

**TOWN OF  
ATHENS, VERMONT**

**2023**

**TOWN AND SCHOOL**

**REPORTS**

**TOWN OF ATHENS**

**POPULATION 2020 CENSUS**

**380**

**REGISTERED VOTERS**

**294**

Town Garage	802-869-3312
Constable	802 869-3207
Fire and Rescue	911
Ambulance	911
State Police	1-802-875-2112
Windham County Sheriff's Department	1-802-365-4942
Town Clerk Office	802-869-3370
Athens Elementary School	802 869-2633
Grafton School	802 843-2495
Emergency Management Director	802 869-3268
Weather Emergency Committee	
Donald Capponcelli	802 869-2590
Tim Stevenson & Sherry Maher	802-869-2141
Lynn Morgan	802-869-2227
Tina White	802 869-3478
Cheree Alsvig	802-428-3016
Bonnie Hitchcock	
Justin Stearns	802 591-0560

**Town Clerk Hours: Monday and Thursday 9-1 or by appointment**

**Select Board Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm**

**Town office mailing address**

25 Brookline Rd., Athens, VT 05143

**Email**

townofathens@hotmail.com

**School Board Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in Grafton /**

**Westminster alternating between the two. Contact Lynn Morgan or school to find out where for the meeting you may want to attend**

**Notice**

**The Brattleboro Reformer is the paper used for official town publishing**

**Residents in need of emergency shelter or other basic necessities, such as heat, food, or**

**water due to a weather related emergency can contact a member of the**

**Athens Volunteer**

**Emergency Committee**

**Property Taxes are due on the 10th of September**

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**REPORT  
OF  
THE TOWN AND SCHOOL  
FINANCIAL RECORDS  
TOWN OF ATHENS  
VERMONT**

We the auditors, have examined and verified the financial records of the  
Town and School for year ending  
Town – December 31, 2023  
School – June 30, 2023

**Michael Bates . James Trimble . Amanda Alsvig**

# WARNING

## 2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ATHENS, VERMONT

The legal voters of the Town of Athens are hereby notified and warned to act on the following articles on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 at 6:00pm at the Athens Community Center (Former Elementary School).

All voting for Town Officers will be by Australian ballot on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. Polls will be open between 10:00am and 7:00pm at the Athens Town Office.

Article 1: To act on the town report

Article 2: To see if the Town shall vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes

Article 3: To see if the Town shall vote to collect taxes on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2024

Article 4: To see if the Town shall vote to publish a list of delinquent taxpayers in the Town Report

Article 5: To see if the Town shall vote to approve \$643,357.36, with \$545,897.36 to be raised by taxes, to defray Town expenditures

Article 6: Shall the voters authorize the selectboard to expend the funds in the Town Office Renovation Fund on projects including the Athens Community Center, Town Garage and Town Office

Article 7: Shall licenses for the sale of malt beverages, vinous beverages, and ready-to-drink spirits beverages be granted in this town

Article 8: Shall spirits and fortified wines be sold in this town

Article 9: To see if the town shall vote to have trash and recycling pickup, starting in June 2024, as a weekly service with every other week being trash and alternating weeks being recycling, for a total amount of \$32,885.94

Article 10: Shall the Town of Athens discontinue use of the Australian ballot system to elect officers, and instead elect its town officers from the floor at all future annual and special town meetings, pursuant to 17 VSA § 2680(b)

Article 11: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 for the annual maintenance of its cemeteries

Article 12: Shall the voters of Athens approve the sum of \$2,500.00 for the purpose of maintaining the Athens Brick Meetinghouse

Article 13: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,140.00 for the support of **Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS)** to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region

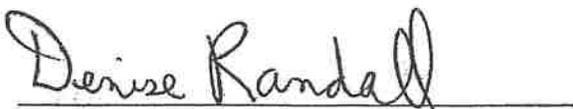
Article 14: To see if the Town shall vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$500.00 (\$1.31 per Athens resident) for the support of **Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital**

- Article 15: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to support the **Womens' Freedom Center** to provide quality advocacy and support to the women of Athens
- Article 16: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$330.00 to support **Youth Services** to serve the needs of youth and families in and around Windham County
- Article 17: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to **Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)** to assist Athens in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services
- Article 18: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 for the **Bellows Falls Senior Center**
- Article 19: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,350.00 to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patient's homes and in community settings by the **Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire**
- Article 20: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to assist **Grafton Cares** in providing a variety of assistance to the people of Athens
- Article 21: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$356.00 to help support outpatient, mental health, and substance abuse service by the staff of **Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)** in accordance with 24 V. S. A. § 2691
- Article 22: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to assist **Senior Solutions**
- Article 23: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to **Bull Creek Common Lands** to support local land conservation and public access in the Bull Creek watershed
- Article 24: To set the time of future town meetings
- Article 25: To transact any further business proper to come before said meeting

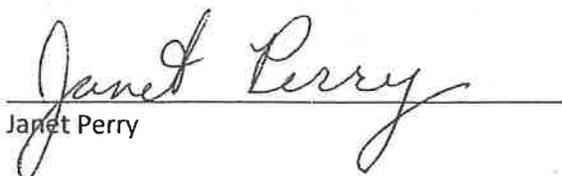
Dated this 22 Day of January 2024 at Athens, Vermont

  
 David Bemis

  
 Sandi Capponcelli

  
 Denise Randall

  
 Krista Gay

  
 Janet Perry

## ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Moderator	David Bemis	2024
Town Clerk	Hannah Regier	2024
Town Treasurer	Hannah Regier	2024
Selectboard	Sandi Capponcelli	2024
	Krista Gay	2024
	Janet Perry	2024
	David Bemis	2025
	Denise Randall	2026
Listers	Carol Bingham	2024
	Amber Stevens	2025
	<i>Empty seat</i>	[2024] 2026
Auditors	James Trimble	2024
	Michael Bates	2025
	Amanda Alsvig	2026
Campbell Fund Trustees	Katherine Woodbury	2024
	Krista Gay	2025
	Carol Bingham	2026
Meetinghouse Committee	Sherry Maher	2024
	Ginger Maciejowski	2025
	Pamela Russo	2026
	Candace Damon	2027
	Krista Gay	2028
Cemetery Commission	James Neathawk	2024
	Harold Noyes	2025
	Stephen W. Oakes	2026
	Donald Capponcelli	2027
	David Bemis	2028
Constable	Stephen W. Oakes ( <i>resigned</i> )	2024
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Hannah Regier	2024
Town Grand Juror	James Trimble ( <i>appointed</i> )	2024
Town Agent	James Trimble ( <i>appointed</i> )	2024
U.H.S.D #27 Representative	Tanya Noyes	2025
WNUESD Board	Lynn Morgan (3yr term)	2024
WNUESD Board	<i>Empty seat</i> (2yr term)	[2024] 2025
WNUESD Board	Krista Gay (2yr term)	2025

## APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

		<u>Term expires</u>
Fence Viewers	Donald Capponcelli	2024
	Robert Anderson	2024
	Adrian Tenney	2024
Housing Rehabilitation Committee	Hannah Regier	2024
	David Bemis	2024
	Denise Randall	2024
	Janet Perry	2024
	Krista Gay	2024
	Sandi Capponcelli	2024
	Carol Bingham	2024
Planning Commission	Janet Perry	2024
	Andrew Toepfer	2025
	Mark Berman	2025
	John Oberling	2026
	Ivor Stevens	2026
	Selectboard	Ex officio
Sexton, Valley & West Cemetery	Cemetery Commission	
Surveyor of Wood and Coal	Donald Capponcelli	2024
Health Officer	Stephen W. Oakes ( <i>resigned</i> )	2024
Tree Warden	Jay Maciejowski	2024
Town Service Officer	Lynn Morgan	2024
Windham Regional Commission	Andrew Toepfer	2024
	Robert Anderson	2024
State Appointed Forest Fire Warden	David Bemis	
Athens Emergency Mgt Director	David Bemis	2024
Budget Committee	Janet Perry	2024
	Amber Stevens	2024
	Hannah Regier	2025
	Michael Bates	2026
	Carol Bingham	2026
SWWSWMD Representative	David Bemis	2024
Elected Justices of the Peace	David Bemis	2024
	Kate Bova	2024
	Sandra Capponcelli	2024
	Steve Oakes ( <i>resigned</i> )	2024
	Janet Perry	2024

**Town Real Estate (VLCT Insurance Replacement Values) 2021 (do not confuse with market values)**

Athens Town Office	\$240,805.00
Athens Town Office Contents	\$10,500.00
Athens Town Garage	\$450,708.00
Athens Brick Meetinghouse	<del>\$618,584.00</del>
Town Acquired School Building	\$442,730.00
Town Acquired School Building Contents	\$10,000.00
Silk Picture	\$3,000.00
Athens Valley Cemetery	\$0.00
Athens West Cemetery	\$0.00
Total	\$1,776,327.00

**Town Garage-Vehicles, Equipment and Tools**

2012 Freightliner Dump Truck	\$40,048.00
2019 Ford F 550	\$72,725.00
Sander	\$2,000.00
2004 Caterpillar Grader	\$108,000.00
Emergency Trailer & Equipment	\$3,570.00
Plow-Henke 11'	\$7,921.00
Plow-Housatonic 10'	<del>\$4,200.00</del>
Plow-Everest 12'	<del>\$1,300.00</del>
Plow-Vortex 10'	<del>\$7,600.00</del>
Bush Bandit 150XP Chipper	<del>\$7,000.00</del>
York Rake	\$6,000.00
Blower	\$8,200.00
Welder	\$3,500.00
Total	\$272,064.00

**Equipment**

1K Gallon Fuel Tank	\$1,000.00
Chloride Tank	\$600.00
1 Safety Fuel Cans	\$50.00
2 Service Jacks	\$300.00
1 Grease Guns	\$200.00
Battery Charger	\$125.00
Water Pump	\$400.00
Fill Rite Pump	\$300.00
Steam Cleaner	\$2,500.00
Generac	\$951.00
Air Compressor	\$600.00
Husqvarna 1562XP Chainsaw	\$636.00
2 Weed Trimmers	\$300.00
Sweeper	\$275.00
Shop Vacuum Jobsmart	\$60.00

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Agent Flammable Storage Cabinet	\$1,173.00
Pole Saw	\$300.00
Lawn Mower	\$240.00
Snatch Block	\$63.00
Skill Saw	\$115.00
DEF Pump	\$90.00
Husqvarna Protective Power Kit	\$247.00
Air Tank	\$60.00
2 Oil Containment Units	\$900.00
Grizzly	\$3,800.00
	<b>Total</b>
	\$15,285.00

### Tools

Air Hose Reel	\$100.00
Grinder-4"	\$50.00
Grinder-3"	\$50.00
Power Drill	\$60.00
Wrenches-Gear 1/4" to 1"	\$75.00
Wrenches-Neiko 1 3/8" to 2"	\$150.00
Wrenches-Chine 1 1/4" to 2"	\$175.00
2 air ratchets 1/2" and 3/4"	\$300.00
Impact-Chrome Vanadium 3/4"	\$49.00
Impact-Wisdom 1/2"	\$60.00
Impact-Job Smart 1/2"	\$50.00
Impact-Crowfoot 1/2" to 3/8"	\$99.00
Impact-Crowfoot 3/8" to 3/4"	\$99.00
Pipe (2)	\$100.00
Metric 7 to 20mm	\$150.00
Adjustable 8" to 15"	\$100.00
Screwdriver Set	\$21.99
Tool Chest	\$1,200.00
Tools	\$3,000.00
Hand Truck	\$59.99
Chains 1-20' and 3-8'	\$300.00
Chain Binders 4	\$400.00
Traffic Cones 30	\$1,200.00
Road Signs	\$2,400.00
Drop Lights 2	\$80.00
Radio System-2 Mobile	\$1,750.00
Radio System-4 Handheld	\$1,300.00
Torch Set & Cart	\$600.00
Ratchet Extensions 1/2"	\$40.00
Air Chisel	\$60.00
Air Ratchet	\$60.00
Air Disc Grinder	\$40.00
Air Lift Bottle Jack 20 Ton	\$220.00

Leaf Blower	\$599.00
Computer	\$630.00
Printer	\$89.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,716.98</b>

**Town Office**

Listers Laptop	\$1,800.00
Clerk Laptop	\$1,300.00
Network Hardware	\$2,526.00
Furniture	\$5,500.00
Generator	\$7,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,626.00</b>

## 2023 Statement of Taxes Raised

RATE NAME	RATE	X GRAND LIST	BILLED AMOUNT
Nonhomestead ed.	1.5872	159,011.69	252,383.34
Homestead ed.	1.5347	213,830.00	328,164.92
Municipal	1.2600	368,015.00	463,698.90
Late homestead penalties			824.59
<b>TOTAL TAX BILLED</b>			<b>\$1,045,071.75</b>

### COLLECTED

By Treasurer	Taxes Collected by 9/11/2023	772,677.62
	Total State Payments	161,599.07
	Credits Applied	4,359.26
	Net Adjustments	(1,576.52)
	Credit Refunds	(9,908.45)
	Available Credits	(1,119.35)

By Delinquent Tax Collector	Principal Collected after 9/11/2023	88,330.57
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UNCOLLECTED		30,709.55
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<b>TOTAL TAX ACCOUNTED</b>		<b>\$1,045,071.75</b>
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### TAXES PAID OUT TO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bellows Falls UHS	\$190,806.70
WNUESD	\$274,689.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$465,495.73</b>

# Comparative Budget Report and 2024 Proposed Town Budget

**AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TOWN TAXES IN 2024: \$545,897.36**

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
<b>REVENUES</b>					
<b>Tax Related</b>					
Current Taxes	\$374,232.31	\$359,637.14	\$460,881.95	\$321,440.29	\$545,897.36
Delinquent Taxes	\$0.00	-\$3,007.68	\$0.00	\$111,080.91	\$0.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$3,000.00	\$5,589.46	\$4,000.00	\$9,143.67	\$5,000.00
Tax Collector Fee	\$0.00	\$7,304.46	\$0.00	\$8,625.09	\$0.00
Cash Basis Adjustment			\$0.00	-\$33,605.69	\$0.00
Tax Sale Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,265.87	\$0.00
Property redemptions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Municipal Tax Adjustment	\$0.00	\$31,885.00	\$0.00	\$34,869.05	\$0.00
PILOT State Payment	\$4,000.00	\$4,072.47	\$4,075.00	\$4,072.47	\$4,075.00
Current Use State Payment	\$30,000.00	\$27,332.00	\$27,332.00	\$26,587.50	\$26,500.00
School Tax Refund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,024.83	\$0.00
Budget adjustment for Previous Year Surplus	\$56,206.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,710.00
<b>Total Tax Related Revenue</b>	<b>\$467,439.20</b>	<b>\$432,812.85</b>	<b>\$496,288.95</b>	<b>\$485,503.99</b>	<b>\$584,182.36</b>
<b>Grants/Other Governments</b>					
State Aid to Highways	\$45,000.00	\$49,457.53	\$45,000.00	\$73,114.25	\$47,750.00
Vt State Civil Fines	\$2,500.00	\$1,552.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,186.50	\$2,000.00
State Grants	\$5,000.00	\$12,847.40	\$26,700.00	\$165,673.00	\$0.00
Federal Grants	\$45,000.00	\$58,907.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. State Payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Grants				\$6,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Grant/Governmental Revenue</b>	<b>\$97,500.00</b>	<b>\$122,764.32</b>	<b>\$73,200.00</b>	<b>\$246,973.75</b>	<b>\$49,750.00</b>
<b>Clerks Office</b>					
Clerk Fees	\$0.00	\$4,754.00	\$0.00	\$4,929.00	\$0.00
Animal License	\$0.00	\$255.97	\$200.00	\$227.40	\$200.00
Copies	\$400.00	\$750.25	\$400.00	\$529.50	\$500.00
Clerk Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Clerks Office Revenue</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$5,760.22</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$5,685.90</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>
Service Fee	\$1,000.00	\$1,271.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Service Fee (Trash Bags)	\$12,000.00	\$10,903.50	\$10,000.00	\$7,274.50	\$8,000.00
Public Works/Highway	\$50.00	\$115.00	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
Interest on Investments	\$100.00	\$533.68	\$100.00	\$712.09	\$600.00
Elementary School Building	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Micellaneous	\$0.00	\$174.79	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$578,489.20</b>	<b>\$574,355.36</b>	<b>\$580,288.95</b>	<b>\$746,330.23</b>	<b>\$643,357.36</b>

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>					
Selectboard	\$1,750.00	\$2,258.65	\$2,350.00	\$2,050.00	\$2,850.00
Clerk	\$3,000.00	\$3,400.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,440.00	\$10,400.00
Assistant Clerk	\$1,000.00	\$3,066.11	\$1,000.00	\$2,012.60	\$1,500.00
Treasurer	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$10,400.00
Assistant Treasurer	\$400.00	\$445.53	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Constable	\$550.00	\$1,367.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Health Officer	\$550.00	\$1,592.90	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Moderator	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Elections	\$950.00	\$960.11	\$275.00	\$289.52	\$1,250.00
BCA/BOA	\$100.00	\$60.00	\$100.00	\$84.00	\$100.00
Listers	\$3,000.00	\$3,263.01	\$4,000.00	\$5,565.90	\$5,000.00
Auditors	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Del Tax Collector	\$0.00	\$7,447.60	\$0.00	\$8,407.48	\$0.00
Clerk Fees	\$0.00	\$4,682.00	\$0.00	\$4,927.00	\$0.00
Clerk / Treasurer Hourly	\$5,275.00	\$5,164.33	\$5,500.00	\$6,448.40	\$0.00
Cleaning Staff		\$130.00	\$360.00	\$290.00	\$350.00
Social Security	\$1,875.00	\$2,606.27	\$2,140.00	\$3,062.04	\$3,395.07
Retirement					\$2,062.50
Health Stipend					\$2,400.00
Disability & Life Ins					\$238.00
Workers Comp Ins	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$59.50	\$4,500.00
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$19,950.00</b>	<b>\$37,443.51</b>	<b>\$22,705.00</b>	<b>\$39,166.44</b>	<b>\$46,975.57</b>
<b>Town Office Expenditures</b>					
Office Supplies	\$1,485.00	\$1,755.67	\$1,500.00	\$1,656.59	\$1,500.00
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$658.73	\$750.00	\$868.87	\$1,000.00
Training	\$500.00	\$148.00	\$250.00	\$128.00	\$250.00
Office Equipment Purchase	\$650.00	\$1,193.42	\$1,300.00	\$1,116.79	\$1,000.00
Office Equipment Service	\$325.00	\$325.00	\$325.00	\$0.00	\$325.00
Printing /Advertizing	\$500.00	\$208.20	\$500.00	\$265.50	\$250.00
Town Report	\$325.00	\$337.50	\$350.00	\$443.75	\$450.00
Computer Related	\$16,977.20	\$12,772.54	\$14,500.00	\$14,157.47	\$13,585.00
Electricity	\$550.00	\$625.27	\$650.00	\$658.93	\$725.00
Telephone	\$950.00	\$571.43	\$600.00	\$570.43	\$575.00
Heating Oil	\$1,800.00	\$302.60	\$1,350.00	\$1,038.08	\$1,830.00
Propane	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$310.56	\$500.00
Building Maintenance	\$250.00	\$433.94	\$250.00	\$37.65	\$1,000.00
Generator Maintenance	\$350.00	\$369.00	\$375.00	\$1,389.00	\$375.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	-\$5.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Town Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$26,062.20</b>	<b>\$19,706.30</b>	<b>\$23,200.00</b>	<b>\$22,636.62</b>	<b>\$23,365.00</b>
<b>General Expenses</b>					
Trash/Recycling Removal	\$36,500.00	\$37,231.00	\$33,000.00	\$31,443.00	\$13,524.00
Supplies (Trash Bags)	\$3,000.00	\$3,912.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
VLCT Dues	\$1,625.00	\$1,553.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,597.00	\$1,647.00
Windham Regional Dues	\$1,070.00	\$1,077.46	\$1,100.00	\$973.20	\$1,000.00
County Tax	\$3,000.00	\$3,115.00	\$4,250.00	\$4,249.00	\$4,500.00
Legal Services	\$5,000.00	\$5,785.82	\$5,000.00	\$5,175.00	\$7,500.00
Tax Sale Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,265.87	\$0.00
Property redemptions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Professional Svcs	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
VLCT Insurance	\$3,500.00	\$2,829.50	\$4,000.00	\$4,258.50	\$4,734.00
Tax Abatements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Micellaneous	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>\$54,195.00</b>	<b>\$55,554.28</b>	<b>\$48,950.00</b>	<b>\$49,011.57</b>	<b>\$32,905.00</b>

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
<b>Public Safety</b>					
Fire Protection	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$9,400.00	\$9,400.00	\$9,400.00
SWNH Fire Mutual Aid	<del>\$8,500.00</del>	\$8,213.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,378.00	\$8,671.00
Rescue Contract		\$0.00	\$9,305.80	\$6,982.50	\$5,300.00
Windham County Sheriff	\$5,500.00	\$5,291.66	\$5,750.00	\$5,645.00	\$5,750.00
Golden Cross Ambulance	\$4,600.00	\$4,644.00	\$4,600.00	\$4,644.00	\$4,600.00
Animal Quarantine	\$500.00	\$385.00	\$500.00	\$385.00	\$500.00
<b>Total Public Safety Expenses</b>	<b>\$24,100.00</b>	<b>\$23,533.66</b>	<b>\$38,055.80</b>	<b>\$35,434.50</b>	<b>\$34,221.00</b>
<b>Athens Elementary Sch. Building</b>					
School Bldg. Electricity	\$1,200.00	\$825.67	\$900.00	\$829.49	\$900.00
School Bldg. Telephone	\$1,700.00	\$1,730.70	\$1,700.00	\$1,763.30	\$1,760.00
School Bldg. Heating Oil	\$2,470.00	\$2,367.67	\$2,500.00	\$2,545.84	\$2,440.00
School Bldg. Insurance	\$1,800.00	\$1,804.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,868.25	\$2,043.00
School Building Maintenance	\$8,000.00	\$3,343.13	\$1,250.00	\$1,335.30	\$2,500.00
School Grounds Maintenance	\$800.00	\$1,125.00	\$800.00	\$1,150.00	\$800.00
<b>Total Elementary Sch. Building</b>	<b>\$15,970.00</b>	<b>\$11,196.17</b>	<b>\$8,950.00</b>	<b>\$9,492.18</b>	<b>\$10,443.00</b>
<b>Highway Payroll</b>					
Highway Foremen	\$51,840.00	\$49,858.40	\$55,987.20	\$55,185.86	\$62,272.80
Highway Labor	\$44,280.00	\$42,532.80	\$47,930.40	\$38,580.44	\$54,410.40
Highway Flagger	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$783.00	\$1,500.00
Social Security	\$7,350.00	\$6,855.32	\$7,950.00	\$6,655.39	\$9,385.27
Retirement	\$6,000.00	\$5,890.15	\$6,884.55	\$5,965.26	\$8,434.48
Health Insurance	\$32,262.00	\$32,433.22	\$36,380.00	\$34,586.62	\$34,371.84
Health Stipend					\$6,000.00
Unemployment	\$180.00	\$253.00	\$280.00	\$218.00	\$280.00
Workers Comp Insurance	\$5,600.00	\$5,820.25	\$6,490.00	\$8,374.75	\$6,620.00
<b>Total Highway Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>\$150,012.00</b>	<b>\$143,643.14</b>	<b>\$163,402.15</b>	<b>\$150,349.32</b>	<b>\$183,274.79</b>
<b>Highway Garage</b>					
General Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$6,058.90	\$3,000.00	\$758.45	\$4,000.00
Electricity	\$875.00	\$717.32	\$900.00	\$758.27	\$900.00
Telephone	\$1,235.00	\$1,691.53	\$1,700.00	\$1,757.26	\$1,800.00
Heating Oil	\$5,590.00	\$4,319.85	\$7,000.00	\$7,105.64	\$5,490.00
Trash Removal	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Building Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,362.75	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
New Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,290.00	\$3,250.00
Highway Dept. Training	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Highway Garage Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,600.00</b>	<b>\$14,150.35</b>	<b>\$15,500.00</b>	<b>\$17,669.62</b>	<b>\$18,340.00</b>
<b>Highway Equipment</b>					
VLCT Insurance	\$4,200.00	\$4,165.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,203.75	\$4,392.00
Special Tools/Equip	\$1,500.00	\$2,636.33	\$5,000.00	\$2,850.00	\$5,000.00
Radio Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
General Repair Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$1,037.86	\$1,500.00	\$2,927.91	\$3,000.00
R&M 2012 Freightliner	\$8,500.00	\$6,470.33	\$8,500.00	\$14,866.38	\$8,500.00
R&M Ford 550	\$1,750.00	\$4,845.43	\$2,000.00	\$1,798.75	\$7,000.00
R&M Grader	\$2,000.00	\$2,373.88	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
R&M Backhoe	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$547.02	\$1,500.00
Gasoline	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Diesel Fuel	\$13,500.00	\$14,884.28	\$15,000.00	\$11,530.29	\$12,240.00
<b>Total Highway Equipment Expenses</b>	<b>\$36,450.00</b>	<b>\$36,413.11</b>	<b>\$40,250.00</b>	<b>\$38,724.10</b>	<b>\$44,382.00</b>

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
<b>Road Maintenance</b>					
Highway Equip Rental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Gravel	\$16,450.00	\$7,168.70	\$18,000.00	\$19,525.00	\$27,000.00
Salt	\$35,000.00	\$24,529.72	\$25,000.00	\$25,676.95	\$25,000.00
Stone	\$11,050.00	\$35,757.53	\$25,000.00	\$24,635.00	\$25,000.00
Sand	\$16,000.00	\$13,706.50	\$19,000.00	\$19,040.00	\$25,000.00
Chloride	\$3,500.00	\$2,507.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,700.00
Cold Patch	\$500.00	\$224.62	\$350.00	\$153.99	\$350.00
Contracted Services	\$9,000.00	\$6,737.50	\$8,200.00	\$14,244.00	\$10,000.00
Road Resealing	\$8,800.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,400.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
Bridge Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Small culverts	\$4,000.00	\$1,840.40	\$3,000.00	\$64.10	\$3,000.00
Stormwater permit / program*	\$500.00	\$1,380.00	\$740.00	\$17,394.15	\$500.00
Underdrains	\$2,000.00	\$1,984.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emergency Road Work*	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$123,685.30	\$10,000.00
Grant Reimbursable Expenses*		\$28,306.90	\$0.00	\$134,973.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Highway	\$500.00	\$794.12	\$1,000.00	\$1,285.04	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Highway Maintenance</b>	<b>\$107,300.00</b>	<b>\$130,936.99</b>	<b>\$106,690.00</b>	<b>\$380,676.53</b>	<b>\$138,800.00</b>

**Voted Appropriations**

SEVCA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Bellows Falls Senior Ctr	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Visiting Nurses	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	
Women's Freedom Ctr	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Senior Solutions	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Youth Services	\$330.00	\$330.00	\$330.00	\$330.00	
HCRS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Grafton Cares	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$356.00	\$356.00	
SeVEDS			\$650.00	\$650.00	
Grace Cottage			\$500.00	\$500.00	
<b>Total Voted Appropriations</b>	<b>\$4,480.00</b>	<b>\$4,480.00</b>	<b>\$5,986.00</b>	<b>\$5,986.00</b>	

**Transfers to Other Funds**

Town Office Renovation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Athens Brick Mtg House	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Athens Cemetery Comm.	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00
Long Term Highway Projects	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
Paving Fund	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$53,550.00	\$53,550.00	\$60,000.00
Equipment Fund	\$49,250.00	\$49,250.00	\$31,700.00	\$31,700.00	\$32,651.00
Emergency Preparedness	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Planning Commission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equip Fund (Cat 420F2ST)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emergency Reserve Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Grant Matching Fund	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$13,000.00
Record Preservation Fund		\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Transfers to Other Funds</b>	<b>\$144,750.00</b>	<b>\$144,750.00</b>	<b>\$106,600.00</b>	<b>\$106,600.00</b>	<b>\$110,651.00</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**                      **\$602,349.20**                      **\$621,807.51**                      **\$580,288.95**                      **\$855,746.88**                      **\$643,357.36**

Surplus / (Deficit)                      -\$23,860.00 \$                      (47,452.15) \$                      -                      \$                      (109,416.65) \$                      -

**\* 2023 expense line items offset by grant revenue**

Line Item	Project	Expense	Grant amount	Timing
Garage New Construction	Scoping study	\$7,290.00	\$10,000.00	Received
Stormwater program	Stone lining ditches	\$17,394.15	\$12,500.00	Anticipated from the state in 2024
Emergency Road Work	Reed Rd. Landslide repair	\$123,685.30	\$92,285.25	Anticipated from FEMA in 2024
Grant Reimbursable Expense	Box culvert on Brookline Rd.	\$134,973.00	\$134,973.00	Received

## 2023 Delinquent Tax Report

	Principal Charged to Collector 2023	Principal Collected 2023	Abated	Interest Collected	Principal Remaining 12/31/2023
2017	1,044.89	1,044.89		663.36	0
2018	2,085.36	2,085.36		1,161.40	0
2019	4,126.70	4,126.70		1,753.56	0
2020	5,341.32	3,905.48		1,172.12	1,435.84
2021	8,854.38	6,809.84		1,189.59	2,044.54
2022	32,584.74	27,732.79	503.19	2,335.97	4,348.76
2023	95,605.10	64,895.55		1,032.17	30,709.55
<b>Totals</b>	<b>149,642.49</b>	<b>110,600.61</b>	<b>503.19</b>	<b>9,308.17</b>	<b>38,538.69</b>

### Delinquent Taxpayers

#### 2020

Paul and Judith Bemis

#### 2021

Paul and Judith Bemis

#### 2022

Paul and Judith Bemis

Don and Jayne Elliott

Travis Allen

Amy Jo Aldrich

#### 2023

Peter Stuberovsis

Patricia Lenz

Paul and Judith Bemis

Travis Allen

Don and Jayne Elliott

Jason and Diane Taylor

Amy Jo Aldrich

Edward Todd

Angela Lashway

Bruce Tenney Jr.

Scott and Sabrina Gibbs

Stephen W. Oakes

Emily Garrow

John W. O'Connor

Elaine Kies

## Dog Licenses Due April 1, 2024

Must have a current rabies certificate.

License fee for spayed or neutered dog: \$9.00. License fee for intact dog: \$13.00.

After April 1<sup>st</sup>, fees increase to \$11.00 and \$17.00.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event it is bitten by an animal.

Vaccinations and licensing also protect them if they bite another animal or person, which could otherwise result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanasia.

## Rabies Clinic at the Town Office - \$15 / per animal

Saturday March 9, 2024 1:30 – 3:00 PM

## Reduced cost Spay and Neuter Information

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: [VSNIP.Vermont.Gov](http://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.

For more information call: 800-HI-VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

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## 2023 Dog License Report

### Receipts

#	Dogs	Cost	Total
48	Spayed and neutered dogs	\$9.00	\$432.00
1	Spayed and neutered	\$7.00	\$7.00
9	Unspayed and unneutered	\$13.00	\$117.00
27	Spayed and neutered	\$11.00	\$297.00
6	Unspayed and unneutered	\$17.00	\$102.00
91	Dogs total		\$955.00
2	Working dog surcharges	\$5.00	\$10.00
			\$965.00

### Expenditures

Recipient	Total
State of Vermont	\$455.00
Clerk	\$180.00
Town of Athens	\$330.00
	\$965.00

## 2023 Fund Balances

### General / Highway Fund

<b>Jan 1, 2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Checking Account	\$12,993.78
Savings Account	\$723,434.74
Due to Other Funds	-\$608,527.49
Del Tax Receivable	\$54,037.39
Current Tax Receivable	\$534.53
Tax Interest & Penalty	\$11,618.51
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$194,091.46</b>

<b>Jan 1, 2023 Liabilities (Outstanding bills, advance payments on taxes)</b>	
Total Liabilities	\$35,204.67

<b>Jan 1, 2023 Assets minus Liabilities</b>	<b>\$158,886.79</b>
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<b>2023 Annual Revenues (See budget page for revenue breakdowns)</b>	
Total Revenues	\$746,330.23

<b>2023 Annual Expenses (See budget page for expense breakdowns)</b>	
Total Expenses	\$855,746.88

<b>Dec 31, 2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Checking Account	\$483.36
Savings Account	\$731,276.94
Due to Other Funds	-\$675,921.19
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$55,839.11</b>

<b>Dec 31, 2023 Liabilities (Outstanding bills &amp; advance payments on taxes)</b>	
Total Liabilities	\$6,368.97

<b>Dec 31, 2023 Assets minus Liabilities</b>	<b>\$49,470.14</b>
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### Town Office Renovation Fund

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Town Office Renovation Fund	\$26,870.21
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$26,870.21</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Total Revenues	\$0.00

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Building Maintenance	\$2,616.48
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,616.48</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Town Office Renovation Fund	\$24,253.73
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$24,253.73</b>

### Athens Brick Meetinghouse Fund

<b>2023 Starting Balance</b>	
Meetinghouse Fund	\$7,081.28
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$7,081.28</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Grants	\$845.00
Transfer from GF	\$600.00
Donations	\$0.00
From Athens Historic Society	\$37,351.70
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$38,796.70</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Contracted Svcs	\$25,992.70
Loan payment to Housing Rehab	\$12,500.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,492.70</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balance</b>	
Meetinghouse Fund	\$7,385.28
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$7,385.28</b>

### Campbell Fund

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
12 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$10,005.04
36 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$21,351.61
Checking account	\$2,742.03
Savings	\$5,000.66
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$39,099.34</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Donations	\$0.00
Loan Repayments	\$1,056.65
Interest	\$209.89
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,266.54</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Campbell distribution	\$1,006.65
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,006.65</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
6 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$10,130.62
36 Mo. Cert of Deposit	\$21,433.42
Checking account	\$2,792.03
Savings	\$5,003.16
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$39,359.23</b>

<b>Restricted Balance</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
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**Cemetery Commission Fund**

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Cemetery Fund	\$22,882.91
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$22,882.91</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Service fee	
Donations	\$50.00
Plot sales	\$1,100.00
Grant revenue	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$0.00
Transfer In from GF	\$1,250.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,400.00</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Materials	\$51.75
Contracted Services	\$2,250.00
Miscellaneous	\$46.40
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,348.15</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
12 Month CD	\$15,000.00
Cemetery Fund	\$7,934.76
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$22,934.76</b>

**Equipment Fund**

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Unreserved	-\$8,149.99
Reserved for Small Truck Replacement	\$13,690.00
Reserved for Large Truck Replacement	\$49,804.75
Reserved for Backhoe Replacement	\$39,338.00
Reserved for Grader Replacement	\$30,000.00
Reserved for Small Equipment Purchase	\$5,378.67
Reserved for Plow for Small Truck	\$1,186.55
Reserved for Cat 420F25ST Payment	-\$244.97
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$131,003.01</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Transfer In From GF	\$31,700.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$31,700.00</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Capital Equipment	\$3,609.56
Payments for Cat 420-07	\$10,662.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,271.56</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Unreserved	-\$6,436.55
Reserved for Small Truck Replacement	\$26,090.00
Reserved for Large Truck Replacement	\$58,304.75
Reserved for Backhoe Replacement	\$33,676.00
Reserved for Grader Replacement	\$35,000.00
Reserved for Small Equipment Purchase	\$55.67
Reserved for Plow for Small Truck	\$1,986.55
Reserved for Cat 420F25ST Payment	-\$244.97
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$148,431.45</b>

**Cemetery Trust Fund**

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Stella Holden CD	\$504.37
Charles Colton CD	\$504.37
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,008.74</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Interest Income	\$0.12
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$0.12</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Stella Holden CD	\$504.43
Charles Colton CD	\$504.43
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,008.86</b>

**Paving Fund**

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Paving Fund	\$152,230.60
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$152,230.60</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Transfer In From GF	\$53,550.00
Grants	\$0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$53,550.00</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Contracted Services	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Paving Fund	\$205,780.60
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$205,780.60</b>

**Housing Rehabilitation Fund**

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Housing Rehabilitation Fund	\$14,339.61
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$14,339.61</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Loan repayments	\$450.00
Loan payment from Meetinghouse	\$12,500.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$12,950.00</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Loan disbursement	\$3,465.95
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,465.95</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Housing Rehabilitation Fund	\$23,823.66
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$23,823.66</b>

### Reappraisal Fund

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Reappraisal Fund	\$28,098.69
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$28,098.69</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Grant Revenue Per Parcel	\$2,218.50
Grant Lists Education	\$261.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,479.50</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Office Supplies	
Training	\$402.00
Contracted Services	\$393.35
Memberships	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$150.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$885.35</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Reappraisal Fund	\$29,692.84
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$29,692.84</b>

### Weather Emergency Fund

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Checking Account	\$2,120.13
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,120.13</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Transfer in from GF	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Miscellaneous	\$47.96
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$47.96</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Weather Emergency Fund	\$2,072.17
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,072.17</b>

### Emergency Reserve Fund

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Emergency Reserve Fund	\$25,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Transfer in from GF	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Total Expenses	\$0.00

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Emergency Reserve Fund	\$30,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

### Long Term Highway Projects Fund

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Reserved for Guardrails	\$18,449.00
Reserved for Culverts	\$33,236.20
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$51,685.20</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Transfer In From GF	\$4,500.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Total Expenses	\$0.00

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Reserved for Guardrails	\$18,449.00
Reserved for Culverts	\$37,736.20
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$56,185.20</b>

### Planning Commission Fund

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Planning Commission Fund	\$1,227.59
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,227.59</b>

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Total Revenues	\$0.00

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Total Expenses	\$0.00

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Planning Commission Fund	\$1,227.59
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,227.59</b>

### Grant Matching Fund

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>	
Total Assets	\$15,000.00

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Transfer in from GF	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Grant Match	\$14,997.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,997.00</b>

<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>	
Grant Matching Fund	\$5,003.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,003.00</b>

**ARPA Grant Fund**

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>		<u>\$131,211.85</u>
Total Assets		\$131,211.85
<b>2023 Revenues</b>		
Grant Revenue		
Total Revenues	\$0.00	
<b>2023 Expenses</b>		
Contracted Services	\$2,000.00	
Total Expenses	\$2,000.00	
<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>		
ARPA Grant Fund		<u>\$129,211.85</u>
Total Assets		\$129,211.85

**Community Center Fund**

Opened in 2023

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>		
Total Assets		\$0.00
<b>2023 Revenues</b>		
Fundraising	\$201.00	
Donations	\$150.00	
Building Rental	\$200.00	
Total Revenues	\$551.00	
<b>2023 Expenses</b>		
Security Deposit Return	\$50.00	
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	
Total Expenses	\$50.00	
<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>		
Community Center Fund		<u>\$501.00</u>
Total Assets		\$501.00

**Record Preservation Fund**

<b>2023 Starting Balances</b>		<u>\$404.00</u>
Total Assets		\$404.00
<b>2023 Revenues</b>		
Recording surcharges	\$1,696.00	
Transfer in from GF	\$5,000.00	
Total Revenues	\$6,696.00	
<b>2023 Expenses</b>		
Archival Supplies	\$1,226.83	
Contracted Services	\$827.52	
Total Expenses	\$2,054.35	
<b>2023 Ending Balances</b>		
Record Preservation Fund		<u>\$5,045.65</u>
Total Assets		\$5,045.65

**Balance All Funds**\$781,387.01

Town of Athens, Vermont  
Selectboard

Selectboard Report 2023

Selectboard

24 VSA § 872 Definition of a Selectboard

(a) The selectboard shall have the general supervision of the affairs of the town and shall cause to be performed all duties required of towns and town school districts not committed by law to the care of any particular officer.

As our Selectboard entered the new fiscal year of 2023 we were presented with several issues. The first one being the voters of Athens had voted not to accept the budget at the March town meeting. It would take more meetings to pare the budget number to be acceptable to the voters. Once that was done, we were able to move on to other town business.

Harold Noyes, who joined the Selectboard as one of two new members in 2022 when our board was enlarged to a five-member board, resigned due to health reasons. His input while on the board was invaluable. Krista Gay was appointed to fill out Harold Noyes' term.

Eugene Bills the second man on our road crew died at his home in Wardsboro after a brief fight with cancer. He showed true devotion to his job and to the people of Athens during his time on our road crew.

Every year brings something new and different before the Board. We have worked hard to expand the benefits for our town employees, there is work currently being done for grants to help with the continuing improvement of the infrastructure in town and as always, we are keenly aware of the property tax burden. Unfortunately, due to Covid and inflation, prices keep going up on even the most basic of items. We make every attempt to keep town equipment for road maintenance in the best condition possible and municipal

buildings in the best shape possible.

We continue to work with our volunteer Budget Committee to set reasonable financial goals for our town to keep us fiscally sound, but we must realize that we cannot operate our town on a budget that was viable 2 or 3 years ago. If we want to maintain our independence as a small town then we need to realize that we are solely dependent on our residential tax base as we have no outside businesses to help offset the cost of running a town that is a safe place for residents and non-residents alike.

Selectboard meetings are the third Thursday of every month at 7:00pm. Minutes of the meetings are available at [athensvt.com](http://athensvt.com)

## Town Clerk and Treasurer Report

Dear townspeople,

2023 was my second year as Town Clerk and Treasurer in Athens. Thanks in large part to Darlene staying on as my assistant and in-house trainer, I have learned the hundreds of tasks and tools for carrying out these roles. Of course, there are many things I am still figuring out and trying to improve in the Town Office – thanks for your patience! I take it seriously that I am entrusted with protecting your land records, overseeing elections, collecting your tax payments, paying the town's bills and payroll, and many other admin tasks, all on a tight budget. I know that some aspects of my job are invisible to many people unless you are buying or selling property or planning your estate. If you are curious about land records and want to learn how they are indexed and stored at the Town Office, I'm happy to give you a tour. I'm also hoping that over the next several years the town can greatly improve its record storage facilities, so these important documents are safe from fire, water and humidity damage for generations to come.

**The Town Office is now open Mondays and Thursdays 9:00 – 1:00.**

If you see my car there at other times, you are welcome to stop in and buy trash bags. If you wish to have access to the land records or get a dog license outside of the regular office hours, please call (802) 869-3370 and make an appointment.

**Athens Trash Bags are now available to purchase at the Saxtons River Market.**

Thank you to the residents who suggested this!

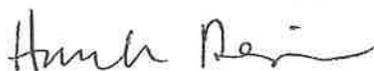
**Dog Licenses are available now and are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>.** Please get your dogs licensed. It's important to have this proof in case your dog gets loose, gets bitten by a wild animal, or happens to bite a person.

**There are three elections in 2024!** Please see the website, call or visit the town office for information on absentee ballots. Another option if you have difficulty getting out, is asking to have a ballot brought to your home by Justices of the Peace. If you have difficulty seeing, hearing or writing, there is always an accessible voting machine at the polls. The machine has a screen, audio, and several different input methods to help you read the ballot and make your choices. If this sounds helpful, one of the election officials can assist you with it on Election Day.

**Green Mountain Passports**

If you are a Vermont resident 62 or older, or a Veteran, you can get a Green Mountain Passport at the Town Office for \$2.00. These cards grant you free admission to Vermont State Parks, Vermont State Historic Sites, and state sponsored events.

Look forward to seeing you in the Town Office,



## Athens Brick Meetinghouse Town Report 2023

The Meetinghouse committee welcomed new member Krista Gay to our board in March. In keeping with the requirement from our 2021 Bruhn funding, six events were held at the Meetinghouse from May through October including:

- May - 6th Annual Plant Sale
- June - Open House
- July - Ice Cream Social
- August - Two Concerts featuring local residents - August 5th with 2x2 featuring Mark Greico and Valerie Kosendar, and Laurie Indenbaum accompanying Andy Davis with Gold into Straw on the 13th
- September - Turning the Soil, 260 Years of Vermont Agriculture, a talk by Roger Allbee
- October - Senior Solutions session to assist people with fuel assistance and other services

Early in 2023 we were awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Vermont Department of Historic Preservation, enabling more work to proceed in our efforts to preserve and restore the building. The current grant along with charitable donations to the historic society provided a total of \$49,119 to cover new storm windows to preserve and protect the recently restored historic windows, leveling and re-supporting the sanctuary floor, and installing a vapor barrier over the dirt crawl space floor. The contracts for this work were awarded to:

- Pinnacle Window and Door of Keene, NH for construction and installation of the storm windows completed in August.
- Ivor Stevens for leveling and ressupporting the floor which should be completed by the time this report comes out.
- Farnum Insulators for the moisture mitigation which will be done following the floor leveling when the weather allows.
- Additionally, Nathaniel Noyes was hired to plug gaps in the dry-laid stone foundation in advance of the vapor barrier being installed.

On October 2nd the remaining \$5,000 lent from the Housing Rehab Loan Fund for the first big preservation project was paid off by the Athens Historic Preservation Society using remaining funds from joint fundraising events.

We are grateful to the residents and taxpayers of Athens for their support of the Meetinghouse. We hope that this year, voters will support the article requesting \$2500 for maintenance of the building.

## Cemetery Commission Report

As in the previous year, there was no volunteer work scheduled in the cemeteries in 2023. There remains a need for tablet repairs and monument levelling in both cemeteries as well as the need for the installation of row markers in the new section of the West Cemetery. Those wishing to help, including teens in need of community service hours, should contact commission chairman Don Capponcelli at 802-869-2590.

The Commission wishes to thank the Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance crew for their work in the cemeteries in 2023, which was their 14'th season. The Commission also wishes to thank Matt Perry for his work in maintaining the area around Memorial Rock.

There were plot sales totaling \$1000.00 in both cemeteries combined, all plots being sold at the resident rate. There were receipts of \$100.00 in interment fees for cremation plots. There was also a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from an out-of-town family.

The year 2023 ended with a town ledger fund balance of \$7,986.51. The Commission allots this fund balance into the following categories:

Operating budget balance	\$ 684.41	
Valley Cemetery major repairs	\$ 2,232.08	
Valley Cemetery ground levelling	\$ 216.76	
West Cemetery major repairs	\$ 2,150.00	
West Cemetery construction	<u>\$ 2,703.26</u>	
TOTAL fund balance	\$ 7,986.51	town ledger fund balance
-plus-		
12-month CD investment	\$15,000.00	(May, 2023)
Loan to the Colton Trust Fund	\$ 31.53	
Loan to the Holden Trust Fund	<u>\$ 162.58</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 23,180.62	

The beginning of 2023 started with a combined balance of \$18,282.08 in cemetery reserves for major maintenance for both cemeteries. Of these reserves, the Commission voted in April, 2023 to invest \$15,000.00 into a 12-month CD with an annual percentage yield of 4% (\$600.00). The intent of the investment is to build reserves for major maintenance in the Valley Cemetery back to and beyond the approximately \$20,000.00 in liquid assets (checking account balance, stocks & CDs) transferred from the Athens Valley Cemetery Association to the Town of Athens in 2006. A portion of the CD investment will also build up reserves for major maintenance in the West Cemetery.

The loans to the Colton and Holden Trust funds were needed in 2020 in order to bring those funds to a balance of \$500.00 each, thereby avoiding monthly-bank fees applied to smaller account balances.

Regular meeting times for the Athens Cemetery Commission are on the first Wednesdays of the months of April, June, September and December at the Athens Town Office (or other locations as warned). The Commission continues to face a backlog of work at the two cemetery sites as well as with map & records updating. Volunteer help is always needed and deeply appreciated, as are private donations in any amount. For more information please contact Don Capponcelli.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Capponcelli



## Athens Tree Warden Report, 2023

The Athens select board appointed Jay Maciejowski to the post of Tree Warden. Jay replaces Bob Anderson who had devoted many years of service as Tree Warden for the residents of Athens.

One of Maciejowski's top priorities as the Tree Warden will be to inventory the locations of all species of ash trees along town roads and on property owned by the town to help Athens prepare for the eventual appearance of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Although not found (officially) in Athens, this destructive wood boring invasive insect has infected and killed ash trees in 36 states including Vermont.

This fall, Jay and Matt Perry did an initial survey of the town roads to look at trees that showed signs of infection. Jay has contacted the Protection Specialist with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to verify possible EAB infestation at several suspect locations.

In addition, the Tree Warden approved the removal of two trees along the Brookline Road to make room for the parking area for the Bull Creek Common Lands.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Maciejowski, 802-869-2405

## Grafton Cares 2023

Grafton Cares was established in 1993 by a group of townspeople concerned with providing help and support to their neighbors.

### Meals Program

The Wednesday Lunch Program is twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 12 noon at the Grafton Chapel. There are two Community Suppers, the first Friday of each month in Athens and the third Friday in Grafton.

### Financial Assistance Committee

This committee, often working in collaboration with other organizations, offers a helping hand to those with a variety of temporary or long-term needs, ranging from transportation to medical appointments, to financial assistance for families or individuals with urgent needs. Grafton Cares also offers, for temporary or long-term use, a variety of medical equipment for special health needs. A Fuel Assistance Program. This program has filled an important niche by providing emergency fuel aid for those with a temporary need or who are awaiting more long-term support from other agencies.

### Gas Card Program

The gas card program began many years ago with the generous contribution of gas cards from Old Tavern guests, via the Windham Foundation. Grafton Cares now funds this program. We distribute these cards to community members to meet emergency needs involving medical transportation issues or financial hardship.

### Meals On Wheels

Meals On Wheels are available from the Dam Diner. Delivered by Grafton Cares' volunteer drivers. Meals On Wheels, is available through Senior Solutions (formerly the Council On Aging). Call Bill Toomey at 802-843-2397 for more information.

### Sunshine Baskets

Sunshine Baskets, filled with fresh fruit, are given to our older neighbors and to those who have had surgery just to give a boost to all. Board members enjoy visiting with these people as much as delivering the baskets.

### Strong Living

Strong Living is a popular program where participants ages 40 and up attend two, one hour sessions per week. Led by trained folks through a series of stretching and weightlifting exercises, this program has become a fixed date on many participants' calendars and a great way to catch up on the local news. A donation is suggested to cover the cost of equipment and facilities.

### Welcome Bags

The Welcome Bag Program has been greatly appreciated by recipients who are new to Grafton and Athens. It contains a variety of "goodies" and all kinds of information to welcome new folks to town.

### Grafton Cares Knitters

A group of local knitters keeps busy with various projects such as beautiful shawls for those in need of comfort and baby blankets, which are combined with board books and a book bag from the Grafton Library, to welcome little ones born to area families.

### Rides Coordinator

To facilitate the coordination of transportation needs, a rides coordinator can help with rides for medical appointments. If you or a family member requires transportation to medical appointments, you can give this program a try.

### Additional Events

**80+ Luncheon.** Each Fall, we invite all 80+ year olds and guests from Grafton and Athens to our annual luncheon at the Chapel. Our goal is to celebrate their contributions to the quality of life in our two towns. The Sixth Grade joins us to help serve the meal and visit with guests. This year, because of the virus, we cancelled the luncheon and delivered over 40 "goodie bags" to the 80+ folks.

**Christmas Day Dinner.** For the last few years we have sponsored a Christmas Day Dinner at 12:00 in the Chapel building. A good number of residents have attended this special meal. This dinner is also cancelled due to the virus.

For more information about Grafton Cares or any of its programs, contact, Kate Bova, President of Grafton Cares at 869-1527.

## Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District

Andover • Athens • Baltimore • Cavendish • Chester • Grafton • Ludlow • Plymouth • Reading  
Rockingham • Springfield • Weathersfield • West Windsor • Windsor

[www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org](http://www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org)

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The District was chartered in 1981 and currently serves fourteen Vermont towns. Each member municipality appoints a representative and an alternate to serve on the Board of Supervisors. Athens's representative is David Bemis; Denise Randall is the alternate.



Food scraps are banned from the landfill because they cause methane which degrades the ozone layer. The Rockingham Transfer Station accepts food scraps (including meat and bones) from people with an access permit. To facilitate backyard composting, the District sold composters and food scrap pails throughout the year. Educational resources about composting are available on the District's website.



The District's household hazardous waste (HHW) depot in Springfield opened for its second season in May 2023. It was open, by appointment, for up to six hours a week for five months. The Depot will re-open in May 2024. We accept a long list of products, which can be read on our website. If you need to dispose of HHW before May, go online to make an appointment in Rutland at [www.rcswd.com](http://www.rcswd.com).



Bring paint to Bibens Ace Hardware or Sherwin-Williams during regular business hours and dispose of it for free (cans must be labeled, not leaky, not rusty – bring others to the HHW Depot).



AA, AAA, C, D, 9v, hearing aid, coin cell, tool, and rechargeable batteries are accepted at the Rockingham Transfer Station. Batteries are "special recycling" and do NOT go in with other recycling (fire hazard). There is also a convenient battery bucket outside of the Town Office for 24/7 recycling.



This is the "reuse" symbol - that is what we do with glass bottles and jars that are brought to the Springfield, Weathersfield, and Ludlow transfer stations.

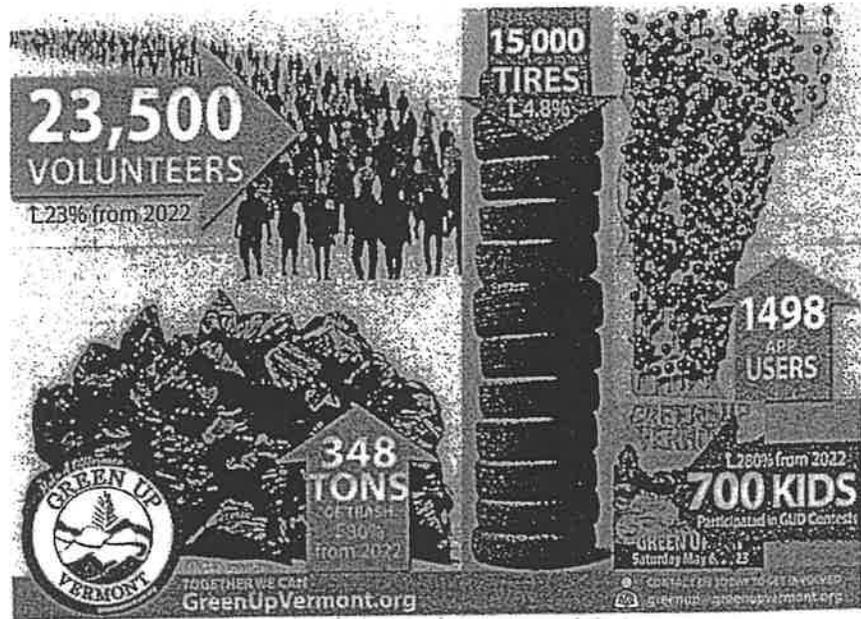
Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Kennedy    Mary T. O'Brien    Ham Gillett  
District Manager    Recycling Coordinator    Outreach Coordinator



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

**Green Up Day**  
**May 6, 2023**



**Green Up Day**, continued to grow with 23,500 volunteers statewide who cleaned up nearly 348 tons of litter and 15,000 tires. We saw 23% more volunteers lend a hand and heard in many cases there was less litter (30%) to be cleaned up. Tire collection saw a 4.8% increase. The statistics show that the hard work to beautify Vermont is still needed but also that our efforts for awareness are paying off. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

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

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

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

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

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

**Please contact Lynn Morgan at (802) 869-2227  
to volunteer for Green Up Day in Athens**

**VITAL RECORDS**

**FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**2023**

**DEATHS**

January 26, 2023	Kenneth C. Unwin Sr.
May 24, 2023	Lois Elizabeth Sippel
August 16, 2023	Julian Taft Northup
September 1, 2023	Christopher T. Coburn
September 8, 2023	Michiko F. Northup
October 1, 2023	Linda M. Johnson
November 18, 2023	Don G. Elliott
December 20, 2023	Robert W. Damon

**BIRTHS**

January 21, 2023	Jonah Oliver Smith Rhianna Marie Pratt and Zachary Ryan Smith
February 13, 2023	Joshua Michael Noyes Rebekah Emily Noyes and Corey Daniel Noyes
February 27, 2023	Willow Elizabeth Kennison Alison Elizabeth Thayer and Adam C. Kennison
May 18, 2023	Brooklyn May Winot Alyssa May Winot and Tanner Hayden Winot
September 1, 2023	Marshal Walker Hale Caulfield Savannah Marie Price and Nathan Asher Caulfield

**MARRIAGES**

May 13, 2023	Hermann Wolfgang Jochum and Debra Abiola Clarke
November 25, 2023	Krystal Ann Unwin and James Robert Snay

**BURIAL PERMITS**

September 24, 2023	Dennis Charles Hunt
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## Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community-based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965. Our mission is to *empower and partner with individuals and communities to alleviate the hardships of poverty; provide opportunities to thrive; and eliminate root causes of poverty.* SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Home Repair, Family Services (crisis resolution, fuel, utility, housing and food assistance), Micro-Business Development, Vermont Matched Savings (asset building & financial literacy), Ready-for-Work (workforce development), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Thrift Stores, and a Community Solar program.

In the community of Athens we have provided the following services during FY2023:

**Emergency Heating System Repair/Replacement:** 4 households (9 people) received an emergency repair or replacement of their home heating system.

**Tax Preparation:** 1 household (1 person) received assistance with tax preparation.

**Family Services:** 14 households (39 people) received 79 services (crisis resolution; financial counseling; nutrition education; forms assistance, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services)

**Fuel/Utility Assistance:** 10 households (27 people) received 21 assists.

**Housing Assistance:** 1 household (1 person) received 1 assist.

**Emergency Home Repair:** 3 households (4 people) received assistance to address immediate health or safety concerns in their home.

The combined value of these services for Athens residents exceeded \$31,288.

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private and town funds allow us to not only maintain, but to increase and improve service. We thank the residents of Athens for their continued support.

Kathleen Devlin, Interim Executive Director  
Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)  
91 Buck Drive  
Westminster, VT 05158  
(800) 464-9951 or (802) 722-4575  
[sevca@sevca.org](mailto:sevca@sevca.org)  
[www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org)

## 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ATHENS, VERMONT

March 6, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Athens Community Center (Former Elementary School)

Called to order at 6:00

David Bemis, Moderator, reviews Roberts Rules of order.

Representative Heather Chase and Senator Wendy Harrison introduce themselves and speak to the voters about what they are working on in the state legislature.

**Article 1: To see if the Town shall vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, respectively, if necessary, for current expenses in anticipation of collection of taxes.**

Denise Randall makes a motion in favor. Amanda Alsvig seconds. Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 2: To see if the Town shall vote to collect taxes on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2023**

Sandi Capponcelli makes a motion in favor. Denise Randall seconds. Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 3: To see if the Town shall vote to publish a list of delinquent taxpayers in the Town Report**

Harold Noyes makes a motion in favor. Steve Oakes seconds.

Discussion: Kate Bova notes that there are properties on the list that are 6 years delinquent. Hannah says she thinks Darlene's policy is if people are paying on their delinquent taxes, she won't put the property up for tax sale.

Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 4: To see if the Town shall vote to approve \$632,621.95, with \$513,214.95 to be raised by Taxes, to defray Town expenditures**

Denise Randall makes a motion in favor. Janet Perry seconds.

Discussion: Kate Bova asks why there is such a big difference between last year's amount to be raised and this year's. Janet and Denise answer that some factors are changing fire and rescue services from Saxtons River to Grafton and not having the surplus that the town did last year.

Don Capponcelli says the municipal tax rate is going from 1.04 last year - 1.40 this year. The school tax rate estimated by Harvey Merrill could be down as much as .08, or up by .02 as a worst case scenario. Don says if the budget is approved as is, the town tax rate would go up 10%. Linda Taylor says it will be hard for people who are already struggling financially. Sherry Maher says her calculations are that this budget is 37% higher than last year and asks some questions about revenues listed in the town report. Hannah Regier answers the revenue line-item questions. Sherry says she sees the highway workers are

getting 8% pay raises that the selectboard approved before the town gets to vote on the budget. She would like to see the budget voted down, or wants to see the amount amended.

Put to a vote by paper ballot: 40 no. 14 yes. The article is defeated. The moderator says the budget committee and the selectboard will put together a new budget and there will be a meeting called to vote on it.

**Article 5: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,140.00 for the support of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region**

Don Capponcelli makes a motion to allocate \$650.00. Janet Perry seconds.

Discussion: Meg Stalloff talks about SeVEDS services and leaves some handouts. They are currently helping the Town of Athens work towards USDA grants for the Town Garage and Community Center. They also do workforce training for high school students and support businesses with lending and other services. The amount they asked for on the warrant equals \$3.00 per person from the town of Athens.

Put to a vote: The amended article passes.

**Article 6: To see if the Town shall vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of \$500.00 (\$1.31 per Athens resident) for the support of Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital**

Tom Taylor makes a motion in favor. Amanda Alsvig seconds.

Discussion: Kate Bova asks if there is a specific program that this money goes to at the hospital. The moderator doesn't think it is for the hospital in general. Jay Maciejowski asks what the town has given to Grace Cottage in the past. The moderator says this is the first time they have asked the town for money.

Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 7: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to support the Womens' Freedom Center to provide quality advocacy and support to the women of Athens**

Tim Stevenson makes a motion in favor. Sherry Maher seconds. Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 8: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$330.00 to support Youth Services to serve the needs of youth and families in and around Windham County**

Beth Ann Agostini makes a motion in favor. Denise Randall seconds. Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 9: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Athens in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services**

Denise Randall makes a motion in favor. Heather Chaudoir seconds. Lynn Morgan asks if there any duplications to the services SEVCA provides with other agencies like Senior Solutions. Matthew Shea says that SEVCA does a lot of weatherization and family services. There are separate services for seniors.

Put to a vote: the article passes

**Article 10: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$250:00 for the Bellows Falls Senior Center**

Denise Randall makes a motion in favor. Sherry Maher seconds. Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 11: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,350.00 to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patient's homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire**

Tim Stevenson makes a motion in favor. Denise Randall seconds. Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 12: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to assist Grafton Cares in providing a variety of assistance to the people of Athens**

Sherry Maher makes a motion in favor. Tim Stevenson seconds. Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 13: To see if the Town shall vote to appropriate the sum of \$356.00 to help support outpatient, mental health, and substance abuse service by the staff of Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) in accordance with 24 V. S. A. § 2691**

Denise Randall makes a motion in favor. Amanda Alsvig seconds. Put to a vote: the motion passes.

**Article 14: To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 to assist Senior Solutions**

Harold Noyes makes a motion in favor. Cheree Alsvig seconds. Put to a vote: the article passes.

**Article 15: To set the time of future town meetings**

Tom Taylor makes a motion for it to be the first Tuesday in March at 10:00am.

Discussion: Darlene Wyman says that even though town meeting is at night this year, the numbers are about the same as when it was held on a Tuesday morning. Heather Chaudoir says she appreciates having the meeting in the evening — she wouldn't be able to attend otherwise. Krista Gay says the most popular time from the survey that was done was Saturday morning, second most popular was a weekday evening, and the third most popular time was Saturday afternoon. She says she isn't advocating for a particular time, she just wants to report to voters the result of the survey. David Bemis reiterates that the statute says the meeting can be held on Town Meeting Day or the three days prior to it. Sherry Maher clarifies the days and times that the survey had as choices. She says that the most important thing the survey asked was what would make people more likely to attend town meeting; and the most popular choice was "if they felt their voices mattered." She wants to know how the town can address that. The second most important point was moving the meeting to a different time and day.

Sherry amends the motion to have Town Meeting at 6:00pm on the Monday prior to Town Meeting Day. Amanda Alsvig seconded.

Discussion: Sherry sees a lot of the same faces at town meeting and a few new faces which she is happy to see. She says given the answers from the survey, moving back to Tuesday morning would eliminate a lot of people who have to work. She encourages people to support the amended motion.

There is some discussion on the rules of voting for an amendment.

Put to a vote by paper ballot: yes: 36, no: 22. The amendment passed.

Returning to vote on the amended article: Shall Town Meeting be held at 6:00pm on the Monday before Town Meeting Day.

Discussion: Linda Taylor asks if the meeting could be on a Tuesday so people could do all their voting on the same day. David says it could complicate counting the ballots.

Krista Gay amends the motion for the meeting to be held at 6:00pm on Town Meeting Day Tuesday. Sherry Maher seconds.

Discussion: Krista says that other feedback the survey committee got was that it's hard for some people to vote on two separate days or have to remember to mail in their ballot. She thinks it makes it easier for people to just come out once. Denise points out that regardless of what time town meeting is held, the polls would still close at 7:00. Hannah Regier says that having town meeting on the same day as voting would be very difficult for the election officials because there would be multiple checklists to manage and counting the ballots couldn't begin until the town meeting was over.

Put to a vote: The amendment is defeated.

Voting on the original amended article: The amended article passes.

The next regular Town meeting will be 6:00pm on the Monday preceding traditional Town Meeting Day.

#### **Article 16: To transact any further business proper to come before said meeting**

Jack Bryar, chair of the Athens Grafton school board, talks to the school budget and articles.

Lynn Morgan asks if people are able to help out on Green Up Day, there is a sign up in the back of the room.

Sherry Maher and Ginger Maciejowski ask people to sign up for the Athenian email list.

Sherry says the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend will be the 6<sup>th</sup> annual plant sale at the Meetinghouse

Krista Gay says the bake sale benefits the Community Center.

Hannah Regier says the Rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:30pm.

Harold Moves to adjourn. Beth Ann seconds. Adjourned at 7:25pm

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Regier, Town Clerk

## Special Town Meeting

April 27, 2023 6:00 PM at the Community Center

57 voters present

Called to order at 6:00

The moderator reviews the rules of order.

Article 1: To see if the Town shall vote to approve \$598,302.95, with \$478,895.95 to be raised by Taxes, to defray Town expenditures.

Denise Randall makes the motion to approve. Sandi Capponcelli seconds.

Eric Rosenbloom asks why the tax related revenues are so much higher than the previous year, while expenditures are lower. Denise and Hannah explain there are lower non-tax revenues this year. There is no surplus to carry over and no grant revenues expected. And the costs of most things are up this year.

Don Capponcelli says he crunched the numbers from the original town report and this year is the least amount of revenue apart from taxes that the town has had since 2019. He says with the cost of everything going up, it is a double whammy.

Sherry asks where and why the changes in budget were made – some things were increased and some decreased. Denise says that some things were increased because the bills came in with exact figures. Denise reviews the line items that were cut.

Sherry wants to know what the impact of the lowered budget, and will be and if trash will be impacted. Denise says that trash was not cut from the budget and there is likely to be some increase in cost in the new contract that the town will get in May.

Treah Pichette asks if the decrease of the salt and sand budget will impact the roads in the winter. Janet Perry responds that the salt budget was lowered, but the same amount was added to stone. Because in recent mud seasons the town has spent a lot on stone. She doesn't think the budget change will have any effect on the roads. Chloride was removed which might affect the dirt roads, but the foreman thinks there may be enough for this year. She says that the new chloride and fuel tank for the town garage have been put off for this year.

Eric Rosenbloom wants to know if the municipal taxes are going up, and if so, how much. Janet says she doesn't know exactly what the current grand list is but she thinks the rate will be around 1.33, which is an amount the town has paid before back in 2013, and before that the town had paid even more. She mentions inflation and the cost of fuel again. She says it's possible the school taxes will go down this year, but that won't be known until June.

Linda Linblatt asks about the fuel budgets going down and how that was figured. Janet says that it's hard to estimate, but when the selectboard made the first budget, they anticipated higher fuel costs than what they paid through the winter. They are hoping this year it will be about the same. The town always reviews available prebuy rates and tries to get locked into the best price. Last year the town paid \$4.74 for heating oil with a plan that allowed for a lower price if the supplier got a lower price. And diesel was

\$.25 above the rack price. The prices did go down at one point and the town did get the guaranteed lower prices.

Paper ballot requested for the vote. The moderator rereads the article.

Yes: 24; No: 33. The article was defeated.

Don Capponcelli moves to reconsider the article and come up with a budget figure tonight. Amanda Alsvig seconds.

The moderator says that we do need to pass a town budget and if people have a figure in mind, they can offer it.

Linda Taylor suggests that the budget be \$574,355.36, the actual revenue figure for 2022. James Neathawk seconds.

Krista Gay asks if the voters get to decide on how individual line items are adjusted. The moderator says they do not, the budget committee and the selectboard would work on it.

Kate Bova asks for the budget number to be written on the blackboard and for the moderator to explain how much less it is than the original figure. Harold Noyes says it is about \$24,000 lower than the original figure. The clerk writes the numbers on the board.

Sherry asks when people will know what the amount to be raised by taxes will be. David says she can simply subtract the ~\$24,000 from the previous tax revenue figure.

Treah Pichette asks if the budget committee will be able to work with a lower number. Amber says that the budget committee has already gone through the budget line by line with the selectboard. They already cut out as much as they thought they could. So more things will need to be cut that various town functions were hoping to purchase, like a computer for the office to replace the old one that is having problems.

Don Capponcelli asks if trash will be on the chopping block and if that would need a special vote. David says that it would not require a special vote, but the selectboard will need to look at it and at the contract. He can't say one way or the other tonight.

Linda Linblatt asks if the Taylor Hill project would have any impact on the budget. David says it would not. Linda says that the Taylor Hill project would be a financial burden to people in town and she wants to know if there will be additional costs to taxpayers. David says he can't discuss it at this time and doesn't have a good answer for it.

Ginger Maciejowski asks how much of the new figure would need to be raised by taxes. Denise says it will be approximately \$454,895.95. That is just taking the difference off of the previous tax revenue.

Hannah says that some of the things that won't be purchased this year still need to be purchased, so cutting the budget is really just kicking the can down the road. The town still needs a chloride tank, fuel tank and computer, and these things could get more expensive the longer the town waits. She says it's getting pretty hard for town employees to get along and provide basic town functions without the confidence of the taxpayers.

Treah Pichette thinks that the town officials, employees and volunteers are doing the best they can for the town and the voters should be supporting them. The town elects the people to work for them and she thinks the townspeople should be supporting them financially and otherwise. She points out that people have worked really hard on the budget and have had to revise it, and will need to revise it again. She thinks the town should support what the selectboard and budget committee comes up with.

James Neathawk, agrees with Treah and he also doesn't think that people should be putting themselves in poverty to support the town. He doesn't know the answer, it's hard.

Anna Warn says Athens has one of the lowest median incomes and highest tax rates in the county. She says a lot of people are on fixed incomes and can't handle a big tax increase.

Krista Gay says she feels odd about voting for a new budget that she doesn't know where the money will be spent. She wants to know what will happen if this figure is voted down and what the next steps will be. David says if the town doesn't approve a budget today, it would take over a month to try and present a new one and they'd be six months into the year. It would be much better to set a budget today and they will work through it. He says anyone who wants to come is welcome when the budget committee and selectboard meet to go over the new figure.

Sherry wants to know if there is any insight into revenues aside from taxes. She asks if it was unusual this year, and can the town expect other revenues in the future. Hannah answers that she doubts there will be a surplus from this year to apply to next year. It depends what grants are applied for and what those timelines are for reimbursements.

Kate Bova asks about Sheriff's fine money in the revenues. If we aren't getting a lot of fine income from them she wonders why the town keeps the service. David says it is a public safety issue more than a revenue issue. Bob Bova says he hasn't seen a sheriff on Brookline Rd. In months.

Tim Stevenson suggests some expenses could be covered by state and federal grants if the town had a town plan. He says that the tax situation is not going to get better in town. The economy is going to get harder, and people are going to balk at higher taxes. He says the town has to look into alternative ways to address the town's expenses. Denise says she agrees the town needs a town plan, but the plan was presented and voted down. Tim says if the selectboard got behind the idea of a town plan, maybe it would pass.

Jay Maciejowski said he can get behind voting for a lower budget but wants to be assured that the roads wouldn't be impacted to the point of becoming a liability. David says the selectboard will do the best it can for everyone in town with whatever figure is approved.

Dennis Mirante says he's looking at expenditures and thinks some are fixed and can't be changed, but some could be adjusted. He also thinks a town plan is needed.

A paper ballot is requested for the new budget figure of \$574,355.36.

Yes: 38; No: 19. The amended budget passes.

Sandi makes a motion to adjourn.

Adjourned at 6:57

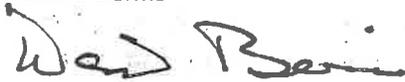
**WARNING**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF ATHENS, VERMONT**

The legal voters of the Town of Athens are hereby notified and warned to act on the following articles on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at 6:00pm at the Athens Community Center (Former Elementary School).

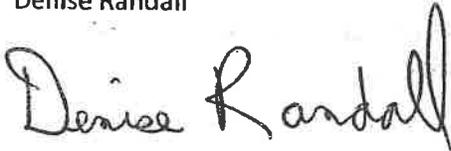
Article 1: To see if the Town shall vote to approve \$598,302.95, with \$478,895.95 to be raised by Taxes, to defray Town expenditures

Dated this 23 Day of <sup>march</sup> ~~January~~ 2023 at Athens, Vermont

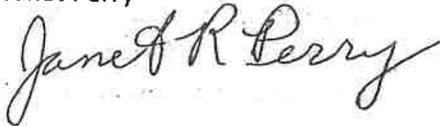
David Bemis



Denise Randall



Janet Perry



Sandi Capponcelli



Harold Noyes

