

**TOWN OF WALDEN, VERMONT  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
JUNE 30, 2023**



Photo courtesy of Diane Banister

**March 5, 2024**

**Walden School Multipurpose Room**

The Town Meeting will begin at 10:00 am

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

Please bring this report to Town Meeting

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**Lunch will be available.**

## TOWN OFFICERS

### ELECTED OFFICERS

Moderator	Roger Fox	2024
Clerk/Treasurer	Deborah Messier	2024
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	Diane Banister (appointed)	2024
Assistant Clerk	Dia Michaud (appointed)	2024
Selectboard	Randolph Wilson	2024
	Brenda Huntoon	2025
	Robert Hatch	2026
Listers	Diane Banister	2024
	Annette Foster (deceased)	2025
	Dia Michaud	2026
Auditors	Wilhelm Woelfle	2024
	Marie Blodgett (appointed)	2024
	Vacant	2026
First Constable	Eugene McAllister	2024
Delinquent Tax Collector	Dia Michaud	2024
Library Trustees	Anne Smith	2024
	Sarah Augeri (appointed)	2024
	Victoria Atwood	2025
	Elizabeth Larrabee (resigned)	2026
	Martha Bissell	2027
	Allison Gulka	2028
Cemetery Commissioners	Larry Hubner	2024
	James Dailey	2025
	Daniel Mencucci	2026
	Judith Clifford	2027
	Lynette Farnham	2028
Justices of the Peace	Diane Cochran	January 31, 2025
	Michael Coffey	January 31, 2025
	Annette Foster (deceased)	January 31, 2025
	Roger Fox	January 31, 2025
	Annie Gaillard	January 31, 2025

## TOWN OFFICERS (continued)

### APPOINTED OFFICERS - STATE

Forest Fire Warden	Rodney Hooker	802-563-9926
Health Officer	Val Covell (deceased)	
	Selectboard Chair	

### APPOINTED OFFICERS - SELECTBOARD

E911 Coordinator	Butch Greaves	802-424-7024
Emergency Management Coordinator	Lynette Farnham	802-533-9080
Green Up Coordinator	Vacant	
Inspector of Lumber	Ralph Bissell	
Planning Commission	Martha Bissell	2025
	Suzanna Jones	2026
	Zarina Castro (Chair)	2027
Pound keeper	Cheryl McQueeney	802-563-2912
Tree Warden	David McMath	
Weigher of Coal	James Teuscher	
CVSWD Representative	Ray Lewis	
LVRT Regional Trail Council NEK Representative	Lori Augustyniak	
NEK Broadband Representative	Seth O'Brien	
NVDA Representative	Lori Augustyniak	

**WARNING FOR THE  
WALDEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON MARCH 5, 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Walden, Vermont in the county of Caledonia are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Walden School in said Walden, Vermont on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00 am to act upon the following business for the Town. Voting for Town Officers will be by Australian Ballot. The polls will be open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of election. You can register prior to the meeting by visiting the Town Clerk's Office or going online to [olvr.vermont.gov](http://olvr.vermont.gov).

Absentee Ballots for voting for the Town Officers may be requested by the voter or an authorized person until 4:00 pm on Monday March 4, 2024.

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

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

**ARTICLE 3:** To see what action the Town will take regarding the printed report of the Town Officers.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to have property taxes paid to the Town Treasurer at the Walden Town Clerk's office, 12 VT Route 215, Walden, VT on or before 5:00 PM EST on Thursday November 7, 2024. This applies to all payment methods, in-person, online, by telephone, and through the mail. **\*\*Postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely payment.\*\***

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will authorize the term of the Town Clerk to be changed from a one-year term to a three-year term.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will authorize the term of the Town Treasurer to be changed from a one-year term to a three-year term.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the voters will approve total highway fund expenditures of \$580,550.00 of which \$422,179.07 shall be raised by taxes and \$158,370.93 by non-tax revenues, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the town voters will authorize the Selectboard to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$30,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed 3 years, to support the purchase of a new truck.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the voters will approve total general fund expenditures of \$355,577.37, of which \$246,013.17 shall be raised by taxes and \$109,564.20 by non-tax revenues, for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

**ARTICLE 10:** To transact any other proper business. (Cemetery Business Discussion)

Dated at Walden, Vermont this 29<sup>TH</sup> day of January 2024

Selectboard:     Randolph Wilson, Board Chair  
                  Robert Hatch  
                  Brenda Huntoon

Debbie Messier, Town Clerk

## AUDITORS' REPORT

In accordance with Title 24, Section 1681 of the Vermont Statutes, we have examined the records as presented to us by the town officers for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

To the best of our knowledge the financial statements represent the financial position of the Town of Walden as of June 30, 2023.

Wilhelm Woelfle

Marie Blodgett

### TOWN OF WALDEN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES JUNE 30, 2023

#### Assets

Delinquent Tax Due	\$15,679.76
Town Real Estate	\$805,300.00
Town Equipment	\$719,420.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$251,250.03
Town Clerk's Account	\$2,726.47
TC Renovation/Construction Fund	\$32,509.17
General Fund Balance	\$15,711.08
Highway Fund Balance	\$3,370.93
Highway Equipment Fund	\$72,186.25
Neighborhood Watch Fund	\$566.96
ARPA Funds	\$11,706.41
Preservation Funds	\$13,093.43
Reappraisal Fund	\$14,295.70
Fire Department Checking	\$14,959.97
Fire Department Truck Fund	\$40,330.68
Fire Department Trucks & Inventory	\$767,800.00
Cemetery Commission CDs	\$26,077.05
Cemetery Checking	\$2,678.35
Cemetery Inventory	\$4,500.00
Community Library Savings Account	\$3,897.54
Community Library Family History Savings	\$1,146.83
Community Library Family History CD	\$1,790.08
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,820,996.69</b>

#### Liabilities

Mack Truck Loan	\$16,953.13	Will retire in FY2024
John Deere Loader Loan	\$60,210.91	Will retire in FY2025
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>\$77,164.04</u></b>	

**Net Worth of the Town** **\$2,743,832.65**

## 2022/2023 TAX RATES

<b>Residential</b>		<b>Non-Residential</b>	
Municipal:	0.4881	Municipal:	0.4881
Local Veteran Exemption:	0.0041	Local Veteran Exemption:	0.0041
Homestead Education:	<u>1.3507</u>	Non-Residential Education:	<u>1.3124</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1.8429</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>1.8046</b>

## STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

Real Estate	\$127,813,800.00	
Veteran Exemption	-\$480,000.00	
Land Use	<u>-\$9,696,100.00</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$117,637,700.00</b>	
<b>Net Grand List</b>	<b>\$1,176,377.00</b>	(1% of Net Real Estate)

	<u>Grand List</u>	<u>Residential Rate</u>	<u>Non-Residential Rate</u>	<u>Taxes Raised</u>
<b>Town</b>				
Municipal	\$1,176,377.00	\$0.49	\$0.49	<b>\$574,189.70</b>
<b>School</b>				
Non-Residential	\$551,709.63		\$1.31	\$724,063.72
Homestead Education	\$624,667.37	\$1.35		\$843,738.22
Local Veteran Exemption	\$1,176,377.00	\$0.00		<u>\$4,823.15</u>
<b>Total School</b>				<b>\$1,572,625.08</b>
Penalties Billed				\$895.60
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$2,147,710.38</b>
Abatement Granted		\$913.80		
Taxes transferred to CCSD		\$1,338,900.49		

## STATE OF VERMONT PAYMENTS

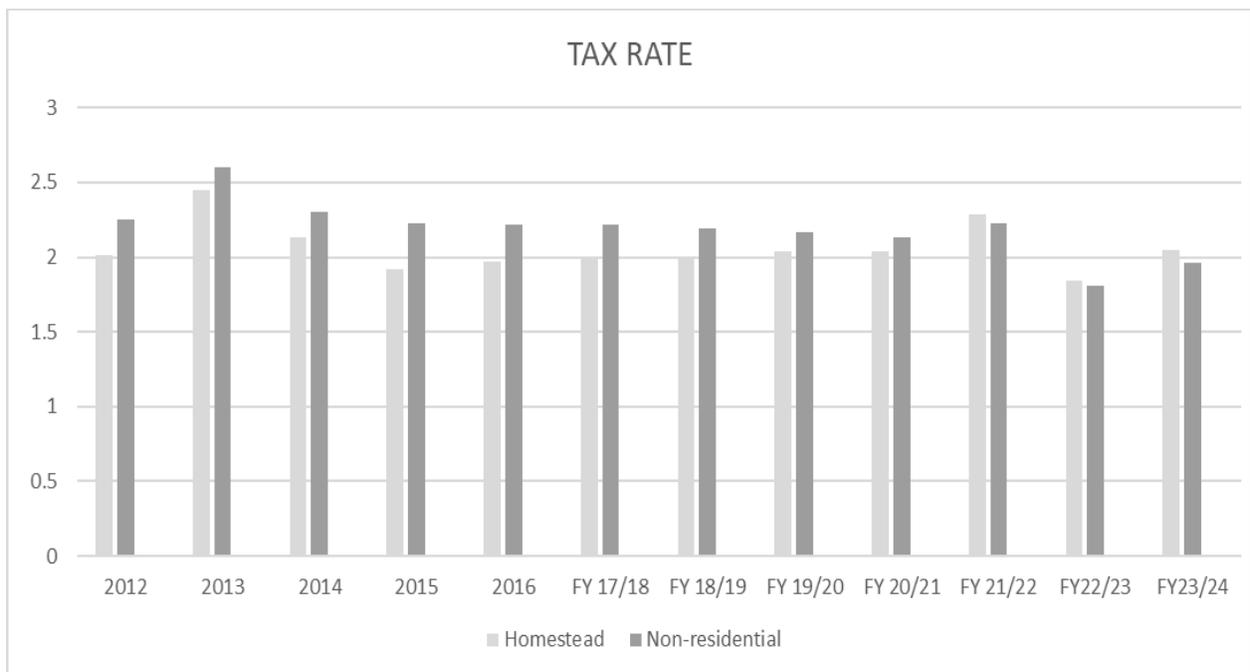
Steam Mill Brook (Pilot)	\$39,909.03
Hold Harmless (Current Use)	<u>\$53,245.00</u>
<b>Total in Lieu of Taxes</b>	<b>\$93,154.03</b>

### ACREAGE

Fish and Wildlife	5,901.87 acres
733 Taxable Parcels	17,844.21 acres
9 Non-Taxable Parcels	<u>64.00 acres</u>
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>23,810.08 acres</b>

## GRAND LIST AND TAX RATE COMPARISON

Year	Grand List	Municipal	Veterans	EDUCATION TAX		TOTAL TAX RATE	
				Homestead	Non - Residential	Homestead	Non-Residential
2010	\$857,386.00	0.5648	0.0029	1.1891	1.4957	1.7568	2.0634
2011	\$864,215.00	0.503	0.0029	1.2013	1.6158	1.7072	2.1217
2012	\$858,729.00	0.583	0.0025	1.4296	1.6699	2.0151	2.2554
2013	\$864,914.00	0.5584	0.0034	1.5503	1.7049	2.4487	2.6033
2014	\$908,684.00	0.6275	0.004	1.5029	1.6727	2.1344	2.3042
2015	\$914,395.00	0.6577	0.0033	1.2584	1.5668	1.9194	2.2278
2016	\$920,365.00	0.6293	0.0023	1.3397	1.5854	1.9713	2.2171
2017	6 Months Transition						
FY17/FY18	\$925,745.00	0.6527	0.0052	1.3441	1.5593	2.002	2.2172
FY18/FY19	\$924,064.00	0.6317	0.0044	1.3658	1.5533	2.0019	2.1894
FY19/FY20	\$935,120.00	0.6184	0.0047	1.4141	1.5452	2.0372	2.1683
FY20/FY21	\$948,019.00	0.5761	0.0046	1.46	1.5518	2.0407	2.1325
FY21/FY22	\$954,168.00	0.6154	0.0063	1.6628	1.6667	2.2845	2.2284
FY22/FY23	\$1,176,377.00	0.4881	0.0041	1.3507	1.3124	1.8429	1.8046
FY23/FY24	\$1,188,337.00	0.5705	0.0045	1.4704	1.3828	2.0454	1.9578
Projected FY24/FY25	\$1,188,337.00	0.602	0.0045	1.4704	1.32828	2.0769	1.9893



## SELECTBOARD REPORT 2023

On Town Meeting Day 2023 we were waiting for the roads to break-up. After an easier than normal winter we had an easier than normal mud season which was over quickly. The road crew had an early start grading roads and hauling gravel and winter sand.

At the end of the Fiscal year 2023 our budgets had surpluses which will begin our FY25 budget process. We begin our budget development three months into our current budgets to develop final budgets for the Town Report at six months. The FY25 Highway Budget is being presented with a decrease of 1.04%. Contracted labor is decreased along with sand screening. The appropriation to our equipment fund is remaining constant but the Capital fund appropriation is lowered to result in this small decrease. Our General Budget is being presented with an increase of 8.42% if article 8 is approved. Increased line items are CALEX Ambulance Service (an increase of 2.03% to this budget) health insurance, training, electricity, ads and notices, office equipment, cyber protection, lawn mowing, dues and subscriptions, generator maintenance, and fire insurance. The Cemetery Commission is asking for a small increase to cover lawn mowing increases and the Fire Department is asking for a small increase. The overall combined budget growth is 2.42%. These budgets are warned articles for Town Meeting and may be rejected or altered at that time.

Going back to July. Stanley finished hauling and stock piling winter sand during the hottest days in 135,000 years. Our road foreman, Bob Bell, cut his vacation short July 10 due to the flood. These two monitored and attempted to stop washouts until 2:30 am on July 11 and then the work began. Our crew grew to four excavators with operators, a skid steer and five trucks, working material uphill, shaking out culverts and reinstalling, ditching, and repairing roads. There were volunteers in ditches setting culverts and residents offering snacks and fluids to the workers. A lot of people came together for the common good. It was something to witness. Within one week all roads were passable and homes connected. There continued to be repairs until November and one wash-out will be repaired in 2024. The office maintained flawless records for FEMA relief. Walden has submitted reimbursement requests for a total of \$229,344.62 of emergency funds.

The late summer dry spell even allowed our planned capital road projects to be completed. The intersection of Noyestar and Rte.15 will be paved in 2024 to complete that project. An eight-foot culvert was replaced on the Watson Road after failing during the flood. This project had been approved with grant funding from the State and authorization from the VT Agency of Natural Resources (Dated Aug.10, 2023).

Following direction from Town Meeting the Board appointed a Planning Commission to develop our first Town Plan. An approved Plan opens opportunities for state infrastructure grants not currently available to Walden. We hope it will present a clear direction and explain Capital Plans for everyone to view in advance, for instance, we pave every eight to ten years and our budget development must include these projects. The office needs expansion, and the vault is still overcrowded. The fire and rescue department never has enough room. We need an emergency generator at the office. After the flood we need updated culvert and road inventories to direct priorities for weather resiliency improvements. And our cemeteries are full.

It was an interesting year. Please register your dogs and we hope to see you at Town Meeting.

Thank you.

Randolph Wilson, Robert Hatch, and Brenda Huntoon

## TOWN REAL ESTATE AND EQUIPMENT

### TOWN REAL ESTATE (FY23 Grand List Values)

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

### TOWN EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Office Equipment	\$15,000.00
2016 John Deere Grader	\$250,000.00
2013 International Truck with wing	\$10,000.00
2016 International Truck with wing and sander	\$90,000.00
2020 Mack Truck with wing and sander	\$150,000.00
1978 GMC	\$2,000.00
Rock Rake	\$1,200.00
Small Tools	\$15,000.00
Two-Way Radios (8)	\$7,000.00
Pressure Washer	\$500.00
Culvert Thawer	\$6,500.00
20 Ton Trailer	\$4,000.00
2021 John Deere 544 Loader	\$160,000.00
2022 Hay Mulcher	\$7,120.00
2022 Blade Lifter	\$1,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$719,420.00</b>

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

**GENERAL FUND** is the general operating fund of the Town.

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

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

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

## GENERAL FUND BUDGET

	<u>FY 2023 Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2023 Actuals</u>	<u>FY 2024 Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2024 Actuals 12-31-23</u>	<u>FY 2025 Proposed</u>	<u>* If Article 8 Should Pass</u>
<b>FY 2023 Surplus</b>					<u>15,055.20</u>	
<b>FY 2022 Surplus</b>			6,840.13	<b>6,840.13</b>	0.00	
<b>FY 2021 Surplus</b>	21,176.63	<u>21,176.63</u>	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Property Tax Revenue</b>						
Municipal Property Taxes	202,705.50	46,748.63	234,685.55	184,165.03	246,013.17	*257,029.43
Prepaid Taxes	0.00	9,214.74	0.00	89.35	0.00	
Delinquent Taxes	0.00	162,713.68	0.00	48,119.12	0.00	
Delinquent Tax Interest	8,000.00	6,931.32	8,000.00	1,835.64	8,000.00	
Delinquent Tax Penalty	8,000.00	13,705.66	8,000.00	3,830.30	8,000.00	
Reconciliation from State	0.00	14,517.67	0.00	16,266.50	0.00	
<b>Total Property Tax Revenue</b>	<b>218,705.50</b>	<b>254,631.70</b>	<b>250,685.55</b>	<b>254,305.94</b>	<b>262,013.17</b>	<b>*273,029.43</b>
<b>Other Income</b>						
State of Vermont. Library Grant	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	
Library Winnie Belle Grant	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	
Fines	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	
Green Up Income	750.00	520.00	750.00	0.00	750.00	
Hold Harmless	20,000.00	25,245.00	20,000.00	19,318.00	20,000.00	
Interest	300.00	673.28	300.00	287.04	300.00	
Miscellaneous	100.00	146.66	100.00	70.99	100.00	
School Elections Reinbursement	0.00	220.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Online Records Income	200.00	237.83	200.00	71.00	250.00	
Parcel Payment	7,000.00	7,115.50	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	
Tax Penalties	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	
Town Clerk Fees	12,000.00	9,571.00	12,000.00	5,442.70	10,000.00	
Steam Mill Brook (PILOT)	39,000.00	39,909.03	39,900.00	39,909.03	39,909.00	
Transfer from Library	0.00	900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Transfer from Reappraisal fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Transfer from Cemetery Fund	0.00	1,527.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Transfer from Capital Equip./Roof Repair	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
VT Assoc. of Conservation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>79,700.00</b>	<b>86,065.80</b>	<b>80,600.00</b>	<b>65,898.76</b>	<b>78,509.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>319,582.13</b>	<b>361,874.13</b>	<b>338,125.68</b>	<b>327,044.83</b>	<b>355,577.37</b>	<b>* 366,593.63</b>

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET (continued)**

	<b><u>FY 2023</u></b> <b><u>Proposed</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2023</u></b> <b><u>Actuals</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2024</u></b> <b><u>Proposed</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2024</u></b> <b><u>Actual 12-31-23</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2025</u></b> <b><u>Proposed</u></b>	<b><u>* If Article 8</u></b> <b><u>Should Pass</u></b>
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>						
Town Clerk & Treasurer	50,832.00	42,366.91	46,800.00	22,277.00	46,800.00	
Asst Clerk/Treasurer	15,885.00	16,354.84	20,000.00	9,876.68	20,000.00	
Assistant Clerk	500.00	966.00	600.00	433.13	1,000.00	
Auditor	1,500.00	728.00	1,500.00	1,561.00	1,500.00	
Board of Civil Authority	1,200.00	922.46	1,000.00	12.56	1,000.00	
Constable Stipend	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Delinquent Tax Collector	8,000.00	12,542.76	8,000.00	3,659.10	8,000.00	
E911 Coordinator Stipend			500.00	1,500.00	500.00	
Emergency Management Coordinator Stipend	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Fire Chief Stipend	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
Forest Fire Warden Stipend	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Health Officer Stipend	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	
Selectboard Stipends	3,000.00	2,920.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	
Planning Commission Stipends					1,500.00	
HRA Employer Contribution	1,500.00	40.80	1,250.00	40.00	1,500.00	
Dental Insurance	400.00	406.38	400.00	338.65	400.00	
Health Insurance	6,000.00	21,713.64	23,300.00	9,716.60	26,400.00	
Mileage	300.00	154.89	300.00	156.60	300.00	
Life Insurance	230.00	235.42	350.00	80.84	350.00	
Pension	3,500.00	2,505.50	3,100.00	1,487.25	3,100.00	
Training	150.00	33.46	150.00	185.00	200.00	
Social Security/Medicare	6,500.00	6,723.94	5,683.00	3,838.98	5,700.00	
VT Unemployment Insurance	250.00	316.65	300.00	134.75	300.00	
Workman's Comp	550.00	725.50	370.00	387.60	725.00	
Salaries & Benefits Other	0.00	80.06	0.00	1,034.22	0.00	
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>103,347.00</b>	<b>112,737.21</b>	<b>119,153.00</b>	<b>56,719.96</b>	<b>124,825.00</b>	<b>124,825.00</b>
<b>Town Clerk Office Operations</b>						
Ads & Notices	300.00	447.50	350.00	165.45	400.00	
Electricity	1,500.00	1,965.63	1,900.00	748.71	2,000.00	
Heating Fuel	3,000.00	3,815.66	4,000.00	851.70	4,000.00	
Office Equipment - New & Repair	500.00	4,053.26	500.00	0.00	3,000.00	

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET (continued)**

	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Actual 12-31-23</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>* If Article 8</u> <u>Should Pass</u>
<b>Town Clerk Office Operations (continued)</b>						
Office Supplies	4,000.00	4,852.35	4,000.00	3,303.38	4,000.00	
Town Meeting Costs	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TC Office/Firehouse Repairs/Other	2,500.00	641.28	2,500.00	535.43	2,500.00	
Telephone/Fax	2,705.00	1,382.40	2,742.00	761.80	2,750.00	
Cyber Protection/Internet	0.00	4,962.18	3,840.00	4,330.36	4,400.00	
Town Report Printing	800.00	640.40	800.00	0.00	800.00	
Mowing	780.00	870.00	780.00	690.00	800.00	
Land Record Digitization	0.00	1,600.00	2,000.00	800.00	2,000.00	
<b>Total Town Clerk Office Operations</b>	<b>16,085.00</b>	<b>25,240.66</b>	<b>23,412.00</b>	<b>12,186.83</b>	<b>26,650.00</b>	<b>26,650.00</b>
<b>General Expenses</b>						
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan	0.00	446.66	0.00	798.25	0.00	
Animal Control	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00	
CALEX Ambulance Service	8,617.00	8,617.68	9,000.00	9,419.00	15,840.00	
County Taxes	11,000.00	11,610.00	11,500.00	9,448.00	11,000.00	
Dues and Subscriptions	6,000.00	6,052.84	6,000.00	7,363.00	7,000.00	
Forest Fire Warden Supplies	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Generator Maintenance	1,600.00	1,260.00	1,100.00	1,820.67	1,200.00	
Green Up	2,500.00	1,434.38	2,800.00	0.00	2,000.00	
Insurance	6,000.00	7,192.29	6,000.00	3,180.47	7,200.00	
Law Enforcement	7,500.00	5,899.50	10,000.00	2,125.50	10,000.00	
Mowing Ball Fields	1,220.00	1,225.00	1,500.00	1,070.00	1,500.00	
Professional Fees	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	
Truck Payment	16,953.13	16,953.13	16,953.13	16,941.67	0.00	* 11,016.26
Loader Payment	21,054.69	21,921.89	21,054.69	20,682.37	20,682.37	
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>83,644.82</b>	<b>83,113.37</b>	<b>87,107.82</b>	<b>72,848.93</b>	<b>77,622.37</b>	<b>* 88,638.63</b>
<b>Cemetery Commission (see pages 29-33)</b>						
<b>Total Cemetery Commission</b>	<b>7,000.00</b>	<b>8,527.50</b>	<b>7,000.00</b>	<b>6,670.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET (continued)**

	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Actuals 12-31-23</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>* If Article 8</u> <u>Should Pass</u>
<b>Library (see pages 34-36)</b>						
Library Winne Belle Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	
State of VT Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	
Wages	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Social Security/Medicare	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Operations	4,500.00	4,808.06	4,500.00	1,444.92	5,000.00	
<b>Total Library</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>4,808.06</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>2,244.92</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
<b>Listers Office</b>						
Wages	2,500.00	3,305.82	2,500.00	868.00	3,000.00	
Social Security/Medicare	190.00	264.47	190.00	0.00	250.00	
Supplies	2,500.00	2,172.15	2,500.00	2,068.00	2,500.00	
Consultant/Contract Services	4,000.00	12,200.00	4,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	
Travel Reimbursement	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Listers Office</b>	<b>9,240.00</b>	<b>17,942.44</b>	<b>9,240.00</b>	<b>2,936.00</b>	<b>10,750.00</b>	<b>10,750.00</b>
<b>Fire Department (see pages 26-28)</b>						
Fire Department Operations	58,000.00	57,151.98	58,000.00	18,172.58	60,000.00	
Stipends	8,000.00	7,804.63	8,000.00	6,600.00	8,000.00	
Insurance	1,000.00	1,285.99	1,000.00	0.00	1,200.00	
Truck Fund	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	
Workman's comp	2,000.00	1,219.00	2,000.00	1,219.00	1,200.00	
<b>Total Fire Department</b>	<b>75,000.00</b>	<b>73,461.60</b>	<b>75,000.00</b>	<b>25,991.58</b>	<b>76,400.00</b>	<b>76,400.00</b>
<b>Appropriations` to Reserve Accounts</b>						
Reappraisal Fund	9,500.00	9,500.00	0.00	0.00	9,500.00	
<b>Total Appropriation to Reserve Accounts</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>
<b>Appropriations (see pages 38-39)</b>						
AWARE	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Caledonia Home Health	325.00	325.00	325.00	325.00	325.00	
Fairbanks Museum	780.00	780.00	780.00	780.00	780.00	
Green Up Vermont	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET (continued)**

	<b><u>FY 2023</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2023</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2024</u></b>	<b><u>FY2024</u></b>	<b><u>FY2025</u></b>	<b><u>* If Article 8</u></b>
	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>	<b><u>Actuals</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>	<b><u>Actuals 12-31-23</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>	<b><u>Should Pass</u></b>
<b>Appropriations (continued) (see pages 39-40)</b>						
Hardwick Area Food Pantry	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Hardwick Emergency Rescue	4,300.00	4,291.46	5,142.86	5,142.86	7,260.00	
Joe's Pond Association	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Neighbors In Action	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	
Northeast Kingdom Human Services	1,870.00	1,870.00	1,870.00	1,870.00	1,870.00	
Northeast Kingdom Learning Services	200.00	200.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Rural Community Transportation	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Umbrella	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
VT Ctr for Independent Living	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	
West Danville Community Club	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>11,320.00</b>	<b>11,311.46</b>	<b>12,712.86</b>	<b>12,712.86</b>	<b>14,830.00</b>	<b>14,830.00</b>
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>319,582.13</b>	<b>346,818.93</b>	<b>338,125.68</b>	<b>192,278.83</b>	<b>355,577.37</b>	<b>*366,593.63</b>
<b>Total General Fund Revenue</b>	<b>319,582.13</b>	<b>361,874.13</b>	<b>338,125.68</b>	<b>327,044.83</b>	<b>355,577.37</b>	<b>*366,593.63</b>
Surplus or (Deficit)	0.00	15,055.20	0.00	134,766.00		

## HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET

	<u>FY2023</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY2024</u> <u>Actuals 12-31-23</u>	<u>FY2025</u> <u>Proposed</u>
<b>FY 2021 Surplus</b>	33,311.32	33,311.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>FY 2020 Surplus</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>FY 2022 Deficit</b>			-8,658.08	-8,658.08	0.00
<b>FY 2023 Surplus</b>					3,370.93
Highway Property Taxes	371,438.68	371,438.68	443,289.88	443,289.88	422,179.07
Grants in Aid	34,000.00	33,873.32	12,000.00		15,000.00
Grants in Aid/Equip Purchase	6,000.00	5,696.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pacif 2022 Grant / Blade Lifter	1,102.50	1,102.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hold Harmless (current use)	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00
Sale of Trailer	0.00	2,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Highway Aid - Class 3	53,000.00	54,590.93	53,000.00	56,204.87	53,000.00
State Highway Aid - Class 2	39,000.00	40,118.78	39,000.00	41,321.71	39,000.00
Better Roads Grant	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00		20,000.00
Town Highway Class 2 (Noyestar)			0.00	10,400.00	0.00
Transfer from Highway Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Agency of Trans./Watson Culvert				75,966.48	
<b>Total Highway Fund Revenue</b>	<b>585,852.50</b>	<b>570,431.53</b>	<b>586,631.80</b>	<b>655,182.94</b>	<b>580,550.00</b>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>					
Labor - Highway	116,490.00	113,030.17	120,000.00	53,213.22	120,000.00
Dental Insurance	1,600.00	1,625.52	1,625.00	677.30	1,650.00
HRA Employer Contribution	3,000.00	2,430.35	3,000.00	752.85	3,000.00
Health Insurance	38,910.00	43,579.28	42,742.80	19,433.20	46,600.00
Life Insurance	500.00	537.59	600.00	161.68	600.00
Mileage	350.00	92.63	350.00	241.90	350.00
Pension	7,400.00	7,347.08	7,800.00	3,582.36	7,800.00
Training	200.00	57.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Social Security/Medicare	8,900.00	8,646.82	9,240.00	4,059.95	9,300.00
Uniforms	3,500.00	4,989.86	4,000.00	2,303.85	5,300.00
VT Unemployment	400.00	470.35	524.00	222.25	550.00
Workman's Comp	8,500.00	12,451.40	6,000.00	6,222.40	12,500.00
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>189,750.00</b>	<b>195,258.05</b>	<b>196,081.80</b>	<b>90,870.96</b>	<b>207,850.00</b>

## HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET (continued)

	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY2024</u> <u>Actuals 12-31-23</u>	<u>FY2025</u> <u>Proposed</u>
<b>Town Garage</b>					
Electricity	2,100.00	2,175.84	2,500.00	835.70	2,750.00
Garage Maintenance	3,500.00	2,622.63	3,500.00	875.73	3,500.00
Heating Fuel - Propane	5,000.00	3,143.76	6,000.00	885.61	6,000.00
Insurance	4,300.00	4,965.82	4,300.00	2,179.21	5,000.00
Telephone	600.00	666.15	750.00	1,124.87	750.00
<b>Total Town Garage</b>	<b>15,500.00</b>	<b>13,574.20</b>	<b>17,050.00</b>	<b>5,901.12</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>
<b>Highway Maintenance</b>					
2023 Flood Damage	0.00	0.00	0.00	226,817.12	0.00
Bridge Materials	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Brushing/Chipping	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Chloride	20,000.00	24,340.02	20,000.00	5,175.00	25,000.00
Cold Patch	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Contracted Labor	4,000.00	6,997.50	10,000.00	930.00	5,000.00
Culverts	4,000.00	2,496.06	5,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Diesel	35,000.00	42,368.45	50,000.00	18660.83	50,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	40,000.00	52,884.42	40,000.00	17,366.45	40,000.00
Equipment Rental	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	150.00	5,000.00
Gravel	60,000.00	62,144.84	65,000.00	25,631.32	70,000.00
Guard Rails	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Ice Control	15,000.00	13,554.64	15,000.00	4,170.50	15,000.00
Mowing	6,000.00	6,600.00	7,000.00	6,400.00	7,000.00
MRGP permit fees	1,500.00	1,765.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,700.00
Mulching Hay & Seed	1,000.00	499.04	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
New Equipment	500.00	1,102.50	500.00	0.00	500.00
Sand/Screening	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Signs	1,500.00	999.18	2,000.00	196.35	2,000.00
Winter Sand	15,000.00	14,868.00	15,000.00	15,827.00	17,000.00
<b>Total General Highway Maintenance</b>	<b>214,500.00</b>	<b>230,619.65</b>	<b>243,500.00</b>	<b>321,324.57</b>	<b>249,700.00</b>

### HIGHWAY BUDGET (continued)

	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Actuals 12-31-23</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Proposed</u>
<b>Construction Projects</b>					
Better Roads Project	18,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
Municipal Grants-In-Aid	9,000.00	9,701.20	12,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Grants Highway Equip	0.00	7,120.00			0.00
Watson Road Culvert		787.50	0.00	84,607.20	0.00
Stannard Mtn. Road		0.00	0.00	20,924.50	0.00
Noyestar Intersection Project				25,050.00	
<b>Total Construction Projects</b>	<b>27,000.00</b>	<b>17,608.70</b>	<b>32,000.00</b>	<b>130,581.70</b>	<b>35,000.00</b>
<b>Appropriated to Reserve Accounts</b>					
Capital Improvement Fund	60,000.00	60,000.00	54,000.00	54,000.00	20,000.00
Highway Equipment Fund	50,000.00	50,000.00	44,000.00	44,000.00	50,000.00
<b>Total Appropriated to Reserve Accounts</b>	<b>110,000.00</b>	<b>110,000.00</b>	<b>98,000.00</b>	<b>98,000.00</b>	<b>70,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b>556,750.00</b>	<b>567,060.60</b>	<b>586,631.80</b>	<b>646,678.35</b>	<b>580,550.00</b>
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>556,750.00</b>	<b>570,431.53</b>	<b>586,631.80</b>	<b>646,524.86</b>	<b>580,550.00</b>
Surplus or (Deficit)		<b>3,370.93</b>		<b>-153.49</b>	

## HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULES

<b>Income</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY2028</b>
Fund Beginning Balance	\$13,001.94	\$53,058.74	\$30,115.14	\$72,186.25	\$116,246.25	(\$27,693.75)	\$22,366.25	\$72,426.25
Appropriation From Town Loan	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$44,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Interest/misc.	\$56.80	\$91.40	\$88.51	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Sale of Trailer			\$2,000.00					
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$53,058.74</b>	<b>\$193,150.14</b>	<b>\$82,203.65</b>	<b>\$116,246.25</b>	<b>\$166,306.25</b>	<b>\$22,366.25</b>	<b>\$72,426.25</b>	<b>\$122,486.25</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY2028</b>
2016 Truck								\$300,000.00
2013 International					\$194,000.00			
2020 Mack Loader - 2021		\$156,900.00						
Grader 2016			\$10,017.40					
Truck Tires		\$6,135.00						
Fire Truck								
15 Ton Trailer								
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$163,035.00</b>	<b>\$10,017.40</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$194,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$53,058.74</b>	<b>\$30,115.14</b>	<b>\$72,186.25</b>	<b>\$116,246.25</b>	<b>(\$27,693.75)</b>	<b>\$22,366.25</b>	<b>\$72,426.25</b>	<b>(\$177,513.75)</b>

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

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

<b>Income</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>
Fund Beginning Balance	\$1,039.19	\$51,087.39	\$69,357.36	\$251,250.03	\$307,719.43	\$327,719.43	\$387,719.43
Appropriation from Town	\$50,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$54,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Transfer ARPA Funds			\$121,741.18	\$2,319.40			
Interest/misc.	\$48.20	\$69.97	\$151.49	\$150.00			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$51,087.39</b>	<b>\$86,157.36</b>	<b>\$251,250.03</b>	<b>\$307,719.43</b>	<b>\$327,719.43</b>	<b>\$387,719.43</b>	<b>\$447,719.43</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>
Paving Rte 215							\$20,000.00
TC/Fire Dept Roof Repairs		\$16,800.00					
Culverts							
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$16,800.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$51,087.39</b>	<b>\$69,357.36</b>	<b>\$251,250.03</b>	<b>\$307,719.43</b>	<b>\$327,719.43</b>	<b>\$387,719.43</b>	<b>\$427,719.43</b>

Paving is done every eight years. Sometimes capital projects may be funded through the General or Highway accounts. This account serves to supplement larger projects.

**HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, & TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RENOVATION/CONSTRUCTION FUNDS**

**HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT FUND**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

<b>Balance 07/01/2022</b>		<b>\$30,115.14</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Appropriation from Town	\$50,000.00	
Sale of Trailer	\$2,000.00	
Interest	<u>\$88.51</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$52,088.51</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Grader Repairs	<u>-\$10,017.40</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-\$10,017.40</b>	
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>		<b>\$72,186.25</b>

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

<b>Balance 7/1/2022</b>		<b>\$69,357.36</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Appropriation from Town	\$60,000.00	
ARPA Funds moved	\$121,741.18	
Interest	<u>\$151.49</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$181,892.67</b>	
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>		<b>\$251,250.03</b>

**TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE RENOVATION/CONSTRUCTION FUND**

Certificate of Deposit with Passumpsic Savings Bank @ 0.42% Matures on 5/18/2024		
<b>Balance 7/1/2022</b>		<b>\$32,414.33</b>
Interest	<u>\$94.84</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$94.84</b>	
<b>Balance 6/30/23</b>		<b>\$32,509.17</b>

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, REAPPRAISAL, & PRESERVATION FUNDS

**Balance 7/1/2022** **\$556.84**

**Income**

Sign Sales \$10.00

Interest \$0.12

**Total** \$10.12

**Balance 6/30/2023** **\$566.96**

### REAPPRAISAL FUND

**Balance 7/1/2022** **\$4,793.60**

**Income**

Appropriation from Town \$9,500.00

Interest \$2.10

**Total** \$9,502.10

**Balance 6/30/2023** **\$14,295.70**

### PRESERVATION FUND

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

**Balance 7/1/2022** **\$9,949.43**

**Income**

Recording Fees \$3,144.00

**Total** \$3,144.00

**Balance 6/30/2023** **\$13,093.43**

## TOWN CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT & TOWN CLERK'S ACCOUNT

The 2022/2023 FY moved quickly in the Town Office. I was newly appointed to the positions of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer in July and hit the ground running. The Listers had just completed a Town wide reassessment with the help of NEMC. We set the tax rate and moved to getting tax bills printed and in the mail. In August the Primary Elections were held with 209 registered voters casting ballots. In November 476 registered voters participated in the General Election. The office began the process of updating the Town's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan with the assistance of Seams Solution Inc. It's mandatory every five years to update the plan to stay in compliance with State and Federal Government agencies. The plan helps to ensure assistance from FEMA after a disaster. A group of Town Officers, including the Town Clerk, Selectboard Members, Fire Chief, Lister, 911 Coordinator and the Walden School Principal met monthly to review, update and make plans for being better prepared in Emergencies. The Selectboard voted to support the Northern Vermont Development Association Consortium Grant. The Grant will develop a regional amenities plan for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail in the Northeast Kingdom region. The Town started working with LVRT and NVDA in researching possible parking lot/trailhead locations. December and January flew by with budget meetings and preparing the Annual Report. February found me campaigning for the job I had worked at for seven months and grew to enjoy. March brought Town Meeting and another election. I am grateful for the support I received from voters to continue as Town Clerk/Treasurer of Walden. A lengthy discussion at Town Meeting was had on, Article 6: To see if the voters will approve an expansion to the Municipal Office at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00. There was talk of doing an expansion at current location or the possibility of a new Municipality building. Where would this new building be located? Build on Town owned land or the purchase of land. This brought the appointment of a new Planning Commission. The office continues to post both agendas and minutes for the Commission on the Town website. Dog registrations seemed to be a struggle again this year. The office worked to track down owners and update their unregistered dog list. This seems to be a good place to ask that residents license their dogs and/or let the office know if you have unfortunately experienced the loss of your pet. Year-end reports were completed and audited. My first Fiscal Year in the books. The year was full of lots of new Boards, people, procedures, schedules, reports, and much more. I learned something new every day, sometimes that was how to correct an error. I made my share of mistakes and tried to learn from each of them. I am thankful for the support I received from the community, the Selectboard and Road Crew. I am beyond appreciative of the assistance I have received from Diane Banister and Dia Michaud. We worked hard this first year to build a solid team that works well together.

Thank you,

Debbie Messier  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

### TOWN CLERK'S ACCOUNT

Checkbook		\$ 147.07
Cash		<u>\$ 50.00</u>
<b>Balance 07/01/2022</b>		<b><u>\$ 197.07</u></b>
<hr/>		
<b>Income</b>		
Vault Copies	\$ 608.80	
Vault time	\$ 221.00	
Certified Copies	\$ 440.00	
DMV	\$1,748.00	
Dogs	\$1,530.00	
Misc.	\$ 51.37	
Copies (Misc.)	\$ 81.10	
Interest	<u>\$ 1.13</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$4,681.40</u></b>	
<hr/>		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bank Fee	\$ 32.00	
DMV	\$1,532.00	
Dog Licenses	<u>\$ 638.00</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$2,202.00</u></b>	
Checkbook		\$2,676.47
Cash		<u>\$ 50.00</u>
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>		<b><u>\$2,726.47</u></b>

A Transfer to the General Account was made after close of Fiscal Year in the amount of \$2,529.47.

## DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTORS' REPORTS

### FINAL REPORT OF COLLECTIONS - JULY 1, 2022, TO MARCH 3, 2023

Lina Smith

TAX YEAR	DELINQUENT TAXES	COLLECTED TAXES	UNCOLLECTED TAXES
20/21	\$4,177.17	\$3,104.61	\$1,072.56
21/22	\$33,229.55	\$23,812.06	\$9,417.49
22/23	\$142,705.99	\$112,659.27	\$30,046.72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$180,112.71</b>	<b>\$139,575.94</b>	<b>\$40,536.77</b>

### FINAL REPORT OF COLLECTIONS - MARCH 4, 2023, TO JUNE 30, 2023

Dia Michaud

TAX YEAR	DELINQUENT TAXES	COLLECTED TAXES	UNCOLLECTED TAXES
20/21	\$1,267.71	\$958.07	\$309.64
21/22	\$8,729.66	\$5,417.87	\$3,311.79
22/23	\$30,532.22	\$18,473.89	\$2,058.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,529.59</b>	<b>\$24,849.83</b>	<b>\$15,679.76</b>

**Auditor's Note:** Difference in calculation from collectors of \$7.18.  
Figures presented were confirmed.

### WALDEN TAXPAYERS, PLEASE NOTE:

**The Town accepts prepayments and/or installment payments of property taxes at any time before the annual due date, *even before the bills are generated.***

**TOWN SALARIES 2022/2023**

<b>Auditors</b>	Judith Clifford	\$364.00	<b>Fire Chief</b>	Jason Larrabee	\$1,000.00
	Wilhelm Woelfle	\$364.00	<b>Fire Warden</b>	Rodney Hooker	\$500.00
<b>Clerk/Treasurer</b>	Lina Smith	\$1,365.00			
<b>Clerk/Treasurer</b>	Deborah Messier	\$41,001.91	<b>Fire Department Stipends</b>		
<b>Clerk/Treasurer Assistant</b>	Diane Banister	\$16,154.84		Anthony Brochu	\$50.00
<b>Clerk Assistant</b>	Dia Michaud	\$1,166.00		Cody Bussiere	\$100.00
<b>Constable</b>	Eugene McAllister	\$500.00		Lawrence Chadderton	\$50.00
<b>Delinquent Tax Collector</b>	Lina Smith	\$10,739.05		David Covell	\$200.00
<b>Delinquent Tax Collector</b>	Dia Michaud	\$1,803.71		Valerie Covell	\$50.00
<b>E911/Emergency Management</b>	Marvin Greaves Jr.	\$1,000.00		Daniel Greaves	\$400.00
	Diane Banister	\$1,625.82		Kurtis Greaves	\$300.00
<b>Listers</b>	Dia Michaud	\$1,554.00		Marvin Greaves Jr.	\$600.00
	Annette Foster	\$126.00		Paul Greaves	\$200.00
<b>Library</b>	Martha Bissell	\$750.00		Robert Hatch	\$50.00
<b>Road Foreman</b>	Robert Bell	\$64,645.54		Geoff Hauver	\$50.00
<b>Road Crew</b>	Stanley Linkovich	\$48,384.63		Rodney Hooker	\$500.00
	Brenda Huntoon	\$1,080.00		Brenda Huntoon	\$600.00
<b>Selectboard</b>	Robert Hatch	\$760.00		Michael Jacobs	\$50.00
	Randolph Wilson	\$1,080.00		Alec Larrabee	\$600.00
	Annette Foster	\$12.55		Jason Larrabee	\$600.00
	Randolph Wilson	\$25.11		Ashley Leonard	\$600.00
	Judith Clifford	\$106.68		Chad Mayo	\$600.00
	Robert Hatch	\$18.83		Tyler Mayo	\$600.00
	Robyn Cook-Hubner	\$12.55		Deborah Peterson	\$50.00
	Diane Cochran	\$257.28		Elizabeth Wilkel	\$400.00
<b>Board of Civil Authority &amp; Election Workers</b>	Michael Coffey	\$31.38		Heather Winner	\$600.00
	Roger Fox	\$106.68			
	Maia Mencucci	\$131.78	<b>Total Town Salaries</b>		<b>\$204,136.96</b>
	Carolyn Greaves	\$94.12			
	Linda Fox	\$56.47			
	Anne Gaillard	\$56.48			
	Sierra Mencucci	\$12.55			

## ARPA COMMITTEE REPORT

### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

The ARPA Committee would like to thank community members for their earnest participation in guiding the distribution of the American Rescue Plan Act funds in the interest of recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and preparing the community for similar challenges in the future.

The Selectboard decided to put the remaining ARPA Funds into the town's Capital Fund, where the type of spending is substantially restricted.

Due to the unavailability of any remaining discretionary funds, the ARPA Committee reluctantly suspended its work on representing the community's interest in the distribution of ARPA funds.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Cook-Hubner, Chair, Judy Clifford, Diane Cochran, Mike Coffey, Susan Coffey, Bob Hawk, Brenda Huntoon, Jason Larrabee, Sarah Lyons

#### EXPEDITURES APPROVED BY SELECTBOARD

<b>Balance 7/1/2022</b>					<b>\$117,344.97</b>
Deposits	\$142,558.93				
Transfer to General Acct. for Expenses	\$248,197.49				
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>					<b>\$11,706.41</b>
	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>FY2022</b>	<b>FY2023</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Digital records/cybersecurity	\$8,000.00	\$6,052.86	\$1,703.50	\$7,756.36	
Walden School ( substitute teachers)	\$8,030.00	\$0.00	\$1,862.14	\$1,862.14	
EMS N95's	\$790.00	\$642.00	\$0.00	\$642.00	
Cabot and Hardwick Food Services	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
Survey Mailing	\$313.00	\$402.73	\$0.00	\$402.73	
Highway fund (Gravel)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	
Broadband	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	
Highway Fund & Budget Deficit	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Fast Squad (High Visibility Jackets)	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,792.92	\$2,792.92	
911 Signs for Community	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$639.34	\$639.34	
VFD PPE/Equipment	\$84,123.00	\$0.00	\$79,458.41	\$79,458.41	
Total Allocated Amounts	\$203,256.00	\$24,097.59	\$126,456.31	\$150,553.90	
Meeting Owl	\$0.00	\$1,008.38	\$0.00	\$1,008.38	
Transferred to Capital Improvements		\$0.00	\$121,741.18	\$121,741.18	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$203,256.00</b>	<b>\$25,105.97</b>	<b>\$248,197.49</b>	<b>\$273,303.46</b>	
Total Funds Received for ARPA	\$284,997.18				
Total Allocated Funds Used	-\$273,303.46				
2022 Transfer short	\$12.69				
Balance	<b>\$11,706.41</b>				

## LISTERS' REPORT

*We are saddened to report that Annette Foster passed away on June 3, 2023. She had served on the Board of Listers since 2013 and was a key member who always brought her kindness and humor to all her interactions with the board and with the public. The profound loss of our dear friend and longtime colleague leaves a void not only in our professional lives but deeply affects each one of us who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside her.*

Exterior renovation and new construction inspections continued in Walden for the 2023 Grand List (GL). 55 Change of Appraisal notices were mailed out resulting in 1 grievance being heard by the Board.

The 2023 GL Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is 100.59% and the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is 9.79%. The state used to require a reappraisal if a town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) fell below 85% or had a Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) greater than 20%.

The following changes have been made by the legislature and will impact Walden.

### **Changes Impacting Reappraisals, Act 68 (H.480)**

#### Section 1

- Immediately removes the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) as a factor triggering reappraisal orders issued by the Department of Taxes' Division of Property Valuation and Review (PVR), which historically have been issued when a municipality's property values are significantly different than fair market value.
- Effective retroactive to April 1, 2022, and applicable to grand lists lodged on or after April 1, 2022.

#### Section 2

- Phases in a reappraisal cycle, requiring that every municipality reappraise at least every six years.
- A municipality will be required to conduct a reappraisal of its grand list properties if it has a Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) greater than 20, *or* if a municipality has not begun the reappraisal process within six years of the date on which its previous reappraisal process began.
- Effective January 1, 2025.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Walden Board of Listers

Diane Banister  
Dia Michaud



Annette Foster

## BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) is composed of Walden's justices of the peace, select board members, and Town Clerk. Our responsibilities include reviewing the accuracy of the town voter checklist, overseeing and staffing elections, and hearing "tax appeals" of lister property valuations. We also serve as the Board of Abatement for property taxes, along with the town listers and treasurer.

In 2023 BCA members helped conduct the March town elections, the Caledonia Cooperative School District budget vote and officer election in April. The BCA received no property valuation appeals. We considered and decided two tax abatement requests. In June we performed our biennial review and purge of Walden's voter checklist, as required by state statute. In this process we go over the checklist name by name and vote to challenge the active status of persons whose current residency can't be verified by any BCA member.

At year-end Walden had 742 registered voters, of which 68 are provisional, whose current residency remains unconfirmed (including a number of people who no longer reside in town but haven't registered to vote elsewhere and are required to be retained on our checklist through the 2024 general election.) These totals compare to 733 and 56 a year ago. Note that Vermont provides various ways to register to vote, including online or when applying for a driver's license or motor vehicle registration, and new voters may register at any time up to and including the day of an election. More information is available at the Vermont Secretary of State's website: <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>

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

Respectfully submitted,

The Walden Board of Civil Authority

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

## WALDEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The year 2023 will close with almost 100 calls for the Walden Emergency Services Department. Calls are approximately half Fire calls and half EMS calls, though some overlap with EMS and Fire responding together.

This year the Town of Walden was awarded ARPA funds from the Federal government. The ARPA committee and Select Board allocated just over \$90,000 to the Fire and EMS for Personal Protective Equipment. We purchased jackets with blood borne pathogen barriers and N95 masks for our EMS members to ensure their safety during their responses. Fire Department members received 8 new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) which will reduce sharing face masks between members during calls, as well as keeping members from inhaling contaminated air during fires. We also purchased 6 new sets of firefighter Turnout Gear, replacing some that were worn and out of date. This equipment will provide protection for our members for a number of years to come.

In May, the department lost one of our valuable members, Val Covell. She was a dedicated member for many years, beginning as a first responder and later taking on the job of filling out all the State reports, keeping our licenses up to date, and writing grants. Val ordered all our supplies and kept things behind the scenes running smoothly. She was a key person at many of our events and is missed by our members and our community.

With the completion of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail through our town, we anticipate an increase in both rescue and fire calls in areas that are not always accessible via town roads. Therefore, after researching the best way to answer these types of calls, the department members purchased a UTV through the town Equipment Fund. The UTV is a vital piece of equipment to enable us to respond to not only EMS calls for transporting a patient to a trailhead, but also for access to remote forest fires. We also approved the purchase of a skid unit equipped with a small water pump and tank, forestry tools, hose, and a rescue basket out of our donation fund this year. This skid unit is being built by the Newport, VT company, Kimtek, and should be here in early 2024. We are also looking into adding tracks to this unit so we will be able to respond to calls off trails in the snow.

In closing, we want to remind our community that we welcome anyone who wants to join Walden Emergency Services. There is a myriad of opportunities to help either the fire service or EMS. Please contact Chief Jason Larrabee to talk about what is involved in being a member.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Larrabee

**WALDEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS (continued)**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES**

	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual (6 mos)</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Communications	20,000	19,621.60	20,000	9,155.20	20,000.00
Equip. Maint & Repair	4,000	5,166.22	4,000	371.45	4,000.00
Trucks	4,000	4,137.50	4,000	750.00	4,500.00
Training	2,000	-1,165.05	2,000	0.00	2,000.00
Insurance	10,000	8,669.00	10,000	530.07	10,000.00
Medical Supplies	5,000	2,433.82	5,000	305.21	5,000.00
New Equipment	5,000	7,239.28	5,000	0.00	6,000.00
PPE/Apparel	6,000	5,684.20	6,000	100.00	6,000.00
Subscriptions/Office	2,000	5,365.41	2,000	1,341.65	2,500.00
<b>Total Fire Dept Operations</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>57,151.98</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>12,553.58</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>

**FIRE DEPARTMENT CHECKING**

<b>Balance 7/1/2022</b>		<b>\$14,079.97</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Open House		\$281.00
Donations		\$1,425.00
Sign Sales		<u>\$30.00</u>
Total		\$1,736.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Recognition Dinner		\$856.00
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>		<b>\$14,959.97</b>

**FIRE TRUCK REPLACEMENT AND/OR MAJOR REPAIR FUND**

<b>Balance 7/1/2022</b>		<b>\$34,323.06</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Interest		\$7.62
Appropriation from Town		<u>\$6,000.00</u>
Total		\$6,007.62
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>		<b>\$40,330.68</b>

**WALDEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS (continued)**

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INVENTORY**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Each</b>	<b>Total</b>
6 Zoll Defibrilators/Pads/Batteries	\$1,500.00	\$9,000.00
7 Oxygen Tanks/Regulators/Bags	\$150.00	\$1,050.00
8 Oxygen Tanks	\$70.00	\$560.00
4 Backboards with Straps	\$300.00	\$1,200.00
1 Kendrick Extrication Device	\$170.00	\$170.00
1 Stokes Stretcher	\$250.00	\$250.00
4 Rescue Rope Bags	\$100.00	\$400.00
Mass Casualty Incident Triage		
1 Kite	\$270.00	\$270.00
1 Traverse Rescue Male II	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
7 Responder Equipment Setups	\$800.00	\$5,600.00
Medical Supplies		\$4,500.00
Training Supplies		\$1,100.00
EMS-PPE		\$2,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$27,700.00</b>

**FIRE TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT**

1997 Ford Rescue Pumper	\$60,000.00
2000 International V-Tec Tanker	\$70,000.00
2015 International Pierce Responder	\$230,000.00
18 Sets of Turnout Gear @ \$5500.00 each	\$120,000.00
Communication Equipment	\$35,000.00
Breathing Apparatus, Bottles and Air Compressor	\$90,000.00
3 Generators and Portable Pump	\$9,500.00
2 Thermal Imaging Cameras	\$15,000.00
Jaws and Airbags	\$33,500.00
Nozzles and Hose	\$18,000.00
2 chain saws, 2 exhaust fans, jacks, cords, litter, cordless tools, wrenches, socket sets, portable heaters	\$16,800.00
Gear racks, desk, tables, chairs, popcorn popper, hose rack, tool cabinet, hand tools, file cabinets, etc.	\$18,800.00
Ladders	\$3,500.00
2021 Polaris Ranger	\$20,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$740,100.00</b>

## WALDEN CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

The Walden cemeteries have hosted 3 cremation burials as well as a wedding at the Heights Cemetery this year.

We received the final copy of the sonar mapping done by Catamount Subsurface Investigations, LLC of Hartland, VT. This coming summer, we can proceed with brush clearing and utilize the available empty spaces in North Walden Cemetery.

Several of our fences continue to age and fail. We have been removing them as they deteriorate and will be reverting to natural barriers such as planting trees or placing boulders instead of erecting fences which need continued maintenance. The commissioners work in the cemeteries as much as possible rather than hiring outside labor, taking no reimbursement for consulting with families, digging for burials or standing responsible during activities in the cemeteries. Patriot Landscaping continues to take excellent care of our cemeteries. We feel fortunate to be able to keep these tax dollars in our town. We continue to sell lots in our three open cemeteries, but with costs increasing, our appropriation and burial fees have not kept pace. We have great respect and take pride in our cemeteries. You will therefore see an increased budget to continue our work. Prior to the pandemic, Walden as a member of the Vermont Cemeteries Association, had representatives attending their annual meetings. At that time, discussions were taking place with regard to "green" burials. There has been increased interest in Walden for green burials, hence the Walden Cemetery Commissioners worked this summer to draft amendments to the town's cemetery policies to consider rules for traditional, cremation, hybrid, and green burials. These policies/directives are open for consideration prior to adoption. You will find the DRAFT documents and proposed price list in your report this year for consideration/discussion at Town Meeting. At this time, Walden has no designated or appropriate area for green burial, so the discussion of gift or purchase of land is also of primary importance. Input from Walden residents is necessary and appreciated.

Plan to attend the continued discussion of cemetery policy from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm Town Meeting Day in the Walden School Multipurpose Room.

Walden Cemetery Commissioners

Judy Clifford  
Jamie Dailey  
Lynette Farnham  
Larry Hubner  
Daniel Mencucci

### CEMETERY INVENTORY

Shed	2,850.00
Push Mower	150.00
Echo Weed trimmer Model SRM-225	250.00
Craftsman riding mowers XT4000	600.00
Craftsman push mower	50.00
Craftsman Mulching Mower	300.00
Wheelbarrow, Gas Cans and Hand tools	150.00
Fence building materials	150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>

## WALDEN CEMETERIES (DRAFT 7/2023)

The Town of Walden has 10 cemeteries: Fulsom, Orton Road, Heights, Houston Hill, North Walden, Noyesville, Perkins, Stebbins, Steven's Hill and South Walden. Of these ten, 3 have available space for the sale of lots – they are Heights, Noyesville and South Walden Cemeteries. The following Definitions, Rules & Regulations are prepared to establish clarity of expectations regarding the use and care of Walden Cemeteries. The Rules & Regulations will be reviewed periodically and variances may be allowed with consent of the commissioners. The cemeteries are open May – November weather permitting; year-round for green burials. A number of these cemeteries are on private property where permission to enter is a courtesy by landowners.

All cemetery lots are sold with plot and upkeep. Corner stones must be purchased at the time of lot sale. A lot may not be used until all fees and any additional costs are paid to the Walden Cemetery Commission at the Walden Town Clerk's office. Remaining lots sold in Noyesville Cemetery will be cremation only.

### WALDEN CEMETERY COMMISSION DEFINITIONS, RULES & REGULATIONS

**Cemetery Commission** – The Commission shall consist of as many as five persons (Commissioners) elected by Walden town ballot for revolving 5-year terms.

**Full Traditional Burial** – A traditional lot is 4' wide and 10' long. A full burial depth shall be 4' to the bottom of the lot. The traditional burial shall be a casket in a concrete vault. Possible additional costs shall be borne by the lot owner/family for instances such as rock removal, blasting or for requested special burial events.

**Hybrid Burial** – The hybrid lot is 4' wide and 10' long. The hybrid burial depth shall be 4' to the bottom of the lot. The hybrid burial does require a casket, but does not require a concrete vault.

**Cremation Burial** – The cremation lot is 4' wide and 10' long. The cremation burial depth shall be 18" to 24" to the bottom of the lot. The cremation burial shall be in a closed container such as a crematory urn or other sealed container. The container shall be fully intact during the burial. The ashes shall not be placed loosely into the excavation; the ashes shall not be allowed to be dispersed within the cemetery property. Up to 4 cremations may be placed in a single lot. These cremations may be placed on top of a traditional burial in the same lot.

**Green Burial** – A green burial lot is 6' wide and 10' long. A green burial depth shall be 3 ½' to the bottom of the lot. The green burial shall be in any plant-based biodegradable container such as an unfinished wooden casket, wicker and woven casket, cardboard or paper mache. Shrouded bodies must arrive at the cemetery entirely wrapped in natural fibers and supported by a solid biodegradable platform, the approximate width & length of the body, for lowering.

**Burial Protocol** - A Commissioner shall be present at each burial. The purpose of this presence is to confirm that the burial is in the proper place, that all fees have been paid and appropriate paperwork has been submitted. Each burial must be accompanied by a certificate from the funeral directorship preparing the remains or a transit certificate for cremation or coroner's certificate of death. A commissioner shall be notified and present during digging and headstone and ground marker placement.

**Lot Purchase** – For the purpose of purchasing one or more lots to be used by the purchaser, purchaser must be a resident of the Town of Walden and/or listed on the Walden Voter Checklist. After having purchased a lot, the purchaser may have moved from the Town of Walden; this move does not alter the possession of the cemetery lot. A non-resident shall not be permitted to purchase a cemetery lot. Deeds for lot purchase are acquired from the Town Clerk upon referral by the Cemetery Commission. Deeds are reviewed and signed by the Select Board. Lot Prices and Specifications are contained in this packet.

**Upkeep Fund** – The fee for upkeep is deposited into a fund used for stone cleaning and repair, cutting of unwanted trees, removal of fallen limbs and leaves, building and repair of fencing, grass cutting, maintenance of equipment and other necessary chores.

## WALDEN CEMETERY COMMISSION DEFINITIONS, RULES & REGULATIONS (continued)

**Lot Owner Rights & Responsibilities** – The purchased deed within a Walden Cemetery, grants the owner the right or privilege of interment. Burial rights conveyed shall be presumed to be sole and separate property of the person or persons named in the deed. For each traditional, hybrid or cremation lot the edges must be sloped and graded down to normal ground level of adjacent soils for ease of mowing. Decorations, ornaments, pots and planted flowers will be allowed within 1 foot of the headstone. Planting of trees, large or high-growing shrubs or permanently constructed walls or fences are not allowed. There will be no caretaking of plants. No glass containers of any kind are to be left at cemetery lots. All faded, broken, and weatherworn remembrances will be removed each spring.

For green burials, all soil shall be mounded on top of the remains and sloped down to normal ground level of adjacent soils. Either mulch or low growing perennials shall be placed on top of the mounded soil. Mowing will take place only between green burial lots. There will be no caretaking of plants. Planting of trees, large or high-growing shrubs or permanently constructed walls or fences are not allowed. Cornerstones are required for all burials. Foot stones, headstones and ground stones are optional.

**Monuments & Markers** – Grave markers and burials are set only after the lot is paid for and corner stones are in place. All newly purchased lots shall have corner markers kept in a straight line with the lots on either side. All lot boundary markers shall be flush with ground level and put in place by the Cemetery Commissioners prior to use. All monuments and monument bases will be placed in straight rows with the lots on either side. The Commission shall be notified and present when monuments or monument bases are set. There will be NO winter burials with the exception of green burials.

**Conduct within the Cemetery** – Conduct shall be respectful of lots, stones and remembrances. Quiet must be observed so as not to disturb other mourners or individuals visiting the cemetery. The Cemetery Commission or its employees shall not be liable for any injuries sustained by anyone while in the cemetery. Hunting is not allowed in Walden Cemeteries.

**Enforcement & Adoption of this Document** – The Walden Cemetery Commission, from this time forward, is empowered to enforce all rules and regulations and reserves the right, at any time, to adopt new rules & regulations, amend, alter or repeal any rules & regulations that are needed or no longer effective.

## WALDEN CEMETERY LOT PRICES & SPECIFICATIONS (DRAFT 7/2023)

The Walden Cemetery Commissioners will sell the lots in the cemeteries. All lots must be sold and paid for before a deed is given and before a burial is performed. Cornerstones must also be purchased at this time. Walden has three active cemeteries; two for full burials (Heights & South Walden) and one for cremations only (Noyesville).

### Traditional, Hybrid & Cremation Burials:

<u>Lot Size</u>	<u>Plot &amp; Upkeep Cost</u>	<u>Lot Size</u>	<u>Plot &amp; Upkeep Cost</u>
1 lot (4' X 10')	\$650	3 lots (12' X 10')	\$1,850
2 lots (8' X 10')	\$1,200	4 lots (16' X 10')	\$2,500

### Green Burials:

Per lot (6' X 10') \$650

The cost of cornerstones and digging vary greatly throughout the year. These prices are approximate. Actual costs will be charged at the time of purchase/service\*.

**Cornerstones:** Plain/polished or Lettered cornerstones, set of 4 - \*  
Unfinished cornerstones, set of 4 - \*

**Digging:** For Traditional & Hybrid burials \$850  
For Cremation burial \$350  
For Green Burial \$1,600

## CEMETERY COMMISSION ACCOUNTS

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$2,223.46</b>
<b>Income</b>		
	Appropriation from Town	\$7,000.00
	Interest Transferred from CD	\$77.34
	Principal Transferred from CD	\$1,000.00
	Checking Account Interest	\$15.05
	Cornerstones	\$600.00
	Cemetery Lot	\$1,700.00
	Open Grave	\$600.00
	Upkeep	\$2,800.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b><u>\$13,792.39</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Ads	\$37.50
	Cemetery Labor	\$250.00
	Mowing	\$8,490.00
	Corner Stone	\$560.00
	Stone Cleaning	\$4,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b><u>\$13,337.50</u></b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b><u>\$2,678.35</u></b>
Cemetery Perpetual Funds		
	Union Bank CD matures 8/12/23	\$14,064.30
	Union Bank CD matures 5/5/24	\$12,012.75
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>\$26,077.05</u></b>

## CEMETERY COMMISSION BUDGET

	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY2024</u> <u>Actuals (6mos)</u>	<u>FY2025</u> <u>Proposed</u>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	7,095.54	2,223.46	2,678.35	2,678.35	2,678.35
<b>Income</b>					
Appropriation from Town	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	10,000.00
Interest transferred from CD	50.00	77.34	50.00	77.34	75.00
Principal Transferred from CD		1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Checking Account Interest	5.00	15.05	5.00	15.05	15.00
Cornerstones	500.00	600.00	500.00	600.00	600.00
Cremation Burial	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	
Cemetery Lot	1,000.00	1,700.00	1,000.00	1,700.00	600.00
Grave Openings	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Miscellaneous	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
Upkeep	4,000.00	2,800.00	4,000.00	2,800.00	3,200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>13,905.00</b>	<b>13,792.39</b>	<b>13,905.00</b>	<b>13,792.39</b>	<b>15,090.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Ads	25.00	37.50	20.00	37.50	40.00
Association Dues	25.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	25.00
Burial costs	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	600.00
Cemetery Labor & Payroll Taxes	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
Cemetery Supplies	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	525.00
Equipment Repairs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fence Painting/Repairs	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
Flag Grave Markers	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	300.00
Mowing	7,600.00	8,490.00	7,600.00	8,490.00	8,500.00
Corner Stone	600.00	560.00	600.00	560.00	600.00
Stone Cleaning	2,500.00	4,000.00	1,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Training	60.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00
Tree/Brush/Stump Removal	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Underground Sonar Mapping	1,800.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>15,710.00</b>	<b>13,337.50</b>	<b>13,905.00</b>	<b>13,337.50</b>	<b>15,090.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>5,290.54</b>	<b>2,678.35</b>	<b>2,678.35</b>	<b>3,133.24</b>	<b>2,678.35</b>
<b>CEMETERY PERPETUAL FUNDS</b>					
<b>UNION BANK CD Matures 08/12/2023</b>				<b>\$14,064.30</b>	
<b>UNION BANK CD Matures 05/05/2024</b>				<b>\$12,012.75</b>	

## WALDEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPORT

The Walden Community Library had an eventful year. A new team of 6-8 volunteers was assembled to staff the library and get it back open to the public for regular open hours starting in June, and new trustees were added to the board. Since early summer, the library has been open to the public for over 25 hours per week. To encourage the public to use the library, we have hosted a number of programs and events. We held a Summer Kickoff BBQ with food, games, live music, and giveaways that was very successful with over 70 people in attendance. This event was supported by a Summer Programming Grant that the library received from the Vermont Department of Libraries. This event also served as the launch for our summer reading program, where youth received a punch card to fill during five summer library visits, earning them a creemee from Butch's Harvest'ore. Additionally, we attracted many families with young children to the library for a weekly story hour, which included songs, stories read aloud, crafts, and snacks; and we installed an outdoor story walk near the library. Support for these programs came from volunteers and from a grant received from the Winnie Belle Learned Fund.

Over the summer, Martha Bissell, chair of the board and volunteer librarian, worked hard to transition the library's card catalog from a paper system to a digital one. We are proud to say that we are now able to check out books digitally, which will allow for better tracking of patrons and circulation.

At the end of the summer, the library also hosted a pie and ice cream social, which was well attended and well received by the community, with over 40 people in attendance. In September, we received a CLiF (Children's Literacy Foundation) grant that allowed us to host a local presenter, John Gailmor, for an interactive musical presentation for Walden's youth. The entire school population attended. This grant also included a new book giveaway to all participating students and sponsored the purchase of over 50 new children's and young adult books for the library collections. In October, the library hosted a Stargazing Party with local astronomy expert Bobby Farlice-Rubio, which was also a successful program with over 40 participants. The weather cooperated enough to view the stars between astronomy stories and discussions around a campfire. The library has also hosted several open houses, including one in conjunction with Walden's fall foliage festival, which included old fashioned apple cider pressing and sampling. A weekly crafting club was launched in October with the help of volunteer support, providing an opportunity for adults to work on their current hand crafts and share their progress with others. Before the end of 2023, the library is launching a weekly Lego club for kids and will host a holiday cookie swap party.

Between late June and mid-October of 2023, the library saw 675 visitors who checked out a total of 424 books. This includes families and individuals visiting the library over the summer, attendees of events, and students visiting with their classes once school started. We look forward to seeing continued growth in attendance, circulation, and engagement.

The library wants to thank local businesses for providing donations for various events this year, and our committed volunteers for your commitment to the library. Your support has made our success possible. A huge thank you as well to the community of Walden for its support and patronage at the library. The Walden Community Library is a combined school and public resource, and we hope to continue growing our reach and impact for the benefit of the community.



The library has been organized and updated, including the addition of many new books

## WALDEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPORT (continued)



Story Hour has included crafts and activities for young children, both indoors and outside

Special guests have brought new perspectives to Story Hour



Summer Kickoff BBQ in June



Pie and Ice Cream Social in August



Stargazing party in October drew adults and children to learn about the cosmos

## WALDEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPORT (continued)

### Income

Appropriation from Town	\$4,500.00
Book Sales	\$48.65
Donations	\$43.00

**Total Income** **\$4,591.65**

### Expenses

Books	\$615.72
Payroll	\$750.00
SS/Medicare	\$57.38
Magazines	\$335.96
Heating Fuel	\$1,285.76
Telephone	\$1,247.92
Supplies	\$184.92
Automation	\$150.00

**Total Expenses** **\$4,627.66**

### SAVINGS BALANCE

**Beginning Balance 7/1/2022** **\$4,702.12**

#### Income

Interest	\$3.77
Book Sales	\$48.65
Donations	\$43.00

**Total Income** **\$95.42**

#### Expenses

Transferred to General Acct. Payroll/Automation -\$900.00

**Total Expenses** **\$900.00**

**Ending Balance 6/30/2023** **\$3,897.54**

**Note: The Savings Account is designated as follows:**

Gates Grant	\$1,299.47
Automation Funds	\$894.08
Operations Funds	<u>\$1,703.99</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,897.54</b>

### FAMILY HISTORY SAVINGS ACCT      Donations to be used for library enhancements

Beginning Balance 7/1/2022		\$1,145.88
Interest	\$0.95	
Ending Balance 6/30/2023		\$1,146.83

### FAMILY HISTORY FUND CD      Grant Funds to be used for automation

CD Matures 6/10/27 at .65%		
Beginning Balance 7/1/2022		\$1,778.48
Interest	\$11.60	
Ending Balance 6/30/2023		\$1,790.08

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WINTER OPERATIONS POLICY

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

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

Jonathon Augeri  
Randolph Wilson

## **APPROPRIATION REQUESTS**

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

**A.W.A.R.E. (\$1,000):** During the past year AWARE served 226 women, men, and children, who were directly affected by violence, 114 children who were exposed to violence and answered 1866 hotline and in-person requests for assistance. AWARE educated over 1500 people through community events and outreach and educated 20 professionals about domestic and sexual violence. Those served by AWARE received services such as crisis intervention, legal support and advocacy, information and referrals, safety planning, emergency provisions, housing assistance, transportation, and education about domestic and sexual violence.

**Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice (\$325):** Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice has proudly served the residents of Caledonia and Southern Essex counties since 1968. Our mission is to provide high quality, accessible, patient-centered health care, and our vision is to be a key partner in building healthy families and thriving communities. In the last year, we were honored to provide 483 visits to 22 residents of Walden. While working with residents, we provided physical, occupational, and speech therapies. We provided physician, skilled nursing, physical and occupational therapy, medical social work, home health aide and homemaker visits. We work together with primary care physicians so that care is specific and structured to treatment goals.

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

**Green Up Vermont (\$50):** Green Up Vermont is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day and raising public awareness about the health, economic, and visual benefits of a litter-free environment year-round. This past Green Up Day we saw the resurgence of gatherings which really gave an amazing boost to communities. Let's keep building strong communities by working together.

**Hardwick Area Food Pantry (\$500):** The food pantry serves people in need primarily for Hardwick, Greensboro, Craftsbury, Walden, Stannard, Albany and Wolcott. The Pantry purchases a portion of distributed food from local producers and vendors, supporting our local economy. We have seen a significant increase in need during 2023 and are working hard to serve all those in need.

**Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad (\$7,260):** It was another busy year at Hardwick Rescue (HRS). As the members of Hardwick Rescue look toward the end of 2023, we again close in on eight hundred calls for the second year in a row. None of us thought we could top COVID-19, but then the rain kept falling. During the flooding in July, Hardwick Rescue remained staffed and operational. Many members continued to assist with clean up long after the water subsided. Despite all the wonderful work of our predominantly volunteer squad, we still need more help. As call volumes increase, members must anticipate being out on calls, as statistically, every crew will have at least one call, if not more, per shift.

**Joe's Pond Aquatic Nuisance Control Project (\$500):** Monitoring program for inspection of visiting boats to prevent the infestation of milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants which would severely impact swimming, boating, and fishing at Joe's Pond. Thanks to monies received from towns plus additional funding from a state grant and the Joe's Pond Association, the Vermont State Fishing Access was staffed from late May to late August of 2023. Greeters inspected close to 150 boats this season and shared information about invasive species.

**Neighbors In Action (\$500):** A non-profit, whose mission is to serve food insecure community members, offer socially enriching programs, and advance opportunities to increase self-sufficiency in the communities of the Northeast Kingdom and Washington County while deploying the neighbors-helping-neighbors volunteer model to instill hope and leave an enduring impact. The number of Walden residents accessing our food share program as of July 2023 is 97, an increase of 42 residents, or 44%, from July 2022. In December 2022 we provided toys for 317 children and provided coats, boots, hats, sweaters, and other warm clothing to adults and children. Twice each month we host a free social activity for senior citizens, that includes singing, craft activities, movement activities and a hot meal for lunch.

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

**Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging (\$300):** For over 45 years, the NE Kingdom council on Aging has been a valued and trusted resource for older Vermonters to age independently, their way. Our nutrition programs partially fund 14 meal sites and home delivered meals under the guidance of our registered dietitian. Working with RCT and Legal Aid, we provide solutions for the complex challenges people face while living in a rural community. In addition, our work is supplemented by over 400 volunteers who serve as home-delivered meal drivers, wellness program leaders, friends who make neighborly check-in phone calls, and home-based caregivers.

**Northeast Kingdom Human Services (\$1870):** The professional employees at Northeast Kingdom Human Services follow their mission to empower individuals, families, and communities by promoting hope, healing and support. We offer supportive, confidential program services for Emergency/Crisis Services, mental health, addiction, and developmental/intellectual disabilities. As a Designated Agency serving Vermont's system of care, NKHS is responsible for assuring that a comprehensive range of services are available regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

**Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (\$250):** AT NEKLS, our Adult Education and Literacy program, our K-12 Tutorial program and our Ready, Set, Grow Childcare Center are on a mission to provide dynamic and impactful educational experiences for the members of communities like Walden.

**Northeast Kingdom Youth Services (\$100):** NEKYS' mission is to create opportunities for youth, adults, and families to strengthen life skills and resiliency in the face of adversity. NEKYS' Family and Youth Programs staff are available 24/7 to support youth and their families at times of crisis. Additionally, we can help mediate during family conflict as well as support youth as they transition into adulthood.

**Rural Community Transportation (RCT) (\$500):** is a nonprofit corporation which provides public transportation services throughout Caledonia, Orleans, Essex and Lamoille Counties. Request-based rides are available to residents of Walden year-round. In FY23, RCT continued to provide safety-focused, demand-based rides and all buses operated fare-free.

**Umbrella (\$250):** Since 1976, Umbrella has ensured that communities in Caledonia, Orleans and Essex counties have access to services that cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression. Umbrella operates 4 multi-faceted, client-centered programs and plays a crucial role in decreasing the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual violence. Services offered include social change, advocacy programs, family-based services, and economic empowerment.

**Vermont Center for Independent Living (\$145):** For over 44 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy, and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

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



## **HARDWICK EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD**

PO Box 837, Hardwick VT 05843

Phone/Fax # 802-472-6343

December 2023,

It was another busy year at Hardwick Rescue (HRS). As the members of Hardwick Rescue look toward the end of 2023, we again close in on eight hundred calls for the second year in a row. None of us thought we could top COVID-19, but then the rain kept falling. During the flooding in July, Hardwick Rescue remained staffed and operational. Many members continued to assist with clean up long after the water subsided.

Hardwick volunteers stayed busy even off the ambulances this year, hosting several VEFR (Vermont Emergency First Responder) classes. The VEFR certification helps provide our drivers with more advanced medical knowledge and allows us to imbed first responders with basic life-saving skills into the towns where they live and work. Hardwick has continued to support our local Fire departments and Hardwick Police with CPR and first aid refresher courses. This year, HRS also purchased two compatible Zoll AEDs for the Hardwick police department.

Our Building Committee has been and continues to be hard at work planning for a new building as we have massively outgrown our space. We require a home with showers, bathrooms, sleeping space, meeting and training space, and much more. As we rely on more members who live outside of town to stay at the building, our limited accommodations are becoming more of a pressing issue.

Despite all of the wonderful work of our predominantly volunteer squad, we still need more help. As call volumes increase, members have to anticipate being out on calls, as statistically, every crew will have at least one call, if not more, per shift. This means our volunteers cannot cover as many shifts because they must work or need this thing called sleep. Going to work after being out all night on calls is not feasible for most.

As a direct reflection of our continued need for staffing, our budget this year increased. This increase is mostly to provide adequate funding for an additional full-time paid provider. HRS is committed to paying a competitive, livable wage and providing essential benefits like health insurance and paid time off. As a private non-profit, we do not have the ability to offer municipal benefits, but we sure do try to fairly and competitively compensate our full-time and per diem staff. In addition, this year, Morristown EMS started billing for paramedic intercepts, and our insurance rates also increased. These changes and the higher cost of everything increased our overall town appropriations.

The members of HRS thank you for your continued support as we continue to strive to provide the highest quality EMS service. We are your friends, neighbors and co-workers. We are a diverse group who are always looking for new people to join our team.

Lindsay O'Steen, AEMT  
President of Hardwick Rescue Squad

## GREEN UP VERMONT



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

**Green Up Day**  
**May 4, 2024**



ons of litter and 15,000 tires. We saw 23% more volunteers lend a hand and heard in many cas ere was less litter (30%) to be cleaned up. Tire collection saw a 4.8% increase. The statistics how that the hard work to beautify Vermont is still needed but also that our efforts for awaren re paying off. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future enerations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, as well as eep residents civically engaged.

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

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

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

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

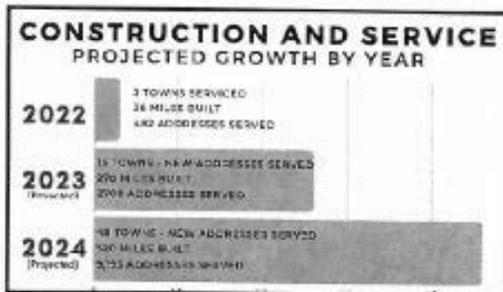
Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow on Instagram (greenupvermont). [greenup@greenupvermont.org](mailto:greenup@greenupvermont.org) 802-522-7245

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

In 2023, NEK Broadband put in place the additional staff, funding and infrastructure needed to continue delivering on its promise to bring high-speed, reliable Internet to unserved and underserved communities in the NEK. We've made significant progress in building the "backbone" of our network throughout the region. This "backbone" of interlocking fiber optic cable will provide extra reliability for our internet service. We received a USDA ReConnect grant of 17.5 million to cover most of Essex County, thus freeing up more funds to expand our network build in the rest of the NEK. This year, we also increased our construction capacity and our ability to purchase and store more materials so that we can increase the speed of our buildout.



**1,100**   
**SERVICE AVAILABLE**  
 WE ANTICIPATE INCREASING OUR AVAILABILITY TO OVER 2,700 HOMES BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

**126**   
**CUSTOMERS SERVED**  
 WE ANTICIPATE INCREASING OUR CUSTOMER BASE TO OVER 200 CUSTOMERS BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

**240**   
**MILES BUILT**  
 IN 2023, WE BUILT 240 MILES OF OUR FIBER NETWORK THROUGHOUT THE NEK BROADBAND DISTRICT.



## GRANTS & FINANCING

- We were awarded a USDA ReConnect grant of \$17,474,000 that will cover most of the addresses in Essex county and Eastern Orleans and Caledonia counties.
- The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved an additional \$17.94 million in construction funding, bringing the total investment in NEK Broadband to \$38.9 million to date.
- Our 2022 financials were given an unqualified "clean" evaluation by our auditors.

## BUILDING CAPACITY

- We are up to 6 full-time staff.
- We now have active warehouses in Danville and Brighton for the storage of construction materials.
- We are working with state and vocational partners to train and increase the workforce in the NEK to help build our network.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

OVER \$21,590,000 HAS BEEN INVESTED IN NEK COMMUNITY-OWNED BROADBAND.

	2023 BUDGET TO ACTUAL (PROJECTED)		2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	
	Budget	Actual 2023 (Projected)	Proposed Budget from 2023	2027120
Administrative Grant Revenue	\$1,251,788	\$477,886	Administrative Grant Revenue	\$1,485,207
Operations Revenue	\$241,767	\$284,447	Operations Revenue	\$1,028,278
Capital Grant Revenue	\$20,785,288	\$17,048,678	Capital Grant Revenue	\$14,000,000
<b>Total Cash In</b>	<b>\$22,278,843</b>	<b>\$19,811,011</b>	<b>Total Cash In</b>	<b>\$16,513,485</b>
Administrative Cost	\$687,784	\$644,020	Administrative Cost	\$1,732,226
Operational Cost	\$696,604	\$328,880	Operational Cost	\$679,070
Construction Cost	\$20,785,288	\$19,075,777	Construction Cost	\$14,600,000
<b>Total Cash Out</b>	<b>\$22,170,676</b>	<b>\$19,048,677</b>	<b>Total Cash Out</b>	<b>\$16,911,300</b>
Annual Net Cash Flow	\$108,167	\$762,334	Annual Net Cash Flow	\$1,000,000
Increase in Capital Assets	\$20,785,288	\$19,275,717	Increase in Capital Assets	\$14,000,000

## ABOUT NEK BROADBAND

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

## SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form at [get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org).



**Caledonia Essex Area Ambulance Service Inc.**  
**2023 Town Report**  
**Walden**  
**2023 CALEX Responses**  
**42 Responses**  
**19 Non-Transports**

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

2023 has been a record-breaking year for us in our overall volume, however we are seeing a growing percentage of non-transports and reduced amount of inter-facility transfers. As we monitor trending in post pandemic healthcare, 2023 has yet again had some unique challenges. While our 911 volume is up and our inter-facility transfers are down. We continue see many of our tertiary care centers such as DHMC and UVMMC that we commonly transfer overwhelmed and unable to accept. We see more local care due to the system being overwhelmed. Our agency relies heavily on inter-facility transports to support our budget as our 911 transports do not cover the expenses to maintain a 24/7/365 Paramedic level EMS service. This is not unique to CALEX as most EMS agencies rely on inter-facility transports to help support their budgets and to keep town funding requests as reasonable as possible. State and Federal reimbursements, specifically Medicare and Medicaid, do not cover the actual costs. Roughly, we lose about 51.65% due to fee schedules that we don't have control over. This is called contractual discounts. We only get paid by Medicare / Medicaid what they reimburse and that is not the actual costs to deliver the service. Inter-facility transports, due to the longer distance billable loaded miles, generates a more substantial part of the budget. This is a well-known problem EMS financial problem state and nationally. Local and state legislative leaders are discussing in hopes to support for more funding for EMS. Our non-transport rate system wide is about 32%, 1,045 calls for service in 2023 were non-billable responses. Vermont currently is allowing services to bill Medicaid a fee (\$108) for some of these non-transport services. This is new and we will begin this process moving into 2024. Responses such as lift assist, medical aid, treat/release calls we will be able to bill Medicaid. Unfortunately, at this time Medicare does not allow for billing of non-transports and they are our most commonly billed provider. We are hopeful that we will see some changes soon, but we have had no choice but to raise our contracts beginning in January 2024.

Many EMS systems are struggling around the state and nationally with funding due to rising costs to provide the service, along with reimbursements are not keeping up with those increases. The workforce, since the pandemic, has also created challenges as many other careers are paying much higher hourly rates than we can afford in EMS. This is currently a point of discussion that state leaders and legislators are looking to find some funding mechanisms to support. We will closely monitor this and support any opportunities to assure EMS is an essential service supported appropriately to provide workforce professionals that stand ready 24/7/365.

We are looking forward to beginning another EMT course in early January with St. Johnsbury Academy Adult Education and are hopeful for some additional staffing from this program. We are also hosting several other EMS programs and advanced certifications this year from funding that was support by Vermont.

CALEX continues to provide the highest quality of prehospital care to all the towns we serve providing 911 coverage at the Paramedic level 24/7/365. We have been asked to provide services to Granby this year, so we are now serving 10 towns – Saint Johnsbury, Waterford, Barnet, Concord, South Kirby, Victory, Granby, Danville, Walden and Peacham. Our 2023 volumes were up overall by about 9% this year. CALEX responded to 2,646 911 responses and 606 being Interfacility Transfers and Medical transports. Our average response time to the scene for our entire service area 8 minutes 05 secs. Overall, our agency responded to 3,252 requests for service. These interfacility transports are a critical part of our service, reducing any delays of getting our patients to definitive care whether it be trauma services, cardiac care, or other specialty services at a higher-level care facility such as DHMC or UVMMC and other hospitals across the New England. This year we transported as far as Albany, NY a couple times and Portsmouth, NH 15 due to other hospitals declining admissions.

As we end 2023, I look forward to a safe and successful year of providing the very best pre hospital care to our communities. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and experienced team providing care for when it is needed. We hope you will continue to support us and approve our funding requests so we can continue providing the very best Emergency Medical Care to the region. Lastly, please take some time and learn CPR /AED use, we would be glad to assist you. You could save a life!

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Wright, NRP  
Chief Executive Officer

## **Caledonia County Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff James Hemond

970 Memorial Drive St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

P: (802)748-6666 F: (802)748-1684

Email: caledoniasheriff.net

Upon taking office of February of 2023 I was eager to make positive changes within the department. I immediately sought qualified competent applicants to add to the departments depleted roster. During the spring and summer I was able to add four new deputies to the ranks resulting in 11 deputies employed with the department. I reconnected with area Law Enforcement Fire, Emergency Services, Mental Health and Human Services Agencies not only in Caledonia County but State wide. Much of these relationships resulted in opportunities to train, assist with service to community members and law enforcement and combine resources to best serve the community. We completed our annual financial audit for the department in 2023 and it resulted in no findings or problems of any kind.

We continue to add vehicles to our fleet, 3 new patrol cruisers were purchased, replacing an aging fleet that have served us well. We have 9 marked cars, a transport van for prisoner transports, and one unmarked car for civil process service. The radar cart was deployed throughout the county providing speed deterrence where deployed.

It was my great pleasure to return to security services at this year's Caledonia County Fair. This would not have been possible without the dedication of my staff, but also much appreciated help from The Lamolle County Sheriff's Department. The department was also contacted throughout the year by several towns for contracted patrols. Of the 17 towns in the county the department provides services to 13 of these towns. Due to staffing shortages it has been difficult to provide consistent services to these communities but we are working hard to improve as well as increase our presence to provide consistent, quality, and cost effective Law Enforcement Services to you all of you. As much as possible we maintain an active presence with local schools to ensure the safety of students and staff. We have been involved with drills and evacuation plans and will continue to assist as needed. The department maintains a Take Back Drugs Location serving as a drop off for expired, unused and no longer needed Rx medications. 2023 saw the expiration of many deputies body armor. Grant money provided by the US Department of Justice sees to it that every six years body armor is replaced to provide every sworn member of Law Enforcement access to daily worn body armor. I took this opportunity to upgrade body armor providing all of us with the most protection available. The department also purchased Axon body worn cameras with funds received from a grant from the state of Vermont. I continue to apply for grants and seek funding to provide the most modern, quality, cost prohibitive equipment for the department to best serve the community.

I would like to announce the retirement of Sergeant Steven Gadapee and Deputy Gilbert Roberts. Each served over 30 years as Law Enforcement Officers and will be missed.

Having served with the department for 18 years I will continue to make my best effort to serve all of you in this wonderful community whether you live, work, play or raise a family. I am always available for any questions or comments here at the office and feel free to visit our Facebook page as well.

**Respectfully;**

***James Hemond***

Caledonia County Sheriff

# Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

St. Johnsbury Local Health Office | 107 Eastern Ave, Suite 9, St. Johnsbury, VT  
802-748-5151 | [AHS.VDHStJohnsbury@Vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHStJohnsbury@Vermont.gov)

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The St. Johnsbury Local Health Office serves towns in Caledonia, southern Essex and a portion of Orange counties.** Some highlights of 2023 are below. For more information on our work and the areas we serve, visit [HealthVermont.gov/local/st-johnsbury](https://HealthVermont.gov/local/st-johnsbury)



## Pregnant People, Infants and Children

**Our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) team received 1 of only 13 national Premiere Level 2023 WIC Breastfeeding Awards of Excellence.**

- In 2023, our WIC Program **helped more than 775** pregnant people, infants and children under 5. We offer **healthy food**, breastfeeding **support**, nutrition **education** and community service **connections**.
- We worked with Salvation Farms to give families free local fresh **seasonal produce**.
- To make our services **more accessible**, our staff provided tele-WIC and expanded to 5 community clinic sites, including 2 daycares.



## Collaborations and Collective Impact

**Our team participates in many collaborative efforts in our community. Some 2023 highlights include:**

- **NEK Prosper!** - The Caledonia & Southern Essex County Accountable Health Community - working to leverage relationships and collaborative action to build community health equity.
- **NEK United** - Bringing together public health and community leaders to work towards advancing health equity and well-being for all. Our work together will bring limited national funding to our region.
- **Radon Test Kit Distribution** - Our pilot program worked with town clerks, librarians and health centers. It led to an increase in test kits distributed in Caledonia and Southern Essex counties.



## Prepared and Responsive

**Our team is prepared to respond to changing community needs and emerging public health threats. In 2023 our staff:**

- **Investigated** reports of infectious diseases and outbreaks.
- **Vaccinated** uninsured or underinsured people with COVID, flu, Mpox and other immunizations.
- Distributed free **home drinking water test kits** after historic flooding affected many in our community.
- Joined the collaborative NEK long-term **recovery planning efforts** post-flooding.
- Supported the Northeast Kingdom **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** —contact us to volunteer!





Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District  
137 Barre Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 229-9383  
[www.cvswwmd.org](http://www.cvswwmd.org)

## 2024 Annual Report, December 2023

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) serves 19-member cities and towns and approximately 52,000 residents. CVSWMD's mission is to provide education, advocacy, and services for residents and businesses in reducing and managing their solid waste in order to protect public health and the environment. CVSWMD is committed to providing quality programming, meeting state mandates, and providing information and resources to our member communities. The per capita assessment has been established at \$1.00 for fiscal year 2025.

Walden's appointed representative to CVSWMD's Board of Supervisors is Ray Lewis.

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

- **Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** The ARCC is located in Barre City, Vermont. We work with the State of Vermont to recycle TVs, computers and computer peripherals, architectural paint, household batteries, mercury bulbs and thermostats for free for Vermont residents. We also accept dozens of hard-to-recycle items that cannot be recycled in curbside recycling. In FY23, 352,978 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:** CVSWMD continues to offer several grant programs: the Organizational Waste Reduction and Reuse Program (OWRRP); the Municipal Services Program (MSP); the Emergency Municipal Solid Waste Response Program (EMSWRP); and the School Zero Waste (SZW) program. 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. Walden School received \$2,500 through our School Zero Waste program.
- **Outreach and Education:** CVSWMD maintains its website with useful information on what can (and can't) be recycled, what is landfill banned (and how to dispose of those), what can be recycled at our Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC), what can be composted, how to safely store and dispose of household hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, and an A-Z Guide providing guidance to dispose of all types of waste. CVSWMD provides monthly newsletters and is active on social media, communicating waste management information and program updates to residents. Our knowledgeable staff provides guidance to residents and local businesses regarding all their waste management questions and concerns. CVSWMD's Outreach program continues to offer Waste Warrior trainings and composting workshops to District residents and event organizers.

## CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (continued)

- **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. In time, CVSWMD hopes to consolidate all its operations on 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, as well as the management and proper disposal of school-generated hazardous waste, including via District collection events.
- **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. These programs have been put on hold due to our inventory being destroyed by the July flooding, but we plan to re-establish them as soon as possible.
- **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), where we partnered with Department of Environmental Conservation staff to ensure that collected items were handled and packaged correctly. Additionally, CVSWMD played a major role in connecting towns with vital State and Federal subsidized debris remediation programs.

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 items 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. For specific questions, call (802) 229-9383.

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

(Condensed Report: Complete minutes are on file at the Town Clerk's Office)

The 230<sup>th</sup> annual Walden town meeting was called to order at 10:12 am by moderator Roger Fox at the Walden School Multipurpose room.

The moderator reviewed Robert's Rules of Order

Article 1: Judy Clifford nominated Roger Fox for moderator to govern the meeting and for the ensuing year. Brenda Huntoon seconded. Roger Fox was elected on voice vote.

Article 2: Voting for town officers is by Australian Ballot.

State Rep. Chip Troiano updated the meeting on current issues in the Vermont Legislature.

Roger Fox asked for motion to be made for rules to be suspended to discuss annual report. Judy Clifford made the motion and Martha Bissell seconded. Judy Clifford made changes to annual report.

Judy Clifford and Wilhelm Woelfle, read a letter of appreciation being sent to Lina Smith regarding her many years of service to the Town of Walden.

Caro Thompson asked how they vote on appropriations, that they used to be an article. Debbie Messier stated that they are voted on as part of the General Budget.

Jason Larabee presented a certificate of dedication to Brenda Huntoon for her continued hours of volunteering.

Caro Thompson spoke about NEK Broadband. Roger Fox introduced a new representative to NEK Broadband Board, Seth O'Brien.

Article 3: The motion was made by Zarina Castro and seconded by Caro Thompson to have property taxes paid to the Town Treasurer on or before 5:00 pm on Thursday, Nov 2, 2023. After some discussion Judy Clifford made a motion to amend the motion to have Property Taxes due on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 and Tom Muth seconded it. Voted and passed.

Article 4: The motion was made by Martha Bissell and seconded by Elizabeth Wilkel to approve total highway fund expenditures of \$586,631.80 of which \$443,289.88 shall be raised by taxes and \$143,341.92 by non-tax revenues, for the period of July 1,2023, through June 20,2024. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the 5.40% increase. There was concern that voters do not have enough information on what taxes will increase to, in November. This is due to being Fiscal year and not Annual year budget. Voted and passed.

A short lunch break was taken.

**MINUTES OF WALDEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (continued)**  
**MARCH 7, 2023**

(Condensed Report: Complete minutes are on file at the Town Clerk's Office)

Article 5: The motion was made by Zarina Castro and seconded by Martha Bissell, to have the voters approve total General Fund expenditures of \$338,125.68 of which \$234,685.55 shall be raised by taxes and \$103,440.13 by non-tax revenues, for the period of July 1,2023 through June 30,2024. There was a discussion on the increased cost of health insurance. After discussion voted and passed.

Article 6: The motion was made by Carolyn Greaves and seconded by David McCoy to see if the voters will approve an expansion to the Municipal Office at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00. A discussion of the overcrowded vault, no parking and small office was held. Voters discussed options of buying land, the Town owned land at Garage Pit and addition to current location. Voted and failed.

Article 7: Other business; Zarina Castro asked how will board make decision to who will be on building committee. Randolph Wilson said Selectboard will take names. Judy Clifford mentioned cemetery material on table. Lori Augustyniak spoke briefly about Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Ray Lewis said that he would fill the empty slot for the representative to CVSWD. Bud Clifford made motion to adjourn, and Tom Muth seconded it.

Meeting adjourned at 1:46pm

We attest that these are the condensed minutes of the annual Walden Town Meeting held on March 7, 2023.

Moderator:	Roger Fox	Deborah Messier, Town Clerk
Selectboard:	Robert Hatch	
	Randolph Wilson	
	Brenda Huntoon	

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## TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Caledonia County Sheriff		802-748-6666
Constable (dog issues)	Eugene McAllister	802-424-6655
Fish and Wildlife - St. Johnsbury		802-751-0100
Forest Fire Warden	Rodney Hooker	802-563-9926
Health Officer	Current Chair of the Selectboard	
Library		802-563-2195
School Superintendent's Office		802-684-3801
Town Clerk's Office	tc@waldenvt.gov	802-563-2220
Town Garage		802-563-2504
Vermont State Police - St. Johnsbury		802-748-3111
Walden School		802-563-3000

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CONTACTS

Linda Fox		802-563-2321
Crime Stoppers		802-748-2222
Vermont State Police		802-748-3111

## WALDEN'S REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Joseph "Chip" Troiano	ctroiano@leg.state.vt.us	802-828-2228
Senator Jane Kitchel	jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us	802-684-3482

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Town Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday 9:00-4:00, Thursday 9:00-5:00

### Select Board Meetings

Every other Monday at 6:30 p.m.  
Firehouse or Town Clerk's Office

### Library Trustee Meetings

Bi-monthly meetings on the first Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.  
Walden Community Library

### Fire Department

First Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.  
Firehouse

### Green Up Day - May 4, 2024

Town Garage, beginning at 9:00 am