



Town of Shaftsbury, Vermont

Annual Report for Year Ending June 30, 2022

Proposed Budget For The Year Ending June 30, 2024

2023 Town Meeting and Election

Southwest Tech, MAU & SVUESD Boards
Annual Meetings Monday, March 6, 2023
See inside for details

Town Meeting
March 6, 2023, 5:00pm Pot Luck Supper
6:00 Meeting Shaftsbury Elementary School
Balloting

7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 at the Town Garage

This year's annual report is dedicated to two outstanding town employees who help make Shaftsbury a place you love to call home.
We thank you for all you do. . .

Shelly Bordman and Greg Squires



Shelly and Greg have kept the Town transfer station running smoothly for as long as some of us can remember – Shelly for fourteen years and Greg for going on seven years.

Who's Shelly? Some call her Transfer Station Manager, others Shaftsbury Librarian. A select few can call her Mom, or Grandma. The dogs that enjoy her attention on a trip to North Road call her....well, we can't exactly say! Woof? Yarp? That's because Shelly spoils each and every dog that visits. She has a seemingly never ending supply of dog treats (she supplies them herself), and loves to greet each dog with a biscuit or two. Is there any dog in town

who doesn't understand the phrase "do you want to go see Shelly?"

Greg, on the other hand, is the quiet partner, more like a mighty oak. He's always ready to explain the transfer station process, help folks with recycling, and share a story or two (or more) with the old-timers who frequent the facility. He maintains the road and ramps and is glad to give an extra hand or share a joke.

An avid reader, Shelly started a book exchange in the little hut at the



station. It's our own Shaftsbury Library. Shelly says everyone is welcome to bring in books and take home as many as you and your family wish. She's glad to talk books too.

Greg's interests are a little more on the wild side. When not at work at the transfer station, you might look for him in the woods. He's been a part-time logger for many years. He also reports, kind of out of nowhere, that he loves fried chicken!



Thanks to Shelly and Greg, it's no wonder the transfer station is a favorite place to visit.



A happy library customer.



Town of

Shaftsbury, Vermont

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending June 30, 2022

Southwest Tech, MAU & SVUESD

Boards Annual Meetings Monday, March. 6th

MAU - 6 PM SVSU Administrative Office 184 North Street, Bennington

SVUESD - 6:15 PM SVSU Administrative Office 184 North Street, Bennington

Tech Center - 6:30 PM Bennington Fire House

Town Meeting

5:00 p.m. Monday, March 06, 2023 - Pot Luck Supper

6:00 p.m. Monday, March 06, 2023 - Town Meeting
at Shaftsbury Elementary School

Balloting

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

at the Town Garage

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This year's town report was produced by Town Clerk, Marlene Hall. Cover Photography by Jen Holley and Design by Marlene Hall. Thank you to Shelly Stiles, Gina Jenks, Jen Holley and David Kiernan for compilation and proofing.

HELPFUL NAMES AND NUMBERS

Emergency Dial 911 Fire — Medical — Police

Town Officials

BOARD OF AUDITORS

Michael Caslin, Chair (Home) 802-442-3936
Meetings..... As needed

ASSESSORS OFFICE

Gina Jenks, Assessor's Clerk (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 4
Email listers@shaftsburyvt.gov
Hours Monday - Thursday – 9:00 am - Noon and by appointment

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Jen Holley, Cemetery Superintendent..... (Home) 802-384-8320
Kathy Cardiff, Chair
Meetings.....First Wednesday, 9:00 am, April - December

CONSTABLES

Robert “Bob” Perry, First Constable..... (Home) 802-442-3071
Vacant, Second Constable

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Michael Day, Chair (Home) 315-283-4547
Meetings.....First & Third Wednesdays of each month, 6:00 pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Martha Cornwell, Chair (Home) 802-375-2968
Meetings..... Fourth Thursday, 8:00 am as needed

FIRE DEPARTMENT (VOLUNTEER)

Joe Vadakin, Fire Chief.....(Cell) 802-384-0061
Fire Station #1: 166 Buck Hill Road (non-emergency) 802-442-4226
Fire Station #2: 364 Old Depot Road (non-emergency) 802-375-9308

State Fire Warden (Burning Ordinance is in effect: please call 24 hours in advance to obtain permit)

Eric Bushee 518-836-7639
Deputy Fire Warden Ed Shewell 802-379-0441

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT / DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mike Yannotti(Office) 802-681-7240

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chris Williams, Chair..... (Home) 802-375-6355
Meetings.....Second and Fourth Tuesdays of each month, 6:00 pm

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Deena Ruege, Chair..... (Home) 802-447-4741
Meetings..... Fourth Friday of each month, 10:00 am

SELECTBOARD

Art Whitman, Chair..... (Home) 802-733-1186
Tony Krulikowski, Vice Chair (Home) 802-442-6423
Martha Cornwell (Home) 802-375-2968
Mike Cichanowski..... (Cell) (781) 738-2552
Joe Barber (Cell) (802) 379-4960
Meetings..... First and third Monday of each month, 6:30pm

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

David Kiernan (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 3
Email.....administrator@shaftsburyvt.gov
HoursMonday, Tuesday & Thursday 8am-4pm | Wednesday 8-12 | Friday By Appointment
Joan Vargo, Bookkeeper..... (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 6
Email.....accounting@shaftsburyvt.gov

TOWN CLERK

Marlene Hall, Town Clerk..... (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 1
Email.....townclerk@shaftsburyvt.gov
Jen Holley, Assistant Town Clerk (Office) 802-442-4038 Ext. 1
Email.....tcassist@shaftsburyvt.gov
Hours Mon. 9am-3pm and 5pm-7pm, Tues. - Thurs. 9am-4pm, Fri. by appointment

TREASURER

Melanie Dexter, Treasurer (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 2
Email.....treasurer@shaftsburyvt.gov
Hours Monday - Friday 9am - Noon & by appointment

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Rob Steuer, Chair (Home) 802-447-3137
Vacant
Bill Hession (Home) 802-442-8919
Meetings..... As needed

VETERANS COMMITTEE

Meetings..... As needed

ZONING

Shelly Stiles, Zoning Administrator (Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 5
Email..... zoning@shaftsburyvt.gov
Hours Monday - Wednesday 9am-Noon

STATE OFFICIALS

(www.vermont.gov)

BENNINGTON-3

Representative David Durfee 802-491-7832
Email ddurfee@leg.state.vt.us

BENNINGTON COUNTY

Senator Dick Sears (Home) 802-442-9139
Email rsears@leg.state.vt.us
Senator Brian Campion (Cell) 802-375-4376
Email bcampion@leg.state.vt.us

VERMONT STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Governor Phil Scott 802-828-3333
Lt. Governor David Zuckerman 802-828-2226
Attorney General Charity Clark 802-828-3171
Treasurer Mike Picciak 802-828-2301
Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas 802-828-2363
Auditor Doug Hoffer 802-864-2281

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

(www.usa.gov)

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

Senator Peter Welch 802-652-2450
Senator Bernie Sanders 802-862-0697
Representative Becca Balint (202) 225-4115

Additional Helpful Names and Numbers

Animal Control Officer, Kelly Coonradt 802-379-4941
Arlington Rescue Squad - non emergency 802-375-6589
Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce 802-447-3311
Bennington County Clerk and Bennington County Superior Court, Bennington 802-447-2700
Bennington County Industrial Corporation (BCIC) 802-442-0713
Bennington County Probate Court 802-447-2700
Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) 802-442-0713
Bennington County Sheriff's Department 802-442-4900
Bennington Free Library 802-442-9051
Bennington Rescue Squad 802-442-5817
Delinquent Tax Collector, Merton Snow (Home) 802-442-4526
Emergency Management Director, Paul Dansereau (Home) 802-430-3266
..... emergencymanagement@shaftsburyvt.gov
Health Officer, Jackie Myers (Cell) 802-688-9570
John G. McCullough Free Library, North Bennington 802-447-7121
Mount Anthony Union High School, 301 Park Street, Bennington 802-447-7511
Mount Anthony Union Middle School, 747 East Road, Bennington 802-447-7541

North Bennington Treasurer's Office	802-442-5547
Post Office, North Bennington (05257), 52 Main Street, North Bennington	802-442-4884
Post Office, Shaftsbury (05262), 56 Church Street, Shaftsbury	802-442-2142
Regional Technical School District	802-447-0220
Second Chance Animal Shelter	802-375-2898
Shaftsbury Elementary School, 150 Buck Hill Road, Shaftsbury	802-442-4373
Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union	802-447-7501
Town of Shaftsbury, Fax Number	802-442-0955
Town Service Officer, Jackie Myers	(Cell) 802-688-9570
Tree Warden, Jim White	(802) 375-6454
Vermont Agency of Transportation, Bennington District #1 Office	802-447-2790
Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife, Game Warden (police barracks)	802-442-5421
Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT)	802-229-9111
Vermont State Police Barracks, Shaftsbury Troop D (non-emergency)	802-442-5421
Village School of North Bennington, 9 School Street, North Bennington	802-442-5955

PUBLIC WORKS EMERGENCIES

Shaftsbury Highway

Nights/weekends/holidays - notify State Police 802-442-5421

Shaftsbury Water System (for public water in Shaftsbury Village)

Joshua Brace, Water Superintendent (Cell) 802-375-5621
 water@shaftsburyvt.gov
 Mike Yannotti, Department of Public Works Superintendent (Cell) 802-379-1547

North Bennington Water Systems (for public water outside Shaftsbury Village)

Ted Fela (Cell) 802-375-9224
 Truck Cell 802-688-9005

SOLID WASTE FACILITY

(Transfer Station) 510 North Road

Shelly Bordman, Manager

Hours of Operation – Year-round

Tuesday	7:00am - 12:00 Noon
Thursday	11:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday	7:00am - 4:00pm

Transfer Station Holiday Closings 2023 - Please check website at shaftsburyvt.gov

Electronics can be dropped off at the Bennington Transfer Station during their regular business hours.

Located on Houghton Lane in Bennington

Visit our Website

www.shaftsburyvt.gov

All meetings are held at the Town Office Building,
 Cole Hall (upstairs), 61 Buck Hill Road, unless otherwise posted

TOWN OFFICERS - ELECTED

Selectboard

Art Whitman, Vice Chair2-year term expires 2024
Tony Krulikowski, Vice Chair3-year term expires 2023
Mike Cichanowski.....3-year term expires 2024
Joe Barber2-year term expires 2023
Martha Cornwell3-year term expires 2025

Town Clerk

Marlene Hall3-year term expires 2024

Treasurer

Melanie Dexter3-year term expires 2024

Auditors

Michael Caslin3-year term expires 2025
Lisa Lent3-year term expires 2023
Vacant3-year term expires 2024

Trustees of Public Funds

Rob Steuer, Chair3-year term expires 2024
Vacant3-year term expires 2025
Bill Hession3-year term expires 2023

One-year terms (expire 2022)

Town Moderator..... Thomas Dailey

Delinquent Tax Collector.....Merton J. Snow

First Constable.....Robert “Bob” Perry

Second Constable.....Vacant

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (2-YEAR TERM EXPIRES 2025)

Nancy Burns, Independent	802-733-6980
Michael Caslin, Democrat	802-442-3936
Abigail Chaloux, Democrat	802-430-0104
Joseph Coonradt, Independent.....	802-442-2243
Marna Whitman Dailey, Independent.....	802-442-6582
Carl Korman, Democrat	802-442-7959
Joan Dornhoefer, Democrat.....	802-442-6411
Anne Mele, Democrat.....	802-447-3859
Karen Mellinger, Democrat.....	802-447-1950
Alice Miller, Democrat.....	802-430-1615
Linda I. Morris, Democrat.....	802-442-3504
Joan Vargo, Democrat.....	802-442-5646

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY CONSISTS OF:

Justices of the Peace – Selectboard – Town Clerk

BOARD OF ABATEMENT CONSISTS OF:

Justices of the Peace – Selectboard – Town Clerk – Town Treasurer

TOWN OFFICERS - APPOINTED

CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

Jen Holley.....Term length at discretion of the Selectboard

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Shelly Stiles3-year term expires 2023

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Michael Day, Chair	3-year term expires 2025
Ted Habberfield, Vice Chair.....	3-year term expires 2024
Denny Browe.....	3-year term expires 2025
Zoe Contros Kearl	3-year term expires 2025
Sarah Costin.....	3-year term expires 2025

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chris Williams, Chair.....	3-year term expires 2023
Michael Foley	3-year term expires 2025
Naomi Miller.....	3-year term expires 2024
Martha Cornwell	3-year term expires 2023
Nancy Burns	3-year term expires 2025

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

Animal Control Officer	Kelly Coonradt
Bennington County Regional Commissioner	Cinda Morse
Emergency Coordinator	David Kiernan
Energy Coordinator	Ben Hulett
Fire Chief	Joe Vadakin
1 st Asst. Chief	Mike Taylor
2 nd Asst. Chief	Ed Shewell
Fire Warden	Eric Bushee
Deputy Fire Warden	Ed Shewell
Health Officer	Jackie Myers
Deputy Health Officer	Vacant
Town Service Officer	Jackie Myers
Tree Warden	Jim White

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Kathy Cardiff, Chair | Neal Strong, Vice Chair | Betsy Habberfield
Peggy Wilson | Joe Hermann | Jen Holley, Superintendent

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Martha Cornwell, Chair | Rick Bennett | Emily Cowperthwaite
Marita Cockburn | Andrea Bacchi

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Deena Ruege, Chair | Helen Olney | Barb Marino | Sarah Costin

SHAFTSBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jeffrey Johnson, Principal
802-442-4373

Shaftsbury Public Informational Hearing re Town Meeting items

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Call to order

The meeting, held remotely via the platform Zoom, was called to order at 3 p.m. by town moderator Tom Daly. Mr. Daly read the hearing warning. (This and other documents, including the texts of ballot articles 1-5 and the list of community appropriations requests, are contained in the Town of Shaftsbury Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2021 and are incorporated by reference into these minutes.)

He noted the meeting was informational only, and that voting would take place on Tuesday March 1 at the Town Garage. He said the meeting was being broadcast live on CAT-TV on channel 1085. Mr. Daly explained how citizens could join the meeting and/or submit questions or comments.

Mr. Daly introduced the selectmen present.

Changes to agenda

No changes to the agenda were suggested.

Reports of Town Officers

Select Board chair Art Whitman summarized the board's activities in FY 2021. He said the year was a good one both fiscally and operationally. He highlighted staying within budget, road improvements, new highway equipment, a new contract with Casella and greater control over the transfer station as a result, a contract to investigate sidewalks for the Grandview neighborhood, and the taking over of Grandview Cemetery. All of this required a team effort. Mr. Whitman suggested that citizens plan on attending Select Board meetings in future to discuss how to spend ARPA funds.

Review and discussion of Article 1: Shall taxes be due Thursday, November 10, 2022.

Town administrator David Kiernan reported that Jodie Coon had submitted a comment and asked her to share it publicly. When she was unable to speak, Mr. Kiernan said she'd texted him: "Who is responsible for illegally posting land for tax sales and what the Town is doing to correct it." Mr. Daly called the question out of order in the context of the article.

Review and discussion of Article 2: Shall the town raise by taxes and other revenues \$2,301,468 to defray general and highway expenses for FY 2023?

Mr. Whitman noted that the budget is up, about 5%, compared to 1% last fiscal year for an average of about 3% annually.

Mr. Whitman and Mr. Kiernan described how the budget funds are to be allocated. The 39% to DPW represents the largest part of the budget, with general government, transfer to reserve, public safety, and debt service representing the bulk of the remainder. In the DPW budget, most of the funds are dedicated to wages, benefits and administration.

The budget increase would mean an increase of \$22.80 per \$100,000 valuation.

Lon McClintock asked if there are any plans for the Cole Hall surroundings, e.g. where the former garage was located. Mr. Kiernan said funding is being sought from several sources, including ARPA funds, to improve ADA access to the building, expand and improve the Veteran's Park, and create more green space. The Veteran's Park fund now has about \$50,000.

Review and discussion of Article 3: Shall the voters authorize the elimination of the office of listers and its replacement with a paid assessor.

Mr. Whitman said that, for many years, the state has mandated that each town have a professional appraiser. He said Shaftsbury has been through several assessors (nearly all left for another job at more money), and most recently has contracted with NEMRC (New England Municipal Resources Center). The listers do not assess values, but now do only data entry. The Town would like to replace those two individuals with an assessor's assistant, and would like to employ the present Assistant Town Clerk (Mrs. Jenks) in that capacity. He noted that the ballot also includes electing a third lister, in case the elimination of the listers office is voted down.

Cinda Morse asked whether the new plan is different in costs from the old one, and whether NEMRC would do the town-wide assessment when it is due. Mr. Whitman said NEMRC would probably be hired to do the assessment, though it is not due for some time. Mr. Kiernan said the proposed budget line for NEMRC in FY 23 is identical to that for FY 22.

Mr. Spurr asked Mr. Kiernan to expand on "professional assessor." Mr. Keirnan said such a person is licensed by the state, that NEMRC has a large crew of assessors.

Mr. McLintock said that he has some experience with listers as chair of the Board of Civil Authority and a former selectman. He said one of the difficulties of the lister system is that they are three independent and equally powerful elected officials with no office system or structure to organize them as would be common in most offices. He said he is very glad the selectmen are taking this on this year because it makes a lot of sense for the town.

Review and discuss Article 4: Shall voters authorize changes to zoning bylaws?

Mr. Whitman described the several changes: regulations regarding grandfathering; helipads; boundary line adjustments; dog boarding kennels; and section 8.7 pools. Chris Williams, chair of the Planning Commission, reported that the changes represent about two years of work. The boundary line adjustments were requested by the Development Review Board (DRB). Mike Day, vice-chair of the Development Review Board, thanked the Planning Commission for making the DRB's jobs easier. Mr. Spurr asked for more information on the grandfathering section. Mr. Williams described the motivation for the change, that it could be hard to sell a business in one year, but that a two year window would make it easier to effect the sale. Mr. McClintock concurred that, recently, commercial uses have sold only slowly.

Review and discuss Article 5: Community Appropriations

Mr. Whitman noted that requests have grown by 7% over last year and now reflect 4% of the annual budget. At present, the town doesn't have a clear policy in place as to who can seek a community appropriation or for what. The selectmen are working on coming up with a policy that is fair and brings the requests under control. Vermont League of Cities and Towns has made recommendations. Mr. Whitman noted that the proposed budget already includes all the community appropriations and that, therefore, any "no" vote would slightly reduce the tax burden.

A representative of Sunrise Family Resource Center spoke in support of his organization. Mr. Kiernan said the organization has been level-funded for three or four years.

Other non-binding business

Mr. Daly asked Ms. Coon to repeat her question. Mr. Kiernan repeated it. Mr. Daly deemed the question inappropriate for this forum. Jenny Rozycki of the McCullough Library spoke about the library's successes in the last year. Jason Lillie spoke in support of WBTN. Naomi Miller suggested we recognize entities located out of town but who serve Shaftsbury residents as part of our community. Andrea Bacchi spoke in support of those seeking community appropriations regardless of their location.

Representative David Durfee spoke on activities at the legislature.

The state's financial picture is very good, by virtue of Covid, ARPA and infrastructure bill funding and unusually high sales tax and property tax receipts. As a result, the legislature is considering a tax reduction using various means. Even with tax cuts, there will be money left over for housing and other state-wide needs.

The 2020 census requires Vermont to redistrict. In the latest redistricting proposal, Shaftsbury will remain as a single legislation district which will also include Glastenbury and parts of Sunderland.

Two constitutional amendments will be proposed this year, one stating that no one may impose slavery or indentured servitude in the state, and one to establish reproductive liberty. The latter amendment won't change anything now in place in Vermont.

Mr. Durfee said if anyone wanted to contact him that person should Google "Vermont legislature" for his email address, or come knock on his door at the red house opposite the cemetery on 7A.

Dave Mance asked who would oversee the assessor. Mr. Whitman said the Select Board will be responsible for hiring and supervising a certified assessor, and would be responsible for hiring the assessor's assistant. There would be no more public voting on listers.

Adjournment

Mr. Daly adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. until 7 a.m. on March 2 at the Town garage on North Road, at which time and place voting by Australian ballot will proceed.

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 1, 2022
608 Votes Cast

SELECTMAN

2 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Art Whitman497
Write-In.....7
Blank.....104
Total.....608

SELECTMAN

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Ken Harrington174
Martha Cornwell418
Write-In.....3
Blank.....13
Total.....608

MODERATOR

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Thomas Dailey509
Write-In.....4
Blank.....95
Total.....608

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Merton Snow.....495
Write-In.....7
Blank.....106
Total.....608

LISTER

3 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Gina Jenks465
Write-In.....7
Blank.....122
Total.....608

AUDITOR

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Michael “Mike” Caslin483
Write-In.....3
Blank.....122
Total.....608

TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Barry S. Mayer.....458
Write-In.....6
Blank.....144
Total.....608

1ST CONSTABLE

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Bob Perry443
Write-In.....8
Blank.....157
Total.....608

2ND CONSTABLE

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Write-In.....30
Blank.....578
Total.....608

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 1, 2022
608 Votes Cast

ARTICLES

1. Shall the Town authorize collection of taxes on real or personal property by its Treasurer, which are due in hand on or before, Thursday November 10, 2022 at 5:00pm or likewise postmarked no later than Thursday, November 10, 2022?

2. **YES 532 NO 35 BLANK 41**

1. Shall the Town appropriate \$2,301,468 to defray the Town's general and highway expenses for Fiscal year 2023, the amount of such sum to be raised by property taxes and to be reduced by non-tax revenues and reserve funds?

YES 440 NO 124 BLANK 44

3. Shall the voters authorize the elimination of the office of Town Lister in accordance with 17 V.S.A. 2651c(b)(1) and replace it with a professionally qualified assessor who shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for listers or the board of listers under provisions of Title 32?

4. **YES 379 NO 160 BLANK 69**

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendments to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

Summary of proposed bylaw changes

Grandfathering

Proposed: Amend 8.1.1. ff as follows (changes in italics)

iii. no Nonconforming *Commercial* Use of a building or lot which has been discontinued or abandoned for a period of *two years* shall thereafter be resumed. *No other nonconforming use of a building or lot which has been discontinued or abandoned for a period of one year shall thereafter be resumed.*

No helipads, private landing strips

Add new section (changes in italics)

8.17: Helipads and Private Landing Strips

Private landing strips and helipads are prohibited in the Town of Shaftsbury.

Boundary Line Adjustment

SECTION 5.02 - BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT

5.02 Purpose: This Bylaw grants the Zoning Administrator the authority to administratively review requests for Boundary Line Adjustments involving abutting legal lots within town boundaries. A Boundary Line Adjustment is an adjustment of boundary lines between contiguous lots without creating a new or additional lot and

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 1, 2022
608 Votes Cast

without creating a nonconformity with existing town regulations in the resulting lots. This Bylaw is in addition to any requirement for a permit or exemption under the State of Vermont Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.

5.02.1 Application and Required Information: Any person desiring approval of a Boundary Line Adjustment shall submit an application to the Zoning Administrator. The application shall include a mylar survey plat completed by a Vermont licensed surveyor containing the following information:

- a) A legal description of properties subject to the boundary line adjustment application;
- b) The date of preparation of the maps, an identified north arrow, and the scale of the map;
- c) The total area of each lot before and after the proposed boundary line adjustment;
- d) The location and dimensions of all structures, driveways, sewage disposal systems, wells, utilities and other improvements on each lot subject to the proposed boundary line adjustment; and
- e) A description of the meets and bounds of the lots that will result from the boundary line adjustment by identifying a beginning point and a description of the length and direction of each course in the tract in sequence and which returns to the beginning point.

Additionally, the application shall contain:

- a) The names, addresses and telephone numbers of all property owners involved in the proposed boundary line adjustment; and
- b) Signed and notarized authorization from all property owners.

5.03 Criteria for Approval: All Boundary Line Adjustments shall be consistent with the following standards:

- 5.03.1 The Boundary Line Adjustment does not create a new lot or lots.
- 5.03.2 The parcels resulting from the Boundary Line Adjustment shall meet all dimension, area and land use regulations of the Zoning Bylaws.
- 5.03.3 If one or both lots, or the structures located thereon, at the time of the application for a Boundary Line Adjustment do not conform to the Zoning Bylaws, the adjustment shall not increase or worsen the nonconformity of the nonconforming lot(s) or structure(s).
- 5.03.4 The Boundary Line Adjustment does not realign lot lines that create directional changes in the orientation of lot(s), such as changing front yards into side yards or rear yards [and] which result in nonconforming setbacks.

5.04 Zoning Administrator Review and Action: Based on review of the proposed Boundary Line Adjustment, the Zoning Administrator shall determine if the proposed boundary line adjustment meets the criteria for approval stated

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 1, 2022
608 Votes Cast

above. If the Zoning Administrator finds that the proposed boundary line adjustment complies with all the above requirements, the application shall be approved. If the Zoning Administrator finds that the proposed boundary line adjustment does not comply with the above requirements or there is any doubt about the application meeting the above criteria, the application shall be denied. The decision by the Zoning Administrator may be appealed to the DRB.

- 5.05 Final Approval and Authorization for Property Owners: Approval of the Boundary Line Adjustment shall constitute authorization for the applicant to prepare appropriate documents to transfer the property being adjusted or record the boundary line adjustment agreement, as indicated. A Boundary Line Adjustment shall be completed according to the following:

The owner(s) shall have prepared the appropriate deeds for the transfer of ownership or an appropriate boundary line adjustment agreement, and in each case the necessary transfer tax returns, and a survey map that meets all of the requirements set out in Section 5.01.1 above including the mylar required for recording in the land records. The deed and map shall contain the following language: "This conveyance (or survey) is for the purpose of accomplishing a boundary line adjustment. It shall not create any additional lots, tracts, parcels, or divisions." The map shall contain a signed statement of approval by the Zoning Administrator. The map shall contain a note which references the recording information for the deeds for the actual property transfer.

- 5.06 Final Approval and Recording: Upon securing signed approval by the Zoning Administrator, the applicant shall submit a Boundary Line Adjustment survey and mylar map to the Town Clerk for recording in the Land Records within 180 days, together with the deeds or boundary line adjustment agreement and transfer tax forms. Boundary Line Adjustments granted under this provision shall expire if approved surveys are not filed and recorded within this 180-day period.

- 5.06.3 If one or both lots, or the structures located thereon, at the time of the application for a Boundary Line Adjustment do not conform to the Zoning Bylaws, the adjustment shall not increase or worsen the nonconformity of the nonconforming lot(s) or structure(s).

- 5.06.4 The Boundary Line Adjustment does not realign lot lines that create directional changes in the orientation of lot(s), such as changing front yards into side yards or rear yards [and] which result in nonconforming setbacks.

- 5.07 Zoning Administrator Review and Action: Based on review of the proposed Boundary Line Adjustment, the Zoning Administrator shall determine if the

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proposed boundary line adjustment meets the criteria for approval stated above. If the Zoning Administrator finds that the proposed boundary line adjustment complies with all the above requirements, the application shall be approved. If the Zoning Administrator finds that the proposed boundary line adjustment does not comply with the above requirements or there is any doubt about the application meeting the above criteria, the application shall be denied. The decision by the Zoning Administrator may be appealed to the DRB.

- 5.08 Final Approval and Authorization for Property Owners: Approval of the Boundary Line Adjustment shall constitute authorization for the applicant to prepare appropriate documents to transfer the property being adjusted or record the boundary line adjustment agreement, as indicated. A Boundary Line Adjustment shall be completed according to the following:

The owner(s) shall have prepared the appropriate deeds for the transfer of ownership or an appropriate boundary line adjustment agreement, and in each case the necessary transfer tax returns, and a survey map that meets all of the requirements set out in Section 5.01.1 above including the mylar required for recording in the land records. The deed and map shall contain the following language: "This conveyance (or survey) is for the purpose of accomplishing a boundary line adjustment. It shall not create any additional lots, tracts, parcels, or divisions." The map shall contain a signed statement of approval by the Zoning Administrator. The map shall contain a note which references the recording information for the deeds for the actual property transfer.

- 5.09 Final Approval and Recording: Upon securing signed approval by the Zoning Administrator, the applicant shall submit a Boundary Line Adjustment survey and mylar map to the Town Clerk for recording in the Land Records within 180 days, together with the deeds or boundary line adjustment agreement and transfer tax forms. Boundary Line Adjustments granted under this provision shall expire if approved surveys are not filed and recorded within this 180-day period.

8.16 Dog Boarding/Kennels

8.16.1 Districts Allowed. These facilities shall be permitted in all districts except Village Center (VC) and Forest and Recreation (RC) as a Conditional Use, including site plan approval, subject to review and approval by the Development Review Board (DRB). In reviewing an application for this use, the DRB shall reference the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Market's Animal Welfare Regulation promulgated under authority of the VSA T20 Chapter 194 Section 3908 Sections 1.1 thru and including 3.14. (See Appendix, Vermont Animal Welfare Regulations, https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Animal_Health/Animal%20Welfare%20Regulations.pdf.) Any proposed facility complying with these provisions in their entirety at all times will be considered compliant.

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8.16.2 Requirements and Standards

- a) Five acres shall be the minimum lot size for dog boarding facilities
- b) The total number of dogs shall not exceed 6.
- c) Dog kennels, shelters or runs shall not be located within 1000 feet or fewer of the nearest neighboring residence at the time of the issuance of the permit for that facility.
- d) Animals shall be securely fenced.
- e) No excessive barking shall emanate from the kennels at any time. Quiet hours shall be maintained from 9:00pm to 7:00am weekdays, and 9:00pm to 8:00am weekends and holidays.
- f) The premises shall be kept in a clean and sanitary manner to prevent the accumulation of flies and the spread of disease. Animal odors shall not be detectable beyond the lot lines of the property wherein the kennels are located.
- g) Proof of up to date rabies vaccinations are required before and each time a dog is allowed into the facility.
- h) Personnel shall be available at all times to care for and supervise the animals. Contact information for such personnel shall be registered with the Town Clerk and Animal Control Officer by the kennel owner.
- i) Permit holders must annually hire a consultant veterinarian licensed in the state of Vermont to inspect the facility and confirm it is compliance with the bylaw. If complaints arise from the community and/or adjacent landowners the following mechanism is in place to address these concerns.
 - a. The Zoning Administrator shall provide written warning notice to any person suspected of an alleged violation of any bylaw after it has been adopted pursuant to Chapter 117 of Title 24. The notice must be sent by certified mail and shall advise the alleged offender of the following:
 - i. The nature of the violation referencing the specific provisions of the bylaws.
 - ii. That he or she has seven days in which to resolve the violation.
 - iii. That the fee for the violation shall be in accordance with 24 VSA Section 1974a, 4451, and 4452.
 - iv. That he or she is not entitled to any additional warning notice for a violation occurring after the seven days.
 - v. That he or she has a right to appeal the notice of violation to the Development Review Board.

8.16.3 Definitions

- a) Dog Boarding/Kennel Facility- Any facility that houses as part of a business and/or in exchange for a fee, more than three dogs at a time which are not licensed at the address of the facility. This definition shall not include Veterinary Clinics.

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- b) Excessive Barking- Any noise by a dog or dogs audible at the property line of a property on which a kennel is located which occurs repeatedly during at least a seven minute period of time with a three minute or less lapse of time between each bark.

The deletions shown below are proposed to remove a conflict with the allowed uses and setback requirements referenced in sections 4-7.

8.7 ~~Swimming Pools and Ponds~~

8.7.1 ~~Swimming Pools~~

~~A swimming pool is considered a permitted Accessory Structure to the principal use of the property provided that the pool is used only by the residents of the premises and their guests. No portion of the water area of the pool shall be closer than 20 feet to any lot line. Any pool less than 3 feet in height and under 1,000 gallons in volume is not subject to these restrictions and does not require a zoning permit.~~

1. YES 294 NO 110 BLANK 203

5. Community Appropriations to Determine:

1. Shall the Town appropriate **\$8,500** to the Arlington Rescue Squad, Inc.?
YES 491 NO 94 BLANK 22
2. Shall the Town appropriate **\$5,225** to Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice?
YES 528 NO 62 BLANK 17
3. Shall the Town appropriate **\$5,000** to the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless?
YES 462 NO 122 BLANK 23
4. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the Bennington Free Clinic?
YES 487 NO 102 BLANK 18
5. Shall the Town appropriate **\$18,000** to the Bennington Free Library?
YES 396 NO 191 BLANK 20
6. Shall the Town appropriate **\$600** to Bennington Little League?
YES 461 NO 124 BLANK 21

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 1, 2022

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7. Shall the Town appropriate **\$4,500** to the Bennington Project Independence, Inc.?
YES 483 NO 99 BLANK 25
8. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,700** to the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council?
YES 376 NO 198 BLANK 33
9. Shall the Town appropriate **\$600** to the Center for Restorative Justice?
YES 422 NO 158 BLANK 27
10. Shall the Town appropriate **\$200** to the Green-Up Vermont?
YES 515 NO 75 BLANK 17
11. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,850** to the Habitat for Humanity?
YES 438 NO 144 BLANK 24
12. Shall the Town appropriate **\$25,200** to the John G. McCullough Free Library?
YES 376 NO 207 BLANK 24
13. Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,000** to the Martha Canfield Library?
YES 353 NO 228 BLANK 26
14. Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,500** to the Paran Recreations, Inc.?
YES 463 NO 119 BLANK 25
15. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,500** to the Park McCullough House?
YES 381 NO 201 BLANK 25
16. Shall the Town appropriate **\$450** to the Project Against Violent Encounters?
YES 494 NO 94 BLANK 19
17. Shall the Town appropriate **\$950** to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?
YES 499 NO 84 BLANK 24
18. Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,500** to the Shaftsbury Historical Society, Inc.?
YES 437 NO 144 BLANK 26
19. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the Sunrise Family Resource Center?
YES 417 NO 162 BLANK 28
20. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,100** to the SW Vermont Council on Aging?
YES 481 NO 106 BLANK 20
21. Shall the Town appropriate **\$900** to the Tutorial Center?
YES 452 NO 134 BLANK 21

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 1, 2022

608 Votes Cast

22. Shall the Town appropriate **\$300** to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?

YES 522

NO 67

BLANK 18

23. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the VT Center for Independent Living?

YES 488

NO 101

BLANK 18

24. Shall the Town appropriate **\$500** to the Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?

YES 513

NO 74

BLANK 19

25. Shall the Town appropriate **\$5,000** to Shires Media Partnership (WBTN)?

YES 324

NO 250

BLANK 32

26. Shall the Town appropriate **\$750** to Shires Kids?

YES 394

NO 176

BLANK 36

27. Shall the Town appropriate **\$750** to Bennington Senior Center?

YES 514

NO 74

BLANK 18

28. Shall the Town appropriate **\$450** to Bennington County Conservation District?

YES 449

NO 135

BLANK 22

**STATE OF VERMONT
Bennington County, SS:
TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY**

March 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warning

Shaftsbury residents, qualified to vote at the Annual Town Meeting, are hereby notified and warned to meet in person at the Shaftsbury Elementary School 150 Buck Hill Road or virtually via zoom on **Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 PM** to hold a public information hearing. Upon completion of the information session, the Meeting will stand adjourned until **Tuesday, March 7, 2023, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** when voting by Australian ballot will commence at the Town Garage on North Road for the election of town officers and consideration of ballot articles.

Shaftsbury residents may submit an application to the Town Clerk to have their names added to the voter checklist no later than **12:00 PM on Monday, March 6, 2023 or at the Town Garage on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 from 7am to 7pm** to be eligible to vote on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the polls. Any voter unable to come to the polls may apply for an early voter ballot with the Town Clerk until **12:00 PM on Monday, March 6, 2023**. Registration to vote can be done online by going to **MVP.VERMONT.gov**. Residents registering on Election Day must do so only at the polling place of their physical residence.

TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY

IN PERSON and REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

NOTICE and AGENDA

The Selectboard for the Town of Shaftsbury will hold a public informational hearing in person at the Shaftsbury Elementary School, 150 Buck Hill Road and by electronic means on March 6, 2023 at 6:00pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2023 Town Meeting Warning.

Information on how to access the remote hearing:

Shaftsbury Town is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Shaftsbury Town Meeting

Time: Mar 6, 2023 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88416592161>

Meeting ID: 884 1659 2161

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88416592161# US (Chicago)

+16469313860,,88416592161# US

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

Meeting ID: 884 1659 2161

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88416592161>

Please review our "Informational Handout for Remote Public Hearings" to understand how these electronic hearing will be managed. If you wish to make a public comment but do not have the ability to comment remotely during the meeting, please email your comment(s) to David Kiernan at administrator@shaftsburyvt.gov.

To ensure smooth access, we recommend that you test your remote hearing software in advance of the meeting. **If you have difficulty accessing the hearing, email webmaster@shaftsburyvt.gov.**

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 AT 6:00 PM IN THE SHAFTSBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 150 BUCK HILL ROAD.

- To hear reports of the Town Officers and take action thereon.
- To Determine:
 - A. Shall Selectboard members each receive an annual stipend of \$750?
 - B. Shall the Board of Auditors be paid a wage at the rate of \$15.00 per hour?
 - C. Shall the 1st and 2nd Constable be paid a wage at the rate of \$15.00 per hour?
- Shall the Town authorize collection of taxes on real or personal property by its Treasurer, which are due in hand on or before, **Friday, November 10, 2023** at 5:00 PM or likewise postmarked no later than **Friday, November 10, 2023**?
- Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,527,046 to defray the Town's general and highway expenses for Fiscal Year 2024, the amount of such sum to be raised by property taxes and to be reduced by non-tax revenues and reserve funds?
- To transact any other non-binding business as legally may come before said meeting at this time.

AGENDA

The agenda items will be discussed but not voted on. Voting will be by Australian ballot on Tuesday March 6, 2023.

1. Shall bonds of the Town of Shaftsbury to the amount of \$1,780,000 be issued under subchapter 2 of chapter 53 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, payable only from net revenues derived from the water public utility system, for the purpose of paying for the following public utility project? Phase 1 water main replacement project along VT Route 7A, Church Street, and VT Route 67.
2. Review and discuss Articles 2,3,4, and 5: Shall the voters authorize amendments to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws?
 - Public Comments
3. Review and discuss Article 5: Community Appropriations
 - Public comments
4. Discussion of other non-binding business
 - Public comment

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023
7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
Town Garage North Road**

1. Shall bonds of the Town of Shaftsbury to the amount of \$1,780,000 be issued under subchapter 2 of chapter 53 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, payable only from net revenues derived from the water public utility system, for the purpose of paying for the following public utility project? Phase 1 water main replacement project along VT Route 7A, Church Street, and VT Route 67.

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

Changes to definitions changes shown in italics and "strike through."

Dwelling Unit, Accessory: An efficiency or one bedroom Dwelling Unit located within or appurtenant to an owner occupied One Family Dwelling that is clearly subordinate to the One Family Dwelling, which has provisions for independent living, including sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation, provided that the property has sufficient wastewater capacity and that the unit does not exceed ~~30~~ 50 percent of the total habitable floor area of the One Family Dwelling, but is at least 400 square feet in floor area. *Larger existing structures such as barns or carriage houses may be renovated for this purpose but the Dwelling Unit shall comply with the 50 percent threshold.*

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

Manufactured Home (or Mobile Home *or Tiny House or Home*): A structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term "Manufactured Home" does not include a "Recreational Vehicle". ~~Said structure is designed and approved for use by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and carries a label approving it for said use. Manufacturer's installation instructions are considered to be a part of the requirements for the placement of a Manufactured Home on a site as a One Family Dwelling.~~

4. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

New section

8.18

No new public or member-limited facility the purpose of which is the promoting of or the discharge of munitions is permitted in the Town of Shaftsbury.

5. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendment to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

New section

Section 9.1.5 Amending a Zoning Permit or Site Plan

A. Upon written request from the applicant, the Zoning Administrator may, prior to completion or occupancy, amend a zoning permit or approved site plan upon finding that the proposed change:

(1) Is not a material change; and

(2) Does not affect the type, character, or intensity of the approved development or use to the extent specified below:

(a) Any proposed change shall not result in an increased requirement for parking or loading spaces.

(b) Any proposed change in building footprint shall not exceed 5% or 100 square feet, whichever is less.

(c) Any proposed substitution of planting materials shall not change the overall landscape design concept.

(A material change means a change in the planned use or development of land or a structure that may have affected the decision made or any conditions placed on the permit if it had been included in the plans as approved.)

B. The Zoning Administrator shall:

(1) Require that the owners of properties adjoining the subject property be notified and have an opportunity to comment prior to acting on the amendment request.

C. The Zoning Administrator may:

(1) Decline to amend an approved site plan and refer the request to the Development Review Board (see Section 4306).

(2) Require the applicant to submit an application for a new zoning permit.

D. Where the Zoning Administrator amends a zoning permit or approved site plan, such approval will not change the expiration date of the permit.

E. Once development for a permit is complete, a new application is required for any amendments.

6. Shall the voters of the Town of Shaftsbury approve the following amendments to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws:

Changes to existing sections are shown in italics

Subdivision Regulations

7.3 Open Space Subdivision

The Development Review Board *must* require developers to implement an open space design when failure to do so would result in one or more of the following:

1. A significant reduction in the agricultural use potential of the land, *where "significant" means a reduction in area of 50% or more or any contiguous prime or statewide significant agricultural soils;*
2. *Noticeable change to the natural appearance* of a hillside, ridgeline, or open field as viewed *from any public thoroughfare in the Town;*
3. *Permanent* encroachment upon a natural area, wildlife habitat, or stream, wetland, vernal pool, or other water body;
4. Elimination of public access to a recreational resource;
5. Soil erosion, ground or surface water contamination, or *other circumstances that impact* environmental quality.
6. *Fragmentation of a forest-block or wildlife corridor as illustrated in Shaftsbury Town Plan Maps 4.1 (Terrestrial and Aquatic Systems) and 4.2 (Rare Species and Natural Communities).*

7. Community Appropriations to Determine:

- 1) Shall the Town appropriate **\$5,225** to Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice?
- 2) Shall the Town appropriate **\$5,000** to the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless?
- 3) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the Bennington Free Clinic?
- 4) Shall the Town appropriate **\$18,630** to the Bennington Free Library?
- 5) Shall the Town appropriate **\$600** to Bennington Little League?
- 6) Shall the Town appropriate **\$4,500** to the Bennington Project Independence, Inc.?
- 7) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,700** to the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council?
- 8) Shall the Town appropriate **\$600** to the Center for Restorative Justice?
- 9) Shall the Town appropriate **\$200** to the Green-Up Vermont?
- 10) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,850** to the Habitat for Humanity?
- 11) Shall the Town appropriate **\$25,200** to the John G. McCullough Free Library?
- 12) Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,000** to the Martha Canfield Library?
- 13) Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,500** to the Paran Recreations, Inc.?
- 14) Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,500** to the Park McCullough House
- 15) Shall the Town appropriate **\$450** to the Project Against Violent Encounters?
- 16) Shall the Town appropriate **\$950** to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?
- 17) Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,500** to the Shaftsbury Historical Society, Inc.?

- 18) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the Sunrise Family Resource Center?
- 19) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,100 to the SW Vermont Council on Aging?
- 20) Shall the Town appropriate \$900 to the Tutorial Center?
- 21) Shall the Town appropriate \$300 to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?
- 22) Shall the Town appropriate \$1,000 to the VT Center for Independent Living?
- 23) Shall the Town appropriate \$500 to the Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?
- 24) Shall the Town appropriate \$5,000 to Shires Media Partnership (WBTN)?
- 25) Shall the Town appropriate \$750 to Bennington Senior Center?
- 26) Shall the Town appropriate \$3740 to Bennington County Conservation District?

DATED at Shaftsbury, Vermont this 30th day of **January, 2023.**

TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD

Anthony Krulikowski Martha Cornwell

Art Whitman, Chair

Tony Krulikowski, Vice Chair

Martha Cornwell,

Joe Barber

Mike Cichanowski

Remote Only Public Informational Hearing Handout Town of Shaftsbury

Public Informational Hearing

The process for using the Australian ballot system at town meeting requires a public informational hearing as a precursor to the vote. The Selectboard must hold an informational hearing when a town uses this system of voting on any public or budget question. The informational hearing, which is administered by the Selectboard, must be held within the 10 days immediately preceding the town meeting at which the Australian ballot system of voting is to be used. The purpose of the informational hearing is to afford the electorate an opportunity to discuss the article(s) on which they will be voting. The hearing serves as the debate component that would otherwise accompany voting when conducted from the floor.

The Selectboard of the town of Shaftsbury will offer in person and remote access via electronic means to its public informational hearing. Whenever feasible, the public should, at minimum, be able to access and participate in the remote hearing by dialing in through telephone.

Accessing a Meeting

Please refer to the remote only public informational hearing notice and agenda for information on how to access the hearing remotely. Please note that whether you join by telephone, computer, or device, you may be put on hold or in a waiting “room” until granted access to the hearing. You also may be muted or restricted from using any chat function until the public comment portion of the hearing.

Participation

All meetings will be conducted in accordance with the Selectboard’s Rules of Procedure , to the extent practicable. The moderator will follow the public informational hearing agenda and, when feasible, allow members of the public attending remotely to participate through voice (audio) means or alternatively using any chat function during the designated public comment periods on the agenda and at other applicable times as needed.

While the moderator will attempt to provide those attending remotely the same reasonable opportunity to comment, please be aware that technical and other issues may interfere or possibly even prevent that opportunity from occurring.

Initially, the meeting’s host/organizer will mute all remote attendees. This is necessary to control background noise. The host/organizer will then unmute remote participants or allow participants to unmute themselves when invited to speak by the moderator.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The moderator will invite comment:
 - during the public comment period as designated on the agenda; and
 - other times as determined by the moderator.
- When a remote participant/attendee is unmuted, they must state their name before commenting.

When the Selectboard adjourns the hearing, the host/organizer will end the electronic meeting by turning off/closing the remote meeting software. Remote attendees will be automatically disconnected.

The hearing will be recorded unless unusual circumstances make it impossible to do so. Minutes and other public records that are part of the hearing will be made available in accordance with VT’s Open Meeting and Public Records Laws.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Overview of the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2022 (FY2022):

The Town of Shaftsbury ended the year with a net decrease to the unassigned fund balance of (31,394), adjusted to (40,541) using the Modified Accrual Basis of accounting.

Both revenue and expenditures came in higher than budgeted. In some cases these were cause and effect. For example, an unbudgeted planning grant resulted in higher than budgeted planning expenditure. Our State highway grant was increased again this year in response to the pandemic, resulting in higher expenditures in road maintenance. Other unbudgeted expenses were unpredictable. The shock to global energy prices resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine affected the town's fuel budget just as it affected prices at the pump. A pandemic-related delay in delivery of a new mower resulted in high rental fees for a replacement. This is all covered in more detail in the Selectboard's annual report.

	Budget	Actual	Actual % of Budget	Variance Favorable/(Unfavorable)
Total Revenue	2,262,140	2,347,062	103.75%	84,922
Total Expenditures	2,262,140	2,378,456	105.14%	(116,316)
Total General Fund	0	(31,394)		(31,394)

The final report from the auditing firm of Sullivan, Powers & Co. will be available on the Town website and at the Town Offices.

Finally, a personal plea: more than one Shaftsbury resident paid far too much in property taxes last year simply because they didn't submit their homestead declarations before the October 15 deadline. These homeowners didn't discover their omission because they didn't look at their bills until it was too late. I mail out tax bills in August. They are due in November. Before filing your bill away unopened, do yourself a favor and review it to make sure you're being charged the expected amount. This is true even if you use a mortgage company. If the amount is higher than expected, give me a call. I can usually help you correct any errors or omissions, if you catch them early enough.

Melanie Dexter, Shaftsbury Town Treasurer

AUDITORS REPORT

During Fiscal year 2022, the Auditors' met monthly to reconcile the town's bank statement, audit the Reserve Fund, review the General Journal Entries and review Transfer Station Receipts.

At the close of Fiscal year 2022 the Auditor's completed examinations of the Town Treasurer's Records including purchase orders, invoices, and checks, comparing these items with the Selectboard Warrants and the Detailed Transaction Report. This examination was based on an estimated 35% sample of records.

The Auditors' have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Shaftsbury as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. These financial statements are based on information supplied by the Town Treasurer and were prepared by the outside auditor, Sullivan and Powers. The Auditors' responsibility is to express an opinion concerning these financial statements based on our review. In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present the financial position and changes in financial position of the Town of Shaftsbury as of June 30, 2022, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Caslin

Lisa Lent

REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Year Ended June 30, 2022

This report summarizes the activity of the town funds for which the Trustees of Public Funds have responsibility. The Trustees manage these funds for the purpose of providing income for fund purposes while protecting the purchasing power of the funds through capital appreciation.

For the 12-month period, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, we faced challenges with trying to protect each Fund's capital. In addition, the Selectboard directed the dissolution of two of the Funds.

Over the 12-month period:

- Distributions of prior period income of \$20,853 was paid to the Town, School and Library.
- \$10,300 was dispersed from the GW Hawkins Fund to the Town to cover a replacement of computer equipment.
- Capital losses for the period amounted to \$96,821 as a result of supply chain issues, Fed Fund increases implemented by the Federal Reserve, and recession fears.
- Capital losses were offset somewhat by \$44,164 in generated income, resulting in a net loss of \$52,657.
- The Trustees held several meetings, deciding on actions to be taken to minimize the impact of economic pressures and protect capital positions. We directed that cash positions be increased from a usual target of 10% to 30%
- In 2019, the Town sought approval from the Probate Court to terminate the Cemetery Trust Fund and Health Fund. In January 2022, the Town received an opinion that the Selectboard had the authority to terminate the two funds. Actions taken in April 2022 completed the process. \$37,100 was disbursed to the Town to close out the Cemetery Fund with proceeds to be added to the Town Cemetery Reserve Fund and \$40,341 was transferred from the Health Fund to the Recreation Fund, closing out the Health Fund.

The funds were established for the benefit of the Town and local townsfolk. The Trustees recognize the fund purposes as they strive to make certain the funds are used as they were intended.

Robert Steuer

Barry Mayer

William Hession

Continued on next page

CEMETERY TRUST FUND

These funds, with accruing net income, are set aside by the Selectboard to acquire equipment needed for the care of our cemeteries or for the procurement of additional land if and when that becomes necessary.

CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE

These funds result from payments made to the Town of Shaftsbury to provide for the perpetual care of cemetery lots. An amount for this purpose is included in the price of each lot sold. Monies received by the Town from this source become part of the principal of the fund and may not be used for any other purpose but to produce income for perpetual care. This income is used by the town for cemetery care under the supervision of the Selectboard. The annual net income from this fund is remitted to the Town of Shaftsbury after the close of the fiscal year.

HUNTINGTON CEMETERY FUND

An 1890 gift in trust by Calvin Huntington established the Huntington Cemetery Fund to provide income “to keep in repair the family gravestones of his relations in the town graveyard.” The Bennington Probate Court in 2000 appointed the Selectmen of the Town of Shaftsbury as successor trustees to the Huntington Cemetery Trust. The Select Board voted “to turn management of the Huntington Cemetery Fund over to the Trustees of Public Funds” at its June 20, 2005, meeting. The Trustees received the Huntington Fund in July 2005.

The Huntington Fund principal may not be expended for any purpose. Income from the Huntington Fund may only be used for the stated purpose of the Fund.

SCHOOL FUND

The School Fund, derived from any payments or bequests to the Town of Shaftsbury School District, provides that the net income from the fund be paid annually to the school district.

LIBRARY FUND-RESTRICTED

All net income is paid annually upon request to the Mary Monroe Hawkins Memorial Library Association to purchase books for the library at the Shaftsbury Elementary School.

LIBRARY FUND-UNRESTRICTED

In June 1994 the trustees received a check for \$10,000 from the estate of Tirzah J. Sweet as an unrestricted bequest to the Mary Monroe Hawkins Memorial Library, located in the Shaftsbury Elementary School. Net income is credited to the fund. Monies from this fund are requested and disbursed at the discretion of the Mary Monroe Hawkins Memorial Library Association.

HEALTH FUND

All net income is to be credited to the Shaftsbury Health Fund. Income can be drawn from the Health Fund as needed for current activities related to community health.

RECREATION FUND

The Selectboard established this fund to function as an endowment providing income for use in supporting recreation projects in the Town of Shaftsbury. Prior town recreation saving accounts together with Howard Park contributions were either transferred or deposited into this fund to make up its principal. The annual net income from this fund is remitted to the Town of Shaftsbury after the close of the fiscal year for use by the recreation committee.

JULIA MATTISON FUND

A 1919 will of Julia E. Mattison, a Shaftsbury resident, established this fund. The Bennington Probate Court distributed the funds to the Town in a 1926 order following Ms. Mattison's death. Fund income provides care, comfort and maintenance of any aged and needful women who are residents of the Town of Shaftsbury under the terms of Ms. Mattison's will. The Selectboard determines recipients of assistance from this fund at its discretion.

GEORGE W. HAWKINS FUND

A generous legacy from a former resident, George W. Hawkins, established this fund in 1976. Net income is credited to the fund. The fund is unrestricted as to use and monies are disbursed at the discretion of the Selectboard. It has been the Selectboard's policy to maintain a minimum principal of \$80,000.

HOWARD PARK FUND

Florence Howard kindly bequeathed half of her estate to the town in 2017. The funds are to be earmarked for any use relating to Howard Park. The funds are invested to protect the principle while net income is reinvested back into the fund. The Selectboard has discretion over the use of the funds as they relate to Howard Park.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

Land was conveyed to the North Bennington Cemetery Association in 1911 "...for the purpose of purchasing, acquiring and holding real and personal property to be used for and in connection with a cemetery or burial ground in Shaftsbury, Vermont; of selling and conveying lots therein; erecting of the necessary structures; soliciting and holding trust funds and making contracts for the perpetual care of burial lots therein, with authority to do all things requisite and proper to accomplish said purpose." Since assuming responsibility for the cemetery in 2018, the annual net income from this fund is remitted to the Town of Shaftsbury after the close of the fiscal year.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Fund	Raymond James Starting Balance 30-Jun-21	Allocation of Investment Fees													
		Income	Gains (Losses)	Additions	Withdrawals	Investment Fees	Rounding	RJ Ending Balance 30-Jun-22	People's Bank Ending Balance 30-Jun-22	RJ & People's Ending Balance 30-Jun-22	2021 Income	2021 Gains	Percent to Income	Fees to Income	Net Income
Cemetery Trust	37,640	1,975	(2,265)	-	(37,101)	(245)		5	12	17	1,975	(2,265)			
Cemetery Perp Trust	161,821	8,465	(18,835)	-	(5,935)	(962)		144,554	55	144,609	8,465	(18,835)	50%	481	7,984
Huntington Cemetery	77,903	4,391	(9,867)	-	-	(486)		71,941	25	71,966	4,391	(9,867)			
School	35,213	1,836	(4,122)	-	(1,286)	(225)	1	31,417	11	31,429	1,836	(4,122)	50%	113	1,723
Library - Restricted	14,925	784	(1,735)	-	(533)	(107)	1	13,335	5	13,340	784	(1,735)	50%	54	730
Library - Unrestricted	12,530	661	(1,467)	-	(451)	(93)	1	11,181	4	11,186	661	(1,467)	50%	47	614
Health	40,912	2,144	(2,516)	65	(40,341)	(265)	1	0	13	14	2,144	(2,516)			
Recreation	116,193	6,236	(16,270)	40,341	(4,330)	(696)		141,474	40	141,514	6,236	(16,270)	50%	348	5,888
Julia Mattison	44,523	2,511	(5,642)	-	-	(286)		41,106	14	41,120	2,511	(5,642)			
G.W. Hawkins	160,891	8,225	(18,380)	-	(10,287)	(952)	(1)	139,497	40	139,536	8,225	(18,380)			
Howard Park	49,350	2,790	(6,307)	-	-	(315)		45,518	-	45,518	2,790	(6,307)			
Grandview Cemetery	76,506	4,146	(9,415)	-	(2,884)	(464)	(1)	67,888	-	67,888	4,146	(9,415)	50%	232	3,914
Total Public Funds	828,408	44,164	(96,821)	40,407	(103,147)	(5,096)		707,916	220	708,136	44,164	(96,821)		1,275	20,853

This report summarizes the activity of the town funds for which the Trustees of Public Funds have responsibility. The Trustees manage the funds of the purpose for providing income while protecting the purchasing power of funds through capital investment. D.B. McKenna & Co., Inc. provides investment advice to the Trustees.

Shafsbury Public Funds were invested as follows at June 30, 2021

Money Market Funds and Bank Deposits	\$ 194,184	Cemetery Perpetual Trust	7,984
Certificates of Deposit	0	Recreation	5,888
Bonds	0	School	1,723
Equity Mutual Funds	513,951	Library - Restricted	730
	<u>\$ 708,136</u>	Library - Unrestricted	614
		Grandview Cemetery	<u>3,914</u>
			\$20,853

Distributions of FY Income

Respectfully submitted

Robert Steuer
Barry Mayer
Bill Hession

Budget FY24

26-Jan-23

Revenues:	Budget FY22	FY22 Final	Budget FY23	FY23 YTD	Budget FY24
Tax Revenues				1/5/23	
Current Tax Revenue	1861076	1,869,688	1961422	1971406	2104226
Taxpayer Prebates from State	0	0	0	22598	0
Late Homestead Penalty	2051	5,683	2,051	4,998	5340
Delinquent Tax Revenue		0	0	0	0
Delinquent Tax Interest	10000	16,516	10,000	4,174	10000
Education Billing Fee retained	9000	9,766	9405	9540	9750
Tax sale Fees	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1882127	1,901,653	1982878	2012716	2129316
Intergovernmental Revenue					
Railroad Taxes	900	992	900	0	950
State Land Use	42,000	45128	42,000	46,001	46000
VT Forests and Parks	0	0		0	0
State PILOT Federal Land PILOT Program	14500	11,327	12,000	11,400	11000
Federal Land PILOT	3600	3745	3660	0	3750
Vermont State Highway Aid	165508	183,823	180,000	85,204	180000
Government Grants	0	19,636	0	0	0
Total	226,508	264651	238560	142605	241700
Charges for Services:					
Water Charge for Labor	2500	0	0	0	0
Misc. Transfer Station fees	125	863	600	927	800
Access Permits	9000	7,706	9000	6630	9000
PAYT Revenues	62000	52,201	62000	28776	64000
Zoning Permits	6000	8,243	6000	3390	6000
Total	79,625	69013	77600	39723	79800
Budget					

FY22					
Licenses:					
Dog licenses	3750	2104	3250	564	3000
Beer and Liquor Licenses	130	0	130	0	130
Marriage Licenses	100	-450	100	40	100
Total	3980	1654	3480	604	3230
Fines and Forfeits:					
Dog Fines	400	0	400	0	400
Civil fines	2000	3,105	2000	483	2500
Sheriff Fines				0	0
State Police Fines				0	0
Total	2400	3105	2400	483	2900
Interest Income	2700	876	1500	5250	1500
Miscellaneous Income					
Total	0	0	0	0	0
Howard Park					
Trustees of Public Funds	5000	4,265	5000	5887	4500
Fees	100	100	100	0	100
Interest earnings		0		0	0
Misc. Income		0		0	0
Key Deposits		0		0	0
Town Rec Fund Transfer		0		0	0
Total	5100	4365	5100	5887	4600
	Budget				
	FY22				
Cemetery Revenue					
Burial fees	1500	3,300	2000	700	2500
Burial Permits	0	0	0	0	0

Lot Fees	3600	7,845	4000	10350	5000
Cemetery Trusts - perp	5000	5,935	6000	7984	6000
Grandview Lot Fees	0	1,950	0	0	0
Misc. Revenue	0	0	0	50	0
Corner Markers	1800	150	1200	0	200
Grandview Perp trust	3500	2,884	3500	3913	3000
Grandview - Other rev.	2000	2,000	2000	2000	2000
Total	17400	24,064	18700	24997	18700
Clerk Revenue					
Recording fees	42000	39,115	45000	28645	45000
Birth certificates	0	0	0	0	0
Misc. revenue	300	430	300	323	300
Total	42300	39,545	45300	28968	45300
Other Income					
Proceeds from long term debt	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance proceeds	0	7,422	0	1163	0
Trans surplus fund balance	0	0	0	0	0
Sale of Equipment	0	22,930	0	0	0
Listers Copies	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	0	7,822	0	2600	0
Total	0	38174	0	3,763	0
Operating Transfers In					
Prior Fund Balance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2262140	2,347,062	2395518	2264996	2527046

FY24 BUDGET

1/26/23

	FY22 FINAL	FY23 BUDGET	FY23 YTD 12/31/22 Proposed	FY24 Proposed
General Government				
<i>Administration</i>				
Select Board Stipend	3250	3250	0	3750
Meeting Recording Clerk	0	0	0	0
Town Administrator Salary	77520	80,346	33944	84363
Administrative Support Wages	0	0	0	0
Employee Health Premium*	0	0	0	0
Health Plan Administration	694	1,000	374	1000
Employee Health Ins Deductable*	0	0	0	0
FICA	6071	6,330	2879	6327
AFLAC Admin Short term Disability	669	927	360	973
Dental Plan	n/a	0	0	0
Vision Plan	n/a	0	0	0
Insurance and Bonds	64288	66,560	34475	72685
Retirement Contribution	4845	5,423	2005	5694
Unemployment Insurance	2840	2,712	1214	2712
Professional Services	25106	12,000	14932	21,000
Postage	2323	1,200	354	1200
Meetings & Training	48	500	67	500
Staff Development	0	0	0	0
Video CAT-TV ZOOM	3970	4,800	4926	4800
Advertising and Legal Notices	1958	1,500	596	1500
Dues and Subscriptions	12712	14,000	12881	14000
Office Supplies	2769	2,000	1349	2500
Office Equipment	13678	2,500	5223	3000
Bank Service Charges	0	0	0	0
North Street Property Expenses	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	987	1,200	379	1200
Website Management	n/a	8,000	0	9181
Total Administration	223728	214,248	115958	236385

Cole Hall -Town Offices

	FY22 FINAL	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24
Custodial Wages	0	0	0	0
FICA	0	0	10	0
Contract Services	6372	6,900	2490	6900
Repair and Maintenance	6627	1,000	268	2000
Operating Supplies	1274	2,300	891	2300
Utilities	9077	9,000	4198	9000
Heating Fuel	3166	1,776	2376	4000
Total Cole Hall	26516	20,976	10223	24,200

Elections & Vital Statistics

Town Clerk Salary	44,381	46,636	21396	48968
Assistant Town Clerk	12,767	16,796	6953	9181
Poll Worker Wages	590	4,000	3729	4200
TC Health Ins.	6,681	7092	7368	19,946
TC Health Deductable	869	2000	1632	2000
AFLAC Admin Short Term Disability	365	400	196	420
FICA	4,365	5159	2052	4662
Retirement Contributions	2,807	3413	1390	3305
Dental Plan	n/a	598	563	628
Vision Plan	n/a	56	52	59
Travel & Meetings - Clerk	2,484	600	0	650
Travel & Meetings- Elections	489	600	327	650
Machine Equipment/Supplies- Elections	3,617	3000	1709	3150
Operating Equipment Supplies Clerk	537	4000	2118	4500
Professional Services			260	0
Total	79,952	94,350	49745	102319

Finance:

FY22 FINAL	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24
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Accounting/Payroll- Bookkeeping Wages	5,695	9353	2641	9820
FICA	436	715	220	765
Bookkeeping Supplies	37	0	0	0
Payroll	2,829	3250	1785	3500
Total	8,997	13318	4646	14085
Auditing				
Auditor Wages	582	1900	135	1900
FICA	45	145	10	148
Travel & Meetings	0	0	0	0
Town Report	755	2000	0	955
Total	1,382	4045	145	3003
Delinquent Tax Collection				
FICA	1,566	1300	304	1300
Supplies	317	400	20	500
Total	1,883	1700	324	1800
Treasurer Services				
Treasurer Salary	24,480	25704	10874	26989
Assistant Treasurer	0	0	0	0
Bank Service Charge	660	660	110	660
Billing Supplies	3607	2000	1468	2000
Other Services	0	250	35	250
FICA	1,873	1966	831	2105
Total	30,620	30580	13318	32004
Assessors Office Wages				
	FY22 FINAL	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24
	18,300	16796	7077	36,358

FICA	1383	1218	789	2726
Professional Services	27,793	16600	4342	18260
Tax Maps	4615	2500	2400	2500
Computer Maintenance	1,200	500	215	500
Travel & Meetings	50	250	70	250
Dues & Subscriptions	682	0	664	700
Operating Supplies	150	200	9	200

Total	54,173	38064	15566	61,494
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Public Safety

Animal Control:				
ACO Wages	5745	6300	2316	6615
Monthly Stipend	612	1275	0	0
FICA	318	482	177	506
Veterinary Expense	0	750	0	750
Tags/Miscellaneous	281	450	2195	500
Kennel Expense	N/A	N/A	N/A	800
Total	6,956	9257	4688	9171

Emergency Management

Equipment Maintenance	694	800	0	800
Travel & Meetings	0	200	0	200
Operating Supplies	0	400	0	400
Emergency Shelter Equipment	0	0	0	0
Total	694	1400	0	1400

FY22 FINAL	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24
<i>Fire Department</i>			
Chiefs Stipend	2,600	2600	0
			2600

FICA	0	199	0	199
Insurance & Bond	2,067	2550	0	2550
Fire House Maintenance	4,756	5000	654	5000
Fire Truck Maintenance	5,019	8000	3224	8000
Communications	5,173	4500	2318	4500
Training	395	2000	1263	2000
Operating Supplies	210	750	1140	750
Utilities	14,850	10000	8053	10000
Firehouse Heating Fuel	6,416	11016	5396	11016
Gas, Oil & Diesel	1,125	4000	36	4000
Extrication Equipment	1,864	2000	566	2000
Equipment Replacement	11,407	20000	21585	20000
Total	55,882	72615	44235	72615
<i>Fire Warden</i>				
Operating Supplies	0	250	0	250
Vehicle and Equipment	1500	1500	0	1500
Total	1500	1750	0	1750
<i>Law Enforcement</i>				
Constable Wages	0	0	0	0
Sheriff Services	25,234	35430	8463	40000
Total	25,234	35430	8463	40,000
<i>Emergency Medical</i>				
Bennington Rescue	22,500	22500	0	27500
Arlington Rescue	n/a	n/a	n/a	10388
Total	22500	22500	0	37888
HIGHWAY	FY22 FINAL	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24
<i>Highway Administration:</i>				
Highway Wages - Regular	293,257	309,139	117477	312,628

Highway Wages - Overtime	26,698	28,400	513	29,820
P/T Summer	0	0	0	9,236
Employee Health Insurance - Premium	59,091	62,460	39922	98,309
Employee Health Insurance- Deductable	4,480	16,000	4472	16,000
Disability Insurance	0	0	0	0
AFLAC Short Term Disability	2,411	2,520	1298	3,000
Dental Plan		3,590	1794	3,769
Vision Plan		332	165	350
FICA	24,805	25,822	9846	26,844
Retirement Contribution	19,504	25,315	8244	22,912
Uniform Cleaning	0	0	0	0
Travel & Meetings	0	300	0	300
Steel Toe Footware	300	600	300	750
CDL Physicals	115	800	210	800
FTDPW CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	2,500	3,150	3150	3,307
Total	433,161	478,428	187391	528,025

Highway Construction & Maintenance

Subcontract Costs	522	0	0	0
Signs	6,704	4000	562	4000
Tree Removal	7,550	22500	2300	22,500
Bridges and Guardrails	0	0	0	0
Paving	1,849	0	1061	0
Operating Supplies	14,934	6000	12996	8000
Gravel	93,336	90000	37003	90,000
Chloride (Dust Control)	49,488	60000	38879	60,000
Winter Salt	64,397	51000	14235	51,000
Winter Sand	66,420	52000	13946	52,000
Level & Sealing	2,865	5000	0	5,000
Di-Cleaning	0	1000	0	0
Rentals	22,235	3000	1260	3,000
Property Rental	0	0	0	0
	FY22 FINAL	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24
Culverts	4,607	0	504	0
Capital Improvement Projects	0	0	0	0

Highway Vehicle Purchase		0	0	0	0
Sidewalk Construction Maintenance		0	0	0	0
State MRGP Fees		1,590	1500	640	1,600
	Total	336,497	296,000	123391	297,100
<i>Highway Equipment Maintenance</i>					
Truck 1	2021 IH HVSC7	4,547	3,230	1837	3700
Truck 2	2012 IH 7400	4,639	3,230	1285	3700
Truck 3	2015 IH 7600	17,170	3,230	882	3700
Truck 4	2013 IH 7600	13,435	3,230	6509	3700
Truck 5	2011 IH 7500	8,124	3,230	2783	3700
Truck 6	2009 IH CHLORIDE	678	3,230	4909	3700
Truck 7	CHEV 5500	302	3,230	149	3700
TRAILERS		0	1,615	0	1000
TORO		0	1,615	0	800
Truck 9	A.M. Dump	634	3,230		3700
Truck 10	Dodge 3500	1,084	3,230	9596	3700
Backhoe	410	4,279	3,230	15263	3700
JD Loader	644E	4,572	3,230	0	3700
CAT Excavator	307	426	3,230	0	3700
Cat Grader	12G	617	3,230	279	3700
JD Grader	672G	3,600	3,230	2129	3700
Case Mower	115MAX	1,155	3,230	0	3700
Cat Traxcavator		0	3,230	0	n/a
Plows and Sanders		2,741	3,230	2306	3700
Trackless Sidewalk		701	3,230	97	3700
Rentals		0	0	1150	0
Communications		2,044	500	0	500
Gas, Diesel & Oil		77,279	50,000	43177	70000
Machinery & Equipment		18,876	14,000	6589	14000
	Total	166,903	125,870	98940	149,200
		FY22 FINAL	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24
<i>Highway Garage</i>					
Professional Services		4158	2,500	1298	2,500
Repair & Maintenance		4,745	1,500	0	1,000

Operating Supplies	1,344	4,000	1017	4,000
Utilities	6,743	5,200	3092	5,200
Heating Fuel	3,449	6,500	702	2,500
Machinery & Equipment	1,806	2,000	1878	3,000
Total	22,245	21,700	7987	18,200

SOLID WASTE FACILITY

Attendant Wages	32,203	37413	13852	36,649
FICA	2401	2862	1165	2,749
Professional Services	12261	3,600	3375	4000
Management Contract	57,842	n/a	0	n/a
Methane Well Monitoring	0	400	0	400
Solid Waste Implementation Plan	35,139	24141	10967	30,000
Subcontract Costs	0	0	0	0
Groundwater Monitoring	23,777	26000	20616	25,000
Solid WasteRemoval	43,275	n/a	3256	n/a
Tire removal	0	0	931	n/a
CASELLA SERVICES	N/A	99846	41991	104,838
Repairs & Maintenance	8,197	1,000	679	1,000
Operating Supplies	44	1,000	171	1,000
Sticker Costs	529	2,000	570	1,500
Transfer Station Utilities	317	500	134	400
Landfill Utilities	0	300	0	200
Gas, Diesel & Oil	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Waste Days	0	0	0	0
Total	215,985	199062	97707	207,736

STREET LIGHTS

Hawks Avenue	306	500	155	500
S. Shaftsbury Village	11,288	11,000	5638	11750
Total	11,594	11500	5793	12250

Park & Recreation				
Salaries & Wages	0	0	0	0
FICA	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	2,625	2,000	1243	3000
Building ConstructionMaintenance Repair	1,314	2,000	0	2000
Equipment Maintenance	0	0	0	0
Refund Key Deposit	0	0	0	0
Operating Supplies	153	500	33	500
Equipment	0	0	0	0
Utilities	453	500	197	550
Reimbursement Gas	0	0	0	0
Capital Improvements				0
Total	4,545	5,000	1473	6050
	FY22	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24
CEMETERY EXPENDITURES				
Superintendent Salary	7,650	8032	3395	9181
Cemetery Committee Assistant	0	3938	0	4056
FICA	707	915	236	937
Contract Services	30,463	31200	15750	31200
Repairs & Maintenance	998	2500	2609	3000
Travel & Meetings	224	400	286	400
Corner Marker Installation		200	0	200
Corner Markers	0	1300	758	1300
Cemify Maintenance	0	0		1359
Miscellaneous	568	0	2400	0
Total	40,610	48,485	25434	51633
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT				
<i>Development Review Board</i>				
Board Member Stipends	400	500	0	2500
Meeting Recording clerk Wages	0	0	0	0
FICA	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	0	1,900	0	500
	FY22 FINAL	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24

Travel & Meetings	0	500	0	250
Advertising & Legal	788	1,000	590	1000
Operating Supplies	0	100	0	0
Town Clerk Recording Fees	0	0	0	0

Total	1,188	4,000	590	4250
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Planning

Board Member Stipends	400	500	0	2500
Meeting recording clerk	0	0	0	0
Zoning Administrator Wages	10,622	12,133	4290	12,740
FICA	818	966	356	975
Professional Services	20650	750	315	750
Travel & Meetings	48	200	0	200
Advertising & Legal		500	0	500
Printing	0	0	0	0
Operating Supplies	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Planning Grant Fund	0	0	0	0

Total	32,538	15,049	4961	17665
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COUNTY TAXES

County of Bennington	27,173	32,039	33300	34299
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TRANSFERS TO RESERVES

Cole Hall	0	10,000	10000	0
Equipment	115,000	120,000	120000	125000
Fire Warden truck	1,000	1,000	1000	1000
Fire Truck	85,000	90,000	90000	95000
Garage reserve fund	0	0	0	0
Paving Reserve	18000	25,000	25000	45000

Sidewalk Reserve	0	6,400	6400	3000
Cemetery Reserve	0	0	0	5000
Park reserve	0	0	0	0
Culvert Reserve	10000	10,000	10000	10000
Audit Reserve	15,000	16,000	16000	16000
Veterans Memorial	0	0	0	0
Class 3 Road Fund	100000	100,000	100000	50000
Reappraisal Reserve Fund		0	0	0
AIRPACK RESERVE FUND	10,000	10,000	10000	10000
Total	354,000	388,400	388400	360000

DEBT SERVICE EXPENDITURES

Interest Expense	0	1,000	0	1,000
Lease Payment 2010 JD Grader	0	0	0	0
Lease Payment 2012 IH & 2011 JD Backhoe	0	0	0	0
Lease 2013 IH Tandem 2013 IH Fire Truck	0	0	0	0
Lease 2014 IH Tandem	0	0	0	0
Lease 2013 Dodge & 2013 Excavator	0	0	0	0
492 North Street	0	0	0	0
510 North Road	0	0	0	0
Garage Bond Payment	79890	78,770	64675	77,577
2021 Mower State Loan	24200	24,000	0	23,320
2021 Cat Excavator		11,932	12529	11,932
Total	104,090	115,702	77204	113,829

COMMUNITY APPROPRIATIONS

	FY22 FINAL	FY23	FY23 YTD	FY24
Arlington Rescue Squad	8,500	8500	8500	0
Bennington Area VNA	5225	5225	5225	5225
Bennington Coalition for the Homeless	1000	5000	5000	5000
BCCD	475	475	475	3740
Bennington Free Clinic	1000	1000	1000	1000
Bennington Free Library	18000	18000	18000	18630

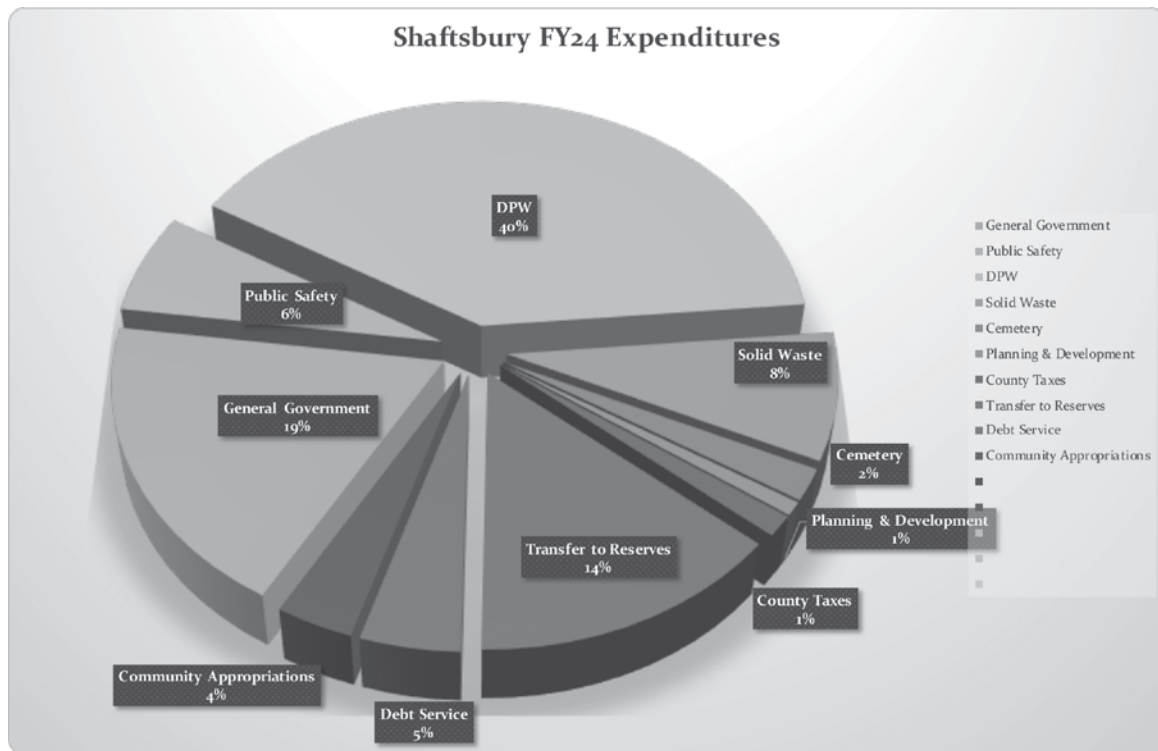
Bennington Little League	600	600	600	600
Bennington Project Independence	4560	4500	4500	4500
BROC	1700	1700	1700	1700
Center for Restorative Justice	600	600	600	600
Green -Up Vermont	200	200	200	200
Habitat for Humanity	1850	1850	1850	1850
John C. McCullough Free Library	24000	25200	25200	25200
Martha Canfield Library	2000	2000	2000	2000
Paran Recreations	2500	2500	2500	2500
Park McCullough House	1500	1500	1500	1500
PAVE	450	450	450	450
RSVP	950	950	950	950
Shaftsbury Historical Society	2500	2500	2500	2500
Sunrise Family Resource Center	1000	1000	1000	1000
SW Vermont Council on Aging	1100	1100	1100	1100
Tutorial Center	900	900	900	900
VT Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	300	300	300	300
VT Center for Independent Living	1000	1000	1000	1000
Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse	500	500	500	500
Shires Media Partnership -WBTN	5,000	5000	5000	5000
Shireskids	500	750	750 n/a	
Bennington Senior Center	n/a	750	750	750
	87,910	94050	94,025	88695
FY Year Total	FY22 FINAL	FY23 BUDGET	FY23 YTD	FY24
	2,378,456	2,395,518	1,391,465	2527046
				5.5 % Increase
Increase	21,682	133,378		131,528
Non tax revenue	401,064	434,096		422,820

Raised by Taxes		1,861,076	1,961,422	2104226
With local agreement adjust	Tax rate	0.4592	0.482	0.5118
	Tax rate	0.4638		
with local agreement adjust	per 100G	\$459.20	\$482.00	\$511.80
	per 100G	\$463.80		
increase per 100,000		\$14.20	\$22.80	\$29.80

Tax figures for FY24 based on FY23 Grand List (4,110,939) and FY22 non-tax revenues of \$422,820.

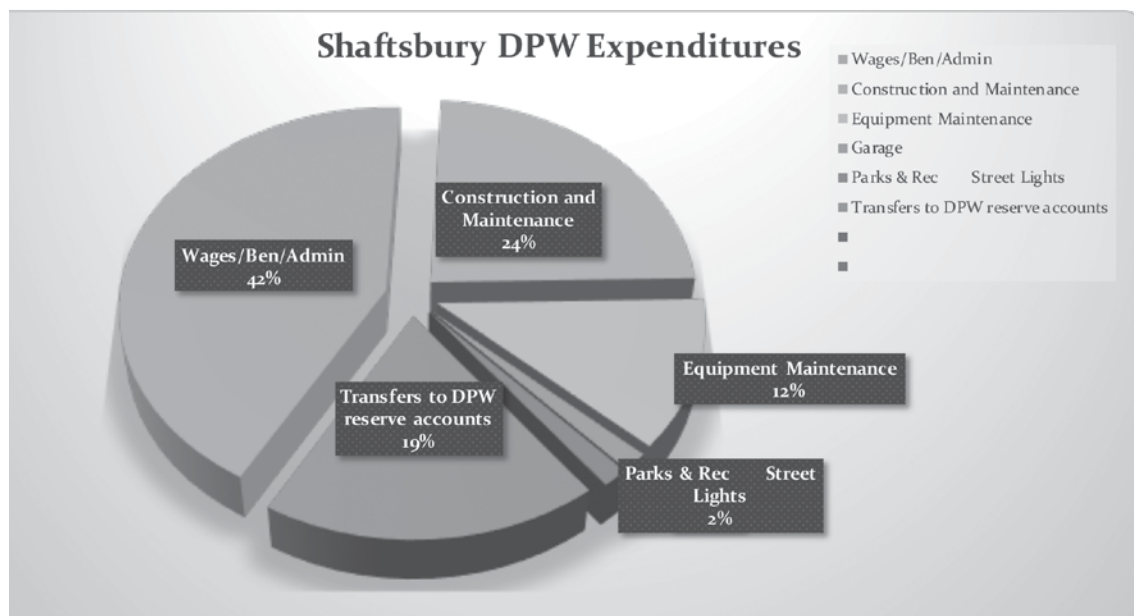
Proposed Expenditures

Asset Type	Amount
General Government	\$ 475,290
Public Safety	\$ 162,824
DPW	\$ 1,010,825
Solid Waste	\$ 207,736
Cemetery	\$ 51,633
Planning & Development	\$ 21,915
County Taxes	\$ 34,299
Transfer to Reserves	\$ 360,000
Debt Service	\$ 113,829
Community Appropriations	\$ 88,695



Asset Type	Amount
Wages/Ben/Admin	\$ 478,428
Construction and Maintenance	\$ 296,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 125,870
Garage	\$ 21,700
Parks & Rec	\$ 16,500
Street Lights	\$ 16,500
Transfers to DPW reserve accounts	\$ 261,400

Total DPW 1,199,898



SELECTBOARD REPORT

Shaftsbury was awarded over 1 million dollars through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Selectboard chose to reach out to the community to identify the best uses for these funds. The goal was not just to find projects to spend on but to create a transformative agenda using the one time funding to bring the vision of the people of Shaftsbury to fulfillment.

The Selectboard sought community involvement in allocating these funds and appointed the ARPA Advisory Committee. Under the leadership of Andrea Bacchi and Betsy Habberfield the committee surveyed Town residents by direct mailing. The results identified four areas of high interest, a center of commerce, community meeting spaces, infrastructure and local services. The area best suited to bring these elements together was identified as Cole Hall and the surrounding area.

The Selectboard has already taken steps to meet the goals of the survey. A 2.3 acre open parcel of land adjoining Cole Hall has been purchased by the Town with ARPA funds. A new Economic Development Committee, chaired by Martha Cornwell, has been formed with a primary goal of transforming the area into the community center so many residents desired. A Cole Hall Renovation Committee has been formed under Town Administrator David Kiernan. The task of the Cole Hall Committee is to renovate the Town Clerk and Assessor office area and make Cole Hall a truly accessible building for all our residents and visitors.

The Committee recommendations can be located in the reports section of this book.

Projects from FY22 continue into FY23 and FY24. A Sidewalk Scoping Study is being conducted in the area of Grandview St. and Hawks Ave. The study, which is 80% funded by the State, will determine potential locations of sidewalks, street crossings, and required drainage. The study will also provide cost estimates while identifying potential grant and low cost funding streams available from the State.

The Selectboard, in its capacity as the Water Board, is moving ahead with phase 1 of the water main replacement project. On Town Meeting Day, by Australian ballot, residents will be asked to vote on authorizing a bond issue of \$1,780,000 for replacement of the water main along VT Route 7A, Church ST., and VT Route 67. The Board is requested to ask for authorization of the full amount, however 50% of the bond will be subsidized (grant) through the State and terms for the balance are estimated at 0% interest for 40 years. This would mean an estimated annual payment of \$22,250 per year. That annual payment is only payable from net revenues derived from the public utility system. In other words only water system customers will pay for the bond through their water bill.

Looking forward to FY24 the Selectboard proposes a 5.5% increase in spending keeping below the recent inflation rates we have all been subjected to. The Town will continue with road projects using State grants that cover 80 -90% of the costs. These projects include paving Buck Hill Road, and a replacement culvert on Granger Hollow at the intersection with Shaftsbury Hollow Road.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

2022 was yet again a busy year here at the Town Clerk's Office. It's always nice to see residents here at the office and we still appreciate the fact that we can be open once again to the public.

Last year I graduated from the New England Municipal Clerk's Institute program (NEMCI) held in Plymouth, NH. This is a 3 year program (because of Covid our class was on the 5 year plan). I will now be eligible to apply for my CMC, Certified Municipal Clerk certification. I received my CVC, Certified Vermont Clerk distinction a few years ago, the CMC is a world-wide designation and I am looking forward to receiving that as well as the CVC. I truly appreciate all of the training offered to municipal clerks by the state and our New England chapter of the Municipal Clerk's Association as things change quickly in the clerk world and this helps us to keep up with our many responsibilities as clerks.

We are always here for you, email or stop in with any question.

I have to send a special thank you to, Gina Jenks my assistant for the last 6 years. As of July 1, Gina will be moving on to a full-time position in the assessors office. Although I will miss her in this office, she will still be in the building and still here to help our residents. I know she will do a fantastic job in the assessors office. Thank you, Gina!

Please join me in welcoming my new assistant, Jen Holley, who will be starting on July 1. Jen wears many hats for the town, she is our webmaster and cemetery superintendent. I know Jen will do a great job in the clerk's office and I look forward to working with her here.

Below is a report of various fees collected in fiscal year 2022 at the Clerk's Office.

Fiscal Year	Dog Licenses \$5,903.00	Certified Copies \$570.00	Vault Copies \$3,383.00	Marriage Licenses \$1,380.00
	Recording \$50,212.00	Miscellaneous \$457.15	Total \$61,905.15	

Marlene Hall, CVC
Town Clerk

VITALS REPORT

Births
16

Marriages
8

Deaths
23

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE REPORT

The Listers Office is now the Assessors Office. On March 1st, 2022 the voters of Shaftsbury voted to remove the Listers and hire a professional qualified Assessor. Shaftsbury went with NEMRC to be the company we use for our Assessor duty. We also have someone in the office Monday thru Thursday 9am until 12pm to help with everyday duty's and to assist the residents of Shaftsbury as well as the researchers and realtors.

Gina Jenks,
Assessor's Clerk

**TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS**

2017 TAXES

Statewide Corporation	40.09
Statewide Corporaton	<u>20.05</u>
TOTAL 2017 TAXES DUE	40.09

2018 TAXES

Erb	Robert G. & Elizabeth H.	98.42
Statewide Corporation		40.95
Statewide Corporaton		20.48
Val Erb and Son BU		68.88
Walker	Jeff	<u>371.35</u>
TOTAL 2018 TAXES DUE		600.08

2019 TAXES

Cloud	Michael B. & Amy L.	5.80
Coulter	Wayne D.	3967.56 *
Erb	Robert G. & Elizabeth H.	101.15
Harris	Robert & Teri	314.52
Statewide Corporation		41.98
Statewide Corporaton		20.99
Val Erb and Son BU		171.75
Walker	Jeff	<u>486.64</u>
TOTAL 2019 TAXES DUE		5110.39

2020 TAXES

Coulter	Wayne D.	4090.02 *
Erb	Robert G. & Elizabeth H.	104.27
Kozloski	Ronald & Robin	1197.55
Levin	Corrinne J.	287.96 *
Statewide Corporation		43.28
Statewide Corporaton		21.64
Swett	Rodney C.	1910.02
Val Erb and Son BU		177.05
Volpi	Jason A. & Noel M.	132.68 *
Washburn	Stephen F.	<u>1289.12</u>
TOTAL 2020 TAXES DUE		9253.59

2021 TAXES

Benson	Lizzie M.	1611.36 *
Bona	Marilyn	770.86 *
Borden	Kevin P. & Jane M.	406.77 *
Bossong	Rose	1942.19
Bouteiller	Alfred & Dorothy	250.67 *
Brown	Beatrice	958.26 P
Charpentier	Ida M.	116.07 *

Christmas	Tina M.	248.73 P
Coulter	Wayne D.	4171.30 *
Cross	Erin	2384.06 *
Dufresne	Constance	613.96 *
Dunn	Cheryl A.	1096.85 *
Erb	Robert G. & Elizabeth H.	106.34
Fitz	Amanda	680.17 *
Fox Estate	Mary C.	3968.24 P
Gordon	Sandra J.	1524.91 *
Greene	Arlie	1504.81
Holdun	Christine E.	592.47
Keen	George W. & Brenda L.	1896.46
Kozloski	Ronald & Robin	3713.94
Levin	Corrinne J.	1668.86 *
Levin	Lew H. & Jill N.	1865.21
Ley	Christie Bliss	720.00
McDonald Jr.	Clinton	1984.06
Meaney	Shane	2382.48 *
Peters	Dan R. & Lynn M.	741.13 P
Statewide Corporation		44.14
Statewide Corporaton		22.07
Strohmaier	Cecily C.	383.62 *
Strong	Dennis & Dorothy	100.37 *
Swett	Rodney C.	2730.71
Val Erb and Son BU		180.58
Vanderwerken	David & Rene	3987.59
Volpi	Jason A. & Noel M.	3054.61 *
Walker	Jeff	511.64
Washburn	Stephen F.	2030.95
Washburn	Suzanne M.	822.62
Washburn	Suzanne M. & Jared	<u>403.71</u>
TOTAL 2021 TAXES DUE		52192.77
GRAND TOTAL TAXES DUE		67196.92

* Denotes paid in full

** Denotes partially paid

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS			
YEAR	AMOUNT DUE 6/30/2021	AMOUNT COLLECTED	DELINQUENT AMOUNT DUE 6/30/2022
2017	60.14	20.05	40.09
2018	4820.51	4220.43	600.08
2019	19992.48	14882.09	5110.39
2020	61101.35	51847.76	9253.59
SUB TOTAL	85974.48	70970.33	15004.15
2021	<u>256618.32</u>	<u>204425.55</u>	<u>52192.77</u>
TOTAL	342592.80	275395.88	67196.92

Some are listed with small amounts but when they reach \$600 I can go for tax sale. Statewide Corporation has two very small parcels that adjoining landowners are not interested in and I have no way of getting them off my books.

Merton Snow
Merton Snow

Delinquent Tax Collector

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance works to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills by promoting recycling and reuse as well as resource conservation. The Alliance offers education and outreach to businesses, schools, institutions, and event organizers in complying with the Universal Recycling Law and other solid waste management requirements primarily by increasing reuse and recycling. These programs help residents, businesses, schools, and institutions find solutions to recycling, food scrap diversion and the disposal of items such as electronic waste, fluorescent bulbs, paint, and others that are banned from landfills.

The Alliance hosts a website at www.bcswa.org, and manages public outreach through social media at facebook.com/solidwastealliance, instagram.com/bcswa_vt, and youtube.com/@bcswa. The website and social media channels provide information to residents about:

- battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program (including a mail pickup)
- disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and transfer stations that accept motor oil
- recycling of paint through the PaintCare program, including retail stores that accept paint
- prescription drug disposal including drop-off locations
- recycling of textiles by the Apparel Impact, Goodwill, and others
- events for disposing household hazardous waste
- disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations and retail establishments
- disposal of E-Waste at area transfer stations, Goodwill, and retail establishments
- diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen containers
- resources for businesses, schools, events, institutions and residents

During 2022 the Alliance assisted 41 businesses, held composting and Recycling events at the Manchester Library, and hosted tables at several farmers markets. On-site presentations and/or curriculum were provided to Southshire Community School, the Dorset School, Mount Anthony Union Middle School, Mt. Anthony Union High School, and Molly Stark Elementary School.

BCSWA holds an annual sale of reduced price composting equipment to encourage citizens to remove food scraps from their landfill waste. In 2022 BCSWA sold 103 composters/digesters, and 22 composting accessories.

The Alliance held household hazardous waste collection events in Bennington, Searsburg, Dorset with 613 households participating. Also in 2022, BCSWA began the development of a permanent household hazardous collection waste facility to be located at the Bennington Transfer Station. The facility is expected to open in June 2023.

Visit bcswa.org for updates and details. The Alliance receives most of its funding from the thirteen towns along with grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT

August 2022 I was appointed the new ACO for Shaftsbury. My love for dogs and helping the Shaftsbury community is important to me. The last few months have been a time of learning the position and communication with the Town officials and Vermont state game warden. I am still learning everyday. I feel this is a position that will take some time to learn. Thank you in advance for the patience of the people I serve.

The Town has also put in place a kennel that can hold up to two dogs if needed .

One dog had to be impounded at the Shaftsbury kennel. The very young still intact dog was found without a collar roaming around the same neighborhood looking for food. After posting at the Town Hall, Post Office and Shaftsbury Town website and holding him for over a week he was brought to the Second Chance Animal Center. I am happy to report he has found a forever home.

Most of the 32 + calls I have had have been with dogs running at large, a few reports of dogs barking for prolonged periods everyday.

Just a reminder to always have your dog on a leash and get your dog licensed with the town. The license is the best way for you to be reunited with your dog in the case that it might get lost or off your leash. Also you can find all the Town of Shaftsbury: Dog Ordinance on the Shaftsburyvt.gov website.

Kelly Coonradt
802-379-4941

Bennington County Regional Commission

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) works with and on behalf of its member municipalities to build strong, resilient, and sustainable communities, to foster economic prosperity, and to promote a high quality of life for residents of the region. The BCRC plays an important role in coordinating work among local governments, state and federal agencies, regional public and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and private interests. The organization is governed by local appointees from seventeen area municipalities and commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: www.bcrcvt.org).

In addition to its ongoing role in supporting the comprehensive planning work of municipal officials, the BCRC is a regional center for programs in community and economic development, transportation, energy, environmental conservation, water quality, public health, solid waste management, and emergency management. BCRC staff is available to provide direct assistance in these areas and to serve as a liaison with state and federal agencies.

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan through a variety of programs and cooperative work with member municipalities. Economic development planning at the BCRC is conducted by dedicated staff and supported by a committee with representatives appointed by the regional development corporation. The goal of this BCRC program is to support business retention, growth, and recruitment. Related BCRC planning and community development initiatives support redevelopment initiatives in downtowns and village centers, grant assistance for local businesses, and have produced reuse planning studies for key properties such as the former SVC campus, the recently idled Energizer complex and the Bennington Armory. Concern over the state's water quality has led the BCRC to identify and implement local projects that not only reduce stormwater runoff, but also protect roads, bridges, culverts, and private property from damage. Other important activities have included: an assessment of land use regulations affecting housing in each town and village, expanded staff capacity to assist with implementation of local energy plans, village center and neighborhood development area designations, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan, and planning for roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, and public transportation improvements.

In the coming year, the BCRC will continue to provide information and resources to assist business and local governments and to take advantage of opportunities created through the federal American Rescue Plan and other programs. We expect to see continued focus on infrastructure (including broadband) improvement projects, pandemic recovery and business support services, planning for workforce housing, and measures to support implementation of the Vermont Climate Action Plan.

While our downtown Bennington offices, located at 210 South Street, have reopened, staff still work remotely at times, so it generally is easiest to contact us via email (see contacts at www.bcrcvt.org). Fortunately, technology has allowed us to continue work with little interruption in progress on any projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Colvin, Director

CEMETERY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Much has been accomplished this year under the direction of our Cemetery Superintendent, Jennifer Holley. Last year the superintendent's position was changed to limit the position to administrative and coordination functions, while the larger, more physical projects are now being contracted out. For the most part this has worked well, although we continue to find tasks that don't fall into either domain. Both Jen and our contractor, Jay Coonradt, have done an excellent job taking care of our cemeteries. Clean up in the cemeteries occurred in May and flags were purchased for each known veteran's grave. Thank you to Ron and Debbie Jennings for helping to put the flags on again this year. The flags are removed after Veteran's Day, during the fall clean up, to avoid being blown around during the winter. In Grandview Cemetery a portion of the fence along Lamb Road that was severely eroded has been repaired by L&G Fabricators. The remaining portion of the fence will be repaired next summer. With the gridding completed, 26 cremation-only lots and 31 burial/cremation lots have been created. Mike Yannotti, Shaftsbury's Dept of Public Works Foreman, deserves a huge thank you for being so easy to work with and always being willing to help out as he can, most recently in repairing the Center Cemetery pillar on Tunic Road.

Shaftsbury's cemetery records have thus far consisted of old maps, historical files, incomplete paper records and the town clerk's files. After much discussion we have purchased a subscription to Cemify, a digital mapping and database software program. To get the project started Jen has spent countless hours of her own time mapping, scanning records, taking pictures and drone shots (thank you Ashley Holley!) to supply Cemify with precise information. These digitized burial records will be accurate, current and preserved in an easily accessible format, allowing the town clerk and superintendent to access our records quickly when selling plots or completing burials. Eventually the program will enable the public to see what plots are available and identify those individuals buried in our cemeteries. This is a huge project and will take some time to complete.

This year our Cemetery Reserve Fund was combined with the Cemetery Trust Fund and renamed the Capital Fund. We spent a sizable portion of this fund this year on Cemify, repairs, gridding of Grandview and contracted labor. More repairs are needed to the fence and roof of the building in Grandview Cemetery.

Thank you to town employees, volunteers and the Cemetery Committee for helping to keep our cemeteries in the condition we can be proud of.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cardiff, Chair

Jennifer Holley, Cemetery Superintendent

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Shaftsbury Zoning Administrator year end summary

December 7, 2022

Official actions

The table below quantifies zoning administrator actions over the last several years.

Type of permit	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Houses	6	3	6	8	0	11
Mobile home	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additions	35	20	13	13	15	5
Pools	1	0	0	0	0	0
Subdivisions or boundary line adjustments	6	3	6	1	3	2
Home occupations	1	3	3	1	0	0
Commercial buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camps	1	0	0	0	0	0
Signs	1	1	2	0	0	0
Accessory structure	18	25	15	22	31	37
Other	10	4	6	3	1	3
Violation	0	0	0	0		0
Curb Cut	4	4	10	3	0	8
Zoning letters of compliance	60	50	55	55	63	39
Fence	0	0	1	0	0	0
Variance						3
Permit amendment						1
Totals	143	113	117	116	113	109

Applications

The receipt and processing of applications went smoothly upon the expiration of the Covid emergency order and the opening of Cole Hall.

Meetings

Meetings were held in person and remotely.

Violations

I issued three violation warnings. All were quickly resolved.

Issues/challenges

Zoom meetings were occasionally problematic; video connections were sometimes lost, requiring DRB members or the public to call in instead. This instability may be a hardware issue. Our IT consultant is aware of it.

Random thoughts

1. The Planning Commission should be congratulated for its unflagging efforts to revise or build new bylaws.
2. The bylaw change allowing the ZA to sign off on boundary line adjustments has saved the DRB and residents significant time and energy.

Notes by ZA Stiles.

2022 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

All of the road projects completed in FY 2022 represented improvements required by the state's Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). This statewide program was put in place to reduce the impacts of roads on water quality.

Most of these projects were completed with substantial assistance from the state-sponsored grant programs called Better Roads, Grants in Aid and VTrans Structures grant. They were put in place by contractors with assistance from the road crew, and included:

- On sections on West Mt. Road, 6 under-road drainage structures called stone mattresses were placed to help disperse runoff, and trees were removed to allow for more than 2500 feet of ditching. Two driveway culverts were replaced with new 18in HDPE pipes, as well as 300ft of underdrainage beneath roadway. All ditches were either seeded or stone-lined. These projects were funded by Grant in Aid and Town local match.
- On Shaftsbury Hollow Road, a major culvert over the Little White Creek installed 1970 in was failing. The bottom of the metal pipe was rotting away. This 11ft x 9ft metal pipe was undersized and didn't meet VTrans requirements for new flood structures. A new aluminum 25 ft x 10 ft arched culvert, designed by Contech Engineered Solutions, was installed by Weaver Excavation. Other construction consisted of a temporary bridge for traffic, river diversion, new wing walls, an inside new culvert, new stream bed gravel material matching the river channel bottom, a new roadway subbase, gravel at project limits, and guard rails for protection. This project was signed off on by ANR river management and the VTrans project manager. The project was funded by VTrans Structures grant program and the town of Shaftsbury.
- On the very end of Shaftsbury Hollow Road, an old 3ft diameter metal pipe that has been failing for years was replaced with a new 9ft x 6ft x 50ft pipe with fish baffles. The project was awarded and funded by the Better Roads Program and Town local match.
- On Bahan Road, 10 hazardous trees were taken down and cleaned up by the contractor. The town DPW crew removed stumps and restored the roadsides. This section of road always had trees falling down during wind events.
- Road side ditching was completed by the DPW Crew on Lower East Road, Glastenbury Road, Rod and Gun Club Road, Trumbull Hill Road, Harrison Road, Maple Hill Road, and Potter Montgomery Road.
- The DPW did Routine grading of gravel roads throughout the Town.
- Tree work was done on Buck Hill Road ahead of paving project. VTrans Class 2 Roadways awarded the town with a paving grant for the project. Paving is being planned and scheduled for summer of 2023. DPW will be replacing culverts on Buck Hill Road in the spring of 2023.
- Roadside mowing was done by DPW with the town's newly purchased mower, which arrived late in August. The new machine is a CASE CVX115 tractor with a Diamond 22 ft mid-mount rotary mowing head.
- DPW replaced the wheeled Volvo Excavator with a Caterpillar Compacted Excavator 307.5 and trailer. This machine is smaller and easier to maneuver on our roadways.

The town is replacing 2012 International 7400 dump truck single axle with a new 2023 International model HV507 heavy duty single axle with a combination dump body, sander, and plow. The truck is arriving in the summer of 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Yannotti, Department of Public Works Foreman

Shaftsbury Fire Department

The Shaftsbury Fire Department responded to 121 calls this year. The breakdown for each call can be seen below.

We took delivery of a 2022 Polaris Ranger 4x4 this past summer. This unit will be used for Search and Rescue and will also be utilized for Wildland Fire Suppression. We are finding an increase of brush and forest fires in our area. This vehicle will allow us to gain access to those places that our normal brush trucks cannot go.

I would like to thank those Firefighters who took the time (and have in the past) for their Fire Safety class that was conducted in the Elementary school. We had to take a break during COVID and returned with full participation this year. We have felt for over 45 years that Fire Safety is paramount to the reduction of fire loss. We can share stories of countless saves that we have had due to teaching our young people how to be fire safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to the Shaftsbury community regarding the status of our fire departments roster. We have seen a steady decline in our numbers over the past several years. We also have an aging department our oldest member being 98. We are encouraging anyone interested, to come and check us out. This would give you an idea as to who we are and what we are all about. This is nothing new in the fire service, it's happening all over the country. It can be long hours and lots of training, we average 110 calls a year. We are blessed with the support from the Shaftsbury Community and are proud to serve you. If you are someone that has thought about joining us, please feel free to stop by the firehouse any Thursday night at 6:30 pm.

Emergency Calls 2022

Structure Fires -	5
Car Accidents -	25
Vehicle Fires -	2
Hazardous Material calls -	4
Wildland Fires -	8
Chimney/Pellet Stove Fires -	8
Good Intent -	47
Assist EMS -	3
Mutual Aid -	19
<hr/>	
Total -	121

Respectfully Submitted

Chief Joseph Vadakin

2022 Legislative Report

The 2022 session saw lawmakers return to Montpelier for in-person legislating. As happens every decade, we were required to redraw the House and Senate legislative maps using the latest population counts from the census. After an initial proposal to assign parts of Shaftsbury to two different districts, I worked with town officials and the relevant committees to maintain our current status for another 10 years.

As a member of the House Committee on Ways & Means, I was able to help guide several changes to tax policy. We increased the social security tax exemption, expanded the child and dependent care credit, added a new student loan interest deduction and created a Vermont Child Tax Credit—which beginning in 2022 provides an annual \$1000 credit per child to most Vermont families. This new tax credit comes amid unsuccessful efforts to make the expanded federal child tax credit permanent.

In a similar vein, during the pandemic the federal government provided free breakfast and lunch for all students. With that assistance scheduled to end last June, the legislature voted to apply part of the surplus in the state Education Fund to pilot a one-year extension of the Universal School Meals program for the current school year. The success of that program is now being evaluated, and the legislature is considering making it permanent.

Ways & Means also did extensive work on the pupil weighting formula that helps determine local education tax rates. Beginning next year and phasing in over the next few years, the share of statewide school taxes paid by property owners will gradually decrease in rural and economically disadvantaged areas of the state. As part of the local union school districts, Shaftsbury taxpayers will benefit from these revisions to the education funding formula.

In 2022 the Legislature also expanded eligibility for childcare financial assistance; stabilized the state employee and teacher pension plans; designated more funding for UVM and the Vermont State Colleges (where I now serve as a Trustee); amended the state constitution to ensure reproductive liberty (which the voters then ratified in November); created new scholarships and loan repayment programs for nurses and other critical occupations; directed additional funding to home weatherization and vehicle electrification efforts.

With the economy still buoyed by the impact of unprecedented federal investments, we begin 2023 with a large surplus in the current year budget. This will allow for additional one-time investments in areas such as housing construction and rehabilitation. There is also \$9 million proposed towards construction of a much-needed youth inpatient psychiatric facility, potentially at SVMC.

The Legislature is typically in session in Montpelier from January through May, and visitors are always welcome to observe the proceedings. Please let me know if you are planning a visit and I would be happy to show you around. I am available year-round to hear input on legislation and provide assistance with issues related to state government. Feel free to email me at ddurfee@leg.state.vt.us, or contact me at the Statehouse at 802 828-2228 or at home at 802 442-4414.

Respectfully submitted,

David Durfee, State Representative, Bennington 3

PLANNING COMMISSION

The commission would like to thank Shaftsbury voters for approving our recommended zoning bylaw changes at last year's Town Meeting.

Needless to say we have another package of small changes for you to consider this year:

- Change the definition of “accessory dwelling unit” to be 50% (not 30%) of the main dwelling unit. This will correct a contradiction in the text of the bylaw.
- Define tiny houses as structures built on a steel chassis similar to mobile homes and permit them in the same way.
- Prohibit the development of additional shooting ranges in town. This is a reaction to the long sad story that Pawlet has gone thru with the Slate Ridge facility. It will have no impact on Hale Mountain Rod and Gun Club.
- In an effort to reduce the impacts of development, empower the Development Review Board to review a wider range of projects under Open Space Subdivision criteria.
- Empower the Zoning Administrator to approve small changes to projects without a hearing before the Development Review Board in an effort to streamline our process.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Williams

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Development Review Board, authorized under Vermont State Law (24 V.S.A. Chapter 117), is the quasi-judicial or decision-making zoning function for the town. The five members of the Development Review Board are appointed by the Select Board for staggered three year terms. The Board normally meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

The Board's primary goal, in determining the matters that come before it, is to insure that all applications, of whatever nature, fully comply with the current Zoning By-Laws and Subdivision Regulations.

The Board would like to thank Mr. Thomas Huncharek for his service to the Town of Shaftsbury. Thomas faithfully served numerous terms as a full Board member and Board Chair. The Board and the Town is very grateful for your service.

We would also like to thank Mr. Lon McClintock for his service on the Board and his expertise on matters coming before the board. The Board is extremely grateful for your service to the Town.

This fall it was a pleasure to welcome three new board members. Denny Browe, Sarah Costin and Zoe Contros Kearn joined the DRB in December to bring the Board up to the authorized five full members. The new members have already demonstrated their diligence with matters coming before the Board. Our thanks also goes to the Select Board for their assistance in securing new members for the DRB.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Day, Chair

SHAFTSBURY RECREATION COMMITTEE

Town of Shaftsbury Update for 2022

Shaftsbury's town parks offer recreational opportunities for its residents and neighbors. We are dedicated to developing our facilities for active community use. Two new green picnic tables along with new trash and recycling receptacles are located under the pavilion.

Our industrious DPW crew has renovated Tilgner Trail, making it easy to navigate by widening and resurfacing the path. In addition, obstacles have been removed and brush cut down. Reacquaint yourselves to the Trail by taking a stroll or hike. We thank the entire DPW crew for their hard work on this project. Pictures of the park can be accessed on the town's web site: <http://shaftsburyvt.gov>.

The Norshaft Lions continue to support our parks. We also thank the Lions for their commitment to the Shaftsbury community.

Each year our town participates in "Vermont Green Up Day," the first Saturday in May. If you are interested in taking an active part, please give Dave Kiernan a call at the town office (442-4043).

Howard Park pavilion and fields can be reserved by contacting Deena Ruege. Appropriate forms will be emailed to you then.

The Recreation Committee meets on the 4th Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at Cole Hall. If you have questions, need information on reserving the facilities, or would like to join us, contact Deena Ruege at gruege03@aol.com. New committee members are always welcome!

The Shaftsbury Recreation Committee is committed to following all state guidelines in order to provide an inviting recreational experience for our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Deena Ruege, Chairperson/Recording Secretary

Recreation Committee Members:
Helen Olney
Barbara Marino
Sarah Costin
Michael Cichanowski (Select board Representative)

2022 TOWN TREE WARDEN REPORT

I'll use this report to again raise the alarm about the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect which was first documented in center Shaftsbury last year. We're in the very beginning phases of an outbreak which will likely kill most of the ash trees in town. Since being introduced in Detroit in 2002, the beetle has moved east across the country, both on its own and aided by people moving firewood and logs. Since 2018 it's been spreading throughout Vermont.

In other parts of the country, it took about 10 years for ash trees to succumb once the insect became established. Mortality rates as high as 99 percent were recorded. There's no guarantee that it will happen that same way here as it did in Michigan or Pennsylvania, but it's certainly good information around which we can plan.

We have around 70 miles of tree-lined roads in town, and approximately 7,400 ash trees lining the roads. When they die, they're going to be falling in the roads and on the power lines. Work has begun on a new tree inventory, which will help the town identify ash trees in highway right of ways that pose a threat. If you'd like to volunteer to be a part of this survey, contact Dave Mance III, who's helping me with the inventory. He can be reached at dave@vermontalmanac.org. Put "Shaftsbury tree inventory" in the subject line.

If you're a homeowner, you'd be wise to get a sense of the ash trees in your yard and plan ahead. When a tree dies, it becomes more dangerous and more expensive to remove. Individual yard trees can be treated with systemic trunk injections.

Going forward, we should ensure that road crews are trained in felling and chainsaw safety. We should coordinate with Green Mountain power and encourage them to pre-emptively remove high-risk ash trees as a part of their basic right-of-way maintenance. We should anticipate an increase in the amount of tree work that will need to be done and adjust highway budgets as needed. We should explore ways in which we can put the wood that is removed from public rights of way to good use.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim White, Shaftsbury Tree Warden.

2022 WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

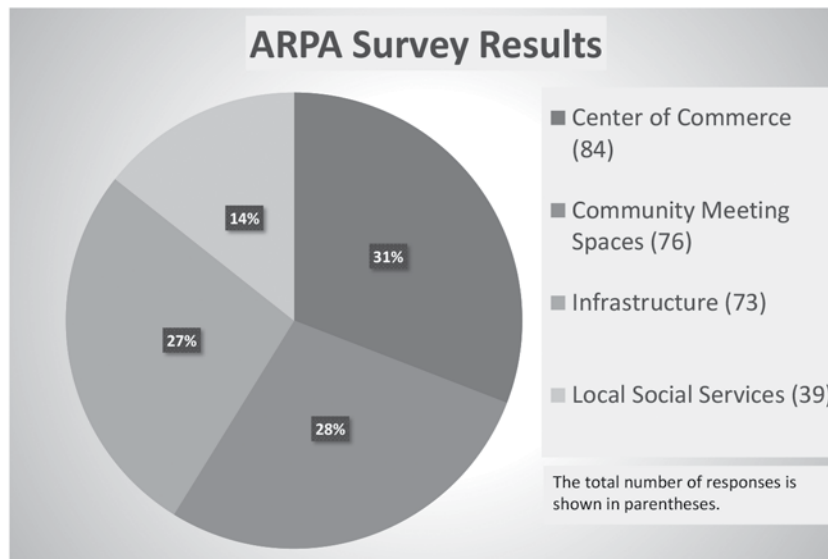
The Water Department has had a quiet year with only one break throughout the system. This break occurred on church street when our 8inch main stress cracked close to a shutoff valve junction. The break was isolated, a repair coupling placed on the facture, water was then turned on and flushed through hydrants. Thanks to the Shaftsbury Road crew and North Bennington Water department for all the help. We are currently still in the planning process for the first phase of our water line replacement, but are making good progress ahead and hope to start this new phase within a few years. The last big update for the water department is the new lead line inventory that has just begun. We will access all water lines throughout the system and identify any lead lines longer than 2 feet in length. Along with that we will be documenting curb stop location, pipe material inside/outside of the house, connection to the main/house, and more. The state has granted us and other water departments 2 years to complete this survey. The main goal is to remove any lead and galvanized lines throughout the system. I appreciate your help and cooperation for the future to provide the best services we can.

Joshua Brace

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Shaftsbury, Vermont

Survey Results/Committee Recommendations



CENTER OF COMMERCE: Most often mentioned was the need to invest in a revitalized commercial center. People are concerned about the absence of restaurants, coffee shops, and other businesses that serve as gathering places and bring jobs into the community.

COMMUNITY MEETING SPACES: The next biggest suggestion was the creation of communal spaces: people want *places to connect with their community*. The most often-made suggestion was a “Town Green” on the land next to Cole Hall; other suggestions ran the gamut of indoor and outdoor, small and large, but most were for places where community events could be held.

INFRASTRUCTURE: This data also presents a clear message that people want some of this money to be used to expand our infrastructure – to make daily life easier, to increase potential commerce, and to create opportunities for joint recreation. People are interested in spending ARPA funds on the creation of sidewalks, hiking trails and bike paths; efforts to beautify our downtown; installation of a bus stop; electric vehicle charging stations; and a variety of improvements to Howard Park’s facilities.

LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES: Respondents also made many comments about the need to build community through developing more avenues for local social services, with a particular focus on meeting places for the oldest and youngest among us.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the view of this committee, the clearest message from this survey is this: a significant portion of this once-in-a-generation cash infusion should be used to *turn Cole Hall and its immediate surround into a Community Center* – one that can host community events both large and small, indoors and outdoors. Our recommendations fold into this potential Community Center as many of the other citizen priorities as possible; the remainder of our recommendations reflect the same priorities in other venues. We begin with the smallest recommendations.

\$20,000 to the Shaftsbury Historical Society for matching funds for window replacement in the Governor Jonas Galusha Homestead

Rationale: The Historical Society has agreed to make the Galusha Homestead available for some of the kinds of community meetings survey respondents called for.

\$63,750 to the North Shaftsbury Community Club to repair its slate roof

Rationale: The Community Club offers a low-cost option for any group or individual to hold a meeting or event in the space. This roof is in urgent need of repair and a professional estimate was obtained from a local roofing contractor.

\$95,000 to the McCullough Free Library for the purchase of a 24-hour library satellite kiosk

Rationale: The Library has offered to extend its services to include a satellite branch in Shaftsbury. The library would staff, maintain and stock this small kiosk, which would serve as a 24-hour selection and return site for library books and media, as well as offering an internet “hot-spot”.

The ARPA Committee recommends considering the remaining roughly \$820,000 to address community needs and recommendations (in descending order of relative expense):

1. The creation of a Community Center on the grounds of Cole Hall with the addition of the purchase of the adjacent property. This Community Center should include:
 - a. a renovated and re-thought Cole Hall
 - b. a second indoor structure connected to Cole Hall, with the library kiosk attached
 - c. a Town Green with a covered pavilion that can accommodate many people
 - d. an electric vehicle charging station
 - e. creatively designed signs to advertise and direct people to town destinations.
2. Infrastructure for outdoor activities:
 - a. bike paths
 - b. sidewalks
 - c. hiking trails
 - d. downtown beautification (e.g., flower gardens)
3. Re-establish the Town Economic Development Committee, with an assigned annual budget.



Bennington County Conservation District

Promoting rural livelihoods and protecting natural resources in southwestern Vermont

December 22, 2022

RE: Lake Paran Appropriation

Dear Shaftsbury Select Board,

Board of Supervisors

Chair
Jim Henderson
(Sandgate)

Brian Vargo
(North
Bennington)

Lauren Riordian
(Shaftsbury)

Rob Terry
(Rupert)

Staff

Michael
Fernandez
District Manager

On behalf of the Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD) and Paran Recreations INC, I am requesting an allocation of \$3,740.00 towards the management of nuisance weeds in Lake Paran in the FY 2023-24 budget. These plant populations inhibit the public use of the lake, degrade the lake's ecological health, and create public health risks associated with increased disease carrying insect populations as well as the risk of entanglement of lake users.

These appropriations were determined based on the relative population of the three municipalities that share jurisdiction over the shoreland of Lake Paran: Shaftsbury, North Bennington, and Bennington. These funds, if allotted, will be used to initiate the long process of restoring the public good usage of Lake Paran. BCCD will work with Paran Recreations, and all interested stakeholders to expend these funds removing nuisance weeds from Lake Paran.

These funds will be held in trust by BCCD pending of permit approval for management interventions from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Upon approval from VTDEC BCCD, Paran Recreations, and other relevant stakeholders will collaborate to select a contractor to conduct the initial harvest and removal of the nuisance pond weed from Lake Paran.

This Board initially heard from BCCD that the most efficient path forward would be an application of ProcellaCOR, an aquatic herbicide that would target the invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil that has infested a substantial portion of the near shore habitat of the lake, degrading the fishery, reducing public good use, and accelerating the accretion of sediment in the lake. However, new emergent technologies that include biological control mechanisms have come to the attention of BCCD that warrant greater study and consideration. While we undertake that process, these funds will instead be used to conduct mechanical harvesting of the native nuisance pondweed species that compose the vegetation in the middle of the lake. This is not a long-term solution, but it will address the public use concerns shared by all stakeholders in the lake and reduce lakebed accretion by removing a substantial volume of aquatic biomass from Lake Paran.

Additionally, BCCD and Paran Recreations are working with the VTDEC and local stakeholders to create a Lake Watershed Action Plan and an In Lake Treatment Management Plan designed to halt and reverse the long-term decline in the health and usability of Lake Paran.

The creation of a Lake Watershed Action Plan and In Lake Treatment Management Plan are substantial endeavors that will likely take several years. These planning processes will need to be conducted in association with VTDEC, all relevant local governments, and local stakeholders with a vested interest in maintaining Lake Paran. Local participation in the planning process will be key to the success of any plan, and BCCD formally invites this Select Board to participate in that process on an ongoing basis.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to engaging with the Select Board and your constituents as we work together to Save Lake Paran.

Best Regards,

Michael Fernandez
District Manager; Bennington County Conservation District

PO Box 505, Bennington, VT 05201

Phone: 802 775-8034 ext. 132 E-mail: michael@bccdvt.org Website: www.bccdvt.org

Contributions to BCCD are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



The Bennington Free Library is requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$18,630 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. After three years of level funded requests, the cost of living and attendant increase in the minimum wage is largely responsible for this increase. Shaftsbury's long history of support for the library confirms its commitment to sustain a community of engaged and well-informed citizens, and I hope Shaftsbury residents will consider our request favorably.

The library currently supports 919 registered Shaftsbury residents, including 264 children, throughout their lifetime of learning. Services include story hours, support for students of all ages as they pursue their formal educational goals and by providing resources for "lifelong learners" who remain intellectually curious throughout their lives. Most recently we have created "Memory" and foreign language collections which will serve the oldest and newest members of our community. A delivery service for homebound seniors, possible through a cooperative effort with RSVP, continues to be very popular.

The library provided critical resources to Shaftsbury residents throughout the pandemic, including library takeout, online and phone reference assistance, summer reading activities, programs and themed activity bags. Free video and music streaming services and virtual programming continue to be a routine part of our operations as well as such unconventional offerings as a telescope, snowshoes, and free passes to attractions such as Prospect Mountain, museums and state parks. All are very popular among area families.

Without adequate funding, many in our community would be forced to do without the books, videos, educational resources and computing facilities our library provides; more so during these challenging times. Demand for library services remains steady and Shaftsbury's support is an important factor in our ability to meet the needs of a diverse community.

The Bennington Free Library manages funds received from the Town of Shaftsbury carefully and I hope the town will continue to support the Library. If I may provide further information, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lynne Fonteneau McCann
Director



Bennington Little League

P.O. Box 4603, Bennington, Vermont 05201



To the Shaftsbury Community Appropriations Committee,

The Bennington Little League program has been in continuous operation since 1957 offering a quality youth sports opportunity to Bennington County. We pride ourselves in providing a safe and educational environment for all of the 280 plus children we serve. We provide opportunities for players ranging from age 5 through 12 to play on one of 4 different divisions to ensure both safety and progression for each child, customizing our approach for the success of the individual as well as the team.

The Howard Park site is invaluable for our program to succeed given the number of kids we serve, and therefore the number of teams needed. Our 2 fields in Bennington are simply not enough to do a proper week of games during the season. Luckily, thanks to Howard Park and Lions Park, we are able to provide a great baseball experience to each child in all four divisions. Unfortunately, unlike most youth sports fields, baseball fields require an enormous amount of maintenance. Our plan is to utilize this location for both practices and games from early April through mid July and sometimes beyond depending on post season needs.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank Shaftsbury for their past and hopefully continued support. The money we receive goes directly to the maintenance and improvements necessary each season. We look forward to getting back to baseball in 2023.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Metcalfe
President

Bennington Little League

Bennington Project Independence (BPI)

Thanks to the generous support from the Residents and Selectboard of Shaftsbury, the comprehensive and innovative Adult Day Services provided by Bennington Project Independence (BPI) has made a tremendous and positive impact in the lives of many individuals and families in our area.

Many Caregivers have shared how BPI has made it possible for them to be able to care for their loved ones, raise their own families and, in some cases, continue to be able to work. Knowing that their loved one is safe, well-cared for and enjoying their day, gives the Caregiver the break they need to recharge and brings great peace of mind to families.

As we continued to navigate through the changes tides of COVID, BPI was slowly able to rebuild the program and comprehensive range of services that our members and their families rely on. We are now able to provide extensive on-site nursing and wellness care, personal care assistance (showers, hair and nail care, toileting assistance, etc.) and access to the wide range of meaningful and enriching activities that help members remain as independent as possible. BPI offers 18-20 activities a day that people can pick and choose from. The Staff, at BPI, engage people with mentally stimulating games, educational opportunities and presentations, physical activities, our nustep and cubii fitness programs and much, much more. They also help people make the human connections so vital to reducing the loneliness and sense of isolation previously felt during the height of the pandemic.

We have gradually been able to increase our census. We are currently at 85% of our pre-COVID daily capacity. We are currently accepting new members.

Being able to resume in-person services has been a tremendous help mentally and physically to both our members and their family caregivers. BPI is continuing the telephonic and “Adult Day without Walls” virtual services for people who are not yet able to return.

Our “Families Together” monthly caregiver gathering and our full time Social Worker provide families with extra support and information whenever they need it. The additional support can help families prevent the emotional and financial cost of premature institutionalization of their loved one who may be at risk.

BPI’s services also support economic growth. We can assist Family Caregivers to continue to work outside the home. This supports the availability and stability of the potential workforce for employers in the Shaftsbury area. Families no longer have to leave their jobs to care for their loved ones. Businesses also have the potential for less replacement and training costs because their employees can remain.

We are extremely grateful for the continued support and look forward to continuing to provide the highest caliber of care and range of Adult Day Services for the residents and families of Shaftsbury well into the future.

CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) has been serving Bennington County as its community justice agency since 1982. Each year, the agency continues to grow and expand to meet the ever-changing needs of the community. CRJ is touted by state leaders as Vermont's model community justice agency.

Due to CRJ's partnership with towns like yours, we are able to help more people to set their lives in the right direction, help more victims of crime heal from the harm that was caused, and to help make our community a safer place to live.

CRJ, a non-profit organization, offers programs and services to all residents of Bennington County; most all programs are free and those with a fee (i.e. Court Diversion) offer a sliding fee scale based on income. All CRJ programs are based on the principles of restorative justice, a philosophy of justice that focuses on the people and communities harmed by crime. A total of 1,801 Bennington County individuals were served through one of CRJ's many programs this past year. Highlights from this past year include:

- 76 students struggling with truancy issues were supported to re-engage and attend school regularly
- 98 young people with civil alcohol and marijuana possession violations completed CRJ's Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program
- 150 adults facing charges in criminal court completed the Court Diversion Program, a restorative program holding those who harmed accountable to their victim(s) and community, and had their charges dismissed
- 82 people completed CRJ's Victim Impact/DRIVE classes; classes focus on the immense impact poor decisions have when getting behind the wheel
- 36 individuals were helped to file petitions to get their past criminal records expunged
- 432 teens accessed Threads, CRJ's free clothing boutique run by teens exclusively for teens.
- 112 individuals were helped to get their driver's license reinstated and legally back on the road
- 391 individuals were assisted who did not fit into one of CRJ's pre-defined programs. CRJ turns no one away simply because we do not have a specific program for them; CRJ is committed to connecting our community members with needed supports such as emergency housing, mental health counseling, substance use support services, reentry supports, accessing health insurance, etc.

The work of CRJ could not be done without the dedication of our 36 restorative panel volunteers, 9 community volunteers who sit on CRJ's governing Board, and 10 dedicated staff members.

CRJ receives support through state grants, local contracts, private donations and funding from towns such as yours. Together through our partnership, our community is strengthened as we create opportunities to help empower people to get their lives back on track.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leitha Cipriano, Executive Director
Center for Restorative Justice



Green Mountain RSVP - Shaftsbury Annual Town Report – FY 2022

Green Mountain RSVP (GMRSVP), an AmeriCorps Seniors program, is for people age 55 and older who volunteer in their community. GMRSVP helps local non-profit organizations by recruiting and matching volunteers engaging them in the service of others and helping community partners meet their mission.

Your town's funds help us continue supporting and developing programs for older adults who wish to volunteer. Federal funds from the AmeriCorps Seniors Program cover our staff and administrative costs. GMRSVP serves Bennington, Windham, and Windsor Counties.

Shaftsbury residents and residents from surrounding towns have benefited from the services that our AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have provided through various local partnering agencies in the following ways; attending Bone Builders, receiving free tax help through the AARP Tax-Aide Program, receiving the delivery of nutritious meals through Meals on Wheels, as well as companionship services such as grocery shopping help or friendly phone calls through the Southwestern VT Council on Aging, or by attending the virtual book club we offer in partnership with the Bennington Free Library, called the Third Thursday Readers. One of our newer initiatives, the Sunshine Postcard Project, is continuing to be a success with the help of our AmeriCorps volunteers. Isolated older Vermonters residing in Arlington who share a connection with Meals on Wheels and the Southwestern VT Council on Aging receive a friendly, cheerful note written by our volunteers in January in honor of MLK Day and again in May for Older Americans Month. Residents from Shaftsbury generously donated their time by supporting American Red Cross blood drives, assisting at the gift shop at the Park McCullough Mansion, and helping at His Pantry located at the Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church.

78% of GMRSVP volunteers continued to serve during the pandemic. Programming pivoted to serve the community and focused on addressing social isolation, wellness, and food insecurity. GMRSVP's recruitment efforts broadened to fill new and existing needs.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Lenora Volkmer in Bennington County at (802)447-1546 to learn more about GMRSVP and how you can volunteer in Shaftsbury.



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day
May 6, 2023



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

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding again for Green Up Day 2023.

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

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

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org.

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



ANNUAL REPORT- October 2022
John Jacobi, Board President

Habitat for Humanity International (HfHI) is a global non-profit housing organization whose vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works in all 50 of the United States and in 70 countries. Since its founding in 1976 by Linda and Millard Fuller, Habitat has helped more than 35 million people achieve strength, stability and self-reliance through safe, decent and affordable housing.

Bennington County Habitat for Humanity (BCHfH) is an affiliate of HfHI. BCHfH works in partnership with Bennington County residents who cannot otherwise become homeowners or afford needed home repairs. Applicants must have a need for better housing, the ability to pay, and the willingness to partner with BCHfH. Once accepted into the homeownership program, each adult family member must complete 200 hours of sweat equity. Homebuyers who become homeowners pay an affordable mortgage thru monthly payments that include escrow for property taxes, insurance, and Homeowner Association fees, where applicable. Homebuyers' monthly payments do not exceed more than 30% of their income. The monthly mortgage payments help build more affordable homes.

BCHfH is locally run and funded. With the exception of some contract services, volunteers build Habitat houses. Businesses, subcontractors, and individuals help build, donate materials, and provide financial support. Town appropriations purchase building supplies and materials for our construction programs.

In Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022), BCHfH welcomed home the Brown family to the Jennifer Lane Neighborhood of Manchester Center and began construction of the Metcalf Family House in Pownal. The Metcalf House is nearing completion, and our goal is to get the family home by the end of calendar year 2022. We did one home repair-ramp project (Rice Family in Shaftsbury) during Fiscal Year 2022, and our home repair program continues to accept applications from income-qualified homeowners who need minor exterior home repairs, including ramps, to stay safely in their homes.

Our Resale Store in Manchester sells, at reasonable prices, new and gently used furniture, building supplies, appliances, housewares, tools, and home improvement products that have been donated to us. Not only does the store provide people with quality furnishings they can afford, it also keeps items out of the landfill. The proceeds from the store provide meaningful support for our construction programs.

Two Shaftsbury residents are homeowners through our Habitat program, and we have done home repairs for four others, the most recent being a ramp project for the Rice Family. Many Shaftsbury residents have helped with our construction projects. One Shaftsbury resident serves on our Board of Directors and our new executive director lives in Shaftsbury. We encourage residents of Shaftsbury to apply for homes and home repair projects and to contact us about available land purchase opportunities. We are grateful for the Town of Shaftsbury's continued support and hope we can count on your assistance in the future. None of our projects would be possible without the support we receive from area towns, businesses, houses of worship, and individuals. Together, we do make a difference in the lives of hard-working, lower-income area residents. For more information about our work, please visit our website at www.benningtoncountyhabitat.org.

Respectfully submitted by John Jacobi, President, Board of Directors

John G. McCullough Free Library 2021 Report to Town of Shaftsbury

The John G. McCullough Free Library has begun its second century of meeting the information and entertainment needs of Shaftsbury residents. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the relevance of our mission. With your support, we look forward to assisting in our community's recovery and growth by supporting students and their families, teachers and childcare providers, job seekers, employers, and entrepreneurs, lifelong learners, and the generally curious.

Shaftsbury residents are encouraged to activate their McCullough Library memberships and enjoy all the library offers: books, interlibrary loan services, DVDs, museum passes, and free events for all ages. Our digital collection, which includes thousands of ebooks and digital audiobooks through Libby, movies and documentaries to stream through Kanopy, powerful research databases, online courses through Universal Class, and Learning Express, a suite of resources for those seeking career guidance or employment. Residents can activate their account with our online activation form: <https://forms.gle/aV3bctBipa8uuLLY8>, by calling the library at 802.447.7121, or stopping by.

The library building is currently undergoing critical repairs and exciting upgrades. A grand re-opening is planned for early 2022, when construction is complete. When the library building reopens to the public, visitors will experience a new space for small meetings and quiet study, accessible restrooms on both floors, a new rear entry, new and refurbished chairs on the lower floor, a new drinking fountain, improved ventilation, a hardwired smoke detection system, and a complete electrical rewiring to support these and future upgrades. Work on the library's exterior will also be completed in the year ahead. This project did not rely on community appropriations, but has been made possible through bequests, generous donations, grants, and ARPA funding.

Our popular book pick-up service will be offered during construction. To request books, DVDs, audiobooks and more for pick up at the library, call or email McCulloughLibraryClerk@gmail.com.

Much is planned in the year ahead: the development of a Tool Library, the long-postponed Year of Mystery event series, an upgrade to our online catalog, the return of our popular Summer Reading Club for Kids, the first Book & Bake Sale in two years, and the preliminary stage of a new five-year plan for the library, which will include a survey and community conversations to gather feedback and set new goals for the future.

The best way to keep up-to-date with developments at the library is to check out our website (www.mcculloughlibrary.org), subscribe to our monthly newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/jDQsH> or to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie Rozycki, Library Director

Jennifer Fels, Trustees Chair

Martha Canfield Library Annual Report

Town Report 2022

The Martha Canfield Library is here to help you read, learn and expand your horizons in a variety of ways. We have books, movies, games and puzzles, interlibrary loan, and printing services. We have 24/7 online access to audio and ebooks, along with other databases for research and classes through the links on our website: marthacanfieldlibrary.org. All you need is your library card barcode. We can also help with navigating the internet and online forms or answer your technical questions. We have a variety of programs for adults as well as children, including a preschool story-time on Tuesday mornings. And, thanks to a grant from the Berkshire Bank, we were able to provide activities and free books for children during our summer reading program.

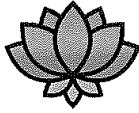
2022 saw Russell Collection activity begin to return to normal following the loosening of COVID restrictions and anxiety. We helped researchers from as far away as New Mexico and South Carolina searching for answers to history and genealogy questions. We also received a number of important donations including black and white and colored post cards focused on local and state-wide images; the photo collection of Ellen Lipshutz; a painting by L. H. Towsley titled "Butternut in Arlington;" four paintings by Dorothy and John Fisher's friend, Jack Knox, painted in Arlington and showing the Red Mountain area; Mack Molding company picnic photos from about 1948; and a moving letter from Dorothy Canfield Fisher to Eleanor Hayden about the death of Fisher's son Jimmy during WW II. The Kelley Stand ledger donated several years ago was in very poor condition. Avis Hayden donated the cost of re-binding the ledger, and we hope to publish a transcription of hotel visitors in 2023. We have also started to prepare a digital reprint of the popular Arlington Along the Battenkill by Hugh Henry.

We greatly appreciate your support through the years as we strive to provide services essential to a well-informed community. Let us know how we can help: check our webpage, follow us on Facebook, email with requests and questions, call us.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Skidmore, Director, Laura Crosslin, President, Board of Trustees

Martha Canfield Library, 528 East Arlington Rd., P.O. Box 267, Arlington, VT 05250

802-375-6153, marthacanfieldlibrary.org, martha_canfield_lib@hotmail.com. Russell_vermntiana_collection@hotmail.com.



**PROJECT AGAINST
VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS**

Mailing: P.O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201
Physical: 102 Dewey St, Bennington, VT 05201
Office: 802.442.2370 | Hotline: 802.442.2111
www.pavebennington.org

Town of Shaftsbury

In the past year our community has been confronted by issues that bring many of us to despair; drugs, gangs and community violence abound. PAVE stands with our community daily, combatting domestic & sexual violence and promoting hope in our community.

Community violence, as well as substance abuse heavily effect and are entangled with the issue of domestic and sexual violence. One cannot address one concern without bumping up against the other. Therefore, collaboration between community providers is essential in efforts to address these issues.

PAVE continues to provide our core services to survivors which include; emergency housing, crisis hotline, advocacy services for housing and systems navigation, as well as community education. Our shelter provided 5461 nights of safety for survivors and advocates conducted 1138 service sessions in the past year.

In the past year, PAVE provided services to 231 survivors, which equals approximately one new survivor a business day. The highest areas of service utilization were in regards to housing, emotional support, and systems navigation advocacy.

PAVE is asking for level funding this year; \$450.00.

In the coming year PAVE will continue to focus on prevention, collaboration with our community partners, and maintaining our core services. We will strive to bring the hope of nonviolence to our community, while aiding survivors in taking the steps to heal their lives.

On behalf of our board of directors, staff, and the families we served, I thank the Town of Shaftsbury for your ongoing support. It allows us to create greater opportunities for those that are impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence, and need our services each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Brillon, M.Ed. LSW
Executive Director
PO BOX 227
pave@pavebennington.com
[8024422370](tel:8024422370)

Suzanne Kirkpatrick, Board President

PAVE is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and your donation is fully tax deductible, less the value of any goods or services received. PAVE does not appraise the value of gifts. Our tax ID number is 03-0285583.

2022 has been a productive year for the Shaftsbury Historical Society (SHS). We would like to thank all members (past and present), volunteers, and the town for allowing us to be the stewards of Shaftsbury's history. In addition, I would like to thank the SHS for electing me in 2022 as the new president for the board.

Our acting treasurer Abby Dansereau has recently created a new Facebook page for SHS. We have received many inquiries from people across the country researching their genealogical roots in Shaftsbury. We are busy responding to these inquiries, as well as accepting many generous donations of historical documents. The Facebook page will be updated regularly as a vehicle for community interaction.

We have made significant progress in an effort to upgrade and organize the facilities at The Governor Galusha Homestead. We have installed ADA compliant lavatories and are in the process of reorganizing the documents contained in our genealogical office. Additionally, we have replaced the Shaftsbury Historic District signage along Route 7A to create a more cohesive appearance with all the signs designating the Shaftsbury cemeteries.

The SHS Tag Sale at The Governor Galusha Homestead has now become an annual event. Thanks to volunteers who participated and a special thanks to the Shaftsbury residents for their many generous donations. 2022 also provided an opportunity for us to apply for a *Vermont Historic Preservation Grant*. If the application is approved the funds will be put toward restoration of the windows on The Governor Galusha Homestead. We would also like to thank the ARPA committee for considering our request for the funding necessary to make improvements to both The Governor Galusha Homestead and The Baptist Meeting House.

In November of this year we were fortunate enough to have our board member Carol Corey-Dziubek invited to make a presentation at the Bennington Museum. She has been researching a signature quilt that has been in her family since 1888, documenting the genealogy and family histories of 96 people whose names appear on it. Her research about the Shaftsbury families represented on the quilt has opened up many new avenues of inquiry, and we look forward to seeing what unfolds from her continued efforts.

Board member Walter Klinger has begun hosting open hours on weekends at The Governor Galusha Homestead. The response to this from our Facebook page and tourists passing through Shaftsbury has been very positive and we plan to continue the practice in order to make the museum more accessible to the public.

We look forward in 2023 to making the SHS and The Governor Galusha Homestead something that the town will be proud of. We are honored to be the stewards of Shaftsbury history and are always welcoming new ideas and volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted,
James W. Cassidy, President for the board

2022: Our Third Year

Executive Summary:

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) has had a very busy, and successful third year. The CUD worked with its partner, Consolidated Communications Inc. (CCI) to submit an application to the Act 71 Construction Grant Program, which was successfully funded in the amount of \$9,009,085. The CUD also signed a Master Services Agreement with CCI to begin construction of a fiber network in the CUD's service territory. In June, the CUD and CCI celebrated the launch of Phase 1 of CCI's three-phase buildout in Bennington County, and in August, the first customer was connected to the new fiber network. All 14 towns in the CUD are expected to be covered by the end of 2023.

2022 Activities and Plans for 2023

In early 2022, the CUD received word that it's application with CCI to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program was not successful. The CUD and CCI quickly pivoted to the Act 71 Construction Grant application.

Throughout most of the year, the CUD worked with CCI to complete the Act 71 application while coordinating a three-phase buildout of fiber that will have most of the CUD's territory covered by 2023. The CUD also worked to identify and confirm the "hardest 100" addresses and develop a plan to serve those locations.

In July 2022, the CUD and CCI submitted their application to the Act 71 Construction Grant Program. Also in July, the CUD governing board approved a formal contract with CCI.

In September 2022, the CUD and CCI were awarded \$9,009,085 from the Act 71 Construction Grant Program, which will fund Phase 2A of CCI's fiber buildout in the region. CCI, in consultation with the CUD, has developed the following three-phase construction plan for the CUD territory:

- **Phase 1:** Currently underway, this phase is financed by CCI as part of their Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) obligations and will cover most of the Southshire, including Bennington, Woodford, Glastenbury, and part of Pownal and Shaftsbury. Phase 1 is expected to be complete by the end of 2022.
- **Phase 2A:** This phase will be financed by the Act 71 Construction Grant. Set to begin in early 2023, this phase of the buildout will cover approximately 2000 unserved and underserved addresses in the CUD's territory. Most of SoVT CUD's territory will be covered at the conclusion of this phase.

- **Phase 2B:** Funded by CCI, the second part of Phase 2 will involve an overbuild of fiber to served addresses and is part of CCI's RDOF obligations.
- **Phase 3:** The final phase will build out fiber to the "hardest 100" addresses in the CUD's territory, which has since been narrowed to the "hardest 17" addresses.

In addition, \$160,000 of the Act 71 Construction Grant has been allocated for CUD administrative expenses. The grant has a 24-month performance period, and although Phase 2A construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2023, the CUD intends to use the \$160,000 over a two-year-period which is reflected in the FY23 budget.

As the year ends, the CUD looks forward to the deployment of high-quality fiber internet service in Bennington County, and the fulfillment of its mission to bring high-speed internet to Southern Vermont.

About the Southern VT CUD

Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) was voted into existence in March 2019 by 12 towns in Bennington County. The number of member municipalities has since grown to 14.

Arlington	Peru
Bennington	Rupert
Dorset	Sandgate
Landgrove	Shaftsbury
Londonderry	Sunderland
Manchester	Winhall
Pownal	Woodford

A complete list of town representatives and alternates can be found on the CUD website: [Governing Board - SoVT CUD](#)

Public records for the CUD including bylaws, conflict of interest policy, meeting agendas, and minutes can also be found on the website: <https://public.sovtcud.net/>

The SoVT CUD governing board is led by:

- Chair, Eric Hatch.
- Vice-chair, Michael Corey.
- Clerk, Sheila Kearns.
- Treasurer, Al Bashevkin



Rutland Office: 802-786-5990
Bennington Office: 802-442-5436
Helpline: 1-800-642-5119

Report to the Citizens of Shaftsbury

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to elders in Shaftsbury during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 10/1/2021 through 9/30/2022.

Nutrition Support

The Council helped provide 2,025 meals that were delivered to the homes of 17 elders in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 23 Shaftsbury elders came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 1,327 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 20.5 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 16 residents of Shaftsbury.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 23 elders in your community for a total of 168.5 hours. Case managers meet with an elder privately in the elder's home or at another agreed upon location and assess the elder's situation. They will work with the elder to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the elder desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help elders connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail elders facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

1) "Senior Helpline" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior HelpLine staff provide telephone support to elders and others who need information on available programs and community resources; 2) Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program; 3) Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project; 4) Information about elder issues and opportunities via various agency articles and publications 5) Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician; 6) Senior Companion support for frail, homebound elders; 7) Outreach services to elders dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. This service is provided in cooperation with Rutland Mental Health; 8) Transportation assistance; 9) Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to elders in need of assistance; 10) Money Management programs that offer either a volunteer bill payer or representative payee services to elders and younger disabled individuals.

Sunrise Family Resource Center

Weathering the Pandemic was not without its challenges but proved that there is great strength in community. Through intra and inter-agency collaboration with our 40+ established community partnerships, we expanded our dialogue to both adapt and develop our programming. To respond to the everchanging needs of our community, we created a Sunrise Advisory Council. These council members are parents/caregivers from throughout the County, and their input will guide and inform our programming, to ensure our wrap around services are both relevant and effective for families

Sunrise strives to provide lasting opportunities for all families that walk through our doors, whether their needs are focused on housing, child care, food insecurities, secondary education, transportation, parent education, or family enrichment. Last year over 3500 parents/caregivers and over 4000 children received support through our core programming or one of our additional offerings such as our 15-week Nurturing Parents Program, our monthly Making Meals and Memories family night, or our Parents As Teachers monthly events. We encouraged relationship building through our weekly Coffee Club and hosted 127 free Playgroups throughout the County! We partnered with the Vermont Arts Exchange to offer free Art Classes to the general public and hosted a free “Summer Jam” family day, in North Bennington. In partnership with Bennington College and local farmers, we developed an on-site Pantry that was visited 403 times by families from Bennington County. Our Learning Together Program expanded their enrollment which means more parents are pursuing their high school diploma. Our Housing Navigation Program continues to focus on helping families obtain and/or maintain housing to reduce the risk of homelessness. One of our newest initiatives, Families on the Move, is a first step towards addressing transportation independence for families. Through expansion of our partnership with Green Mountain Express, The VT Women’s Fund, and the VT Department of Health, we’ve added bus routes 2 times a week for families lacking transportation, to help them gain access to grocery stores and laundromats. We’ve partnered with Felicia’s Inc. and the VT Diaper Bank to continue to supply the County with free diapers and distributed 324 Welcome Baby bags to new parents through our ongoing partnership with SVMC. We hosted two bowling events- purchasing 6 lanes each day for families to enjoy some alternative free, fun activities with their children. As Bennington County’s Parent Child Center we awarded over \$10,000.00 to other groups and agencies to further their efforts to support families in Bennington County. Through our programming we were able to support over 7700 parent/caregivers and children last year. We recently completed the self-evaluation phase of the National Family Support Network’s Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support. This was a thorough review of the entire organization, policies, and practices to assist us in developing future action plans, and we’ve recently implemented a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy and Committee to help us grow in these areas as well. It has been a busy year for Sunrise and we anticipate the coming year will be filled with even more growth and community collaboration, as we fulfill our mission of “Strengthening Families”. The allocation we are granted from the taxpayers of Shaftsbury allows us to continue this important work. It fills in program deficits and allows us to maintain an easily accessible downtown campus for folks to come for services.



VERMONT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
HELPING ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE IN A VISUAL WORLD SINCE 1926

11/8/2022

Town of Shaftsbury
Selectboard
PO Box 409
Shaftsbury, VT 05262-0409

Dear Selectboard chair,

For many years, the town of Shaftsbury has supported our mission to help Vermonters with visual impairments to be more independent, cultivate adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life. With your help, the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) has completed another successful year. Thank you for your ongoing support!

It costs VABVI approximately \$1,000 to provide one year of service to each adult client. In FY22 VABVI served 1,145 clients in the state of Vermont, including 2 adults and 2 students in Shaftsbury, and 41 adults and 20 students in Bennington County.

An estimated 14,000 Vermonters are currently blind or visually impaired. As the “Baby Boomer” generation ages, this number is expected to increase to at least 25,000 by 2030. We anticipate that the increase in demand for our services will continue well into the future. Our neighbors, family and friends are among those who may be coping with vision loss.

Last year local towns and cities provided us with over \$27,704 in support, which went directly to client services. We hope that Shaftsbury will consider supporting VABVI again this year with an allocation of \$300 to help fund our services in your township. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me by phone at (802) 863-1358 ext. 219 or by e-mail at sgougher@vabvi.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Samantha Gougher
Development Associate

60 Kimball Avenue
So. Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 863-1358
(FAX) 863-1481

13 Overlook Drive, Ste. 1
Berlin, VT 05641
(802) 505-4006
(FAX) 505-4039

80 West Street, Ste. 202
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 775-6452
(FAX) 775-4669

www.vabvi.org

130 Austine Drive, Ste. 280
Brattleboro, VT 05301
(802) 254-8761
(FAX) 254-4802

So. Burl (800) 639-5861
Berlin (877) 350-8838
Rutland (877) 350-8839
Bratt (877) 350-8840

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING #03-0271000
TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY
SUMMARY REPORT

Request Amount: \$1,000.00

For over 43 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'22 (10/2021-9/2022) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **158** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **6** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **172** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **80** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **91** individuals with information on assistive technology; **39** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **454** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **29** people and provided **16** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. Due to the pandemic VCIL was able to start a new (temporary) program, Resilience and Independence in a State of Emergency (RISE) which served over 600 people in the 2 years it was funded. The Rise Program helped provide an array of items or services if the needs were directly related to the Covid-19 epidemic.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'22, **5** residents of **Shaftsbury** received services from the following programs:

- Home Access Program (HAP)
(over **\$1,800.00** spent on home modifications)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
(over **\$100.00** spent on meals for residents)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling Program (PAC)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
(resident on waiting list for assistive technology in early FY'22)
- Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

Local Health Office Annual Report 2022

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

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

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In collaboration with community partners, since COVID-19 response efforts began, we hosted over 60 COVID-19 vaccination clinics and provided over 5,500 COVID-19 doses. Since August 2021, all local health offices have also documented and helped manage 8,125 COVID-19-related situations, including 1,271 COVID-19 outbreaks.

Ensured local preparedness for future emergencies: We worked with partners like schools, hospitals, and emergency personnel to ensure effective pandemic response and support preparedness to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during public health emergencies. This year, we responded to the emergence of human monkeypox virus by sharing information and providing vaccine to community members. As of November 15, 2022, 25 hMPXV vaccine doses have been administered.

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

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

Provided WIC services and resources to families and children: Provided WIC nutrition education and support to 1,037 individuals between July 1, 2021 and June 31, 2022, while enabling them to save on groceries so they can have more to spend on other things their family needs. WIC also empowers families with breastfeeding/chestfeeding support and provides referrals to other health and nutrition services. Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov/wic.

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

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

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

FROM:

TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall
61 Buck Hill Road, P.O. Box 409
Shaftsbury, VT 05262

Please bring this report to Town Meeting. When finished with report, please recycle by depositing in designated receptacle at Landfill.