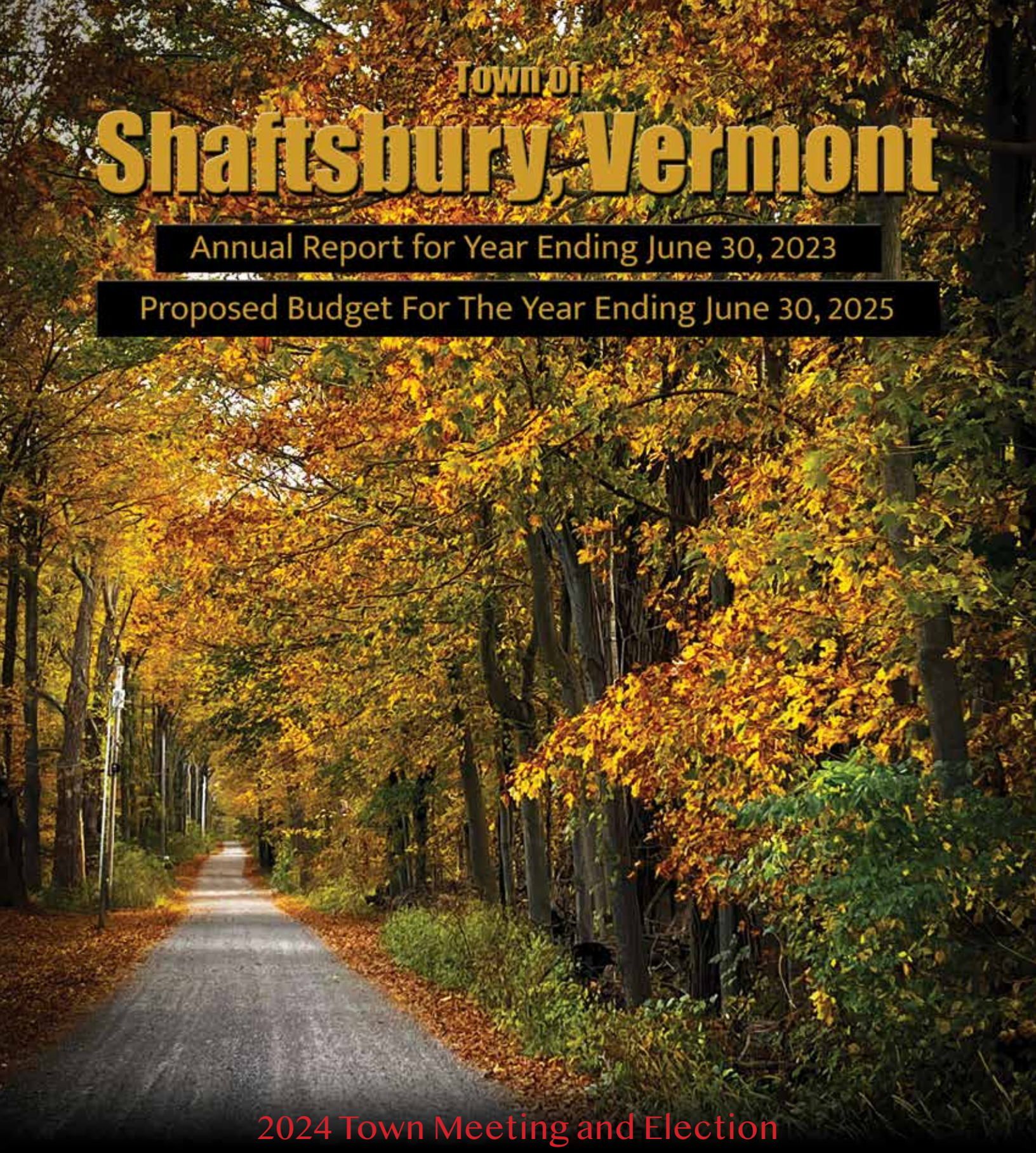

Town of Shaftsbury, Vermont

Annual Report for Year Ending June 30, 2023

Proposed Budget For The Year Ending June 30, 2025

2024 Town Meeting and Election

Town Meeting

March 4, 2024, 5:00pm Pot Luck Supper

6:00 Meeting Shaftsbury Elementary School

Balloting

7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 at the Town Garage

This year's annual report is dedicated to four outstanding citizens who were important in the life of Shaftsbury. *They will be missed. . .*

Charles "Charlie" Oscar Becker **June 16, 1924 - February 20, 2023**

A very active member of the Shaftsbury Fire Department since joining in 1948, Charlie served as Chief of the department for 15 years (1953 – 1969) and celebrated 75 years with the department in 2023. He was named Honorary Chief and in the Spring of 2006 the Shaftsbury fire house was renamed the Charles and Marion Becker Fire Facility in recognition of the many years of service to the Shaftsbury Fire Department by both Charlie and his wife Marion. Charlie helped write the first basic Firefighter course and taught fire safety courses for 35 years. He was also an active member of the Vermont State Fire Association, serving as President from 1972 - 1974.

Charlie helped organize the Bennington County Mutual Aid, and helped organize the modern Vermont Firefighter Association. He was the head of the committee that formed the SFD Women's Auxiliary as well as head of the committee that build the original Station 1. Charlie made at least 1,800 drill and 900 meetings. The Shaftsbury Fire Department is grateful for his many years of service. Charlie was also a WW II Army Veteran.

Pauline Knapp Granger **February 9, 1927 - April 6, 2023**

Pauline was born in Shaftsbury on February 9, 1927. In earlier years Pauline had been employed as a Paralegal Secretary. She had also been employed as the Shaftsbury Town Clerk in 1959. For many years she owned and operated her own real estate company, Pauline H. Knapp Real Estate.

Pauline was a former member of the Norshaft Lions Club, the Order of Eastern Star and the Home Den.

Merton Joseph Snow **October 10, 1933 - September 25, 2023**

Merton "Mert" Snow was a very active member of Shaftsbury. After graduation from St. Joseph's Business school, Mert work at several local businesses before opening his own Accounting and Tax Preparation company in 1986. In 1991, he was elected the Delinquent Tax Collector for the Town of Shaftsbury - a position he still held at the time of his passing.

Mert was an active member of the Taconic Grange in Shaftsbury. In 1991, he was elected Treasurer for the Vermont State Grange, a position he also held until his passing. He was the State Grange Deputy for eight years. He also volunteered for The Council on Aging.

A self-taught guitar player, Mert could be found entertaining people throughout the area playing in many different bands. In 1960, he and his sister Roberta and brother Howard represented Vermont State in Worchester, MA, in the National Talent Contest. In 1980, he and his daughter Holly were Grange, VT talent contest winners and competed at the national level in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Besides music, Mert also had a passion for NASCAR racing and made many trips to Martinsville, VA and Dover, DE to follow his favorite driver, Jeff Burton.

Timothy Finney **April 26, 1942 - November 22, 2023**

Shaftsbury's 2017 Ordinary Hero

Timothy "Tim" Finney spent his life helping others. As a nurse (RN), he worked in the ICU at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center and Bennington Health and Rehabilitation. Timothy was very active in the Free & Accepted Masons. He was also a member of the Order of The Eastern Star and Shriner's (Scottish Rite) Knight Templar. He was a member of the National Ski Patrol for 50 years working at Bromley and Haystack Mountains and was an Outdoor Emergency Care Instructor where he held Senior Rating. Timothy was a member of the Bennington Rescue Squad for 45 years. He was Past President and will be remembered mostly as an EMT Instructor for the Bennington Rescue Squad and surrounding ambulance services for many years. He was also a member of the Bennington Choral Society and was a member of Shaftsbury First Response and the Shaftsbury Volunteer Fire Department. In his earlier years, he enjoyed hunting and photography. He was voted Shaftsbury Ordinary Hero in 2017.

Town of

Shaftsbury, Vermont

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending June 30, 2023

Southwest Tech, MAU & SVUESD
Boards Annual Meetings
Please visit www.svsu.org for more information

Town Meeting
5:00 p.m. Monday, March 04, 2024 - Pot Luck Supper
6:00 p.m. Monday, March 04, 2024 - Town Meeting
at Shaftsbury Elementary School

Balloting
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 5, 2024
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, and the Select Board for proofing.

HELPFUL NAMES AND NUMBERS

Emergency Dial 911 Fire — Medical — Police

Town Officials

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

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

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

Glastenbury Fire Warden (Burn permits for Glastenbury) Jerry Mattison 802-379-4487

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT / DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Mike Yannotti ..... (Office) 802-681-7240

PLANNING COMMISSION
Naomi Miller, Chair..... (Home) 845-342-5224
Meetings.....Second and Fourth Wednesdays 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
Naomi Miller.....(Cell) 845-342-5224
Meetings..... First and third Monday of each month, 6:30pm

TOWN ADMINISTRATION
TBD .....(Office) 802-442-4038, Ext. 3
Email .....administrator@shaftsburyvt.gov
Hours .....Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8am-4pm | Wednesday 8-12 | Friday By Appointment
TBD, 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 - Thursday 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 Pieciak 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, Bob Perry 802-681-3724
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, Holly Bahan ..... (Home) 802-379-2299
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, David Mance III ..... (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 2024 - 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, Chair.....2-year term expires 2024
Tony Krulikowski, Vice Chair .....3-year term expires 2026
Mike Cichanowski.....3-year term expires 2024
Naomi Miller.....2-year term expires 2025
Martha Cornwell .....3-year term expires 2025

Town Clerk
Marlene Hall.....3-year term expires 2024

Treasurer
Melanie Dexter .....3-year term expires 2024

Auditors
Michael Caslin .....3-year term expires 2025
Lisa Lent .....3-year term expires 2026
Vacant .....3-year term expires 2024

Trustees of Public Funds
Rob Steuer, Chair .....3-year term expires 2024
Vacant .....3-year term expires 2025
Bill Hession .....3-year term expires 2026

One-year terms (expire 2024)
Town Moderator..... Thomas Dailey
Delinquent Tax Collector ..... Holly S. Bahan
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 Stiles ..... 3-year term expires 2026

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

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

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

Animal Control Officer.....Bob Perry
Bennington County Regional Commissioner.....Cinda Morse
Emergency Coordinator.....TBD
Energy Coordinator.....Ben Hulett
Fire Chief.....Joe Vadakin
1st Asst. Chief.....Mike Taylor
2nd 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.....David Mance III

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Kathy Cardiff, Chair | Neal Strong, Vice Chair | Betsy Habberfield
Peggy Wilson | Rosemary Lindsey | Jen Holley, Superintendent

ECONOMIC DEVELPMENT 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

Town of Shaftsbury Town Meeting
Floor Meeting
March 6, 2023
In person at Shaftsbury Elementary School and via Zoom

Business to be transacted:

1) **Call to order**

Moderator Tom Daly called the meeting to order. All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Daly asked all to silently acknowledge with gratitude the gift of democracy.

Mr. Daly introduced the Select Board: Art Whitman, Martha Cornwell, Tony Krulikowski, Joe Barber, and Mike Cichanowski were present.

Mr. Daly thanked those who brought food for the potluck.

Representative David Durfee gave an update on activities in Montpelier. A couple of issues he noted: that in terms of high-speed internet service, Bennington County is well ahead of the rest of the state and Shaftsbury is about 90% connected; and the child care system is under review this session. Mr. Durfee is chair of the agriculture, food resiliency and forestry committee. He said Vermont is in pretty good fiscal shape, having benefitted from pandemic relief funds and a strong sales tax revenue stream.

By unanimous consent, the reading of the warning was dispensed with.

Mr. Daly explained the process of making motions, seconding motions, and voting. Only those present at the school and registered to vote are allowed to vote. Only residents of the Town may participate in the meeting in any way.

2) **Reports of the Town Officers and take action thereon**

Mr. Daly noted that all reports are contained with the print version of the annual report. He asked for a motion from the floor to accept the reports as presented. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

3) **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/per hour?**
   c) **Shall the 1st and 2nd Constable be paid a wage at the rate of $15/hour?**

Mr. Daly sought and received a motion and a second to consider the item in its entirety. Ms. Mellinger moved to amend the motion to give selectpersons $1000 annually. The motion was seconded by Maureen McClintock. The amended motion passed unanimously.

The amended motion and items b and c passed unanimously.

4) **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 p.m. or likewise postmarked no later than Friday November 10, 2023?**

Mr. Daly sought and received a motion and a second to approve the item, which passed unanimously.

5) **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?**

Mr. Daly sought and received a motion and a second to appropriate the sum $2,528,296 (a change in item 5 to reflect the increase in the selectperson stipend). Mr. Whitman offered a report on the activities of the Select Board and explained the budget.

- He noted that in the last year the town voted to do away with the listers office. He thanked the new assessor, Gina Jenks, for increasing the grand list by more than $4 million by catching up on permit review. A reappraisal has been contracted for 2025.
- After six years of engineering, a culvert at Hollow Hideaway was replaced, despite a flood event during the construction process. New road equipment was purchased, including a mower that will allow the road crew to mow frequently rather than the once or twice yearly possible in the past.
- A number of new projects are in the works, including improvements at Howard Park and tree work. Sinking funds are maintained for new equipment, such as a new firetruck.
- Village residents buy their water from North Bennington. That community recently increased fees and insisted that Shaftsbury make payments on a bond payment for work in North Bennington. After mediation, Shaftsbury has been found not liable for payments on the North Bennington bond.
- The existing water system dates to the 1930s. Over the next several years, in three phases, the entire system of mains will be replaced. Phase 1 will replace mains from near the old Howard art museum, north to Church Street, and then west to Route 67.
- A survey of how the town could best spend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds discovered a community-wide desire for a community meeting place. The Town therefore purchased the parcel adjacent to Cole Hall using ARPA funds. An economic development committee and a Cole Hall committee have been formed to decide how best to accomplish the goals outlined in the survey results and to renovate Cole Hall.
- Mr. Whitman explained the budget as represented by a pie chart in the annual report.
- He noted that last year's over $2 million budget was off by only $24,000.
- FY 2024's budget is larger by about 5.5%, lower than the rate of inflation. For the last seven years the town budget has not risen by more than the rate of inflation.

Mr. Korman asked if public meetings on spending the ARPA funds are to be held. Mr. Whitman reported that the economic development committee has had one meeting. It has decided to pursue hiring a consultant to help the committee move forward. Public meetings will be held. The committee will consider placing ARPA expenditures on the ballot.

Mr. Whitman responded to questions from Jennifer Hoffman that both Bennington and Arlington Rescue Squads are now line items in the budget rather than in the community appropriations list.

It was suggested that Cole Hall be a high priority for ARPA expenditures. The community meeting place should take second place. Selectperson Cornwell responded that the committee hopes to find matching funds to help address the whole panoply of needs. Town administrator Kiernan said the ARPA funds have to be spent by 2026.

Alice Miller asked about the former medical center. Mr. Daly said its future remains an open question.

Mr. Daly asked for a vote on the amended budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitman reported that the March 7 ballot will contain several articles.

Water bond

He said the bonding company for the improvements to the water supply system requires the community to guarantee the bond although the bond will be repaid by the users of the water system.

Mr. Whitman outlined the proposed changes to the zoning bylaw related to

- Accessory dwellings
- "Tiny homes" are to be considered as manufactured housing
- No new shooting ranges. The change does not affect Hale Mountain Rod and Gun Club.

- Giving the zoning administrator the power to approve minor changes to a permit originally issued by the DRB. Abutters will be notified.
- Open space design is now required for certain subdivisions.

Jonathan Hoffman asked about open space design. Chris Williams, chairperson of the Planning Commission, explained that the proposal only applies to subdivisions, not to development unrelated to subdivisions. Jenifer Hoffman said the regulation would only restrict the production of needed housing. Mr. Williams said the requirement makes open space design a requirement in certain situations where before it was only voluntary.

Community appropriations

Mr. Whitman clarified that the community appropriations list simply reflects requests made to the Town, not requests approved by the Select Board. Mr. Whitman noted that the sum is significant.

Sarah Wilson spoke on behalf of the Bennington Free Clinic. The Clinic serves Bennington, North Bennington, and Shaftsbury residents.

Curt Merrill spoke on behalf Habitat for Humanity, which as of November has built 32 houses in Bennington County and repaired and restored several others. Habitat serves people earning between 30 and 80 percent of median income. He thanked citizens for their past support.

Cindy Tuhmaier spoke on behalf of Sunrise Family Resource Center and thanked citizens for their past support.

Alan Baker, who hosts a show on food on WBTN, invited anyone with a passion to share to volunteer to host a program. He urged citizens to support their appropriation request.

Mark Lorie spoke on behalf of WBTN. He said all who work there are volunteers.

Jenny Rozycki and Giselle Guyette spoke on behalf of the John G. McCullough Free Library.

6) **To transact any other non-binding business as legally may come before said meeting at this time.**

Solar project

Mr. Daly said he preferred that a motion be made and seconded and then discussed. He will limit comments to three minutes. Mr. Algus made a motion: "As presented by Freepoint Solar, we the people of Shaftsbury do not support the Shaftsbury solar project." From the audience, Mr. McClintock said the motion should be that "the Select Board and the Planning Commission intervene on behalf of the people of Shaftsbury." He said discussion would clarify for those bodies the sense of the meeting. Mr. Algus asked how the citizens could guarantee that those bodies act against the proposal before the PUC? Mr. McClintock said the evening's discussion could be shared with the PUC. Mr. Daly suggested the motion: "Shall the Select Board and Planning Commission be advised to intervene in their statutory party status on behalf of the town on the solar project." That motion was seconded. The ayes were in the majority.

The citizens proceeded to discuss their support or opposition to the solar project. Andrea Bacchi said she thinks the Select Board and Planning Commission should wait to get more information and simply deal with the facts.

Karen Mellinger spoke about a letter from the solar developer to Vtrans describing alternate routes to the project site, making use of Warm Brook Road and Maple Hill Road on the north and Buck Hill Road and East Road on the south. The letter says thirty –fifty vehicle trips will be made daily.

Tony D'Nofrio said the project would change the face of Shaftsbury.

Michael Algus described Holy Smoke Road: narrow in places, covered in trees, a hairpin turn where two cars can't pass at once, and beautiful fields where solar panels are proposed to be located. He said the construction would threaten the safety of users.

Bleeker Wheeler spoke about how lucky Shaftsbury residents are to live in a community where neighbors care about one another. He noted that the developer has not addressed issues raised by the community. How can the company be trusted?

Jesse MacDougal spoke. He said the original proposal did not take into consideration the N. Bennington water line or a deed restriction. It places substations on high points. It threatens roads and home values.

Peter Bosco said he opposes the project.

Alan Baker spoke. He noted that our energy comes from out of state and our money for that energy goes out of state.

Jenifer Hoffman expressed concern about herbicides contaminating the water supply.

A resident said the solar company has been involved in a bribery probe in Brazil. She said she doesn't trust the company.

Jennifer Scoggins said she would have a hard time making a decision without more information and guidance from the PUC.

Jonathan Hoffman expressed disbelief that the company might get a curb cut permit on Route 7. The project will completely change the neighborhood; it might even result in paving Holy Smoke Road. He said there's not enough data on how to control a fire on a solar farm.

Chris Williams of the Planning Commission noted that no formal application has been presented. The commission will indeed intervene. He compared the solar project to the controversy over the TAM facility, where the state also had a final say.

Jared Jacobs spoke.

Tim Scoggins said the scale of the project is concerning. Nonetheless, we need solar power to fight climate change. The challenge of climate change is enormous. We may need to sacrifice somewhat.

Mary Beatty of Holy Smoke Road said she is concerned about electromagnetic radiation emitted by the solar panels.

Questions arose about how development would threaten hunting opportunities on the site And how the use of herbicide will affect water quality on the site.

Another resident stated a large project is needed by the globe, but he has some caveats: the project should come off Route 7; the adjacent landowners should be reimbursed somehow; herbicides are an issue and the use of RoundUp should be prohibited. He is concerned that this company is not the right one for our town.

Travis Buttle spoke against clear-cutting the trees on the site. The project will set an unfortunate precedent.

Mr. McClintock said Mr. Harrington made a motion to vote up or down on the proposal, or," does this assembly support the project." The motion was seconded. Mr. Daly asked for all those in favor of ceasing debate signify by saying "aye. " The "ayes" were unanimous. Mr. Daly asked those in favor of the project to say "aye," those opposed to say "aye," and those abstaining to say "aye." The Select Board members said they hear and understood the response. Mr. Daly said it sounded like those opposed to the project were in the majority..

Mr. Taylor asked for a moment of recognition for Charlie Becker, who served for 75 years on the Shaftsbury Fire Department. The audience stool and applauded.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:57PM.

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 7, 2023
658 Votes Cast

SELECTMAN

2 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Joseph Barber	246
Naomi Miller	363
Write-In	1
Blank	48
Total	658

SELECTMAN

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Tony D'Onofrio	183
Ken Harrington	170
Anthony (Tony) Krulikowski	278
Write-In	1
Blank	26
Total	658

MODERATOR

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Thomas Dailey (Write-In)	71
Write-In (Other)	16
Blank	571
Total	658

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Merton Snow	505
Write-In	4
Blank	148
Total	658

AUDITOR

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Lisa Lent	495
Write-In	1
Blank	162
Total	658

TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

3 Years Vote for not more than ONE

Bill Hession	428
Write-In	1
Blank	229
Total	658

1ST CONSTABLE

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Bob Perry (Write-In)	24
Write-In (Other)	22
Blank	612
Total	658

2ND CONSTABLE

1 Year Vote for not more than ONE

Write-In	13
Blank	645
Total	658

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 7, 2023
658 Votes Cast

ARTICLES

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.

YES 512 NO 115 BLANK 31

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.*

YES 498 NO 121 BLANK 39

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.~~

YES 479 NO 141 BLANK 38

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 7, 2023
658 Votes Cast

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.

YES 439 NO 172 BLANK 47

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.

YES 452 NO 140 BLANK 66

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 7, 2023
658 Votes Cast

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).*

YES 477 NO 131 BLANK 50

7. Community Appropriations to Determine:

1. Shall the Town appropriate **$5,225** to Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice?
   YES 581 NO 74 BLANK 6

2. Shall the Town appropriate **$5,000** to the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless?
   YES 501 NO 145 BLANK 15

3. Shall the Town appropriate **$1,000** to the Bennington Free Clinic?
   YES 527 NO 119 BLANK 15

4. Shall the Town appropriate **$18,630** to the Bennington Free Library?
   YES 447 NO 195 BLANK 19

5. Shall the Town appropriate **$600** to Bennington Little League?
   YES 515 NO 124 BLANK 22

6. Shall the Town appropriate **$4,500** to the Bennington Project Independence, Inc.?
   YES 519 NO 122 BLANK 20

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 7, 2023
658 Votes Cast

7. Shall the Town appropriate **$1,700** to the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council?
YES 407 **NO 227** **BLANK 27**

8. Shall the Town appropriate **$600** to the Center for Restorative Justice?
YES 436 **NO 200** **BLANK 25**

9. Shall the Town appropriate **$200** to the Green-Up Vermont?
YES 559 **NO 89** **BLANK 13**

10. Shall the Town appropriate **$1,850** to the Habitat for Humanity?
YES 490 **NO 152** **BLANK 19**

11. Shall the Town appropriate **$25,200** to the John G. McCullough Free Library?
YES 407 **NO 232** **BLANK 22**

12. Shall the Town appropriate **$2,000** to the Martha Canfield Library?
YES 387 **NO 247** **BLANK 27**

13. Shall the Town appropriate **$2,500** to the Paran Recreations, Inc.?
YES 517 **NO 127** **BLANK 17**

14. Shall the Town appropriate **$1,500** to the Park McCullough House?
YES 402 **NO 235** **BLANK 24**

15. Shall the Town appropriate **$450** to the Project Against Violent Encounters?
YES 510 **NO 140** **BLANK 11**

16. Shall the Town appropriate **$950** to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?
YES 539 **NO 107** **BLANK 15**

17. Shall the Town appropriate **$2,500** to the Shaftsbury Historical Society, Inc.?
YES 465 **NO 171** **BLANK 25**

18. Shall the Town appropriate **$1,000** to the Sunrise Family Resource Center?
YES 457 **NO 190** **BLANK 14**

19. Shall the Town appropriate **$1,100** to the SW Vermont Council on Aging?
YES 515 **NO 129** **BLANK 17**

20. Shall the Town appropriate **$900** to the Tutorial Center?
YES 496 **NO 148** **BLANK 17**

Election Results
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 7, 2023
658 Votes Cast

21. Shall the Town appropriate **$300** to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?
YES 558 **NO 90** **BLANK 13**

22. Shall the Town appropriate **$1,000** to the VT Center for Independent Living?
YES 521 **NO 120** **BLANK 20**

23. Shall the Town appropriate **$500** to the Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?
YES 566 **NO 83** **BLANK 12**

24. Shall the Town appropriate **$5,000** to Shires Media Partnership (WBTN)?
YES 337 **NO 290** **BLANK 34**

25. Shall the Town appropriate **$750** to Bennington Senior Center?
YES 543 **NO 107** **BLANK 14**

28. Shall the Town appropriate **$3,740** to Bennington County Conservation District?
YES 457 **NO 176** **BLANK 28**

STATE OF VERMONT
Bennington County, SS:
TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY

March 2024 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 4, 2024, at 6:00 PM** to hold a public information hearing. Upon completion of the information session, the Meeting will stand adjourned until **Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 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 4, 2024 or at the Town Garage on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 7am to 7pm** to be eligible to vote on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 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 4, 2024.** 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 4, 2024 at 6:00pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2024 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 4, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84477826859

Meeting ID: 844 7782 6859

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,84477826859# US

+13092053325,,84477826859# US

Dial by your location

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +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)

• +1 360 209 5623 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)

Meeting ID: 844 7782 6859

Find your local number: https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbvEV5ZM21

Please review our "Informational Handout for Remote Public Hearings" to understand how these electronic hearing will be managed.

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

Notice on hybrid public meetings

This meeting is a hybrid meeting, which means that some or all of the public body is meeting remotely and some are meeting physically in a previously noticed location where the public may attend to observe, listen, and participate contemporaneously. One member of this public body or other staff is present at the location to ensure the public can participate, if desired.

Please note that while we will strive to provide means for those attending remotely to participate in the public comment period, there may be technical difficulties or reasons that otherwise prevent or interrupt remote public participation. Therefore, it is important to note that the Open Meeting Law only ensures the public's right to participate and comment at a public meeting by attending at the designated physical location as posted in the notice and agenda.

YOU CANNOT VOTE AT TOWN MEETING VIA ZOOM

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR ON MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024 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, **Tuesday November 12th** at 5:00 PM or likewise postmarked no later than **November 12th** ?
- Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $2,740,081 to defray the Town's general and highway expenses for Fiscal Year 2025, 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 4, 2024.

1. Review and discuss Articles 1,2, and 3: Shall the voters authorize amendments to the Shaftsbury Zoning Bylaws?
    - Public Comments
2. Review and discuss Article 4: Community Appropriations
    - Public comments
3. Discussion of other non-binding business
    - Public comment

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024
7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
Town Garage North Road

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

New section: "Road frontage requirements in the R40 and R80 zones shall be reduced to 75', where the new lots so created are no more than one and a half times the minimum size for that zoning district."

(Note: this might also be placed in the Rural Zones table.)

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

revised 3.3.2:

"If an application is submitted for a proposed use that is not identified in these Bylaws as a permitted or conditionally permitted use for the district, the Development Review Board shall review and evaluate the proposed use as a conditional use, pursuant to Zoning Bylaw §3.4. The Development Review Board shall not grant a permit for the unlisted use if any individual impact, as listed in Zoning Bylaw §3.4, is greater than the impact reasonably expected for a permitted use in the subject district. The Development Review Board shall grant a permit, impose conditions on the permit or deny the application consistent with the provisions of Zoning By law §3.4."

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

Zoning map change (to facilitate definition of area to be covered by new firearms ordinance)

Rezoning in the VR district to R40: We will suggest that parcels 16 21 20.1 and 16 21 22 as recorded in the Town Grand List are to be placed in the R40 zone.

Proposed changes to Shaftsbury Zoning Map

Area outlined in red is now Village Residential (VR). The change from VR to R40 will align the Village Residential Zone with the area covered by the new Municipal Firearms Ordinance. The area outlined in red is known locally as a traditional hunting ground.

4. **Shall the Town vote to exempt Taconic Community Grange from payment of property tax for a period of five years?**

5. **<u>Community Appropriations to Determine:</u>**

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 **$25,200** to the John G. McCullough Free Library?
11) Shall the Town appropriate **$2,000** to the Martha Canfield Library?
12) Shall the Town appropriate **$2,500** to the Paran Recreations, Inc.?
13) Shall the Town appropriate **$1,500** to the Park McCullough House
14) Shall the Town appropriate **$450** to the Project Against Violent Encounters?
15) Shall the Town appropriate **$950** to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?
16) Shall the Town appropriate **$2,500** to the Shaftsbury Historical Society, Inc.?
17) Shall the Town appropriate **$1,000** to the Sunrise Family Resource Center?
18) Shall the Town appropriate **$1,100** to the SW Vermont Council on Aging?
19) Shall the Town appropriate **$900** to the Tutorial Center?
20) Shall the Town appropriate **$300** to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?
21) Shall the Town appropriate **$1,000** to the VT Center for Independent Living?
22) Shall the Town appropriate **$5,000** to Shires Media Partnership (WBTN)
23) Shall the Town appropriate **$750** to Bennington Senior Center?
24) Shall the Town appropriate $**475** to Bennington County Conservation District?
25) Shall the Town Appropriate **$1,000** to Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitations

DATED at Shaftsbury, Vermont this 16th day of **January, 2024.**

TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD

Art Whitman, Chair

Tony Krulikowski, Vice Chair

Martha Cornwell

Naomi Miller

Mike Cichanowski

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.

YOU CANNOT VOTE AT TOWN MEETING VIA ZOOM

TREASURER'S REPORT

Overview of the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2023 (FY2023):

The Town of Shaftsbury ended the year with a net change to the unassigned fund balance of ($163,386), adjusted to ($178,022) using the Modified Accrual Basis of accounting.

While revenue actuals were once again almost exactly as budgeted, the expense side came in about 6% high. This was due to several factors, most prominently an unpredictable increase in the cost of oil and diesel resulting from global pressures. Other highway supplies also came in higher than budgeted. These variances are discussed in greater detail in the Selectboard's report.

	Budget	Actual	Actual % of Budget	Variance Favorable/(Unfavorable)
Total Revenue	2,375,493	2,362,501	99.5%	(12,992)
Total Expenditures	2,395,493	2,545,887	106.2%	(150,394)
Total General Fund	(20,000)	(183,386)		(163,386)

The auditing firm of Sullivan, Powers & Co. again undertook an external audit of the Town for FY2023. These numbers are drawn from their report. (It is now Town policy to have an external audit done annually.) Their complete final audit report will be available on the Town website and at the Town Offices.

A perennial source of frustration for many residents of Shaftsbury continues to be the cascade of problems that can flow from a failure to file the annual Homestead Declaration (form HS-122) in a timely manner. Late filing is not only subject to a penalty, but also often leads to problems with mortgage companies that pay the amount shown on the original property tax bill if the homeowner doesn't pass along the revised bill. To avoid all the headaches that can ensue, please make sure you get your forms in on time. If that isn't possible, make sure you open and review your bill and any revisions when you receive them, and keep your bank informed of any changes. By doing so, you may save yourself both time and money.

Melanie Dexter, Shaftsbury Town Treasurer

AUDITORS REPORT

During Fiscal year 2023, 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 2023 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, 2023. 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, 2023, 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, 2023

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, 2022 – June 30, 2023, we continued to face challenges as markets and the Federal Reserve worked through inflationary pressures, due to high interest rates and full employment levels. We maintained the objectives set in the prior year of increasing the cash position to help protect each Fund's capital. In September, the cash position reached its peak, representing approx. 34%.

In October 2022, the town received $14,406 as a transfer of income generated from individual accounts between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022, as follows:

Cemetery Perpetual Trust	4,986
Recreation	5,017
School	1,073
Library - Restricted	450
Library - Unrestricted	380
Grandview Cemetery	2,500
	$14,406

The Trustees saw the retirement of Barry Mayer after many years of service. His thoughtful insights were always appreciated and contributed to the growth of the various funds managed by the Trustees.

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

William Hession

CEMETERY TRUST FUND

The Cemetery Trust Fund was dissolved in 2022.

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.

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.

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

The Health Fund was dissolved in 2022. All investments were transferred to the Recreation Fund, per the Selectboard.

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.

Budget FY25

1.10.2024

Revenues:		Budget FY23	FY23 Final	Budget FY24	FY24 12.31.23	Budget FY25
Tax Revenues						
Current Tax Revenue		1961422	1938691	2104226	2122150	2321729
Taxpayer Prebates from State		0	0	0	26927	0
Late Homestead Penalty		2,051	4,999	5340	3472	5,250
Delinquent Tax Revenue		0	0	0	0	0
Delinquent Tax Interest		10,000	8,329	10000	7812	10,000
Education Billing Fee retained		9405	9804	9750	0	9750
Tax sale Fees		0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1982878	**1961823**	**2129316**	**2160361**	**2346729**
Intergovernmental Revenue						
Railroad Taxes		900	992	950	0	950
State Land Use		42,000	46,001	46000	49681	48,000
VT Forests and Parks			0	0	0	0
State PILOT Federal Land PILOT Program		12,000	11,401	11000	11598	11,000
Federal Land PILOT		3660	4014	3750	0	4,000
Vermont State Highway Aid		180,000	169,989	180000	175050	175,000
Government Grants		0	14728	0	0	0
	Total	**238560**	**247125**	**241700**	**236329**	**238950**
Charges for Services:						
Water Charge for Labor		0	0	0	0	0
Misc. Transfer Station fees		600	1819	800	1667	2,000
Access Permits		9000	7070	9000	6940	9,000
PAYT Revenues		62000	54392	64000	35431	66,000
Zoning Permits		6000	6390	6000	3030	6,000
	Total	**77600**	**69671**	**79800**	**47068**	**83000**

Licenses:						
Dog licenses		3250	4622	3000	180	3,500
Beer and Liquor Licenses		130	0	130	0	130
Marriage Licenses		100	100	100	155	100
	Total	**3480**	**4722**	**3230**	**335**	**3,730**
Fines and Forfeits:						
Dog Fines		400	0	400	0	0
Civil fines		2000	910	2500	270	2,500
Sheriff Fines			0	0		0
State Police Fines			0	0		0
	Total	**2400**	**910**	**2900**	**270**	**2,500**
Interest Income	Total	**1500**	**7869**	**1500**	**21389**	**2,000**
Miscellaneous Income	Total	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Howard Park						
Trustees of Public Funds		5000	5888	4500	5017	4,500
Fees		100	100	100	50	100
Interest earnings			0	0	0	0
Misc. Income			0	0	0	0
Key Deposits			0	0	0	0
Town Rec Fund Transfer			0	0	0	0
	Total	**5100**	**5988**	**4600**	**5067**	**4,600**

Cemetery Revenue						
Buriel fees		2000	1700	2500	800	2,500
Burial Permits		0	0	0	0	0
Lot Fees		4000	8100	5000	8550	5,000
Cemetery Trusts - perp		6000	7984	6000	4986	6,000
Grandview Lot Fees		0	0	0	0	0
Misc. Revenue		0	50	0	0	0
Corner Markers		1200	0	200	0	200
Grandview Perp trust		3500	3913	3000	2500	3,000
Grandview - Other rev.		2000	2000	2000	2000	2,000
	Total	**18700**	**23747**	**18700**	**18836**	**18,700**
Clerk Revenue						
Recording fees		45000	38091	45000	15947	38,000
Birth certificates		0	0	0	0	0
Misc. revenue		300	375	300	373	300
	Total	**45300**	**38466**	**45300**	**16320**	**38,300**
Other Income						
Proceeds from long term debt		0	0	0	0	0
Insurance proceeds		0	1163	0	100	0
Trans surplus fund balance		0	0	0	0	0
Sale of Equipment		0	0	0	0	0
Listers Copies		0	0	0	0	0
Other income		0	1017	0	400	0
	Total	**0**	**2,180**	0	**500**	**0**
Operating Transfers In						
Prior Fund Balance		0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Total	**2395518**	**2362501**	**2527046**	**2501450**	**2738509**

1/22/2024 BUDGET FY25

		FY23	FY24	FY24 YTD	FY25
General Government	**Final**		**Budget**	**12/1/2023**	**Proposed**
Administration					
Select Board Stipend		4,250	3750	0	3750
Meeting Recording Clerk		0	0	0	0
Town Administrator Salary		83,473	84363	25,920	80,000
Administrative Support Wages		0	0	0	0
Employee Health Premium		0	0	0	21,942
Health Plan Administration		733	1000	288	1000
Employee Health Ins Deductable		0	0	0	4,000
FICA		7,055	6327	2269	6,986
AFLAC Admin Short term Diability		669	973	308	750
Dental Plan		0	0	0	1,127.00
Vision Plan		0	0	0	104
Insurance and Bonds		68,799	72685	20,856	79326
Retirement Contribution		5,233	5694	1,749	2726
Unemployment Insurance		1,674	2712	460	*2712*
Professional Services		25,439	21,000	13,704	26,000
Postage		1,800	1200	11	1800
Meetings & Training		318	500	0	500
Staff Development		0	0	0	0
Video CAT-TV ZOOM		12,794	4800	5,034	4,800
Advertising and Legal Notices		794	1500	298	1500
Dues and Subscriptions		12,977	14000	6,551	14,000
Office Supplies		3,045	2500	2,178	3,500
Office Equipment		8,645	3000	1,361	5,000
Bank Service Charges		0	0	0	*0*
North Street Property Expenses		0	0	0	*0*
Miscellaneous Expenses		791	1200	644	1,200
Website Management		40	9181	0	5,244

Professional Audit Report available at www.shaftsburyvt.gov or call 802-442-4038 to ask for a print out.

Total Administration	**238,529**	**236385**	**81631**	**267967**
	FY23	**FY24**	**FY24 YTD**	**FY25**
Cole Hall -Town Offices				
Custodial Wages	0	0	0	0
FICA	11	0	0	0
Contract Services	6,277	6900	2,132	6,900
Repair and Maintenance	1,354	2000	2,315	1,500
Operating Supplies	1,734	2300	94	2,300
Utilities	9,575	9000	4,314	10,000
Heating Fuel	3,620	4000	0	4,000
Total Cole Hall	**22,571**	**24,200**	**8,855**	**24,700**
Elections & Vital Statistics				
Town Clerk Salary	52,613	48968	16,313	56,898
Assistant Town Clerk	18,103	9181	2,301	20,974 b
Poll Worker Wages	4,813	4200	0	5,000
TC Health Ins.	13,466	19,946	7,095	18,689
TC Health Deductable	2,070	2000	2,174	2,000
AFLAC Admin Short Term Disability	397	420	216	420
FICA	5,301	4662	1,424	6,630
Retirement Contributions	3,457	3305	963	3,698
Dental Plan	1,034	628	469	1,034
Vision Plan	104	59	43	120
Travel & Meetings - Clerk	0	650	245	650
Travel & Meetings- Elections	407	650	0	650
Machine Equipment/Supplies - Elections	5,283	3150	0	5,000
Operating Equipment Supplies Clerk	3,309	4500	149	4,500
Professional Services	260	0	1,200	500
Total	**110,617**	**102319**	**32,592**	**126,763**

		FY23	FY24	FY24 YTD	FY25
Finance:					
Accounting/Payroll-					
Bookeeping Wages		5,839	9820	1,806	10,125
FICA		465	765	138	795
Bookkeeping Supplies		41	0	0	0
Payroll		4,213	3500	1,124	4500
	Total	**10558**	**14085**	**3,068**	**15,420**
Auditing					
Auditor Wages		662	1900	163	1,200
FICA		51	148	12	90
Travel & Meetings		0	0	0	0
Town Report		2,412	955	0	2,500
	Total	**3125**	**3003**	**175**	**3,790**
Delinquent Tax Collection					
FICA		1,410	1300	190	1300
Supplies		20	500	863	500
	Total	**1430**	**1800**	**1053**	**1800**
Treasurer Services					
Treasurer Salary		26,877	34,907	9,383	36,652
Assistant Treasurer		0	0	0	0
Bank Service Charge		110	660	0	150
Billing Supplies		1620	2000	806	2,000
Other Services		35	250	228	100
FICA		2,056	2105	717	2,877
Professional Audit		0	0	0	18,000
	Total	**30698**	**39922**	**11,134**	**59,779**

Assessors Office		FY23	FY24	FY24 YTD	FY25
Wages		16,990	36,358	9,635	43,062
FICA		2,265	2726	737	3,380
Professional Services		16,966	18260	4,862	18,260
Tax Maps		6,400	2500	7,075	3,000
Computer Maintenance		215	500	0	500
Travel & Meetings		71	250	0	250
Dues & Subscriptions		664	700	50	700
Operating Supplies		89	200	386	200
	Total	**43,660**	**61,494**	**22,745**	**69,352**
Public Safety					
Animal Control:					
ACO Wages		6,089	6615	1,845	6813
Monthly Stipend		0	0	0	0
FICA		466	506	141	545
Veterinary Expense		0	750	250	750
Tags/Miscellaneous		2,657	500	75	500
Kennel Expense		N/A	800	0	400
	Total	**9212**	**9171**	**2,311**	**9008**
Emergency Management					
Equipment Maintenance		352	800	1,328	800
Travel & Meetings		0	200	0	200
Operating Supplies		0	400	0	400
Emergency Shelter Equipment		0	0	0	0
	Total	**352**	**1400**	**1,328**	**1400**

		FY23	FY24	FY24 YTD	FY25
Fire Department					
Chiefs Stipend		2600	2600	0	2600
FICA		0	199	0	199
Insurance & Bond		1,879	2550	0	2550
Fire House Maintenance		3,072	5000	2,521	5000
Fire Truck Maintenance		11,492	8000	1,944	8000
Communications		2,857	4500	1,217	4500
Training		1,264	2000	1,098	2000
Operating Supplies		1,140	750	804	750
Utilities		15,251	10000	7,103	10000
Firehouse Heating Fuel		12,845	11016	231	11000
Gas, Oil & Diesel		158	4000	72	4000
Extrication Equipment		567	2000	0	2000
Equipment Replacement		22,176	20000	15,729	22500
	Total	**75,301**	**72615**	**30,719**	**75099**
Fire Warden					
Opearating Supplies		0	250	0	250
Vehicle and Equipment		1,280	1500	0	1500
				0	0
	Total	**1,280**	**1750**	**0**	**1,750**
Law Enforcement					
Constable Wages		0	0	0	0
Sheriff Services		23,361	40000	12,705	80,000

Total		**23,361**	**40,000**	**12,705**	**80,000**
Emergency Medical					
Bennington Rescue		22500	27500	27,500	30,250
Arlington Rescue	n/a		10388	0	11,427
Total		**22500**	**37888**	**27,500**	**41,677**
HIGHWAY		**FY23**	**FY24**	**FY24 YTD**	**FY25**
Highway Administration:					
Highway Wages - Regular		303,145	312,628	106,229	318,906
Highway Wages - Overtime		19,602	29,820	296	30,419
P/T Summer		0	9,236	0	10,000
Employee Health Insurance - Premium		71,413	98,309	38,146	97,914
Employee Health Insurance- Deductable		7,509	16,000	1,604	16,000
Disability Insurance		0	0	0	0
AFLAC Short Term Disability		2,517	3,000	1,256	3,500
Dental Plan		3,290	3,769	1,645	3,882
Vision Plan		332	350	152	375
FICA		25,332	26,844	8,060	27,422
Retirement Contribution		21,467	22,912	7,089	24,452
Uniform Cleaning		0	0	0	0
Travel & Meetings		0	300	0	300
Steel Toe Footware		600	750	0	750
CDL Physicals		1,050	800	210	1,200
FT DPW CLOTHING ALLOWANCE		3,150	3,307	4,873	3,600
Total		**459,407**	**528,025**	**169,560**	**538,720**
Highway Construction & Maintenance					
Subcontract Costs		0	0	1,483	0
Signs		7,035	4000	3,289	6,000
Tree Removal		9,450	22,500	0	22,500
Bridges and Guardrails		0	0	0	0

Paving			2,074	0	397	2,000
Operating Supplies			26,593	8000	6,355	13,000
Gravel			119,302	90,000	26,405	115,000
Chloride (Dust Control)			64,233	60,000	43,879	62,500
Winter Salt			46,622	51,000	5,479	51,000
Winter Sand			65,378	52,000	0	58,000
Level& Sealing			0	5,000	0	5,000
Di-Cleaning			0	0	0	0
Rentals			1,260	3,000	400	5,500
Property Rental			0	0	0	0
			FY23	**FY24**	**FY24 YTD**	**FY25**
Culverts			504	0	0	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			1,965	1,600	0	2,200
		Total	**344,416**	**297,100**	**87,687**	**342,700**
Highway Equipment Maintenance						
Truck 1	2021 IH	HV507	3,547	3700	2,194	4000
Truck 2	2023 IH	HV507	2,330	3700	1,523	4000
Truck 3	2015 IH	7600	4,286	3700	5,523	4000
Truck 4	2013 IH	7600	13,433	3700	4,006	4000
Truck 5	2011 IH	7500	7,426	3700	9,552	4000
Truck 6	2009 IH	CHLORIDE	4,979	3700	0	4000
Truck 7	CHEV	5500	1,348	3700	0	4000
TRAILERS			0	1000	789	1500
TORO			0	800	2,905	1500
Truck 9	A.M.	Dump	0	3700	62	4000
Truck 10	Dodge	3500	11,991	3700	19	4000
Backhoe		410	17,751	3700	279	4000
JD Loader		644E	1,468	3700	10	4000
CAT Excavator		307	0	3700	747	4000

Cat Grader	12G	1,588	3700	0	4000	
JD Grader	672G	3,241	3700	80	4000	
Case Mower	115MAX	4,928	3700	1,883	4000	
Cat Traxcavator		0	n/a	n/a	N/A	
Plows and Sanders		3,303	3700	0	4000	
Trackless Sidewalk		142	3700	0	4000	
Rentals		1,150	0	0	0	
Communications		0	500	579	750	
Gas, Diesel & Oil		83,670	70000	27,258	70000	
Machinery & Equipment		13,429	14000	1,533	20,000	
	Total	**180,010**	**149,200**	**58,942**	**161750**	
		FY23	**FY24**	**FY24 YTD**	**FY25**	
Highway Garage						
Professional Services		4,546	2,500	597	5,000	
Repair & Maintenance		882	1,000	0	1,500	
Operating Supplies		2,255	4,000	1,184	4,000	
Utilities		8,096	5,200	2,837	8,000	
Heating Fuel		2,231	2,500	0	3,000	
Machinery & Equipment		5,329	3,000	879	0	c
	Total	**23,339**	**18,200**	**5,497**	**21,500**	
SOLID WASTE FACILITY						
Attendant Wages		36,246	36,649	11,096	38,511	
FICA		2,879	2,749	848	3,023	
Professional Services		11,880	4000	2,808	5,000	d
Management Contract		n/a	n/a	n/a	0	
Methane Well Monitoring		0	400	0	400	
Solid Waste Implementation Plan		21,134	30,000	0	35,000	
Subcontract Costs		0	0	0	0	
Groundwater Monitoring		33,142	25,000	0	27,500	
Solid WasteRemoval		3,256	n/a	0	0	
Tire removal		1,677	n/a	237	0	

CASELLA SERVICES		101,995	104,838	37,137	110,000
Repairs & Maintenance		1,111	1,000	320	1,200
Operating Supplies		233	1,000	100	1,000
Sticker Costs		570	1,500	425	750
Transfer Station Utilities		328	400	110	400
Landfill Utilities		0	200	0	200
Gas, Diesel & Oil		417	0	0	0
Hazardous Waste Days		0	0	0	0
	Total	**214868**	**207,736**	**53,081**	**222,984**

STREET LIGHTS	**FY23**	**FY24**	**FY24 YTD**	**FY25**	
Hawks Avenue	314	500	105	500	
S. Shaftsbury Village	11,542	11750	3,898	12000	
Total	**11856**	**12250**	**4003**	**12500**	

Park & Recreation				
Salaries & Wages	0	0	0	0
FICA	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	1,869	3000	419	3,250
Building ConstructionMaintenance Repair	2,325	2000	6,111	2,500 e.
Equipment Maintenance	0	0	0	0
Refund Key Deposit	0	0	0	0
Operating Supplies	167	500	0	500
Equipment	0	0	0	0
Utilities	422	550	280	500
Reimbursement Gas		0	0	0
Capital Improvements		0	0	0
Total	**4,783**	**6050**	**6810**	**6750**

	FY23	**FY24**	**FY24 YTD**	**FY25**	
CEMETERY EXPENDITURES					
Superintendent Salary	8,915	9181	5,886	15,731	f.

Cemetery Committee Assistant	0	4056	0	0
FICA	1,342	937	450	1,258
Contract Services	31,575	31200	10,500	31,200
Repairs & Maintenance	639	3000	2,500	3,000
Travel & Meetings	485	400	324	400
Corner Marker Installation	0	200	0	200
Corner Markers	2,408	1300	450	1,300
Cemify Maintenance	0	1359	0	9,240
Miscellaneous	2,853	0	448	0
Buy Back Lots	0	0	200	0
Total	**48,217**	**51633**	**20,758**	**62,329**

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	**FY23**	**FY24**	**FY24 YTD**	**FY25**
Development Review Board				
Board Member Stipends	0	2500	0	2,500
Meeting Recording clerk Wages	0	0	0	0
FICA	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	1,093	500	0	1,500
Travel & Meetings	0	250	0	500
Advertising & Legal	1,666	1000	236	1,750
Operating Supplies	0	0	0	0
Town Clerk Recording Fees	0	0	0	0
Total	**2,759**	**4250**	**236**	**6,250**
Planning				
Board Member Stipends	0	2500	0	2500
Meeting recording clerk	0	0	0	0
Zoning Administrator Wages	11,253	12,740	3,410	11,162
FICA	889	975	260	876
Professional Services	20,110	750	225	1,000
Travel & Meetings	0	200	0	200

Advertising & Legal	0	500	318	500
Printing	0	0	0	0
Operating Supplies	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Planning Grant Fund	0	0	0	0
Total	**32,252**	**17665**	**4213**	**16,238**

COUNTY TAXES				
County of Bennington	**33,301**	**34299**	**34,513**	**36,238**

TRANSFERS TO RESERVES	**FY23**	**FY24**	**FY24 YTD**	**FY25**
Cole Hall	10,000	0	0	0
Equipment	120,000	125000	0	130,000
Fire Warden truck	1,000	1000	0	2,000
Fire Truck	90,000	95000	0	100,000
Garage reserve fund	0	0	0	0
Paving Reserve	25,000	45000	0	30,000
Sidewalk Reserve	6,400	3000	0	2,000
Cemetery Reserve	0	5000	0	5,000
Park reserve	0	0	0	8,000
Culvert Reserve	10,000	10000	0	15,000
Audit Reserve	16,000	16000	0	0
Veterans Memorial	0	0	0	0
Class 3 Road Fund	100,000	50000	0	35,000
Reappraisal Reserve Fund	0	0	0	0
AIRPACK RESERVE FUND	10,000	10000	0	10,000
Total	**388,400**	**360000**	**0**	**337000**

DEBT SERVICE EXPENDITURES				
Interest Expense	0	1,000	0	1000
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	78,770	77,577	64,095	76310
2021 Mower State Loan	23,760	23,320	0	23320
2021 Cat Excavator	12,530	11,932	11,932	11932
Total	**115,060**	**113,829**	**76,027**	**112562**

COMMUNITY APPROPRIATIONS	**FY23**	**FY24**	**FY24 YTD**	**FY25**
Arlington Rescue Squad	8,500	0	N/A	N/A
Bennington Area VNA	5225	5225	0	5,225
Bennington Coalition for the Homeless	5000	5000	0	5,000
BCCD	450	450	0	450
Bennington Free Clinic	1000	1000	0	1,000
Bennington Free Library	18000	18630	0	18,630
Bennington Little League	600	600	0	600
Bennington Project Independence	4500	4500	0	4,500
BROC	1700	1700	0	1,700
Center for Restorative Justice	600	600	0	600
Green -Up Vermont	200	200	0	200
John C. McCullough Free Library	25200	25200	0	25,200
Martha Canfield Library	2000	2000	0	2,000
Paran Recreations	2500	2500	0	2,500
Park McCullough House	1500	1500	0	1,500
PAVE	450	450	0	450

RSVP	950	950	0	950	
Shaftsbury Historical Society	2500	2500	0	2,500	
Sunrise Family Resource Center	1000	1000	0	1,000	
SW Vermont Council on Aging	1100	1100	0	1,100	
Tutorial Center	900	900	0	900	
VT Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	300	300	0	300	
VT Center for Independent Living	1000	1000	0	1,000	
Shires Media Partnership -WBTN	5000	5000	0	5,000	
Shireskids	750	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Bennington Senior Center	750	750	0	750	
Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation	n/a	n/a		1,000	
	91675	**83055**	**0**	**84,055**	

		FY23 FINAL	FY24	FY24 YTD	FY25
FY Year Total		**2,545,887**	**2527046**	**757,143**	**2,740,081**
Increase			131,528		213,035
Non tax revenue			422,820		416,780
Raised by Taxes		1,961,422	2104226		*$2,323,301*
	Tax rate	0.482	0.5118		*0.5501*
With local agreement adjust	Tax rate				
	per 100G	$482.00	$511.80		550.1
with local agreement adjust	per 100G				

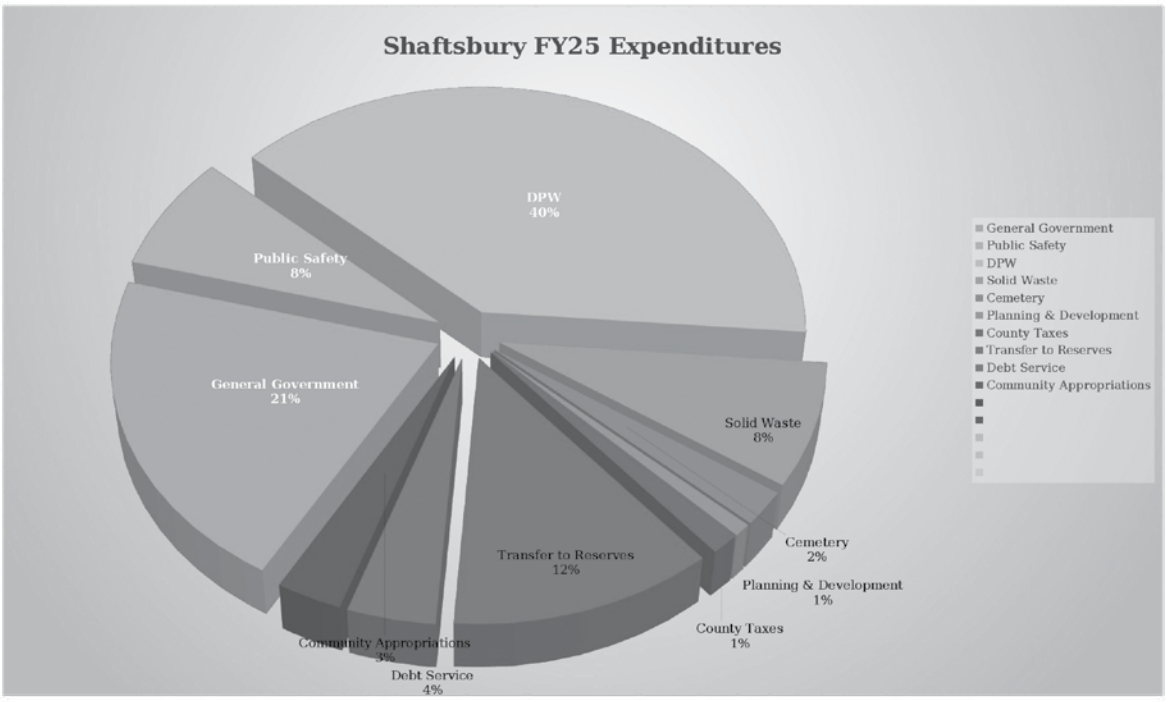
increase per 100,000	$22.80	$29.80	$38.30

Tax figures for FY25 based on FY24 Grand List (4,223,412) and FY23 non-tax revenues of $422,820.

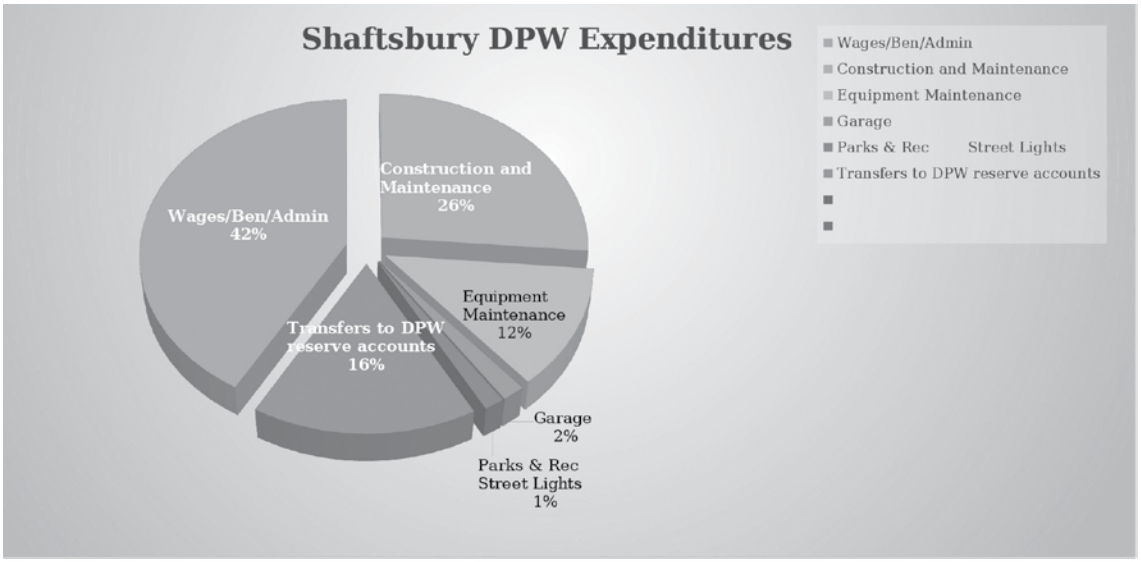
1,375.25 FY25 per 250,000 valuat
1,279.50 FY24 per 250,000 valuat
$95.75 Increase

Proposed Expenditures

Asset Type	Amount
General Government	$ 569,571
Public Safety	$ 208,934
DPW	$ 1,083,920
Solid Waste	$ 222,984
Cemetery	$ 62,329
Planning & Development	$ 22,488
County Taxes	$ 36,238
Transfer to Reserves	$ 337,000
Debt Service	$ 112,562
Community Appropriations	$ 84,055



Asset Type	Amount
Wages/Ben/Admin	$ 478,428
Construction and Maintenance	$ 296,000
Equipment Maintenance	$ 125,870
Garage	$ 21,700
Parks & Rec Street Lights	$ 16,500
Transfers to DPW reserve accounts	$ 261,400
Total DPW	1,199,898



SELECTBOARD REPORT

This past year has seen a lot of activity for the Select Board. A survey was sent to the citizens by the ARPA Advisory Committee, the results of which indicated that the majority of the people that responded were in favor of a community meeting space and the updating of Cole Hall to become ADA compliant. Because of this the board has reactivated an Economic Development Committee whose responsibility it will be to investigate the possibilities of a community center and a group to restructure Cole Hall. All of this has kept the Select Board members busy and involved.

The first part of the year was a time of much turmoil and concern over the proposal for a 20-megawatt solar system to be developed off Holy Smoke Road. Since then the developer has made many concessions and the town has a better understanding of the process that takes place with the Public Utility Commission making the final decision sometime in 2024.

At the last election, the town approved a bond that would allow the construction of a replacement of some of the old water lines along Route 7A to Church Street. This project is in the final stages of engineering and we look forward to its commencing in 2025. We are calling this phase one with two more to follow to upgrade the entire system.

The sidewalk project for Grandview Street is in the final stages of engineering at which time it will be presented to the public.

Looking forward to FY25 the Department of Public Works is continuing to take care of the grounds around Cole Hall and Howard Park, etc. while working to bring our 80 plus miles of Town Roads up to state specifications so that we are in compliance with our Municipal Road General Permit. This requires constant grading, ditching, and tree work so that we are not polluting the waters of Vermont. The past few years

have shown a great improvement of the condition of the roads but now there is a concern of speeding on these better roads. Dave Kiernan, who is a certified traffic surveyor, has studied the roads of Shaftsbury and the Selectboard, with his recommendation, has changed the posted speed on many roads and new signs have been installed. We now look to the County Sheriff's Department to help us enforce these new limits. We have a contract with the Department and have a good working relationship with them so we look forward to working on this concern.

The re-blacktopping of the White Creek Road is the next major road project which would require the money that is set aside for this from two consecutive budgets. The project has been studied by engineers so we will know what has to be done when the finances are available.

In closing, I must reluctantly acknowledge the retirement of our Town Administrator. In the past 10 years, Dave Kiernan has brought this town to new levels of accomplishments. It would take several pages to list all of them, and I'm sure I would miss some of them. In my opinion, the most striking is the transformation of Cole Hall into a true town center. We will greatly miss his wisdom and commonsense approach to issues and his guiding suggestions. The search is on for a replacement and the town will survive because Shaftsbury is a very special place.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Each year brings new challenges to the Town Clerk's Office. In the past few years we have seen major elections, a world-wide pandemic, working around closing the office to the public during the pandemic, learning a new "normal". Next year will bring the challenge of yet another group of large elections. Please note that you will need to request absentee ballots for March and August, but will be automatically sent ballots for the general election in November. Please be sure that we have your correct mailing address on file if it has changed in the last year.

It's hard for me to believe that I have been Town Clerk for seven years! Time has flown by. I feel that I have grown much in the seven years here. I have recently been assigned to the Legislative Committee for the Vermont Clerk's and Treasurer's Association. I look forward to working with the other committee members on issues that affect town clerks. I will also be the official "Town Helper" for the Veterans Committee in planning the Memorial Day Parade. I am honored to help.

In 2023 I recorded 2,444 pages into the land records, licensed 451 dogs, issued 10 marriage licenses, performed over 80 notary services, approved numerous liquor, tobacco licenses and catering permits using the states new on-line approval system, issued certified copies of birth, death and marriage license certificates. I continue to take advantage of the states continuing education for Town Clerk's as laws are always changing and there is always something new to learn.

This will be my new assistant, Jen Holley's, first full year and first year during a large election cycle. I know she will do a great job with everything new that is about to be thrown at her.

Below is a report of various fees collected in fiscal year 2023 at the Clerk's Office.

Fiscal Year	Dog Licenses	Certified Copies	Vault Copies	Marriage Licenses
	$4,478.00	$150.00	$1,003.00	$240.00
	Recording	Miscellaneous	Total	
	$36,658.00	$304.00	$42,833.00	

If you are over the age of 62 or a veteran stop by and see me about a Green Mountain Passport. For $2 you can get into all Vermont State Parks for life! Day pass only.

Marlene Hall, CVC
Town Clerk

VITALS REPORT

Births	Marriages	Deaths
21	10	31

SHAFTSBURYS ASSESSORS OFFICE REPORT

The Town Assessors Office has been very busy this year and will only get busier. The State of Vermont has ordered Shaftsbury to start a town wide reappraisal. This will start in the summer of 2024 and will be completed for the tax year due November 2026. Shaftsbury has contracted with NEMRC, which provides reappraisal services. With their knowledge and integrity, we have no doubt that this will run smoothly.

With help from the Zoning Administrator, the Assessor's office has been working with CAI to update our property tax maps. They can be viewed on our town webpage, shaftsburyvt.gov, under: Grand List, and then, Interactive GIS property database. You may search for your property information and if you believe that there is an error please contact the Assessors office and we can take a look at it for you.

Listers Cards online

You are now able to get a copy of the "As Billed" Grand List Listers Cards

online at the Town webpage:

shaftsburyvt.gov

Gina Jenks
Assessors Clerk

DELINQUENT TAXES AS OF 6/302023

2017 Taxes			
Statewide Corporation		2017	40.09
Statewide Corporaton		2017	20.05
Total 2017 Taxes			**60.14**
2018 Taxes			
Erb	Robert G. & Elizabeth H.	2018	98.42
Statewide Corporation		2018	40.95
Statewide Corporaton		2018	20.48
Val Erb and Son BU		2018	68.88
Walker	Jeff	2018	247.21
Total 2018 Taxes			**475.94**
2019 Taxes)			
Erb	Robert G. & Elizabeth H.	2019	101.15
Harris	Robert & Teri	2019	314.52
Statewide Corporation		2019	41.98
Statewide Corporaton		2019	20.99
Val Erb and Son BU		2019	171.75
Walker	Jeff	2019	486.64
Total 2019 Taxes			**1137.03**
2020 Taxes			
Erb	Robert G. & Elizabeth H.	2020	104.27
Kozloski	Ronald & Robin	2020	13.15
Statewide Corporation		2020	43.28
Statewide Corporaton		2020	21.64
Val Erb and Son BU		2020	177.05
Washburn	Stephen F.	2020	1289.12
Total 2020 Taxes			**1648.51**
2021 Taxes			
Bossong	Rose	2021	1942.19
Christmas	Tina M.	2021	123.23
Erb	Robert G. & Elizabeth H.	2021	106.34
Greene	Arlie	2021	1504.81
Keen	George W. & Brenda L.	2021	1896.46
Kozloski	Ronald & Robin	2021	2986.06
Levin	Lew H. & Jill N.	2021	1865.21
Statewide Corporation		2021	44.14
Statewide Corporaton		2021	22.07
Val Erb and Son BU		2021	180.58
Vanderwerken	David & Rene	2021	2666.59
Walker	Jeff	2021	511.64
Washburn	Stephen F.	2021	2030.95
Washburn	Suzanne M.	2021	822.62

Washburn	Suzanne M. & Jared	2021	403.71
Total 2021 Taxes			**17106.60**
2022 Taxes			
Bodenstab	Orin	2022	2802.29
Bona	Marilyn	2022	1280.99
Bossong	Rose	2022	1955.75
Bouteiller	Alfred & Dorothy	2022	209.89
Brown	Beatrice	2022	893.08
Burnham	Barbara J.	2022	2630.56
Burns	Dr. Nancy L.	2022	1654.29
Caccamo	Clint E.	2022	2658.85
Cook	Jennifer	2022	982.74
Dalton	Elaine H.	2022	408.12
Doggett	Robert	2022	4337.80
Erb	Robert G. & Elizabeth H.	2022	107.08
Farrell Estate	James & Patricia	2022	9364.55
Fitz	Amanda	2022	684.92
Flanders	Jean M.	2022	236.39
Fox Estate	Mary C.	2022	3384.63
Gordon	Sandra J.	2022	579.32
Greene	Arlie	2022	1515.31
Grout	Max	2022	1046.57
Harmon Jr.	Richard	2022	604.10
Johnson-Turner	Kim	2022	642.42
Joly	Wendy	2022	909.19
Kaffan	Stephen	2022	2159.81
Kozloski	Ronald & Robin	2022	4016.55
Landview Holdings LLC		2022	2133.53
Levin	Corrinne J.	2022	1320.53
Levin	Lew H. & Jill N.	2022	2072.93
McDonald Jr.	Clinton	2022	2483.07
McFadden	Graham & Rachel	2022	517.78
Nunweiler	Rebecca	2022	38.27
Perez	Elias Torres	2022	504.78
Peters	Dan R. & Lynn M.	2022	1365.65
Rybka	Gregory M.	2022	1137.48
Sherwin-Fields	Lisa	2022	1662.53
Statewide Corporation		2022	44.45
Statewide Corporaton		2022	22.23
Stimola	Paul	2022	2562.51
Thayer	John M.	2022	1761.79
Val Erb and Son BU		2022	181.84
Vanderwerken	David & Rene	2022	5572.44
Volpi	Jason A. & Noel M.	2022	2897.67
Walker	Jeff	2022	515.21
Washburn	Stephen F.	2022	2063.12
Washburn	Suzanne M.	2022	828.36
Washburn	Suzanne M. & Jared	2022	1282.30
Total 2022 Taxes			**76033.67**
GRAND TOTAL OF UNPAID TAXES			**96461.89**

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS

YEAR	AMOUNT DUE 6/30/2022	AMOUNT COLLECTED	DELINQUENT AMOUNT DUE 6/30/2023
2017	60.14	0.00	60.14
2018	580.03	104.09	475.94
2019	5110.39	3973.36	1137.03
2020	9253.59	7605.08	1648.51
2021	52192.77	35086.17	17106.6
SUB TOTAL	**67196.92**	**46768.70**	**20428.22**
2022	291516.05	215482.38	76033.67
Total	**358712.97**	**262251.08**	**96461.89**

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 (BCSWA) represents a partnership of 13 towns working together to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills through recycling, reuse, repair, and through other means of resource conservation. Since 2015, BCSWA has followed a solid waste implementation plan to assist residents, schools, businesses, and other organizations meet the requirements of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law.

In July of 2023 BCSWA opened a new household hazardous waste collection facility at the Bennington Transfer Station. The facility was open one day per week throughout the fall and collected paint, pesticides, cleaning products, flammable liquids, and other landfill banned items from 225 families and small businesses in the area. The facility was built under budget at a cost of $106,739.74. A grant from Vermont DEC financed 60% of the cost with the member towns of the Alliance funding the remainder. The Alliance projects that the facility will reduce annual operations costs when compared to the previous model of hosting disposal events, and that the savings will pay for construction costs in approximately 3 years.

The Alliance hosts a website at www.bcswa.org, and is present on social media at facebook.com/solidwastealliance, instagram.com/bcswa_vt, and youtube.com/@bcswa. Outreach on these channels provide resources and information to residents about:

- Scheduling a household hazardous waste drop off appointment
- Battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program
- Disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and select transfer stations
- 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
- 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, Staples, and retail establishments
- Diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen containers
- Reduced price composting equipment available at the BCSWA online store
- Waste reduction resources for businesses, schools, events, institutions and residents

During 2023 the Alliance assisted 41 businesses, held composting and Recycling events at local libraries, produced regular content for public access television stations, and hosted tables at several farmers markets.

Visit bcswa.org for updates and details. The Alliance is funded by the thirteen member towns of the alliance proportional to their population, along with grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT

Hello to the Residents of Shaftsbury,

Happy New Year! For those who may not know me, my name is Robert Perry and I have been the Constable for Shaftsbury for the last dozen years. As of 2024 I was hired on as the new Animal Control Officer (ACO) for the town of Shaftsbury. I am taking the place of Kelly Coonradts who you may know as your past ACO. I want to Thank her for the job that she did as I take over the position this year. I was also asked by the Town of Arlington to come on board as their ACO starting 2024. I am going to be in charge of all dog complaints and issues that anyone might have regarding stray dogs, aggressive dogs or neglect situations. I will be working closely with the State Police, our Deputy Sheriff representative, and Travis Buttle, our Game Warden in more serious cases of abuse etc. Since I came on in October as Shaftsbury ACO I've engaged in 4 or 5 issues regarding stray dogs, wandering dogs and a few minor aggressive dog behaviors. I would like to remind people that Shaftsbury has a fully enacted leash law that does not allow dogs to wander off leash on public or private properties other than their own. We are grateful when people do their best to oblige these rules for the safety of both our residents and the dogs that we love.

Regarding licensing of dogs, many owners know that they are obligated to have their dogs shots up to date and their licenses renewed and active every year by April 1st. Everyone has busy lives, and we understand that. That is why we all have from January 1st to April 1st to fulfill that task. It is a very reasonable fee and easy to do. Stop down and see Marlene at the Town Office. Year after Year we seem to have many residents that have not re-registered their dogs. Some of them are because the dog has passed, and if that is the case we need to be notified so you will not be wrongly put on the delinquent dog list. To the others that neglect renewing licenses we only ask for you to make a great effort this year to get your dogs current and help make this system work the way it is suppose to. Licensing your dog ensures the public that your dog has all necessary rabies, distemper and other vaccinations that are required. That helps make our investigation of individual instances easier. Thank you to all. My direct contact information regarding any dog issues is 802.442.3071 (H) and 802.681.3724 (C). Feel free to text my cell number. I look forward to serving our community this New Year of 2024.

Regards,

Robert Perry Constable, ACO

www.shaftsburyvt.gov

Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall
Cemetery Department

PO Box 409
61 Buck Hill Road
Shaftsbury, VT
05262-0409
(802) 442-4038

In August, the Cemetery Committee and the John G. McCullough Library collaborated to host an event at Center Cemetery known as "Care, Cleaning, and Meaning of Headstones - A Tour of the Shaftsbury Center Cemetery." This event featured a guided tour and informative session by Caitlin Abrams, a representative from the Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA). Caitlin provided insights into headstones, local carvers, and the symbolism behind the carvings. If you missed the tour and wish to view it, you can visit the Town's YouTube Channel at youtube.com/@townofshaftsbury. Additionally, Caitlin demonstrated the proper method for cleaning a headstone using D2, and the library now offers cleaning kits for those interested in caring for their relatives' headstones.

After over a year of dedicated work, Cemify is now ready for public use. While the project is not yet complete, a substantial amount of information has been inputted into the system. We believe it's the right time to showcase the significant progress we've made in enhancing our record-keeping and data preservation efforts, which will benefit the future. To facilitate access, we have launched a burial search feature on the Town website, which directs users to the appropriate Cemify website. Additionally, we are in the process of creating small QR signs for each cemetery, which will be installed by springtime to guide visitors to Cemify for locating burials while on-site.

Over the course of the year, the Cemetery Department has made substantial progress, including the repair and leveling of around 100 headstones by the DPW crew. This achievement would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of everyone involved. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Cemetery Committee, Marlene Hall; the Town Clerk, who serves as the Committee Secretary, David Kiernan; the Town Administrator, Jay Coonradt; our cemetery maintenance service provider; and our dedicated Department of Public Works Crew. A special thank you goes to Ron & Debbie Jennings for their consistent assistance with the Veteran's flags. Without the hard work and support of all these individuals, our cemeteries would not have seen such improvements and wouldn't look as splendid as they do now. So, a heartfelt thank you to each one of you.

Warmest Regards,

Jen Holley, Cemetery Superintendent

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Shaftsbury Zoning Administrator year end summary
November 14, 2025

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

Type of permit	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Houses	6	8	0	11	5
Mobile home	0	0	0	0	0
Additions	13	13	15	5	7
Pools	0	0	0	0	0
Subdivisions or boundary line adjustments	6	1	3	2	7
Home occupations	3	1	0	0	2
Commercial buildings or uses	0	0	0	0	2
Camps	0	0	0	0	1
Signs	2	0	0	0	1
Accessory structure	15	22	31	37	26
Other	6	3	1	3	0
Violation	0	0		0	7
Curb Cut	10	3	0	8	8
Zoning letters of compliance	55	55	63	39	37
Variance				3	2
Permit amendment				1	3
Cannabis cultivation permit					1
Totals	117	116	113	109	109

Applications
The receipt and processing of applications went smoothly.

Meetings
Meetings were held in person and/or remotely.

Violations
All violation warnings were quickly and, eventually, fully addressed by the property owners to which they were issued.

Random thoughts
1. The Planning Commission should be congratulated for its unflagging efforts to revise or build new bylaws and for its timely and time-consuming response to citizen requests to craft an Enhanced Energy Plan.
2. Planning Commission and Development Review Board members made every effort to attend meetings remotely when necessary. No meeting had to be cancelled for lack of a quorum.

Notes by ZA Stiles.

SHAFTSBURY DEPARTRMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

All of the road projects completed in FY 2023 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 or Paving grants. Projects were completed by contractors with assistance from the road crew.

- On West Mt Road and Blueberry Hill Rd. Funded by Grant in aid program. 3500 Ft of new stone line ditching was installed on the steep slopes of Blueberry Hill for erosion control. Also two culverts where replaced, a 36in pipe under West Mt Rd and a 18in pipe at the intersection of blueberry hill. This project was granted to the town because it was an area that didn't meet standards and needed to be rebuilt to meet the MRGP road standards.

- On Murphy Hill Road near Sally Gannon intersection, an old 3ft diameter metal pipe that has been failing and washing out the outlet side of the embankment, causing erosion to the shoulder of the roadway, has been replaced with a new 7ft wide x 5ft high x 60ft long with fish baffles. Sizing of this culvert was calculated and designed by the agency of natural resources river engineer. The roadway was rebuilt over new culvert with 18inches of new processed gravel. Guard rail was installed for protection on the outlet of the culverts steep embankment. This project was awarded and funded by Better Back Roads Program and towns local match.

- Road Side Maintenance, ditching and drainage work done by DPW Crew to meet the Municipal Roads General Permit was completed on East Rd, Maple Hill, Dexter Rd, Cidermill Rd, Bouplon Hollow, Tinkham Rd, Cold spring Rd, Cross hill and Underpass . All these road sections where classified High priority's and needed drainage work to be brought back up the MRGP standards per state of Vermont. Road Drainage and culvert replacements will continue throughout the town during summer months every year, for routine maintenance.

- Tree work was continued on Buck Hill Ahead of paving project. VTrans Class 2 roadways awarded the town with a paving grant for Buck hill rd. DPW will be replacing culverts on Buck Hill in the spring of 2023. Paving was awarded to contractor in June of 2023 and scheduled to be paved in the summer/Fall of 2023.

- VTrans Class 2 roadways grant program awarded a section of White creek road to be paved from Rollin Rd to the Stateline boarder of New York. 8 culverts will be replaced and the road will be paved in the summer/fall of 2024 to meet the deadline for the grant.

- Roadside Mowing done by DPW with the towns newly purchased mower. Machine purchased is a CASE CVX115 tractor with Diamond 22 ft mid mount rotary mowing head.

- DPW Crew Improved the existing walking trail at Howard Park. Trail is now a gravel pathway through the woods around the park. Making it more accessible to be used for walking or biking.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Yannotti, Department of Public Works Foreman

Shaftsbury Fire Department

You will see below the breakdown of our emergency call for the year 2023. What you will notice is an increase in our response to Wildland fires. The size and frequency of wildland calls can be attributed to the increase in drier conditions, not only in our community but throughout the region. Even though this past summer was a wet season, spring 2023 was very dry.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those employers that allow the members of the Shaftsbury Fire Department the ability to respond to emergency calls during the daytime working hours. Volunteerism has declined over the years. What used to be ten or twelve guys during the day responding to calls is now down to around six if we are lucky. Local employers play a vital role in keeping our community safe and I owe them a debt of gratitude. It should be noted that some of our daytime responders are not paid, including those who are self-employed. As I mentioned, we have seen a decline in people volunteering for the fire service. Unfortunately, the number of our calls has increased. Since becoming Chief, I have seen our response to emergency calls double. I'm using this opportunity to ask if anyone would like to become a member of our department. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Shaftsbury Fire Department.

This past year we started the process of purchasing a new piece of apparatus to replace our Engine 1, which when the new truck arrives will be 20 years old in 2026.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Town Administrator Dave Kiernan for the outstanding work he has done not only for the town but for my department. He has always been a strong advocate for us and a great sounding board for me personally. Dave will be greatly missed. His vison and expertise are unparalleled in helping Shaftsbury to become a better place. As Chief, he was my 4th Administrator and I'm sorry to see him go. We do wish him the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

Emergency response calls 2023

Structure Fires **- 8**
Car accidents/ Extrication **- 21**
Vehicle Fires - **3**
Hazardous Materials – **7**
Wildland / Mutual Aid Wildland - **27**
Weather Related – **8**
Search and Rescue - **3**
Chimney/Pellet Stove - **6**
Good Intent -**17**
Assist EMS - **6**
Mutual Aid – **17**
Total calls - 123

Respectfully submitted.
Chief Joseph Vadakin
Shaftsbury Fire Department

2023 Legislative Report

The 2023 legislative session addressed a number of prominent issues, including childcare, housing and homelessness, climate resilience, workforce, and the opioid epidemic.

Following an unusually large number of retirements, the House welcomed 50 new members in 2023. My tenure gave me enough seniority to be appointed chair of the expanded Agriculture, Food Resiliency and Forestry Committee. This is a committee that has historically worked in a non-partisan way to assist Vermont's working lands and those who steward them. We worked on several key bills—including Universal School Meals, Right to Repair, and an emergency funding program for struggling organic dairy farmers—that ultimately passed the House with strong bipartisan support.

The legislature enacted several new laws during the session designed to support working families. As noted above, Universal School Meals will now be permanent and funded at the state level. A new landmark Childcare bill lowers costs for families and raises wages for caregivers, and has already resulted in the creation of 1000 new spaces across the state. The Affordable Heat Act began a process designed to make cleaner energy sources more accessible to low and moderate income Vermonters.

2023 saw the buildout of universal broadband, bringing high-speed internet access to every home and business in Shaftsbury. Building on a framework established by the Legislature over the past several years and with the support of federal and state funding, the Southern Vermont Communications Union District has made our region the first in the state to reach this milestone. Residents who previously had access to cable internet services now have more choices, and lower prices.

At the conclusion of the session in June, I took part in a training program run by the Council of State Governments in Chicago. The event provided a window into the workings of other state legislatures. Many of the attendees described environments where walk-outs, incivility, and disruptive behavior are normal. In contrast, Vermont's legislative culture continues to reflect the state's traditions of civility and respectful discourse.

We are now more than halfway through the 2024 fiscal year. Despite gloomy predictions, the economy has continued to grow and the outlook for the budget is promising. The latest forecast is for a surplus of $108 million in General Fund revenue for the year. The surplus will be used to fund a variety of services, including food programs (Meals on Wheels and the Vermont Food Bank), public safety, flood relief and climate resiliency programs, the Vermont Veterans Home, PCB remediation work in schools, and emergency housing and shelters.

The Legislature will be returning to Montpelier after Town Meeting week, but I am at home most weekends if there is anything you would like to discuss in person. I am also available throughout the session by phone or email to speak with you or provide assistance with state matters. Feel free to email me at ddurfee@leg.state.vt.us, or call me at 802 828-2228 (Montpelier) or at home at 802 442-4414.

Respectfully submitted,

David Durfee, State Representative, Bennington 3

PLANNING COMMISSION

In FY 2023-24, the Planning Commission undertook the following tasks:

- Drafting of revisions to the zoning bylaw, including those concerning the definition of accessory dwelling units; defining a tiny house as a kind of mobile home; and the prohibition of any new firearm-shooting facilities. The changes were approved by the voters at the March 2023 Town Meeting.
- Working on revising the subdivision regulations.
- Completing work on a grant to address housing issues in the village center.
- Responding to the application by Freepoint Solar LLC to install a solar farm on Holy Smoke Road. Citizen comments were received at several Planning Commission meetings and at a public meeting sponsored by the Planning Commission on February 8.
- The drafting of a recommendation regarding the proposed solar farm to the Select Board. (Only the Select Board is permitted to testify before the State Public Utility Commission regarding the solar application.)
- With significant help from the Bennington County Regional Commission and at the urging of the public, the drafting of an Enhanced Energy Plan.

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.

Three new board members, Denny Browe, Sarah Costin and Zoe Contros Kearl, were integrated into the DRB activities in excellent fashion. They joined Vice-Chair, Tedd Habberfield, to bring the Board up to the authorized five full members. The DRB members clearly demonstrated their interest and dedication to the Town of Shaftsbury though their actions this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Day, Chair

SHAFTSBURY RECREATION COMMITTEE
Town of Shaftsbury Update for 2023

Our committee strives to offer recreational opportunities for residents and neighbors. We are dedicated to developing our facilities for active community use.

This past year, we have several local individuals we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks for helping us enhance our hometown parks. Matt Morse, local contractor, worked on the drainage project at Howard Park; Norshaft Lions Noel Cardiff and Bud Krawczk constructed Bluebird, Wren and Kestrel birdhouses. Tree Warden, Jim White, guided in the identification and installation of Audubon tree tags along Tilgner Trail. Sarah Case, SES Assistant Principal and MMH Library Association member, laminated and mounted storyboards on the Trail; also, Anne Hunter, Shaftsbury's contributor to the Story Walk book, The Nest That Wren Built. We also appreciate our incredible DPW crew for maintenance of our fields and grounds.

Each year our town continues to participate in Vermont statewide "Green Up Day," On the first Saturday in May. If you are interested in taking an active part, please give our Town Administrator a call at the town office ((802)442-4043).

Howard Park's Pavilion and Fields can be reserved by contacting Deena Ruege, Chairperson. Upon your request, necessary forms will be emailed to you.

The Recreation Committee meets on the 4th Wednesday 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. All are 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 gruege03@aol.com
Michael Chianowski, Select board Representative
Sarah Costin, member
Barbara Marino, member
Helen Olney, Historian/member

EDC Report

After over 15 years hiatus, the Economic Development Committee has been reestablished. The EDC has undertaken implementing the ARPA Committee's recommendations to create a town green and community center with the 2.2 acres purchased by the Town next Cole Hall. The EDC had great response to the community survey gathering input from citizens about what they wanted for these two spaces. The green and the community center will be funded by private donations, ARPA money and grants. The EDC hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony this fall attended by over 70 neighbors and friends. Look for more information on fundraising, an architectural rendering and fun activities in 2024!.

The EDC has applied for a grant to work with the BCRC on creating an economic inventory of buildings in Shaftsbury and a long term development strategy for the town to encourage new small businesses.

The EDC typically meets monthly on Thursdays on zoom and person at Cole Hall. Please join us and help shape these exciting new opportunities for the town!

Respectfully submitted,

The EDC
Martha Cornwell
Marita Cockburn
Andrea Bacchi
Rick Bennet
Emily Cowperthwaite

2023 TOWN TREE WARDEN REPORT

Jim White usually writes the tree warden report, because of course he does. You couldn't pick a man better suited for the position. For more than 50 years he's preached the gospel of trees in town. If you know the saying: "plant a seedling high, it won't die, plant a seedling low, it won't grow," Or: "water a new tree once a day for a week, once a week for a month, once a month for a year," there's a good chance you learned it from Jim.

Jim's stepping down, presumably to focus on the 56 other things he wants to do in retirement, though he is going to stay on to help inventory the problem trees in town that are growing in highway rights-of-ways so the road crew can get a jump on removing them. The emerald ash borer is here, and while it's good news that the devastation it was predicted to inflict is happening more slowly than expected, it's not a question of if but when a significant portion of all the ash trees in town die. The old adage about hoping for the best but planning for the worst applies here. It's silly and shortsighted to panic and cut ash trees needlessly – a small percentage of them will be resistant and the next generation will need parents, to say nothing of the ash-dependent species of plants and animals who rely on the trees for parts of their life cycle. That said, if you have a beloved ash tree in your yard, now's the time to look into systemic trunk injections. If you have ash leaning over buildings or driveways, it's time to make a plan. A dead ash tree is much more dangerous to cut than a live one.

If you're good at tree ID and you'd like to help with the townwide inventory of problem trees, let me know. The tree warden position was created to help steward public shade trees, so let me know, too, if you've got ideas along these lines. I'm also happy to correspond generally about shade trees. The best way to reach me is by email: dave@vermontalmanac.org. A special thanks to everyone for the care they put into their yard trees. They make the town beautiful.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Mance III

2023 WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Shaftsbury Water department continues working together with the North Bennington water department to provide the highest water quality to the residents of Shaftsbury. The water department is still currently developing the first phase of water line replacement. We hope to start this replacement process within the next few years. This is a top priority as our water infrastructure is aging, and the best approach is to be proactive.

Arlington Rescue Squad

More than 50 years ago, a small group of residents dedicated their time, energy, and resources to start the Arlington Rescue Squad (ARS). ARS is a non-profit organization which provides 24/7 365 days-a-year emergency medical services to your town. The organization now employs a small staff to provide daytime coverage, seven days a week, but we continue to rely on volunteers to provide nighttime coverage. We are the only agency in the county who still relies on this "hybrid" model of paid staff and volunteers; we are sincerely grateful to all of our highly trained and dedicated providers who respond to 911 emergencies with up to Paramedic level capabilities. Our staff and volunteers engage in continuing education and training in order to maintain a high level of proficiency at their individual license level. While we usually respond to nearly 500 calls annually, our call volume continues to increase. We respond to medical emergencies and automobile accidents; we also assist the Arlington Fire Department with stand-by assistance for structure and brush fires. We respond to many calls in which we do not transport a patient; however, we incur the same expense for those calls. Unfortunately, most non-transport calls are not billable to insurance companies.

Despite the high cost of operations continues to increase—including costs out-of-our-control such as fuel and insurance--we are not seeking an increase in appropriations from the town of Shaftsbury.

We would like to sincerely thank the residents of Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate and N. Shaftsbury for their continued financial support through the generous Town appropriations. The financial support of these towns helps ARS remain financially solvent in order to respond to emergencies with a dedicated team. We are especially thankful to the members of the Arlington Fire department. They are there for us when we need extra help, whether it is driving an ambulance, assisting with a lift assist, or providing CPR support during a critical call.
Thank you!

We were very happy to meet and get-to-know many in our community during several community events including Norman's Attic, Trunk-or-Treat at Arlington Memorial High School, the Lighted Tractor Parade, and several sporting events. In early November, ARS members participated in a Mass Causality Incident (MCI) training. This large-scale training was held in the area of Wilcox Flats on Route 7. ARS participated and collaborated in this training with Northshire Rescue Squad, and the Arlington and Manchester Fire Departments. This was an excellent training that provided our members the opportunity to hone their skills and work with other agencies in the area. Future large-scale trainings are in the planning phase, which will only serve to develop the collaboration with other agencies in our neighboring towns and assure that our members are trained and ready to respond when needed.

As we look to the future, we will be exploring the costs associated with replacing one of our two ambulances; we will continue to have a presence in the community; we will offer training to those who would like to become involved; and we will continue to provide exceptional medical care to those in our community. It is also our goal to recruit volunteers who might be interested in becoming involved with ARS. There is nothing more satisfying than helping those in your own community. If you would like to learn more about ARS, please give us a call. Our non-emergency number is (802) 375-6589. We would love to hear from you!

Finally, please remember to post your house number clearly so we can find you in an emergency. We would like to thank you again for your continued support. We could not do the work we do without you.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlington Rescue Squad Board of Directors

BENNINGTON COUNTY
COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS
"WORKING TOGETHER MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

P.O. Box 4736 Bennington, VT 05201 (802) 440-2487 http://www.bcchvt.org

December 5, 2023

Dear Shaftsbury Selectboard Members,

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless (BCCH) continues to operate 24/7, 365 days a year, to serve the needs of those in Bennington County experiencing homelessness. BCCH is grateful for the town of Shaftsbury's support for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

The winter months are upon us and both locations are most often full, with a waiting list for families. In addition to providing shelter, we serve many others experiencing homelessness through drop-in services for those in need. Our services range from the use of our kitchen, laundry, and bathrooms to providing a safe, warm space for those in need during the day or providing someone in need with toiletries, blankets, clothing, and takeout meals. Those who come in to warm up are also given the opportunity to meet with a case manager, apply for services, and receive housing and employment assistance.

In 2023, we provided shelter and services to almost 250 people between our two locations. In addition, we have served well over 100 adults and children through our day services, donation rooms, and community outreach services.

In the past year we have further strengthened relationships with our community partners, including but not limited to: Shires Housing, Turning Point, Greater Bennington Community Services, Economic Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Sunrise, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, Bennington Police Department, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and United Counseling Services. We were able to enhance safety measures at our congregate shelter location with additional support staff and have three full-time case managers assisting our individuals and families staying at our two locations. These positions are supported by an increased HOP grant through OEO. Furthermore, this grant has afforded us to hire an additional full-time Community Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager for those not sheltered by BCCH. These milestones enable us to increase the success rate of guests' employment, housing, and so much more.

We are thrilled to be in partnership with Shires Housing. We began filling nine beautiful new family units at Norton House in January 2023. Together with other community partners we have found permanent housing for six of those families and three other families since then.

Revenue from Municipalities:

Shaftsbury - $5,000 • Bennington - $25,000 • Arlington - $500 • Peru - $500 • Dorset - $1,000 • Rupert - $500

While so much good has been happening at BCCH, we need your continued support due to the many costs not covered under our HOP grant. While BCCH also pursues and obtains other grants and donations, they are just not enough to cover all BCCH's expenses. Your ongoing support is necessary with all the continued rising costs of food, necessities…. everything!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide anything else.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Roxanne M Carelli

Interim Executive Director

Bennington Free Library

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT 2023

BENNINGTON FREE LIBRARY

*"The library is not, as some would have it, a place for the retiring of disposition or faint of heart. It is not an ivory tower or a quiet room in a sanitarium facing away from the afternoon sun. It is, rather, a command center, a power base. A board room, a war room. An Oval Office for all who preside over their own destinies. One does not retreat from the world here; one prepares to join it at an advantage." — **Eric Burns, The Joy of Books***

Libraries provide families an opportunity to come to the library and meet other families through story time, public programming and to learn more about community resources. Teens meet to study and attend programs geared toward their interests. Seniors use library resources and connect with friendly staff. Libraries help community members succeed in their lives and businesses through training and access to technology. Our Library is the go-to place for the under or unemployed looking to sharpen skills, research job opportunities, apply for employment and engage in home-based businesses.

The Bennington Free 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 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.

Our expanded electronic services include streaming movies, television shows, music and more through Hoopla. Expanded outreach through virtual programming, social media and our website continues to provide links to a broad variety of online resources.
A delivery service for homebound seniors, possible through a cooperative effort with RSVP, continues to be very popular.

It is clear that the Bennington Free Library is a unique institution, supporting the lifelong interests of a diverse community. Our success is due, in part, to the financial support received from the Town of Shaftsbury. Shaftsbury residents have been enthusiastic patrons of the library for many years, and with your support we will continue to provide the relevant and quality resources they deserve. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Fonteneau McCann, Library Director

101 Silver Street • Bennington, VT 05201-2403 • 802-442-9051 • www.benningtonfreelibrary.org

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.

As you know, Bennington Little League and the Norshaft Little League merged 13 years ago, and in doing so, we were lucky enough to inherit the field in Howard park, as well as one in North Bennington at Lions Park. Though a great benefit to our program and the children playing in it, they are a ton of work. 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 another great year in 2024

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Metcalfe
President
Bennington Little League

Bennington Project Independence (BPI)

Bennington Project Independence (BPI) is honored to provide comprehensive and innovative Adult Day Services for older persons, younger adults with disabilities and their families from Shaftsbury for over 45 years.

BPI provides a safe, sensitive and supportive day program for adults age 18 and older. We serve people with delicate or chronic medical conditions who would benefit from our on-site nursing care and health monitoring as well as persons facing end-of-life challenges. We serve people who feel isolated without the support of family and friends and persons dealing with bereavement or other emotional issues such as anxiety or depression. We also serve younger persons with acquired brain injury as well as serving persons in all stages of Alzheimer's Disease and other cognitive impairments who would benefit from compassionate, specialized assistance. Our Members have the opportunity to receive care and support during the day and then return to the comfort of their own homes or their family's homes in the evening.

BPI offers a comprehensive range of services for our members and their family caregivers. We 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. Our program is based on the abilities, interests and needs of our members and their families.

BPI is here to help families in Shaftsbury "share the care". Our comprehensive services help make it possible for them to be able to care for their loved ones, raise their own families and, in many cases, continue to be able to work or maintain their career. 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.

Our "Families Together" monthly caregiver gathering and our full time Social Worker provide families with extra support and information to make their caregiving journey easier. The additional support can also help families prevent the emotional and financial cost of premature institutionalization of their loved one who may be at risk.

BPI's services support economic growth as well. We can assist family caregivers to continue to work outside the home. Families no longer have to leave their jobs to care for their loved ones. This supports the availability and stability of the potential workforce for employers in the Shaftsbury area. Businesses also have the potential for less replacement and training costs because their employees can remain on the job with less distraction from eldercare issues. 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.

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December 4, 2023

To the Citizens of the Town of Shaftsbury,

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.

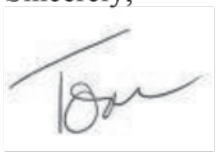
Over the past year, BROC Community Action has assisted **93** residents in the Town of Shaftsbury. Whether they need food at the BROC Community Food Shelf, senior commodities, housing counseling, homelessness assistance, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget 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 $1,700.00.

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

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Donahue, CEO
tdonahue@broc.org

CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

2023 Annual Report

The Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) is Bennington's community justice agency helping both young people as well as adults to take an active role to repair the harm they caused, give back to their community and learn new ways to be a positive, contributing community member. With your town's support, this past year, over 1,400 individuals went through one of CRJ's many programs. A few specific examples include:

- 163 young people and adults participated in CRJ's Court Diversion Program and had their charges expunged after taking responsibility for their actions and repairing harms caused
- 91 individuals were assisted to get their driver's license reinstated and legally back on the road
- 379 youth were served through one of CRJ's Juvenile Restorative Programs such as our in-school Restorative Alternative Program, Pre-Charge Program, The Lounge (afterschool program), life skills groups, Summer Youth Empowerment Program and mentoring
- 62 individuals returning to the community from incarceration were served through one of CRJ's many Community Reentry Programs
- 36 individuals were assisted to file court petitions to get their records expunged
- 204 adults participated in CRJ's adult restorative programs and support services
- 416 teens accessed Threads, CRJs free clothing boutique exclusively for teens
- 56 individuals were supported in CRJ's Pretrial Services Program connecting them with substance use, mental health and other community support services while awaiting court case resolution

CRJ's programs are guided by the principles of restorative justice, a philosophy of justice that focuses on the people and communities harmed by crime; it emphasizes bringing together everyone affected by wrongdoing to address needs and responsibilities

Your support is greatly appreciated and is invaluable in helping CRJ continue to expand its programming and to reach as many people as possible. Your continued support has helped individuals to get their lives on the right track, helped empower victims to have a voice in the justice process, and helped restore and strengthen our communities.

_____

Leitha Cipriano, Executive Director
Center for Restorative Justice

Green Mountain RSVP - Shaftsbury Annual Town Report – FY 2023

Green Mountain RSVP (GMRSVP) is an AmeriCorps Seniors program that engages people 55 and older in volunteer positions with non-profit programs to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement. GMRSVP is focused on addressing social isolation, healthy aging, and food insecurity.

Fifteen GMRSVP volunteers live and serve in Shaftsbury and have offered residents of Shaftsbury and surrounding towns a wide range of valuable services over this past year. Volunteers have stayed engaged through leading Bone Builders at the Homestead Mews; providing free tax preparation through the AARP Tax-Aide Program; delivering meals through Meals on Wheels; providing grocery shopping assistance through Southwestern VT Council on Aging; as well as offering a free book delivery service, Books on Wheels, through the McCullough Library, and a virtual book club through the Bennington Free Library, called the Third Thursday Readers.

Our volunteers have also partnered with His Pantry at the Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church providing food insecurity support; the American Red Cross at monthly blood drives; as well as the Bennington Senior Center and Bennington Museum, providing support in various ways.

In continuation of our initiative to offer a remote volunteer opportunity as well as an effort to send cheerful notes to isolated older Vermonters, our volunteers have written hundreds of postcards for Meals on Wheels recipients, community care home residents, and clients of the Southwestern VT Council on Aging.

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.

Contact Program Director, Corey Mitchell at (802)67404547 to learn more about GMRSVP and how you can volunteer in Shaftsbury.

John G. McCullough Free Library
2023 Report to the Town of Shaftsbury

Organization Information:
Address: 2 Main Street/ PO Box 339 North Bennington, VT 05257
Telephone: 802.447.7121 Website: www.mccul!oughlibrary.org
Hours of Operation: Tuesdays 10-8; Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10-6; Saturdays 10-2.
Director: Jennie Rozycki mclibrary@comcast.net

Mission: The McCullough Library entered its 102nd year of service to Shaftsbury residents in 2023. The library provides free access to a wide variety of materials through its collection and interlibrary loan services. The library also provides WiFi, public computers, meeting space, reference services, and a robust schedule of events for all ages. Combined, these services inform and enhance civic engagement and private life, support literacy and lifelong learning, and foster community cohesiveness and resilience.

Membership: Shaftsbury residents are encouraged to activate their free McCullough Library accounts, and may do so at the library whenever it is open, by emailing McCulloughLibraryClerk@gmail.com, or with this easy online form: https://forms.gle/STnKnwHgGjcmLQP68. In addition to books and DVDs, members enjoy access to museum passes, tools, thousands of ebooks and digital audiobooks through Libby, and free video streaming through Kanopy. The library also offers online courses and career development resources through Universal Class and Learning Express, and access to reference databases through Vermont Online Library.

Monthly E-Newsletters: Are a great way to keep up-to-date on the latest developments, opportunities, and events at the Library. Email McCulloughLibraryClerk@gmail.com to subscribe.

2023 Highlights: The library reopened to the public in December 2022 after the completion of essential repairs and renovations. Since then, door traffic, use of the physical collection, new and returning memberships, and program attendance have reached an all-time high. Use of the digital collections has remained strong. Participation in the library's Summer Reading Program for young people was especially robust: 126 young people registered, and recorded reading an astounding 111,550 minutes this year. The library's 2023- 2026 Strategic Plan was completed in June and is available on the library's website.

Partnerships: The library collaborated with both the Shaftsbury Historical Society and the Shaftsbury Cemetery Committee and co-hosted two events in August: an exhibition of the 1888 Shaftsbury Signature Quilt and a headstone cleaning demonstration in the Shaftsbury Center Cemetery. A headstone cleaning kit, including instructions based on best practices, tools, and cleaning product recommendations is available to borrow at the library. The Friends of the McCullough Library held a bake sale in July to purchase new, sturdy steel shelves for the Little Free Library located in the swap shed at the Shaftsbury Transfer Station. The library collaborated with Shaftsbury Elementary School in November to present Dino Man and his life-size dinosaur puppets in the school gym. The Youth Services Librarian makes weekly trips to Hiland Hall school with books and to read to students.

Plans for 2024: Plans for the year ahead include energy efficiency and accessibility improvements, improved WiFi and printer access, necessary repairs to and new furnishings for the newly-named Bonnie Dundas Youth Room (funded entirely through donations and grants), and the addition of Zinio to the library's digital collection. Zinio will grant library members unlimited access to full-color digital copies of more than 3,000 popular magazines through Libby.

Respectfully submitted, - Jennie Rozycki, Library Director

PO Box 393,
North Bennington VT 05257
(802) 442-8457

www.LakeParanVT.org
www.facebook.com/lakeparan

Paran Recreations INC 2023 Report

At Paran Recreations INC, we believe that connecting people with the natural world not only enhances physical and mental well-being, but also fosters a deeper appreciation for our environment. Over the years, we have made a significant impact by offering a diverse range of outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing, and educational programs.

This year has marked a pivotal chapter in our commitment to Lake Paran, a precious community asset that not only enriches our lives with nature's beauty but also serves as a crucial barrier against flood risks for our downstream residents. In our role as stewards of Lake Paran, we have faced challenges head-on, aiming to preserve the lake's ecological balance and secure its future as a cherished recreational haven.

With the values of environmental, social, and recreational pillars in mind, below is a list of some accomplishments of our past summer season:

- We distributed over **25** free memberships to families in our community.
- We offered **4** weeks of swim lessons
- **6** weeks of Our Village Camp, a camp in partnership with North Bennington organizations and offered full scholarships to 50% of campers.
- We were the host site of MAYCA Studios' Summer Lake Camp for **11** weeks
- We bought a mechanical harvester and were able to perform the first iterations of weed maintenance in the lake. Next year, we plan to rent the harvester out to other weed infested lakes in the community.
- Our Friends of Lake Paran Campaign kicked off, a project created by our AmeriCorps VISTA, Lindsey.
- Every month we gathered under the full moon. On August 1st, we partnered with the John G. McCullough Library for a full moon storytelling bonfire. We also hosted a few summer reading events in partnership with the library.
- We hired 14 dedicated and hardworking employees to support camp, concessions, maintenance and lifeguarding.
- We tabled at various community events including the Appalachian Trail Fest and Summer Jam.
- **Attendance:** Between daily users and members, the breakdown amongst our towns is: Bennington 53%, North Bennington 27% and Shaftsbury 20%.

For a more complete year in review, please view our 2023 highlight reel at:
https://lakeparanvt.org/about-us/donate/

Long time Annual Report reader, and first-time writer, as this will be the first time folks will be seeing Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation on the town appropriation ballot.

My name is Karen E. Rose and I run Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation right here in Shaftsbury, VT. I have been licensed for wildlife rehab since October 2018, and my current permit is for non-rabies vector mammals. Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation has been an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code since October 2020.

The wildlife that I typically intake are the smaller mammals including squirrels, chipmunks, cottontail rabbits, opossums, woodchucks, and porcupines. I am the only rehabber of any kind in southwestern Vermont, and in that vein, I will be applying for my federal permit for songbird rehab in early 2024 to be to assist with the influx of bird calls that I receive throughout the season rather than having to transfer them to another rehabber further away.

In 2023, Monty's House had 73 intake incidents, meaning 73 times people brought wildlife here for care, and in most cases, there is more than one critter within each intake incident; from Shaftsbury specifically, I had 15 intake incidents that resulted in 37 critter intakes. The 2023 release numbers are listed below by species along with the current overwinters at the time of this writing. Overwinters are those critters that were either too small to meet proper release protocol prior to winter setting in, or, arrived injured over the winter and required time to heal from those injuries (* below are non-protected species).

2023 Releases

Grey squirrels – 15
Red squirrels – 14
Cottontail rabbits – 40
Opossums – 6
Chipmunks – 1
Deer mice – 5*
House sparrows -1*
Starlings – 2*

2023/2024 Overwinters

Opossums - 2
Grey squirrels - 1
Porcupines - 1
Deer mice – 5*

Monty's House Wildlife Rehabilitation is seeking $1,000.00 in town appropriation funding to offset the cost of running the rehab operation, specifically the food cost of feeding the intakes during the season. While all wildlife rehabbers are licensed by the state of Vermont, through the Department of Fish & Wildlife, there is no stipend, reimbursement, or financial support that comes from the state or the department to service the needs of the wildlife in rehab care. On behalf of all the critters at Monty's House, and myself, we thank you in advance for your consideration of our funding request.

Checked for accuracy and approved by current overwinters Basil & Irving the opossums, Greyson the squirrel, Silas the porcupine, Pumpkin, Spice, Morticia, Gomez & Fester the deer mice, and respectfully submitted by Karen E. Rose, Licensed VT Wildlife Rehabilitator.

Silas the porcupine

Greyson the squirrel

Basil (top) & Irving (below)

Park-McCullough, Historic Governor's Mansion
Report to Town of Shaftsbury

In 2023, Shaftsbury residents enjoyed free admission to the house on opening day, music, games, food and fun at the Village Block Party, a free performance of *The Feeble Fantastical* by the Vermont Suitcase Company, the Vermont Pastel Society 2023 Members Exhibition of artwork, a concert in the carriage barn by players from the Sage City Symphony, and a visit from Santa and friends during the holidays. Of course there are additional benefits for members, including yoga, croquet, and discounted tickets to paid programming. The grounds are open year-round dawn to dusk, offering the community a park-like setting to walk their dogs, meet friends for coffee on the veranda, have a picnic, and utilize as a gathering space for summer campers, and snowshoe and cross-country ski adventures. Parking is free and allows visitors quick access to the public Highland Hall Gardens and Mile Around Woods and associated trails.

We continue to make available the home, formal garden, grounds, and carriage barn for private events, allowing us to celebrate alongside our neighbors for weddings and anniversaries, birthdays and retirements, business meetings, and retreats. These events, along with the influx of visitors who integrate the Park-McCullough into their travel plans, draw crowds to the area who make good use of the local accommodations, restaurants, shopping and recreational opportunities that surround.

After a strategic planning session in the fall of 2023, plans for the 2024 season are in a calculated, full swing. The Staff and Board are drawing from a theme to inspire the year of exhibits, programming, and events. That theme focuses on the women of the Park, McCullough, and immediate families and their contributions to the community. The women of our past will allow us to celebrate the women around us today who build up and share in our community; we can't wait to honor their accomplishments!

To highlight 2024's theme, our membership program will offer new levels, with access to special interest group gatherings and workshops, an expanded list of programming revolving around special exhibitions, and more ways to participate in all aspects of history, the art, and community—the three pillars of our strategic visioning.

While the Park-McCullough has undergone several changes over the years—including necessary pivots due to challenges familiar to many historic house museums across the country—the Association continues to persevere and intends to find a cadence of operations that will allow it the kind of stability a nonprofit would like to rely on. A large part of this goal will be in strengthening community partnerships with citizen-individuals and the many other incredible nonprofits with which we share audiences. We have made note of the common threads among us, and appreciate all the talented people and groups around us who are successfully serving the community. We will make every effort in 2024 to join forces, share resources, and build upon each other's offerings.

Maintaining the historic property that constitutes the Park-McCullough estate is a privilege. By preserving and maintaining the "big house," we continue to be able to offer it as a resource and an iconic community space through which to learn, engage, and experience with our fellow neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,
Polly Raine
Museum Director

Park · McCullough
Historic Governor's Mansion

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

We All Deserve Healthy Love.

November 27, 2023

Town of Shaftsbury;

PAVE believes that everyone deserves to experience healthy love. It is a core part of our mission to strive to promote a community and a world, where we all can experience the joy of healthy love.

With over 10 Million Americans affected by Domestic Violence a year, striving for a community where non-violent love is the norm, can be daunting. But we persist, because we believe our goal is not only possible but necessary.

Over the last year, PAVE has been able to help survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence reclaim their lives after fleeing abuse. We have been there at the moment of crisis; **fielding over 500 hotline calls** and **providing 4221 nights of emergency shelter**. We have been there as survivors start to stabilize and heal; helping to obtain **16 housing assistance vouchers,** and over **50 Protection Orders.**

PAVE also has been present before violence takes place, with the hope that through education we can promote healthy forms of love and stop the cycle of Domestic Violence before it even starts. PAVE has provided over **900 youth in Bennington County** with preventative education and helped train over **200 community partners on topics** related to Domestic & Sexual Violence. Our Advocates have dedicated themselves tirelessly to spreading the message of non-violent love at community events and in their day to day work with survivors.

In the last year, PAVE supported residents who identified as residents of Shaftsbury with Legal Advocacy, 24/7 Crisis Hotline support and Housing Advocacy. We are requesting level funding for the coming year in the amount of $450.00.

PAVE expresses their gratitude for the support and dedication the Town of Shaftsbury has shown to survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence.

With appreciation,

Lindsay Brillon, M.Ed. LSW
Executive Director
Project Against Violent Encounters

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.

SHAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 401 SHAFTSBURY, VT 05262

The Shaftsbury Historical Society (SHS) had a constructive year in 2023. We would like to express our gratitude to all members (past and present), volunteers and the Town for allowing us to be the stewards of Shaftsbury's history.

The SHS has received a generous distribution from the Shaftsbury ARPA funds which we will be matching from our own resources in order to begin some restoration projects. Firstly, we plan on addressing the needs of the Baptist Meeting House on Rte. 7a and Tunic Road. Estimates have been received for work to be done restoring the windows throughout the building as well as repairs and painting of the front gable end. Work is being scheduled to commence in the spring of 2024.

On August 17, 2023, we held an event open to the public at the Community Hall on Old Depot Road in Shaftsbury. Local historian Robert Hoar presented a lecture and slide show discussing "Shaftsbury in the Revolutionary War and the Birthplace of Vermont." The event was well attended and we plan on hosting more such talks in the coming year.

The SHS has been participating with Jonah Spivak and Vermont's 250th Anniversary Commission to help commemorate Vermont's role in the American Revolution. Several meetings have been held to coordinate with other local Historical Societies as plans are being formulated to celebrate this landmark anniversary.

SHS board member Carol Dziubek has continued research work on the Signature Quilt she presented at the Bennington Museum last November. She has also been collaborating with the Cemetery Committee in order to match family names from the quilt with local gravesites. The quilt itself has been displayed for the public at the Galusha Homestead several times during the last year.

In addition, research regarding local historic quilts has extended to include work being done with the Jane Stickle quilt which was made in Shaftsbury in 1863. SHS board member Abbie Dansereau was recently visited at the Homestead by Pam weeks, curator at the New England Quilt Museum. Pam is conducting research on a new book about the famous quilt and was able to delve into relevant SHS materials. She will be returning to our facility in the near future to continue with further study of our resources.

We are grateful and honored to be the stewards of Shaftsbury's history and remain open to new ideas and volunteers in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Cassidy, President For The Board

Southern Vermont Communications Union District
2023: Our Fourth Year

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) has had a very busy, and successful fourth year.

In September 2022, SoVT CUD and its partner, Consolidated Communications Inc. (CCI) were awarded a $9,009,085 Act 71 Construction Grant to fund Phase 2 of fiber network construction in SoVT CUD territory. After Phase 1 was completed at the end of 2022, construction of Phase 2 began in early 2023 and was consistently ahead of schedule. To date, the Construction Grant has funded the passing of over 6,000 homes with fiber, including 1,300 that were unserved. Dozens of fiber distribution hubs (FDH) across all 14 member towns have been released for customer sales.

Phase 2 remained on track to be completed before the end of 2023, providing over 95% of homes in Bennington County with access to fiber optic internet service. With the wrap up of Phase 2, SoVT CUD has focused its efforts on providing service to the hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3 of network construction.

In August 2023, SoVT CUD and CCI held a ribbon cutting event at Bromley Mountain in Peru to celebrate the near completion of the fiber network in Bennington County. The event was attended by Senator Peter Welch, and other local and state officials. There has been significant media coverage of SoVT CUD's success, including a segment from Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT) and NBC Channel 5.

SoVT CUD is now focused on the approximately 20 hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3. These addresses are primarily located in Arlington and Pownal and are unserved according to state data. The CUD has begun initial outreach to these property owners to assess the status of their internet service and build a finalized list of Phase 3 addresses to be covered under the CUD's universal service plan.

The CUD has greatly benefited from our partnership with the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC). The administrative assistance and expertise in navigating the public funding arena provided by Community and Economic Development Specialist Jonathan Cooper and Regional Planner Callie Fishburn has been invaluable. The CUD is especially indebted to BCRC's ability to keep us grounded in the broad development efforts of the region.

More information can be found on the website: sovtcud.net

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 Shaftsbury

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

Nutrition Support
The Council helped provide 1,553 meals that were delivered to the homes of 14 older residents in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 29 older Shaftsbury residents came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 1,069 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 32.75 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 18 residents of Shaftsbury.

Case Management Assistance:
SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 27 older residents in your community for a total of 288.75 hours. Case managers meet with an older resident privately in their home or at another agreed upon location and assess their individual situation. They will work with the older resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the older resident desires, the case manager will link them to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help older residents connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail older Vermonters 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 and opportunities directly affecting older Vermonters 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.
- Transportation assistance.
- 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 older Vermonters and younger disabled individuals.

Sunrise Family Resource Center

Narrative for Shaftsbury Residents 11.30.2023

The mission of Sunrise Family Resource Center is to "Strengthen Families" throughout Bennington County. Sunrise works in partnership with individuals, families and community members to provide a variety of supports and services. These services promote the growth and development of individuals and families through encouragement of strengths, expansion of opportunities and support in times of stress.

Narrative:

This past year Sunrise focused on housing, transportation, parent leadership and building social capital, ongoing community collaboration and expanding our prevention services. Sunrise is a strong partner in our local system of care addressing housing instabilities and homelessness. We now have 3 housing case managers and a Navigator. Along with our housing team, all staff are knowledgeable and need to deal with a variety of housing situations facing families and youth on a daily basis. Our services are home based and intensive, allowing for successful outcomes. With DOH Equity Funding, we have been able to help local families and individuals with an array of transportation needs, ranging from car repairs, new tires, driver education, inspections/registrations and anything else that help keep them safely on the road. We have partnered with Green Mountain Transit and offered the Family Shuttle, getting families and individuals to area grocery stores and laundry mats. This next fiscal year we will include the Bike Hub as a partner to purchase bikes for individuals and families looking at biking as another means of transportation.

With programs such as Families and the Center and our Sunrise Advisory Council, we now have families that feel more connected to their community and are more apt to share their lived experience during community forums, summits, etc. Parents speak of the positive effects of sharing their knowledge with friends, families and neighbors. They are proud to be asked to have their voices heard when planning for improving the community in which they live.

Sunrise has become the Fiscal for the Warm the Children Program and is a member of Project Alliance. We work closely with all human service agencies, our supervisory union and local businesses, to name a few.

All parents giving birth at SVHC have access to a Welcome Baby Bag during their stay. Included in the bag is an offer to receive a home visit from our Parent Educator. Other universal programs include playgroups, parent education classes, support groups and family cooking nights. We offer a community wide Diaper Bank, access to Mattress Covers to help mitigate the spread of Bed Bugs, Menstrual Products and we don't turn folks away from our food pantry. Sunrise, in partnership with Vermont Art's exchange, held our second annual Summer Jam in June at Lower Willow Park open to everyone free of charge.

Next year, Sunrise will continue to collaborate with community partners to address root causes of violence by addressing housing, transportation, substance misuse and mental health, domestic violence and involvement with police and corrections, involving children, youth and families. We are part of Bennington's continuum of care, and we will continue to be a welcoming hub for families with a focus on prevention.

Many of our programming and services are not fully funded. For instance, our advisory council comes with no funding, the diaper bank, pantry and food are all without stable funding and we've seen an increase in the need to access these services. We continue to not have adequate funding for administrative support expenses. The allocations that were granted from the taxpayers in Shaftsbury will allow us to continue to provide high quality, family-focused services.

Report of Services for Town of Shaftsbury

During the 2023 Fiscal Year, The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired saw continued success in client services, innovative programs, and community outreach initiatives. Moving forward, it is exciting to imagine the strides we will make in enabling blind and visually impaired Vermonters to be more independent, develop adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life.

SMART Device Training Program: 550 Vermont residents received SMART training in FY23, the highest number in the program's five-year history. Also during FY23, VABVI secured $100,000 of partial program funding from the State of Vermont. In order to fully fund SMART, whose budget is more than twice that amount, VABVI has recently announced our several-year Second Century Endowment Campaign.

PALS (Peer-Assisted Learning and Support) Group: PALS Groups, held throughout Vermont, are monthly meetings where members share coping strategies and discuss the practical, social and emotional challenges of vision loss. While many clients have been pleased with the reintroduction of in-person meetings in FY23, opportunities to join virtually remain available for maximum flexibility. 42 clients attended PALS meetings in FY23.

HAPI (Helping Adolescents Prepare for Independence): The HAPI program enables Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists to work one-on-one with students to practice daily living skills.

IRLE Summer Camp (Intensive Residential Life Experience): IRLE camp helps VABVI students develop social skills, meet fellow visually impaired peers, learn independent living skills, and improve self-advocacy skills. This June, IRLE brought 13 visually impaired students to Rock Point by Lake Champlain. Activities included outdoor sports, nature walks, and living in cabins. Fun was had by all!

Community Outreach
VABVI continues to innovate new projects which will connect the local community to our services and cause. After more than a year of development, an accessible tactile sign is slated to be installed in Burlington's Waterfront Park by the end of 2023. Additionally, the New Americans Project will soon offer free vision screenings for local refugee community members.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the agency provided services to a total of 1,083 Vermont residents. This total includes 2 adults in Shaftsbury, and 46 adults and 37 students in Bennington County.

For more information about VABVI's services or volunteer opportunities, please contact Samantha Gougher, Development Associate, at *sgougher@vabvi.org*. Thank you very much for your support!

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

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

www.vabvi.org

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING #03-0271000
TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY
SUMMARY REPORT
Request Amount: $1,000.00

For over 44 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'23 (10/2022-9/2023) 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 **140** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **4** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **178** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **115** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **73** individuals with information on assistive technology; **41** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **379** 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 **17** people and provided **7** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is in downtown Montpelier (although we are working from home as our office (along with so many others) was devastated in the July flood and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'23, **6** residents of **Shaftsbury** received services from the following programs:

- Home Access Program (HAP)
  (project started in early FY'24)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
  (**$487.00** spent on meals for residents)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
- Peer Advocacy Counselling Program (PAC)
- Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:
1-800-639-1522, or, visit our web site at **www.vcil.org**.

VNA & HOSPICE
of the Southwest Region
Serving Bennington and Rutland Counties

Town of Shaftsbury

To the Officers and Citizens of Shaftsbury:

In 2022, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Shaftsbury 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 Shaftsbury's most vulnerable individuals.

Last year VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 127,393 home visits to 3,043 patients. **In Shaftsbury, we provided 1,031 visits to 51 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

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, Bridgwater, 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

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.