIER FY23 TAXES RAISED

Base Tax Rates:

School - Homestead	\$1.7030
School - Non-Residential	1.6294
Town	0.6796
Local Agreement	0.0028

Total Homestead Tax Rate \$2.3854

Total Non-Residential Rate \$2.3118

Values, include Local Agreements:

Municipal Grand List	\$3,122,720.82
Homestead Edu. Grand List	\$2,159,186.43
Non-Residential Edu. Grand List	\$955,863.72



Taxes to be raised (as billed):	
at Town Tax Rate $0.6796 \times 3,122,720.82 =$	\$2,122,194.66
at Local Agreement Rate . $0.0028 \times 3,122,720.82 =$	8,743.66
at Homestead Tax Rate . . $1.7030 \times 2,159,186.43 =$	3,677,094.90
at Non-Res. Tax Rate $1.6294 \times 955,863.72 =$	1,557,445.31
plus late homestead filing penalties	WAIVED

TOTAL \$7,365,478.53

TY22/23 TAXES collected as of 5/17/2023

Current Taxes Collected	\$7,201,540.68
Abated Taxes	4.56
Uncollected TY22/23 taxes (see facing page)	163,933.29
TOTAL	<u>\$7,365,478.53</u>



2022/2023 EDUCATION TAX BREAKDOWN

Total Due Schools	<u>\$5,243,242.00</u>
Town payments to schools:	\$4,314,143.50
State adjustment payments	918,979.35
0.225% Retained by Municipality	10,119.15
Total education tax paid	<u>\$5,243,242.00</u>
Balance due school district (within 120 days)	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

DELINQUENT TAXES

Tax Year	Taxes Due June 30, 2022	Paid In FY23	Abated FY23	Balance Due June 30, 2023
TY18/19	4,890.42	4,890.42	0	0.00
TY19/20	5,322.87	4,956.64	0	366.23
TY20/21	28,237.53	14,647.49	0	13,590.04
TY21/22	85,380.65	46,274.96	0.37	39,105.32
	<u>\$123,831.47</u>	<u>70,769.51</u>	<u>0.37</u>	<u>53,061.59</u>
TY22/23 Del. Taxes Submitted to Collector on 5/17/23	<u>163,933.29</u>	<u>54,566.09</u>	<u>4.19</u>	<u>109,363.01</u>
	<u>\$287,764.76</u>	<u>\$125,335.60</u>	<u>\$4.56</u>	<u>\$162,424.60</u>
Interest on Late & Delinquent Tax		13,491.64 *		
Penalties on Delinquent Tax		<u>12,994.02 **</u>		
Total Delinquent Taxes, Interest, and Penalties collected in FY23		<u>\$151,821.26</u>		

* Includes Del. Tax Interest, as well as Late Interest (as per Notice below).

** The Collector of Delinquent Taxes charges a commission of 8% penalty on the amount of taxes owed (32 V.S.A. §1674). The 8% penalty accrues to the Town's General Fund.

TAX COLLECTION NOTICE

In August 2023, one property tax bill was sent out, payable in two installments. The due date and time is voted on at Town Meeting each year. The first installment for tax year 2023/2024 was due in November, and the second is due on Monday May 15, 2024. Property taxes must be received in the Town Treasurer's office on the due date. A mailed payment bearing a clear USPS postmark dated on or before the tax payment due date will be accepted as timely.

For after-hours drop off payments, there is a secure large blue drop box next to the handicap ramp located outside the Town Municipal Office. In addition, the Town also offers two methods for electronic payment of taxes: direct debit and a payment portal on the Town's website for credit and debits cards, along with eChecks :

<https://eastmontpeliervt.org/make-payment/>

First installment taxes not received by the due date in November are charged late interest of 1% per month. Any taxes not received by the due date in May are turned over to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes and charged an 8% penalty in addition to a 1% per month delinquent interest.

CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2023

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 408,702	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 408,702
Construction in Progress	67,565	1,395,133	1,306,498	156,200
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	<u>476,267</u>	<u>1,395,133</u>	<u>1,306,498</u>	<u>564,902</u>
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:				
Buildings and Building Improvements	2,411,852	0	0	2,411,852
Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	1,818,376	31,888	2,427	1,847,837
Infrastructure	4,068,075	1,306,498	495,312	4,879,261
Totals	<u>8,298,303</u>	<u>1,338,386</u>	<u>497,739</u>	<u>9,138,950</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation for:				
Buildings and Building Improvements	688,909	49,515	0	738,424
Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	688,126	117,920	2,427	803,619
Infrastructure	1,985,115	189,281	471,324	1,703,072
Totals	<u>3,362,150</u>	<u>356,716</u>	<u>473,751</u>	<u>3,245,115</u>
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated	<u>4,936,153</u>	<u>981,670</u>	<u>23,988</u>	<u>5,893,835</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 5,412,420</u>	<u>\$ 2,376,803</u>	<u>\$ 1,330,486</u>	<u>\$ 6,458,737</u>

Depreciation was charged as follows:

Governmental Activities:

General Government	\$ 8,283
Public Safety	40,297
Highways and Streets	306,338
Culture and Recreation	519
Cemetery	<u>1,279</u>
Total Depreciation Expense - Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 356,716</u>

This page is an excerpt of the audit performed by Sullivan, Powers & Co, CPAs, of Montpelier. The complete final report is available for public inspection at the Town Office as well as on the town website at <https://eastmontpelier.vt.org>



TOWN PROPERTY

LAND, BUILDINGS, AND CEMETERIES

Town Office	0.35 acre
Town Garage	24.70 acres
Town Salt Shed	1.50 acres
Templeton Fire Station	1.00 acre
Emergency Services Facility	1.52 acres
Town Forest	96.36 acres
North St. (Baird).....	45.73 acres
Rte. 2 (Benton)	10.42 acres
Coburn Rd. (Soule)	5.00 acres
Recreation Field	12.00 acres
LaPerle & Hodgeman Parcel	6.04 acres
Rte. 14N (Park 'n Ride).....	0.55 acres
Rte. 2 (Hudson parcel)	0.25 acres
Coburn Covered Bridge	
Cate Cemetery	0.67 acre
Cutler Cemetery	2.70 acres
Doty Cemetery	2.80 acres
Quaker Cemetery	0.42 acre
Tinkham Cemetery	0.20 acre
Village Cemetery	2.70 acres, <i>incl. former Town Hall lot</i>
Wheeler Cemetery	1.30 acres

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

	Mileage	Hours
2024 Mack 10-wheel Dump/Plow Truck	6,585	491
2022 Ram 2500 Pickup	15,742	767
2020 Kubota Tractor/Snowblower	N/A	94
2019 John Deere 772G Grader	N/A	2,135
2018 John Deere 6110 Tractor & Mower.....	N/A	1,078
2018 Komatsu WA270-8 Wheel Loader.....	4,877	2051
2018 Mack 10-wheel Dump/Plow Truck.....	87,493	6,057
2017 Mack 10-wheel Dump/Plow Truck.....	60,063	5,436
2015 International 7400 6-wheel Dump Truck	44,201	3,480
2013 Mack 10-wheel Dump Truck	115,997	8,226
2012 Freightliner 6-wheel Dump Truck	(not available)	
2008 Volvo Excavator	N/A	5,470
1998 Morbark Brush Chipper	N/A	1,086
2020 Scag Tiger Cat II Mower (Cemetery).....	N/A	121
2015 Kubota Lawn Tractor (Cemetery)	N/A	501

TOWN PAYROLL SUMMARY

Employee ¹	FY23 Salary	Salary & Benefits ²	Employee	FY23 Salary	Salary & Benefits ²
OFFICE			STIPEND		
Adam, Jessica ³	18,894	30,661	Boucher, Jon	1,812	1,950
Brown, Tyson ³	29,351	59,789	Burley, Ginny	1,500	1,615
Canada, Patricia ³	2,544	3,894	Cate, Paul	1,000	1,077
Connelly, Deirdre	3,038	3,271	Cutler, Clarice	500	538
Deegan, Ed	323	348	Dillon, Judith	1,000	1,077
Fillion, Deborah	20,990	22,596	Etnier, Carl	2,000	2,153
Hazel, Ross	11,614	12,502	Gardner, Seth	1,500	1,615
Jenkins, Gina ³	80,000	104,601	Hall, Richard	500	538
Laquerre, Rosie ³	62,000	99,616	Hardy, Spencer	335	361
Occaso, Carla	204	220	Hess, Scott	500	538
Pallas, Michele ³	67,984	89,439	Jewett, Jon	1,000	1,077
Racanelli, Chris	5,866	6,315	Lane, Mark	500	538
Sparrow, Denise ³	18,350	20,491	Perry, Amber	1,000	1,077
Welch, Don	6,154	6,625	Sullivan, Zach	750	807
			Watson, Kim	500	538
			Willis, Amy	1,000	1,077
	\$ 327,312	\$ 460,368		\$ 15,397	\$ 16,576
HIGHWAY			CEMETERY		
Campbell, Frank ³	55,300	94,495	Lamson, Nicholas	2,100	2,260
Hill, Peter	803	864	Lamson, Timothy	2,602	2,801
Lorden, Ken ³	57,348	83,108	Morse, Elliott	2,096	2,257
Perry, Guthrie ³	68,588	110,938		\$ 6,798	\$ 7,318
Seadeek, Craig ³	56,425	87,032			
	\$ 238,464	\$ 376,437	TOTAL	\$ 587,970	\$ 860,697
			PAYROLL		

NOTES:

1. FY23 payroll does not include \$2,400.00 paid to Election Workers.
2. All benefits include Town's share of FICA (Social Security) and Medicare.
3. These benefits also include employer-paid premiums for coverage of Health and Dental Insurance, Retirement, Short- and Long-Term Disability, and Life Insurance. Totals do not include Workers Compensation (\$17,819.50) and Unemployment Insurance (\$2,848.00) coverage for road crew and office staff in FY23.

This payroll report shows 26 biweekly payrolls (FY23 pay periods ending on July 14, 2022 through June 29, 2023). Reports elsewhere in this book may show accrued (partial) pay periods.

Photo: Deborah Fillion



On July 10th, rain-swollen streams and overwhelmed culverts, together with the spilling over of the water held back by the Wrightsville Dam, all converged on the lower end of Horn of the Moon Road. The flood water receded but the damage kept the road closed to traffic for five weeks.

RESTRICTED FUNDS SUMMARY

Permanent Funds account for assets held by the Town pursuant to a trust agreement. The principal portion of this fund type must remain intact, but the earnings may be used to achieve the objectives of the fund: Carlton C. Smith Recreational Fund and Perpetual Care Fund portion of the Cemetery accounts.

Special Revenue Funds are proceeds of specific revenue sources that are either legally restricted to specified purposes or designated to finance particular functions or activities of the Town. Restricted funds: Emergency Services, Grand List Reappraisal, Land Conservation, Rally Day, Recreation, Land Records Restoration, Town Forest, Capital Reserve, Cemetery's expendable savings accounts, and the Sandy Pines Community Development Fund.

CARLTON C. SMITH RECREATIONAL FUND*

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2022	\$55,104.67
Interest Income	299.78
Ending Balance – June 30, 2023	<u><u>\$55,404.45</u></u>

**\$50,000 bequest held in a CD; interest used for recreation in town.*

EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2022	\$6,751.60
Interest Income	15.70
Transfer of remaining funds to the EM Fire Dept	(6,767.30)
Ending Balance – June 30, 2023	<u><u>\$0.00</u></u>

GRAND LIST REAPPRAISAL FUND

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2022	\$145,626.02
Interest Income	2,095.06
Received from State of Vermont (\$8.50/active parcel)	10,608.00
Ending Balance – June 30, 2023	<u><u>\$158,329.08</u></u>

LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2022	\$20,683.62
Interest Income	290.38
Ending Balance – June 30, 2023	<u><u>\$20,974.00</u></u>

RALLY DAY SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2022	\$670.14
Interest Income	9.41
Ending Balance – June 30, 2023	<u><u>\$679.55</u></u>

RECREATION FUND

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2022	\$2,570.07
Revenue: Interest Income	51.79
FY23 Town Appropriation	4,000.00
Concessions	4,347.90
Program service fees	5,345.00
Apparel sales	62.00
Donations	310.00
Strong Girls	855.00
Sponsors	1,100.00
TOTAL REVENUES	16,071.69
Expense: Easter Egg Hunt	(153.70)
Program costs (supplies, concessions, refs)	(6,875.38)
Field maintenance	(1,174.04)
Utilities (electricity, trash removal, septic)	(3,715.31)
Referees	(2,520.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(14,438.43)
Ending Balance – June 30, 2023	<u>\$4,203.33</u>

RESTORATION FUND, LAND RECORDS*

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2022	\$(7,197.34)
Interest Income	29.33
Revenue: Fees, Licenses, and Permits	6,508.00
ARPA Fund transfer	28,471.92
Ending Balance – June 30, 2023	<u>\$27,811.91</u>

** The Town is required to put aside \$4 per recorded page in a Restoration and Preservation Reserve Fund to be used solely for the restoration, preservation, digitization, storage, and conservation of municipal records, as per 24 V.S.A. § 1681(c).*

TOWN FOREST FUND

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2022	\$27,222.21
Interest Income	382.15
Ending Balance – June 30, 2023	<u>\$27,604.36</u>



GRANTS REPORT FOR 2023

These pages give a brief accounting of the open and recently closed grants benefiting the town. Information presented is based on FY2023 financial data.

ACTIVE GRANTS

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal
Recovery Funds.

Federal Funds	\$762,740.11
Town Match	\$ 0.00
Total Grant	\$762,740.11

FY2022 VTrans Town Highway
Structures Program Grant to
replace/upsized/relocate the Center
Rd/Mallory Brook culvert just south
of the Dodge Rd intersection.
Construction grant connected to
study grant BC1853.

State Funds	\$175,000.00
Town Match	\$ 19,444.44
Total Costs	\$194,444.44

FY2023 VTrans Better Roads Grant to
upgrade culvert on Cherry Tree Hill
Rd (TH# 46).

State Funds	\$ 39,465.02
Town Match	\$ 9,866.26
Total Costs	\$ 49,331.28

ACT 172 Community Capacity
Building Mini-Grant for energy resili-
ence building projects. \$4K to build
capacity for energy resilience work.

State Funds	\$ 4,000.00
Town Match	\$ 0.00
Total Costs	\$ 4,000.00

FY2022 ANR & VTrans Municipal
Roads Grants-in-Aid Program for
work on hydrologically connected road
segment(s) that do not meet VT Dept
of Environmental Conservation's
Municipal Roads General Permit stan-
dards.

State Funds	\$ 22,000.00
Town Match	\$ 5,500.00
Total Costs	\$ 27,500.00

GRANTS CLOSED IN FY2023

FY2022 VTrans Town Highway
Structures Program Grant to
replace/upsized the County Rd/Mallory
Brook culvert just north of Barnes Rd.

State Funds	\$ 24,772.62
Town Match	\$114,591.97
Total Costs	\$139,364.59

FY2022 VTrans Better Roads Grant to
replace/upsized the County Rd/Mallory
Brook culvert just north of Barnes Rd.

State Funds	\$ 60,000.00
Town Match	\$ 15,000.00
Total Costs	\$ 75,000.00

FY2020 VTrans Town Highway
Structures Program Grant to replace/
upsized the County Rd culvert just
south of Morse Sugarshack complex.

State Funds	\$124,200.00
Town Match	\$ 56,382.11
Total Costs	\$180,582.11

*The Municipal Office Building
received a face lift this year,
paid for with American Rescue
Plan Act (ARPA) funds.*

FY2020 VTrans Class 2 Town
Highway Paving Program Grant to
reclaim/repave the southerly 1.83
miles of County Rd (from Montpelier
line to Powder Horn Glen Rd).

State Funds	\$175,000.00
Town Match	\$246,502.11
Total Costs	\$421,502.11

FY2022 ANR & VTrans Municipal
Roads Grants-in-Aid Program for road
drainage upgrades at a number of sites.
FY22 funds allocated to Foster Rd.

State Funds	\$ 12,100.00
Town Match	\$ 5,837.47
Total Costs	\$ 17,937.47

2022 Communities Caring for Canopy
Grant to remove at least 80 ash trees
along North St and Sparrow Farm Rd,
plant 2 new trees in public spaces and
pilot exploratory cost-share program
for non-ash tree plantings within
public space.

State Funds	\$ 5,000.00
Town Match	\$ 25,394.45
Total Costs	\$ 30,394.45



Photos: Deborah Fillion



EAST MONTPELIER CAPITAL PLANNING BUDGET EXECUTIVE SUMMARY *

Details of the Capital Planning Budget are posted on the Town Website:
<https://eastmontpelier.vt.org/boards-commission/capital-improvement-committee/>

Item	Actual FY2023	FY2024 Budget	Presented for FY2025 Budget	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Municipal Building											
Total Exp by Yr	0	19,400	0	0	0	0	12,000	0	8,000	0	8,000
Town Garage											
Total Exp by Yr	0	6,000	0	6,000	0	0	17,000	0	3,000	0	22,000
Emergency Services Facility											
Total Exp by Yr	0	34,000	3,000	0	36,000	6,000	0	18,000	0	23,000	0
Vehicles											
Total Exp by Yr	260,048	0	100,000	0	39,400	141,200	70,000	70,000	70,000	35,000	0
Heavy Equipment											
Total Exp by Yr	0	0	0	175,000	0	0	0	0	0	300,000	275,000
Paving											
Total Exp by Yr	893,550	448,125	281,250	84,375	318,750	131,250	56,250	0	0	905,625	448,125
Opportunity Fund											
Total Exp by Yr	493	150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Totals											
Total Exp by Yr	1,154,091	657,525	384,250	265,375	394,150	278,450	155,250	88,000	81,000	1,263,625	753,125
Yearly Planning Budget	459,654	459,654	469,654	469,654	469,654	469,654	469,654	469,654	469,654	469,654	469,654
GF Transfers and interest											
Capital Plan Balance	1,149,857	951,986	1,037,390	1,241,669	1,317,173	1,508,377	1,822,781	2,204,435	2,593,089	1,799,118	1,515,647
Total Audited Capital Plan	\$1,822,513										

* See facing page and Capital Improvement Committee report on page 55.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2022	\$ 1,822,512.68
Revenues:	
Interest earned	21,780.27
FY23 Appropriation (Budget Line Item)	<u>459,690.00</u>
	481,470.27
Expenses:	
FY23 Local Matching Funds for Grants:	
Paving & Structures; Town Highway Structures (893,549.67)	
Purchase 2024 Mack truck/plow (160,400.00)	
Hudson Property (493.08)	<u>(1,054,442.75)</u>
	(1,054,442.75)
Ending Bank Balance – June 30, 2023	<u><u>\$ 1,249,540.20</u></u>

* * *

Capital Reserve for the Emergency Services Facility (ESF)

In agreements reached with the East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) for the use of the ESF (a town-owned building), EMFD agreed to use a portion of the ambulance service revenue to fund a capital reserve to cover long-term maintenance of the facility. Routine maintenance is covered by EMFD's operating budget. The Town, in conjunction with EMFD, has developed a capital plan covering the life expectancies of most capital items connected with the facility. A portion of those costs will be covered by EMFD capital reserve, a portion by Calais, and the remainder by the Town. The Town's capital plan includes expected outlays for ESF capital items and the expectation is that the Town's portion will be covered by its capital reserve fund.

Also note: EMFD holds recent years' capital contributions for future equipment and truck replacement in its accounts. On June 30, 2023, EMFD had **\$140,291.70** designated in a capital account. In any calendar year, EMFD may spend up to \$20,000 of capital account funds for emergency purchases at its own discretion. Any capital purchase exceeding \$20,000 requires approval by both Calais and East Montpelier Selectboards or, at the discretion of the Selectboards, may require approval by voters of both towns with a warned article at Town Meeting. In the fall of 2022 we used the last of the Emergency Services Fund to upgrade to LED lighting and to improve a small area of the parking lot. Last year we also paid off the rescue truck loan. We plan to use approximately \$100,000 from the capital fund for the new engine with \$200,000 coming from the Towns of East Montpelier and Calais and \$150,000 loan that the Fire Department has taken out. We hope to take delivery by Town Meeting Day 2024.



EAST MONTPELIER CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Major changes came to the operations overseen by the Cemetery Committee in the spring of 2023. Because no committee member was able to fulfill the duties of Sexton, we proposed hiring contractor James Mangan, on a trial basis, to take charge of selling lots and maintaining the cemeteries using his own equipment. The Selectboard approved Mr. Mangan's contract for June through December 2023. Elliott Morse, Tim Lamson, and Nick Lamson had previously performed all cemetery maintenance. Mr. Morse left the committee at the end of May. Chairman Lamson remained and reviewed the season's work with Mr. Mangan at the committee's September meeting. Being satisfied with Mr. Mangan's work, the committee requested that he draft a contract for the Selectboard to review for the 2024 season. The Selectboard will decide what to do with the committee's mowers and equipment used for cemetery maintenance. The September meeting was Mr. Lamson's last, and Jonathan Boucher was elected chair in his stead. Pamela Biron was welcomed to the committee at this time as well.

During the summer, Doty Cemetery was surveyed to determine viable available plots. The map has been updated and the surveyor will install delineating markers for each plot. In June, the Selectboard adopted price increases for cemetery services, and for two- and four-grave lots to align with neighboring communities. Lot prices include metal corner markers. If granite corner markers are desired, they are considered a special request and their cost will be charged to the lot owner. It is our intention that the graves of all veterans be marked with a flag. Please advise the committee if a grave has been missed.

Burial lots are available in the Doty cemetery. Costs are as follows:

- Four-grave lot \$2,800, includes \$750 for perpetual care
- Two-grave lot \$1,600, includes \$375 for perpetual care
- Cremation lot \$550, includes \$225 for perpetual care

The committee also worked on revising/updating the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. The revisions have been reviewed by the Town's attorney and the document will be finalized this year.

Tasks for the 2024 season include:

- Mow and maintain landscapes as usual
- Replace veterans' flags before Memorial Day
- Photograph headstones in Willard Cutler and Gould cemeteries and upload to Find-a-Grave.com
- Have broken headstones in Cutler and Peck Cemeteries repaired

A budget of \$24,130 was requested for this coming year (see facing page). The committee thanks Tim Lamson and Elliott Morse for their years of service, dedication, and leadership.

JONATHAN BOUCHER, *Chair*
EMILY GOYETTE, *Clerk*

MARK LANE PAMELA BIRON
ROSIE LAQUERRE, *Town Clerk*

CEMETERY FUNDS

Beginning Fund Balance – July 1, 2022	\$ 120,601.34
Income:	
Town Appropriation	20,000.00
Sale of plots (perpetual care)	1,125.00
Sale of plots (expendable)	775.00
Sale of plots (markers)	300.00
Cemetery Services	<u>3,010.00</u>
	25,210.00
Interest Income	889.01
Care of Cemeteries Expense (see below)	<u>(16,505.89)</u>
Ending Balance - June 30, 2023	<u><u>\$ 130,194.46</u></u>

BALANCE – JUNE 30, 2023

Expendable Funds:	
Northfield Savings Bank Account	33,503.14
Non-Expendable Perpetual Care Funds:	
North Country Fed Credit Union CD1	21,726.66
North Country Fed Credit Union CD2	<u>80,393.24</u>
	<u>102,119.90</u>
Cemetery Funds in accounts on June 30, 2023	\$ 135,623.04
Minus Liability: Accounts Payable	<u>(5,428.58)</u>
Total Cemetery Funds - June 30, 2023	<u><u>\$ 130,194.46</u></u>

CARE OF CEMETERY EXPENSES

Payroll	\$ 7,470.74
Mowing	5,428.58
Equipment Maintenance	1,301.98
Fuel	175.66
Burial Services	1,500.00
Miscellaneous	<u>628.93</u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$ 16,505.89</u></u>

Budget requested for FY2025		Total: \$24,130	
Contractor Mowing	\$13,571	Cemetery Association Fees	125
Fence Painting & Repair	3,000	Miscellaneous	250
Tree & Invasive Plant Control	300	Burial Services	3,000
Corner Markers Installation	180	Damaged Headstone Repairs	1,500
Equipment Maintenance	1,904	Mileage/Travel	300

SANDY PINES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Beginning Fund Balance – July 1, 2022	\$82,087.98
Final Loan Repayment from Housing Foundation, Inc.	224,049.01
Interest and Investment Income earned in FY23	5,913.32
Annual Payment to State of VT	(49,421.38)
Ending Balance – June 30, 2023	<u>\$262,628.93</u>

A Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) grant of \$318,900.00 to fund the replacement of the sewage systems of Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park. The Town loaned the money to the Housing Foundation, Inc. at 3% per annum amortized over thirty (30) years. The project was completed in 1999.

Repayment Terms: Principal and interest payments began Sept. 1, 2004. Monthly installments are in the amount of \$1,319.20, with the balance of any remaining indebtedness due and payable on June 1, 2022. Under VCDP rules, half of the principal and interest collected are to be turned over to the State annually.

Repayment Deferral: On August 15, 2005, the Selectboard approved a 5.5-year deferral of repayments and extension of the life of the loan as requested by the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA). The VSHA used the deferred payments (\$15,830 per year) for the repair and upgrade of the water and electrical systems at Sandy Pines. Repayment of the \$311,472.78 balance resumed on April 1, 2011. Final loan payment was due on December 1, 2027.

Final Payment: On September 27, 2022, the loan was paid in full.

FUTURE USE OF THE FUND

VCDP funding required that the town's portion of the repayments be available for grants or loans to qualifying projects. In 2022, the Selectboard explored the options for use of the town's Revolving Loan Fund and decided to direct the fund towards housing needs. On September 18, 2023, the Selectboard voted to assign the fund to Downstreet Housing & Community Development. Downstreet's revolving loan fund offers low-to-moderate income homeowners funding to repair their homes, with a focus on health and safety issues. Depending on the applicant's income, the funds may be issued as a grant, a deferred loan, or a loan.

On October 4, 2023, the Town of East Montpelier and Downstreet entered into an agreement to move the fund balance from the town's revolving loan fund to Downstreet Housing and Community Development's revolving loan fund. Further, the agreement stipulates that Downstreet will use the funds for the first three years to serve East Montpelier residents. After the three-year commitment, the funds will be added to Downstreet's combined pool of funding which is available to their entire service area of Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties.

On October 17th, the balance of \$263,700.78 was transferred to Downstreet. For information about their programs, call 802-476-4493 or visit downstreet.org.

Photo: Deborah Fillion



CONSERVATION FUND SUMMARY

Date	Project	Town Funds	Total Amount	Acres
12/7/90	Cleaves Farm	\$ 32,000	\$ 301,968	285
5/14/93	Bair/Chapell	4,000	264,030	479
10/13/94	Sparrow Farm	31,000	307,975	163
6/28/96	Frihauff/VLT	5,000	106,470	167
10/24/96	Sibley Farm	10,000	229,895	172
6/16/99	Christiansen Farm	14,795	150,000	237
10/12/04	Mallory Brook/Pratt	15,000	400,000	481
6/15/06	Clark Farm, phase 1	5,000	177,500	72
2/5/07	Fairmont Farm	10,000	316,092	159
6/19/08	Benton Project	12,000	120,000	11.5
3/5/12	Soule (Coburn Rd)	2,100	21,000	5
1/15/14	Clark Farm, phase 2	4,685	136,385	134.7
11/2/15	Ormsbee Farm	15,000	15,000	171.5
9/27/17	Fairmont Dairy	6,000	\$470,000	361
6/23/20	Fairmont Dairy	5,000	\$630,000	196
Total Completed Projects		\$ 171,580	\$3,646,315	3,094.7

ABSTRACT OF THE GRAND LIST — 2023 EQUALIZATION STUDY

East Montpelier School Dist. ID: 65		December 15, 2022											
Category	Property Count	ED Form 411 Listed Value	CUSE Value	Education		Municipal		Applied Ratio	Ratio Source*	Education		Municipal	
				Listed Value	Excl. CUSE	Listed Value	Excl. CUSE			Equalized Value	Equalized Value	Equalized Value	Equalized Value
Residential 1	498	115,701,000	0	115,701,000	115,461,000	67.20				172,174,107	171,816,964	16.85	
Residential 2	407	139,179,800	1,128,500	138,051,300	137,841,300	72.47				191,854,542	191,564,767	20.64	
Mob.Home-Unlanded	57	1,371,700	0	1,371,700	1,371,700	87.40				1,569,451	1,569,451	15.58	
Mobile Home-Landed	45	6,033,100	0	6,033,100	5,973,100	70.65	C			8,539,420	8,454,494	0.33	
Seasonal 1	9	2,488,100	0	2,488,100	2,488,100	70.65	C			3,521,727	3,521,727	0.00	
Seasonal 2	10	2,942,500	38,100	2,904,400	2,904,400	70.65	C			4,156,890	4,156,890	22.60	
Commercial	51	19,222,300	19,500	19,202,800	19,249,300	68.63	T			28,003,686	28,071,441	35.15	
Commercial Apts.	4	3,625,700	0	3,625,700	3,625,700	68.63	T			5,282,967	5,282,967	0.00	
Industrial-Manufac.	3	3,359,900	0	3,359,900	3,359,900	68.63	T			4,895,672	4,895,672	0.00	
Utilities-Electric	11	7,872,200	0	7,872,200	9,090,000	86.04	O			9,149,465	10,564,854	0.00	
Utilities-Other	1	290,800	0	290,800	290,800	68.63	T			423,721	423,721	0.00	
Farm	10	4,539,800	563,400	3,976,400	3,976,400	68.63	T			6,473,008	6,473,008	0.00	
Other and Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	C			0	0	0.00	
Miscellaneous (Land)	104	8,279,400	484,400	7,795,000	7,792,600	68.63	T			11,941,832	11,938,335	26.71	
Total Real Property	1,210	314,906,300	2,233,900	312,672,400	313,424,300	68.63				447,986,488	448,734,290		
Personal Property:													
				Cable:	0	100.00				536,794	0		
				Inventory:	0	100.00				Exempt	0		
				Machinery & Equip:	0	100.00				Exempt	0		
				TOTAL:	0					536,794	0		
GRAND TOTAL (Real and Personal Property)					\$313,209,194	70.33				\$448,523,282	\$448,734,290	21.05	

Certified to County: \$448,523,000 **CLA: 70.33**

Certified to State: \$448,523,000 **Townwide COD: 21.05**

*"Ratio Source" Definitions: C: Class

T: Town-wide

O: Override

CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) for East Montpelier

2009 *	98.73%	2012	98.22%	2016	94.94%	2020	94.18%
2010	98.92%	2013	98.98%	2017	95.83%	2021	89.97%
2011	97.16%	2014	94.10%	2018	95.32%	2022	82.97%
* Reappraisal		2015	94.60%	2019	93.82%	2023	70.33%

TOWN LISTERS REPORT

The first duty of the Listers is to maintain a fair and accurate list of property values in East Montpelier. As of April 1, 2023, there were 1,209 taxable parcels in town. Every year we inspect new and improved properties, then add our assessments to the list. Last year, we added \$3,094,761 to the 2023 Grand List.

In addition to making site visits, maintaining public records, and holding office hours to respond to requests and inquiries, Lister duties include processing property transfers, updating tax maps, entering weekly homestead declarations, managing local aspects of the state's Current Use land program, administering tax bills, validating sales for annual Equalization Studies, attending training sessions on data collection, deed research, software changes, and much more.

2023 saw a continued dramatic rise in sale prices of East Montpelier property. That, combined with the length of time since we last visited every parcel during the 2009 reappraisal, has resulted in our assessed values being significantly below actual sale prices. Valid "arms-length" sale prices are used to determine our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), the equation the State of Vermont uses to ensure that each town pays its fair share of education taxes. Based on an evaluation of valid sales in our town from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2023, our CLA for 2023 has been set at 70.33% of fair market value. Our CLA history and an abstract of the 2023 Equalization Study appear on the facing page.

While the Common Level of Appraisal measures the accuracy of our listed values relative to the market, the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) measures the uniformity of assessed values relative to other properties in our own town. The lower the COD, the more equitable the assessments. In 2023, our COD increased from 16.52% to 21.05%.

State law changed last year, so that town-wide reappraisals are now triggered not by a falling CLA, but rather when the COD rises above 20%, which ours has done. So, we will look to hire an independent reappraisal company to work with us toward planning and carrying out a comprehensive review of every parcel in town. Due to high demand for their services (as many towns in the state are in the same situation), it may be a couple of years before we're actually scheduling site visits. We'll keep you informed of significant developments as they happen. Costs will be covered by the annual state payments being held in our Grand List Reappraisal Fund (see pg. 38).

It's worth noting that a townwide reappraisal raises the overall value of the entire Grand List, and the tax rate decreases accordingly. So most property owners are not expected to see a significant change in their tax bill as a result.

Our thanks go out to the many townspeople who helped us fulfill our duties as Listers for the Town. If you have questions about your assessment, our office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 to noon; (802) 223-3313 ext. 206.

ROSS HAZEL CHRIS RACANELLI DEBORAH FILLION

RESILIENT ROADS COMMITTEE

The Resilient Roads Committee, created by the Selectboard in 2017, continues to work on the implementation of two plans—the Rural Road Resilient Right-of-Ways Vegetation Assessment (1/13/20) and the East Montpelier Ash Tree Management Plan (6/1/21). Since the Committee was first created, it has worked closely with and been guided by the Urban & Community Forestry Program (UCFP) of the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. The main charge of the Committee is to enhance and protect roadside vegetation such that the values for stormwater runoff control, wildlife habitat, aesthetics and cultural importance are maintained. Key to its success is close coordination of its efforts with the town road crew; the road foreman is an active committee member. The completed plans are available on the Town website.

Ash Tree Management

The Committee continued its effort under the East Montpelier Ash Tree Management Plan to stay ahead of the roadside ash tree mortality from the non-native, invasive emerald ash borer (EAB), which has devastated ash trees across the United States and has been present in central Vermont since at least 2018. In spring of 2023, the Town contracted for removal of ash trees and other hazard trees on Barnes, Bliss and Murray roads. Work was done by Matt Foster Logging & Tree Service of Corinth. The Committee identified past ash tree infestation by EAB in several trees on Barnes Road near the Center.

Contracted tree removal has happened annually since 2020 when we did a pilot project in the Gallison Hill area. To date, about a third of the roadside ash trees (diameter 6 inches and larger) have been removed under contract or by the town road crew. The Ash Tree Management Plan targets contract removal of about 200 trees annually from 2022-26.

In January 2023, the Committee held a well-attended public meeting at the Four Corners Schoolhouse with presentations on the ash trees and the EAB, and the status of state and local control programs. We welcome public input on future programs related to the health and management of roadside trees and goals for long-term enhancement of roadside vegetation for aesthetics, wildlife and water quality protection.

For spring 2024, the Town is planning tree removal on Brazier, Lyle Young, Sodom Pond, Haggett and Center roads. In December, the Town applied through the UCFP for U.S. Forest Service grants to assist with that effort.

Additional 2023 Projects

The Committee continued its tree maintenance work at U-32 Junior & High School and at the Town recreation area on Vincent Flats Road, primarily pruning landscape trees, including ones that we planted over the last several years.

We also continued work on a town Shade Tree Preservation Plan as provided for in recent amendments to the state tree warden statutes. These municipal plans



Sophie, grade 1



Logan, grade 1

**EMES
apple
trees**



Gates, grade 2



Max, grade 1

designate which road right-of-way trees will be managed as public shade trees and discuss how they and shade trees on town property will be maintained.

Looking Ahead: 2024

In addition to the aforementioned ash tree removal project and public outreach work, we are hoping to complete the shade tree preservation plan and bring it before the Selectboard for adoption.

The Committee is planning additional public informational meetings on trees and invasive plant species management.

JEFF CUETO, *Chair*
PAUL CATE, *Tree Warden*
STEVE JUSTIS
MARK LANE
GUTHRIE PERRY, *Road Foreman*

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

CVRPC provides planning, development, and project implementation services to its 23 municipalities in Washington and western Orange Counties. Municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by a locally appointed member to the governing Board of Commissioners. CVRPC has no regulatory or taxing authority; each year, we request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional planning activities and to help offset costs and provide local matching funds needed for state and federal funding. Your continued support for local and regional planning is appreciated! CVRPC is your resource – please contact us at 802-229-0389 or <cvrpc@cvregion.com> for assistance.

FY23 East Montpelier Activities through June 30, 2023

- Prepared and submitted Emergency Relief Assistance Fund information to town to facilitate elevated disaster relief aid.
- Met with town administrator to discuss current town initiatives and review CVRPC technical assistance.
- Provided guidance and issued regional approval of Town Plan amendment.
- Reviewed zoning bylaws and provided comments and mapping assistance.
- Supported and coordinated application to Vermont Council on Rural Development Climate Resilience Communities program.
- Supported successful applications for investment grade energy assessments for the Town Garage and Town Office making them eligible to apply for \$500k MERP implementation funds and State Energy Program Revolving Funds; \$4,000 MERP mini-grant to support energy planning technical assistance and community engagement.
- Provided update on timeline and workflow of Enhanced Energy Plan and updated data and supporting guidance documents.

**During and following the July Flood, CVRPC staff provided outreach and guidance on recovery efforts and tracking of damages to aid response and maximize FEMA reimbursements for town and individual damages (*Fiscal Year 2024)*

CVRPC Projects & Programs

- ***Municipal Plan and Bylaw Updates:*** Predictable, effective local permitting
- ***Brownfields:*** Site assessments facilitate redevelopment and economic growth
- ***Transportation planning:*** Transportation Advisory Committee local members
- ***Emergency planning:*** Natural disaster response coordination, towns and State
- ***Climate and energy planning:*** Reduce energy burdens and build resilience
- ***Natural resource planning:*** Protect water, forest, recreation and agriculture
- ***Regional Planning:*** Infrastructure, community development, and growth
- ***Geographic Information System Services:*** Support to municipalities
- ***Clean Water Service Provider:*** Water quality projects to reduce phosphorous
- ***Special Projects:*** Recreation paths, farmland preservation, affordable housing
- ***Grants:*** Support through project identification, scoping, and applications

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission welcomed two new members, Nik Khosla and Erica Zimmerman, while Scott Hess did not seek reelection after many years of service. The commission would like to thank Richard Hall, Mark Lane, and Gianna Petito who are not seeking reelection. Mark has served on the PC for many, many years (we think 18, but it's been so long that none of us, including Mark, is entirely sure).

2023 was a capacity building year for the Planning Commission. We helped recruit and screen a new Energy Committee for the town, recognizing that creating a robust energy plan (and building the capacity to run the projects that the plan would produce) was likely beyond the PC's current expertise and capacity, and that a dedicated Energy Committee would bring that expertise. We also conducted a comprehensive review of the town plan in advance of work needed to complete updates to the plan. Updating the full town plan is typically an 18-month to 2-year process, so while the plan is not due until June 2026, we are allowing time to engage the public, make updates to the plan itself, and take the new plan through hearings before the existing plan lapses.

This was also the first year that we began to see the impacts of the zoning updates completed in summer 2022. The change in setbacks intended to reduce the regulatory burden on construction of buildings appears to have been successful – the Development Review Board reports seeing far fewer requests for waivers, particularly for structures like sheds at the edges of lots.

In 2024 the Planning Commission expects to begin public engagement work for the new town plan, begin work on the town plan updates, and to study how to better address housing needs both for the town and the region.

Individual Planning Commission members serve on other related committees, including the Development Review Board, the Capital Improvement Committee, the Resilient Roads Committee, and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. This helps the PC to ensure that its efforts are coordinated with other important town work.

The Planning Commission holds its regular meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month, starting at 7:00 PM. Meetings will be held in a hybrid in-person/online format for the foreseeable future. The PC encourages interested citizens to attend any of its meetings; meetings begin with an opportunity for public comment. Persons may also contact any of the PC members (as of January 2024) below:

ZACH SULLIVAN, *Chair*

CLARICE CUTLER, *Vice Chair*

KIM WATSON, *Corr. Secretary*

RICHARD HALL

NIK KHOSLA

MARK LANE

GIANNA PETITO

MAIA STONE

ERICA ZIMMERMAN



ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

In 2022, there were a total of 82 zoning permit applications received. In contrast, the town received a total of 44 permit applications in 2023. Of those, one application was withdrawn, and two applications are pending. In total, 41 permits were issued. The bulk of the permitting was centered on property improvement projects such as barns, sheds, garages, and house alterations or additions. Of note, there were three accessory dwelling unit (ADU) and nine single-family home permits issued.

Zoning Permits Issued Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023

9	Single Family Home
3	Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)
8	Additions to a primary/single family home
8	Curb Cuts
4	Sheds
1	Deck
4	Accessory structures
1	Work in the Right of Way (R.O.W)
1	Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA)
1	Subdivision
1	Sign
41	Total

The Town of East Montpelier employs a part-time Zoning Administrator (ZA). The ZA's responsibilities include guiding applicants through the zoning process, issuing zoning permits, enforcing the zoning regulations, and coordinating the E911 process. In addition, the ZA provides administrative staff support to the Development Review Board and the Planning Commission.

More information about planning and zoning within the Town of East Montpelier, as well as the Town Master Plan, zoning regulations, application forms, maps, and other useful documents and information, can be found on the town website at <https://eastmontpeliervt.org>. Planning and zoning related questions can be directed to the Zoning Administrator by calling 802-223-3313 ext. 205 or can be sent via email to <zoning@eastmontpeliervt.org>.

MIKAELA ENGERT, *Zoning Administrator*



DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD REPORT

The Development Review Board (DRB) is responsible for all local board review and management of land development in town. Permit applications that the Zoning Administrator is not empowered to approve or deny, under East Montpelier's Land Use and Development Regulations, are publicly reviewed by the DRB. The DRB also handles appeals of actions taken by the Zoning Administrator. In 2023, the DRB met 5 times and conducted the following reviews:

- 2 Site Plan, Conditional Use, and/or Permit Compliance
- 3 Subdivision, Planned Unit Dev., or Boundary Line Adjustment
- 5 Total DRB hearings

The DRB convenes to review applications as needed on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in the municipal office building. In addition, special or continued meetings are held when necessary. All meetings are open to the public.

STEVE KAPPEL, <i>Chair</i>	MARK LANE	STEVE JUSTIS
JEFF CUETO, <i>Vice Chair</i>	NORMAN HILL	NIK KHOSLA
CLARICE CUTLER	KIM WATSON	GLENN WEYANT



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE *

The CIC was established and has been meeting since 2013. Its purpose is to develop and help the Town implement and maintain a capital asset budget plan for its future needs. The membership makeup of the committee includes at least one of each of the following; a selectboard member, a planning commissioner, the town treasurer and a member at large.

An adequate and thoughtful capital budget plan can assist the Town in maintaining a stable tax rate by anticipating and incorporating the Town's monetary asset needs into its annual budgets. This may preclude the need to finance some capital assets through the issuance of debt or borrowing for asset purchases.

Each year the committee solicits input from Town boards, committees and community organizations as well as our residents to assess and anticipate the Town's future capital needs. Our goal is to anticipate future capital expenses based on the Town's needs and incorporate them into the capital budget plan.

The CIC has reviewed and adjusted the existing capital budget plan to reflect the Town's current capital budget needs. This year's committee recommendations for the capital reserve budget contribution has been approved by the selectboard and are included in the Town's FY2025 budget.

All documents including budgets, agendas and committee minutes can be found on the Town's web site. We accept input and suggestions at any time.

We strongly feel that it is important to plan for the Town's future needs so that taxpayers in the Town are not faced with large tax increases for projects that have not been carefully studied and adequately funded.

ED DEEGAN, *Chair (Member at Large)*
 KIM WATSON (*Planning Commissioner*)
 SCOTT HESS (*Selectboard Member*)
 MICHELE PALLAS (*Town Treasurer*)
 DON WELCH (*Member at Large*)

**See Capital Planning Budget Executive Summary and Capital Reserve Fund on pp. 42–43.*

ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Energy Committee was reconstituted in February of 2023. A formal charge for the Committee is being developed, but a major motivation for re-forming the Committee was to develop an “enhanced energy plan.” Such a plan, as specified by Act 174, should outline the town’s role in meeting state-wide energy goals related to increased energy efficiency and renewable energy, including land-use considerations for renewable energy generation facilities. Formal adoption of such a plan, and approval by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) would give the town “substantial deference” in Public Utilities Commission (PUC) cases about the siting of large renewable energy projects, including both solar and wind.

In consultation with the Planning Commission, the Committee decided to pursue an initial enhanced energy plan as an amendment to the town plan, with a goal of completing this by 2024. A more comprehensive enhanced energy plan could then be developed for incorporation into the new 2026 town plan. This approach would allow the town to secure substantial deference as quickly as possible, while still offering time for the development of a longer-term plan.

In 2023, the Committee spent considerable time understanding the Act 174 requirements for an enhanced energy plan, examining plans developed by nearby towns, and coordinating with CVRPC to obtain the necessary inputs (particularly an analysis of current energy use and the official targets for future energy use) for the plan. While the Committee could attempt to produce these inputs independently, inputs provided by CVRPC are automatically assumed to be correct, so this appeared to be the most expeditious path. The Committee also began identifying changes that would be needed to the Energy section of the town plan, once the necessary analysis and targets were available.

The Committee also worked to take full advantage of Vermont’s Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP). We secured a mini-grant for \$4,000 to support the Committee’s work, and successfully applied for free comprehensive energy resilience assessments for the town building and town garage. Additionally, Andy Shapiro has represented the Committee in discussions about the design of the proposed new town garage to advocate that it have a high degree of energy performance. Finally, the Committee also worked to secure funding for electric vehicle charging stations for multi-unit residences and schools in town.

The Energy Committee holds regular meetings twice per month (dates posted on the town website’s calendar). Meetings are held in a hybrid in-person/online format or fully online. We encourage interested citizens to attend any of our meetings; we offer an opportunity for public comment. Persons may also contact any of the members (as of January 2024) below:

BEN McCALL, <i>Facilitator</i>	ANDY SHAPIRO, <i>Secretary</i>
EMILY LEVIN	STEPHEN MIRACLE
	AUSTIN CATE
	(one seat vacant)

Photo: Deborah Fillion



July flood damage on Sanders Circle.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

After the winter storm in December, 2022, when power outages lasted from a few hours to five or six days, a group of citizens became concerned that extreme weather and prolonged power outages were likely to occur with greater frequency. The East Montpelier Emergency Preparedness Committee was formed to develop ways to make sure that all EM residents are informed and safe during extreme weather and power outages.

The Committee is in the early stages of developing a “Neighborhood Groups” communication and support model. Using this model, we will identify neighborhoods in town and assist them in determining resources and needs so that everyone is safe in the event of a weather-related crisis.

The Committee is looking at increasing awareness of the resources and protocols that are already in place. We are also working on identifying communication systems—a huge challenge when the power is out—so that residents can be informed of road closures, shelter options, charging stations, and other critical information during severe weather. Some committee members have attended a Red Cross Emergency Shelter training that was coordinated by the Calais Emergency Management Committee.

If you are interested in taking an active role in your neighborhood or have other information or resources to share, please contact either the Town Clerk’s office or one of the committee members listed below.

The EM Preparedness Committee members are not in official roles of Emergency Management Director or Coordinator, and the Committee doesn’t have an official role in the EM Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). We are in the early stages of learning more about how we can most effectively support and supplement LEMP’s work.

LYDIA FAESY PATTY GIAVARA RACHAEL GROSSMAN
RENEE KIEVIT KYLAR JENNIFER ZOLLNER

TOWN CLERK REPORT

During odd-numbered years the Clerk works with the Board of Civil Authority to clean up the voter checklist. Keeping the checklist current is an important function. Not only does it determine eligibility for voters as well as printing costs for ballots and annual reports; it also gives us accurate information about voter turnout when the percentage of votes is reported.

More than two hundred voters who have not lived in town for several years were removed from the checklist. Vermont has same day voter registration. If for any reason your name is not listed on the voter checklist, please contact me to resolve the issue. It's fast, easy and can be done on an election day if needed.

The Board of Civil Authority joins me in encouraging all who are eligible to vote at every election. This year, those who are seventeen years of age in March but will be eighteen on or before November 5, are eligible to vote in the Presidential Primary. These young voters must wait until the age of majority to participate in local elections.

I have begun doing educational outreach this year for our future voters. The EMES 5th/6th grade teacher team invited me to conduct a pilot mini civics course for their students with an eye toward global citizenship. My initial presentation followed the Standards for Civics Education and defined citizenship, democracy and explained civil discourse. We went over the structure and function of local government and talked about Town Meeting. My next visit in mid-February will focus on voting and running fair and accurate elections. To give students something tangible to decide instead of a completely mock election, they will vote on the 2025 dog tag design. Since we will be using pictures of designs, this will also include the younger students who do not have the reading skills required for a traditional ballot. Their school-wide election will take place on Friday, March 8. The volunteer Student Leadership Team will serve as the Justices

(cont. on pg. 61)

VOTER REGISTRATION

Do you need to register to vote?

It's easier than ever and there are several ways to do it:

- When you renew or change the address on your license at DMV, they will send new voter information to the Town Clerk of your town of residence.
- Go to "My Voter Page" online to register at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>
- Register at the polls to get on the checklist and receive a ballot that day.
- Go to the Town Clerk's office and complete the form.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town Clerk:

Call 802-223-3313 ext.201 or email <clerk@eastmontpeliervt.org>

For more information on voting, see

★ VOTING IN 2024 ★ on page 13.

Photo: Deborah Fillion



Come visit our newly repaired and painted office building.

VOTING RECORD AND POPULATION

East Montpelier Residents per 2020 Census: 2,598

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Registered</u>	<u>Australian Ballot (AB)</u>	<u>AB / FV Percentage</u>	<u>Floor Vote (FV)</u>
Town Meeting:				
2023	2,362	792	34% / 4%	93
2022	2,338	811	35% / n/a	n/a
2021	2,306	914	40% / n/a	n/a
2020	2,245	1,046	47% / 7%	159
2019	2,103	560	27% / 7%	147
2018	2,058	554	27% / 8%	165
2017	2,115	552	26% / —	—
2016	2,025	1,130	56% / 14%	290
2015	1,997	571	29% / 10%	190
2014	1,995	543	27% / 13%	255
2013	2,109	576	27% / 10%	216
2012	2,037	696	34% / 11%	218
2011	2,028	510	25% / 11%	214
2010	1,990	650	33% / 11%	213
2009	2,057	880	43% / 13%	262
2008	1,903	1,151	60% / 16%	301
2007	2,102	743	35% / 11%	222
2006	2,059	674	33% / 12%	249
2005	2,076	626	30% / 8%	160
2004	1,984	807	41% / 8%	164
2003	2,011	525	26% / 8%	167
2002	1,973	587	30% / 15%	294

Primary Election:

2022	2,353	861	37%
2020	2,262	963	43%
2018	2,200	633	29%
2016	2,024	889	44%
2014	1,986	147	7%
2012	2,052	326	16%
2010	2,011	730	36%
2008	1,942	160	8%
2006	2,066	423	20%
2004	2,053	224	11%

General Election:

2022	2,361	1,471	62%
2020	2,312	1,781	77%
2018	2,223	1,400	63%
2016	2,107	1,631	77%
2014	2,014	1,093	54%
2012	2,116	1,600	76%
2010	2,038	1,330	65%
2008	2,046	1,675	82%
2006	2,097	1,450	69%
2004	2,116	1,569	74%

CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS

To change a name
or address on the
voter checklist,
real estate

Grand List,
or dog license,
please contact:

Town Clerk
P.O. Box 157
East Montpelier
VT 05651

(802) 223-3313

Photo: Terry J. Allen



*Kate Rader with the League of Women Voters
in Montpelier's July 4th Parade 2023.*

of the Peace and run their election. I'm hopeful this pilot is well-received, and I can continue to present this information to students in the years to come.

As we move into the 2024 election year, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that the Presidential Primary held on March 5 in conjunction with Town Meeting is the **ONLY** time during the next four-year period when **you will be asked to state your party** (Democratic or Republican) when you get your ballot. During the state-wide primary next August, you will be given the ballots of all three parties (Democratic, Republican, Progressive) and will vote only one party, returning the non-voted ballots in a separate envelope. The General Election in November will be a normal Australian ballot. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding elections.

It is our pleasure to serve you. Please contact us if we can be of assistance.

ROSIE LAQUERRE, *Town Clerk*
802-223-3313 X 201
clerk@eastmontpeliervt.org

PATRICIA CANADA,
Municipal Coordinator
802-223-3313 X 202
office@eastmontpeliervt.org

— VITAL STATISTICS —
January 1 to December 31, 2023

To protect personal identities and to conform to current best practices, this will be the last Annual Report that states names in the Births and Marriages categories. Voters can expect to see the number of births and marriages as well as names of decedents reported next year.

BIRTHS

Sophie Senecal	Ramona Buckridge
Rowan Peplowski	Declan Ledwidge
Sullivan Manning	Daragh Ledwidge
Rosalie Giron	Joseph Laquerre
Ruby Hall	Noelle Avery
Dean Rus	Henry Preston
Easton Bruleigh	Madelyn Martin
Maeve Tittmann	Aine Connor

MARRIAGES

Daniella Chaloux & Trevor Storey
Elizabeth Killian & Peter Moore
Lawrence Brown & Wanda Sulham
Sierra Wells & Russel Thongs
Michael Bender & Mary Young
Clarke Haywood & Jessica Lynch
Elizabeth Janawicz & David Halford
Ernest Laplant & Victoria Hebert
Matthew Peake & Michelle Lavigne
Andrea DeLabruere & William Craig
Taylor Treadwell & Thomas Parker
Jennifer Paquin & David Supernault

DEATHS

Death not reported in 2022: Gary Hudson (77)

Joyce Kraatz-Sumner (95)	Glenn Gannon (66)
Wayne Fleury (88)	Joyce Lamountain (90)
Alice Smith (84)	Harold Hurlburt (94)
Susan Biggam (75)	Kenneth E. Pearson (74)
Ione Stewart (71)	Linda Hutchins (78)
Gregory Combs (76)	Matthew Joly (38)
Joshua Barnett (33)	Bernard Corliss (89)
Mittie Gidney (78)	John E. Mekkelsen, Sr. (100)
Ronald Gonyaw (84)	Michael Prive (58)
Marcia Pauly (82)	Erik Esselstyn (86)
	Donald G. Cote (89)

VT SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

Neutering and spaying your pet helps control the population and reduces the chance for mammary and testicular cancer in pets. The **Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP)** offers affordable spaying and neutering through most veterinarians. For more information, applications and guidelines for the income sensitive VSNIP spay/neuter program, please visit us online at **VSNIP.VERMONT.GOV**

ANIMAL LICENSES

All dogs and wolf-hybrids 6 (six) months of age or older shall annually on or before **April 1** be licensed. Any dog that is acquired after April 1 or becomes 6 (six) months old during the year shall be licensed within 30 days.

Fees for licensing a dog or wolf-hybrid are as follows:

		Late registration
1. Neutered/Spayed dogs or wolf-hybrids	\$9.00	\$11.00
2. Unneutered/Unspayed dogs or wolf-hybrids	\$13.00	\$17.00

Note: For each license sold, \$5.00 pass through to the State as follows:

\$1.00 to State Rabies Program; \$4.00 to VT Spay/Neuter Program (below).

Spaying or neutering certificates from veterinarian **must** be exhibited.

A current rabies vaccination certificate **must** be filed with the Town Clerk.

Current rabies vaccination means that:

- (1) dog/wolf hybrid over 3 months or less than 1 year of age has been vaccinated
- (2) dog/wolf hybrid within 9–12 months of initial vaccination must receive a booster shot
- (3) dog/wolf hybrid subsequent vaccination following initial vaccination shall be valid for 36 months [20 V.S.A. Section 3581]



★ Daisy ★ #1 dog 2023 ★

RABIES CLINIC

for DOGS & CATS

Saturday, March 9, 2024

9:00 am – 12:00 noon

East Montpelier Fire Department
at 54 Village Acres

\$20.00 per animal, cash or check

Onsite Dog Licensing for East Montpelier dogs!

\$9 for spayed animals; \$13 for unaltered ~ Town Clerk (802) 223-3313

Special thanks to The Mitzvah Fund for helping us host this year's event.
themitzvahfundvt.org

Article 7
on pg. 9

**FOUR CORNERS
SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION (FCSH)**

The Four Corners Schoolhouse is embarked on a new journey, one that we trust will serve it well for decades to come. After spot cleaning patches of mold in one closet several times, the board decided to get expert opinions on the extent of the mold problem and what solutions might look like. To this end, East Montpelier residents, Andy Shapiro and Robert Brown were extremely helpful. With their professional input, the board has decided upon an ambitious plan to eradicate the mold issue, thus allowing the building to, once again, serve all East Montpelier residents, as well as bringing the building up-to-date with heating, humidity, and ventilation controls. Additionally, the schoolhouse will become more energy efficient to operate.

Once we won our application for a \$30,000 grant from the Vermont Arts Council, the town selectboard chose to match it, using one-time federal funds. This left us with the task of raising the final \$10,000 from supporters, primarily through a GoFundMe campaign and local notices on FPF. Gracious thanks to the town residents who chose to support our efforts. Special thanks to the Jean Cate Community Fund, for their contribution.

Aside from the impending work and fundraising, the schoolhouse board has been busy trying to fill the vacancy left when Diana Fielder moved on to other endeavors. Diana was on the board for over 20 years! Her good humor, contagious laugh, and valuable, reasoned insight were deeply appreciated by the board.

Every resident of East Montpelier is automatically a part of the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association. As such, anyone who wants to use the schoolhouse for events open to the public can do so for free. For private events, birthdays, reunions, and the like, there is a small fee to reserve the space. For events that might themselves charge a fee for attendance, there is an increased, but still reasonable, fee for use of the building.

Anyone wishing to use the Schoolhouse should contact Victoria Capitanelli, our new scheduler, at vcapitanelli@gmail.com. Please allow 24 hours for a response time.

HOBIE GUION, *President*

ANN GREEN, *Vice-president*

RACHAEL GROSSMAN, *Treasurer*

CAROLYN SHAPIRO, *Secretary and Town Representative*

VICTORIA CAPITANELLI, *Scheduler*

PAULIE COBURN

SHAWN DAVIDIAN

BENEDICT KOEHLER

CHRIS REED



FCSH FINANCIAL REPORT

M&T Checking - Beginning Balance 7/1/22 .. \$10,066.80

Income

FY23 Town Funds	4,400.00
Building Rentals	730.00
Miscellaneous	77.00

Total Income 5,207.00

Expenses

Electricity	(642.00)
Fuel (heating)	(1,454.81)
Insurance	(913.00)
Janitorial Services	(650.00)
Mowing	(560.00)
Repairs & Maintenance	(100.91)
Plowing & Sanding	(670.00)
PO Box Rental	(188.00)
Business Expenses	(35.75)

Total Expense (5,214.47)

M&T Checking - Ending Balance 6/30/23 ... \$10,059.33

* * *

Ending Cash Balance allocation:

Temporary Restricted:

Floor Refinishing Fund	1,260.00
Furnace Fund	200.00
Painting Fund	3,033.00
Reserve Fund (unassigned)	1,136.50
Septic Fund	360.00

Subtotal – Temporary Restricted 5,989.50

Unrestricted 4,069.83

Total End of Year Balance \$10,059.33



EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The East Montpelier Historical Society, in conjunction with the Calais Historical Society, held monthly meetings with a gathering in either town for a potluck meal and live program throughout most of 2023. The summer flood impacted one scheduled event. In March we shared readings from family diaries and journals. Our annual sugar-on-snow party was tasty and fun at the end of sugaring in April. Our May program was an amazing review of tales told by Audrey Lafirira as shared by Jennifer Boyer. We had a lovely June night with our croquet competition and ice cream social. In mid-August we hosted members from Williamstown to hear the very involved story of the Martin brothers in the Civil War, presented by the author of *Voices from the Attic*, Carleton Young. Another author, Thomas Schmidt of E.M. Center, shared in September about the history of the Old Meeting House as revealed in his book, *A Presence in the Center*. Sitting in the beautiful old church helped make it all come to life. Our well-known local photographer, Jeb Wallace-Brodeur, gave us a review of many of his favorite images in October. We wrapped up the year with a special VT Humanities performance by Linda Radtke sharing “Songs of the Suffragettes” coordinated with the Unitarian Church in Montpelier. Many thanks to all who facilitated each month’s program – it takes many hands to make them successful.

Please visit our website <https://eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org/> to learn more about our activities and resources. We plan to begin new programs in early spring of 2024. Anyone is welcome to attend our free programs. Membership details are listed at the website. We post meetings and inquiries on our Facebook page as well: <https://www.facebook.com/EastMontpelierHistoricalSociety>

We have copies of the history of the town, *Across the Onion*, available at the Town Clerk’s office along with several of our other publications. Please contact Sandal Cate <sandal@sover.net> or Andy Christiansen <andy@oldbarnvt.com> for any questions or suggestions for future programs. We hope to see you at our meetings.



Article 8
on pg. 9

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Six times a year, the East Montpelier *Signpost* is published for every resident of East Montpelier, both property owners and renters. It’s by residents for residents. If it doesn’t arrive in your mailbox, please get in touch with Alex Brown at <alexbrown802vt@gmail.com> who will happily add you to the mailing list. Do you want to know when new *Signpost* issues are available for viewing online? We can do that, too. Contact Jennifer Boyer at <vtpots@gmail.com> to be added to our email list. Finally, you can find the entire archive of issues of the *Signpost* at www.emsignpost.com.

The *Signpost* is created by East Montpelier townspeople: Lyn Blackwell, Jennifer Boyer, Alex Brown, Patty Connor, Hilari Farrington, Rachael Grossman, Rosie Laquerre, Mark Lawler, Edie Miller, Carolyn Pastore, Barbara Ploof, Kate

SIGNPOST FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

NCFCU Checking, Beginning Balance – Jan. 1, 2023	....	\$ 15,868.64
NCFCU Savings Beginning Balance – Jan. 1, 2023	.....	1,432.86
		<u>17,301.50</u>

INCOME:

Town Funding (TM2023, Art.7)	.....	12,000.00
Contributions	.....	1,170.00
Sponsorships	.....	1,800.00
Dividend Income	.....	5.19
Subscriptions	.....	<u>31.75</u>
		15,006.94

EXPENSES:

Printing and Postage	.....	(8,937.93)
Misc Postage	(119.60)
Business Expense	<u>(63.47)</u>
		(9,121.00)

NCFCU Ending Balance — Dec. 31, 2023	<u><u>\$23,187.44</u></u>
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Checking Balance on Dec. 31, 2023	\$ 21,749.39
Savings Balance on Dec. 31, 2023	<u>1,438.05</u>
NCFCU Ending Balance	<u><u>\$ 23,187.44</u></u>

Rader, Mary Redmond, Merry Schmidt, Rachel Senechal, Michelle Singer, and Ann Stanton. Thank you to these volunteers for their ongoing efforts to keep the town informed and connected. The *Signpost's* expenses of printing, postage, and small miscellaneous fees have been generously supported by the town. We hope to continue earning that support as we move forward. We are also grateful to the businesses who sponsor us and the townspeople who send donations.

Much is said about the value of community. Jean Cate, who initiated the *Signpost* in 1990, didn't take it for granted that creating community takes work. The current volunteers of the *Signpost* don't take it for granted either. We hope that our work helps to strengthen our East Montpelier community and helps it continue to grow. We welcome you to join us! Contact Michelle Singer at <michellealsinger@gmail.com> if you are interested in sharing ideas, writing, editing, or just being part of the *Signpost* for the fun of it (and it is a lot of fun).

The financial report shows *Signpost* revenues and expenses for the calendar year 2023 and notes the balances at NorthCountry Federal Credit Union, the sole holder of *Signpost* funds.



RECREATION BOARD

It was another successful year for East Montpelier Recreation. We made some upgrades to the field, improving the playing surface of the softball field and repairing one of the dugouts. The community came together in the fall to help clear and clean up the tree line between the field and school. Special thanks to Chris Minor and Mike Brown for their assistance with this project. A bench honoring Robin and Glenn Gannon for their contributions to education and the community in East Montpelier was also installed at the field this fall, not far from the shed.

We have continued to improve the food and payment options available in the shed during sporting events. This year we acquired a popcorn machine as well as adding the ability to accept payment via credit or bank card. Both these upgrades have proven very popular with our volunteer staff and patrons alike. We also had a record number of local businesses sponsoring our programs. Big thank you to the community for supporting our teams!



All our programming was hugely successful. The spring/summer saw our lacrosse program continue to grow and great participation by East Montpelier kids in both baseball and softball. The Strong Girls program continues to be very popular, with 30 girls participating.

In the fall our soccer program had six teams between grades 3-6 as well as the pre-K-2nd grade program, totaling 137 students! Teams had the chance to participate in the 3rd annual clinic with Norwich University soccer players as well as collaborative events with the U-32 teams.

Our basketball program had a great turnout, with close to 100 students participating. We had five teams at the 3-6 level – three boys teams and two girls – along with 25 kids participating in our K-2 program on Saturday mornings. We look forward to another successful year ahead!

—JACK ZEILENGA, *Chair*



Facing page: Boys East Montpelier soccer teams together with Norwich University Men's soccer team after their clinic and before cheering them on for a night game.

Top: Halftime photo shoot with our girls 5/6 soccer team to capture the classic rainbow over the cornfield.

Above: Some of our East Montpelier youth referees taking a well-deserved break during one of jamboree Saturdays.

Article 9
on pg. 9

EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS, INC.

emtrails.org

Stormy 2023 actually began with the Great Wind Storm of December 23, 2022. Much of the spring and early summer of 2023 was spent cleaning up the myriad blown-down trees on all of our trail segments. Then came the summer, fall and winter rain and heavy wet snow storms! We were fortunate to see little damage

Financial Summary for 2023

1. VSECU/NEFCU Checking (operating account)

Beginning Balance – Jan. 1, 2023	\$ 16,507.89
Income:	
Town Meeting 2023, Article 8	4,000.00
Donation	500.00
Interest	3.81
Expenses:	
Goods (tools, materials, Bobolink Farm bridge)	(8,988.96)
Services (mowing and legal fees)	(2,709.17)
Ending Balance – Dec. 31, 2023	9,313.57

2. VSECU/NEFCU Share and Reserve account

Beginning Balance – Jan. 1, 2023	3,006.74
Interest	6.07
Ending Balance – Dec. 31, 2023	3,012.81

3. NCFCU Certificate of Deposit

Beginning Balance – Jan. 1, 2023	14,521.01
Interest	167.80
Ending Balance – Dec. 31, 2023	14,688.81

4. NCFCU Share account

Beginning Balance – Jan. 1, 2023	5.01
Interest	.02
Ending Balance – Dec. 31, 2023	5.03

5. Tools (at half purchase price) **829.29**

6. Trail parking area: VT Rte 14 South (50% owner) **1,200.00**

7. Bobolink easement **10.00**

Total Assets – Dec. 31, 2023 **\$29,059.51**

NOTES:

- There are no known liabilities.
- The NCFCU CD is dedicated to trail acquisition per original Esther Salmi bequest.
- EMT is entitled to interest on the Carlton C. Smith Fund held by the Town.
In November, EMT allowed our share of the interest (about \$2,900) to be used for remediation of mold at the Four Corners Schoolhouse.

Photo: Mary Stone

to the trails from the July floods, though we did have some trail tread repair, trail re-routing and more tree removal to do, especially on the Sparrow Farm trail, the Ormsbee trail and the Mallory Brook trail.

Our great accomplishment for the year was completing the new Pratt-Bobolink Trail which takes you south from the former “Lollipop Loop” all the way to Towne Hill Road. This trail is currently best accessed from the Cherry Tree Hill parking lot. The gold star feature on this trail segment is the new steel and wood foot bridge constructed by Timber and Stone, LLC, a local trail construction business owned by East Montpelier resident Josh Ryan. Josh donated his time and the use of his machinery, and Colin Blackwell donated the cedar rails, making this lovely bridge affordable for EMTI. The trail itself is a magical traverse through farm fields, fern understory, open pine terrain, and mixed hardwood forest, with a perfect brookside picnic spot near the new bridge. Our board member Allan Serrano spent more than 100 hours working alone, and leading small crews of volunteers to create the winding footpath. Our expectation is that this

new trail will provide a safe off-road running route for the U32 athletes. We are very proud of this new trail and hope you will be inspired to go walk it. On the to-do list for 2024 is opening a new parking spot at the Bobolink Farm, and improving the Cherry Tree Hill parking lot, which suffered from the many heavy rain events. We are grateful for the experimental renewable 10 year access agreement with Carol Dickson and Bruce Howlett of Bobolink Farm.

Other projects completed this year include the relocation of the path on the Center Road to Templeton Road trail, away from the electric fence and re-blazing of several sections of trail. We hired a local landscaper to mow five grass and brush-prone trail segments and one parking area two times during the growing season. We were not able to secure enough volunteer help for these repetitive, demanding jobs.

Also on the 2024 to-do list is to continue scouting and constructing a new trail on the Sparrow Farm North conserved property. Owners Janet Powers and Chris Yannoni are working with us and the Vermont Land Trust to define an improved legal public access corridor. We will be replacing and upgrading signage for the trails throughout the system, and updating our website. If you have interest in getting involved with trail work, stewardship, or maintaining/improving our social media, please contact any one of us on the contact page of our website emtrails.org. On the website you can find a printable map of the trail system.

Our trails exist thanks to the vision of the founders, the generosity of the landowners, and the hard work by our partner organizations and volunteers. A very special thanks goes to the trail users; the pathways would not be visible without the thousands of footsteps every year.

MARY STONE and DAVE WEBB, *Co-chairs*

RICHARD BROCK, *Treasurer* JODY STRYKER, *Secretary*

ALLAN SERRANO, *Volunteer Coordinator*

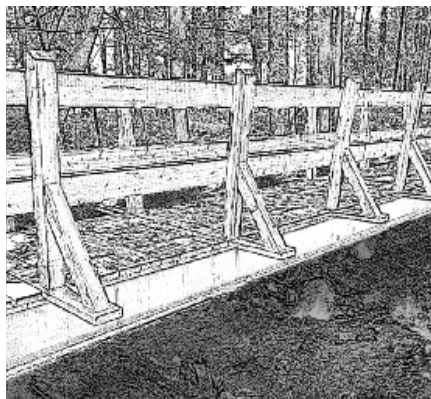
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RICK HOPKINS

TRISH DWYER

SUE CHICKERING

SHARON PLUMB



CROSS VERMONT TRAIL ASSOCIATION (CVTA)

crossvermont.org

The July flood was the big story for Cross Vermont Trail in 2023, as it was for so many others. We're happy to say that our practice of "Build Back Better" paid off when all the large bridges, culverts and trail segments we rebuilt after Tropical Storm Irene held fast in this new storm. The recently opened new segment bypassing an old 2011 washout on the railtrail in East Montpelier, east of Route 14, had basically no problem in the 2023 storm and is a good example of this smart re-build. Meanwhile, our big new Winooski River Bridge was designed from the start with climate-driven storms in mind, and it stayed solid on its abutments.

Storm damage across all the variety of local trails CVTA helps to maintain was extensive but not insurmountable. After the storm we were busy all of the rest of the year from Richmond to Wells River on restoration work. With the help of many donors and volunteers we were able to quickly go into action, buying gravel and materials and renting equipment to clean up what felt like uncountable numbers of smaller washouts and overwhelmed culverts. You can keep the momentum going. Ambitious work is planned for the year ahead, and you can help. Contact us at crossvermont.org to learn more.

CVTA is working to:

- After being delayed by the July flood last year, in Spring 2024 we will get right back to completing the many new miles of trail on either side of the Winooski Bridge - up to the U-32 School and on across East Montpelier from the Montpelier Bike Path to the Montpelier & Wells River Railtrail east of Route 14. This remainder of the Winooski Bridge trail project is being completed and opened in phases through 2025.
- Secure permission from additional landowners to keep moving the Cross Vermont Trail route off of the road. In 2023 we opened an important new section of the old railbed as a formal trail heading out from Plainfield Village to Marshfield. This was the result of investing much careful time in working together positively with landowners.
- Provide leverage to community partners to achieve our larger vision of joining together local paths into a logical network connecting villages, schools, and wild natural areas. With the ultimate goal of a complete off road trail across the whole State.
- Maps and signs all along the trail route are in the process of getting a long due reboot, with a special focus on improving accessibility and inclusiveness. Let us know what you think as you see the new signs!

CVTA's mission is to create and maintain a multi-use trail across Vermont through the Winooski and Wells River valleys between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River. Our vision is: public recreation that is inviting and accessible to all; safe off-road travel to desired destinations; convenient locations for



healthy outdoor activity; permanent greenway for easy local access to the natural world; and collaboration of landowners, community groups and local governments to foster regional trail networks with the Cross Vermont Trail as the connection among them.

The Cross Vermont Trail Association, formed in 1999, is an incorporated, private non-profit organization that is member-based and volunteer-driven. CVTA is funded by winning competitive grants and through individual donations from trail users. Residents of all towns through which the trail route passes are invited to get involved. Get better trails near where you live. Maps, guidebook, and more information on the trail routes are available at <https://crossvermont.org/>, or call at 802-498-0079.

—GREG WESTERN, *Executive Director*

P.S. Our annual meeting this year will be Saturday July 20th in Groton. It's a low key chance to meet other trail enthusiasts and share your ideas too. It will also be a time to check out and celebrate some major upgrades to the Cross Vermont Trail on the railbed underway now, which we are doing together with major partner the Town of Groton. Stay tuned for details; everyone welcome!



WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH RECREATION DISTRICT

The Wrightsville Beach Recreation District (WBRD) formed in 1985 is made up of the four member "District" towns of East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier and Worcester. The five-member Board with representatives from each town (Montpelier has two) provides oversight of the District. Administrative and Bookkeeping assistance is contracted through the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. The Beach Manager is responsible for all operations, staffing, and more.

In March of 2023 the Beach Manager position was expanded to a year round position at 85% of full time hours. This change was made due to the significantly increasing role that the WBRD has in the provision of a variety of outdoor recreational activities. As it turns out this change was needed more than we had thought.

This season started out similar to recent ones, only significantly busier. When the flood hit our region in early July, our revenue to date was 13% ahead of 2022, our previous best year for use and revenue. As most of you know, Wrightsville Beach experienced an unprecedented amount of damage, park-wide. The Manager had the best intentions to reopen within a couple weeks with the help of countless volunteers from the community. However as time passed the damage proved too extensive, so with the support of our Board of Directors, the Manager made the extremely difficult decision not to reopen in 2023.

The damage has been assessed, and our plans for short and long term recovery made. Now the hard part is pulling together available resources to implement these plans over the next two years. The Park Manager is currently working with



Photo: Deborah Fillion



Wrightsville Dam on July 11th: High water crossed the road into the spillway.

multiple FEMA Departments to implement some of the recovery and resiliency plans. We will also receive a small amount of insurance funds. We also applied for a large grant from the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Grant Program.

Although we don't know how much it will cost to fully implement our long term plan, we are confident that the majority of the costs will be covered by the support from FEMA and hopefully VOREC. However, we still anticipate a funding to expense gap. The great news is that we will open for the 2024 season. Some facilities will have been repaired and improved, and others will have to wait. And if we do receive the VOREC Grant funds, those combined with the FEMA funds will not only repair the Park, but will significantly improve its resilience to future flood events.

We want to thank our amazing community. Your support expressed through volunteer work, and in other ways, has demonstrated how important Wrightsville is to our community, and has inspired the Manager to do all he can to make the Park better, and more resilient. Please bear with us over the coming many months because there is way too much to be done, but we'll find a way. We sincerely look forward to seeing you all at the Beach in 2024!

The following five volunteer Board Members donate their time to help Wrightsville operate. Their time is valuable, and we greatly appreciate them for using some of it for Wrightsville!

CARL WITKE, *Chair*, Worcester

KIM KENDALL, *Secretary*, East Montpelier

JON COPANS & DAN CURRIER, *Treasurer*, Montpelier

GEORGE LONGENECKER, *Middlesex*.

COLLIN O'NEIL, *Beach Manager*

FRIENDS OF COBURN POND

It will come to no surprise to anyone in town that the Coburn Pond was seriously effected by the 2023 July Flood, and again by less serious flooding on December 18th. In July, the property was fully inundated—as it was twice in 2011. This time, a raging torrent of river raced so hard across Coburn Road and into the entrance that it left a huge pile of debris blocking at least half of the entrance, and deposited many large and random objects on the property, especially in the pine woods between the pond and the road. From the neighbors' fence posts and rails, to someone's antique-looking easy chair, to a deck and a poultry house that—while possibly damaged—seemed fairly well intact.

When Friends of the Winooski River (FoWR) organized a River clean-up for Plainfield for September 30th, Friends of Coburn Pond (FoCP) jumped on board to help in our neighborhood. (The Plainfield Town line crosses through Coburn Road properties.) In addition to the individuals who volunteered their time that morning, our neighbors at Foxfire Tree Service drove down with their large truck that hosts a tree chipper and winch. With chainsaws, safety equipment, experience, and various relevant accessories, Nate Ebert and his partner turned a huge pile-up of tangled brush and large trees into a few small piles of wood chips that shot out from the chipper into the area from which they'd been dragged. While we're so grateful to volunteers with FoWR & FoCP, we are especially grateful that Nate came out on a Saturday morning to volunteer his equipment and time and experience to do a professional cleanup of the pond entrance and into the adjacent roadside woodlands.

While water tests came back clean, the property was heavily silted, the water quality diminished and cloudy. One deep groove to the path just inside the entrance revealed the strength of the current as did some other geological alterations throughout the site. Far fewer people than usual came out to swim throughout the remainder of the summer, but there seemed to be a large increase in fishing people. One couple who'd been flooded out of their home in Barre set up a camp in the pinewoods. Others also camped periodically in more discreet locations on the pond property.

The lesser flooding event on December 18th created a totally different impact. The river had a few more warm days to begin receding—either towards the pond or the river bank—before wintry temperature started to freeze the flood waters. As the water continued to pull back, sheets of ice on top collapsed leaving clear indicators of flood paths and water levels.

Many photos were posted on the Friends of Coburn Pond Facebook page that tell the stories of Coburn Pond in 2023 including both flooding episodes, cleanup at the entrance, GreenUp Day, and a few recreational events. Members of FoCP continue to share their photos and stories of their time at the pond. Take a look to see some of the discussions and activities at the pond throughout the year.

We're all hoping and expecting that 2024 will be a better season for swimming and ongoing recreation at Coburn Pond.

Photo: Renée Carpenter



Local residents play “pick-up” games of ice hockey, including players from Cabot, Plainfield, St. Johnsbury, and Montpelier. All agreed it was the best and smoothest ice of the season (thus far).

Current core group members of the Friends of Coburn Pond want to express appreciation for your ongoing care—of the property and for each other—and for better communication and developing friendships. If you enjoy any of the seasonal activities—walking, swimming, fishing, observing wildlife, picnics, dog walking, skiing, snowshoeing, ice-skating, ice fishing, ice hockey, or just visiting—thank you for packing out everything you’ve carried in.

If you’re interested in deciding how the property will be managed, please reach out to me via the FaceBook page or websites. And, if you are able to make a donation, please do! Checks can be mailed to: Friends of Coburn Pond, 1085 Coburn Rd, Apt. #1, Plainfield, VT 05667. Many Thanks!

You can find us online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/121684841230804/?ref=bookmarks>

<https://eastmontpeliervt.org/community/friends-of-coburn-pond/>

www.friendsofcoburnpond.org

And thank you for your encouragement and support throughout the year!

RENÉE CARPENTER ROSS HAZEL THOMAS WEISS

for the Friends of Coburn Pond

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

Member Benefits: All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 142 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal and technical assistance,** including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. Staff responds to thousands of member questions and publishes guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2023, VLCT specialists provided government-specific finance training as well as resources and consultation that help Vermont's cities and towns comply with federal rules for receiving federal ARPA and infrastructure funding. Staff also provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.

- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to local officials.** The League provides training via webinars, classes at members' locations, and its annual member conference, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. In the wake of the 2023 floods, VLCT became a crucial information hub for local officials. VLCT's Equity Committee assists local officials in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their municipalities' decision making, policies, practices, and programs.

- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government,** ensuring that municipal concerns are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped cities and towns access additional resources to respond to the pandemic, repair roads and bridges, enact cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2023 includes securing \$3 million for towns to expand their capacity to access state and federal grants through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, fighting to balance changes to local zoning laws with state land use laws to facilitate housing construction, elevating awareness of the financial difficulties rural emergency medical services face, amplifying municipal concerns as the Legislature contemplates moving toward a state-led reappraisal system, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.

- **Access to insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and

Photo: Deborah Fillion



Road Foreman Guthrie Perry replaces another flood-damaged culvert.

workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also offers members group rates on important benefits for municipal employees: life, disability, dental, and vision insurance. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.

Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions and to access resources to help them carry out the important work of local government.

To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit vlct.org.

Recent audited financial statements are available at vlct.org/AuditReports.

Article 10
on pg. 9

MONTPELIER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center provides programming to everyone aged 50+ and promotes lifelong learning, healthy aging, socialization, falls prevention, and more.

MSAC's mission is to enhance the quality of life for the older adults in the Montpelier area through opportunities that develop physical, mental, cultural, social, and economic well-being in a welcoming, flexible environment.

In 2023, MSAC experienced a leadership change and was impacted by the summer flood that devastated our city. Despite these challenges, along with a recent COVID-19 resurgence, MSAC continues to be a vital resource for the community, providing Meals on Wheels deliveries and twice monthly congregate lunches, referrals to area services, over fifty affordable weekly classes each quarter (online, in-person, and hybrid), a variety of workshops, and numerous free drop-in groups.

MSAC provides financial aid, technology assistance, tax preparation, foot care clinics, a DVD collection curated by the Savoy Theater, and more to all our participants. We provide members with updates through our weekly email newsletter, our monthly newsletter, and other media. MSAC partners with local community organizations to offer so much more and ensure older adults thrive while aging in place. Staff and volunteers are dedicated to supporting Central Vermont's older adults in many ways.

MSAC appreciates the support of East Montpelier voters and residents, and we look forward to serving more of you in the coming year! We recognize the importance of other area resources for aging Vermonters to your residents and believe in working collaboratively with fellow senior centers and agencies to provide the best support. We plan to increase our services in the year ahead and appoint a new program director.

Due to inflationary and operational costs and our continued commitment to offering high-quality services and programming, the Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) respectfully requests level funding of **\$9,700** for our annual appropriation request to your voters for Fiscal Year 2025. We thank you for considering this request. Our total FY25 budget has yet to be determined at the time of writing this report. Budget information for the City of Montpelier can be found on our website: www.montpelier-vt.org. East Montpelier's support of our senior center is greatly appreciated.

To learn more about the Montpelier Senior Activity Center, visit our office at 58 Barre Street, go to our website at www.montpelier-vt.org/msac, call us at 802-223-2518, or email us at msac@montpelier-vt.org.

TWIN VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

*Article 11
on pg. 9*

The mission of the Twin Valley Senior Center is:

To facilitate the social, emotional, and physical well-being of independent senior citizens by providing access to community resources and providing services and activities that maintain senior citizen's independence and wellness.

We are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M. and provide the following services:

- Foot, Blood pressure, and Flu clinics;
- A variety of exercise classes in person and via zoom including Bone Builders, Arthritis Foundation Exercise, Tai Chi, Yoga and Chair Yoga;
- Art Classes, Mystery Readers Club and Mah Jongg;
- In House meals and Meals On Wheels (MOW);
- Free tax preparation services through AARP;
- We are always seeking additional ways to serve our communities.

Our Meals on Wheels program continues to be a center piece for the organization. Although it is called meals it is also social contact on wheels. The program is instrumental in combating isolation and loneliness among some of our most vulnerable citizens. MOW provides an opportunity for drivers to check in with those that are homebound and make sure they are okay. Sometimes the driver is the only contact a remote location senior will have in a week. If the driver is unable to make contact, the Center staff is notified and we will follow up with phone calls to the client and to the person's approved emergency contact. If the client doesn't answer our call or if the emergency contact isn't able to confirm they are okay, we alert 911.

In fiscal year 2023, we provided approximately 9,400 meals to MOW's clients. Blizzard boxes with three shelf stable meals and snacks were delivered to all MOW's and in-house clients.

We are always in need of volunteers to help with an array of tasks. Helping others is a rewarding way to give back to the community.

We are thankful to the taxpayers of East Montpelier for their continued support. Twin Valley Senior Center is requesting that the voters of East Montpelier approve a **\$6,000** appropriation at Town Meeting in March 2024. This is the same amount approved at last town meeting. We continue to develop new programs and classes to provide a variety of activities that are open and welcoming to all. Your funding helps us to make this possible.

DENISE WHEELER, *Chair*
for the Board of Directors

PEOPLE'S HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC

People's Health & Wellness Clinic (PHWC) is a free healthcare clinic for uninsured and underinsured residents of Central Vermont. Our services include high quality and essential primary, oral, and mental health services, which are provided at no cost to patients. PHWC also continues to provide extensive case management, referrals, and assistance enrolling in health insurance, finding primary care providers, and financial assistance programs.

In 2023, PHWC cared for nearly 600 unduplicated patients, a 20% increase over the previous year. Patients visited the clinic (in person and via telemedicine) for 560 medical visits and 265 dental visits. 80 patients received assistance in enrolling in Medicaid, another health insurance plan, and financial assistance programs. Patients came from 60 cities and towns in the region.

Services provided to 6 East Montpelier resident in 2023:

- 6 visits with a primary care physician
- 4 visits with a dental hygienist

As a federally deemed free clinic, PHWC cannot charge for services and depends on grants, donations, and municipal funding. We are grateful to the voters of East Montpelier for many years of support and are very pleased to be able to provide free and accessible healthcare to the Central Vermont community. For additional information, please contact Daniel Barlow, Executive Director, at 802-479-1229, ext. 109, or email <daniel@phwcvt.org>.

www.phwcvt.org

Photo: Terry J. Allen



CENTRAL VERMONT HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE

*Article 12
on pg. 9*

Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice (CVHHH) is a full-service, not-for-profit Visiting Nurse Association that provides intermittent, short-term medical care, education, and support at home to help Central Vermonters recover from an illness, surgery, or hospital stay and manage their chronic disease. We serve 23 communities in Washington and Orange Counties and care for people of all ages. Our services include home care, hospice, and maternal-child health care. We also offer public foot-care clinics and flu vaccinations. In addition, we offer long-term care and private care services and free grief support groups.

CVHHH is guided by a mission to care for all Central Vermonters regardless of a person's ability to pay, their geographic remoteness, or the complexity of their care needs. CVHHH embraces new technology and collaborates with other local providers to ensure that central Vermonters' care needs are met. To learn more, visit www.cvhhh.org.

CVHHH Services to the Residents of East Montpelier January 1 – December 31, 2023 *

Program	# of Visits
Home Health Care	959
Hospice Care	308
Long Term Care	375
Maternal Child Health	50
Palliative Care Consultative Service**	5
TOTAL VISITS/CONTACTS	1,697
TOTAL PATIENTS	78
TOTAL ADMISSIONS	95

*Audited figures are not available at the time of report submission. These preliminary figures are annualized based on the number of visits from January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023, and are not expected to vary significantly.

**New service line as of April 1, 2023.

Town funding is imperative in ensuring that CVHHH will provide services in East Montpelier through 2024 and beyond. For more information contact Sandy Rousse, President & CEO, or Kelly Finnegan, Community Relations & Development at (802) 223-1878.

www.cvhhh.org

Article 13
on pg. 9

RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

Thank you for your continued support for Rural Community Transportation. Your support is felt in our communities daily. Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT) is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that has provided public transportation services throughout Lamoille, Caledonia, Orleans, and Essex Counties. RCT operates fare-free shuttle and commuter bus routes, microtransit, and emergency relief transportation facilitating connections between towns in our region and the ability to travel throughout Vermont and beyond. RCT also provides demand-response transportation services under several programs, such as Medicaid, the Older People & People with Disabilities program, and Rides 2 Recovery.

RCT runs four commuter routes to enhance access to employment, connecting Morrisville to the towns of Barre and Waterbury and St. Johnsbury to Montpelier and to Littleton. We operate three shuttle routes tying Morrisville, Newport/Derby, and St. Johnsbury/Lyndonville residents and nearby Vermonters to essential locations, from grocery stores to medical centers. Shopping routes provide similar services spanning Morrisville and Stowe in the west, Newport and surrounding towns in the north, and Lyndon to New Hampshire in the east. Our neighbors, who utilized over 130,000 rides in FY2023, have expressed their gratitude and noted their dependence on our services.

RCT operates bus service to residents of East Montpelier on its VT Route 14/15 Commuter and US2 Commuter buses with connections to Barre, Montpelier, Burlington (on GMT's Link), and Morrisville, serving towns and villages along these routes. In FY2023, these routes provided 9,701 rides in their services areas, at a cost of \$430,555. With challenges Vermont faces in its job market, there is great value in readily available commuter transportation able to connect East Montpelier residents with job opportunities across RCT's service area.

RCT operates with federal and state funding; however, our funding sources typically require between 20% and 50% locally matched dollars. All town appropriations received are used to provide the required local match and are crucial to RCT's operations. Our request for **\$7,834** is based on previous approved allocations and does not represent an increase. Your generosity allows RCT to transform your funding into the ability to thrive, grow, and provide your community with reliable, quality transportation service. In FY2023, all buses were operated fare-free.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

CALEB R. GRANT, *Executive Director*
riderct.org



GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

*Article 14
on pg. 9*

Our rural communities are the backbone of our state, and we understand the unique challenges and opportunities that come with living in such a beautiful, yet often isolated, setting. Green Mountain Transit (GMT) provides essential public transportation services in our region. We take great pride in the role we play in connecting our residents to vital services, job opportunities, educational institutions, and cultural experiences. The benefits of accessible public transportation extend far beyond mere convenience; they are essential to the well-being and vitality of our region. Here are some key points to consider:

- **Accessibility:** Public transportation often means that community members, including those without access to a private vehicle, can reach their desired destinations. This includes getting to work, medical appointments, grocery stores, and social gatherings.
- **Economic Development:** A robust public transportation system can attract new businesses to the area and support the growth of existing ones. By connecting people to jobs and markets, we contribute to the overall economic health of our region.
- **Environmental Impact:** Public transportation reduces the number of individual vehicles on the road, leading to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. This is an important step toward a more sustainable future for Vermont.
- **Quality of Life:** Access to public transportation enhances the quality of life for residents by reducing traffic congestion, promoting community engagement, and offering an affordable alternative to the high costs associated with car ownership.

While we receive funding from various sources, including grants, the financial sustainability of our services is an ongoing challenge. It is with this in mind that we kindly request your support in the form of an annual contribution. Your financial support will directly benefit our rural communities and help ensure the continued availability and expansion of our transportation services.

It is with recognition and appreciation for all levels of support that Green Mountain Transit (GMT) would like to submit a funding request for FY25 in the amount of **\$1,499** be placed before voters for consideration. The requested funding directly supports GMT's ongoing operations and the amount is based on a fair share calculation applied to the municipalities GMT serves.

Thank you for your time and attention, and we look forward to working together to ensure a brighter, more connected future for our region.

JAMIE SMITH, *Director of Planning and Marketing*
ridegmt.com



Article 6
on pg. 8

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY (KHL)

Our mission is to empower community members to become lifelong learners by providing easy access to materials, online resources, programs and a welcoming place. Our vision is to be a resilient, inclusive and innovative library that continually learns and adapts to meet the changing needs of our community.

Library Lending was strong in fiscal year 2023 with 351,251 physical circulations (books, DVDs, CDs, magazines); and 37,348 digital circulations (e-books, audiobooks, streaming video and online magazines). We have 708 library patrons from East Montpelier who borrowed 17,492 items from our collection, plus digital library use, which we can't separate by town.

In FY23 we offered 200 programs for children and teens and 184 programs for adults. 7,224 of our community members attended those programs. We also record many of our programs and make them available on our YouTube channel. 23 children from East Montpelier completed our summer reading challenge and many more attended programs, like our StoryWalk®, craft activities and story-time at Morse Farm, and our visits to the elementary school and local daycares.

At the KHL you can borrow from our physical collection, our digital collection (available 24/7 online), and from libraries statewide. We deliver library materials to homebound patrons and to outreach sites in our member towns, including to East Montpelier. For many, the library is a warm (or cool) space, a public bathroom, and a place to feel welcome.

In July 2023, the Library experienced severe damage from the flooding in Montpelier, with nearly eight feet of water filling the basement. Our book sale was a complete loss and all of our major building systems were damaged or destroyed. We suffered estimated damages of \$1.5 million. In spite of the damage, we reopened for curbside service just a week after the flood. We circulated over 40,000 materials in July and August (about 2/3 our normal volume). We reopened to the public in October; full restoration will take several more months.

We continue work toward our strategic plan, including efforts to increase the diversity of our materials and programs to represent our community, raise awareness of library services, reconfigure library spaces to effectively meet needs, and enhance staffing to meet evolving service demands.

The Library is funded annually through tax support from the municipalities we serve (53%), income from our endowment and reserves (28%), private contributions and fundraisers (18%) and other income (1%). This year we are requesting increased funding from East Montpelier: **\$51,960** or \$20 per capita. The increase is primarily due to inflationary pressures, including fair market salary adjustments for our staff, but a small portion also accounts for initiatives identified in our recent Strategic Plan, including increased communication efforts that will serve East Montpelier residents. The state average per capita support for Libraries is \$35.82. Our total FY24 budget is \$1,082,179.

Our East Montpelier representative is Sarah Swift and our Executive Director is Dan Groberg. **Thank you for your continued support!**

FUNDING REQUEST STUDY COMMITTEE

*Article 15
on pg. 10*

Requests for public support from local non-profit organizations continue to increase to fulfill the need for social services in East Montpelier and the region. Our committee evaluates these requests by considering the nature of the services provided, the number of residents served, the availability of other funding sources, and each organization's ability to meet specific community needs, such as those of the people with disabilities, vulnerable youths, or seniors. Most organizations rely on multiple sources of revenue; the local support from our town often provides the match necessary to secure funding from federal and state agencies or private donors.

Last year voters agreed to appropriate \$22,166 to support 34 organizations. This year the committee considered requests totaling \$23,916 from 33 organizations. The committee's recommendations are listed below, totaling \$23,916, a 7.9% increase.

The FY2025 funding recommendations appear **in bold** in the list below along with the amounts approved in the previous two fiscal years. If available, we have included the number of residents directly served. Please feel free to contact these organizations when in need, to volunteer your own time and skills, or to make additional financial contributions.

American Red Cross, Northern New England Region (800-464-6692) provides immediate relief and shelter for victims of disasters, works to educate citizens on health and safety issues, organizes blood drives, and provides local personnel with training on disaster preparedness and shelter operations. The organization did not provide emergency assistance to any families in East Montpelier last year but is ready to provide support when necessary. (\$250; \$250; **\$250**)

Big Heavy World (802-865-1140) is a volunteer-run independent statewide music office and archive of Vermont-made music, working to inclusively promote and preserve all kinds of music made across Vermont. Its work is designed to serve all Vermont musicians, inclusive of East Montpelier artists. (\$250; \$250; **\$250**)

Capstone Community Action (802-479-1053) works with families to build better lives and to create thriving local communities through Head Start and Early Head Start, Community Economic Development programs, and other Family & Community Support services, including Emergency Food and Crisis Fuel, Home Weatherization assistance and more. In East Montpelier, the organization served 89 households representing 141 residents during the past year. (\$500; \$500; **\$500**)

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education (802-476-4588) provides free basic education and literacy services for adults and teens over sixteen years. Approximately half of the students receive help preparing for GED certificates or alternative high school diplomas. CVABE provided service to 6 East Montpelier residents during the past year. (\$750; \$750; **\$750**)

Central Vermont Council on Aging (802-479-0531) provides meal and transportation services, legal advice, case management, and advocacy for Central Vermont elders. CVCOA also operates the RSVP Volunteer Program, linking volunteers with nonprofit organizations. The organization served 84 East Montpelier residents in the past year. (\$1,875; \$1,875; **\$1,875**)

Central Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team (802-505-7677) provides shelter for family pets when their owners are unable to care for them due to a natural disaster or extended emergency, often working in conjunction with the Red Cross. CVDART works closely with towns, including East Montpelier, to create and maintain emergency plans for pets during disasters. (\$200; \$200; **\$200**)

Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity (802-522-8611) provides homeownership opportunities to low-income families. Many of you may have participated in the recent CVHH home-building project in East Montpelier and the organization hopes to do more projects here in the future. The organization served 3 East Montpelier residents in the past year. (\$350; \$350; **\$350**)

Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center (802-229-5900) operates the ice-skating rink used by area schools and offers open skating times for residents in East Montpelier. The Civic Center also serves as a Red Cross emergency shelter. (\$1,000; \$1,000; **\$1,000**)

Circle (802-476-6010; Hotline: 877-543-9498) serves families in Washington County in cases involving domestic abuse. The shelter provides safe homes, emotional support, legal assistance, food and clothes, and a 24-hour hotline. The organization also develops and sponsors prevention programs in local schools. Due to the confidential nature of the organization's support, the number of East Montpelier residents served is not available. (\$675; \$675; **\$675**)

Community Connections (802-223-7936) provides after school, vacation, and summer programming for preschool and school-age children, including mentoring and youth outreach, and creates opportunities for children to learn from community members. It served 68 East Montpelier students last year. (\$2,500; \$2,500; **\$2,500**)

Community Harvest of Central Vermont (802-229-4281) brings our community together through gleaning to recover surplus food produced on area farms to feed those with limited access to healthy, fresh local food, and in the process helps the community to gain a greater awareness and appreciation of the local food system, healthy eating, and waste reduction. It served approximately 216 East Montpelier residents during the past year. (\$250; \$250; **\$400**)

Downstreet Housing and Community Development (802-476-4493) develops and manages affordable housing projects; it provides education, counseling, loans, and financial services for homeowners through its Homeownership Center and facilitates community development projects. Five East Montpelier residents took advantage of services during the past year. (\$150; \$150; **\$150**)

Elevate Youth Services (802-229-9151) (formerly Washington County Youth Services Bureau) helps youths and their families create healthy conditions in their lives. Emphasis is on problem resolution; crisis intervention; individual and family counseling; and substance abuse prevention, including early intervention, and treatment. The organization was supported in previous years under the name Washington County Youth Services Bureau. It served 7 East Montpelier youths in the past year. (\$400; \$400; **\$500**)

Family Center of Washington County (802-262-3292) provides services for children and families, including preschool playgroups, parent education, home visits, and referral services for childcare. It served 51 East Montpelier residents in the past year. (\$500; \$500; **\$500**)

Friends of the Winooski River (802-279-3771) is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Winooski River, including its tributaries and watershed, from Cabot to Colchester. Members monitor water quality, conduct river cleanup projects, and educate landowners and students in river stewardship. (\$200; \$400; **\$300**)

Good Beginnings of Central Vermont (802-595-7953) provides free home visitation services and workshops for new parents. Volunteers visit for one to three hours per week for up to three months to connect new parents to community support and provide supplies and information about good parenting. In the past year, it served 8 families in East Montpelier. (\$300; \$300; **\$300**)

Good Samaritan Haven (802-479-2294) provides emergency shelter and support services to people experiencing homelessness in central Vermont. Federal and state funds support its core program, which provides housing and employment assistance, case management, and referral services. Service was provided to over 400 central Vermonters last year. (\$2,000; \$2,000; **\$2,000**)

Green Mountain Transit (802-223-7287) is a community transportation service that matches requests for rides from local residents, who are either disabled or elderly, with available transport, including vans, volunteer drivers, and van/pools. Thirty-six townspeople were provided services in the past year. The company, along with Rural Community Transportation, also operates the commuter bus service along U.S. Route 2 supported by a separate appropriation in the town budget. (\$1,366; \$1,366; **\$1,366**)

Green Up Vermont (802-229-4586) uses town funds to provide Green Up Day bags, posters, publicity, and information for town chairpersons to promote roadside cleanup and litter control on Green Up Day. (\$150; \$150; **\$150**)

HomeShare Vermont (802-863-5625), which has replaced Home Share Now in our area, provides affordable housing options through facilitation of shared housing. Formerly operated under the Central Vermont Council on Aging, the organization matches people needing housing with those who wish to remain in

their homes. Services and in-kind contributions are exchanged for housing. HomeShare Vermont served 7 town residents last year. (\$800; \$800; **\$800**)

North Branch Nature Center (802-229-6206) offers environmental education through nature programs and summer camps and provides open trails on its 28-acre property. The Educating Children Outdoors program trains teachers to operate programs in our local schools. Over 200 East Montpelier residents participated in programs at the center. (\$750; \$750; **\$1,000**)

Onion River Food Shelf, Inc. (802-223-6548) provides emergency food for three days for those in need in East Montpelier, Plainfield, Calais, Marshfield, and Cabot. It served 9 East Montpelier residents with 31 house visits in the past year. (\$1,000; \$1,000; **\$1,000**)

OUR House of Central Vermont (802-476-8825) works closely with DCF and law enforcement to provide a safe space, supportive environment, and counseling for sexual assault victims, survivors, and non-offending family members during the investigative process. Four East Montpelier residents benefited from services in the past year. (\$250; \$250; **\$250**)

People's Health & Wellness Clinic, Inc. (802-479-1229) provides basic primary, preventive, and oral care to the uninsured and underinsured through a team of volunteer doctors, nurses, and a dental hygienist. It also assists patients with healthcare financing and insurance applications. The clinic served 10 East Montpelier residents in the past year. (\$1,750; \$1,250; **\$1,250**)

Prevent Child Abuse of Vermont (802-229-5724) works to prevent child abuse and neglect through parent education, support, and public awareness programs. The Care for Kids program trains childcare professionals, parents, and others who interact with children to prevent child sexual abuse. Last year 6 East Montpelier residents participated in its programs. (\$300; \$300; **\$300**)

T. W. Wood Gallery (802-262-6035) provides educational art services for children, families, seniors and other Central Vermont residents, including exhibits of contemporary local art, art camps for children, afterschool programs, and art classes for all ages. (\$500; \$500; **\$750**)

Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (802-505-4006) provides training and support services to children and adults with vision problems, either blindness or impairment, to maintain independence. Last year it served 2 East Montpelier clients. (\$150; \$0; **\$150**)

Vermont Bar Foundation (802-223-1400) provides access to essential legal services for low-income Vermonters. The foundation funds organizations like Vermont Legal Aid, Have Justice-Will Travel and the Vermont Law School's Legal Clinic. Agencies funded by the foundation served 148 East Montpelier residents last year. (\$1,500; \$0; **\$2,000**)

Vermont Center for Independent Living (802-229-0501) provides services and advocacy for people with disabilities. The organization helps disabled people lead active and productive lives with as great a degree of independence as possible. It served 1 East Montpelier resident in the past year. (\$400; \$400; **\$400**)

Vermont Family Network (800-800-4005) is a statewide organization whose mission is to empower and support families of children with special needs. Programs & services include training, parent matches, school meeting support, and a helpline. VFN served 2 East Montpelier families last year. (\$200; \$200; **\$500**)

Washington County Diversion Program (802-479-1900) offers first-time offenders a one-time opportunity to take responsibility for their offenses by compensating crime victims and providing community service hours to local organizations. The program saves tax dollars that would have been spent on court proceedings. It served 3 East Montpelier residents in the past year. (\$600; \$600; **\$600**)

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (802-778-3178) promotes the conservation, development, and wise use of lands, water, forest, and wildlife across its service area. Residents can receive technical assistance in invasive species management, native plant selections and stormwater erosion control. WNRCD provides access to grant funding for farm improvements as well as training and workshops on a range of water quality and habitat topics. (\$800; \$600; **\$600**)

Youth First Mentoring (802-224-6500) provides the link between at-risk youths, ages 8-18, and volunteer mentors, who encourage healthy activities and can make a positive difference in their lives. In the past year, 1 mentor and 2 mentee youths were residents of East Montpelier. (\$300; \$300; **\$300**)

GINNY CALLAN PAUL ERLBAUM SARAH KINTER
ALISON UNDERHILL KIMBERLY MEEKS



Devon, grade 3



Fern, grade 3

CVFIBER

Five years ago, our communities came together to do something that we could not do individually: build a world class broadband network for the benefit of our neighbors and businesses. In 2023, the CVFiber Community Network has gone live with our first subscribers.

By the end of this year, CVFiber will have constructed nearly 200 miles of fiber making access to high-speed fiber internet available to more than 1,900 premises in parts of Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Woodbury, and Worcester. Our internet service provider, Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) began connecting CVFiber subscribers in October. This year, CVFiber has also performed design and make-ready work in preparation for the 2024 construction season. Construction scheduled for 2024 will include constructing another 240 miles of fiber, bringing high-speed fiber internet access to an additional 2,100 premises, assuming funding is available.

CVFiber has been allocated Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) construction grant funds totaling \$19,789,930, of which \$18,147,253 has been received and is either expended or obligated. The remaining \$1,642,677 is reserved at the VCBB. In 2023, CVFiber received an additional \$120,000 in Town ARPA commitments bringing the total to \$863,000 in funding from individual town ARPA funds, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the VCBB providing a total of \$1.7 million to be spent in those contributing towns.

The CVFiber Governing Board consists of one delegate and one or more alternates from each community who are appointed in April of each year. These representatives and other community volunteers also serve on committees such as Communications, Finance, Operations and Policy.

The incubation period for the CVFiber Community Network is over. We now have a professionally run operation that includes an Executive Director, Operations Manager, and Community Relations Manager, with plans for a Finance Manager joining the team in early 2024.

CVFiber is prohibited from receiving any funds generated by a member community's taxing or assessment power. Therefore, in preparation for the 2024 construction season CVFiber is working with its municipal advisor in pursuit of debt financing, with an expectation that CVFiber will be able to qualify for a portion of the state's \$229 million in federal BEAD grant funds at the end of 2024 or the beginning of 2025.

Thank you for your support. We are doing this – together.

Connectivity is only the beginning. Please visit us at cvfiber.net.

SIOBHAN PERRICONE, *Chair, CVFiber*

TOM FISHER, *East Montpelier Delegate*

<tfisher@cvfiber.net>

NIK KHOSLA, *East Montpelier Alternate*

Photo: Terry J. Allen



Factory Street alongside the dam in North Montpelier, July 11th.

CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT cvswmd.org

The CVSWMD serves 19 member cities and towns and approximately 52,000 residents. Our 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 2025. Programs and services include:

- **Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** The ARCC is located in Barre City. 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.

ARCC operations came to an abrupt halt on July 10 when the Stevens Branch of the Winooski River surged through the facility, destroying most of our equipment and leaving up to three feet of mud in its wake. While simultaneously conducting emergency operations for our member towns, CVSWMD staff, with aid from FEMA and the State, began what would become a 5-month cleanup and refitting of the ARCC with a reopening on November 27.

- **Grants:** In FY23, CVSWMD awarded \$23,312 in grant funding to towns, businesses, organizations and schools in our District. Green-Up Day grants totaling \$5,964 were also distributed.

- **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.

- **Household Hazardous Waste:** In FY23, CVSWMD held five one-day collections throughout the District and helped 533 resident households dispose of 43,593 lbs. of hazardous waste. CVSWMD is currently working to open a year-round collection facility in Berlin that will collect wastes that are labeled for and sold for home use. The District has reached a host-town agreement with the Town of Berlin for siting our "Eco-Depot," and is in the process of acquiring permitting and purchasing the property with a goal of opening in January 2025. Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation has provided a generous grant to facilitate the project. We hope to move all operations to the 5.2-acre site.

- **School Program:** In FY23 the CVSWMD School Zero Waste Program reached 4600 students, grades K-12, through 165 classroom/schoolyard programs, cafeteria visits, etc. Topics presented and initiatives supported included living more sustainably, engaging in the "Rs" (recycling, repurposing, reusing, etc.), utilizing food scraps as a natural resource, classroom worm composting, special recycling initiatives, etc. Support was also provided to school food services departments in reducing cafeteria waste, and school custodial in proper disposal of books, batteries, mercury-containing bulbs, and electronic waste through the CVSWMD ARCC.

- **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 will 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.

- **Emergency Operations:** In the aftermath of the July flood, CVSWMD teams cruised the streets of Montpelier and Barre, pulling paint cans, fluorescents, motor oil, batteries and a slew of other items that had been mixed with regular trash, in order to prevent their transport to the landfill. The District also called all member towns to offer organized collection events. These were provided in Barre City and Barre Town (who generously accepted drop-offs from neighboring Williamstown, Orange and Washington).

CVSWMD posts useful information on what can (and can't) be recycled, what items are banned from the landfill (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, Act 148, details about our special collections, and an A-to-Z Guide listing disposal options for many materials. Visit cvswmd.org. For specific questions, call (802) 229-9383.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Central Vermont Flood Response

The historic flooding of 2023 devastated many of our central Vermont communities. We disseminated hundreds of free water test kits for central Vermont homeowners, critical health and safety information and protective equipment for cleanup. We collaborated with community partners including Montpelier Alive, Rainbow Bridge Community Center, Central Vermont Medical Center and People's Health and Wellness Center to provide tetanus and wound care clinics and participated in multiple local initiatives to address the public health concerns of immediate flood response and long-term flood recovery.

Nutrition Support for Families

The Barre Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program serves pregnant Vermonsters, parents, and caregivers with children under 5 with healthy food benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and counseling. In 2023, we were given a Premiere Level Breastfeeding Award of Excellence by the Federal Food and Nutrition Service. Notably, 83% of pregnant WIC participants breastfed, with 63% continuing beyond 6 months—surpassing the 25% national rate.

Protecting Central Vermonsters

Our team of epidemiologists, public health nurses and public health specialists act every day to prevent the spread of disease. In 2023, we conducted nearly 200 reportable disease case investigations. With the help of community partners, we organized 23 vaccine clinics in locations such as farms, community events and flood recovery centers. In total, we provided 311 vaccines including COVID-19, flu, tetanus and Mpox. Scan to access the report online

Barre Local Health Office | 5 Perry Street, Suite 250, Barre VT
802-479-4200 | AHS.VDHBarre@Vermont.gov
www.healthvermont.gov/local/Barre



CENTRAL VT STATE POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Emergency phone **911** — Non-emergency phone **(802) 229-9191**

The CV State Police Community Advisory Board, after 17 years of providing an information conduit between the Vermont State Police (VSP) of the Berlin/Middlesex Barracks and the 18 Towns in its service area, has become inactive. The evolution of social media has provided a more effective way of providing the main service for which the CVSPCAB was instituted. However, the value of the VSP has not diminished. In fact, it has remained the crucial element of law enforcement for these 18 towns.

Of the 251 towns and cities in Vermont, approximately 200, like East Montpelier, do not have their own municipal police force. VT State Police (VSP) is the default law enforcement agency. Basic law enforcement services are paid for by the State through legislative appropriation. East Montpelier previously contracted with VSP for additional coverage beyond the VSP routine coverage. The Town currently contracts with the Washington County Sheriff's Department for this additional coverage. For more information on local law enforcement visit <https://eastmontpeliervt.org/community/local-law-enforcement/>

State police officers (troopers) respond to a wide variety of calls, including the investigation of criminal acts and motor vehicle collisions, in addition to patrolling state highways and town roads to enforce traffic laws and deter criminal activity. Because the VSP has to cover such a wide area with a limited number of troopers, it is not uncommon under some circumstances for troopers to take reports over the phone rather than responding in person. The VSP also provides a variety of specialized services including a Bomb Squad, Crisis Negotiation Unit, Scuba Team, Search and Rescue Team, and a Tactical Services Unit, as well as seasonal marine and snowmobile patrols.

VT State Police – A Troop Berlin Barracks: 2023 Crime & Police Service Report for East Montpelier

	Violent Crime				Property Crime				Other		Traffic Incidents				Misc.			
	Murder/Manslaughter	Sexual Assault	Robbery	Assault (aggravated/simple)	Burglary	Larceny/Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Other Property Crime	Illegal Drug Incident	Disorderly Conduct/Other	Fatal Crash	Accident Investig. (DMV)	MV Related Incident	DUI Incident	Runaway Juvenile	Death Investigation	Misc. Service Call	Total Law Incident
2023	0	3	0	2	0	8	1	9	2	19	1	28	20	0	0	4	166	263
2022	0	18	0	8	2	9	1	10	2	21	1	41	19	0	0	3	228	363
+/-	0	-15	0	-6	-2	-1	0	-1	0	-2	0	-13	1	0	0	1	-62	-100

State Game Warden Dustin Circe

State Police dispatch **(802) 229-9191** — Home phone **(802) 793-6629**

Game Wardens enforce VT hunting, fishing and trapping laws, and help resolve human-wildlife conflicts. Call if you witness a violation, like shooting from the road, night-time poaching, hunting on posted property, or baiting/feeding deer; also, if you need help with nuisance beavers, deer, bears, or see a rabid raccoon.

Washington County Sheriff's Department

Phone **(802) 223-3001** 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Washington County Sheriff's Dept has an agreement with the VT State Police in Middlesex to respond to calls received by State Police, if the Sheriff's Department is nearby and is requested by State Police to respond. Citizens should call VT State Police for immediate assistance. Sheriffs also do Snowmobile Patrol.

East Montpelier First Constable Jon Boucher - phone (802) 441-3337

Town Constables can serve a summons from a court to a party in a lawsuit, destroy animals, kill injured deer, assist the health officer in the discharge of his or her duties, serve as a district court officer, and/or remove disorderly people from town meeting. Selectboards may direct constables to enforce civil ordinances.

Animal Control Officer Carl Etnier – phone (802) 441-3337

Second Animal Control Officer Amber Perry – phone (802) 498-5140

Animal Control Officers are responsible for capturing and impounding dangerous or stray animals, investigating cases of animal cruelty, and enforcing licensing laws.



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Officially, animal control officers are responsible for calls related to domestic animals (both house pets and livestock) in our town. In practice, we receive calls both from East Montpelier and from nearby towns, not only about things like a lost dog or a found goat, but also a baby raccoon stuck in a sewer or a mangy-looking fox. Where we can't offer direct help, we try to steer callers in the right direction.

We urge all dog and wolf-hybrid owners to register their animals with the town and put the tags on the animals' collars; it makes it so much easier to get them back home if they are found wandering. And we thank the town's residents for their respect on various calls and for many people's willingness to take care of lost and frightened animals.

— CARL ETNIER, *Animal Control Officer*

AMBER PERRY, *Second Animal Control Officer*

EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT and AMBULANCE SERVICE

East Montpelier Fire Department is proud to serve our community and towns around us. As 2023 ends we would like to thank the residents of East Montpelier and Calais for their continued support. By the time you read this our new fire truck should be in service. Our ambulance continues to get busier providing primary ambulance service to East Montpelier, Calais, Plainfield and Marshfield and providing Mutual Aid to the surrounding area. From January 1 through December 31, 2023 we answered 756 calls for service. The same period in 2022 we had 682 calls for service which is approximately 10% increase, not including burn permits. Last year the volunteer side provided 884 hours of service, not counting meetings and training.

In August EMFD honored founding member Bernie Corliss who passed at the age of 90. Bernie served EMFD for 43 years. A very special service was given him by family and the fire department membership, processing from the Templeton station to the village station. He left a great legacy of service.

ALBERT PETRELLA, *Chief*

*

This year the ambulance responded to 539 medical calls. We have training once a month which we encourage our folks to come to, as well as having in-house training while on duty. The more we train the better we are able to respond to any type of call. We respond to a wide range of calls from lift assists to cardiac arrests. We had several high intensity calls and therefore we have implemented a mental health check-in with our folks to make sure that everyone is handling the calls. The type of calls we have can wear on providers and we are making

2023	Fire	Fire Assist Medical	Fire MVA	Fire Burn Permit	Fire/ MVA	Medical	Medical/ Assist Fire	Medical/ MVA	Transport Yes	Transport No	Total Med calls	Total Fire Calls	Total Calls
Barre City	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	9	10
Barre Town	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Berlin	1	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	11	1	12
Cabot	1	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	6	4	10	1	11
Calais	24	6	6	0	8	79	4	8	54	37	91	36	127
E. Montpelier	61	18	24	26	33	165	6	33	117	87	204	103	307
Marshfield	1	0	1	0	20	96	2	20	67	51	118	2	120
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plainfield	5	4	1	0	12	112	2	12	81	45	126	10	136
Woodbury	2	0	0	0	1	13	0	1	8	6	14	2	16
Worcester	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Montpelier	10	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	3	10	13
Williamstown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	117	28	32	26	74	489	16	74	346	232	579	177	756
Total with Burn Permits	782	MVA = Motor Vehicle Accident											

Unit Response	E2	E4	R2	T1	U1	UTV	A3	A4	Total
	60	12	82	9	18	7	119	452	759

Mutual Aid	Montpelier	Barre City	Barre Town	Dhart	Total
	8	15	5	3	31

A = Ambulance
E = Engine
R = Rescue
T = Tanker
U = Utility Vehicle



Car extrication training exercise.

sure that everyone is okay. I have taken a Crisis Intervention class and am able to provide critical incident stress debriefing to the staff to better aid them in serving our community. We were able to hire seven more people and they have been an asset to the department.

During COVID the State allowed firefighters to drive the ambulance and that exemption expired early last year and they discovered that they needed a program that would allow firefighters to help as basic EMS providers and subsequently another certification—VEFR (Vermont Emergency First Responder)— was developed. We were able to put five firefighters through the class which is basic first aid and CPR. They join us for extra help in the ambulance. This is a huge help to our department and our community. This year we have started doing ambulance non-emergency transfers in which we call in another crew to take the transfer. We are not leaving the town uncovered for these transfers, we leave behind the higher-level provider always making sure the towns we cover have an ambulance ready to go. We continue to strive to improve the department.

VERONICA LOWE, *EMS Head of Service*

*

The East Montpelier Fire Department indeed has had a great year with the return of some former members, some reassignment in key positions and a very positive, comfortable atmosphere to function in. Our holiday drives for Thanksgiving and Christmas to help local families were well received. The membership enjoyed a well-deserved holiday meal in which we recognized and thanked our hard working staff. EMFD members respond day and night, in all kinds of weather and frequently leave our loved ones behind in order to assist the ill and injured. We all are living in increasingly difficult times and we are grateful for the support of our communities and always welcome those interested to come down, visit and apply to help us! It is my pleasure to serve again as President of EMFD.

JAY COPPING, *President, EMFD*

EMFD MEMBERSHIP, JANUARY 2024

NAME	RANK	JOINED
Morse, Elliot	FF	5/1/1964
Brazier, Tom	FF/VEFR	11/1/1973
Winston, Jon	FF	2/5/1974
Barstow, Rick	FF	1/6/1981
Parker, Todd	FF	3/25/1986
Pelchuck, Greg	FF	4/25/1988
Copping, Jay	FF/EMS	9/2/1992
Copping, Robin	FF	4/13/1993
Tuller, Chris	FF	2/26/2000
Wong, Jason	FF	5/9/2002
Guare, Paul	FF	12/21/2002
Conti, Sandy	FF/EMR	6/12/2007
Nutbrown, Brad	FF/VEFR	11/6/2007
Boguzewski, Alex	FF	4/19/2009
Petrella, Albert	FF/VEFR	6/5/2012
Lowe, Veronica	EMS	9/21/2013
Parker, Thomas	FF/EMS	6/10/2016
Romei, Matt	EMS	4/26/2018
Adams, Fiona	FF/EMS	11/5/2019
McGuiggan, John	FF/EMS	2/4/2020
Longchamp, Chris	FF	6/23/2020
Garland, Darryl	FF/VEFR	4/26/2022
Gray, Jason	FF/EMS	4/13/2013
Haynes, Edward	FF/VEFR	6/20/2023
Boucher, Jonathan	FF/VEFR	7/9/2002
Cochran, Shawn	FF	1/2/2024
Schwarz, William	EMS	1/21/2013
Larrabee, Jake	EMS	12/30/2013
Gero, Jeannine	EMS	5/1/2017
LeBlanc, Jacob	EMS	3/28/2018
Truedson, Marc	EMS	8/13/2018
Renzello, Kim	EMS	6/20/2019
Magnant, Elise	EMS	9/26/2020
Soutar, Jennifer	EMS	3/31/2021
Randall, Walker	EMS	3/12/2022
Aldsworth, Lisa	EMS	2/27/2023
Kehne, Ania	EMS	3/20/2023
Dailey, James	EMS	6/16/2023
Stanciu, Molly	EMS	6/8/2023
Whalen, Jack	EMS	6/14/2023
Cerutti, Paul	EMS	8/29/2023
Giroux, Kaden	EMS	10/26/2023
Fitz, Alden	EMS	12/8/2023
Thurston, Aaron	EMS	1/2/2024

*FF = Firefighter**EMS = Emergency Medical Services*

**EAST MONTPELIER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>
CASH RECEIPTS	
East Montpelier appropriation	\$ 374,608
Calais appropriation	183,920
Plainfield appropriation	55,232
Marshfield appropriation	45,020
Donations	8,976
Interest	378
Ambulance fees	175,005
Contract revenue - COVID	8,557
Miscellaneous	2,985
Total Cash Receipts	<u>854,681</u>
 CASH DISBURSEMENTS:	
Fire Services	351,799
Ambulance services	496,514
General administrative	26,181
Total cash disbursements	<u>874,494</u>
 INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	 (19,813)
 CASH, beginning of year	 <u>285,161</u>
 CASH, end of year	 <u>\$ 265,348</u>

Notes:

- For more information about the East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) Capital Reserve Program, see pages 42–43.
- For more information about the Emergency Services Facility bond repayment, see page 30.
- The East Montpelier Town Auditors do not inspect the EMFD accounts. A copy of EMFD's independent audit will be available for review at the Town Offices.

FIRE DEPT BUDGET	ACTUALS			
	7/1/2022 – 6/30/23	2023 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	PROPOSED FYE 2025
Income				
4100 E. Montpelier Contrib	125,673	125,673	133,128	139,973
4120 Calais Contribution	62,837	62,837	66,564	69,987
Total Income	\$188,510	\$188,510	\$199,692	\$209,960
Expenses				
5010 Audit	5,600	6,000	5,600	5,600
5020 Building 1	3,241	500	2,500	3,500
5030 Building 2	21,309	11,500	15,000	15,000
5050 Bookkeeping	8,050	11,000	11,000	7,500
5060 Cellular Phone	2,332	2,000	3,300	2,500
5070 Diesel	2,712	1,000	1,500	3,000
5080 Dispatch	35,448	36,710	35,000	28,500
5085 Dry Hydrants	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
5090 Dues	260	1,000	500	500
5100 Electric-Station 1	1,749	800	803	1,800
5110 Electric-Station 2	9,619	10,000	9,000	10,000
5112 Snow Plowing	12,200	5,500	5,500	9,000
5130 Equipment Repair	3,953	2,500	2,500	4,500
5140 Firefighting Supplies	5,388	3,000	5,000	5,500
5150 Gasoline	889	750	750	1,000
5160 Heating Oil-Station 1	5,636	3,500	6,000	8,000
5165 Wood Pellets-Station 2	3,542	4,000	5,000	5,500
5170 Heating LP-Station 2		1,000	1,000	1,000
5200 Insurance	41,854	41,000	44,000	44,000
5230 Legal	103	1,000	1,000	1,500
5240 Bank Charges	198	100	100	350
5245 Chaplains Fund		250		
5250 Admin/ Office Supplies	601			
5260 Office Supplies (Fire)	1,809	1,000	1,000	2,000
5280 Personal Gear	1,577	5,000	5,000	3,000
5285 Physicals	233	3,000	500	500
5300 Postage	255	500	500	250
5320 Radio Repair	564	1,000		
5325 Radio Replacement		5,000	2,500	1,500
5340 Refreshments	141	2,500	2,000	2,000
5380 Telephone	6,389	5,000	5,000	6,500
5400 Vehicle Repairs	11,212	10,000	15,000	15,000
5420 Training	100	1,000	1,000	1,000
5450 Hose testing			0	5,000
5500 Salary	9,099	9,400	9,399	12,000
5510 Payroll Tax	1,526		719	960
5515 Payroll Fee			21	0
Total Expenses	\$197,591	\$188,510	\$199,692	\$209,960

NOTE: Other income sources (Donations,
Grants, etc.) are shown on page 101.

5% increase

AMBULANCE SERVICE BUDGET	ACTUALS 7/1/2022 – 6/30/23	2023 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	PROPOSED FYE 2025	% INC
INCOME					
4960 E. Mont. Budget (Amb)	242,167	242,167	260,599	283,806	9%
4961 Calais Budget (Amb)	121,083	121,083	130,300	141,903	9%
4959 Plainfield Budget (Amb)	55,232	55,232	56,890	58,596	3%
4963 Marshfield Budget (Amb)	45,020	45,020	46,370	47,762	3%
4100 EMFD Contribution		15,000	15,000	30,000	100%
TOTAL INCOME	\$463,502	\$478,502	\$509,159	\$562,067	10%
EXPENSES					
5050 Bookkeeping (payroll prep)	4,138	5,000	2,500	0	
5060 Cell phone	138			0	
Total 5070 Diesel	8,202	6,000	9,000	11,500	
5080 Dispatch	13,112	11,400	11,107	28,500	
5090 Dues	330		150	350	
5130 Equipment Repair		1,000	1,000	1,000	
5210 Workers Comp Insurance	27,069	26,000	37,000	36,000	
5240 Bank Charges (NSB & Melio)	158		0	900	
5245 Chaplain's Fund			300	300	
5250 Admin/Office Supp (Amb)	3,850	3,000	3,000	3,500	
5265 Office Computer/Software	7,274	6,000	6,000	7,500	
5300 Postage	98			100	
5340 Refreshments	200		0	250	
Total 5400 Vehicle Repairs	14,015	6,500	10,000	14,000	
5420 Training	2,164	1,000	1,000	2,500	
5500 Salary	320,760	348,786	363,786	374,700	**
5510 Payroll Tax	37,148	38,366	38,366	39,517	**
5515 Payroll Fee		1,500	1,000	4,000	
5520 Medical Supplies	17,591	18,000	19,000	19,000	
5530 Infection Control		250	250	250	
5535 Ambulance Tax	4,650	4,700	4,700	4,700	
5550 Oxygen	1,236	1,000	1,000	1,500	
Ambulance Billing				12,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$462,134	478,502	509,159	562,067	

** Includes \$31,024 for DOL audit payroll and related payroll tax

Any receipts from ambulance services returned to the Department are allocated between the contingency account (25%) and the capital account (75%). The account balance of the contingency account shall not exceed \$40,000 with any excess funds to be placed in the capital account. On June 30, 2023, the capital account balance was \$140,291.70. For more information about the capital account, see page 43.

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

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Richard J. Brigham, CPA
Chad A. Hewitt, CPA
Jordon M. Plummer, CPA
VT Lic. #92-000180

November 13, 2023

Selectboard

Town of East Montpelier, Vermont
P.O. Box 157
East Montpelier, Vermont 05651

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023 and have issued our report thereon dated November 13, 2023. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in "Government Auditing Standards", issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont's system of internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the second paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. Given these limitations during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Members of The American Institute and Vermont Society of Certified Public Accountants

Town of East Montpelier, Vermont

-2-

November 13, 2023

However, we have noted certain other matters during our audit as indicated in the accompanying Schedule of Recommendations. We have discussed the recommendations with the staff during the course of fieldwork and the recommendations may have already been implemented.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Selectboard and others within the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont for their assistance and cooperativeness throughout our audit. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Sullivan, Powers & Co.

SULLIVAN, POWERS & CO.
Certified Public Accountant

Photo: Alex Brown



Town Meeting 2023 — East Montpelier Elementary School

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT
SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDATIONS
JUNE 30, 2023

Fraud Risk Assessment

The Town has not performed a fraud risk assessment. A fraud risk assessment is important because it identifies the Town's vulnerabilities to fraudulent activities and whether those vulnerabilities could result in material misstatement of the financial statements. The fraud risk assessment would also identify processes, controls, and other procedures used to mitigate the identified fraud risks.

We recommend the Town perform a fraud risk assessment to reduce the possibility of fraudulent activities.

Documentation of Internal Control System

A solid understanding of internal control is essential. An organization must continually assess their internal control systems to ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with laws and regulations. As part of this process, management should formally document its control systems.

The Town has an accounting policy and procedures manual which does outline some control activities but does not include documentation of the internal control systems. This should provide management with an understanding of the systems related to financial reporting, and the controls over relevant assertions related to all significant accounts, disclosures in the financial statements, antifraud programs and controls over selection and application of accounting policies.

We recommend that the Town document its internal control process. This should break out the internal control process into the following five areas.

1. Control Environment – Sets the tone of an organization and is the foundation for all other components.
2. Risk Assessment – The identification and analysis of relevant risks to achieve its objectives forming a basis for how risks should be managed.
3. Control Activities – The policies and procedures that help ensure management directives are carried out.
4. Information and Communication – The identification, capture and exchange of information in a form and timeframe that enables people to carry out their responsibilities.
5. Monitoring – The process that assesses the quality of internal control performance over time.

These findings are part of a full audit done by Sullivan, Powers & Co, CPAs, of Montpelier; copies are available for review at the Town Offices and on the town's website at <https://eastmontpeliervt.org/documents/external-audits/>



TOWN AUDITORS' REPORT

for the fiscal period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

The elected Town Auditors review the accounts of the town as well as produce and distribute this book to East Montpelier voters, as per 24 V.S.A. § 1681–1689. We access records of cash receipts, accounts payable, tax administration, payroll, the grand list, bank statements, and the general ledger in order to examine and to express the town's financial condition in this report.

Based on our review of all the individual fund accounts, to the best of our knowledge, the records as reported here represent fairly the position of the Town of East Montpelier. We have compared our findings to the external audit prepared by Sullivan, Powers & Company (available on the town website) and find they are consistent. In addition to pages created by the Town Auditors, we've adapted two financial pages found in the external audit report, as noted on those pages.

The Town Auditors also collect and review a substantial amount of supplementary information regarding the various operations of the town as well as the reports and information associated with the school district. We do not audit the financial records related to the school.

As we put together this 174th edition of our town's annual report, the auditors have enjoyed working with Town Treasurer Michele Pallas. We'd also like to acknowledge the contributions of the many committees and organizations who work on behalf of the town throughout the year and respond to our requests for material to include in this book. Thanks to Alex Brown for taking photos of our annual town meetings, and to Terry Allen who contributes photos of events and people of East Montpelier. And a thank you goes to the town office staff for helping us gather information and for reviewing page proofs as we approached our deadline to the printer.

The Town Auditors strive to use a straightforward, user-friendly presentation to our fellow townspeople. As local residents, we appreciate being able to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of town offices like ours, a vanishing opportunity for local government to be run in this town-centered, hands-on fashion. It is a privilege to work alongside our neighbors to make our town the best it can be.

DEBORAH FILLION, *Chair*

CARLA OCCASO

ED DEEGAN

January 31, 2024



SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO

Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester Voters

The Annual Report Budget Summary 2024-2025 for Washington Central Unified Union School District will be mailed to all voters and available online at <https://www.wcsu32.org/>

FROM THE WCUUSD BOARD CHAIR

Each year as I sit down to gather my thoughts on our district's accomplishments, challenges, and plans for the future, it feels a little like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. So many pieces, but each one vitally important to the whole picture. There is so much I want to share in this letter, because there is so much at stake in how we move our district forward over the coming years.

I'd like to start by stating what all of us already know: we are fortunate to have truly caring, professional, and outstanding teachers, administrators, support staff, volunteers, and community members looking out for our students' best interests. All of these people have one common goal in mind: nurturing and inspiring in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities. And that's not just a mission statement. It is, in fact, the very foundation on which our democracy depends, making the work we do all that more important.

We have spent the past year developing a strategic plan that prioritizes five core beliefs: Transparent and Responsible Governance; Community Engagement and Relationships; Rigorous Curriculum and Instruction (and by extension, Assessment); [Student] Wellbeing; and Humanity, Justice, Community and Belonging. It is our strong conviction that these five core beliefs, divided into measurable action steps, will allow us to become a district known for both excellence and inclusiveness in the years ahead. The questions before us now are: how do we integrate these core beliefs into our decision making to ensure that every student from every one of our five towns has what they need to pursue their dreams?

As has now become evident, we have reached the point where the cost of providing a high quality education that is accessible to all of our children and families is increasing at an alarming rate. In our current configuration (five elementary schools and one middle/senior high school); with our declining number of students; we have reduced nearly \$700,000.00 in staffing and services; and yet we are still looking at a 16 percent increase in spending. If we're serious about preparing our children for college, industry, successful careers, and social/emotional happiness, we need to find new and fiscally responsible ways to maintain, and even grow, the programs and curriculum we have. If these financially difficult times have any kind of lesson for us, let it be one of inspiration. Let's use

those challenges as a motivator to work even more closely together for the benefit of the next generation. And I don't just mean our next generation, but the next generation of students across Vermont. We all draw from the same educational funds, and we all have a duty to act in a sustainable manner.

As part of our strategic planning process, we have been looking at our core beliefs, and we will lean on those core beliefs as we consider the opportunities we have as a unified district. There will certainly be challenges in the short run, but I believe in what this district can and will achieve in the coming years through inspiration, creativity, cooperation, and a commitment to providing our children with the education and educational services they need. Much of our work in the coming year will involve looking at ideas and possibilities for the future, and it will be vitally important that we engage with and listen to members of our five communities to understand what they want for our students and what they feel they can afford.

In closing, I want to leave you with a word that's been on my mind for a while now. Perseverance. Perseverance is defined as a steady persistence in a course of action in spite of difficulties, obstacles, and discouragement. Given the challenges we have faced and overcome over the past few years, I believe we are capable of overcoming any obstacles that we will face in our efforts to lead WCUUSD not only through the current budget season, but also in our efforts to build a sustainable school district that will achieve educational equity and provide opportunities for every student and family. In the words of Nelson Mandela: "It always seems impossible, until it is accomplished. Then it seems inevitable."

Thank you for your support over the years; for the ways you have engaged with us during these difficult and unprecedented times; for sharing your time, expertise, and thoughtful opinions; and for your unwavering belief in the importance of education. It is a privilege to serve on your school board, and a trust that none of us takes lightly.

—FLOR DIAZ-SMITH, *for the Board*



*To access the 2023 WCUUSD Annual Report,
you can scan the QR code above, or contact
the Central Office for a printed copy.*

TO THE EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Greetings from the East Montpelier Elementary School! It has been another busy and exciting year at EMES, and I am pleased to provide this annual update to the community on our many activities and accomplishments.

We spent a good deal of time over the past year focusing on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), and its impact on both our school environment and our students' academic advancement. One way of looking at the work we do is by thinking of ourselves as "bucket fillers." A bucket filler is a person who behaves in a way that helps to fill another person's bucket. By being kind, empathetic, and compassionate, we've been learning how all of us—students, staff, and administration—can help others feel, learn, and get through their day in a positive place. We have also learned that filling someone else's bucket actually helps to fill our own buckets too!

You might wonder what this looks like in action. It involves celebrating each other's successes, being grateful, and doing our part as a member of our collective community. For many, it also means taking on leadership roles. For older students, it might mean being a "big buddy" to a younger student or taking part in a community service activity that serves our broader community. For all students it means showing respect to others, whether in the classroom, on the playground, on the bus, or just passing by someone in the hallway. For staff it might mean lending a hand or a listening ear to another staff member. And, for all of us, it means following our school-wide expectations of being Safe, Respectful, Responsible, and, of course, Awesome. By creating a caring, respectful, and socially conscious environment, we actually create a school community that's focused on and conducive to learning and growing. I can truly say that EMES is a happy and joyful place to learn, work, and grow—and that extends to all members of our learning community.

We were very excited this fall to unveil our new and expanded—not to mention long-awaited—playground. In many communities, a new playground might earn a couple of sentences tacked on to the end of the annual report, but for us, it really is so much more than just a new playground.

Rewinding back to 2019 and what we now call the 'pre-pandemic' years, we knew that portions of our playground were not accessible to students with mobility challenges—especially our cabin in the woods. At that time, our then robotics team—the Techno Turtles—took it upon themselves to design a new cabin that would be accessible to everyone. Unfortunately, the pandemic hit and just about everything had to be put on hold. In 2023, we put the playground conversation back on the table, and through an all-school writing prompt, students were asked to share the changes they thought should be made to improve our playground. In reviewing the responses, two items immediately rose to the top: Make it more accessible, and make it more fun!



JJ, grade 6, oil pastels



Benji, grade 4, chalk pastels

Lions
and
Tigers
and
Cars,
Oh my!



Leif, grade 4, chalk pastels



Abigail, grade 5, oil pastels

Construction started in early summer and continued through September as we upgraded the cabin, the swing sets, the sand box, and the pathway. We added new climbing equipment, a new tetherball court, and new signage explaining how to be safe, respectful and responsible in all areas of the playground. Most importantly, we made it accessible to everyone. It was a true community effort with students leading the way, and I am so excited to know that it will be enjoyed for years to come.

Act 173

Implemented in July of 2023, Act 173 introduced a shift in how we look at and evaluate students for special education in Vermont. The shift places more “ownership” of the process on classroom teachers, who are now required to apply specific metrics and measurements to student learning before determining if they are

candidates for special ed. Instead of making the determination based on observation and test/achievement scores alone, teachers are now required to prove that students have had access to universally delivered, high quality instruction, using specific, data driven metrics.

To make this shift, our teachers and I spent a good deal of time this fall learning together in order to better understand what those metrics are, how to use them, and how to interpret the results. We also closely examined the traditional roles that classroom teachers, paras, interventionists, special educators, and other specialists play in the instruction. We added new data points to our data wall looking at reading, writing, and math. Teams spent a lot of time better understanding what “functional skills” are and how these impact student learning. It has been a lot of new learning for all of us, and not surprising at all, EMES teachers put in the time, effort, and collaboration needed to implement the Act in this first year. I am profoundly grateful for their willingness to take on this new challenge, and exceedingly in awe of their selfless and tireless work to better serve all children. We are extremely fortunate to have such caring professionals teaching and working with our children every day.

In closing, I’d like to thank everyone—our teachers, parents, volunteers, PTNO, and of course, our students—for coming to school each day, ready to fill someone else’s bucket. Not a day goes by at EMES when my bucket isn’t filled to the top. It is a pleasure and privilege to serve as your principal and I am grateful for your ongoing support and contributions.

—ALICIA LYFORD, *Principal*



EMES STAFF

Name	Title	FTE*
Agran, Richard	Paraeducator	1.00
Bevins, Liz	Classroom Teacher/Interventionist	1.00
Blanchard, Michael	Physical Education Teacher	1.00
Blow, Bruce	Custodian	0.50
Bradley, Jennifer	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Brown, Kimberly	Special Education Paraeducator	1.00
Bruccoli, Arlyn	Library Media (.4)/Technology Integration (.6)	1.00
Campbell, Jennifer	Art Teacher	0.60
Clark, Brenda	Custodian	0.50
Clark, Lauren	Special Education Paraeducator	1.00
Christiano, Christine	Instructional Interventionist	1.00
Clark-Warner, Heather	Pre-Kindergarten Teacher	0.80
DeForge, Susan	Special Education Paraeducator	0.40

Name	Title	FTE*
DeForge, Susan	Administrative Assistant	0.60
Dorfman, Amadeus	Special Educator	1.00
Drown, Noelle	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Eberlein, Karla	Special Educator	1.00
Fecura, Jessica	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Finegan, Anne	Cook/Food Services Agent	1.00
Fitch, Jennifer	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Fitz, Carrie	Special Educator	1.00
Gallagher, Claire	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Gariboldi, Lisa	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Gauthier, Gwyn	Speech/Language Pathologist	1.00
Giammusso, Laura	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Harlow, Emelia	Special Education Paraeducator	1.00
Haseltine, James	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Hill, Todd	Maintenance Lead/Head Custodian	1.00
Kent, Danielle	Speech/Language Pathologist	0.50
Kilpatrick, Katrina	Special Education Paraeducator	1.00
Langevin, Mary	School Counselor	1.00
Laquerre, Danielle	Special Education Paraeducator	1.00
Lehrer, Dina	Special Education Paraeducator	0.40
Lehrer, Dina	Pre-K Paraeducator	0.40
Lyford, Alicia	Principal	1.00
Lyford, Ella	Special Education Paraeducator	1.00
Mathies, David	School Nurse	1.00
Mishkin, Samantha	Music Teacher	0.80
Morse, Sarynna	Special Education Paraeducator	0.60
Morse, Sarynna	Pre-K Paraeducator	0.40
Paquet, Hilary	Special Educator	1.00
Parker, Bethany	Instructional Interventionist	1.00
Parker, Jodi	Administrative Assistant to the Principal	1.00
Pearce, Kayla	Special Education Paraeducator	1.00
Purchase, Melissa	Special Education Paraeducator	1.00
Shedd, Ellen	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Sherwin, Michael	Behavior Coach	1.00
White, Melanie	Special Education Paraeducator	1.00
Wiater, Jennifer	Assistant Cook	0.71
Willard, David	Classroom Teacher	1.00
Zeilenga, Jillian	Classroom Teacher	1.01

* FTE (Full-Time Equivalent)

Total: 45.21

EAST MONTPELIER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Connections is in its twenty-third year serving the children and families of East Montpelier, Berlin, Calais, Middlesex, and Worcester. This last year has been a challenge as we continue flexing to meet the many needs families have in a post-pandemic world and struggling economy. It has been important for Community Connections staff to continue to adapt and adjust, which allowed us to operate all our normal programs. We opened our doors daily to families at 7:30 a.m. until we transitioned children to the school day. During the day, we provided childcare for preschoolers in a wrap-around service to the school's preschool program. Afterschool, CC provided various options for students until parents arrived from work or school, closing at 5:30 p.m. Finally, during 2022-23 we offered camps during most school vacations for students in Pre-Kindergarten to 6th grade.

In 2022-23, we served over 68 children at East Montpelier Elementary and employed East Montpelier residents in our programs. CC worked closely with school staff to support the needs of each student and family. The demand for these services continued to rise. The beginning of the school year presented staffing challenges as the need and demand for childcare steadily increased; most programs are seeing an enrollment increase this school year (2023-24) of approximately 50% over the previous school year.

In the summer of 2023, Community Connections helped to provide the summer food program and camps for preschool to elementary age students. We continue to work diligently to help those who need us and offer programs that are a critical part of the social safety net in East Montpelier. Thank you for supporting these great youth programs; we cannot express how much we appreciate the continued support!

—KIMBERLY BOLDUC, *Program Director*

FY23 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income Sources	Percent of Income	Total Income
State (Grant & Subsidy)	41.06%	\$ 54,775
Town Funds	1.87%	2,500
Other (User Fees)	57.07%	76,141
Total Income	100.00%	\$ 133,416

Expenditures	Budgeted Percent	Budgeted Dollars	Actual Percent	Actual Dollars
Personnel*	98.03%	\$ 157,950	97.78%	\$ 130,454
Insurance/Rent/Utilities	0.63%	1,022	0.77%	1,022
Other (Travel)	0.59%	950	0.73%	980
Other (Snacks & Supplies)	0.74%	1,200	0.72%	960
Total Expenses	100.00%	\$ 161,122	100.00%	\$ 133,416

* 2.75 full-time paid staff positions

EMES ENROLLMENT

as of October 1st

Year	PreK	EEE	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	K-6 Total	Grand Total
1990-91			26	34	37	40	35	34	43	249	
1991-92			21	28	33	36	40	35	32	225	
1992-93			36	23	29	38	37	43	40	246	
1993-94			32	32	24	28	37	38	42	233	
1994-95			22	33	30	24	30	38	39	216	
1995-96			39	26	32	33	23	33	41	227	
1996-97			37	41	31	33	37	24	33	236	
1997-98			20	41	41	35	34	34	24	229	
1998-99			32	24	41	40	35	32	37	241	
1999-00			23	34	26	38	40	34	32	227	
2000-01	16	3	21	25	37	29	43	40	35	230	249
2001-02	18	1	21	26	27	37	31	45	43	231	250
2002-03	5	13	26	25	26	30	35	33	47	222	240
2003-04	20	3	27	29	24	26	28	32	36	202	225
2004-05	22	1	33	29	32	25	29	29	35	212	235
2005-06	23	3	30	28	27	31	26	27	29	198	224
2006-07	28	3	26	32	29	29	34	26	28	204	235
2007-08	21	3	31	36	25	34	34	34	27	223	247
2008-09	31	4	31	32	35	25	35	38	39	235	270
2009-10	27	3	32	33	31	32	29	31	37	225	255
2010-11	32	3	26	31	30	32	32	31	31	213	248
2011-12	32	3	27	29	31	30	34	35	33	219	254
2012-13	29	—	21	28	25	34	26	38	36	208	237
2013-14	21	—	26	18	27	26	34	30	36	197	218
2014-15	38	—	15	25	16	27	27	41	30	181	219
2015-16	22	5	28	16	26	18	27	23	38	176	203
2016-17	32	4	25	31	17	28	22	25	26	174	210
2017-18	37	4	34	26	31	19	31	22	25	188	229
2018-19	37	4	27	29	29	31	19	28	23	186	227
2019-20	40	5	15	29	31	30	33	19	31	188	233
2020-21	32	4	25	18	30	33	29	36	21	192	228
2021-22	36	1	20	31	18	33	31	33	36	202	239
2022-23	37	3	21	21	32	18	32	33	34	194	231
2023-24	35	0	22	19	23	31	19	34	33	181	216

MESSAGE FROM THE CVCCSD BOARD

We are pleased to be writing to our Central Vermont Career Center communities on behalf of the Central Vermont Career Center School District Board. We are delighted to report that our students continue to excel across all of our programs as they develop the skills they need to embark on successful careers.

At CVCC, we are training students to become the next generation of mechanics, graphic designers, chefs, plumbers, contractors, hair stylists, EMTs, nurses, and much more. These are high-demand, well-paying careers. Just as important, we are giving them the opportunity to find those rewarding careers right here in Vermont. Many go on to earn college degrees before returning to the communities that raised them, while others enter their chosen careers directly. CVCC students see the real possibilities beyond what they're learning. In the past, while career and technical education has often been an afterthought, we are seeing more and more that it is a critical part of a high quality PreK-12 education — especially in the middle and high school grades.

To that end, the CVCC school board has set three overarching goals which guide our work toward fulfilling our mission and vision, bringing more awareness to the importance of career and technical education. Embedded in each goal, and every decision that we make, is our commitment to equity and inclusion.

The first goal is to oversee the long term plan of building a centrally-located, state of the art facility fully dedicated to serving the needs of our school and the broader community. In order to reach our goal, we have assembled a facilities committee made up of board members and interested community members to guide the work to bring our vision to fruition for the fall of 2029.

Our second goal is to ensure that CVCC is providing an equitable, safe and rigorous program by strengthening inclusive curriculum, instruction, and professional development across the center. Many of our programs incorporate a nationally-recognized certification program, providing our students the ability to earn advanced credentials, positioning them in their chosen fields.

Finally, the board is committed to community involvement in all aspects of the school. We are working on an engagement plan to include parents, industry partners and community members for the purpose of collaboration and to build a strong, supportive sense of community. We encourage all interested parties to get involved through committee work, open houses and regular board meetings.

As we approach Town Meeting Day, we would like to express our appreciation for the support that we have received thus far. We serve 6 School Districts that represent 18 towns. There are no town lines or boundaries at CVCCSD. While our district is technically a separate entity, our budget is still embedded in each town's annual school district spending just as it has been in the past. Please remember to ask for a CVCCSD ballot. We hope you will support your local school budget on Town Meeting Day, and in doing so, your Career Center.

JILL REMICK, *CVCCSD Board Chair*

LYMAN CASTLE, *Vice Chair*

FLOR DIAZ SMITH, *Clerk*

Photos: Alex Brown



Town Meeting 2023 — East Montpelier Elementary School

WARNING

**CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, 2024 AT 6PM**

(Member districts: Barre Unified Union School District, Cabot, Harwood Unified Union School District, Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools, Twinfield, Washington Central Unified Union School District)

ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Central Vermont Career Center School District are hereby warned to meet in Room 127 at 155 Ayers Street, Suite 2, Barre, VT on Monday, February 26th, at 6:00 PM or to join the meeting virtually (<https://meet.google.com/esf-cuig-ots> Or dial: (US) +1 503-917-4658 PIN: 556 173 472#), to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot.

The business to be transacted to include:

Article 1: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification for one year or until the election and qualification of their successors:

- Moderator
- Clerk
- Treasurer

Article 2: To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to District Officers.

Article 3: To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to School Board members.

Article 4: To see if the School District will authorize the Board of Directors to receive and expend funds received through grants, donations, or other outside sources during the ensuing year, so long as such funds do not change the technical-education tuition assessment derived from the operating budget approved by the School District voters.

Article 5: To authorize the Board of Directors to borrow funds through a bridge loan to cover expenses while waiting for state funding to arrive.

Article 6: To determine whether to authorize the Board, pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. §563(10) & (11)(C), to provide mailed notice to residents of the availability of the Annual Report and proposed school budget in lieu of distributing the Annual Report and proposed budget.

Article 7: To transact any other business, the subject matter of which has been included in the warning, that the voters have power to transact at any annual meeting.

Article 8: To adjourn

**CENTRAL VERMONT CAREER CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING for March 5, 2024
VOTE**

The legal voters of the Central Vermont Career Center School District who are residents of the City of Barre and the Towns of Barre, Berlin, Cabot, Calais, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fayston, Marshfield, Middlesex, Montpelier, Moretown, Plainfield, Roxbury, Waitsfield, Warren, Waterbury and Worcester are hereby notified and warned to meet at their respective polling places on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Polls close statewide at seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.). Voting will take place by Australian ballot upon the following Articles of business:

Article 1:

To elect one member to the Central Vermont Career Center School District Board for the ensuing term commencing March 5, 2024 as follows:

- One at-large director from the Washington Central Unified Union School District to serve a term of three years.

Article 2:

Shall the voters of the Central Vermont Career Center School District approve the school board to expend **\$4,604,130**, which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the support of the Central Vermont Career Center for the ensuing fiscal year?

The legal voters and residents of the Central Vermont Career Center School District are further warned and notified that an informational meeting will be held in room 127 at the Central Vermont Career Center in the City of Barre and virtually via Google Meet on February 26th, 2024, commencing directly after the annual meeting which begins at six o'clock (6:00) in the afternoon (p.m.) for the purpose of explaining the articles to be voted on by Australian ballot. A recording of this forum will be placed on the CVCC website at cvtcc.org.

The legal voters of the Central Vermont Career Center School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said election shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Central Vermont Unified Union School District held on January 8, 2024. Received for the record and recorded in the records of the Central Vermont Career Center School District on January 9, 2024.

ATTEST: Tina Lunt, Clerk, Central Vermont Career Center School District

Signed by the Central Vermont Career Center Board of Directors:

Jill Remick, Chair
Flor Diaz Smith, Clerk
J. Guy Isabelle
Janna Osman
Terri Steele

Lyman Castle, Vice Chair
Jim Halavonich
Jason Monaco
Sonya Spaulding
(Ashley Woods)

WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING

The legal voters of the Washington Central Unified Union School District, a municipal corporation consisting of the Towns of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet in their respective towns at the polling places hereinafter named on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, to vote by Australian ballot on Articles 1 through 8 as outlined below.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Clerk for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 2. To elect a Treasurer for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 3. To elect a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 4. To elect the following School Directors:

Berlin	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
Calais	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	One (1) School Director	One (1) Year of a Three (3) Year Term
East Montpelier	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	One (1) School Director	Two (2) Years of a Three (3) Year Term
Middlesex	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
Worcester	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	One (1) School Director	Two (2) Years of a Three (3) Year Term

ARTICLE 5. To fix the annual compensation of the Union School District officers.

Clerk	\$1,000.00
Treasurer	\$6,700.00
Directors	\$1,200.00 each
Chair	\$2,400.00

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Washington Central Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$43,810,548 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

ARTICLE 7. Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors of Washington Central Unified Union School District to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 2024 in a reserve fund to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school?

ARTICLE 8. Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of the receipt of revenues for the 2024-2025 school year?

Polling Places and Times:

Berlin Municipal Office 108 Shed Rd. Berlin 10:00 AM-7:00 PM

Calais Elementary School 321 Lightening Ridge Rd. Calais 7:00 AM-7:00 PM

East Montpelier Elementary School 665 Vincent Flats Rd. East Montpelier 7:00 AM-7:00 PM

Rumney Elementary School 433 Shady Rill Rd. Middlesex 7:00 AM-7:00 PM

Doty Elementary School 24 Calais Rd. in Worcester 10:00 AM-7:00 PM

A public hearing will take place on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 5:30 PM to provide information on the articles to be voted by Australian Ballot at the municipalities' respective Town Meetings on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The public hearing will be at U-32 Middle & High School 930 Gallison Hill Rd., Montpelier, VT 05602 in Rm 128/131. There will be a virtual option as well. <http://tinyurl.com/r2z4jr6v> Meeting Id: 89926779447 Password: 738737 Phone: 1-929-205-6099

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots shall be transported and delivered to the East Montpelier Elementary School on Wednesday March 6, 2024 at 6:15 PM at 665 Vincent Flats Road in the Town of East Montpelier where they will be commingled and counted by members of the Boards of Civil Authority of district towns under the supervision of the Clerk of the Washington Central Unified Union School District.

The legal voters of Washington Central Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Sections 553 and 706 (u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Melissa Tuller, WCUUSD Clerk

Flor Diaz-Smith, Chair (East Montpelier)

Ursula Stanley (Middlesex)

Kari Bradley, Vice-Chair (Calais)

Chris McVeigh (Middlesex)

Diane Nichols-Fleming (Berlin)

Joshua Sevits, Board Clerk (Middlesex)

Kealy Sloan (Berlin)

Mckalyn Garrity Leclerc (Worcester)

Jonathan Goddard (Berlin)

Natasha Eckart (Worcester)

Margrette "Maggie" Weiss (Calais)

Vacant (Worcester)

Daniel Keeney (Calais)

Amelia Contrada (East Montpelier)

Zach Sullivan (East Montpelier)

CENTRAL VT CAREER CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT RESULTS

March 7, 2023

This election included all member districts, covering 18 municipalities, of the Central Vermont Career Center School District. Ballots from all member districts were commingled and total votes across all districts are reported below.

ART. 1: To elect two members to the Central Vermont Career Center School District (CVCCSD) Board for the ensuing term commencing March 7, 2023 as follows:

One at-large director from Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools to serve a term of three years.

Elected: Lyman Castle [7,111 votes]

One at-large director from the Washington Central Unified Union School District to serve a term of one year.

Elected: Terri Steele [6,900 votes]

ART. 2: Shall the voters of the Central Vermont Career Center School District approve the school board to expend **\$4,135,602**, which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the support of the Central Vermont Career Center for the ensuing fiscal year?

Result: Passed [6,535 yes; 1,806 no]



WCUUSD AUSTRALIAN BALLOT RESULTS

March 7, 2023

Art. 1: To elect a Clerk for a term of one (1) year.

Elected: Rosalie "Rosie" Laquerre [2,548 votes]

Art. 2: To elect a Treasurer for a term of one (1) year.

Elected: Mary Ormsby [2,499 votes]

Art. 3: To elect a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

Vacant

Art. 4: To elect the following School Directors:

Berlin School Director three (3) year term.

Elected: Diane Nichols-Fleming [2,267 votes]

Calais One (1) School Director Three (3) Year Term.

Elected: Daniel Keeney [2,207 votes]

East Montpelier One (1) School Director Three (3) Year Term.

Elected: Eric Andersen [2,186 votes]

Middlesex One (1) School Director Three (3) Year Term.

Elected: Joshua Sevits [2124 votes]

Worcester One (1) School Director Three (3) Year Term.

Elected: Mckalyn Garrity Leclerc [2,184 votes]

Art. 5: To fix the annual compensation of the Union School District officers.

Clerk \$500; Treasurer \$6,600; Directors \$1,100 each; Chair \$2,200

Result: **Passed** [2,330 yes; 455 no]

Art. 6: Shall the voters of the Washington Central Unified Union School District **approve the school board to expend \$38,921,331** which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of **\$23,022 per equalized pupil**. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **12.86% higher** than spending for the current year. Result: **Passed** [1,737 yes; 1,158 no]

Art. 7: Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors of Washington Central Unified Union School District to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 2023 in **a reserve fund** to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school? Result: **Passed** [2,346 yes; 518 no]

Art. 8: Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors to **borrow money in anticipation of the receipt of revenues** for the 2023-2024 school year? Result: **Passed** [2,094 yes; 760 no]



WCUUSD Board, September 2023

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER

RESULTS OF VOTES ON MARCH 7, 2023

Town Meeting was **called to order** at 9:30 a.m. with 93 resident voters in attendance at the East Montpelier Elementary School.

Art. 1: To elect all necessary **officers** for the ensuing year. (Australian ballot)

Town Moderator, 1-year term. Elected: Michael Duane [720 votes]

Selectboard Member, 3-year term. Vacant.

Selectboard Member, 2-year term. Elected: Scott Hess [658 votes]

Lister, 3-year term. Elected: Deborah Fillion [679 votes]

Auditor, 3-year term. Elected: Carla Occaso [655 votes]

Planning Commissioner, 3-year term. Elected: Clarice Cutler [630 votes]

Planning Commissioner, 3-year term. Elected: Nikhil “Nik” Khosla [589 votes]

Planning Commissioner, 3-year term. Elected: Maia Stone [649 votes]

Planning Commissioner, remaining 2 years of 3-year term.

Elected: Erica Zimmerman [47 write-in votes]

Art. 2: To hear the reports of the several Town Officers and to act thereon.
Passed by voice vote.

Art. 3: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$2,196,054** as proposed by the Selectboard, for laying out and repairing highways and for other necessary Town expenses for fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024). (To be voted by Australian Ballot). Result: **Passed** [697 yes; 84 no]

Art. 4: Shall the Town authorize all property taxes for the fiscal year 2024 to be paid to the Town Treasurer, without discount in two installments and received by the Treasurer at the East Montpelier Municipal Building as follows: The first installment will be due and postmarked on or before Wednesday, November 15, 2023 and the second installment will be due and postmarked on or before Wednesday, May 15, 2024. [**Adopted** by voice vote.]

Art. 5: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$46,764** for Kellogg-Hubbard Library for the support of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. (To be voted by Australian Ballot) Result: [This Article was voted at a Special Town Meeting on April 25, 2023. Result: **Passed** [526 yes; 120 no.]

Art. 6: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$4,500** for the Four Corners School-house Association for operating expenses during fiscal year 2024. [**Adopted** by voice vote.]

Art. 7: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$12,000** for the East Montpelier Signpost to provide for the production and mailing of six issues of the *East*

Photos: Alex Brown



Town Meeting 2023 — East Montpelier Elementary School

Montpelier Signpost for each East Montpelier resident household and non-resident property owner during fiscal year 2024. [**Adopted** by voice vote.]

Art. 8: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$4,000** for East Montpelier Trails, Inc. for the enhancement, development, administration and maintenance of the trail network in East Montpelier during fiscal year 2024. [**Adopted** by voice vote.]

Art. 9: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$9,700** for the Montpelier Senior Activity Center for operating expenses during fiscal year 2024. [**Adopted** by voice vote.]

Art. 10: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$6,000** for Twin Valley Seniors, Inc. for operating expenses during fiscal year 2024. [**Adopted** by voice vote.]

Art. 11: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$6,500** for Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice for operating expenses during fiscal year 2024. [**Adopted** by voice vote.]

Art. 12: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$7,834** for the support of Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT) to provide services to residents of the Town of East Montpelier, including \$6,834 as its RCT portion of the fiscal year 2024 share of the annual ongoing cost of providing the commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into East Montpelier and \$1,000 as its fiscal year 2024 share of the annual ongoing cost of providing the commuter bus service along Routes 14 & 15 with service into East Montpelier. This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares. [**Adopted** by voice vote.]

Art. 13: Shall the Town raise the sum of **\$1,499** as its Green Mountain Transit portion of the fiscal year 2024 share of the annual ongoing cost of providing the commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into East Montpelier. This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares. [**Adopted** by voice vote.]

Art. 14: Shall the Town raise the amounts listed below as recommended by the Town's Funding Request Study Committee for the following organizations for fiscal year 2024.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1) American Red Cross | \$ 250 |
| 2) Big Heavy World..... | \$ 250 |
| 3) Capstone Community Action..... | \$ 500 |
| 4) Central Vermont Adult Basic Education | \$ 750 |
| 5) Central Vermont Council on Aging | \$ 1,875 |
| 6) Central Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team | \$ 200 |
| 7) Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity | \$ 350 |

8) Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center	\$ 1,000
9) Circle	\$ 675
10) Community Harvest of Central VT	\$ 250
11) Downstreet Housing & Community Development	\$ 150
12) East Montpelier Community Connections	\$ 2,500
13) Family Center of Washington County	\$ 500
14) Friends of the Winooski River.....	\$ 400
15) Girls/Boyz First Mentoring.....	\$ 300
16) Good Beginnings of Central VT.....	\$ 300
17) Good Samaritan Haven.....	\$ 2,000
18) Green Mountain Transit.....	\$ 1,366
19) Green Up Vermont	\$ 150
20) HomeShare Vermont	\$ 800
21) Mosaic Vermont	\$ 250
22) North Branch Nature Center	\$ 750
23) Onion River Food Shelf.....	\$ 1,000
24) OUR House of Central VT	\$ 250
25) People's Health and Wellness Clinic.....	\$ 1,250
26) Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$ 300
27) T. W. Wood Gallery.....	\$ 500
28) Vermont CARES	\$ 300
29) Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 400
30) Vermont Family Network	\$ 200
31) Washington County Diversion Program.....	\$ 600
32) Washington County Mental Health Services	\$ 800
33) Washington County Youth Service Bureau	\$ 400
34) Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District	\$ 600
TOTAL	\$ 22,166

[Adopted by voice vote.]

Art. 15: Shall the Town extend tax exempt status for the 0.68-acre trailhead parking area on VT Rte 14 South owned by non-profit organizations East Montpelier Gully Jumpers, Inc. and East Montpelier Trails, Inc. for an additional five years (2028), per Title 32 Section 3840. [Adopted by voice vote.]

Art. 16: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting. (1) Legislative Representative Ela Chapin gave a brief overview of what was happening at the VT State Capital; (2) Impact of Zoning Regulations on affordable housing in town; and (3) Emergency response to natural disasters and COVID-19 were discussed.

Town Meeting was **adjourned** at 11:17 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch.

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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

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Selectboard — 1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 pm

Planning Commission — 1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:00 pm

Development Review Board — 1st Tues. and as needed, 7:00 pm

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee — as needed

Capital Improvement Committee — as needed

Meeting place: East Montpelier Elementary School

EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO) — 2nd Wed., 6:30 pm

Recreation Board — 2nd Mon., 7:15 pm

Meeting places: Alternates between U-32 and a district elementary school

WCUUSD School Board — 1st & 3rd Wed., 5:30 pm

Meeting place: Four Corners Schoolhouse

Four Corners Schoolhouse Association — 2nd Wed., 7:00 pm

Meeting places: Old Brick Church and in Calais

E.M. Historical Society — 3rd Mon., 6:00 pm, March-November

Meeting place: Emergency Services Facility Community Room

East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) — Every Tues., 7:00 pm

For information on these and other local organizations, call the Town Offices at **802-223-3313** or visit the town's website at <https://eastmontpeliervt.org>

NO PARKING NOTICE — SNOW REMOVAL

Residents of the Town of East Montpelier are reminded that in accordance with Vermont State Statute (23 VSA Sections 1101–1102), vehicles left standing or parked in the public right-of-way that interfere with the flow of traffic or with snowplowing operations may be towed without warning. Private snow plow operators are also reminded that in accordance with Vermont State Statute (19 VSA Section 1111b), it is illegal to plow snow from private property on or across public highways. — *East Montpelier Selectboard*

GREEN MOUNTAIN PASSPORTS

May be obtained at the Town Office. Fee: \$2.00.

Requirement: At least 62 years of age or honorably discharged veteran of any age.

Provides free day entry to Vermont State Parks.

CASELLA TRANSFER STATIONS ON ROUTE 2

1) **C.V. Landfill**: Open Mon-Fri 7:30-3:45 & Sat 8:00-2:00; 802-479-2450

2) **Behind Jiffy Mart Mobil Station**: Open Mon-Fri 8-4 & Sat 8:00-2:00

CENTRAL VT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Sponsors Household Hazardous Waste Drops from May to November.

For more information, call 802-229-9383 or visit www.cvswmd.org

ARCC: Additional Recyclables Collection Center 540 North Main St, Barre

Call 802-476-1900 or visit www.cvswmd.org/arcc.html



Town of East Montpelier
P. O. Box 157
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Annual Report 2023

Town of East Montpelier, Vermont

