

2022-2023
Annual Report
of the
Officers of the
TOWN of BENSON

For
Town Meeting: March 5, 2024

NOTICE TO VOTERS BENSON TOWN MEETING MARCH 5, 2024

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

VIEW SAMPLE BALLOTS posted at the Wheel Inn, G & L General Store, and the Town Office. Checklists are posted at G & L General Store and the Town Office.

VOTER REGISTRATION is now open up to and including Town Meeting Day. If you are not sure if you are already registered to vote in Benson or need more information about voter registration, phone the Town Clerk at 537-2611 or visit mvp.sec.state.vt.us.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots in person, in writing, by telephone or by email up **until the close of the Town Clerk's office (3:00PM) on Monday, March 4, 2024**. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- **Voter** may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail. Drop box available.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

ON ELECTION DAY:

Floor Meeting begins at 10:00AM at the Community Hall (2760 Stage Road).

Polls open at the Community Hall for Australian Ballot Voting at 10:00AM and close at 7:00PM.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice.

If you cannot get from the car into the polling place, ballot(s) may be brought to your car by two election officials.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS

CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

- Enter through the rear (handicapped) entrance and go to the entrance checklist table.
- Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in an audible voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- An election official will hand you the ballots.
- Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

MARK YOUR BALLOT

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing each voted ballot in the appropriate "Voted Ballots" box.

LEAVE the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.

Please remember to bring you Annual Town Report to the meeting.

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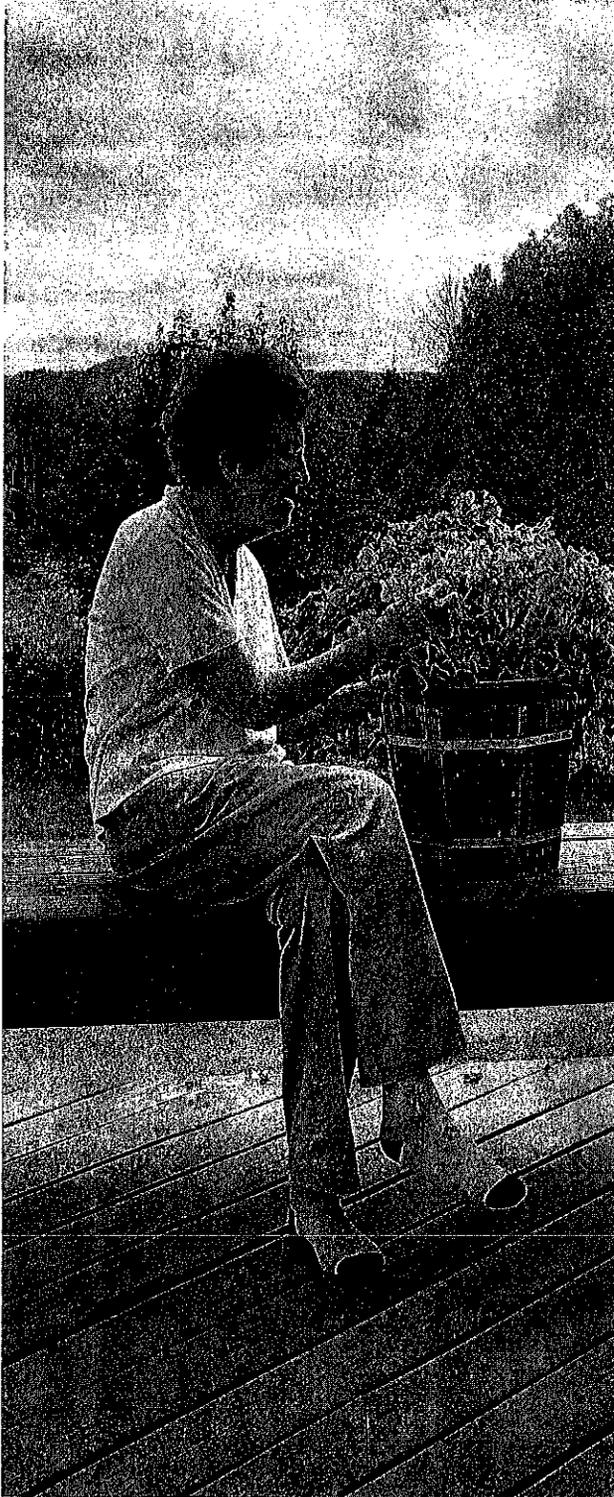
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This year's Town Report is dedicated to.....



Sally O'Connor Kubin

Sally retired to Lymrock Farm in 1990 with her husband John, a Benson native. Since she has lived here, she has made countless friends, and every one of their birthdays are marked on her famous calendar !

Over the past 30 plus years, Sally has enjoyed cross country skiing, walking with her dogs, tending her flowers, making maple syrup and raspberry jam, and bird watching. She is especially fond of the cardinals that visit every winter, as well as the resident pileated woodpeckers.

She can be found every Sunday morning having breakfast at The Wheel Inn. Sally delivered Meals on Wheels in Benson for many years, and also took seniors to appointments. Both she and John volunteered their time to read to the Benson Village School students.

Last year she was delighted to serve as Grand Marshal of the Benson Town Day Parade !

Thank you Sally for always bringing a smile to our face!

**WARNING
MARCH 5, 2024
FOR THE 238th BENSON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The legal voters of the Town of Benson in the County of Rutland and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Community Hall in said Town on the first Tuesday in March, being the 5th of March 2024, at 10 a.m. to transact the following business:

- Article 1: To elect all Town Officers as follows:
- 1 Town Moderator for a term of one year
 - 1 Select Board Member for a term of three years
 - 2 Select Board Members for a term of one year
 - 1 Lister for a term of three years
 - 1 Lister for a term of one year remaining of a three-year term
 - 1 Auditor for a term of three years
 - 1 Delinquent Tax Collector for a term of one year
 - 1 Trustee of Public Funds for a term of three years
 - 1 Library Commissioner for a term of five years
 - 1 Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years
 - 1 Cemetery Commissioner for three years remaining of five-year term

Voting under Article 1 will be by Australian ballot
Polls will open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

- Article 2: Shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$507,530 for the General Fund Budget of which \$364,271 shall be raised by taxes?
- Article 3: Shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$807,620 for the layout, repair and maintenance of Town highways of which \$667,445 shall be raised by taxes?
- Article 4: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$2,000 for Benson First Response for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to help defray the cost of major expenses?
- Article 5: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$62,336 for the support of Fair Haven Rescue Squad to provide services to residents of the Town?
- Article 6: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$11,000 for the support of Benson Public Library to provide services to residents of the Town?
- Article 7: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$20,000 for the maintenance and care of the Town cemeteries?
- Article 8: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$1,250 for the Benson Youth League in support of their program?

- Article 9: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$1,000 for the Community Scholarship Fund?
- Article 10: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$2,000 in support of Slate Valley Cares (formerly Fair Haven Concerned, Inc.) to provide appropriate social services to the Town of Benson?
- Article 11: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$600 for the support of ARC-Rutland Area to provide services to residents of the Town?
- Article 12: Shall the town vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$1,400 for the support of VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region to provide appropriate social services to residents of the Town of Benson?
- Article 13: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$2,000 in support of BROCC Community Action to provide appropriate social services to residents of the Town of Benson?
- Article 14: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$900 in support of the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging to provide appropriate social services to residents of the Town of Benson?
- Article 15: Shall the Town of Benson vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$2,500 to support the Benson Family Day Committee?
- Article 16: Shall the Town vote to expend \$250,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty thousand Dollars) of ARPA funds on construction of a new highway garage. Said funds to be used to reduce the amount to be borrowed?
- Article 17: Shall the Town vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$30,000 for Law Enforcement?
- Article 18: Shall the Town change the date of its annual meeting to the third day preceding the first Tuesday in March pursuant to 17 V.S.A § 2640?
- Article 19: Shall the Town vote to eliminate the office of constable pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2651a(d)?
- Article 20: Shall the Town of Benson adopt its General Fund budget by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2680(c)(1)?
- Article 21: Shall the Town of Benson adopt its Highway budget by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2680(c)(1)?
- Article 22: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for highway projects, to make improvements to Money Hole Road and Carter Street?
- Article 23: Shall the voters authorize payment of real property taxes in two installments, with the due dates being September 16, 2024 and March 17, 2025?

Article 24: Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §4791, to collect current taxes?

Article 25: To transact any other business proper to be done at the Annual Town Meeting.

Dated at Benson, Vermont this __1st__ day of __February____, 2024

Linda Peltier

Guy Charlton

Brad Barrett

Jerod Glover

Thomas Bartholomew

Annual Selectboard Report
January to December 2023

After many years of planning and design, a contract for a new town garage was signed in December. The garage is contracted to Gary Freeguard of Whiting. The wood construction will be 52 by 72 and will be graded to allow for proper drainage. The construction will start at the beginning of April and will be completed by July, weather permitting. The numerous permits are currently in process and so that the project can proceed quickly and proficiently. We all look forward to the ribbon cutting!

The highway department has completed the recommendations as outlined in the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's 2019 Capital Improvement Plan. This plan addressed various culverts and ditches throughout the town.

There is now a Standard Operating Procedure for the Transfer Station. The costs of operating a Transfer Station continue to climb, so it is important to keep the transfer station efficient and organized. The Selectboard has adopted new sewer guidelines. There is a clear outline for the number of allotments and a procedure to applying for these connections.

A Social Media Policy was adopted for the town. This was done in accordance with the inauguration of our town website www.bensonvermont.gov and our town FaceBook page Town of Benson, Vermont. Both have been useful in sharing town business and in keeping the town informed of events and also in sharing information in a timely fashion during inclement weather.

The Otter Creek Communications Union District is moving forward to bring high speed internet access to businesses and homes in all of Rutland County. Steve Murray has been following the project carefully for our town. The fiber cables are being installed and plan to be operational within the year.

While this year has been quite busy, it is important to thank the many people who have contributed to our town in so many different ways. The front of the Town Office looks great thanks to the Benson Beautification Committee, the trees will bring shade for many years. The Benson Family Day Committee once again provided a wonderful day for families. The Fire Department and First Response continue to provide year round services to all of us! The Library Commissioners have offered a number of programs for all ages. The Senior Meals that are offered monthly are a time for visiting others. All of these and many more, make our town the special place that it is!

Selectboard meetings are held every other Monday at 7 pm at the Town Office. All are welcome to attend. Meeting warnings are posted on the website and at the Town Office, Wheel Inn and G/L Store.

Selectboard Members

Linda Peltier (Chair), Jerod Glover, Brad Barrett, Tom Bartholomew and Guy Charlton

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS FOR 2023

Moderator	John Hill	2024
Town Clerk/Treasurer	Heidi Chandler	2025
Select Board Members	Brad Barrett (3 years)	2024
	Guy Charlton (3 years)	2025
	Jerod Glover (3 years)	2026
	Linda Swarm Peltier	2024
	Thomas Bartholomew	2024
Listers	Edward B. Peltier	2024
	Vacant	2025
	Lois Trenn	2026
Auditors	Cheryl Murray	2024
	Robert Bizek	2025
	Lynn Bowen	2026
First Constable	Adam Stewart	2025
Delinquent Tax Collector	Barbara Burlett	2024
Trustee of Public Funds	Jayne Van Noordt Purdy	2024
	Brad Barrett	2025
	Norma Phillips	2026
Library Commissioners	Rebeckah St. Peter	2024
	Dale Sweet	2025
	Barbara Hemingway	2026
	Gina Parker	2027
	Carrie Becker	2028
Cemetery Commissioners	Susan Brown	2024
	Donald Parker	2025
	Janet Ladd	2026
	Vacant	2027
	Carrie Lynn LaFond	2028
Justices of the Peace	Tom Neumann	2024
	Eric Shaw	2024
	John Hill	2024
	Lynn Bowen	2024
	Ed Peltier	2024

2023 APPOINTMENTS

911 Coordinator	Daphne Bartholomew	2024
Assistant 911 Coordinator	Edward B. Peltier	2024
Animal Control Officer	Ron Stewart JR	2024
Benson Youth League Coordinator	Sarah Daigle	2024
Community Hall Committee	Jennifer Partch-Whitehurst	2024
	Vacant	2025
	Marcia Anderson	2026
Development Review Board	Tom Bartholomew	2026
	Wayne Simek	2026
	Cathy Gearwar	2024
	Ted Kellogg	2024
	Henry Daley	2025
	Alternates Vacant	2024
	Vacant	2025
Emergency Management Director	Paul Davoren	2024
Emergency Management Coord.	Brad Barrett	2024
FH Rescue Squad Rep.	Sam Bartholomew	2024
Family Day Coordinator (s)	Sue Brown/Amanda Bartholomew	2024
Inspector of Wood and Lumber	Vacant	2024
SWAC Representative	Vacant	2024
SWAC Alternate	Daphne Bartholomew	2024
Newsletter	Cheryl Murray	2024
Otter Creek CUD Rep	John Hill	2024
	Alternate Steve Murray	2024
Planning Commission (Town)	Robert Bizek	2026
	Cynthia Knipes	2024
	Cheryl Murray	2024
	Ted Kellogg	2025
	Steve Murray	2025
Pound Keeper	Vacant	2024
Road Commissioner	Brad Barrett	2024
Rutland Regional Planning Rep.	Cheryl Murray	2024
RRPC Alternate	John Hill	2024
Rutland Regional Transportation	Cheryl Murray	2024
Tree Warden	Robert St.Peter	2024
Zoning Administrator	Edward B. Peltier	2024
Assistant Treasurer	Lisa Daigle-Fontaine	2024
Assistant Clerk	Daphne Bartholomew	2024
Town Health Officer	Darryl Kuehne	2024
Forest Fire Warden	Lyndon Austin	2026

2022-2023 Auditors Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Benson as of and for the year ending June 30, 2023 as listed in the Table of Contents. The financial statements are the responsibility of management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 1681-1684, which among other things requires that we examine and adjust accounts of all Town offices and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the Town Treasurer.

Our objectives were to (1) validate the correctness of the Town accounts, (2) detect fraud or errors in these accounts and (3) verify the financial condition and results of operations of the Town for the year ended June 30, 2023.

To accomplish these objectives, we examined the operation of the Town government including internal controls over financial transactions. We interviewed Town officials to review Town operations and adherence to protocol, we reviewed the Town accounting systems, cash handling procedures, and segregation of duties.

We reviewed Cash Disbursement and Cash Reconciliation journals to ensure accuracy and that they balanced with the individual accounts contained therein. The disbursements for payroll and regular bills were reconciled with the amounts approved by the Selectboard per the meeting minutes for the year. We reviewed Town payroll records, randomly verified rates and wages paid and ensured that taxes for the same were both collected and properly paid. We audited randomly selected expenditures which included checking the invoice, invoice amount, Selectboard approval, check amount and payee's endorsement of the issued check. We compared the financial statements with prior year financial statements, and actions taken at Town meeting and by the Selectboard to assure accurate presentation and consistency.

We audited transactions pertaining to the Grand List and verified certain tax levies and penalties and interest for delinquent taxes were being properly

2.

applied, land transfer records were accurate, and that tax calculations were reflected on the Grand List at the approved rate.

To verify the existence and year end balances of all cash accounts, we confirmed year end balances of all accounts presented to us with their associated bank(s). Our review of school funding and expenditures was limited to confirming the transfer of funds collected for school purpose by the Town to the School District. The District has an independent audit of financial statements and operations completed yearly.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town of Benson as of June 30, 2023.

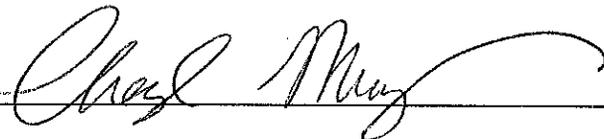
At our final meeting, we voted to increase yearly select board member's compensation to \$1,200 for the chair and \$1,000 for other board members. The stipend for serving on the select board has not been increased in six years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Benson Town Board of Auditors



Robert J Bizek, Chair



Cheryl Murray, Clerk



Lynn Bowen

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 7, 2023
CONDENSED MINUTES

290 Ballots were cast

OFFICERS ELECTED

Town Moderator	John Hill
Cemetery Commissioner	Carrie Lynn LaFond
Cemetery Commissioner 3 years	No write –in candidate received sufficient votes to be elected
Library Commissioner 4 years	Barbara Hemingway
Library Commissioner 5 years	Carrie Becker
Auditor, 3 year	Lynn Bowen
Selectboard 3 year	Jerod Glover
Selectboard 1 year	Thomas Bartholomew, Linda Swarm Peltier
Delinquent Tax Collector	Barbara Burlett
Trustee of Public Funds	Norma Phillips
Lister 2 years	No write –in candidate received sufficient votes to be elected
Lister 3 years	Lois Trenn
First Constable	Adam Stewart

ARTICLES DISAPPROVED

Article 2: \$433,690 for the General Fund Budget of which \$278,303 shall be raised by taxes
Yes 22, No 64, Blank 1, by paper ballots

Article 3: \$ 799,270 for the layout, repair and maintenance of Town highways of which \$538,944
Yes 21, No 63, by paper ballots

ARTICLES APPROVED

Article 4: \$7,000 for the Benson First Response

Article 5: \$55,518 for Fair Haven Rescue Squad Ambulance Services

Article 6: \$9,000 for the operating expenses of the Town Library

Article 7: \$20,000 for the maintenance and care of the Town cemeteries

Article 8: \$1,250 for the Benson Youth League

Article 9: \$1,000 for the Community Scholarship

Article 10: \$2000.00 to support Fair Haven Concerned, Inc. -

Article 11: \$5000 to pay for a town-wide reappraisal -
Yes 29, No 28, by floor vote

Article 12: \$1,400 for the support of the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region-

Article 13: \$2000 to support the programs and services of BROCC

Article 14: \$900 for the support of Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Article 15: \$2500 to support the Family Day Committee

Article 16: \$15,000 to hire an accountant to conduct an audit on the town books

OTHER ARTICLES

Article 17: Authorize payment of real property taxes in two installments, with the due dates being
September 15, 2023 and March 15, 2024

Article 18: Town Treasurer, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791, to collect current taxes

Article 19: To transact any other business proper to be done at the Annual Town Meeting.

Heidi Chandler, Town Clerk

**2022-2023
INVESTED FUNDS SUMMARY**

	6/30/2022 Balance	2022-2023 Receipts	2022-2023 Expenses	6/30/2023 Balance
ARPA Funds	147,105.52	150,137.86	0.00	297,243.38
Benson Public Library	3,754.17	403.83	325.00	3,833.00
Benson Youth League	8,809.98	8.67	1,120.00	7,698.65
Building Maintenance Reserve	42,070.44	12,043.16	3,099.97	51,013.63
Community Hall Savings	7,130.33	662.37	0.00	7,792.70
Community Scholarship Fund	2,359.86	1,202.39	2,000.00	1,562.25
Eaves Scholarship	1,025.12	1,001.42	2,000.00	26.54
Equipment Fund	136,139.52	37,698.44	71,633.27	102,204.69
Family Day Committee	3,754.00	4,410.91	3,138.05	5,026.86
Fire Department Fundraising	62,229.76	1,010.27	0.00	63,240.03
Fire Dept. Equipment Reserve	35,965.42	28,540.97	0.00	64,506.39
Grant Match Fund	34,844.49	1,034.97	0.00	35,879.46
H. Glenn Munger Scholarship	141.89	0.16	0.00	142.05
History Project Fund	9,121.37	214.22	0.00	9,335.59
Reappraisal Savings	19,815.95	22,999.76	0.00	42,815.71
Veterans Monument Fund	699.41	0.70	0.00	700.11
Reappraisal CDs				17,413.79
Salt/Sand Shed Fund (T-Bond)	13,362.66	210.68	0.00	13,573.34
	528,329.89	261,580.78	83,316.29	724,008.17

**INVESTED FUNDS
as of JUNE 30, 2023**

Veterans Monument

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	699.41
Interest		\$	0.70
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	<u>700.11</u>

Grant Match Fund

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	34,844.49
2022-2023 Appropriation		\$	1,000.00
Interest		\$	34.97
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	<u>35,879.46</u>

Community Hall Savings

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	7,130.33
Rental Income	\$	655.00	
Interest	\$	7.37	
Total Deposits		\$	<u>662.37</u>
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	<u>7,792.70</u>

Benson Community Scholarship Fund

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	2,359.86
Town Appropriation	\$	1,000.00	
Donations	\$	200.00	
Interest	\$	2.39	
Total Receipts		\$	<u>1,202.39</u>
		\$	<u>3,562.25</u>
Scholarships Granted		\$	<u>2,000.00</u>
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	<u>1,562.25</u>

Eaves Scholarship

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	1,025.12
Donation	\$	1,000.00	
Interest	\$	1.42	
Total Deposits		\$	<u>1,001.42</u>
		\$	<u>2,026.54</u>
Scholarships Granted		\$	<u>2,000.00</u>
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	<u>26.54</u>

Reappraisal Savings

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	19,815.95
Interest		\$	23.95
Transfers from Certificates of Deposit		\$	17,510.31
2023 State Grant		\$	5,465.50
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	<u>42,815.71</u>

**INVESTED FUNDS
as of JUNE 30, 2023**

Equipment Fund

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	136,139.52
Receipts			
2021-2022 Appropriation	\$	20,000.00	
Transfer from General Fund (Repay Grader Rental)	\$	13,798.27	
Transfer from General Fund (Repay Loader Tires)	\$	3,800.00	
Interest	\$	100.17	
Total Deposits			\$ 37,698.44
			\$ 173,837.96
Disbursements			
Grader Rental	\$	13,798.27	
Loader Tires	\$	3,800.00	
2004 John Deere Grader	\$	41,100.00	
2013 International Dump Truck	\$	12,935.00	
Total Disbursements			\$ 71,633.27
Balance 6/30/2023			\$ 102,204.69

Fire Department Savings

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	62,229.76
Contributions	\$	947.00	
Interest	\$	63.27	
Total Deposits			\$ 1,010.27
Balance 6/30/2023			\$ 63,240.03

Fire Department Equipment Reserve

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	35,965.42
Insurance payments	\$	3,500.00	
2022-2023 Appropriation	\$	25,000.00	
Interest	\$	40.97	
Balance 6/30/2023			\$ 64,506.39

History Project Fund

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	9,121.37
Interest	\$	9.22	
Donation	\$	20.00	
Sale of Books	\$	185.00	
Balance 6/30/2023			\$ 9,335.59
Due from General Fund			\$25.00
Total Available Funds			\$ 9,360.59

**INVESTED FUNDS
as of JUNE 30, 2023**

Family Day Committee

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	3,754.00
Receipts			
Touch-a-Truck Event	\$	320.00	
Town Meeting 2023 Fundraising	\$	180.00	
Paint & Sip Event	\$	150.00	
Pampered Chef Event	\$	519.27	
2022 Family Day	\$	3,235.00	
Interest	\$	6.64	
Total Receipts		\$	4,410.91
		\$	8,164.91
Family Day 2022 Expenses		\$	3,138.05
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	5,026.86

Benson Public Library

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	3,754.17
Fundraising		\$	-
Contribution		\$	400.00
Interest		\$	3.83
Total Receipts		\$	4,158.00
New floor expense		\$	325.00
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	3,833.00

H. Glenn Munger Scholarship Fund

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	141.89
Interest		\$	0.16
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	142.05

History Project Fund

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	9,121.37
Interest		\$	9.22
Donation		\$	20.00
Sale of Books		\$	185.00
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	9,335.59
Due from General Fund			\$25.00
Total Available Funds		\$	9,360.59

Benson Youth League

Balance 6/30/2022		\$	8,809.98
Interest		\$	8.67
		\$	8,818.65
2022 Season Expenses		\$	1,120.00
Balance 6/30/2023		\$	7,698.65

**INVESTED FUNDS
as of JUNE 30, 2023**

Building Maintenance Reserve Fund

Balance 6/30/2022	\$ 42,070.44
Interest	\$ 43.16
2022-2023 Appropriation	\$ 12,000.00
Total Available Funds	<u>\$ 54,113.60</u>
Library Floor Project	\$ 3,099.97
Balance 6/30/2023	<u>\$ 51,013.63</u>

Salt/Sand Shed Certificate of Deposit

FNB Orwell .2.00% Matured 1/19/2023	\$ 13,362.66
Closed Transferred to AGES Financial Services	<u>\$ (13,362.66)</u>
Balance 6/30/2023	<u>\$ -</u>

Salt/Sand Shed Fund (Treasury Bond)

Transferred from Certificate of Deposit	\$ 13,362.66
Interest	\$ 210.68
Balance 6/30/2023	<u>\$ 13,573.34</u>

REAPPRAISAL CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>2012 State Grant (includes 2017 Grant)</u>	\$ 11,910.64
.2000% Matured 4/19/2023 FNB Orwell	
Closed out Transfer to savings	<u>\$ (11,910.64)</u>

<u>2013 State Grant</u>	\$ 6,049.57
FNB Orwell 1.200% Matures 12/02/2023	

<u>2018-2019 State Grants</u>	\$ 11,364.22
.2.5% Matures 05/06/2024 FNB Orwell	

2020 Reappraisal Grant

.2000% Matured 4/21/2023 FNB Orwell	\$ 5,599.67
Closed out Transferred to Savings	<u>\$ (5,599.67)</u>

Total Reappraisal Funds in CDs	<u>\$ 17,413.79</u>
--------------------------------	---------------------

ARPA Funds (Community Bank Money Market Account)

Balance 6/30/2023	147105.52
Received from State	149,761.95
2022-2023 Interest	\$ 375.91
Balance on Hand 6/30/2023	<u>\$ 297,243.38</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT 2022-2023

Balance on Hand June 30, 2022	261,569.22		
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	
Cemetery Income	2,500.00	Appropriations	62,365.00
ARPA Funds	149,832.57	Benson Youth League Expenses	1,120.00
Highway State Aid	124,670.90	Cemetery Expenses	18,452.00
Highway: Permits	475.00	Delinquent Tax Collector	8,247.90
Highway: Municipal Grants-in-Aid	14,800.00	Highway: Garage Project	17,071.25
Transfer from Salt/Sand Shed CD	13,362.66	Highway: Budgeted	636,580.70
Reappraisal Grant	5,465.50	Highway Grant Projects	18,301.48
Library Income	64.00	Highway Equipment Purchases	54,035.00
Property Taxes, Interest and Penalty	2,149,432.83	Payroll Expenses	55,139.91
General Fund Income	113,684.53	Library Expenses	12,949.56
Sewer Income	36,573.63	Slate Valley Unified School District	1,243,086.93
Zoning Income	830.00	Community Hall	7,930.45
Community Hall Rental	265.00	Fire Department	34,379.98
Restoration Fund	2,585.00	Fire Department: Transfer to Equipment Reserve	25,000.00
History Project Fund	25.00	General Selectboard	79,280.53
Redemption of Parcel 10-70.4	6,415.98	Scholarships Awarded	4,000.00
Redemption of Parcel 5-38.701	2,500.75	Town Office Expenses	44,068.86
Grand List Maintenance	643.00	Family Day Committee Expenses	3,138.05
Transfers from Savings	25,481.29	Town Officers	82,862.21
TOTAL RECEIPTS	2,649,607.64	Transfer Station	73,291.12
		Sewer Expenses	30,865.69
Payroll Liabilities Incurred	84,944.70	Zoning Expenses	1,550.10
Total Available Funds	2,996,121.56	Transfer to ARPA Community Bank	149,832.57
		Transfer Salt/Sand Shed to Treasury Bill	13,362.66
Less Total Disbursements	2,734,525.51	Transfer to Reappraisal Savings	5,465.50
Balance on Hand June 30, 2023	261,596.05	Transfer to Scholarship Fund	1,000.00
		Building Maintenance Fund Project	3,099.97
		Equipment Purchase Pd from Eqp Reserve	(57,835.00)
		Repay Equipment Fund (Grader Rental/Tires	17,598.27
Respectfully Submitted,		Transfer to Community Hall Savings	265.00
Daphne Bartholomew, Assistant Treasurer			
		DISBURSEMENTS	2,646,505.69
		Payroll Liabilities Repaid	88,019.82
		Total Disbursements	2,734,525.51

HIGHWAY FUND SUMMARY
For the Year Ending June 30, 2023

Receipts

Voted to Raise by Taxes	511,136.00	
	18,614.00	
State Aid	124,670.90	
Excess Weight Permits	475.00	
Municipal Grants-in-Aid (Howard Hill/Mill Pond)	14,800.00	
Total Receipts		669,695.90

Disbursements

Budgeted	636,580.70	
Municipal Grants-in-Aid (Howard Hill/Mill Pond)	11,601.48	
Municipal Grants-in-Aid (Leaf Blower)	6,700.00	
Total Disbursements		<u>654,882.18</u>

Receipts less Disbursements **14,813.72**

Due to Highway Fund on Municipal Grants-in-Aid Equipment Grant **5,360.00**

Unrestricted Highway Funds 6/30/2023 **20,173.72**

GRANTS/SPECIAL PROJECTS

Municipal Grants-in-Aid (Howard Hill/Mill Pond)

Grant Award	14,800.00	
Total Out-of-Pocket Expenses	11,601.00	
Reimbursement for In-Kind Expenses	<u>3,199.00</u>	

Municipal G-I-A Equipment (Leaf Blower)

Purchase of Leaf Blower	6,700.00	
Town Share (20%)	1,340.00	
Due from State of Vermont	<u>5,360.00</u>	

STATEMENT OF CURRENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
As of June 30, 2023

CURRENT ASSETS

Balance in Checking & Payroll 06/30/2023	261,596
Delinquent Taxes as of June 30, 2023	64,736
Delinquent Tax Interest as of June 30, 2023	11,129
Due from ARPA for Preliminary Garage Work	11,831
Due from Municipal Grants-in-Aid Equipment Grant	5,360

Total Current Assets 354,652

CURRENT LIABILITIES AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

Payroll Liabilities 6/30/2023	3,802
Delinquent Tax Interest Designated for 2023-2024 Budget	7,000
2021-2022 Fund Balance Designated for 2023-2024 Budget	35,362
2021-2022 Highway Fund Balance Designated for 2023-2024 Budget	136,326
Restoration Fund Balance 6/30/2023	9,320
Playground Fund Balance 6/30/2022	3,217
Highway Fund Balance 6/30/2023	20,174
Due to Library	20
Due to Cemetery	27,653
Due to Sewer Fund	79,363

Total Liability and Restricted Funds 322,237

JUNE 30, 2023 Unrestricted Fund Balance **32,415**

Total Current Assets less Total Liability and Restricted Funds)

Town of Benson
PAYROLL SUMMARY
July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

Employee	Position	Earnings
Barrett, Brad L	Selectboard	46,364.39
Bartholomew, Amanda	Elections	189.71
Bartholomew, Benjamin	Highway	520.00
Bartholomew, Daphne	Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	3,251.50
Bizek Jr, Robert J.	Auditor	200.00
Bowen-, Lynn	Elections/Auditor	332.12
Bowen, Ann M	Elections	71.14
Bowen, Wesley	Transfer Station	3,240.00
Burlett, Barbara S	Delinquent Tax Collector	8,247.90
Burlett, Daryl	Highway	4,455.00
Chandler, Heidi M	Clerk/Treasurer	34,705.13
Charlton, Guy	Selectboard/Transfer Station/Elections	10,455.18
Charron, Timothy G	Maintenance	1,470.00
Cole {E}, Dounta	Maintenance	870.00
Cull, Regina	Elections	27.10
Daigle-Fontaine, Lisa	Asst Clerk/Treasurer/Elections	9,667.81
Daigle, Sarah	Elections	40.65
Fletcher, Wayne A.	Highway	2,930.00
Fontaine, Gregory P	Elections	71.14
Hall, Jim	Highway	330.00
Hall, Lisa M	Elections	128.73
Hanson, Dean P.	Highway	2,345.00
Helm, Jack	Selectboard/Elections	863.55
Hill, John	Selectboard/Elections	941.46
Jordan, Jeff L.	Sewer	16,370.27
Ladd, Janet	Elections	71.14
LaFond Jr., Paul J	Town Office/Community Hall Mowing	1,800.00
LaFond, Carrie L	Selectboard Assistant	5,925.50
Lussier, Jacqueline	Library	6,306.00
Lussier, Daniel J.	Highway	1,200.00
Mohan, Lauren A	Elections	135.50
Munger, Eileen A.	Elections	182.93
Murray, Cheryl L	Web Page/Elections/Auditor	586.50
Noble, Jeffrey L	Highway	13,240.63
Peltier, Edward B	Lister/Zoning/Elections	6,648.06
Peltier, Linda Rae	Elections	254.06
Pritchard, James	Highway	150.00
Rocheleau, Tina L.	Town Office/Community Hall Cleaning	1,890.00
Shaw, Eric	Elections	152.44
Stewart, Adam	Animal Control	373.31
Stewart Jr., Ronald H	Selectboard/Elections	850.00
Sweet, Dale M.	Library	130.00
Trenn, Lois	Lister	13,829.42
Washburn, Jeffrey M	Highway	48,586.16
TOTAL		\$ 250,399.43

Vendor Summary July 2022 - June 2023

Adam Stewart	32.14	Demco, Inc.	238.21
Adirondack Vinyl Grafx	262.80	Diligence LLC	1,962.28
Airgas USA, LLC	1,317.76	Dundon Plumbing and Heating	1,226.77
All Hands Fire Equipment	176.89	Earle's Truck Repair Inc.	744.94
Allegiance Trucks	936.13	Econo Signs	299.73
Allen Engineering & Chemical Corp.	5,553.76	Ed Peltier	217.80
Alligance Trucks	2,351.23	Elizabeth Munger	2,000.00
Amanda Bartholomew-	513.95	Emma Page	125.00
Amazon.Com	600.00	Endyne Inc.	1,110.00
Apex Software	215.00	Everyday Flowers	45.00
apple.com	486.54	Fair Haven Auto Supply	5,698.33
Artistic Cemetery Memorials Inc.	2,000.00	Fair Haven Concerned	1,500.00
Asbestos Inspections of Vermont	907.00	Fair Haven Postmaster	359.06
AT LAKE CHAMPLAIN LLC	109.94	Fair Haven Rescue Squad	52,185.00
Aubuchon Hardware	210.36	Ferguson Waterworks # 576	28,428.73
Auctions International	57,835.00	Fire Tech. and Safety	12,600.00
Avalanche Truck Services	27,548.73	FireKing2go.com	6,828.00
Awesome Graphics, Inc	601.26	Florence Crushed Stone	8,875.27
Barbara Hemingway -	45.00	Foley Services, Inc.	1,806.27
Benson First Response	4,000.00	Fred Scott	1,620.00
Bergeron Protective Clothing	924.94	G & L General Store	169.58
Big Air Bounce, LLC	496.80	Gary Gates	701.32
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of VT	24,508.30	Gilmore Home Center	6,598.39
Book Brothers, Inc.	331.00	GMP	13,348.75
Brad Barrett-	57.18	GODADDY.COM	139.98
BROC	1,250.00	GONETSPEED	5,530.50
Brown's Quarried Slate Products Inc.	11,991.25	Good Point Recycling	65.76
CAI Technologies	700.00	Green Mountain Library Consort	200.00
Cairo Mini Cars	100.00	Green Up Vermont	200.00
Camp Precast Concrete Products	248.00	Guy Charlton-s	19.36
Cargill Incorporated	49,016.16	Haas Marlenen Green	140.99
Carrie LaFond -	39.39	Hadeka Stone Corp.	186.20
Casella Construction, Inc.	44,180.03	Heidi Chandler -	290.48
Casella Recycling	7,121.48	High Winds Leasing	940.17
Casella Waste Management	670.32	Home Depot	591.81
Champlain Valley Fuels	53,531.37	Howard P. Fairfield	6,962.41
Chappell Tractor Sales	1,532.44	Hubbard Brothers Inc.	39,122.75
Cheryl Murray	1,625.00	IDS	234.69
Child First Advocacy Center	400.00	Impact Environmental Group	107.89
Clark's Glass	257.83	Impact Fire	1,873.00
ClearSpan Fabrics Structures	13,500.00	Initial Ideas	95.60
CVC Paging	1,804.96	Innovative Municipal Products	8,800.62
Dale Pettis	225.00	Innovative Surface Solutions	9,370.21
Dan's Starter Shop, LLC	300.00	Interstate All Battery Center	661.62
Daphne Bartholomew-	249.97	Intuit	937.77
Daric Brown	31,970.51	IRS	77.23
Deborah Novoa	416.00	Jack Helm-	155.94

Vendor Summary July 2022 - June 2023

James W. Barlow	4,352.90	Rutland Herald	474.46
Jeff Jordan	686.76	Rutland Mental Health	730.00
Jerod Glover -	597.09	Rutland Printing Co., Inc.	2,231.00
Jim Pritchard	550.00	Rutland Regional Planning Comr	1,000.00
Joan & Kerry Csizmesia	175.00	Sam Bartholomew	208.37
John Hill -	604.73	Sarah Glover	2,000.00
John Stokowski & Sons Inc.	2,226.90	Scott Perron	814.25
KOFILE Technologies	1,243.40	Shaw's Garage	1,925.00
Lemon Fair Enterprises	1,179.24	Sheldon Trucks Inc	3,679.98
Lisa Fontaine	92.19	Slate Valley Unified School Distri	1,243,086.93
Lois Trenn-	108.58	Southwestern Council on Aging	900.00
Lyndon Austin	138.31	Southworth-Milton, Inc.	1,834.64
Mac Equipment & Steel Co. Inc.	109.50	Staples	3,734.64
Main Street Checks	95.79	State of Vermont	2,565.00
Malwarebytes Corp	37.09	Steven Ablondi and Cynthia Buri	545.15
Manchester Newspapers	462.50	Sue Brown	369.00
Maple Ridge Meats LLC	149.33	Susan Brown-	460.00
Mark L. Norris	788.11	SWAC	7,833.32
MaryAnn Fish	56.40	T. Boutwell Logging	454.02
McAfee	31.79	Terry Morse Welding, Inc	282.50
Microsoft	209.94	The Royal Group Inc.	672.29
Midnight Express LLC	21,861.15	Tifco Industries	2,591.31
Miller's Screen Printing & Embroidery	1,678.31	Tim Charron	2,226.64
Milton Cat	769.14	Town of Benson	3,806.21
Mitchell Tees & Signs Inc.	316.50	Town of Fair Haven Police Depai	187.50
Mountain View Dairy Supply	2,225.00	Tractor Supply Credit Plan	719.82
Mr. Ding-A-Ling	111.00	Treadway Hauling & Repair LLC	4,381.28
Munger Farm LLC	1,360.00	Treasurer, Rutland County	7,885.36
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont	556.41	Trend Business Solutions	3,380.64
NEMRC	6,805.79	Trius Inc.	148.17
New England Truck Tire Center	3,030.20	Trustees of Public Funds	2,200.00
Northern Tool & Equipment	39.99	U. S. Postal Service	582.72
Norton.com	63.59	United Church of Benson	5.00
NSI Lab Solutions, Inc.	390.00	United Construction & Forestry	7,469.40
Orwell Sand & Gravel	19,402.50	United States Postal Service	402.46
Orwell Youth League	1,000.00	US Postal Service	2,676.39
Paquette INC.	1,700.00	USABlueBook	626.60
Pete's Tire Barns, Inc.	7,692.12	Vermont Assessors & Listers As:	150.00
Pike Industries, Inc.	85,748.29	Vermont Dept. of Health	38.00
Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor	12,880.00	Vermont Digital	195.44
Postmaster Fair Haven	256.33	Vermont DMV	71.00
R & D Automotive	3,256.10	Vermont League Of Cities & Tow	2,397.00
R. C. Allen Communications	4,990.00	Vermont State Treasurer	1,735.00
Reed Door Solutions	110.00	Viking- Cives USA	11,613.74
Robert St. Peter	14,000.00	Vincent Aveta	710.10
Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Assoc	1,200.00	VLCT Employment Resource & E	561.00
Rutland County Humane Society	150.00	VLCT Property & Casualty	41,393.50

Vendor Summary July 2022 - June 2023

VMCTA	70.00
VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Regi	1,400.00
void	0.00
W. S. Darley & Co.	680.60
W.S. Darley & Co.	621.75
Wallingford Crushed Stone	17,337.10
Waterfront Diving Center	112.00
Wayne Fletcher -	171.20
Wholesale Distributors	2,659.00
Winmill Equipment Co.	671.03
Young's Farm Equipment, Inc.	606.00



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ORWELL

Traditional Banking Since 1863

Orwell Phone (802) 948-2811 • Fax (802) 948-2309
Shoreham Phone (802) 897-2265 • Fax (802) 897-5315

Trustees of Public Funds
Benson, VT 05731

November 7, 2023

Dear Sir/Madame:

Our records reflect account activity and balances for the following Trustees of Public Funds Accounts:

Savings Account

Balance June 30, 2022	\$	513.45
Deposits		1,750.00
Interest thru June 30, 2023		0.37
Withdrawals		-2,250.00
Balance June 30, 2023	\$	<u>13.82</u>

Certificate of Deposit

Balance June 30, 2022	\$	75,849.88
Deposits		2,250.00
Interest thru June 30, 2023		702.75
Withdrawals		0.00
Balance June 30, 2023	\$	<u>78,802.63</u>

Very truly yours,


Lindsey Wing
Vice President

LW/ap



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Board of Auditors
Benson, VT 05731

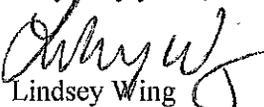
November 7, 2023

Dear Sir/Madame:

Our records reflect the following account balances as of the close of business on June 30, 2023:

<u>Checking Accounts</u>		<u>Balance</u>
Town, Regular	148502	\$ 298,517.39
<i>Town, Payroll</i>	<i>148551</i>	<i>6,603.74</i>
 <u>Savings Accounts</u>		
Trustees of Public Funds	5632	\$ 13.82
<i>Bicentennial Funds</i>	<i>5841</i>	<i>11,468.76</i>
H. Glenn Munger Scholarship Fund	6412	142.05
<i>Community Hall</i>	<i>7330</i>	<i>7,792.70</i>
Public Library	7662	3,833.00
<i>Veteran's Monument</i>	<i>9846</i>	<i>700.11</i>
Scholarship Fund	9854	1,562.25
<i>Equipment Fund</i>	<i>9959</i>	<i>102,204.69</i>
Escrow Account	10089	42,815.71
<i>Eaves Scholarship</i>	<i>10308</i>	<i>26.54</i>
Grant Fund	10568	35,879.46
<i>Fire Department</i>	<i>10605</i>	<i>63,240.03</i>
Family Day Committee	10689	5,026.86
<i>Fire Department Equipment</i>	<i>11004</i>	<i>64,506.39</i>
History Project Fund	11070	9,335.59
<i>Youth League</i>	<i>11255</i>	<i>7,698.65</i>
Building Maintenance Reserve	11593	51,013.63
 <u>Certificate of Deposit</u>		
Re-appraisal 2018-2019	15351	11,407.85
<i>Re-appraisal 2013</i>	<i>15787</i>	<i>6,136.45</i>
Trustees of Public Funds	15946	78,802.63
 <u>Loan</u>		
Municipal Loan	37603	\$ 0.00

Very truly yours,


Lindsey Wing
Vice President

LW/ap

2023-2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

	2022-2023 Budget	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Budget	Proposed 2024- 2025
GENERAL FUND				
General Selectboard Expenses	99,107.00	79,280.53	99,600.00	132,550.00
Town Office Expenses	41,190.00	44,068.86	40,970.00	42,150.00
Community Hall Expenses	12,550.00	7,930.45	12,370.00	12,490.00
Transfer Station Expenses	81,100.00	73,291.12	77,300.00	83,900.00
Town Officers	77,900.00	82,862.21	83,800.00	94,650.00
Payroll Expenses	65,900.00	55,139.91	56,400.00	78,540.00
Fire Department	56,700.00	59,379.98	61,000.00	61,000.00
	434,447.00	401,953.06	431,440.00	505,280.00
Zoning Expenses	2,250.00	1,550.10	2,250.00	2,250.00
Total Expenses	436,697.00	403,503.16	433,690.00	507,530.00
Less Anticipated Income	123,825.00		120,025.00	122,675.00
Less Carryover	25,546.00		35,362.00	20,584.00
GENERAL FUND RAISE BY TAXES	287,326.00		278,303.00	364,271.00
HIGHWAY FUND				
Personnel	126,700.00	121,779.78	136,500.00	140,500.00
Operating	48,050.00	64,398.71	65,070.00	60,370.00
Equipment Service/Parts	72,000.00	87,565.27	78,700.00	78,500.00
Road Work	115,500.00	113,383.46	120,500.00	120,250.00
Road Materials	263,500.00	229,453.48	348,500.00	336,000.00
Equipment Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,000.00
Equipment Reserve Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Total Expenses	645,750.00	636,580.70	799,270.00	807,620.00
Less anticipated State Aid	116,000.00		124,000.00	120,000.00
Less carryover	18,614.00		136,326.00	20,175.00
HIGHWAY FUND RAISE BY TAXES	511,136.00		538,944.00	667,445.00
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	798,462.00		817,247.00	1,031,716.00

2024-2025 Comparative Budget: GENERAL FUND

	2022-2023 Budget	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Budget
INCOME				
GENERAL FUND INCOME				
Dog Registration	3,500.00	3,051.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Town Clerk Fees	11,000.00	10,490.63	10,000.00	11,000.00
FP & FW Pilot Program	18,000.00	18,391.03	18,000.00	18,000.00
Current Use	35,000.00	36,223.00	34,000.00	34,000.00
Liquor licenses	185.00	185.00	185.00	185.00
Newsletter Ads	1,000.00	880.00	1,000.00	800.00
Rent, Creamery	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,800.00
Transfer Station Income	45,000.00	43,107.87	45,000.00	45,000.00
Civil Fines (Traffic tickets)	0.00	22.50	0.00	0.00
Delinquent Tax Interest	7,000.00	11,215.27	7,000.00	7,000.00
Zoning Fees	1,000.00	830.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Listers Per Parcel Payment	640.00	643.00	640.00	640.00
Redemption of Parcel 10-70.4	0.00	6,415.98	0.00	0.00
Redemption of Parcel 5-38-701	0.00	2,500.75	0.00	0.00
Photocopies/Faxes	300.00	133.50	200.00	200.00
TOTAL INCOME	123,825.00	135,289.53	120,025.00	122,625.00
EXPENSES				
General Selectboard Expenses				
Building Maintenance Reserve	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	6,000.00
Community Events	1,200.00	1,508.81	1,200.00	2,000.00
County Tax	8,500.00	7,885.36	8,500.00	8,500.00
Creamery Maintenance & Taxes	800.00	809.08	1,000.00	1,000.00
VLCT Dues	2,307.00	2,307.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
RRPC Dues	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Electricity: Street Lights	1,750.00	1,804.14	1,850.00	2,000.00
Emergency Management	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Grant Match Reserve Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Green-Up	100.00	200.00	100.00	100.00
Humane Society	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Liability & WC Insurance	56,000.00	41,391.50	56,000.00	48,000.00
Unemployment Insurance	800.00	561.00	800.00	800.00
Interest Expense	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Law Enforcement	8,000.00	187.50	8,000.00	0.00
Professional Fees	3,000.00	6,392.41	3,000.00	3,000.00
Public Works Administraton	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
Web Page	2,000.00	2,083.73	1,500.00	1,500.00
Garage loan payment	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
Total General Select Board	99,107.00	79,280.53	99,600.00	132,550.00
Town Office Expenses				
Ads	800.00	669.56	800.00	800.00
Bank service charges	100.00	48.00	100.00	1,200.00
Cleaning	1,440.00	1,995.00	1,800.00	1,880.00
Computer software & Support	10,000.00	6,837.61	10,000.00	10,000.00
Dog licenses	2,300.00	1,569.69	1,800.00	1,800.00
Electricity	1,800.00	1,577.60	1,800.00	2,000.00
Heating fuel	5,000.00	6,229.82	5,000.00	5,000.00
Maintenance & Repairs	1,500.00	813.45	1,500.00	1,500.00

2024-2025 Comparative Budget: GENERAL FUND

	2022-2023 Budget	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Budget
Marriage Licenses	300.00	400.00	300.00	300.00
Mowing	1,200.00	1,080.00	1,200.00	1,500.00
Newsletter postage	1,600.00	1,256.10	1,600.00	500.00
Postage/envelopes	3,500.00	3,185.82	3,500.00	3,500.00
Printing	2,500.00	2,518.77	3,000.00	3,000.00
Record Books & Paper	700.00	1,281.40	700.00	800.00
Restoration of Records	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sewer	350.00	370.00	370.00	370.00
Supplies & Equipment	4,500.00	12,232.54	4,000.00	4,500.00
Telephone & Internet	2,600.00	2,003.50	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total Office Expenses	41,190.00	44,068.86	40,970.00	42,150.00
Community Hall Expenses				
Cleaning	1,600.00	765.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
Electricity*	1,200.00	939.39	1,300.00	1,300.00
Heat*	5,000.00	3,989.87	5,000.00	5,000.00
Inspection/Compliance	1,000.00	976.29	1,000.00	1,000.00
Maintenance & Repairs	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Mowing	900.00	720.00	600.00	720.00
Sewer	350.00	370.00	370.00	370.00
Supplies	500.00	169.90	500.00	500.00
Total CH Expenses	12,550.00	7,930.45	12,370.00	12,490.00
*Includes heat/electricity for the Library portion of the building.				
Transfer Station Expenses				
Dues	5,000.00	6,769.30	5,000.00	7,000.00
Materials Disposal	54,000.00	48,044.33	54,000.00	54,000.00
Payroll	12,800.00	12,296.00	12,800.00	13,900.00
Compliance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs & maintenance &	5,000.00	212.42	1,000.00	3,000.00
Stickers & Permits	1,800.00	3,319.35	2,000.00	3,500.00
Supplies/Fuel	500.00	674.17	500.00	500.00
Utilities	2,000.00	1,975.55	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Transfer Sta. Expenses	81,100.00	73,291.12	77,300.00	83,900.00
Town Officers				
Animal Control	1,000.00	144.56	1,000.00	500.00
Assistant Clerk/Treasurers	5,600.00	12,733.00	7,000.00	14,000.00
Auditors	600.00	600.00	600.00	900.00
BCA/Elections	2,600.00	2,486.47	2,600.00	2,600.00
Selectboard Assistant	2,800.00	5,925.50	7,800.00	7,800.00
Conferences & Training, Mileage	750.00	723.45	750.00	750.00
Listers				
Computer Expense	1,000.00	1,175.59	1,300.00	1,400.00
Listers' Mileage	200.00	204.30	200.00	200.00
Listers' Wages	22,500.00	18,641.92	21,500.00	21,700.00
Mapping	700.00	700.00	1,000.00	900.00
Listers' Education	200.00	150.00	300.00	300.00
Listers' Telephone	650.00	372.29	450.00	400.00
Select Board	4,300.00	4,300.00	4,300.00	5,200.00
Town Clerk & Treasurer	35,000.00	34,705.13	35,000.00	38,000.00
Total Town Officers	77,900.00	82,862.21	83,800.00	94,650.00

2024-2025 Comparative Budget: GENERAL FUND

	2022-2023 Budget	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Budget
Payroll Expenses				
Health Insurance	35,000.00	24,508.30	25,000.00	44,000.00
Medicare	3,600.00	3,630.82	3,800.00	4,000.00
Retirement Match	11,900.00	11,476.06	12,000.00	13,300.00
Social Security	15,400.00	15,524.73	15,600.00	16,100.00
Child care financial asst program	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,140.00
Total Payroll Expenses	65,900.00	55,139.91	56,400.00	78,540.00
Fire Department				
Building Maintenance & Supplies	6,300.00	8,448.04	10,000.00	10,000.00
Dispatch and Communication	5,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	3,000.00
Dues, Training, Membership	4,000.00	2,411.64	4,000.00	4,000.00
Firefighting Equipment	8,400.00	18,995.02	10,000.00	10,000.00
Vehicle Expense	8,000.00	4,525.28	8,000.00	9,000.00
Equipment Reserve	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Truck Payment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Fire Department Expenses	56,700.00	59,379.98	61,000.00	61,000.00
Total General Fund Expenses	434,447.00	401,953.06	431,440.00	505,280.00
ZONING EXPENSES				
Zoning Ads	500.00	270.10	500.00	500.00
Zoning Administrator Fees	1,000.00	530.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Zoning Administrator Stipend	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Total Zoning	2,250.00	1,550.10	2,250.00	2,250.00
Total Expenses	436,697.00	403,503.16	433,690.00	507,530.00
Less Anticipated Income	123,825.00		120,025.00	122,675.00
Less Carryover	25,546.00		35,362.00	20,584.00
Raise by taxes	287,326.00		278,303.00	364,271.00

2024-2025 Comparative Budget: HIGHWAY

	2022-2023 Budget	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Budget
HIGHWAY INCOME				
State Aid Highway \$	116,000.00	124,670.90	124,000.00	120,000.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY INCOME	116,000.00	124,670.90	124,000.00	120,000.00
EXPENSES				
Personnel				
Highway payroll				
Day Labor	18,500.00	12,435.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
Highway wages	96,000.00	96,346.25	100,000.00	104,000.00
Highway overtime wages	9,000.00	10,718.68	9,000.00	9,000.00
Training/Pre-Employment	200.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Uniforms	3,000.00	2,279.85	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Personnel	126,700.00	121,779.78	136,500.00	140,500.00
Operating				
Building Maintenance	2,000.00	1,544.08	2,000.00	2,000.00
Electricity	1,700.00	2,063.90	1,700.00	2,000.00
Gas and diesel fuel	25,000.00	36,692.04	40,000.00	35,000.00
Heating fuel	5,000.00	5,208.82	5,000.00	5,000.00
Sewer	350.00	370.00	370.00	370.00
State Permitting/Compliance	2,000.00	4,440.96	2,000.00	2,000.00
Tools & Supplies	10,000.00	12,320.93	12,000.00	12,000.00
Telephone & Internet	2,000.00	1,757.98	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Operating	48,050.00	64,398.71	65,070.00	60,370.00
Equipment Service/Parts				
Service/repair	30,000.00	42,942.13	35,000.00	35,000.00
Parts	15,000.00	18,961.32	20,000.00	20,000.00
New Plow			8,700.00	8,500.00
Tires for 2010 Wheel Loader	12,000.00	3,800.00	0.00	0.00
Tires, chains, cutting edges, etc.	15,000.00	21,861.82	15,000.00	15,000.00
Total Equipment Service/Parts	72,000.00	87,565.27	78,700.00	78,500.00
Road Work				
Contracted Services	15,000.00	27,560.77	20,000.00	20,000.00
Village Storm Drains	0.00		0.00	0.00
Cold patch	500.00	74.40	500.00	250.00
Paving/Crack Sealing: Town Share	100,000.00	85,748.29	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total Road Work	115,500.00	113,383.46	120,500.00	120,250.00

2024-2025 Comparative Budget: HIGHWAY

		2022-2023 Budget	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Budget
	Road Materials				
	Calcium chloride	25,000.00	18,170.83	30,000.00	25,000.00
	Culverts	10,000.00	28,602.33	15,000.00	15,000.00
	Gravel & Stone*	75,000.00	33,298.41	110,000.00	110,000.00
	Sign Maintenance	1,500.00	851.63	1,500.00	1,000.00
	Hauling	65,000.00	74,414.17	105,000.00	105,000.00
	Winter salt	55,000.00	49,016.16	55,000.00	50,000.00
	Winter sand*	32,000.00	25,099.95	32,000.00	30,000.00
	Total Road Materials	263,500.00	229,453.48	348,500.00	336,000.00
	*Material only				
	Equipment Loans: Principle and Interest				
	Truck loan	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,000.00
	Total Equipment Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,000.00
	Equipment Reserve Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
	TOTAL HIGHWAY EXPENSES	645,750.00	636,580.70	799,270.00	807,620.00
	Less anticipated income	(116,000.00)		(124,000.00)	(120,000.00)
	Less carryover	(18,614.00)		(136,326.00)	(20,175.00)
	Raise by taxes	511,136.00		538,944.00	667,445.00

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES

	Voted 2023-2024	Requested 2024-2025
APPROPRIATIONS		
ARC-Rutland Area		\$ 600.00
Benson Community Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Benson Family Day Committee	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Benson First Response	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Benson Public Library	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
Benson Youth League	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
BROC	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Cemetery	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Slate Valley Cares	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Law Enforcement		\$ 30,000.00
FH Rescue/Ambulance Services	\$ 55,518.00	\$ 62,336.00
Highway Projects		\$ 100,000.00
Lister Reappraisal Fund	\$ 5,000.00	
VNA & Hospice	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Southwestern Council on Aging	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Treasurer Audit Request	\$ 15,000.00	
Total Appropriations	\$ 122,568.00	\$ 236,986.00
Highway Budget	\$ 538,944.00	\$ 667,445.00
General Fund Budget	\$ 278,303.00	\$ 364,271.00
Total Requested	\$ 939,815.00	\$ 1,268,702.00

STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES

Delinquent June 30, 2022	\$ 58,376.11
Treasurer's Warrant March 2023	<u>106,468.38</u>
	<u>164,844.49</u>

Collected 2022-2023	\$100,108.66
Delinquent June 30, 2023	<u>\$ 64,735.83</u>
	<u>\$164,844.49</u>

Collected July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023

Delinquent	100,108.66
Interest	11,215.27
Penalty	8,034.87
Total Collected	<u>\$ 119,358.80</u>

DELINQUENT AS OF February 01, 2024

Tax Year	Principle	Interest	Penalty	Total
2015-2016	759.98	997.88	60.81	1818.67
2020-2021	2541.12	1366.22	203.28	4110.62
2021-2022	2446.35	846.10	195.75	3488.20
<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>13481.89</u>	<u>2459.65</u>	<u>1078.58</u>	<u>17020.12</u>
TOTAL	19,229.34	5,669.85	1,538.42	26,437.61

Parcel	Name	Tax Year	Payment 1	Payment 2	Total
000006-114	BARROWS WILLIAM JR	2022-2023	947.09	882.27	1829.36
000010-70.2	BOWEN ANN MARIE	2022-2023	274.11	827.77	1101.88
000010-70.4	BOWEN MITCHELL	2022-2023	0.00	148.61	148.61
000010-56	BURNEY JACQUELINE	2020-2021	2730.32	1380.30	4110.62
		2021-2022	0.00	53.61	53.61
			-----	-----	-----
			2730.32	1433.91	4164.23
000005-24.1	COVELL JOSEPH J JR	2015-2016	923.59	895.08	1818.67
000004-5	CROCKER DAVID L	2022-2023	21.16	19.72	40.88
000007-25.6	DISORDA BRIAN R &	2022-2023	0.00	16.69	16.69
000006-115.1	DIXON ALYSSA ET.AL	2022-2023	1.21	122.89	124.10
000014-1	DUVAL DARYL R	2022-2023	0.00	749.21	749.21
000007-36.15	GIBBS RUSSELL ESTA	2021-2022	0.00	1215.66	1215.66
		2022-2023	1555.96	1449.46	3005.42
			-----	-----	-----
			1555.96	2665.12	4221.08
000011-61.001	HAWKINS TIMOTHY	2022-2023	100.22	93.38	193.60
000006-107.2	HEISNER PAUL C & V	2022-2023	0.00	864.71	864.71
000004-35.16	HGWH INC	2022-2023	1811.00	1687.05	3498.05
000005-38.501	MAHONEY HAROLD P	2021-2022	66.97	62.49	129.46
000005-38.501	MAHONEY HAROLD P	2022-2023	97.26	90.60	187.86
000005-41.1	MATTINO SHASTA	2021-2022	1080.87	1008.60	2089.47
		2022-2023	0.00	298.77	298.77
			-----	-----	-----
			1080.87	1307.37	2388.24
000004-37.2	MUNGER EUGENE	2022-2023	1528.94	1424.29	2953.23
000005-16.3	RITCHIE EARL & TAM	2022-2023	729.30	679.38	1408.68
000011-14.2	TYLER DEBRA	2022-2023	309.83	289.24	599.07

STATEMENT OF SEWER FEES

Delinquent June 30, 2022	\$ 1,506.57
Billed December 2022	18,222.50
Billed June 2023	18,222.50
	<hr/>
	\$37,951.57
Collected 2022-2023	36,194.05
	<hr/>
Delinquent June 30, 2023	\$ 1,757.52

Delinquent Collected July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023

Delinquent Fees	\$1,619.59
Interest	162.40
Penalty	<u>200.92</u>
Total Collected	\$1,982.91

Delinquent Sewer Fees as of February 1, 2023

Tax Year	Principle	Interest	Penalty	Total
06-2020	127.52	78.96	10.20	216.68
12-2020	150.00	80.25	12.00	242.25
06-2023	370.00	33.34	29.60	432.94
12-2023	<u>570.28</u>	<u>11.40</u>	<u>45.62</u>	<u>627.30</u>
TOTAL	1,217.80	203.95	97.42	1,519.17

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Town of Benson Sewer Tax Administration
Delinquent Tax Report as of 02/01/2024

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Treasurer

Parcel	Name	Tax Year	Payment 1	Total
000010-70.2	BOWEN ANN MARIE	2023	216.47	216.47
		12-2023	203.50	203.50
			-----	-----
			419.97	419.97
000010-70.4	BOWEN, MITCH	2023	216.47	216.47
000010-56	BURNEY JACQUELINE	06-2020	216.68	216.68
		12-2020	242.25	242.25
			-----	-----
			458.93	458.93
000010-93	ELLIS, WILLIAM O I	12-2023	16.80	16.80
000010-71.4	HUTCHINS MARTIN	12-2023	203.50	203.50
000010-70.3	JORDAN GERARD J &	12-2023	203.50	203.50

CEMETERY REPORT

2022-2023

Available Funds	\$23,604.67
Sale of lots	1750.00
Fees	750.00
Trustees of PF	0
Town	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$46,104.67
Expenses	
Trustees	2,200.00
Mowing	14,000.00
Stone repair	2,000.00
Supplies	<u>252.00</u>
	\$18,452.00
Balance (carry over)	\$27,652.67

**Benson Public Library
2022-2023**

Balance as of 6/30/2022 \$ 3,905.91

Receipts

2022-23 Town Appropriation	\$ 9,000.00	
Fundraising	\$ 64.00	
Photocopies	\$ -	
		<u>\$ 9,064.00</u>

Total Funds Available \$ 12,969.91

Disbursements

Books	\$ 800.00	
Payroll	\$ 6,436.00	
Supplies & Equipment	\$ 443.20	
Repairs	\$ 4,205.39	
Telephone & Internet	\$ 1,064.97	
		<u>\$ 12,949.56</u>

Due from General Fund 6/30/2022 \$ 20.35

Library Savings

Balance 6/30/2022		\$ 3,754.17
Interest	\$ 3.83	
Contribution	\$ 400.00	
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 403.83</u>
Available Funds		<u>\$ 4,158.00</u>
New Floor Expense		<u>\$ 325.00</u>
Balance 6/30/2023		<u><u>\$ 3,833.00</u></u>

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to share the following highlights from a successful year of library services:

- Two new members joined our Board of Trustees this year, Robin Wilson and Carrie Becker. Robin will be on the 2024 town ballot for election to a 5-year term;
- We improved our operational functions this year, reviewing and updating library policies, establishing a new consistent format for secretary and treasurer reports, and developing a stronger media presence through the Bulletin and other means;
- Our annual Book Sale attracted our largest crowd ever, which was reflected in our donations received of just under \$300, more than triple last years' amount;
- We decided as a board to develop and hold more free activities as a way of expanding our reach to the Benson community, including some events that focus on children and families;
- Our first annual BPL Fall Festival was a success, with approximately 45-50 individuals in attendance. We look forward to another event this fall;
- We participated in the Halloween Trunk or Treat event at Benson Village School, distributing many pounds of candy to local children;
- In 2024 we plan to hold many community activities including our "Neighbor-to-Neighbor" event beginning January 17th. These events will be held every 2-3 months, and invite different Benson residents to share and discuss their interesting experiences and skills with the community over homemade cookies and coffee;
- We extend a gracious thank you to all of the Benson community members who supported our activities and our library this year, and who help our mission to promote reading across the community;
- We offer a special thank you to Cheryl Murray for her assistance in publicizing our events, and for becoming our resident Face Painter!

Respectfully submitted, The Benson Public Library Board of Trustees

Dale Sweet, President

Gina Parker, Secretary

Carrie Becker, Treasurer

Barbara Hemingway

Robin Wilson

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY FY25 BUDGET

I. Revenue

1	Town Appropriation	\$	11,000.00
2	Fund Raising	\$	800.00
	Total:	\$	11,800.00

II. Expenditures

1	Payroll	\$	7,100.00
2	Book Purchases	\$	2,000.00
3	Equipment and Supplies	\$	1,000.00
4	Telephone and Internet	\$	1,200.00
	Total:	\$	11,300.00
	NET	\$	500.00

Appropriation Request of the Town of Benson: \$11,000

Town of Benson Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Town of Benson Wastewater Treatment Facility continues to excel in producing a high-quality effluent with no violations of the discharge permit. As always, we continue an aggressive approach to maintenance and keeping the facility operating at optimal performance.

Through the continued support of the Select board and the sewer users, the facility remains in compliance with ANR DEC discharge requirements. An aggressive sewer line flushing program has produced a positive impact on the infrastructure. Reduction of inflow from sump pumps, floor drains will also help to reduce the flow through the facility, ensuring room for more users to attach to the system.

In closing, please take the time to read the bottom “DON’T FLUSH IT” rules located on the DEC website, following these rules will help the environment and cut costs to the treatment plant, ensuring plenty of the user’s fees could go towards much needed upgrades to the plant. The staff at the Wastewater Treatment Facility extends an invitation to any interested parties to tour the facility. Please call 1-(802)537-2611 for an appointment so that we may accommodate your visit.



Respectfully,
Jeff Jordan(WWTF Chief Operator)

SEWER FUND 2022-2023		
<u>Due from General Fund June 30, 2022</u>		\$73,856.32
Sewer Fund Receipts		
	Current Fees	\$ 34,590.72
	Delinquent Fees	\$ 1,619.59
	Interest	162.40
Total Sewer Fund Receipts		\$ 36,372.71
Total Available Funds		\$ 75,168.18
Sewer Fund Disbursements		
	Chemicals	\$ 5,553.76
	Electricity	5,280.10
	Mileage	538.83
	Permits	400.00
	Payroll	16,370.27
	Repairs	311.40
	Supplies	750.17
	Testing	1,661.16
Total Sewer Disbursements		\$ 30,865.69
<u>Due from General Fund June 30, 2023</u>		\$ 79,363.34

BENSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022-2023 Report

It has been another busy year for the fire department. Motor vehicle accidents continue to be our most frequent calls. Our new set of extrication tools are working great and getting some use. We have also finished upgrading our air packs which we expect to be in service for the next 30 years.

We would like to congratulate Sam St.Peter on beginning his professional firefighting career and continuing his education with the Gorham Fire Department in Maine. Sam has been a dedicated member of Benson Fire for many years. We wish him all the best.

This year we finished installing a radio repeater on the cell tower. This project should improve communication however our 911 system is not as strong as we would like. All 911 calls go to Westminster VT and are answered by understaffed and inexperienced dispatchers. If you do need to call 911 it is very important to speak clearly and make sure that you accurately communicate your location and situation.

Between summer flooding and bad ice in the winter we continue to get a few water calls every year. Our water rescue team is trained for all types of water rescue but time is always a factor. If you witness a water emergency call 911 immediately.

There is a nationwide shortage of Emergency Services personnel. Volunteer departments are the hardest hit and many states are making changes to boost numbers, but unfortunately Vermont is not. Firefighting is a very dangerous and challenging profession. It requires a lot of time and dedication but is really rewarding. We are always looking for new members. Anyone interested in joining please pick up an application at the town office.

Finally, thanks to all those who supported the Department this year with their time, talents or resources. A special thanks to everyone who worked on or contributed to our Benson Family Day Barbecue.

Chief: Dave Bartholomew
Assistant Chief: Adam Stewart
Captain: Sam Bartholomew
Captain: Jerod Glover

BENSON FIRST RESPONSE REPORT

During the July 2022- June 2023 fiscal year Benson First Response responded to many calls for assistance in Benson and a few calls for our neighbors in Orwell, West Haven, Hubbardton and Fair Haven. Over the last few years, we've developed a strong working relationship with Fair Haven Rescue Squad which helps both organizations serve you better. One thing you can do to help is to **make sure your house number is clearly visible from the road**. The driver of the ambulance responding may not be a local resident.

We continue to be a very small group. The EMT course is between 150-190 hours and takes approximately 6 months to complete followed by a national certification exam. EMT's require 40 hours of continuing education every two years and AEMT's require 50 hours of continuing education every two years. We need members who can commit to this initial training and then ongoing training to maintain certification.

Last year our budget increased because we anticipated switching to a paid dispatch service. That change did not happen because the State of Vermont is once again studying the dispatching issue. Until the State makes a decision about what services it will and will not provide and how the system will be coordinated, no one can move forward. We now have the funds in reserve to fund the first year of paid dispatch if it becomes necessary so we were able to reduce our request to the town for 2024-2025.

We would like to thank everyone who has given support to the Benson First Response. Without your donations of time and financial support we would not exist.

Membership:

Tom Neumann, Paramedic

Dave Bartholomew, AEMT

Sam Bartholomew, AEMT

Daphne Bartholomew, Treasurer

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Town of Benson	4,000.00	Telephone	526.84
CPR Training for Castleton	260.00	Supplies & Equipment	1,254.57
In Memory of Raymond Forgues	850.00		
Other Donations	909.00		
Savings Interest	3.22		
TOTAL INCOME	6,022.22	TOTAL EXPENSE	1,781.41
<u>Balances as of June 30, 2022</u>		<u>Balances as of June 30, 2023</u>	
Checking	24,918.42	Checking	27,401.01
Savings	<u>2190.32</u>	Savings	<u>3,902.54</u>
	27,108.74		31,349.55

2024 Benson Youth League Report

Once again, thank you for your continued support with the youth in our town and our Benson Youth League.

We have been fortunate to work with the Orwell Baseball League again last season and will continue this season. All of our youth were placed on teams of all ages including T-ball, Midget League, Minor and Major League, and new last year was a Pre-School age team where they learned fundamentals and were able to scrimmage with T-Ball.

Please reach out if there are any concerns or suggestions, and if anyone is willing to help volunteer with coaching or umpire vacancies. All kinds of help is always welcome!

We appreciate all donations received to support our youth league! Thank you to all parents, grandparents, family members, and community members that volunteer their time and efforts in supporting our local youth. We hope you find some time to catch a game and cheer on our local youth in the upcoming season!

Thank you!

Sarah Daigle

2023 Zoning Administrator's Report

Zoning Permits

731 HOWARD HILL RD	PERMIT FOR NEW 40 X 40 GARAGE
4479 ROUTE 22A	PERMIT FOR OPERATION OF A USED VEHICLE BUSINESS
2020 FRAZIER HILL RD	PERMIT FOR NEW PRIMARY DWELLING

Development Review Board Decisions

593 HOWARD HILL	SUBDIVISION APPROVAL
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Lister Report 2023

Reappraisal is Coming

This year Benson is among the majority of towns in Vermont that must undertake a town-wide reappraisal to correct inequities in the Grand List. The reappraisal will address changes in the real estate market in general since the last reappraisal in 2011, update criteria for assessing properties, and establish new fair market appraisals.

Benson has signed a contract with NEMRC for a town-wide reappraisal to begin in 2025 and be complete in 2027. NEMRC is an established Vermont reappraisal and software company that has provided software services to Benson for many years. The listers anticipate that there are sufficient funds in the state-funded reappraisal account to cover the reappraisal cost.

Arm's Length (Fair Market Value) Sales January -- December 2023 Total Sales: \$4,512,000

- Seven of the nine sales to buyers from Benson, or close by
- Four year-round residences sold between \$92,000 and \$550,000 (median, \$245,000)
- One mixed-use property (B&B and event venue and land) sold for \$1,690,000
- Four undeveloped or minimally improved lots sold for between \$42,500 and \$270,000

This Year, for Grand List 2023-2024:

- Properties assessed as they existed on April 1; however, inspections continue into May
- Properties with changes will receive a Change of Appraisal, mailed the first week of June

Grievance:

- Any questions or concerns can be addressed at any time during the year by phone or email or in person at 802-537-2614, listers@shoreham.net, or by chance or appointment.
- Official grievance period is in mid-June: dates published on the Town web site, and posted in town.

ABSTRACT OF APRIL 1, 2023 GRAND LIST

Taxable Parcels: 624 Acres: 25,480.08

		<u>Less</u>	
Land	41,803,600	Less Current Use	(4,299,300)
Building	<u>71,180,300</u>	Less Veterans Exemption	(120,000)
Real	112,983,900	Less Contracts	<u>(130,100)</u>
			(4,549,400)
GRAND LIST	\$1,084,345	(Total taxable property)	

FAIR HAVEN RESCUE SQUAD

Greetings Community Members,

For 54 years Fair Haven Rescue Squad (FHRS) has been serving Rutland County communities. We are the primary 911 ambulance responding for Fair Haven, West Haven, Benson, and Hubbardton. Our year runs July 1 through June 30, last year we responded to a total of 1039 calls. Which is 4 times as many as we did 4 years ago. We want to thank you all for your continued support. We enjoy seeing everyone at the community events that we are able to attend and plan to continue to attend events through this coming year. While at these events the crews are able to discuss ways to utilize cell phones in emergencies, provide ambulance tours, blood pressure checks, and soon to be offering car seat checks for children.

With the continued support of our towns FHRS has been able to remain successful. We continue to recruit new staff and encourage the continued education of our current staff. We have two staff currently working towards their advanced certification and two have become Paramedics. We are always looking to add to our ranks and this year we are working to bolster our Cadet program.

Our greatest asset is our staff, but we also look to our equipment when providing emergency medical services. We budget for ongoing maintenance of the ambulance service but we rely on donations and the membership drive to fund updates and improvements to our equipment. With the funds from donations and the membership drive were able to afford the down payment on a new ambulance. Our aging fleet has needed this new addition for years, thank you all for your support. This membership drive is a win for everyone!

During the last year we also provided services to Devil's Bowl Motor Speedway while still providing coverage to our community. The funds generated from those services and a generous donation from American Legion Post 49, paid for a substantial portion of the cost of medication pumps for each of the ambulances. These medication pumps kept us in compliance with the new State rules for Paramedic Services.

In an effort to reduce the costs associated with the current inflation rate, we are also making great strides in providing transfers. Transferring patients from local hospitals, to hospitals with higher level care is in great demand. All the staff at FHRS have been going above and beyond to help provide this service to the community without sacrificing emergency coverage to our community.

The ability to fund last year's upgrades from the membership drive and donations saved a lot of tax dollars. We are here to help you, your family, and your neighbors during an emergency. Please help us to continue to improve these efforts. Fair Haven Rescue Squad has served this community for many years, and with your help, we will serve the community for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully,
Wendi Fitz-Gerald, EMS Chief, FHRS



ARC

Advocacy * Resources * Community

Serving Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and their Families

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

BOARD OFFICERS

Melissa Stevens
President

Open
Vice President

Tim Wing
Treasurer

Kate Tibbs
Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

John B Wing

Herman Goldberg

Margaret Hayward

Bonnie Lennihan

HONORARY MEMBER

Terry Mangieri

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diane Drake

REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE

Kris Call

Mission Statement: To advocate for the right of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families to be regarded as valued citizens with the same entitlements as non-disabled individuals, including the right to lifelong opportunities for personal growth and full participation in the community.

PROGRAMS:

Representative Payee Program: ARC serves about 50 individuals living with Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities by managing each client's individual SS income and processing payments of their financial obligations monthly. In addition, as Rep. Payee, Kris works with other agencies and client's case managers to direct our members toward receiving appropriate services.

Self-Advocates (SABE-R) and Aktion Club: The Self Advocates Becoming Empowered - Rutland were able to give testimony before the House of Representatives this year about issues concerning them as individuals living with developmental disabilities. The largest group of Self Advocates attended the State Convention for Green Mountain Self Advocates in South Burlington this past spring. Our SABE-R group also gave mini-clinics on Disability Awareness at National Night Out. The Aktion Club (a Kiwanis member group) collaborated with RSVP and decorated postcards for shut-ins and Veterans this year, along with a self-sponsored Carwash and Bake Sale raising funds to help their peers who lost belongings in the flood at Bardwell House this summer.

Social Events/Great Outdoor Experiences: These events provide a safe and healthy environment for individuals with developmental disabilities that builds a circle of support, family and community while practicing social skills, and getting physical exercise. Following years of limited activities due to COVID, we can boast over 450 attended 5 dances, 3 outdoor events and engaged in the community with new community partners.

Transportation: We are especially grateful to **MVRTD** through a grant, which allows us to provide transportation to some of our members who live in very rural areas who would otherwise be unable to access the services of Rutland Area.

On behalf of those we serve and their families for the last 65 years, we are grateful for the support and continued assistance from the citizens of Rutland Area. Rutland County's population claims nearly 32% as having a disability--the highest county in the State. We rely on the support of 17 towns in the Rutland Area along with grants, donations and small fundraisers throughout the year - NOT on *state or federal funding*. We choose to embrace peer to peer comradery, to offer opportunities for the disabled to share in the community through self-advocacy skills and respectfully appreciate the offerings from all of Rutland Area. For those wanting more information on these wonderful services or to volunteer, please call 802-775-1370.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Drake, Executive Director



November 16, 2023

To the Citizens of the Town of Benson,

On behalf of BROC Community Action and the thousands of people with low-income or living in poverty that we serve throughout Rutland and Bennington Counties, we want to express our thanks and gratitude for supporting us over the years on Town Meeting Day. BROC Community Action assists families and individuals in crisis and help provide a sustainable path forward.

Over the past year, BROC Community Action assisted **50** residents in the Town of Benson. Whether they need food at the BROC Community Food Shelf, senior commodities, housing counseling, homelessness assistance, weatherization, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget and credit counseling and resources and referrals; we are here.

People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your town appropriation helps ease the struggle for nearly 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward whenever possible.

Respectfully, our appropriation request for the upcoming fiscal year remains \$2,000.00.

We truly value our collaboration with Benson as we assist those most in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas L. Donahue, CEO
tdonahue@broc.org

Slate Valley Cares

FY 2022-2023 Annual Benson Town Report

Board of Directors

Linda Peltier – President

Janet Carini

Joseph Forrest

Barbara Moore

Kerry Ellis – Vice President

Judy Sheldon – Secretary

Cathy Campfield

Norm Williams – Treasurer

Pamela Berryhill

Jennifer Jackson

SVC Staff

Jeffrey Jackson – Executive Director

Karen Kelley – Assistant Director

FY 2022-2023 Use of Funds: Benson

In FY 2022-2023, the Town of Benson allocated \$2,000 in support of Slate Valley Cares, then Fair Haven Concerned. These funds were used to support community members through two main functions: Food and Emergency Support. \$1,314 was spent on food to distribute to Benson community members, while the remaining \$686 was spent on community members in acute emergency need.

Note: Slate Valley Cares spent a total of \$2,950 this year directly supporting the needs of Benson residents.

Quick Stats- FY 2022-2023

Total Unique Benson Households Served/Supported: 43

Total Benson Household Visits: 286

Total Benson Individuals Served: 576

Total Spent on Food for Benson Residents: \$1,646

Total Spent on Emergency Support for Benson Residents: \$1,304

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Overview & Request

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, Slate Valley Cares formally requests from the Town of Benson the same funds as FY22-23: \$2,000.

In the past year, Slate Valley Cares, previously known as Fair Haven Concerned, underwent significant transformations to better align with the communities we serve. We not only changed our name but also revamped our approach, focusing on creating an inclusive and dignified experience for our community members. This involved reimagining how we distribute food and redesigning our facility, which is now called the Right to Food Center, moving away from the term "food shelf."

One of the key changes made to our food distribution system was the creation of the Community Kiosk. This piece of infrastructure not only allows our community members to shop with greater dignity, mimicking that of a grocery store checkout, but also allows our store to function with fewer staff and volunteers. This simplification and streamlining have allowed us to expand our store hours, nearly tripling community access.



Our efforts have been widely recognized, garnering praise from esteemed organizations such as the Vermont Food Bank, as well as key political figures like Gov. Phil Scott and Rep. Peter Welch. Our innovative approach has attracted interest from organizations across the state, prompting visits to our Right to Food Center to learn from our systems and methodologies.

These changes have not only enhanced the visual appeal of our space but have also fostered a culture of openness and inclusivity within our organization, as well as increasing overall accessibility to our community. This shift is evident in the growing number of households and community members we serve. Over the past year, there has been a significant increase, with the number of households and individuals served per month more than doubling. For specific data points, please refer to the charts below.

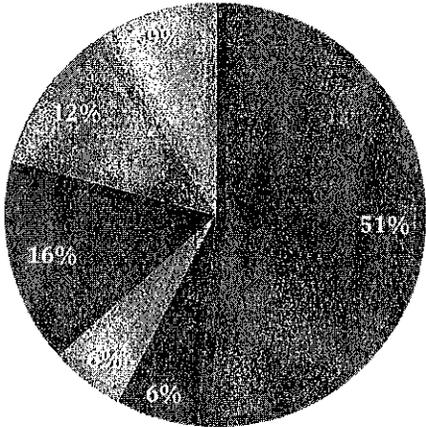
For visual tour of our new, innovative approach to serving our community with dignity, please refer to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2TPFxyZVQ>

It is an honor and pleasure to work with the Town of Benson so that together we may support the fundamental needs of our neighbors.

If anyone would like more information about our work or would like to speak in greater detail regarding any of the above, please feel free to contact Jeffrey Jackson, our Executive Director: (802) 265-3666.

FY22-23 SERVICE RATIOS BY TOWN

■ Fair Haven ■ Benson ■ West Haven ■ Castleton ■ Poultney ■ Other



Respectfully submitted by the Slate Valley Cares Board of Directors and Executive Director.



Town of Benson

To the Officers and Citizens of Benson:

In 2022, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Benson residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From children with more intensive medical needs to seniors who wish to remain independent at home and those who are facing a terminal illness, we continue to bring quality health care wherever it is needed, **regardless** of the location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

In the face of shrinking federal and state reimbursements, along with rising healthcare costs, the VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective healthcare services to Benson's most vulnerable individuals.

Last year VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 127,393 home visits to 3,043 patients. **In Benson, we provided 1,105 visits to 21 individuals.**

Thank you for your continued support! With your vote of confidence, we will continue to fulfill our promise to your community to enhance the quality of life of all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services.

Sincerely,



Sara C. King, CEO
VNA & Hospice of the
Southwest Region



Dan DiBattista, President
Board of Directors

Rutland Office
143 Maple St
Rutland VT, 05701
(802) 786-5990



Bennington Office
160 Benmont Ave, Suite #90
Bennington VT, 05201
(802) 442-5436

Report to the Citizens of Benson

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to elders in Benson during SVCOA's most recent annual reporting period of 9/30/2022 through 10/1/2023.

Nutrition Support

The Council helped provide 1,571 meals that were delivered to the homes of 10 older Vermonters in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 41 older Benson residents came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 246 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 13.75 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 10 residents of Benson.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 7 older Vermonters in your community for a total of 62 hours. Case managers meet with older residents in Benson, privately in their home, or at another agreed upon location and assess their individual situation. They worked with the resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the older resident desired, the case manager linked the client to appropriate services, coordinated and monitored services as necessary, and provided information and assistance to the resident's caregivers. Case managers also help older residents in Benson connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to older residents of Benson facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

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

TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

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

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

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

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

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

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP Executive Director: VVSA

VITAL RECORDS

January 1, 2023– December 31, 2023

Births

Willow Marie Tenzer to Jillian Whitney Stuart and Zane Wyatt Tenzer
Willow Marie Bradford to Devon Elizabeth Lane and Dustin Jon Bradford
Landreigh Paige Ellis to Jerri-Ann Ann Ellis and Craig Michael Ellis
Lilah Jean Hamblin to Miranda Evelyn Hamblin and Robert James Hamblin
Greyson Riley Galante to Sarah Ann Masse and Mason Riley Galante
Mia Addison Noble to Averie Beth Noble and Jacob Robert Noble
Alaina Isreal Gale to Lindsey Ann Dickerson and Joshua Andrew Gale
Tyler James Martin Austin to Ellyzbeth Mae Austin
Ronen Ray Stone to Amanda Rae Stone and Brady Marcus Stone
Flynn Robert Steven Stuart to Beccalyn Stuart and Donavon Jerome Stuart
Hazel Marie Rogers to Alyssa Beth Rogers and Joshua Ernest Rogers

Marriages

Dana Carter Seward to Annaleigh Belle DeBooover
Olivia Joyce Corbett to John Thomas Catozzi
Dennis Mark Hillier To Sarah Ellen Kwiatkowski
Justin Isiah Rivera-Oquendo to Sage Patrise Gratton

Deaths

Leonard William Lussier, Jr.
Janice Carolyn Bird
John Gilbert Kubin
Reginald Barrett
Joan A. Daley
Ronald Philip Savageau
Marjorie DeFrancisco

2023 BENSON SCHOLARSHIPS

Benson Community Scholarship

In recognition of the fact that small rural communities thrive most effectively when citizens are involved, the Town of Benson honors a qualifying senior who has made a significant contribution to our community with a \$1000 scholarship. This year, the award went to Sarah Glover, daughter of Jerod and Krista Glover and Elizabeth Munger, daughter of Brent and Amy Munger.

Eaves Memorial Scholarship

Funded by a private donation, this scholarship awards \$1000 grants to two young women from Benson planning to pursue further education. Two scholarships were awarded in 2023. It went to Sarah Glover, daughter of Jerod and Krista Munger and Elizabeth Munger, daughter of Brent and Amy Munger.

For information about applying for the 2024 scholarships, please contact the FHUHS guidance office or the Benson Town Clerk (537-2611 or bensonclerk@myottmail.com)

2023 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

During 2023, the Town Clerk's Office:

- Processed 12 Vehicle Registrations
- Issued 4 Marriage Licenses
- Registered 11 Births and 7 Deaths
- Issued 4 Green Mountain Passports
- Sold 286 Transfer Station Permits
- Registered 258 Dogs
- Recorded 356 pages of documents in the Land Records
- 0 new Survey Maps
- Added 33 new voters to Benson's checklist

Benson Transfer Station

Open Wednesday 12PM-4PM Saturday 8AM-4PM

The Transfer Station may be used for disposal of household waste generated in Benson by residents or taxpayers who purchase an annual permit (by April 1st) at the Town Office. Stickers, which may be purchased at the Town Office or G & L General Store are required for the disposal of all items except recycling and food scraps. Annual permits cost \$35.00 (now includes a \$20 recycling surcharge) and bag stickers are \$2.00 each. The fee schedule below is an estimate based on volume and may be adjusted for unusually heavy items since the town pays disposal fees by weight. It is also subject to change at any time as the requirements of Act 148 continue to impact the Town's disposal costs and options. Please check with the Attendant for current pricing and space availability before bringing large amounts of material for disposal.

Type of Item	No. of Stickers
Electronics	Most currently may be recycled free of charge. Many are banned from the landfill.
Major household appliances, including stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, water heaters, humidifiers, dehumidifiers and large fans (classified as "white goods")	Free of Charge in Dumpster for Metal
**Refrigerators, freezers & air conditioners	8 Stickers each
Upright Chairs	3 Stickers each
Sofas, Loveseats	5 Stickers each
Hide-a-Bed	10 Stickers each
Box springs, mattresses Twin Size	3 Stickers each
Box springs, mattresses Queen Size	5 Stickers each
Box springs, mattresses King Size	10 Stickers each
Easy chairs, bookshelves, sideboards, dressers or tables	3-6 Stickers each Depending on size
Screens, doors, windows up to 80 lbs in weight (wood)	5 Stickers per bundle
Carpeting, rolled up	5 Stickers per bundle
Area carpeting (fits in plastic bag)	1 Sticker each
Construction and Demolition Debris, Loose	Accepted on a space available basis and priced by the attendant. Heavy/dense materials such as shingles or sheetrock will be charged at a higher rate.
Household Trash, standard 34 gallon bag	1 Sticker
Recycling	Free of Charge

****Doors must be removed from refrigerators & freezers before acceptance.**

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE.....	911
BENSON FIRST RESPONSE.....	911
STATE POLICE	911

Public Services Hours

Town Office*:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday...	9:00 am	–	3:00 pm
Wednesday.....	3:00 pm	–	7:00 pm

*Please Note: the Town Office is closed on Federal Holidays

Transfer Station:

Wednesday.....	12:00 pm	–	4:00 pm
Saturday.....	8:00 am	–	4:00 pm

Library:

Saturday.....	10:00 am	–	1:00 pm
Wednesday ...Nov. 1 st – April 30 th	2:00 pm	–	5:00 pm
Wednesday.....May 1 st – Oct 31 st	3:00 pm	–	7:00 pm
Tuesday.....	9:00 am	–	1:00 pm
Senior Luncheon	10:30am	–	1:30 pm

Museum (May through October)

Call for hours and appointments.....	537-2611
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Helpful Numbers

Benson School	537-2491
	537-2492
High School	265-4966
Listers	537-2614
Town Garage	537-2722
Town Office	537-2611
	Fax 537-2612
Zoning Administrator.	537-2610