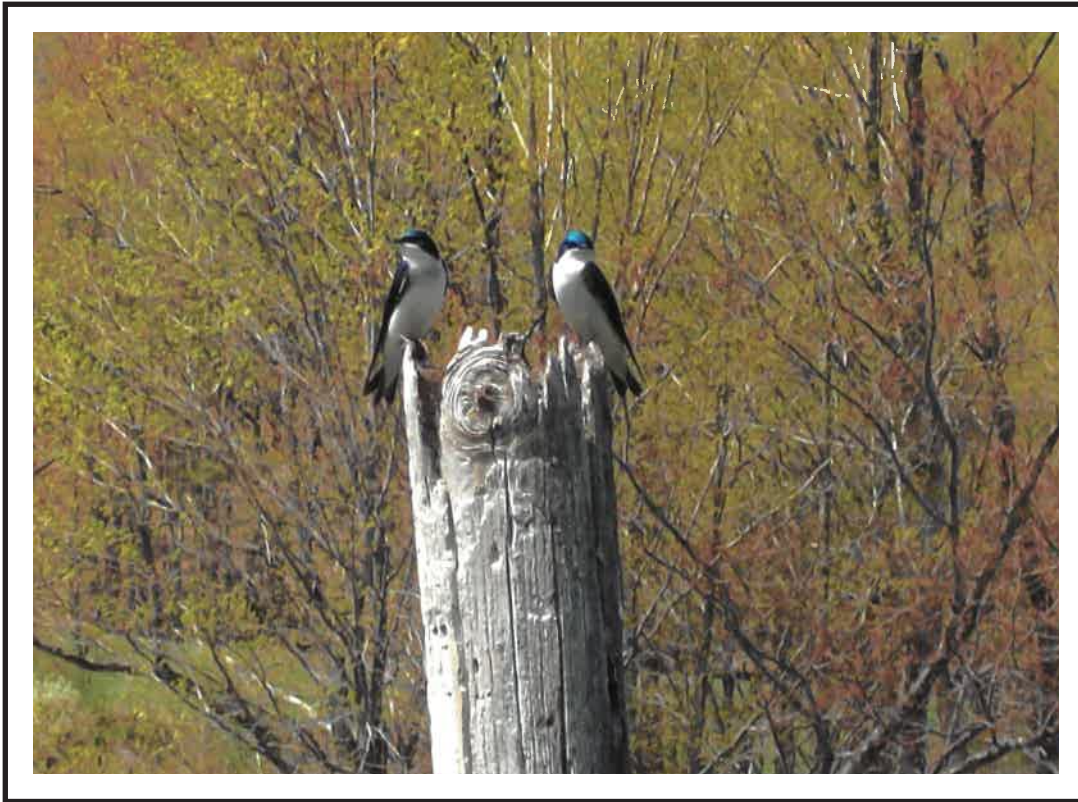


**Annual Report
of the
Board of Officers**



**Town of
Rupert, Vermont**

**Fiscal Year
July 1st, 2021 - June 30th, 2022**

NOTICE

HEADS UP!

MOST CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN
RUPERT REQUIRE A ZONING
PERMIT BEFORE STARTING
CONSTRUCTION

FAILURE TO DO SO CAN RESULT IN
A FINE OF \$100 A DAY
CONTACT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
JOHN LAVECCHIA

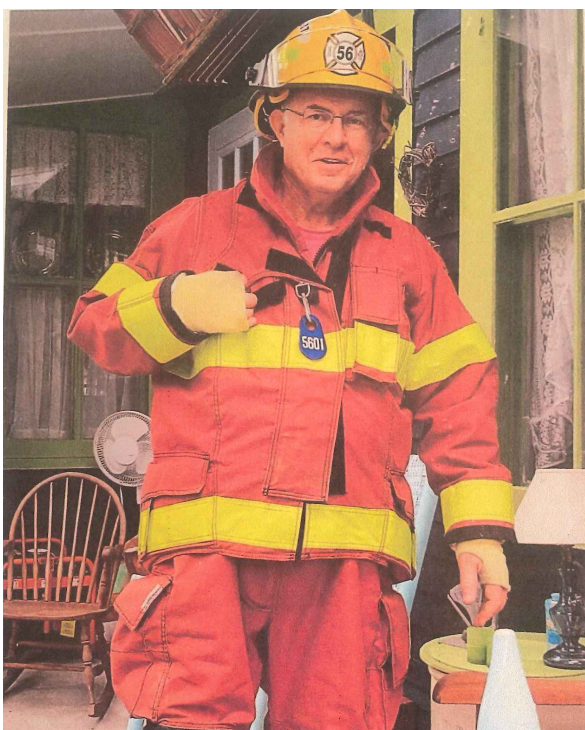
jlavecchia@rupertvt.org
802-394-2521 evenings

DEDICATION

This year we commemorate two of Rupert's honorable citizens: Thelma Georgeson and Robert Bain. They were themselves neighbors on East Street in West Rupert, and both became active participants in Town Offices and organizations which tackled our needs as a growing community. Their own life experiences helped us to look with greater knowledge at our own needs.

Bob was a Navy Veteran from Cossayuna who married Margaret Higgins. Together they raised a family (Sarah Porter and Isaac Bain) on East Street in West Rupert. Bob was a graduate of Argyle Central School, and followed a life long career as an A1 technician, then working for Genex, he retired in 2010. Bob's main work as a resident of Rupert was spent as a member of the Rupert Volunteer Fire Company for 50 years, serving also in other capacities for the annual carnival and as parade coordinator for Old Home Days. In addition, Bob served on the Rupert Planning Commission.

Thelma Georgeson came to Rupert from Long Island in 2002, where she had been mayor of Duogue for 12 years. Thelma's philosophy was that of promoting public projects through volunteerism. These projects included promoting education from childhood to adulthood, through free public libraries and other ways. Here, she became a strong advocate of our local library (the R.K. Kittay Library) and its location in the former Dist. #4 school in Rupert Village, and served as Librarian for many years. She also served on the Planning Commission and helped in writing grant applications for funds to modernize the Town Office Bldg. and Dist. #4 for the Historical Museum and the Library. She served as Treasurer for the Rupert Leisures. Her long life of 97 years was testimony to her many contributions of volunteer work.



Vermont Absentee Ballot Request

Use this form to request absentee ballots for elections in 1 calendar year. All absentee voters must submit a new request each year.

Save time. Request a ballot online at mvp.vermont.gov.

Your name

If your name has changed, provide your former name.

1

Last name _____ First name _____

Middle name _____ Former name _____

Residential address

This is where you currently live and are registered to vote.

2

Address (not P.O. Box) _____

City or Town _____ State VT Zip _____

Mailing address

Provide the address where you receive mail. This is where we will send your ballot.

3

☐ Same as residential address in section 2

Address or P.O. Box _____

City or Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Election

Choose the elections that you want to vote by mail in.

You can choose each election or you can choose the period that you want to receive absentee ballots for.

You can choose elections for 1 calendar year.

4

☐ I want to vote by mail in the following elections:

☐ Annual Town Meeting

☐ All local elections

☐ General Election

☐ Primary Election

☐ Presidential Primary Election (Choose a party)

☐ Democratic ☐ Republican

Or

☐ I want to vote by mail during the following period (within 1 calendar year):

Start sending me ballots on (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Stop sending me ballots on (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Military, overseas civilian, ill or with disability voters

If applicable

5

My voter type (check 1): ☐ Military (active in U.S. or overseas) ☐ Overseas voter ☐ Ill or with disability

I want my ballot delivered by (check 1):

☐ Email (ballots cannot be returned electronically) _____

☐ Fax _____

☐ Mail _____

☐ Two Justices of the Peace (only if you are ill or with a disability). Phone _____

Contact information

This is helpful if we have a question. Confidential.

6

Phone _____ Email _____

Requesting a ballot for someone else?

If yes, the requester must complete and sign this section.

7

Requester's name _____ Relationship to voter

☐ Family member

☐ Health care provider

☐ Person authorized by voter

Organization name (if applicable) _____

Requester's address _____

Requester's phone _____

Signature Required

8

Voter or requester, sign and date here (Required)

X

Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Return your completed and signed form to your Town Clerk. You can:

- Mail it or drop it off in person
- Email it

Find your Town Clerk's mailing address and email address at tinyurl.com/vtclerks.

Track this request and your ballot at mvp.vermont.gov.

2022.01

Official use only

☐ Voted in office

☐ Ballot picked up at clerk's office

Date of request _____ Ballot mailed date _____ Ballot returned date _____

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RUPERT TOWN OFFICERS

ELECTED POSITIONS:

SELECTBOARD

TERM EXPIRES

Deborah Baker, Co-Chair.....

2025

Charles Rockwell, Co-Chair.....

2023

Thomas Wilson.....

2024

Linda Montague.....

2023

Philip E. Mazzucco.....

2023

LISTERS

Jed Rubin, Chairman.....

2023

Richard Ventrella.....

2024

Ruthanne Hunter.....

2025

RUPERT SCHOOL DIRECTORS – Mettawee School District Board

Anthony Garcia.....

2024

Jena Beecher.....

2025

AUDITORS

Eugene Higgins.....

2025

Kelly Lewis.....

2023

Chris Porter.....

2024

TOWN CLERK

Andrea Lenhardt.....

2023

TOWN TREASURER

Andrea Lenhardt.....

2023

TOWN MODERATOR

Mark Lourie.....

2023

ROAD COMMISSIONER

Philip E. Mazzucco - appointed by Rupert Selectboard March 22, 2022

TOWN AGENT (position now eliminated per H.143, Act 84)

FIRST CONSTABLE

Jason Norton.....

2024

SECOND CONSTABLE

Brett Lourie.....

2024

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

Mark Lourie..... 2023

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

TERM EXPIRES

Judy Zinn.	2025
Jean Nardi.....	2025
Sarah Porter.....	2024
Arlene Horn	2025
Peter Casenhiser (resigned as of Jan. 1, 2022).	2024
(Anniken Davenport appointed by Selectboard April 12, 2022)	
Carey Braidt.....	2023
Erica Shott.....	2023

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: John LaVecchia Jr. (3 year term, which ends March 25, 2023)

TOWN SERVICE AGENT: Rupert Selectboard

TOWN FIRE WARDEN: Mark Lourie (appointed Nov. 10, 2022 term ends June 30, 2027)

TOWN HEALTH OFFICER: Kelli Raymond (Re-appointed 3 year term, term ends Jan. 31, 2026)

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER: Kelli Raymond

TREE WARDEN: Mark Lourie

WEIGHER OF COAL & FENCE VIEWERS: David Tooley, Donald Lewis, Jed Rubin

INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES, & WOOD: Rupert Selectboard

CLERK OF THE BOARD - Linda Montague

OFFICIAL BANKING INSTITUTION - Berkshire Bank

OFFICIAL BANKING INSTITUTION FOR HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCT. - TD Bank

OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPERS FOR PUBLICATIONS - Rutland Herald & The Vermont News Guide

DISTRICT RUTLAND-BEN REPRESENTATIVE (Elected Nov. 8, 2022):
Robin Chestnut-Tangerman

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE : (Elected Nov. 3, 2022) –2 year term begins Feb. 1, 2023
Kate Canning, Mark Lourie, Jeremy Russo,
Patrick Wilson, Kelli Raymond

PLANNING COMMISSION Jed Rubin - Chairman, Charles Rockwell,
Jean Ceglowski, Philip E. Mazzucco, Peter
Pelton
Kimberly Davis (resigned) Val Almosnino
(removed to make the Planning Commission a 5
member board)

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD: Charles Rockwell, Chairman, Jed
Rubin, Philip E. Mazzucco, Peter
Pelton, Val Almosnino, Rima
Georgeson

BCRC REPRESENTATIVES: John Lavecchia Jr., Commissioner, Charles
Rockwell Co-Commissioner
Appointed by the Selectboard Dec. 13, 2022

AUDITOR'S REPORT TOWN FUNDS JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

ASSETS:

Cash on hand as of June 30, 2022

General Fund Account - Berkshire Bank	\$ 879,531.02
---------------------------------------	---------------

Less Outstanding Checks	\$ 41,966.39
-------------------------	--------------

Total Cash on Hand	\$ 837,564.63
--------------------	---------------

Health Reimbursement Account - TD Banknorth	\$ 14,404.12
---	--------------

Reappraisal Fund Money Market – Berkshire Bank	\$ 21,911.48
--	--------------

RECEIVABLES:

Delinquent Taxes	\$ 27,894.95
------------------	--------------

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Higgins, Chris Porter, Kelly Lewis, Rupert Board of Auditors

**Statement of Delinquent Taxes
as of 1/11/2023**

2021-22	Kevin & Rachel McDonald	\$ 1,464.75
	Edward W. & Marie Lewis, et al	<u>\$ 3,067.34</u>
January 11, 2023 Total Outstanding		\$ 4,532.09

I will accept tax payments at any time at my home office located at 585 State Rt. 153, West Rupert or by mail to the Rupert Town Office, PO Box 140, West Rupert, VT 05776.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Lourie
Rupert Delinquent Tax Collector

Delinquent Taxes

Balance uncollected June 30, 2022

2019-20	\$ 1,329.77
2020-21	\$ 619.57
2021-22	<u>\$ 25,945.61</u>
TOTAL	\$ 27,894.95

New amount received from Rupert Town Treasurer
2/24/2022

\$ 111,937.69

Amounts Paid to Rupert Town Treasurer – Tax, Interest & Fees

February 2022	\$ 4,888.38
March 2022	\$ 60,974.34
April 2022	\$ 28,681.68
May 2022	\$ 4,714.85
June 2022	\$ 8,238.86
July 2022	\$ 1,810.00
August 2022	\$ 7,965.50
September 2022	\$ 4,857.15
October 2022	\$ 1,500.00
November 2022	\$ 9,709.68
December 2022	\$ 3,664.02
January 2023	<u>\$ -</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 137,004.46

SUMMARY

Delinquent Tax to Town	\$ 119,261.52
Fees paid to Delinquent Tax Collector	\$ 9,775.78
Interest to Town	\$ 7,938.30
Balance uncollected January 11, 2023	\$ 4,532.09

TOWN FUNDS

HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT (TD Bank)

Balance as of 06/20/21	\$ 16,117.83
Deposits 07/21/21 - 06/20/22	\$ 6,031.52
Electronic Payments withdrawn	(\$ 7,745.23)
Balance as of 06/20/22	\$ 14,404.12

GENERAL FUND CHECKING - (Berkshire Bank)

Cash on Hand 07/01/21	\$ 497,807.39
Receipts	\$2,959,571.96
Disbursements	(\$2,619,814.72)
Cash on Hand 06/30/22	\$ 837,564.63

REAPPRAISAL FUND MONEY MARKET (Berkshire Bank)

Opened 08/31/2020 – Transferred from General Fund	\$ 17,015.19
Interest Earned	\$ 8.79
Deposits 06/07/2022	\$ 4,887.50
Balance 06/30/2022	\$ 21,911.48

LINE OF CREDIT LOAN (Berkshire Bank)

Loan date 07/01/15 @4.25%	\$ 100,000.00
Borrowed from loan to purchase Tractor/Mower 06/23/16	(\$ 50,000.00)
Loan paid back 08/31/16, with interest (via electronic transfer)	\$ 50,199.69
No activity FY 2017/2018, No activity FY 2018/2019, No activity FY 2019/2020	
No activity FY 2020/2021, No activity FY2021/2022	
Balance 06/30/2022	0.00

NEW TOWN GARAGE – 5 YEAR LOAN (Bank of Bennington)

Amount of loan not to exceed \$290,000 @ 3.5% as of July 2014	
Balance July 1, 2021	\$ 128,408.46
Principal paid Sept. 15, 2021	(\$31,460.94)
Interest paid Sept. 15, 2021	(\$ 3,467.38)
PRINCIPAL Balance 06/30/2022	\$ 96,947.52

2019 INTERNATIONAL HX620 TRUCK FINANCING (KS BANK)

Original Balance	\$ 169,980.00
Transaction Rate 3.990%	
Deposit at closing	(\$ 34,980.00)
Balance Due	\$ 136,089.89
(4 payments of \$37,129.82 will be due each August)	
Payment Aug. 25, 2021 (\$34,374.86 plus interest \$2,754.96)	\$ 37,129.82
Balance as of 06/30/2022	\$ 37,129.82

REVENUE REPORT - RUPERT GENERAL FUND
FY JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

Current Taxes (including interest)	2,376,435.89
Property Tax Adjustment via State	15,576.00
	<u>Town Clerk Fees</u>
Dog Licenses via Town Clerk	811.00
Photocopies via Town Clerk	1,449.00
Record Restoration Fees via Town Clerk	2,962.00
Record Restoration Fees via State	1,455.00
Record Restoration Fees via IRS	.00
Truck Permit Fees	140.00
2 nd Class License – Sherman’s Store	70.00
TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES	6,887.00
	<u>Zoning Fees</u>
Zoning Et al. Permits	1,395.00
TOTAL ZONING FEES	1,395.00
	<u>Interest</u>
Checking Account Interest	221.97
Delinquent Tax Interest	5,564.93
Treasurer Del. Tax Interest	2,887.73
TOTAL INTEREST	8,674.63
	<u>Delinquent Taxes</u>
Tax to Town	31,276.65
Delinquent Tax Warrants	0.00
Delinquent Tax Fees	9,476.01
Overpayment of Delinquent Tax	10.41
TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES	40,763.07
	<u>Federal & State Aid, Grants & Fines</u>
FEMA	0.00
Bridge Reimbursement	0.00
Highway State Aid (Roads)	112,395.19
Paving Grant	0.00
Hazard Mitigation	0.00
Better Back Roads Grants	20,000.00
Current Use	107,066.00
Current Use Withdrawal	0.00
Reappraisal funds via State Treasurer	0.00
Lister Education	0.00
Grant in Aid	20,308.37
Municipal Planning Grant	0.00
Sheriff / Trooper Fines	0.00
TOTAL STATE AID & FINES	259,769.56
	<u>Payment In Lieu Of Taxes</u>
Merck Forest	10,000.00
US Government - Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008	494.00
PILOT - Vermont Natural Resources - State Land	1,882.80
TOTAL PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	12,376.80
	<u>Reimbursements</u>
Library Salaries	8,824.23
Rupert Volunteer Fire Co. Insurance	7,463.00
VLCT Refund on audit	0.00
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENTS	16,287.23
	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
Fidelity Charitable Grant via Mrs. S. Hatch	5,000.00
Insurance Claim	2,455.82
Merck Grading	500.00
Thank you to Tom Wilson	50.00
Town Green Rental	600.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	8,605.82
ARPA FUNDS RECEIVED	102,149.22
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 2,848,920.22

TAXES BILLED AND COLLECTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - 2022

Total Billing (including interest & penalties)	\$2,698,416.55
*Adjustments to taxes billed	<u>\$ 17,991.15</u>
TOTAL BILLED	\$2,716,407.70

Direct Deposits (including interest)	(\$2,305,892.17)
Electronic Deposits via Vermont State Treasurer Prebates	<u>(\$ 287,340.78)</u>
	(\$2,593,232.95)
Delinquent list as of Feb. 25, 2022(includes interest & penalties)	\$ 123,174.75

*Treasurer's Note: Adjustments made after the August 2021 /2022 billing were due to current use changes, errors, and omissions.

TOTAL WARRANTS RECEIVED FROM SELECTBOARD

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Net payroll	-	\$ 173,658.69
*Accounts payable	-	\$2,395,849.09

*Treasurer's Note: Accounts Payable figure includes Residential / Non-Residential municipal tax payments for Education as follows:

Mettawee School District	-	\$ 1,209,638.82
Vermont State Treasurer	-	\$ 460,359.29

CAPITAL ASSETS - TOWN OF RUPERT

2021 Buffalo Turbine Leaf Blower	\$ 5,000.00
2019 International HX Tandem Dump Truck (Stainless Steel Body)	\$170,000.00
2014 Case IH Maxxum 130 CVT Tractor	\$ 55,000.00
2014 Landpride RPC 3060 – 03 Ditch Mower	\$ 2,500.00
2020 Dodge 5500 Truck	\$ 50,000.00
2013 John Deere 524 Payloader	\$ 60,000.00
2009 Air Flow Sander	\$ 1,000.00
2020 Fisher 10 Ft. Snow Plow	\$ 7,000.00
2009 Zwack Stainless Hopper Sander	\$ 5,000.00
2006 International Tandem Dump Truck (White)	\$ 20,000.00
2006 International Tandem Dump Truck (Green)	\$ 20,000.00
2004 John Deere 772CH Motor Grader	\$ 50,000.00
2004 Woods Ditchbank Mower	\$ 500.00
1999 Zwack Stainless Steel Sander	\$ 2,000.00
1999 Everest Plow & Wing	\$ 1,500.00
1993 Eager Beaver Model 290 Brush Chipper	\$ 3,000.00
1988 York Stone Rake	\$ 2,000.00
Town Office Building	\$117,200.00
Rupert Library/Historical Society Building	\$193,400.00
Municipal Tools at Town Barn	\$ 13,000.00
Town Highway Garage (including the Creamery Lot)	\$568,500.00
Town Green	\$ 44,700.00
Salt Shed	\$105,000.00
Former Grange Lot	\$ 24,300.00
Old Dump on Hebron Rd	\$ 42,500.00

TOWN OF RUPERT PAYROLL - 2021/2022 FULL & PART TIME EMPLOYEES TOTAL - 21

*Gross Wages	\$217,357.58
FICA Withholdings	13,476.30
Medicare Withholdings	3,151.78
Federal Withholdings	14,061.76
Vermont State Withholdings	5,421.44
Retirement Withholdings	8,422.50
TOTAL	\$261,891.36

*Treasurer's Note:

Includes \$8,824.23 for Library Salaries which were reimbursed to the Town.

Statement of Expenditures – Town of Rupert
Budget and Actual – General Fund Year Ending June 30, 2022

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>7/1/21-6/30/22</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>
School Tax Payments		
Rupert School District Homestead	\$525,921.89	\$525,921.89
Rupert School Non Resident	\$706,218.71	\$706,218.71
School Education Payment	<u>\$460,359.29</u>	<u>\$460,359.29</u>
Total School Tax Payments	\$1,692,499.89	\$1,692,499.89
TOWN BUDGET		
<u>Salaries</u>		
Town Clerk	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Library Employee Salary	\$10,000.00	\$8,128.00
Treasurer	\$19,000.00	\$18,999.96
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	\$1,500.00	\$780.16
Selectmen	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Constable	\$500.00	\$0.00
Del Tax Collector Fees	\$8,000.00	\$9,370.29
Auditors	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
Listers	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Board of Civil Authority	\$800.00	\$555.00
Fica/Medi	\$8,500.00	\$9,499.06
Town Officers Expense	\$900.00	\$128.00
Dog Ordinance Expense	\$1,000.00	\$1,130.85
Zoning and Planning	\$1,000.00	\$156.78
Elections	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,993.75</u>
Total Salaries	\$81,600.00	\$79,141.85
<u>Supplies & Maintenance</u>		
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$3,475.08
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$1,003.64
Town Report	\$2,000.00	\$1,982.93
Office Equipment Repair	\$500.00	\$0.00
Town Records Restoration	\$500.00	\$390.31
Office Capital Purchase	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Land Purchase	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEMRC – Annual	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Computer Schooling	\$700.00	\$570.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$5,620.20</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	\$17,200.00	\$18,042.16
<u>Utilities</u>		
Electric – Town Office	\$1,000.00	\$1,022.37
Electric – Library/Historical	\$1,000.00	\$1,740.62
Electric – Town Garage	\$2,000.00	\$2,712.25
Electric – Street Lights	\$6,300.00	\$6,586.41
Telephone – Town Office	\$2,000.00	\$1,897.16
Telephone – Town Garage	\$1,000.00	\$1,037.13
Benn. Co. Solid Waste Alliance	\$3,500.00	\$4,809.83
Fuel Oil – Library/Historical	\$2,500.00	\$4,323.73
Town Office Heating Oil	\$2,500.00	\$3,098.68
Town Building Maint.	\$6,000.00	\$18,396.56
Town Office Cleaning	<u>\$80.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Utilities	\$27,880.00	\$45,624.74

Outside Services

Attorney's Fees	\$5,000.00	\$4,555.80
General Town Insurance	\$20,000.00	\$12,018.25
Audit	\$4,200.00	\$0.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	\$2,000.00	\$1,953.00
Property Mapping	\$1,800.00	\$1,675.00
Cemetery Maint.	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Bennington County Tax	\$12,000.00	\$8,995.88
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Speed Control	\$4,000.00	\$2,875.82
State Permits/Fees	\$1,500.00	\$1,790.00
Town Website	\$1,000.00	\$1,273.94
Radio Communication	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$4,798.85</u>
Total Outside Services	\$59,800.00	\$46,436.54

Appropriations

VT Ctr for Indep Living	\$120.00	\$120.00
SW VT Council on Aging	\$400.00	\$400.00
Granville Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00
Benn. Rutl Opportunity Cncl	\$400.00	\$400.00
American Red Cross	\$250.00	\$250.00
Bennington Cty Con. Dist	\$750.00	\$750.00
Poultney/Mett Water Shed	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bennington Tutorial	\$250.00	\$250.00
Coalition for Homeless	\$500.00	\$500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$100.00	\$100.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$500.00	\$500.00
Manchester Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00
Bennington County Habitat for Humanity	\$350.00	\$350.00
Rupert Food Pantry	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total Appropriations	\$6,120.00	\$6,120.00

Total Town Budget	\$192,600.00	\$195,365.29
--------------------------	---------------------	---------------------

HIGHWAY BUDGET**Salaries/Wages**

Highway Crew	\$155,000.00	\$148,110.61
Mileage Reimbursement	\$200.00	\$0.00
Fica/Medi	\$14,000.00	\$10,567.58
Health Insurance	\$55,000.00	\$35,733.55
Retirement	\$9,000.00	\$8,192.50
Unemployment Insurance	\$500.00	\$418.00
Workers Compensation	<u>\$14,000.00</u>	<u>\$3,271.75</u>
Total Salaries/Wages	\$247,700.00	\$206,293.99

Supplies and Maintenance

Parts and Supplies	\$14,500.00	\$18,041.31
Equipment Rental	\$4,000.00	\$6,630.00
Oil & Lube	\$2,000.00	\$1,655.39
Diesel	\$26,000.00	\$38,843.22
Equipment Repair	\$28,000.00	\$15,610.77
Town Barn Repair	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Town Barn Heating Oil	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	<u>\$4,550.40</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	\$80,000.00	\$85,331.09

Outside Services

Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blasting	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dead Tree Removal	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$800.00</u>
Total Outside Services	\$3,000.00	\$800.00

Road Maintenance Material

Gravel	\$60,000.00	\$4,324.37
Sand	\$20,000.00	\$18,266.23
Salt	\$60,000.00	\$65,798.55
Calcium Chloride	\$9,000.00	\$4,192.44
Hot & Cold Patch	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,317.06</u>
Total Road Maintenance Material	\$159,000.00	\$93,898.65

Projects

Paving	\$85,000.00	\$0.00
Bridges	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Class III Roads	\$15,000.00	\$2,400.00
Guard Rails/Culverts	\$8,000.00	\$13,083.05
Town Garage Loan Payment	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$34,928.32</u>
Total Projects	\$153,000.00	\$50,411.37

Equipment Costs

Vehicles and Equipment	\$50,000.00	\$55,469.82
Blades	\$4,000.00	\$5,462.60
Tires	\$7,500.00	\$9,051.51
Miscellaneous	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$2,454.21</u>
Total Equipment Costs	\$63,300.00	\$72,438.14

Total Highway Budget	\$706,000.00	\$509,173.24
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TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES	\$898,600.00	\$704,538.53
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Voted Non-Budgetary Articles & Grants

Establish Town Lines	\$250.00	\$0.00
Reappraisal Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pawlet Mountain Road Cem. Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Better Back Roads	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$14,225.00</u>
Grants:	\$250.00	\$14,225.00

Voted Appropriations

Rupert Volunteer Fire Co.	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Dorset Nursing Association	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
R.K. Kittay Library	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Salem Rescue Squad	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Rupert Village Sidewalks	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Town Office Restoration	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Voted Appropriations	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00

Total Expenditures	\$948,850.00	\$758,763.53
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Committed Funds

Town Green Fund-Timber Sale & Mrs. Hatch \$5000	\$28,190.08	\$1,007.84
Town Office Restoration Fund – leftover	\$6,594.00	\$0.00
Rupert Town Forest Sale-Town Office Renovation	\$87,799.00	\$25,026.90
Fiduciary Grant from Mrs. Hatch	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Land Records Restoration Fund	\$9,888.00	\$0.00
Town Financial Audit	\$8,400.00	\$0.00
Paving – rolled over from previous year	\$81,640.00	\$0.00

SELECTBOARD REPORT - ANTICIPATED INCOME

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

State of Vermont - Highway Aid	\$110,000.00
Current Use - Hold Harmless	\$116,000.00
Reimbursement Library Salaries	\$ 10,000.00
Merck Forest in lieu of taxes	\$ 10,000.00
Rupert Volunteer Fire Company	\$ 7,000.00
Delinquent Tax Collector Fees	\$ 10,000.00
Government PILOT	\$ 2,500.00
Interest - Bank Accounts	\$ 500.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ 5,000.00
Licenses & Zoning Permits	\$ 2,000.00
Speed Control Fines	\$ 200.00
Misc.	\$ 5,000.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$278,200.00

Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

General Government	\$ 214,950.00
Highway Expense	<u>\$ 843,800.00</u>
<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u>	\$ 1,058,750.00
Less anticipated income	<u>(\$ 278,200.00)</u>

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES \$ 780,550.00

FISCAL YEAR END BALANCE

Cash On Hand	June 30, 2022	\$ 837,564.63
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COMMITTED FUNDS

Town Lines	\$ 250.00
Town Building Restoration	\$ 6,500.00
Land Records Restoration	\$ 18,485.51
Rupert Town Green Fund	\$ 21,035.17
Rupert Town Forest Sale	\$ 87,799.00
Fiduciary Grant via Mrs. S. Hatch	\$ 20,000.00
Town Office Improvement Fund	\$ 46,370.34
Sidewalks	\$ 9,617.13
Sale of Town Green 2 Acres	\$ 25,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$235,057.15</u>
ARPA	\$102,149.22
Total Committed Funds	<u>\$337,206.37</u>
Cash on Hand June 30, 2022	<u>(\$837,564.63)</u>
Actual '21/22 FY Balance	\$500,358.26
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$500,358.26
Uncollected Delinquent Taxes (6/30/22)	\$ 27,894.95

Statement of Expinditures - Town of Rupert
Budget, Actual and Proposed – General Fund Year Ending June 30, 2022

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>7/1/2022-6/30/23</u>	<u>(6-MONTH) ACTUAL</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>7/1/23-6/30/24</u>
<u>School Tax Payments</u>			
Rupert School District Homestead		\$291,911.65	
Rupert School Non Resident		\$408,619.35	
State Education Payment		<u>\$186,740.00</u>	
Total School Tax Payments		\$887,271.00	
TOWN BUDGET			
<u>Salaries</u>			
Town Clerk	\$16,000.00	\$7,999.98	\$16,000.00
Library Employee Salary	\$10,000.00	\$5,475.00	\$10,000.00
Treasurer	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.02	\$20,000.00
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	\$1,500.00	\$ 525.01	\$1,500.00
Selectmen	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Constable	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Del Tax Collector Fees	\$8,000.00	\$2,979.78	\$8,000.00
Auditors	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$1,900.00
Listers	\$8,000.00	\$7,999.98	\$14,000.00
Board of Civil Authority	\$ 800.00	\$365.00	\$700.00
Fica/Medi	\$10,000.00	\$6,864.40	\$15,000.00
Town Officers Expense	\$ 200.00	\$28.00	\$200.00
Dog Ordinance Expense	\$1,500.00	\$1,619.03	\$2,500.00
Zoning and Planning	\$1,000.00	\$32.40	\$1,000.00
Elections	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$845.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total Salaries	\$85,400.00	\$48,733.60	\$97,300.00
<u>Supplies & Maintenance</u>			
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$1,021.79	\$3,000.00
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$300.05	\$1,000.00
Town Report	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Office Equipment Repair	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Town Records Restoration	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Office Capital Purchase	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
NEMRC – Annual	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Computer Schooling	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$570.00</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	\$17,200.00	\$6,891.84	\$17,700.00
<u>Utilities</u>			
Electric – Town Office	\$1,000.00	\$359.24	\$1,000.00
Electric – Library/Historical	\$1,000.00	\$634.20	\$1,200.00
Electric – Town Garage	\$2,000.00	\$1,092.52	\$2,500.00
Electric – Street Lights	\$6,300.00	\$3,328.33	\$6,600.00
Telephone – Town Office	\$2,000.00	\$947.68	\$2,000.00
Telephone – Town Garage	\$1,000.00	\$765.00	\$1,000.00
Benn. Co. Waste Alliance	\$3,500.00	\$4,134.64	\$3,500.00
Fuel Oil – Library/Historical	\$2,500.00	\$461.80	\$4,000.00
Town Office Heating Oil	\$2,500.00	\$1,438.95	\$2,500.00
Town Building Maint.	\$6,000.00	\$2,128.60	\$6,000.00

Town Office Cleaning	<u>\$80.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>
Total Utilities	\$27,880.00	\$15,290.96	\$30,380.00

Outside Services

Attorney's Fees	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
General Town Insurance	\$20,000.00	\$20,870.25	\$24,000.00
Audit	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	\$2,000.00	\$1,956.00	\$2,000.00
Property Mapping	\$1,800.00	\$875.00	\$1,800.00
Cemetery Maint.	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Bennington County Tax	\$10,500.00	\$10,995.74	\$11,000.00
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Speed Control	\$4,000.00	\$206.62	\$4,000.00
Fire Alarm Maintenance	\$550.00	\$220.00	\$550.00
State Permits and Fees	\$1,000.00	\$915.00	\$1,000.00
Town Website	\$1,000.00	\$788.14	\$1,000.00
Radio Communications	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$864.00</u>	<u>\$1,800.00</u>
Total Outside Services	\$58,350.00	\$44,190.75	\$62,850.00

Appropriations

VT Ctr for Indep Living	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
VT Family Network	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Front Porch Forum	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
SW VT Council on Aging	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Granville Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Rural Fire Protection Program	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Benn. Rutl Opportunity Cncl	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
American Red Cross	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Bennington Cty Con. Dist	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Poultney/Mett Water Shed	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bennington Tutorial	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Coalition for Homeless	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Manchester Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Benn. County Habitat for Humanity	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
Rupert Food Pantry	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total Appropriations	\$6,370.00	\$6,370.00	\$6,720.00

Total Town Budget	\$195,200.00	\$121,477.15	\$214,950.00
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HIGHWAY BUDGET

Salaries/Wages

Highway Crew	\$200,000.00	\$108,110.25	\$220,000.00
Fica/Medi	\$17,000.00	\$4,447.43	\$17,000.00
Health Insurance	\$60,000.00	\$20,363.98	\$40,000.00
Retirement	\$13,500.00	\$7,027.18	\$14,000.00
Unemployment Insurance	\$500.00	\$243.00	\$500.00
Workers Compensation	<u>\$18,000.00</u>	<u>\$3,255.50</u>	<u>\$14,000.00</u>
Total Salaries/Wages	\$309,000.00	\$143,447.34	\$305,500.00

Supplies and Maintenance

Parts and Supplies	\$14,500.00	\$7,805.45	\$16,000.00
Equipment Rental	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00
Oil & Lube	\$2,000.00	\$2,051.51	\$3,000.00

Diesel	\$28,000.00	\$26,444.63	\$40,000.00
Equipment Repair	\$30,000.00	\$1,434.61	\$30,000.00
Town Barn Repair	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Town Barn Heating Propane	\$4,500.00	\$1,016.62	\$4,500.00
Total Supplies & Maintenance	\$84,000.00	\$43,752.82	\$98,500.00

Outside Services

Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blasting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dead Tree Removal	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Total Outside Services	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00

Road Maintenance Material

Gravel	\$60,000.00	\$461.89	\$80,000.00
Sand	\$20,000.00	\$24,178.83	\$25,000.00
Salt	\$60,000.00	\$18,303.05	\$70,000.00
Calcium Chloride	\$9,000.00	\$4,866.90	\$9,000.00
Hot & Cold Patch	\$10,000.00	\$2,391.48	\$10,000.00
Total Road Maintenance Material	\$159,000.00	\$50,202.15	\$194,000.00

Projects

Paving	\$85,000.00	\$290,209.73	\$100,000.00
Bridges	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Class III Roads	\$15,000.00	\$6,364.73	\$15,000.00
Guard Rails/Culverts	\$8,000.00	\$79,457.27	\$16,000.00
Town Garage Loan Payment	\$35,000.00	\$34,928.32	\$35,000.00
Total Projects	\$153,000.00	\$410,960.05	\$176,000.00

Equipment Costs

Vehicles and Equipment	\$50,000.00	\$96,446.25	\$50,000.00
Blades	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Tires	\$7,500.00	\$852.82	\$9,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,800.00	\$493.00	\$1,800.00
Total Equipment Costs	\$63,300.00	\$97,792.07	\$65,800.00

TOTAL HIGHWAY BUDGET \$771,800.00 \$746,154.43 \$843,800.00

TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES \$967,000.00 \$867,631.58 \$1,058,750.00

Voted Non-Budgetary Articles & Grants

Establish Town Lines	\$0.00
Reappraisal Grant	\$0.00
Pawlet Mountain Road Cem. Main	\$0.00
Better Back Roads	\$14,225.00
Total Voted Non-Budgetary Articles & Grants	\$14,225.00

Voted Appropriations

Rupert Volunteer Fire Company	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Rural Fire Protection Program	\$100.00	\$100.00
Dorset Nursing Association	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
R K Kittay Library	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
VT Family Network	\$250.00	\$250.00
Salem Rescue Squad	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Rupert Village Sidewalks	\$10,000.00	\$18,160.76
Town Office Restoration	\$25,000.00	\$23,008.32
Total Voted Appropriations	\$75,350.00	\$81,519.08

Total Expenditures \$1,042,350.00 \$963,375.66

TOWN OF RUPERT

DOG LICENSES ISSUED FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

CASH ON HAND JAN. 1, 2022	\$ 0.00
202 DOGS LICENSED	\$ 2,104.00
(Includes 1 Farm Dog License)	
2 BREEDER LICENSES @ \$35.00	<u>\$ 70.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2,174.00
Fees to Vermont State Treasurer	(\$ 965.00)
\$2.00 per license fee retained by T.C.	<u>(\$ 404.00)</u>
TOTAL	(\$ 1,369.00)
Net revenue for Town of Rupert for the 2022 calendar year	\$ 805.00

NOTES FROM THE TOWN CLERK:

New dog licenses for 2023 are now at the Town Office. Registration due date is April 1, 2023. The rabies vaccination law reads that all dogs over the age of three months shall be vaccinated against rabies and this initial vaccination is good for 12 months. Within 9 - 12 months of that initial vaccination the animal must receive a booster vaccination. After that, all rabies vaccinations will be valid for 3 years. One dollar of every license goes towards the State of Vermont Rabies Control Program. If you have any questions as to whether or not your pet needs to be vaccinated, in order to be registered, please call the town office.

The State of Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program is ongoing. Four dollars of every license goes towards support of this program. It is designed to enable income eligible caretakers of cats and dogs to receive financial assistance in which to spay, neuter and vaccinate the animals for which they provide care. Applications and a list of participating veterinarians are available at the town office.

2023 Dog License Fees are as follows:

BEFORE APRIL 1 st .	\$10.00 - neutered/spayed	\$14.00 - unaltered
AFTER APRIL 1 st .	\$14.00 - neutered/spayed	\$18.00 - unaltered

Rupert Animal Control Ordinance has been in effect since Jan. 9, 1999. Copies are available at the town office.

This is a report on the dog licenses issued for the Town of Rupert, but I would like to add a comment about cats. Too many cats, too many cats. This past year we have received reports of not only feral cat colonies but also kittens being dropped off at various locations in town. Through the tremendous efforts of our animal control officer, Kelli Raymond, some have been captured, treated, sent to shelters and even a few lucky ones found homes. However, some did not survive the harsh elements of winter and lack of food. Please consider spaying or neutering your animals. We do have information on organizations who offer to spay or neuter at reduced prices. Before adopting any pet, think about having them fixed to avoid the overpopulation we have been witnessing around town. And...thank you Kelli for all you do to help the canines and felines who come your way.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS – CALENDAR YEAR 2022

2022 BIRTHS

Louisa Joan Pettini Born to Lino Robert & Caitlin Anne Pettini	March 11, 2022
Jack Stanley Lourie Born to Brett Nicholas & Leanne Mae Lourie	May 27, 2022
Levi Thomas Wilson Born to Thomas James & Heather Carol Wilson	July 05, 2022

2022 CIVIL MARRIAGES

No marriages reported.

2022 DEATHS

Veronica E. Mazzucco	Apr.	20, 2022	81
Robert E. Bain	June	13, 2022	76
Barbara Stepp Neilson	July	22, 2022	73
Carl Frederick Buechner	Aug.	15, 2022	96
Thelma Dunn Georgeson	Aug.	24, 2022	97
Judith Buechner	Aug.	29, 2022	89
Xian Long Hu	Oct.	09, 2022	76
Edward Ferenc	Nov.	11, 2022	72
Natalie Buck	Nov.	27, 2022	96

These are the vital records for 2022. If a birth, civil marriage or death does not occur in the town and you would like to have the event recorded at the town office, please file a certified copy of the record with the town clerk. If I have missed some event, I do apologize.

Respectfully submitted: Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

Zoning Administrator's Report 2022

The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of each month at the Town Office at 7:00 p.m. The Development Review Board meets similarly on an as-needed basis.

For the year 2022, there were a total of 8 approved applications. The breakdown is as follows:

Residence Addition/Renovation.....	2
Accessory Structure.....	4
New/Replace Existing Residence...	1
Swimming Pool and Shed.....	1

The Town would like to remind everyone that zoning permits are required for all land development projects. Work on these projects may begin after receiving all necessary approvals with allowance for their associated appeal periods. Copies of the application forms, instructions, Land Use Regulations, and Land Use Plan Map are available at the Town Office. The regulations and map are also available on the town's website. Please feel free to contact me at the office with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

John La Vecchia, Jr.
Administrative Officer

RUPERT LISTERS REPORT

There have been 15 sales of real estate since April first in Rupert this year with some of them being more than twice what the property was assessed for in the 2019 town wide reappraisal. Our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), which the State tracks to determine when a reappraisal is required is now at 88% of what properties are selling for. When it gets to 85% we will be ordered to do another reappraisal. Quite likely that will happen next year but because of the exuberance of the market statewide during the last 2 years over half the towns in the state are under orders to do a reappraisal. There are enough qualified reappraisal firms in the state to do about 20 towns a year.

By April first we will inspect new construction done this year whether it is completed or not with "Notice of Change of Appraisal" going out a month or so later leading to Grievance Day.

We try to keep regular office hours on Monday and Thursday from 9:00-1:00 and by appointment. We anticipate moving into our new office soon.

REMINDER

Form HS-122 must be filed by all resident property owners whether or not you have to file for Income Taxes. If you filed an HS-122 in previous years but are now not a resident of Rupert you should file an HS-122W.

Thank You,

Jed Rubin
Ruthanne Hunter
Rich Ventrella

RUPERT STREET CEMETERY INC.
PO BOX 82
WEST RUPERT, VT 05776

The Rupert Street Cemetery Incorporation meets at the Rupert Historical Building twice a year, in April and October.

Officers are as follows:

Deborah Baker – President/Treasurer

Don Lewis – Vice President

Kelli Lewis – Secretary

Trustees: Phil Mazzucco Sr., Gene Higgins, Tracy Lourie, and Charlie Rockwell.

The mowing of the cemeteries is taken care of by Earl Connors as well as Lourie's Caretaking for the Rupert/Pawlet Road Cemetery.

We continue working on bringing the Rupert Street Cemetery Inc. online. We are in hopes to have it ready by the end of 2023 to early 2024.

In 2022 the following were buried:

Gerald Lathrop Carver Section 33A #1

Robert Bain Carver Section Lot 16A #3

Henry Croff Carver Section Lot 29A #3

Mary Stewart Carver Section Lot #4

Carl Seils Carver Section 16A #1

No plots were sold this year.

Public is always welcome to attend our meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelli Lewis, Secretary

Rupert Street Cemetery Inc.

RUPERT STREET CEMETERY

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Berkshire Bank Checking Account Beginning 4/1/2021 \$10,284.93

Income

John Sheldons Estate:	\$5,756.04
Town of Rupert	\$2,500.00
Donations	\$3,005.00
Golf Tournament	\$ 150.00
Buriels/Cremations	\$1,800.00
Plots Purchased	\$ 400.00
Total	\$13,611.04

Expenses

Louries Caretaking:	\$9,670.00
Jeff Lourie Grave digger	\$1,500.00
Post office Box	\$ 70.00
Kinney Pike Insurance	\$ 197.00
CBH Business	\$ 332.50
V & M Excavating LLC.	\$ 120.00
Above & Beyond Tree	\$ 300.00
Copy Express	\$ 550.00
Stamps	\$ 220.00
<u>Lots bought back</u>	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Total	\$13,059.50

Berkshire Bank Balance as of March 31, 2022. \$10,836.47

Berkshire Bank Investments as of 4/1/2021 \$71,326.58

Berkshire Bank Investments as of 3/21/2022 \$73,914.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Baker, President/Treasurer

METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING WARNING

The legal voters of Mettawee School District, consisting of the towns of Pawlet and Rupert, are hereby notified and warned to meet for at the Mettawee Community School at 5788 VT Route 153 West Pawlet, Vermont on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM to consider and act upon the following articles.

To be acted upon on Wednesday, March 1, 2023:

- Article 1: To elect a Moderator to serve from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
- Article 2: To elect a School District Clerk to serve from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
- Article 3: To elect a School District Treasurer to serve from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
- Article 4: To determine the date and time on which the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Mettawee School District shall be held.
- Article 5: To hear and act upon the reports of the School District Directors and Officers.
- Article 6: To discuss articles to be voted upon by Australian ballot.
- Article 7: To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

To be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 7, 2023:

- Article 8: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024?
- Article 9: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$6,442,338, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$20,487 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 15.4% higher than spending for the current year.
- Article 10: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the Building and Grounds Maintenance Reserve Fund?
- Article 11: To elect the following positions:
 - Pawlet – One Director for a one (1) year term expiring in March 2024
 - Pawlet – One Director for a three (3) year term expiring in March 2026

For the purpose of voting by Australian ballot:

Pawlet voters will vote at the Town Clerk's Office in Pawlet. The Polls will open on Tuesday March 7, 2023 at 9:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Rupert voters will vote at the Rupert Town Office in West Rupert. The Polls will open on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

The legal voters of Mettawee School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated this 9th day of January 2023.

On behalf of the Mettawee School Directors:
Julie Mach, Chair

Received for the record and recorded this 11th day of January 2023 by:
Deb Hawkins, Clerk of the District

TOWN OF RUPERT CONSTABLES REPORT 2022

The Town of Rupert Constables have had a steadily active and busy year for 2022. As constables, we serve the community as public safety officials, focusing on law and ordinance enforcement. We work together and assist other local officials and agencies to include the Vermont State Police, Vermont Game Wardens, Rupert Animal Control Officer, Rupert Health Officer, Rupert Fire Warden, Rupert Fire Department, Salem, Granville, & Northshire Rescue Squads, and neighboring agencies. We have handled a number of emergencies and complaints, which seem to be on the rise. Listed below, is a list of the incidents handled, both emergent and non-emergent:

Agency Assists:

1 – Vermont State Police	6 – Vermont Game Wardens	37 – EMS
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Motor Vehicle Collisions:

7 – Property Damage	2 – Injury
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Animal Complaints:

24 – Dog	11 – Wildlife	4 – Livestock/Farm
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Warrants:

6 – Animal	1 – Criminal/Civil Process	
24 – Vehicle & Traffic	2 – Harassment	3 – Domestic Violence
4 – Welfare Checks	3 – Residential/Property Checks	4 – Suspicious Activity
2 – Vandalism/Theft	110 – Patrol	7 – Training
25 – Follow-Ups	1 – Search/Lost Person	37 – Administrative
19 – Community Assist/Details		

We are actively monitoring issues with speed enforcement and working with other law enforcement agencies on this issue. We are also working on additional and continued training through the State of Vermont and other agencies. There has been an increase of dog related complaints that we hope to lower. As a reminder, all dogs in the Town of Rupert are required to be licensed yearly by April 1st, and must have proof of current rabies vaccine. Anyone who has any concerns, and would like to speak to us on any public safety or enforcement issue, please reach out to us.

We look forward to serving the residents and visitors of the Town of Rupert.

Jason D. Norton
1st Constable
802-779-6608 (cell)
802-394-2360 (home)

Brett Lourie
2nd Constable
518-338-5661 (cell)
802-394-7898 (home)

FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

I am happy to report that there were no forest fires or grass and brush fires in Rupert in 2022. There was normal precipitation for March, April, and May, followed by a droughty weather period June through mid-August. Timely fall rains helped alleviate any dangerous fire weather situations in September and October. In 2022 there were 71 fires reported in Vermont towns which burned 72 acres. Here are some interesting facts which are affecting forest fire occurrences in the State of Vermont:

- Annual average precipitation in Vermont has increased nearly 6 inches since the mid 60's.
- Average temperatures in Vermont have risen about 3 degrees since the beginning of the 21st Century.
- 2010 – 2020 was the warmest eleven year period on record in Vermont.
- 2007 – 2011 was the wettest five-year period in Vermont's recorded history.

A special thanks to the Rupert Volunteer Fire Company for their quick response to all reported fire calls and any other request for assistance. Please remember that burning household trash is illegal in Vermont and violators are subject to fines and possible loss of license. A permit is required for any outdoor burning when there is no snow on the ground. Please call anytime you have questions regarding outdoor burning. Always think about weather conditions before you start any fire. Thank you. Below are the 2022 fire statistics for the state of Vermont.

2022 FIRE STATISTICS - STATE OF VERMONT

Number of human caused fires	71
Number of lightning caused fires	0
Number of acres burned caused by humans	72
Number of acres burned caused by lightning	0
Total number of fires	71
Total number of acres burned	72
10-year total average number of fires	83
10-year total average number of acres burned	177

To obtain a burning permit please call 802-394-2494.
To report a fire call 1-518-747-3325 or 911.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark D. Lourie
Rupert Fire Warden

RUPERT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 – Annual Report

The Rupert Volunteer Fire Department is a professional group of residents, trained in various aspects of the fire service. All members volunteer their time to protect life, property, and the environment for the residents and visitors of the Town of Rupert. The members are trained through the State of Vermont Fire Academy, National Fire Academy, FEMA, and other regional agencies. We work together through mutual aid pre-plans with departments and agencies in Bennington & Rutland Counties, as well as Washington County, NY. The members of the department volunteered 4,450.50 hours for emergency incidents, training, meetings, and fund raising efforts.

The Rupert Volunteer Fire Department responded to 51 incidents in 2022.

Rupert: 32

1 - Structure Fire	5 - Fire Alarms	3 - Carbon Monoxide Alarms
5 - MVA	2 - Electrical Fires	1 - Vehicle Fire
1 - Propane Issue	1 - Smoke in Residence	5 - Hazardous Conditions
6 - EMS Assists	1 - Unfounded/Good Intent	1 - Grass/Brush/Wildland Fire

Mutual Aid Responses: 19

10 - Dorset	1 - Salem	2 - Pawlet
2 - Shushan	2 - Hebron	2 - Manchester

Operations & Executive Officers:

Chief:	Jason D. Norton	President:	Jeremy Casey
1 st Asst Chief:	George Fisher	Vice President:	Savannah Lewis
2 nd Asst Chief:	Al Reed	Secretary:	Savannah Lewis
		Treasurer:	Nichol McKeighan

Trustees:

Jeremy Casey Jonathan Fisher Kelly Lewis Melinda Lewis Malachi Schnaderbeck

I would like to thank the following members for their previous years of service in the positions they held; Jimmy Joe Lewis – Chief, Paul Mychack – 2nd Asst Chief/Trustee, Derick Justin – President, Grace Morey – Vice President, & Kelly Lewis – Secretary. These members will continue to be an asset to the department.

Currently, we are working on several projects to better the department and increase the service that the public expects. We are in the process of purchasing new turnout gear for 3 members which costs close to \$4000 per firefighter. Turnout gear is only good for 10 years per NFPA. We are purchasing 2 additional air bottles which costs over \$800 a piece, and have a life span of 15 years. We have acquired a set of extrication equipment (Jaws of Life), to assist us with motor vehicle collisions, which was through the hard work of Jimmy Joe Lewis. He was able to acquire these tools at no cost to the department, by working with the Rindge Fire Dept in NH, who purchased new tools, and was looking to give the equipment to a department that could use them. This will allow us to better our service. We are working on fixing our brush truck, which has served us for years, but is out of service due to mechanical issues. Members continue to train Tuesday nights, all year to prepare for the unexpected.

We would like to thank the community for their continued support, and the families of our members. If you are interested in becoming a member, please stop by any Tuesday night at 7pm and speak with us.

In case of emergency: Call 911 or 518-747-3325.

Jason D. Norton
Chief
Rupert Volunteer Fire Department

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property, and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply stems, design installations, and finds financial resources to support the cost of construction. During the **25+ years** of the program, almost **1200 grants** totaling over **\$2.6 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

The Rural Fire Protection Program is managed by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservation Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

We have made several adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program, including changing the name from Dry Hydrant Grant Program to Rural Fire Protection Program to better reflect the diverse range of projects we support. We have increased the maximum grant award amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per project. New rural fire protection systems, along with repair, replacement, relocation, and upgrades of existing systems, and drafting site development, are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. And we now consider applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual expense of the Rural Fire Protection Program in FY 2025 was **\$285,901**, of which **\$165,422** was paid in grants to support the construction and repair of **27 rural fire protection projects** throughout Vermont. The remaining budget covered site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Division of Fire Safety of the Vermont Department of Public Safety, through annual appropriations by Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program reserves support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. In FY 2022, we received over **\$9,000** in town appropriations from **over 90 towns**. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

216 Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Maclay, Chair, Marshfield Volunteer Fire Department
Bill Sanborn, Vice-Chair, Town of Maidstone
Walter Bothfield, Jr., Cabot Volunteer Fire Department
Mike Greenia, Vermont Division of Fire Safety, Department of Public Safety
Christine Kaiser, Stowe, VT
Lars Lund, VT Department of Forest Parks & Recreation
Haley Pero, Senator Bernie Sanders Office

Troy Dare
Manager & Engineering Technician
Rural Fire Protection Task Force
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)
170 Lower Sumner Hill Road, Sumner, ME 04292
802-828-4582 – www.vacd.org

RUPERT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2022

RECEIPTS

BINGO	\$15,168.87
CARNIVAL	\$40,949.70
FISH FRY	\$2,440.00
FUND DRIVE LETTER	\$11,805.00
GAME SUPPER	\$4,450.00
GENERAL DONATIONS	\$6,112.52
GUN RAFFLE	\$4,222.65
INTEREST DEPOSITS (BOTH ACCOUNTS)	\$41.14
LAWN MOWER RAFFLE	\$3,685.00
MEMORIAL DONATIONS	\$2,120.00
SALE 1988 FIRETRUCK	\$5,000.00
TOWN	\$30,000.00
TURKEY RAFFLE	\$709.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$126,703.88

EXPENSES

BUILDING	\$12,002.70
CARNIVAL	\$22,797.88
COUNTY/STATE DUES	\$512.00
DISPATCHING	\$7,050.00
DONATIONS	\$949.39
ELECTRIC	\$3,548.97
EQUIPMENT	\$20,790.73
FUEL/PROPANE	\$8,273.47
FUNDRAISING	\$3,317.06
INSURANCE	\$7,463.00

MISC.	\$2,796.50
PHONE	\$2,060.86
TRAINING	\$559.82
TRUCK	\$4,214.92
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$96,337.30

Balance of General Checking for 12/31/2022	\$45,673.75
Balance of Equipment Fund for 12/31/2022	\$159,549.95

Respectfully submitted,

Nichol McKeighan, Treasurer

2022 Rupert Food Pantry

The Rupert Food Pantry meets the needs of not only our community but the surrounding communities as well. We meet those needs through the generosity of people who donate through the churches and the library as well as the monetary donations given by other community members and the \$500 from our town.

This past year the Rupert Food Pantry purchased: Eggs, sliced cheese, pasta, spaghetti sauce, butter, milk, hotdogs, bologna, bread, canned veggies, coffee, salt, pepper, ketchup, mustard, mayo, cereal, toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant and many other items. The Rupert churches and the library also continue to donate non perishable items which we are extremely grateful for.

We continue to be open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month from 9-10 am. If you would like any other information regarding the Food Pantry, please call 394-2491.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelli Lewis
Rupert Food Pantry Chair

ROSALIND KESHIN KITTAY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL TOWN REPORT 2022

R.K. Kittay Library
2827 State Route 153
Rupert, Vermont 05768

Mailing Address:

PO Box 53
West Rupert, Vermont 05776
Phone: 802-394-2444

E-Mail: rupertkittaylibrary@gmail.com

Website: rupertkittaylibrary.org/

Facebook: facebook.com/rkkittaylibrary/

Instagram: instagram.com/rkkittaylibrary/

It has been an exciting year at the R.K. Kittay Library! As the Pandemic lessens, the Library is hosting more programs and reinstating old ones. Also, the collection and organization inside the Library has been refreshed, and a new catalog system is coming soon!

This year, community children had fun at Summer Reading “Oceans of Possibilities” which was once again run by Kelli Lewis. The two-week program ended in an *Under the Sea* performance by No Strings Marionette Company. Last spring, the Library held a plant sale and the golf tournament went off without a hitch in July. In September, the Library hosted an open house while the Congregational Church of Rupert and Sheldon’s Store also had community events. For those wishing to hone their writing skills, a Writing Workshop was held over several weeks. Later in the season, Stephen and Erica, from the Dorset Library, performed “Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark” with a chilling setting next to the cemetery. Most exciting is that the Library is hosting artists again! November saw our first art reception in over two years. All of our programs and events had great attendance and we look forward to doing even more next year!

Some of the bigger, more noticeable happenings at the Library include: a refresh of the collection, which means old, uncirculated and damaged books were removed and the remaining items were rearranged to make room for our new books. Stephen, with the help of a couple of volunteers, have been cataloging, cleaning up stickers and preparing the collection for Library World, which will go into effect in 2023. This means our whole collection is automated and will be able to locate and circulate with ease.

The Library continues to offer its many services to the community: free internet access, which includes a large radius around the library to accommodate access outside of normal library hours, Universal Classes where you can learn about hundreds of topics, Heritage Quest for genealogy, and Vermont Online Library for research on many topics. There are free passes available for patrons: Vermont State Parks, Vermont Historical Museum, Historical Sites, The Clark Museum, and Hildene. We also participate in the Able Library; the Vermont State Library provides a free, rotating

selection of large print materials, which helps us stay within our budget and provides a more comprehensive selection.

The trustees of the R.K. Kittay Library express gratitude to the Rupert Community for the continued support of our fantastic Library. We also are beyond grateful for Stephen, our Director, and the dedicated volunteers who keep the doors of the library open, and maintain and organize our materials, as well as share their knowledge and excitement with our visitors.

Respectfully submitted:

President: Judy Zinn	Treasurer: Jean Nardi	Secretary: Erica Shott
Arlene Horn	Sarah Porter	Anniken Davenport
		Carey Braidt

ROSALIND KESHIN KITTAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Income

Donations	\$	19,719.79
Town of Rupert	\$	1,500.00
Grants	\$	2,800.00
Used Book Sales	\$	412.00
Fund Raising	\$	<u>4,415.00</u>
Total Income	\$	28,846.79

Expenses

Library Materials (books, passes, A/V)	\$	2,750.00
Computer Expense	\$	1,502.38
Fundraising	\$	622.49
Gifts – Volunteer Recognition	\$	200.00
Memberships	\$	139.00
Office Supplies	\$	1,458.96
Postage	\$	426.00
Programs	\$	1,253.08
Repairs and Maintenance	\$	1,104.74
Scholarships	\$	300.00
Summer Program Wages & Supplies	\$	1,154.55
Telephone	\$	698.27
Payroll Expenses	\$	<u>8,306.06</u>
Total Expenses	\$	19,865.53

R.K. Kittay Endowment Fund as of 09/30/22* \$ **156,446.23**

*1/4 quarter balance will be available from VCF in February 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M Nardi, Treasurer

THE RUPERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

In this, our thirtieth year, we find ourselves in a well established pattern of community activity and service. We maintain our 2 museums, on the second floor of the former District #4 Schoolhouse, and the restored cobbler shop house, which was a former residence as well as a place of business in village life. Each museum offers views of village life through displays of 19th and early 20th century rural farm life. Each museum is open weekends to visitors and at planned events for other groups.

It is our hope to erect a permanent area for storage of our many items of farm machinery. These would be on display to visitors through the summer months and activities. Plans are being prepared for this area, and, hopefully will be finished during 2023.

Meanwhile, we appreciate your continued support and enthusiasm for our programs, both as volunteer helpers and attendees. Thank you all.

Trustees: Dianne Lourie, Leesa Bradlee, Claude Barden, Donald Lewis, Ruth Hunter, Nan Leach

Treas: Tracy Lourie, Sec'y: Anne Lourie, V. Pres.: Margaret Bain, Pres.: Gene Higgins.

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless
966 Main Street
PO Box 4736
Bennington, VT 05201
802-442-2424
www.bcchvt.org

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless has continued to serve the needs of those in Bennington County experiencing homelessness in 2022. BCCH is grateful for the town of Rupert's support for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

In Fiscal Year 2022, we served twenty three families at our family shelter including 46 adults and 45 children. We served 111 individuals at our adult shelter. Additionally, this past year we created a new position for motel outreach and served over sixty individuals place in local motels. This last year, we have focused on expanding relationships with community partners including but not limited to GBICS, Sunrise, SVSU, BPD, SVMC, COC, and UCS. Additionally, we were able to increase our grant funding to have two full time case managers for our clients at our adult shelter. This has enabled us to dramatically increase referrals to outside agencies and supports as well as increase the number of applications submitted by and on behalf of clients.

As we look ahead to 2023, we are excited to move into our new family shelter, Norton House, in a partnership with Shires Housing. We ask for your continued support as we navigate:

- Increased communication from local businesses to help with local encampments
- Zero available motel/hotel rooms within the County
- Increased case management for those whose mental and physical health needs cannot be met in the County

As BCCH continues to expand and attempts to provide more services to an increased population, we seek your support. BCCH currently operates year-round, 24/7, at two different shelter locations. An adult shelter at 966 Main Street, houses sixteen adult guests. Thatcher House Family Shelter at 212 Pleasant Street serves nine families but will soon be replaced by Norton House at 300 Pleasant Street. Especially in the winter months the shelters are at capacity with waiting lists. 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, bathroom to providing a safe, warm space for those in need during the day or providing someone in need with toiletries, blankets, clothing, or food to take away. Those who come in to warm up are also given the opportunity to meet with a case manager, apply for services, and/or help seeking/applying to housing and/or employment.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Chloe Viner Collins
Executive Director

Salem Rescue Squad, Inc.
152 East Broadway, PO Box 360
Salem, NY 12865
Telephone: 518.854.7199
E-mail: salem44ems@hotmail.com

Salem Rescue Squad responded to 453 emergency calls in 2022. We traveled more than 23,000 miles. Our agency also provided 51 Community Paramedicine home visits this past year.

Break down of calls based on township:

Salem: 274

Hebron: 120

Rupert: 29

Greenwich: 3

Hudson Falls: 2

Cambridge: 1

Hartford: 1

The mission of the Salem Rescue Squad continues to be a deep dedication and commitment to provide Emergency Medical Services to our community and surrounding areas. The Salem Rescue Squad has been an active part of the community for more than fifty years. We strive to provide prompt, professional and courteous care to all of those in need. Over the years, Salem Rescue Squad has maintained a high standard of service, through a dedicated group of volunteers and staff. The Salem Rescue Squad is actively working in conjunction with the Cambridge Valley, Easton-Greenwich and Granville Rescue Squads to deliver Mobile Integrated Health System community paramedicine in our communities, which has made great progress during the past years. This program has already proven to be beneficial. We are excited to explore new and meaningful programs to support our communities' growing needs.

The Salem Rescue Squad would like to thank all of our constituents for your continued support.

Granville Rescue Squad, Inc.
East Potter Avenue, P.O. Box 153
Granville, NY 12832
Telephone (518) 642-1830
www.granvillerescue.com
granvillerescue@yahoo.com

To the Citizens of Towns Served:

Thank you for the opportunity to have served you over the past year.

Granville Rescue responded to 2,132 calls in 2022, traveling over 90,000 miles. The following is the call breakdown, by area served:

Granville Village	813	Pawlet/W. Pawlet	133
Granville Town	605	Rupert	17
Hebron	45	Danby	32
Wells	131	Other Areas	356

We routinely respond to calls for mutual assistance outside of our area. Other neighboring ambulances also assist our agency when the system is overwhelmed with calls and our resources are depleted.

Our service is licensed in New York and Vermont as an advanced life support agency. Volunteer members are supplemented by employees to provide 24 hour a day, 7 days a week emergency medical coverage. Our roster has over 50 members and staff, ranging from drivers to paramedics. In 2022, members participated in over 12,000 hours of emergency call time and in excess of 2500 hours of training. We do offer community CPR and first aid training, depending on instructor availability, as well as the "Stop the Bleed" program.

An Advanced EMT course was held at the Granville Rescue building over the winter. From this we were able to gain five new Advanced EMTs. Additionally, three members became certified as Paramedics in 2022. We congratulate them and thank them for their dedication.

Our agency was awarded a grant for additional "Lucas" CPR devices. This unit is capable of performing chest compressions on a patient freeing up personnel to perform other tasks on a cardiac arrest. A second large grant has allowed us to purchase Glidescope video laryngoscopes. This device assists in locating difficult airway anatomy for improved success in gaining an artificial airway. We have also added additional medications to our skillset to better improve patient outcomes.

Granville Rescue would like to thank the citizens, businesses, local governments, fire, police, and neighboring EMS agencies, as well as highway departments for their continued support and assistance. Anyone with questions, concerns, or interest can stop by our building on Potter Avenue in Granville or visit our website at www.granvillerescue.com.

The members and staff of Granville Rescue wish everyone a healthy 2023!

VNA & HOSPICE of the Southwest Region
Main Office: 7 Albert Cree Drive
Rutland, VT 05701
1.800.244.0568
www.vermontvisitingnurses.org
Locations in Bennington, Dorset and Manchester

TOWN REPORT

TO THE OFFICERS AND CITIZENS OF RUPERT:

In 2021, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region provided Rupert residents with exceptional home care, hospice, and community health services. From medically fragile infants with hi-tech needs to seniors who wish to remain independent at home, and those who are facing a terminal illness, we continue to bring medically necessary health care wherever it is needed, regardless of the location of residence, or complexity of health issue.

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

Last year VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 116,571 visits to 3,900 patients. *In the Rupert, we provided 719 visits to 24 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.

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

Dan DiBattista, President
Board of Directors

BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sullivan, Director

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance
Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg
Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE BENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Overview

Bennington County Conservation District underwent significant changes this fiscal year in terms of staffing. After bidding a fond farewell to Katy Crumley BCCD hired Michael Fernandez as our new District Manager. Mr. Fernandez is a farmer and graduate of Oregon State University's College of Forestry where he concentrated his studies on Natural Resource Policy and Management. He brings a wide array of skills and knowledge to the table and transitioned well into his new role with BCCD.

Trees for Streams & Riparian Planting

Riparian plantings are utilized to stabilize eroding stream banks, provide habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial organisms, and to sequester carbon. Due to their long-term effectiveness these plantings have long been a core part of BCCD's work. Over the course of this year BCCD worked in partnership with The Battenkill Watershed Alliance, the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District, Orvis, and private landowners to plant approximately 4 acres of riparian buffer systems in Manchester, North Bennington, and Rupert amounting to approximately 1,200 trees planted throughout Bennington County utilizing state grants, federal grants, and private funds.

Lakes and Ponds

Lakes and ponds in Bennington County provide valuable recreational access to the citizens of Bennington County. Using Tactical Basin Planning Funds BCCD engaged extensively with Paran Recreations and the Woodford Lake Association to initiate the development of long-term management plans designed to mitigate and reverse chronic reductions in water quality and recreational value.

BCCD engaged directly with landowners at Woodford Lake to provide Lake Wise Assessments that helped identify projects to reduce nutrient and sediment loading in Woodford Lake. We further worked with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to obtain funds to conduct a Lake Watershed Action Plan for Woodford Lake, though as of this report those funds have not been finalized.

BCCD worked with Paran Recreations, VTDEC, and other relevant stakeholders to being developing a nuisance plant and nutrient loading reduction plan for Lake Paran. The proposed management paradigm includes an all fronts approach to arrest the long term decline in water quality and recreational use value of the lake.

Agriculture

BCCD provides outreach and technical assistance to farmers in Bennington County with a special emphasis on supporting distressed and emergent businesses in need of public assistance to adapt to changing economic conditions facing Vermonters in the wake of the Covid crisis. BCCD expanded it's services to include Cannabinoid Hemp testing to allow hemp farmers in Bennington County access to this vital and legally required service in order to take their crops to market. BCCD also provided technical assistance and educational materials on Agroforestry as well as other new and innovative land management techniques such as cover cropping, no till, and enhanced nutrient management planning. These services help farmers diversity their operations and BCCD strives to work with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to allow those farmers to access state funds to implement these new practices without having to take as substantial of a financial risk.

Environmental Justice

BCCD worked with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Shires Housing, the Bennington Housing Authority, and the Center for Whole Communities to conduct Environment Justice workshops at the Wollowbrook and Orchard Village housing complexes in Bennington. The intent of these workshops was tailored to ascertain how state agencies can better provide access to resources in financially disadvantaged communities. We gathered a substantial quantity of qualitative data on program delivery through these stakeholder interactions and BCCD continues to work with community members to enhance the livability of these communities by providing technical assistance on grants and project development led by community members who want to see their neighborhoods thrive.

Design and Implementation Block Grants

Design and Implementation Block Grants make up a core part of BCCD's work. We utilize these grants to ameliorate specific environmental hazards and to pursue specific projects identified through community outreach or through state plans such as the Tactical Basin Plan and Stormwater Master Plans. Over the last year BCCD initiated projects largely designed to reduce phosphorus loading stemming from stormwater flows into the Battenkill and Wallomsac rivers. We are in the process of conducting six projects in Arlington, Bennington, Winhall, and Woodford.

THE TUTORIAL CENTER, INC.

The Tutorial Center respectfully requests to be on the Rupert Town ballot again for March 2023, for the FY'24 year in the amount of \$300.

The Tutorial Center's mission is to build foundational skills and enhance understanding for learners in order to inspire success in pursuit of career and life opportunities. The Center is committed to a philosophy which respects student goals, builds on students' strengths, and seeks educational approaches most appropriate for each student.

Although our numbers for school- and parent-referred students have increased, The Tutorial Center population being served is still not at pre-pandemic numbers. However, we have been helping to instruct and acclimate a group of new refugees. We continue to focus on increasing our adult education student body, maintaining and forming new community partnerships, and looking for a larger building to accommodate spacing requirements due to safety and privacy concerns.

Our education services include tutoring for all ages; Adult Education and Literacy (which includes an alternate pathway to a high school diploma-the High School Completion program); English language classes for non-English speakers (ESL); GED preparation and testing; job readiness training; basic technology training for individuals and businesses; and our long-standing Youth Agricultural Program (YAP), as well as a new Integrated Educational Training program we hope to have implemented in 2023 for workforce development.

The Tutorial Center works closely with the social service agencies in the area, such as the Dept of Labor, Economic Services, DCF, CRJ, and UCS to name a few. Though our main mission is education, we know there are many barriers to education for our students. We work closely with our students to help minimize these obstacles. We have a transition counselor to help students overcome these barriers, as well as direct them to the specific services they may need.

Rupert's town appropriation funds support our tutoring work, enabling us to offer scholarships to students who need assistance. In addition, we work closely with the area schools to be a resource for them. Over the past few years, we have had several students from Rupert in our Adult Ed program and a student being individually tutored.

The Tutorial Center is happy to answer the community's questions about how we may be able to help you or someone you know. Thank you for your previous support, and we look forward to your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean-Marie Oller, Executive Director
seanmarie.o@tutorialcenter.org

www.tutorialcenter.org

In Manchester: PO Box 1434 • 3511 Richville Rd • Manchester Center, VT 05255 • 802-362-0222 • 802-362-0707 fax
In Bennington: 208 Pleasant Street • Bennington, VT 05201 • 802-447-0111 • 802-447-7607 fax

BENNINGTON COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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

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

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

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

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

BCHfH has built 31 homes since 1997 in partnership with income-qualified families. The eighth home we built is located in Rupert and the ninth home we built is in West Rupert, providing safe, affordable housing for two Rupert families. Many Rupert residents helped build these and other local Habitat homes. We encourage residents of Rupert to apply for homes and home repair projects. We are grateful for the Town of Rupert's continued support and hope we can count on your assistance in the future. None of our projects would be possible without the support we receive from area towns, businesses, houses of worship, and individuals. Together, we do make a difference in the lives of hard-working, lower-income area residents. For more information about our work, please visit our website www.benningtoncountyhabitat.org.

Respectfully submitted by John Jacobi, President, Board of Directors

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

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

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

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

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

PAVE is asking for level funding this year; \$100.00.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Brillon, M.E.d. LSW
Executive Director
Po Box 227
pave@pavebennington.com
[8024422370](tel:8024422370)

Suzanne Kirkpatrick, Board President

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

**THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
TOWN OF RUPERT
SUMMARY REPORT**

Request Amount: \$120.00

For the past 42 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (~85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

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

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Montpelier office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY '22, VCIL provided direct services to Vermont residents utilizing the following programs/services:

- Information, Referral and Assistance (I, R&A)
- Home Access Program (HAP)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling (PAC)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
- VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)

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**.

SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

Report to the Citizens of Rupert

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

Nutrition Support:

The Council helped provide 480 meals that were delivered to the homes of 5 elders in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 1 Rupert elder attended a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 19 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 5.5 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 5 residents of Rupert.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 6 elders in your community for a total of 59.75 hours. Case managers meet with an elder privately in the elder's home or at another agreed upon location and assess the elder's situation. They will work with the elder to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the elder desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help elders connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail elders facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

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

Rutland Office: 802-786-5990

Bennington Office: 802-442-5436

Helpline: 1-800-642-5119

CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leitha Cipriano, Executive Director
Center for Restorative Justice

STATE OF VERMONT
Department of Health
Bennington Local Health Office
324 Main St., Suite 2
Bennington, VT 05201
[phone] 802-447-3531 [toll free} 800-637-7347
HealthVermont.gov

Local Health Office Annual Report 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

210 South Street Suite 6

Bennington, VT 05201

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

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District, a political subdivision of the State of Vermont, is a multi-municipal organization working to solve the longstanding rural broadband connectivity challenges in its fourteen member towns. Since forming in March of 2020, the CUD has grown to include Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Winhall, and Woodford.

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

CCI, in consultation with the CUD, has developed the following three-phase construction plan for the CUD territory:

- Phase 1: Now Complete! This phase is financed by CCI as part of their Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) obligations and covered most of the Southshire, including Bennington, Woodford, Glastenbury, and part of Pownal and Shaftsbury.
- Phase2A: This phase will be financed by the Act 71 Construction Grant. Set to begin in early 2023 and complete by the end of the year, this phase of the buildout will cover approximately 1,300 unserved and underserved addresses in the CUD's territory. Most of SoVT CUD's territory will be covered at the conclusion of this phase.
- Phase 2B: Funded by CCI, the second part of Phase 2 will begin in early 2023 and complete by the end of the year. This portion of the project involves in fiber build to an additional 619 unserved addresses and is part of the CCI's RDOF obligations.
- Phase 3: The final phase will build out fiber to the "hardest 100" addresses in the CUD's territory, which has since been narrowed to the "hardest 17" addresses.
- Additionally, because of the strong partnership between the CUD and Consolidated, Consolidated has agreed to invest its own capital to cover an additional 4,689 served addresses across the CUD

By way of closing, we would like to thank the many people and organizations who continue to support our work: the Department of Public Service; the Vermont Community Broadband Board; our elected officials; and the Bennington County Regional Commission. Most importantly, however, we would like to recognize the delegates that you have appointed to the CUD's Governing Board. They have dedicated their time and energy to solving an immensely difficult problem, and we would not have made the progress that we have made to date without them.

We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 PM. Please join us, and learn more at sovtcud.net.

Sincerely,
Eric Hatch, Chair
Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Vermont Family Network
600 Blair Park Road, Suite 240
Williston, Vermont 05495
1-800-800-4005
VermontFamilyNetwork.org
info@vtfn.org

The mission of Vermont Family Network (VFN) is to empower and support all Vermont children, youth, and families, especially those with disabilities or special health needs. Formed in 2008 when two organizations, the Vermont Parent Information Center (VPIC) and Parent to Parent of Vermont (P2P), merged, VFN has collectively served families across Vermont for more than 30 years. Vermont children, youth, and families are provided with a “one-stop shop” to help them reach their full potential. VFN gives a strong start, lifts family voices, and advances inclusive communities.

We are writing you today to ask for your support in continuing to serve families in Rupert town and throughout the state, with an appropriation of \$ 250. Traditionally primarily funded through state and federal grants, we find that waning funds threaten to slow our work and minimize the number of families we can support. We are reaching out to communities like Rupert town where we have served many families to seek your help. Your appropriation will help ensure the work we can do all around the state continues to happen with the same excellence and care that it has for the past 30 years.

We are proud to serve over 1,500 families yearly with expert information, referral, and assistance services provided by family support consultants located in Williston, Newport, and Rutland, an annual conference and more through our Family Support Program.

Vermont Family Network is also home to Puppets in Education, and educational puppetry team that teaches children and parents about important issues like anxiety awareness, bullying, child abuse, and disability awareness through engaging performances that emphasize compassion, respect, effective leadership, and communication. Each year over 10,000 school children and adults benefit from these educational programs and workshops.

Thank you so much for your consideration. The funding received will go a long way to ensuring our ability to continue to provide the much-needed services to Vermont families. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Claire Giroux-Williams
Development Manager
Vermont Family Network

CERTIFICATE OF VOTES
RESULTS OF TOWN MEETING ELECTION
MARCH 1, 2022
TOTAL VOTES CAST - 216

<u>POSITION</u>		<u>WINNER</u>	
Selectboard for 3 years	-	Deborah Baker.....	177
Selectboard for 1 year	-	Linda Montague.....	150
Selectboard for 1 year	-	Philip E. Mazzucco.....	166
Lister for 3 years	-	Ruthanne Hunter.....	124
Auditor for 3 years	-	Eugene Higgins.....	204
First Constable for 2 year	-	Jason D. Norton.....	108
Second Constable for 2 year	-	Brett Lourie	105
Delinquent Tax Collector for 1 year	-	Mark Lourie	196
Town Moderator for 1 year	-	Mark Lourie.....	195
Rupert School Director 3 years	-	Jena Beecher.....Write-In votes	33
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Judy A. Zinn.....	194
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Arlene M. Horn.....	201
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Jean Nardi.....	196
Library Trustee for 2 years	-	No one elected.....	

RUPERT TOWN WARNING

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Article 2 (to borrow money).....	190.....	24
Article 3 (to authorize Selectboard to spend surplus, if any)	186	26
Article 4 (to approve collection of taxes in two installments)	203.....	10
Article 5 (\$2,000 for Salem Rescue Squad).....	198.....	16
Article 6 (\$6,500 Dorset Nursing Assoc.).....	174.....	40
Article 7 (\$30,000 for Rupert Volunteer Fire Co.).....	195.....	19
Article 8 (\$25,000 for Town Office Improvements)	183	30
Article 9 (\$ 1,500 for Rosalind Kittay Library).....	183.....	31
Article 10 (to approve \$5,000 for Rupert St. Cemetery)....	175.....	39
Article 11 (\$250 for Vermont Family Network).....	152.....	51
Article 12 (\$10,000 for Rupert Village Sidewalks).....	150.....	55
Article 13 (\$100 for Rural Fire Protection Program).....	186.....	18
Article 14 (Advisory-support for D. Thompson Rec. Park)...	100.....	106
Article 15 (to adopt a budget of \$ 967,000 for FY 2022/2023)	176.....	28

RESULTS OF METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOTAL COMMINGLED RUPERT & PAWLET VOTES CAST - 712

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Article 4 (to hold 2023 Annual Meeting March 01, 2023).....	518.....	58
Article 5 (to borrow money).....	442.....	134
Article 6 (approve budget of \$6,009,284).....	359.....	215
Article 7 (approve \$40,000 for Building & Main.Res.Funds).....	359.....	164

Mettawee School Moderator for 1 year - John Thrasher.....517
Mettawee School District Clerk for 1 year - Debra Hawkins.....518
Mettawee School District Treasurer for 1 year - Judy Zinn.....519
True and correct copy of the certificate of votes for the town and town school district offers elected and town articles elected and voted by Australian ballot on March 1, 2022

TOWN WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Rupert, Vermont are hereby warned and notified that on **MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** a Pre-Town Informational Meeting will be in person at the **RUPERT FIRE HOUSE** and on **TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023 at 10:00 A.M TO 7:00 P.M.** at the **RUPERT TOWN OFFICE** to transact the following business:

- ARTICLE 1. To elect all Town officers and to vote on the following articles, all by the Australian Ballot. **Voting** will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 **AT THE RUPERT TOWN OFFICE.** The polls will open at 10:00 A.M. and will close at 7:00 P.M.
- ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay current expenses of the Town for the ensuing year?
- ARTICLE 3. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to spend any budget surplus funds (if there are any) in the next fiscal year?
- ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to approve the collection of the Town and School taxes in two installments; the first installment to be due on or before September 10, 2023 and the second to be due on or before February 10, 2024. Each installment, if not paid when due, to bear interest at the rate provided by the law, from the due date of that installment.
- ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town vote \$2,000 by taxes for the Salem Rescue Squad?
- ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town vote \$6,500 by taxes for the VNR & Hospice of the Southwest Region (formerly called the Dorset Nursing Association, Inc.)?
- ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$30,000 for the support of the Rupert Volunteer Fire Company to provide services to residents of the Town?
- ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$ 25,000 to add to the Rupert Town Office Building Improvement Fund?
- ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend \$1,500 to support the Rosalind Keshin Kittay Public Library?
- ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$5,000 for the support of the Rupert Street Cemetery Inc.?
- ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$500 for the support of Neighbor to Neighbor to provide services to residents of the Town?
- ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$ 10,000 to be spent for improvements and / or replacement of the Rupert Village sidewalks?
- ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town vote to adopt a budget of \$ 1,058,750 to defray expenses of the Town for the period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024?

Deborah Baker, Co-Chair Charles Rockwell, Co-Chair
Thomas Wilson, Philip Mazzucco, Linda Montague

Received this 31st day of January, 2023
Andrea Lenhardt, Rupert Town Clerk

Rupert Town Office
187 East Street/PO Box 140
West Rupert, VT 05776
Phone: 802-394-7728
Email: rupert187@myfairpoint.net

Town Office Hours Mon: 11:00am - 7:00 pm
Tues: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Wed: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Thurs: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Lister Office Hours Mon: 9:00am – 1:00pm
Thurs: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Road Department Phone: 802-394-2926

Mettawee Community School: 802-645-9009

Salem High School: 518-854-7600

Long Trail School: 802-867-5717

Granville High School: 518-642-1051

Burr & Burton Academy: 802-362-1775

**Town of Rupert
P.O. Box 140
West Rupert, Vermont 05776**

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PAID
MANCHESTER, VT 05254
PERMIT #3

REMEMBER!!

PRE-TOWN INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Monday, March 6, 2023
7:00 PM, will be held at the
RUPERT FIREHOUSE

VOTING

Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Polls open 10am – 7pm
Will be held at the
RUPERT TOWN OFFICE
East Street, West Rupert