

# ROCHESTER

VERMONT



TOWN REPORT

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023



Front Cover:  
Clockwise from top left  
Black-capped chickadee (*Remy Lary*)  
Yellow Finch (*Jeff Mather*)  
Bobolink (*Lary*)  
Sparrow (*Mather*)



Moose along Route 125, Hancock (*Jeff Mather*)

Gray fox, snake (*Jerry LeBlond*)

Raccoon, Wheatfield Dr. (*Remy Lary*)



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**Cover Design:** Norm Christiansen

**Photographers:** Remy Lary  
Jerry LeBlond  
Jeff Mather

**Town Website:** [www.rochestervermont.org](http://www.rochestervermont.org)

Many thanks to Nancy Woolley for helping to edit this report and for all of her continued support of the day to day!

Thank you Norm for all our outstanding work on the cover!



# Pace & Hawley, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

VT License #092.0000709

The Select Board  
Town of Rochester, Vermont

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Rochester, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023 (not presented herein), which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements. Our independent auditor's report and the Town's audited financial statements are available at the Town Office.

We have not been engaged to audit the financial data as presented in the Town Report. Accordingly, we express no opinion on such financial data.

*Pace & Hawley, LLC*

Berlin, Vermont  
January 5, 2024

Robert Pace, CPA, - Nathan Hawley, CPA  
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**WARNING**

**TOWN OF ROCHESTER, VERMONT  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TO BE HELD**

**MONDAY NIGHT ~ March 4, 2024 ~ 7:00 PM**

The legal voters of the Town of Rochester, County of Windsor, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Rochester School Auditorium in said town Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

**Article 1. To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.**

**Article 2. To elect all Town Officers required by law:**

1. To elect a Selectboard Member ~3-year term
2. To elect a Lister ~ 3-year term.
3. To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes ~ 1-year term.
4. To elect a Library Trustee ~ 5-year term.
5. To elect a Trustee of Public Funds ~ 3-year term.
6. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner ~ 5-year term

**Article 3. Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in four (4) installments, with due dates being Thursday, August 15, 2024, Friday, November 15, 2024, Monday, February 17, 2025, and Thursday, May 15, 2025, by physical delivery to tax collector before 4:00 PM on those dates with postmarks not accepted as proof of delivery?**

**Article 4. Shall the voters authorize total highway and general fund expenditures of \$1,386,286.00 of which \$1,013,384.00 shall be raised by taxes?**

**Article 5. Shall the voters appropriate \$50,789.48 towards operating expenses of the Rochester Public Library?**

**Article 6. Shall the voters approve to transfer any remaining FY24 Fire Department budgeted funds to Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund?**

**Article 7. Shall the voters approve to transfer any remaining FY24 Recreation Department budgeted funds to the Recreation Reserve Fund?**

**Article 8. Shall the town give the Selectboard general authority to enter into tax stabilization contracts with owners, lessees, bailees, or operators of commercial or industrial property, pursuant to 24 V.S.A § 2741(b)(1)?**

Article 9. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the following sums as requested by these community agencies:

Central VT Council on Aging	3,000.00
Clara Martin Center	2,066.00
Green Up Vermont	100.00
Orange County Parent Child Center	250.00
Quintown Senior Center	9,849.00
SafeLine, Inc.	250.00
Tri-Valley Transport (formerly Stagecoach)	1,300.00
Vermont Rural Fire Hydrant	100.00
VNH – Visiting Nurse Association	4,800.00
White River Partnership	875.00
ATRIA f/k/a WomenSafe	250.00

Total	\$22,840.00
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Article 10. Shall the voters appropriate \$20,400 to continue funding the North Star Rubbish Removal, LLC recycling program from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

Article 11. Shall the voters approve to transfer \$8,000 from the Reappraisal Reserve Fund to the General Fund on July 1, 2024, for the purpose of reducing taxes for the coming fiscal year?

Article 12. Shall the voters approve to transfer \$10,000 from the Cemetery Reserve Account to the General Fund to offset cemetery budgeted expenses?

Article 13. Shall the voters approve to transfer \$8,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund to the General Fund?

*Article 14 can ONLY be discussed and will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 5, 2024*

Article 14. Shall general obligation notes or bonds of the Town of Rochester in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-Three Dollars and Zero Cents (\$359,243.00), payable from the Town's general fund, derived from the taxation of real property for a period not to exceed thirty years, and subject to reduction by available grants-in-aid or other funding sources, be issued to finance the cost of removing and replacing the existing West Hill Road (TH-37) bridge with a bridge on a modified alignment, and associated roadway and channel work (together, the "Project")?



Article 15 Shall the Town adopt the following Declaration of Inclusion?

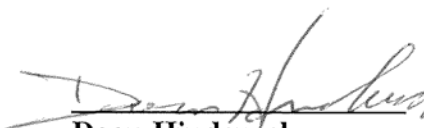
The Town of Rochester condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community. As a town, we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment. The Town of Rochester has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

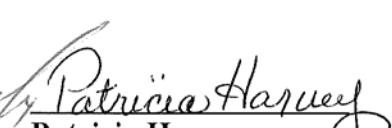
Article 16. To transact any other legal and proper business to be brought before said meeting.

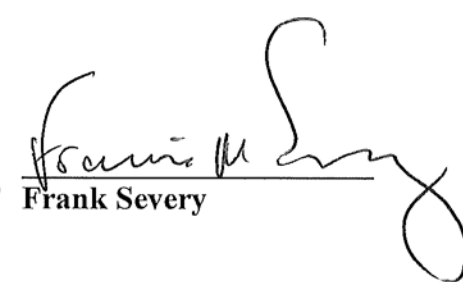
Adjournment:

Dated at Rochester, Vermont this 26 day of January 2024.

ROCHESTER SELECTBOARD

  
Doon Hinderyckx

  
Patricia Harvey

  
Frank Severy

Received at Rochester this 26 day of January 2024 for Recording

Attest:

  
Julie Smith, Rochester Town Clerk



**Town of Rochester, Vermont**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

Dan McKinley called the Town Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Dan shared the invocation used in many town meetings to bring together the community and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. He reviewed the Roberts Rules of Order. Dan introduced State Representative Kirk White to share a few words. Representative Kirk White shared his roll on the House Commerce and Economic Committee. He shared how the house is focused on workforce development and all things related. He said a lot of companies that can't find enough workers are finding ways to remove blocks to get more money and training into every sector including nursing, construction, teachers, childcare providers, and education. He shared they are trying to improve career and tech education programs. They are also working on housing to help those who need jobs, and also childcare. The legislature is working groups crossing committees to help break down the barriers. He shared with economic development they are trying to find a way to help businesses get started and grow in the state. On the commerce end, they are working on insurance regulation. The Vermont Employment and Growth Incentive was a program his committee worked on to incentivize businesses to provide more jobs. The committee is also working on data privacy. They are also working on how to reduce data from being stolen and sold from users on the internet. Representative Kirk White has shared several lengthy posts on Front Porch Forum, his Facebook page and email lists. He would be happy to share and help anyone with questions.

Dan read the following: The legal voters of the Town of Rochester, County of Windsor, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Rochester School Auditorium, 222 South Main Street, in said town on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

**Article 1. To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.** Martha nominated Dan McKinley. No other nominations. Closed nominations. Asked clerk to cast one ballot for Dan McKinley as moderator for a 1-year term.

**Article 2. To elect all Town Officers required by law:**

1. To elect a Selectboard Member for a 3-year term. Nancy Woolley nominated Frank Severy to succeed himself and complemented him on a fine job well done in the past three years. Pat Harvey seconded the nomination. No other nominations. Closed nominations and asked Clerk to cast one ballot for Frank Severy as selectboard member for a 3-year term.
2. To elect a Lister for a 3-year term. Jessica Arsenault nominated Louis Donnet. Frank Russell seconded the nomination. No other nominations. Closed nominations and asked clerk to cast one ballot for Louis Donnet for a 3-year term as Lister.
3. To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a 1-year term. Kristen LaPell nominated Rebecca Klein. No other nominations. Closed nominations and asked the clerk to cast one ballot for Rebecca Klein as Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1-year term.

4. To elect a Library Trustee for a 5-year term. Frank Russell nominated Doreen Jones. No other nominations. Closed nominations and asked clerk to cast one ballot for Doreen Jones as a Library Trustee for a 5-year term.
5. To elect a Trustee of Public Funds for a 3-year term. Nancy Woolley nominated Mike Harvey. No other nominations. Closed nominations and ask the clerk to cast a ballot for Michael Harvey as a Trustee of Public Funds for a 3-year term.
6. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a 5-year term. Nancy Woolley nominated Tom Paquette. No other nominations. Closed nominations and asked the clerk to cast a ballot for Tom Paquette as a Cemetery Commissioner for a 5-year term.

**Article 3. Shall the voters authorize payment of real taxes in four (4) installments, with due dates being Tuesday, August 15, 2023, Wednesday, November 15, 2023, Thursday, February 15, 2024, and Wednesday, May 15, 2024, by physical delivery to the tax collector before 4:00 PM on those dates with postmarks not accepted as proof of delivery?** Nancy Woolly move Article 3. Martha Slater seconded. No further discussion. Voted in favor. Article 3 passes.

**Article 4. Shall the voters authorize total highway and general fund expenditures of \$ 1,313,277 of which \$ 921,967 shall be raised by taxes?** Frank Russel moved the article. Seconded by Sandy Lincoln. Kevin Dougherty proposed an amendment to raise the amount \$3,248 to make up the amount Granville First Response requested for their services for the upcoming fiscal year. He said it a small amount but would be a great show of support for the volunteers. Pat read a statement she prepared. Diane White seconded the amendment and shared her positive experience with GFR responding to her emergency medical needs in a timely, professional manner. She said its not a lot of money for peace of mind. Brenda Goupee felt the board is punishing the GFR. She asked what a person's life is worth. She supports Kevin's amendment and asks that we all support. Larry Straus agreed to fund GFR's request and shared the technical point the selectboard budget is a lump sum and the selectboard is not required to spend in accordance with the individual lines of the budget. He said there is no requirement once appropriated funds in this budget article that the selectboard direct each dollar to each line item in this budget. He said it would be wise to do so, but there is no requirement to do so. He said there is a difference between transport and first response. He said they are both critical needs. Kevin McLoughlin asked how do you expect them to upgrade with less money. Doon shared the motivation on this was to bring attention and discussion to the issue. This was meant to shape things up and inspire conversation and bring attention and appreciation for what we do have. Mason Wade asked if the selectboard could ask the trust fund to help in this situation. Last year they support the heating fuel of the school building that we don't even own. Doon stated we are always asking the trustees for money. Frank made a statement for clarification of how we got to this situation. Frank Russell asked for a restatement of the amendment. Dan said the amendment is to increase the amount of Article 4 in the amount of \$3,248. The question has been



called. Voted in the affirmative to call the question. The amendment is to increase the amount of Article 4 under the authorization of the highway and general fund expenditures by increase of \$3,248. Amendment passes. The amended article reads: **Shall the voters authorize total highway and general fund expenditures of \$1,316,525 of which \$925,215 shall be raised by taxes?** Jeff Gephart moved the motion. Sandy Lincoln seconded. Tim Crowley spoke and asked the selectboard what is the vehicle that we have as a community to facilitate this relationship with the folks in Granville who are really trying hard but may not be succeeding at the level we hope and lump that up with WRVA whom we already pay. He said it is an important matter and one that doesn't need to be resolved over the base over \$3,000 and missing budget meetings. He asked what is that vehicle to make sure someone is encouraging the relationship with GFR and WRVA to do what we need. Doon stated it is on the upcoming agenda to appoint a representative of the town for GFR. No further discussion. Move to vote. Article 4 passes.

**Article 5. Shall the voters appropriate \$ 49,935 towards operating expenses of the Rochester Public Library?** Karen moved the article. Burma Cassidy seconded the article. No discussion. Move to vote. Article 5 passes.

**Article 6. Shall the voters appropriate \$ 21,420 to continue funding the North Star Recycling program from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024?** Martha Slater moved the article. Seconded by Sandy Lincoln. Martha shared how lucky we are to have people there every Saturday and how kind they are to help. She said it's a great service for our town. Frank Russell shared what a great service including their trash service. No further discussion. Move to vote. Article 6 passes.

**Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate \$ 8,000 to fund the Reappraisal Reserve Fund?** Burma Cassidy moved the article. Seconded by Kathryn Schenkman. Frank Russell asked what the time frame is and what is triggering a reappraisal. Pat noted the State of Vermont set the tax rate for education based on the value of our property. She explained as the property values drop below a threshold, then the state will expect the town to do a reappraisal. She said in the past reappraisals were done every 10 years. The common level of appraisal has dropped to trigger a reappraisal. She said the last reappraisal was done in 2012. She shared in anticipation of that the state does fund towns with money each year. We receive about \$6000 or more a year and this article helps to bridge the gap of what we will need to complete the process. The reappraisal will be done in the next couple years. Kathryn Schenkman shared her concern of the escalation of prices of homes sold during the pandemic. She asked if this has affected the lowering or list price lower than it should be and if so what if that levels out over the next couple years will we be paying higher taxes because of property sold during the pandemic. Pat said the taxes are based on what the budget is. Taxes wouldn't in move with it. She said we are lucky because some towns have jumped way

beyond the threshold and are experiencing a large tax rate hike to their education rate because of that. No further discussion. Moved to vote. Article 7 passes.

**Article 8. Shall the voters approve the creation of a SkateSpace Donation Reserve Fund and authorize transfer of the donations received from the Mascoma Bank GoFundMe Account and monies previously appropriated by the Town for SkateSpace?** Martha Slater moved the article. Kathryn Schenkman seconded the motion. No discussion. Article 8 passes.

**Article 9. Shall the voters approve the creation and appropriate \$ 12,000 to Highway Grant Projects Reserve Fund?** Burma Cassidy moved the motion. Kevin McLoughlin seconded. Brenda Goupee asked for an explanation of the fund. Frank explained the fund was put in place by the request of the budget committee to establish a reserve fund for grants to cover the towns highway match that may go from one fiscal year to another. No further discussion. Move to vote. Article 9 passes.

**Article 10. Shall the voters appropriate \$ 1,000 to fund the Tennis Reserve Fund?** Barb DeHart moved the article. Seconded by Lesley Straus. No further discussion. Move to vote. Article 10 passes.

**Article 11. Shall the voters vote to appropriate the following sums as requested by these community agencies:** Burma Cassidy moved the article. Joe Schenkman seconded the motion. Frank Russell asked where the agencies come from. Doon noted the agencies have requested these amounts and they are level funded. No further discussion. Move to vote. Article 11 passes.

Central VT Council on Aging	3,000.00
Clara Martin Center	2,066.00
Green Up Vermont	100.00
Orange County Parent Child Center	250.00
Quintown Senior Center	9,849.00
SafeLine, Inc.	250.00
Tri-Valley Transport (formerly Stagecoach)	1,300.00
Vermont Rural Fire Hydrant	100.00
VNH – Visiting Nurse Association	4,800.00
White River Partnership	875.00
WomenSafe	250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,840.00</b>

**Article 12. To transact any other legal and proper business to be brought before said meeting.** Doon made a statement currently sharing Vic Ribaudo stepped down as Emergency Management Coordinator and the selectboard has been filling the role

by default. He said they are open and soliciting interested person who would like to fill that role. Dick White spoke to thank the town highway crew for great job done another year. Kathryn spoke in appreciation for Vic Ribaudo's service in the role as the Emergency Management Coordinator during COVID. Vic Ribaudo spoke on behalf of the High School Repurposing Committee whom he is a co-chair with Kathryn Schenkman. He made a statement about the 4-page report in the town report and they handed out a 2-page addendum. He asked if anyone had any questions. He said they wouldn't have a vote until later this year as the environmental reports are completed. A question was asked if there will be informational meetings about the project as it progresses. He said there would be warned meetings. Kathryn shared there are warned monthly meetings. Kathryn shared the floodway issue resolved with a property line adjustment. She shared they have receive funding in the amount of \$91,900 toward this project from various grants and agencies and private donations. She also shared the Heat Task Force has raised \$10,535 from the Rochester portion of it. Burma asked about the project manager and to share what the project manager is doing. Kathryn shared the hired project manager is Liz Currie from Common Lands to establish a road map of the project. She is not currently working in this development of the project, which is out of her expertise. Midge Scanlan spoke in sincere appreciation of all the hours Vic Ribaudo and Kathryn has put into this project. She applauded and commended them for all their hard work. Larry Plesent made a statement that he would be honored to take on the role of Emergency Management Coordinator. Cindy Sutherland asked about public bathrooms in town. Doon said the budget for porta potties increases each year in the budget to have them around town. He said there was talk about turning the old fire house into a public restroom, but its complicated. Dean Mendell invited everyone to the Hey Neighbor event on Sunday, March 12 to attend at the fire house from 11-3 to welcome new people to town and share local services at the open house. Kelly Kelly made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Smith



**Who's Who in Local Government**  
**A Publication of the Office of the Secretary of State ~ 2018**

Serving in local office is a great way to give something back to our community. So why don't you take a turn? Here are the offices you can choose from:

***Officials Elected at Town Meeting***

**Moderator** ~ Runs the Annual and Special Town/School Meetings. Should have a good sense of humor, be good at group process, and have experience following Roberts Rules of Order.

**Selectboard Member** ~ General supervision and control over town; enacts ordinances, regulations, and policies for town; oversees town property and personnel; prepares, presents, and manages budget; oversees roads, including laying out, discontinuing and reclassifying roads. Sits as local board of health, liquor control commission and sewer commission. Should know the town well, be able to understand all sides of complex issues, and have very thick skin.

**Town Clerk** ~ Records, preserves, and certifies the public records of the town. Issues dog, marriage, civil union licenses and motor vehicle, snowmobile, and motorboat renewals. Runs the local elections, serves as clerk of the Board of Civil Authority, and hears tax abatement requests and tax appeals. Should have the patience of a saint and be a good ambassador for the town.

**Town Treasurer** ~ Keeps the town and school accounts (unless a separate school treasurer is elected), invests money (with the approval of the legislative body), keeps a record of the taxes voted, and pays orders drawn on him or her. Should be very precise, detail oriented and good at math.

**Lister** ~ Appraise property within the town for the purpose of property tax assessment. Should be able to be polite, yet firm, and not oversensitive to criticism.

**Collector of Delinquent Taxes** ~ Collects delinquent taxes for the town and conducts tax sales. Should be good with numbers and able to work with people who are in difficult circumstances.

**Trustee of Public Funds** ~ Manages, invests, and reports on real and personal property held in trust by the town. This includes cemetery trust funds. Should like investing money.

**Cemetery Commissioner** ~ Responsible for the care and management of the town's cemeteries. Terms are for five years.

**Justices of the Peace** ~ Elected every two years. Duties of the Justices of the Peace fall into five categories of responsibilities: elections, tax abatement & appeals, marriages, oaths & Notary and Magistrate.

**Board of Civil Authority** ~ Members of Selectboard, Town Clerk, Justices of Peace

## ***Local Officials Appointed by the Legislative Body***

**Health Officer** ~ Appointed by the Commissioner of Health to a 3-year term upon recommendation of the Selectboard. Enforces rules and regulations for the prevention and abatement of public health hazards.

**Constable (First & Second)** ~ Appointed by the Selectboard. Operating under Vermont Statutes, in some towns the constable is the town's local law enforcement officer, with all powers of search, seizure and arrest within the town. In other towns the constable only has the power to serve civil process, assist the health officer in the discharge of his or her duties, destroy unlicensed dogs, kill injured deer, remove disorderly people from town meeting, and, if the First Constable, to collect taxes, if no tax collector is elected. Should be good at de-escalating and resolving conflicts.

**Planning Commissioners** ~ Appointed unless town votes to elect. Duties include preparing a municipal plan, making recommendations on matters of land development, conservation, and preservation, and to participate in a regional planning program. Makes site plan and subdivision permit decisions unless there is a Development Review Board in town. Should have a good working knowledge of all aspects of the town and be able to listen to many sides of an issue.

**Zoning Administrator** ~ Appointed by the Planning Commission with the approval of the Selectboard. Approves or denies applications for zoning permits. Administers the municipal bylaws literally. Enforces regulations pertaining to the Zoning Ordinance.

**Fire Warden** ~ Appointed by the State Fire Commissioner with approval of the Selectboard. Prevents forest fires in the town by enforcing the laws designed to prevent forest fires. Issues permits for open burning within the Town. Term is for five years.

**Road Commissioner** ~ Appointed by the Selectboard, the Road Commissioner has no independent authority, but assists the Selectboard in overseeing town highways. Should have experience with town highways and be a good communicator.

**Regional Planning Commission Representative** ~ Appointed by the Selectboard. Helps develop the regional plan and assess municipal land use plans but has no independent authority.

**Animal Control Officer (Pound keeper)** ~ Appointed by the Selectboard. Enforces ordinances and cares for the animals that are impounded within the town.

**Humane Officer** ~ Appointed by the Selectboard. Enforces State and Federal regulations surrounding the humane and proper treatment of all animals. Works closely with Animal Control Officer & Constables.

**Emergency Management Coordinator** ~ Responsible for the organization, administration and operation of the Town's committee that is formed for emergency management. The coordinator is under the direct control of the Selectboard but may coordinate his or her emergency management efforts with neighboring towns and cities and with the state emergency management division, and with the federal government.

**Tree Warden** ~ Appointed by the Selectboard. Plans and implements a shade tree preservation program for the purpose of shading and beautifying public places. Recommends the removal of diseased, dying, or dead trees which create a hazard to public safety or threaten the effectiveness of disease or insect control programs.

**Town of Rochester  
Elected Officials**

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Term Expires</u></b>
Moderator	Dan McKinley	2024
Selectboard:	Patricia Harvey	2024
	Doon Hinderyckx, Chair	2025
	Frank Severy	2026
Town Clerk	Julie Smith	2025
Town Treasurer	Julie Smith	2025
Listers:	Jessica Arsenault	2024
	Caroline Meagher	2025
	Louis Donnet	2026
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Rebecca Klein	2024
Library Trustees:	Kelly Kelly	2024
	Anthony Goupee	2025
	Sandy Lincoln	2026
	Barbara Shenton	2027
	Doreen Jones	2028
Trustees of Public Funds:	Barbara Dehart	2024
	Ann Pierce	2025
	Michael Harvey	2026
Cemetery Commissioners:	Nancy Woolley	2024
	Marvin Harvey	2025
	Joe Schenkman	2026
	Michele Schnabel	2027
	Thomas Paquette	2028
Justices of the Peace:	Kevin Dougherty	Feb. 1, 2025
	Brenda Goupee	Feb. 1, 2025
	Michael Harvey	Feb. 1, 2025
	Rebecca Klein	Feb. 1, 2025
	Annette West	Feb. 1, 2025
Board of Civil Authority:	Town Clerk	Term Expiration
	Selectboard	Term Expiration
	Justices of the Peace	Term Expiration
Windsor-Rutland Rep.	Kirk White	2025
Addison County Senators	Christopher Bray	2025
Representing Rochester	Ruth Hardy	2025

**Appointments**

Town Clerk/Treasurer	Julie Smith	2025
Asst. Town Clerk/Treasurer	Kristen LaPell	2025
Selectboard Clerk	Julie Smith	2025
Road Commissioner	Frank Severy	2024
Road Department:	John Champion, Foreman	
	Dana Spalding	
	Ted Smith	
Water Commissioners	Selectboard Members	2024
Sewer Commissioners	Selectboard Members	2024

## Appointments (continued)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Sewer Plant Operator	Terry Severy	
Sewer Plant Operator Assistant	Cody Bowen	
Water Plant Operator	Terry Severy	
Water Plant Operator Assistant	Cody Bowen	
On-Site Wastewater Officer	Doon Hinderyckx	2024
On-Site Wastewater Officer	Frank Severy	2024
Planning Board & Board of Adjustment	Sandy Haas	2024
	Julie Martin	2024
	Christine Meagher	2025
	Greg White	2025
	David Curtis	2026
	Mary Fratini	2026
	Dan McKinley	2027
	Doon Hinderyckx	ex officio
Zoning Administrator	Doon Hinderyckx	2024
Fire Chief (elected by Fire Dept)	Terry Severy	12/31/2024
1 <sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief (elected by Fire Dept)	Raymond Harvey	12/31/2024
2 <sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief (elected by Fire Dept)	Kevin Dougherty	12/31/2024
Fire Warden	Ray Harvey	6/30/2027
Health Officer	John White	10/31/2024
Emergency Management Director	Larry Plesent	2024
Emergency Management Alternate	Mickaela Richardson	2024
Regional Emerg. Mgt Coord.	Larry Plesent	2024
Regional Emerg. Mgt Coord. 2nd	Terry Severy	2024
WRVA Representative	Vic Ribauda	2024
WRVA Alternate	James Bowen	2024
Granville First Response Representative	Robert Gardner	2024
Tree Warden	Selectboard	2024
Law Enforcement	Windsor County Sheriff's Dept.	Contract
Constable	Dillon Dudley	2024
2 <sup>nd</sup> Constable	Dave Harvey	2024
TRORC Transportation/Plan. Rep.	Pat Harvey	2024
TRORC Transportation Adv. Com.	Doon Hinderyckx	2024
TRORC Energy Representative	Jeff Gephart	2024
TRORC Energy Representative Alternate	Frank Severy	2024
Energy Coordinator	Jeff Gephart	2024
White River Alliance-Royalton Advisory	Troy LaPell	2024
Recycling Coordinator	Julie Smith	2024
Park Committee	Selectboard	2024
Recreation Committee:	Norm Christiansen	Dean Mendell
	Carrie McDonnell	Joe Schenkman
	Martha Slater	Walter Pruiksma, Tennis
Animal Control Officer/Humane Officer	Jeff Brown	2024
Tri-Valley Transit	Timothy Crowley	2024
E-911 Maintenance	Angus McCusker	2024



### Appointments (continued)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Budget & Finance Comm.	Lois Bond Barb Dehart	2024
	Greg White Nancy Woolley	2024
	Selectboard Members Robert Meagher	2024
Website Administrator	Norm Christiansen	2024
Capital Planning Committee	Greg White Barb Dehart	2024
	Nancy Woolley Lois Bond	
	Julie Smith Kristen LaPell	
	Selectboard Members	
ECFiber Representative	John White	2024
Green-Up Day Coordinator	Nick Piccicuto	2024
Librarian	Maya Newroot	
Assistant Librarian	Mark Alexander	
Children's Librarian	Maya Newroot	
Auditors	Pace & Hawley, LLC	
Official Newspaper	<i>The Herald of Randolph</i>	
Videography - Meetings	Orca Media	2024

### Dates to Remember

<b>Selectboard Meeting</b>	2nd & 4th Monday of the month at Town Office Other meetings at the Town Office as warned.	6:15 PM
<b>Planning Commission</b>	1st Tuesday of the month at Town Office	6:00 PM
<b>Trustees of Public Funds</b>	Meetings when needed – will be posted	
<b>Valley Energy/Climate Action</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month	
<b>Dog Licenses (State Mandated)</b>	<b>On or before April 1:</b> Male & Female: \$13.00; altered: \$9.00 <b>After April 1:</b> Male & Female \$18.00; altered \$14.00 (includes \$5 *late fee) <b>*After April 1 there is a \$5.00 fine for unlicensed dogs. NO Exceptions</b>  A leash and fouling law are in effect for the entire Town, not just the village. <i>See Ordinance at Town Office.</i>	
<b>Property Taxes</b>	1/4 due on/before <b>Thursday, August 15, 2024</b> ; 1/4 due on/before <b>Friday, November 15, 2024</b> ; 1/4 due on/before <b>Monday, February 17, 2025</b> ; 1/4 due on/before <b>Thursday, May 15, 2025. Payments are due by 4pm .</b>  Interest at rate of 1% per month for 3 months, and 1 ½% per month thereafter added. 8% collection fee added Friday, May 16, 2025. Postmarks not accepted	
<b>Water &amp; Sewer User Fees</b>	¼ due <b>January 31</b> ; ¼ due <b>April 30</b> ; ¼ due <b>July 31</b> ; ¼ due <b>October 30</b> . Due no later than the above dates. Interest rate of 1% per month for 3 months and 1 ½% per month thereafter added for delinquent water/sewer fees.	
<b>Recycling &amp; Trash</b>	Each Saturday of the month at Town Office parking lot – 8:00am – 11:00am	

***Winter Parking Ordinance: No person shall park a motor vehicle on any street or in any public parking area within the Town of Rochester between the hours of 12:00am & 6:00am from November 1 to April 1 inclusive. Ordinance also applies to the west side of Park on Main Street, VT State Highway Route 100.***



## Town of Rochester Permit Fee Schedule

### **Administration**

Certified Copies-Birth, Death, Marriage	\$ 10.00
Copies per page-black & white	\$ 0.25
Copies per page-color	\$ 0.35
Clerk assist w/ lister cards/deed copies, etc.	\$ 1.00 per page
Dog License Fees-intact	\$ 13.00
Dog License Fees-spayed/neutered	\$ 9.00
Additional Fee for unlicensed dogs after April 1	\$ 5.00
Examination of Town Records by clerk fee	\$ 5.00 per hr or \$25/day
Excess Weight Permit Fee-Fleet	\$ 10.00
Excess Weight Permit Fee-Single	\$ 5.00
Fax per page	\$ 0.25
Fish & Game Posting Fee	\$ 5.00
Green Mountain Passport Fee	\$ 2.00
Notary Services	\$ no fee
Recording Fees per page	\$ 15.00
Recording of Plat Maps	\$ 25.00
Uncertified Copy of Birth, Death, or Marriage	\$ 1.00
Vault Time per hour fee	\$ 1.00
Vehicle Registration Clerk Fee	\$ 3.00

### **Zoning Permit Fees**

Building Permits	\$ 50.00
Conditional Use/Waiver Request Permit	\$ 20.00
Driveway Permit	\$ 100.00
Municipal Sewer/Water Hookup Permit-residential	\$ 750.00
Municipal Sewer/Water Hookup Permit-commercial	\$ 1500.00
Open Trench & Road Boring in Town Right of Way Permit	\$ 50.00
Subdivision Permit-Minor/Major	\$ 50.00

## INVENTORY - EQUIPMENT & PROPERTY - 2023

### Town

Office Building	New Firehouse	Old Firehouse
Library & Contents	TS Irene FEMA Buy-outs	Office Equipment
Town Garage Building	Ballfield Lot & SkateSpace	Emergency Shelter Generator
Creamery Building	Wood Lots: Townline Rd & Cemetery	10 K Generator
Bandstand & Parks	Lion's Club Picnic Area	Town Office Generator

### Road Department

2022 Western Star Tandem Dump Truck, 11 ft. 1-way plow, 10 ft. wing & sander		
2018 Ford F-550 One-ton truck with 2-way plow and sander		
2018 International Tandem Dump Truck, with 1-way plow, wing & sander		
2016 Ford F-350 4-Wheel Drive Pickup with Plow, with Stainless Sander		
2016 Cat 930 Loader with bucket & forks		
2011 Cat 140M Grader with wing		
1989 Eager Beaver Wood Chipper	2007 Downeaster Trailer	8 Two-Way Radios
1 11-ft. Angle Plow	1 10-ft. Angle Plow	Salt House
One-Way Plow	Sand	Sand Screen
3,000 gallon Chloride Tank	Chloride	Gravel
Truck Tire Chains	Salt	4 Jack Stands
2021 Stihl FS111R Weed Trimmer	16 Truck Tires (Summer)	16 spare truck tires
2014 Shandania Power Broom	20 Drawer Tool Box (1)	2012 Power Pruner (1)
Pressure Washer	1/3 Sump Pump	Chain Saws (2)
Snow Plow Blades ~ 2 sets	Grader Blades ~ 5 sets	1 Front Mount York Rake
Loader (2) & Grader Chains (4)	Shop Air Compressor	1 Tow Behind York Rake
Drill Press (1)	Shop Metal Cut-Off Saw (1)	Culvert Cut-Off ( 1 WP
550 Nelson Plate Compactor	Small Tools	Signs (50) ~ Cones
6-Ton Bottle Jack (1)	20-Ton Bottle Jack (2)	1 Eastwood Mig Welder
3-Ton Floor Jack (1)	1 Set Dump Body Safety Stands	16 Class III Barriers
Cutting Torches (1 set)	Lincoln Arc Stick Welder (1)	
1 Buffalo Turbine – BT-CKB7	Generac 10KW Generator Set	
Hydraulic Hose Machine, Hose & Fitting		

### Water Department

Well House, Reservoir & Miscellaneous Parts; 1/3 Pump; 33 Hydrants

### Sewer Department

3 Sites & Miscellaneous Equipment, including a Generator; 1/3 Pump

### Fire Department

2022 Ford F550 Crew Cab 4x4 Truck	2017 International Truck	12 Scott 2.2 Air Packs
1991 Tanker/Pumper/3 heat guns		2 Kohler Generators
2 Portable Pumps	2 Air Compressors	2 Portable Tanks
1 Pressure Washer	3,500 ft. 2 ½" Hose	1,800 ft. 1 ¾" Hose
3 Chain Saws	2,500 ft. 4" Hose, incl. other misc.	Hoses, Tools & Equipment
1 Base Radio	1,000 ft. – 1" hose	4 1" reels & hose (Booster Line)
Jaws of Life	14 Port Radios, 3 Truck Radios, 28 Pagers	
1 Stretcher, with wheel	14 pairs of Snowshoes	1 Deck Gun
30 Air Bottles	4 5-foot high Large Air Bottles	5 Ladders
8 Nozzles	30 Sets Turn-Out Gear	130 chairs
18 Tables	40 Sets Boots	Gloves & Coats
Floor Cleaner	12 Backpacks	12 Ski Poles
2 Lighted Stop Signs		

TOWN OF ROCHESTER  
RESERVE ACCOUNTS  
June 30, 2023

<b>Cemetery Reserve</b> Beginning Balance 17,380.98 Deposits and Int. 263.48 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>17,644.46</b>	<b>Cemetery Trust</b> Beginning Balance 12,129.91 Deposits and Int. 3,506.60 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>15,636.51</b>	<b>Emergency Mgmt</b> Beginning Balance 3,204.74 Deposits and Int. 24.90 Withdrawals 1,126.19 Balance 6/30/23 <b>2,103.45</b>
<b>Fire Dept Building</b> Beginning Balance 2,247.47 Deposits and Int. 22.58 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>2,270.05</b>	<b>Fire Dept Equipment</b> Beginning Balance 5,687.74 Deposits and Int. 57.16 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>5,744.90</b>	<b>Highway Equipment</b> Beginning Balance 13,207.81 Deposits and Int. 132.74 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>13,340.55</b>
<b>Lease Land</b> Beginning Balance 350.12 Deposits and Int. 3.52 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>353.64</b>	<b>P &amp; Z Reserve</b> Beginning Balance 3,077.33 Deposits and Int. 30.92 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>3,108.25</b>	<b>Rapid Response</b> Beginning Balance 2,907.06 Deposits and Int. 29.22 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>2,936.28</b>
<b>Reappraisal Fund</b> Beginning Balance 86,539.69 Deposits and Int. 8,983.18 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>95,522.87</b>	<b>Record Preservation</b> Beginning Balance 27,968.57 Deposits and Int. 278.29 Withdrawals 1,998.68 Balance 6/30/23 <b>26,248.18</b>	<b>Revolving Loan Fund</b> Beginning Balance 8,148.74 Deposits and Int. 81.90 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>8,230.64</b>
<b>Sewer Reserve</b> Beginning Balance 12,735.89 Deposits and Int. 128.00 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>12,863.89</b>	<b>Tennis Reserve</b> Beginning Balance 4,014.14 Deposits and Int. 1,046.32 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>5,060.46</b>	<b>Town Buildings</b> Beginning Balance 17,907.12 Deposits and Int. 14,024.07 Withdrawals 12,185.17 Balance 6/30/23 <b>19,746.02</b>
<b>Water Reserve</b> Beginning Balance 17,868.24 Deposits and Int. 179.58 Withdrawals Balance 6/30/23 <b>18,047.82</b>	<b>Youth Sports/Rec</b> Beginning Balance 2,255.36 Deposits and Int. 4,349.63 Withdrawals 50.00 Balance 6/30/23 <b>6,554.99</b>	

TOWN OF ROCHESTER  
**GRANT REPORT**  
June 30, 2023

ARPA GRANT	
Expenses	\$ 86,234.65
Revenue	<u>\$ 86,235.09</u>
	\$ 0.44

PACIF GRANT-RVFD SECURITY CAMERA	
Expenses	\$ 819.67
Revenue	<u>\$ 3,179.00</u>
	\$ 2,359.33

GRANT IN AID-NORTH HOLLOW & COOPER RUN	
Expenses	\$ 18,688.72
Revenue	<u>\$ 18,688.72</u>
	\$ -

GROWING URBAN FOREST GRANT	
Expenses	\$ 4,432.99
Revenue	<u>\$ 4,432.99</u>
	\$ -

HOWE BROOK CULVERT DESIGN	
Expenses	\$ 2,312.50
Revenue	<u>\$ 3,987.50</u>
Town expense	\$ 1,675.00

TOWN GARAGE STORM WATER	
Expenses	
Revenue	<u>\$ 6,700.00</u>
	\$ 6,700.00

USDA-USFS-WEST HILL BRIDGE- DESIGN	
Expenses	\$ 1,632.45
Revenue	<u>\$ 1,632.45</u>
	\$ -

USDA-USFS-WEST HILL BRIDGE-CONSTRUCTION	
Expenses	\$ 1,500.00
Revenue	<u>\$ 6,018.50</u>
	\$ 4,518.50

VCDB PLANNING GRANT-REPURPOSING HS	
Expenses	\$ 21,335.66
Revenue	<u>\$ 21,335.33</u>
	\$ (0.33)

HEY NEIGHBOR	
Expenses	\$ 1,500.00
Revenue	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>
	\$ -

GRANT IN AID-FISKE ROAD	
Expenses	\$ 9,986.46
Revenue	<u>\$ 12,244.42</u>
	\$ 2,257.96

WEST HILL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION	
Expenses	\$ 6,018.50
Revenue	<u>\$ (6,018.50)</u>

FEMA CAT Z EVENT 2019	
Expenses	
Revenue	<u>\$ 16,530.17</u>
	\$ 16,530.17

FEMA STATE SHARE EVENT 2019	
Expenses	
Revenue	<u>\$ 31,168.94</u>
	\$ 31,168.94

## Selectboard Annual Report

Our town is fortunate to have quality employees and dedicated volunteers who are giving of their time and energy and mindful of their budgets. Volunteers are always needed, and all who call Rochester home are encouraged to become involved in the Town's future.

We fortunately dodged the extensive flood damage seen in other parts of the state this year. Whether due to the fickle finger of fate or the infrastructure improvements following past storm damage, we are enjoying a break from working with FEMA. Green Mountain Power has begun work on the Rochester Resiliency Zone which will provide several days of backup power to the central village, keeping our access to fuel, food and communications in future environmental challenges.

This year saw the completion of the West Hill bridge project, with significant financial assistance from the U.S. Forest Service. The Town will need to bond for paying the balance of \$359,243. Maintaining Town roads, structures and lands is a constant challenge. The next bridge project in front of us is on Corporation Road. In the next five years we will be looking at the replacement of four trucks (three highway and one fire tanker).

In the Summer of 2022, the State of Vermont's forestry personnel visited Rochester to evaluate the condition of the park trees. Out of concern for the Emerald Ash Borer disease which could attack 16 Ash trees on the eastern perimeter of the park, the Town applied for and received a \$5,000 2:1 grant from Vermont's Urban & Community Forestry program which enabled the purchase of 6 Vermont-grown trees, maple, American hornbeam and sycamore. With volunteer assistance we were able to plant and care for the trees as part of the Town's match. You may also be aware that several trees were severely affected by a flash freeze in May 2023 which will require them to be removed. We have again applied for a grant to purchase and care for replacement trees.

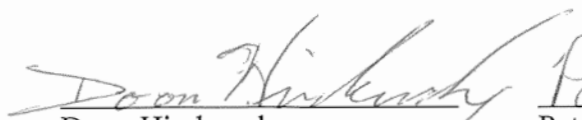
The FY25 budget has been quite difficult to address as there has been a substantial increase in the cost of goods and services, and a decrease in the Town's fund balance and State and Federal funding. These increases have affected all departments. We have worked hard to present a budget that has increased by 7.99%, holding the increase in the amount to be raised by taxes to \$1,013,384.

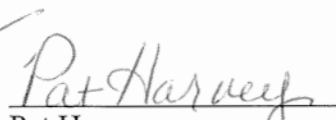
The State of Vermont has warned the Town of upcoming shortfalls in grant funding and education expenses, and advises that all grants will be very competitive.

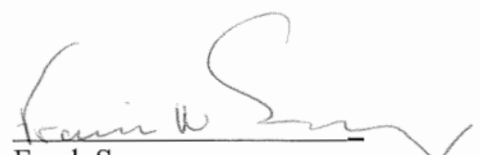
ARPA funding has been directed to projects that should have been funded through our general budget which due to budget constraints could not be accomplished. SkateSpace, the Town Office brook retaining wall, Library repairs, paving and cemeteries will be the recipients of ARPA funding, which is required to be allocated by December 2024 and spent by December 2025.

Many thanks to all of those folks who volunteer their time and expertise, sit on boards, attend meetings, answer fire calls, and perform many of the other duties that make our community what it is. The Town couldn't exist without you!

Rochester Selectboard

  
Doon Hinderyckx

  
Pat Harvey

  
Frank Severy



## Budget and Finance Committee Report

The Budget and Finance Committee, comprised of the Selectboard, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, and volunteers, met Tuesdays from October 10, 2023, to January 17, 2024. Representatives from municipal departments, agencies and organizations presented to the Committee their proposed budgets for fiscal year 2025.

The Committee carefully reviewed each proposal knowing a primary source of income is property taxes. The goal was to present the voters at Town Meeting with the most responsible budget possible. Deliberations included possible reductions in appropriations from the State, and an apparent large increase in the School budget. Consideration was given to what property owners could bear in increased taxes, thus keeping the Town moving forward. Voters are encouraged to carefully examine the proposed budget and read the reports from each department.

The Town is fortunate to have in its employ an extremely competent and capable administrative staff, and an invaluable highway crew that work long and hard hours keeping roads safe throughout the year. The highway crew's expertise and willingness to address many vehicle repairs in-house has helped control maintenance costs.

The volunteer Fire Department is hard-working and spends considerable time preparing for the Town's protection. The Committee supports their budget requests that will keep each volunteer safe, and also the Town. The community enjoys the events organized by Fire Department volunteers, in particular their Easter breakfast which supports their budget.

The Emergency Management and Shelter Team prepare for our safety in emergency circumstances. Their budget includes expenses for Team education, including CPR courses.

It is expensive to budget for the many energy issues that become apparent. An energy audit at the Town Office building and Highway garage will be undertaken in fiscal year 25. LED lighting will be installed in the Town Office.

Please refer to the Listers report. They explain that because of the reduction in the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal), the State has ordered the Town to prepare for a town-wide property reappraisal. The Town has contracted with NEMRC to begin the process in 2026. There are sufficient funds in a reserve account to cover the \$96,000 cost.

### **Road Foreman's Report**

There were 10 culverts replaced (West Hill, Bingo, 2 in North Hollow, Brook St, 2 in New Boston, Cooper Run, Sky Hollow and Town Line Rd).

We did ditch work (cleaned, shaped, and stoned) on Cooper Run, North Hollow and some other areas.

The July flood proved how important a good storm water drainage system is to preventing road washouts. We were very lucky to have only a few minor issues with the worst being on North Hollow Road. The culvert there is undersized and was damaged while trying to clean it. Julie, Kristen, and I are working with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and VTrans to get proper pipe sizing. We are also working to get funding for this project and reimbursement for other damaged areas during the July flooding from FEMA.

I would like to ask everyone to refrain from dumping debris (leaves, brush, dirt, etc.) in the ditches or over the inlet and outlets of the culverts as it causes water runoff problems by plugging up the system.

Thank you,  
John Champion  
Road Foreman

### **Rochester Lister's Report**

#### **Grand List 2023**

Last year we anticipated that because of the 2022 Equalization Study that was performed by the Vermont State Department of Taxes, Rochester would be ordered to complete a whole town reappraisal. We received the order to do so in July. The Selectboard immediately responded and sent out a request to all the Vermont State approved appraisal firms. They selected and contracted with the New England Municipal Resource Center, NEMRC, to accomplish the whole town reappraisal. The supervisor of the appraisal section of NEMRC is Ed Clodfelter. Many of you will recognize him as the head of the APAS firm that performed the previous two whole town reappraisals. We have been satisfied with the previous appraisals and expect the new reappraisal to be of similar high quality.

The process of the new reappraisal will be similar to past reappraisals. The recent and valid sales of properties will form the basis for developing a land schedule and building cost tables. All taxable properties will be inspected. It is encouraged but not mandatory that interior inspections of buildings will be offered. Your local Listers will be engaged to facilitate notification and scheduling of site visits by NEMRC.

It is likely that all the listed values of parcels will change. There will be a notice sent in the mail to all parcel owners alerting them of the change and with instructions on the grievance process. Data collection for the new whole town reappraisal is scheduled to start in July 2025 and entire process completed in time for the 2027 Grand List.

Your local Listers will produce Grand List 2024, 2025 and 2026 using our current land schedule and building cost tables that were generated for the 2012 whole town reappraisal.

“If received in time to be included in the 2024 Town Report, the 2023 results from the State of Vermont Department of Taxes Equalization Study will be included in this paragraph. It is likely that a couple more sentences may be necessary. If they are, they will appear here.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Jess Arsenault, Caroline Meagher, Louis Donnet

## Rochester Volunteer Fire Department

Volunteer members of the Rochester Fire Department are most grateful to the Rochester community and Selectboard for their continued support and confidence.

Our Department currently has 24 members, which includes 2 junior members. Ours is an aging department with 50% of our volunteer firefighters in their 60s. We are actively recruiting new members, especially those individuals who work in Rochester, or close by, and who can be readily available to report to calls during daytime hours. Meetings are twice monthly, one a regular planning meeting, while the other is a work/training session. ***We and your Town need your participation and assistance for us to safely protect you.*** For information in learning about and/or joining your Volunteer Fire Department, contact Chief Terry Severy, or discuss your participation with any member of the department.

During 2023, RVFD responded to 45 calls:

3 Chimney Fires	3 House Fires	4 Automobile Fires
9 Motor Vehicle Accidents	3 Fire Alarms	2 Brush Fires
7 Carbon Monoxide	2 Mutual Aid Calls	8 Downed Power Lines
4 False Alarms		

The Town enthusiastically comes out for the Fire Department's annual Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast. This Breakfast, our largest fundraiser, raises funds to allow the Fire Department to purchase items not covered in its annual budget. Join us at the Fire House on **Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024**, from 7:00 to 10:00. Convenient parking is available under the able direction of Charlie Martin. Join your friends and neighbors to enjoy plenty of pancakes, with local syrup, and sausage prepared by your firefighters. Take-out is available, although it will be more fun for you to come in and talk and eat. We all look forward to seeing and serving you! Donations received from the Easter Breakfast and the two Softball tournaments this past summer will go towards the purchase of a new Jaws of Life, to replace our 26-year-old unit.

Each year the Fire and Rescue Departments remind all homeowners that for your safety that your homes be properly identified with reflective **9-1-1 house or street numbers** which are required to be at least 4-inches in height. If you live on a long driveway or road, ensure that your name and street number are prominently displayed at the entrance to your driveway. Many of our volunteers may not be familiar with all road and family names. Fire and Rescue will certainly appreciate your efforts, and you will be the beneficiary.

Back country skiing and biking have exploded in our area. With the introduction of the Velomont Trail through Rochester, your Fire Department recently participated in a Search and Rescue discussion and drill practice with local fire departments and first responders, Ridgeline Outdoor Collective, the Vermont State Police and Killington Rescue to ensure that we're ready should there be a need for an emergency rescue. We are responsible for providing specialized training and equipment for our volunteers.

A reminder: Each home should be prepared with smoke and carbon dioxide detectors. Change batteries twice annually - when turning clocks from standard to daylight savings time, and vice versa. Before you contemplate cleaning projects in your yard, please know that a burn permit is required. This can be obtained from Fire Warden Ray Harvey at (802) 767-3241 or Fire Chief Terry Severy at 802 353-3727.

The pick-up truck you approved at last year's Town Meeting has arrived. Our volunteer members have spent many hours outfitting this new Ford 550. Once again, I remain grateful to our Volunteer members who spend many hours, not just in responding to calls, but for time spent in training, flooding SkateSpace, equipment maintenance and fundraising.

If you have any questions regarding the Rochester Volunteer Fire Department, please contact Fire Chief Terry Severy, or Rochester's Assistant Fire Chiefs, Ray Harvey and Kevin Dougherty.

Terry Severy, Chief	Ray Harvey, 1 <sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief	Kevin Dougherty, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief
Troy LaPell, Captain	Eric Belanger, Lieutenant	Kristen LaPell, Treasurer
Mike Harvey	Eric Bowen	Jim Parrish
Marc Blaine	John Fitzpatrick	Jim Bowen
Chad Richardson	Rob Gearwar	Kenleigh Manseau
Oliver Newmarco, Jr. Member	Kegan Stone, Jr. Member	Ben Harvey

## **Cemetery Commissioner Annual Report**

For the Year Ending June 30, 2023

The Rochester Cemetery Commission is a five-member board elected at Town Meeting. The Cemetery Commission oversees the seven cemeteries located in the Town of Rochester, including the care and maintenance of the cemetery property and roads, the sale and conveyance of cemetery lots and oversight of cemetery finances. The Cemetery Commission may make and change necessary bylaws and regulations relating to the Town's cemeteries.

- The cost of a single burial lot, typically 4 1/2' x 9', is \$640 and includes the sale price of the land, four corner markers and their installation. In addition, a onetime fee of \$800 per lot will be charged and added to the perpetual care fund, which is invested and managed by the Trustees of Public Funds. The current total cost of a single lot is \$1440. The income from these funds must be used to build, repair, and maintain cemetery lots and grounds. Currently, the income from these investments is not enough to cover all the expenses.
- There are lots available in North Hollow, Bingo, Little Hollow and Woodlawn Cemeteries. Lot sales are by authority of the Cemetery Commission. Contact Cemetery Commission Chair Tom Paquette with inquiries about lot availability and rates.

There are established regulations for all the cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Rochester Cemetery Commission, which were adopted on January 1, 2024.

Current regulations include:

- All full burials and cremation burials must be coordinated with the Cemetery Commission prior to burial. No cremation burials may occur until discussion with the Cemetery Commission.
- Lot cornerstones must be purchased from the Cemetery Commission at the time of the lot sale and will be installed by the Cemetery Commission.
- No burials shall be performed after Nov. 15 or before May 1.
- No more than eight cremated remains may be buried in a single lot.
- All grave decorations must be removed when they become unsightly and, in any case, by November 15.
- Repair/Replacement/Cleaning of stones on lots is the responsibility of the lot owner.
- The right to plant permanent flowers, shrubs or trees shall be only with permission of the Cemetery Commission. Any planting done without permission will give the Cemetery Commission the right to remove it.

For a copy of the complete regulations, contact any Commissioner.

Routine maintenance continues at all seven cemeteries. Thanks to Steve Twitchell and his crew for their continued efforts in every aspect of cemetery needs and maintenance. Special thanks to Cody McCullough for removing dozens of dead and hazardous trees and branches from the perimeter of several cemeteries. Volunteers are appreciated under the direction of the Cemetery Commission. Please ask a Cemetery Commissioner member for their recommendations of specific stone cleaning solutions, as some products can damage the stone.

Rochester Cemetery Commissioners:

Tom Paquette, Chair  
Michele Schnabel  
Nancy Woolley

Marv Harvey  
Joe Schenkman

## Trustees of Public Funds Report for FY 2023

Our Public funds, like most investments (IRAs for example) have not been helped by the multiyear deteriorating stock market and of equal importance by the rise in inflation. Because of these two factors, no funds will be coming to the town for the FY 25.

As Trustees, we take a conservative approach regarding the preservation of the endowments left to the town. Our goal is to try and help with the current needs of the town but not at the expense of depleting funds for future requirements. Thus it is our policy to not decrease, but to preserve principal including taking into consideration the asset value as well as the effect of several years of the CPI (consumer price index) For example if the CPI averaged an increase 3 %, our investments would have to be up 3% before distributing any monies.

It should be noted that our investment returns are based on fiscal years starting in July 1 and ending June 30, thereby overlapping the years 2022 and 2023 and thus, at this point, do not benefit from the rapid stock price gains in the last 6 months of 2023. And the inflation rate of 8% in 2022 and approximately 3.5% by June 30, 2023. (according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota) further reduced the possibility of distributing monies to the town.

### General information

As noted in last year's report, we were working on an investment policy to be in accordance with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) regulations to be eligible to receive monies from it for road improvements etc. The policy was adopted by the trustees and selectboard in May, 2023 allowing the town to be in compliance with FEMA and Federal grant requirements.

We continue with Wilmington Trust out of Rutland as our management group and they agree with our decision this year not to distribute funds from our account.

### The Future

The Trustees concur with the suggestion of the bank to continue encouraging folks to bequest some of their assets to the Public Funds. Building a larger portfolio should enable more dollars to be available not only to reduce the tax rate of the town, but to support such Rochester organizations as the Summer Music Festival, The Food Shelf, Rebuild Rochester, and other worthy community programs now and in the future. Do feel free to contact us as to how you can make Rochester an even better place in which to live.

Barb DeHart

Mike Harvey

Sandy Pierce

Trustees of Public Funds Year Ending June 30, 2023

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2	Fund Name	Cemetery	Guernsey	Forest	Kirkpatrick	Leland	Townshend -	Total Funds w/out Cemetery
3								
4	Additions							
5	Lot Sales							
6	Perpetual Care	2900						
7	Other							
8	Total Contributions	2900	0	0	0	0	0	0
9								
10	Investment Earnings							
11	Net Increase(decrease) in fair market value of Investments	404	80	255	11727	2498	114336	128896
12	Interest and Dividends and other	9274	74	98	4684	2529	31742	39127
13	Accrued Income	375	11	24	669	361	4544	5609
14								
15								
16	Total Earnings & contributions	12953	165	377	17080	5388	150622	173632
17								
18								
19	Deductions							
20	Distribution to School							
21	Distribution to Town				2000		70000	72000
22	Distribution to Food Shelf							
23	Distribution to Rebuild Rochester							
24	Distribution to summer music				3000			
25	Distribution to Cemetery	-2500					8000	8000
26	Management Fees	-2091	27	61	1743	941	11720	14492
27	Distribution to Foreign Taxes/misc							
28								
29	Total Deductions	-4591	-27	-61	-6743	-941	-89720	97492
30								
31	Change in net assets	8363	138	316	10337	4447	60902	76140
32								
33								
34	Net Assets Beginning 7/1/2022	263764	3431	7601	217486	117059	1476829	1822406
35	(Adjusted for beginning accrued income)							
36								
37	Net Assets Ending 6/30/23	272127	3569	7917	227823	121506	1537731	1898546
38								
39								
40								
41								



TOWN OF ROCHESTER GENERAL FUND - SELECTBOARD BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	6 months	Budget	
<b>FUND BALANCE FORWARD</b>						
<b>100-6-10-00-300 General Town Income</b>						
100-6-10-00-300.005 Current Taxes	\$67,444.00	199,978.21	410,389.00	282,142.46	459,616.00	
100-6-10-00-300.010 Delinquent Taxes		131,712.25		40,004.40		
100-6-10-00-300.015 Interest on Taxes	15,000.00	24,005.55	15,000.00	9,402.11	20,000.00	
100-6-10-00-300.025 Pilot Payment - Forest/Payment	5,552.00	5,623.42	5,600.00	5,623.42	5,600.00	
100-6-10-00-300.032 VT Equalization Study	0.00	951.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-300.035 State Current Use	62,110.00	62,777.00	65,000.00	63,496.00	65,000.00	
100-6-10-00-300.045 Pilot Payment - State Building	2,784.00	2,855.00	2,869.00	3,102.00	2,869.00	
100-6-10-00-300.216 Insurance Settlements	0.00	4,565.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.009 TOPF Forest Invest Inc	0.00	377.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-300.220 Mascoma F550 Loan	0.00	65,165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-300.235 Reserve Transfer In	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	
100-6-10-00-300.237 Transfer in from Tri Town		3,200.42				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>511,286.00</b>	<b>501,209.85</b>	<b>590,443.00</b>	<b>403,770.39</b>	<b>613,887.00</b>	
<b>100-6-10-00-303 Trustees of Public Funds</b>						
100-6-10-00-303.010 Kirkpatrick Fund	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-303.015 Townsend Hutch	72,000.00	72,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	
100-6-10-00-303.020 Forest Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>74,000.00</b>	<b>72,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>	
<b>100-6-10-00-304 Fees</b>						
100-6-10-00-304.005 Animal Fines	100.00	360.00	100.00	10.00	150.00	
100-6-10-00-304.010 Bank Statement Interest	1,583.00	2,582.88	1,500.00	3,060.25	1,500.00	
100-6-10-00-304.014 Tri Town Youth Sports Bank Int	0.00		0.00	1.86	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.020 Building Permits	400.00	785.00	500.00	200.00	1,000.00	
100-6-10-00-304.025 Dog Licenses - town portion	1,200.00	1,274.00	1,200.00	64.00	1,200.00	
100-6-10-00-304.030 Driveway Construction Permits	200.00	350.00	200.00	50.00	400.00	
100-6-10-00-304.034 Fish & Game Postings	30.00	30.00	30.00	25.00	30.00	
100-6-10-00-304.035 Fleet Permits	350.00	350.00	375.00	20.00	375.00	
100-6-10-00-304.036 Green Mountain Passport	26.00	34.00	26.00	16.00	26.00	
100-6-10-00-304.040 Judicial Fines	10,000.00	6,324.45	5,000.00	1,694.43	5,000.00	
100-6-10-00-304.045 Liquor Licenses - town portion	500.00	625.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	
100-6-10-00-304.046 Cannabis Control Fees		300.00		0.00	300.00	
100-6-10-00-304.050 Marriage License - town portion	100.00	150.00	150.00	45.00	150.00	
100-6-10-00-304.055 Copies	2,500.00	2,057.96	2,500.00	695.70	3,000.00	
100-6-10-00-304.056 Certified Copies		653.00	400.00	240.00	400.00	
100-6-10-00-304.057 Vault Time fees	400.00	437.25	400.00	85.00	400.00	
100-6-10-00-304.065 Recording fees	11,250.00	12,785.00	11,000.00	6,914.00	11,000.00	
100-6-10-00-304.070 Youth Sports Income	1,200.00	2,447.50	2,275.00	1,123.00	2,000.00	
100-6-10-00-304.071 Skatespace GoFundMe		7,134.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.075 Refunds to Town	0.00	41.00	0.00	655.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.080 Rent	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.085 Subdivision P & Z Fees	100.00	0.00	100.00	25.00	200.00	
100-6-10-00-304.090 Vehicle Registrations	100.00	96.00	100.00	48.00	100.00	
100-6-10-00-304.105 Utility Billing Reimbursements	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,200.00	1,000.00	1,200.00	
100-6-10-00-304.106 Utility Postage Reimbursements	424.00	400.00	500.00	400.00	600.00	

TOWN OF ROCHESTER GENERAL FUND - SELECTBOARD BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	6 months	Budget	
100-6-10-00-304.301 Rec Program Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.302 General Donations	500.00	1,200.00	500.00	200.00	500.00	
100-6-10-00-304.303 Park Donations	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.304 SkateSpace Donations		10,000.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.305 SkateSpace Bank Interest		131.21	0.00	19.03	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.999 Miscellaneous Income	500.00	970.26	100.00	1,587.89	0.00	
100-6-10-00-304.306 Tri Town Donations		496.50				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32,563.00</b>	<b>53,216.23</b>	<b>28,756.00</b>	<b>18,194.16</b>	<b>30,131.00</b>	
<b>100-6-10-00 Cemetery Income</b>						
100-6-10-00-306.005 Sale of Cemetery Lots	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-306.011 Cemetery Income - Other	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	
100-6-10-00-306.012 Burial Transit Permits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-306.015 Trustee Inc - Cemetery Fund	10,500.00	2,500.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-306.016 Cemetery Inc from Townshend		8,000.00		0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-310.010 Cemetery Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15,500.00</b>	<b>15,500.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>633,349.00</b>	<b>641,976.08</b>	<b>634,199.00</b>	<b>421,964.55</b>	<b>672,018.00</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>100-7-10-10 Finance Expenses</b>						
100-7-10-10-330.002 Courthouse Bond	3,574.00	3,572.98	3,383.00	3,382.86	0.00	
100-7-10-10-330.015 USDA Sewer Bond Principal	2,349.00	2,348.95	2,414.00	1,198.75	2,481.00	
100-7-10-10-330.016 USDA Sewer Bond Interest	1,733.00	1,733.05	1,668.00	842.25	1,601.00	
100-7-10-10-330.020 LOC Interest Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-7-10-10-330.025 VMBB Refi Bond Principal	34,716.00	34,716.32	27,440.00	23,878.12	28,441.00	
100-7-10-10-330.026 VMBB Refi Bond Interest	14,628.00	11,066.18	13,494.00	6,997.18	12,474.00	
100-7-10-10-330.027 RPL Phase 3 Bond Principal	8,750.00	8,750.00	8,750.00	8,750.00	8,750.00	
100-7-10-10-330.028 RPL Phase 3 Bond Interest	3,912.00	3,911.80	3,648.00	1,891.96	3,371.00	
100-7-10-10-330.029 Site 3 Bond Exp Principal	11,140.00	11,139.65	11,362.00	11,362.44	11,590.00	
100-7-10-10-330.030 Site 3 Bond Exp Admin fees	4,459.00	4,458.55	4,236.00	4,235.76	4,009.00	
100-7-10-10-330.031 FD Station refi Mascoma Mtg. Prin	10,864.00	13,476.04	13,850.00	5,713.62	14,224.00	
100-7-10-10-330.032 FD Station refi Mascoma Mtg. Int	6,272.00	4,204.16	3,831.00	1,653.13	3,456.00	
100-7-10-10-330.033 Mascoma Bank Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-7-10-10-330. West Hill Bridge Principal					5,300.00	
100-7-10-10-330. West Hill Bridge Interest					17,842.00	
100-7-10-10-533.000 Bank Charges	0.00	61.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-7-10-10-331-000 Prior Year Balance Corrections	0.00	1,385.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>102,397.00</b>	<b>100,824.05</b>	<b>94,076.00</b>	<b>69,906.07</b>	<b>113,539.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-20 Capital Purchase Expense</b>						
100-7-10-20-830.001 Fire Truck Lease Principal	16,724.00	16,723.61	17,274.00	17,273.76	0.00	
100-7-10-20-830.002 Fire Truck Lease Interest	2,312.00	2,311.59	1,761.00	1,761.44	0.00	
100-7-10-20-830.005 Fire F550 Loan Principal	12,917.00	13,590.59	12,626.00	0.00	12,968.00	
100-7-10-20-830.006 Fire F550 Loan Interest	116.00	451.69	1,416.00	0.00	1,074.00	
100-7-10-20-830.007 '22 Dump Truck Loan Principal	20,828.00	20,312.75	19,530.00	20,603.95	20,063.00	
100-7-10-20-830.008 '22 Dump Truck Loan Interest	188.00	1,456.00	2,238.00	1,164.80	1,706.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>53,085.00</b>	<b>54,846.23</b>	<b>54,845.00</b>	<b>40,803.95</b>	<b>35,811.00</b>	

TOWN OF ROCHESTER GENERAL FUND - SELECTBOARD BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	6 months	Budget	
<b>100-7-10-21 Salaries</b>						
100-7-10-21-110.000 Salaries Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	28,829.00	34,541.53	37,128.00	16,852.65	39,998.00	
100-7-10-21-110.005 Salaries Animal Control	500.00	500.00	750.00	0.00	500.00	
100-7-10-21-110.015 Salaries Health Officer	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	
100-7-10-21-110.016 Salaries Constable	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	
100-7-10-21-110.020 Salaries Housekeeping	1,092.00	997.50	1,125.00	441.11	1,159.00	
100-7-10-21-110.030 Salaries Selectboard	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00	
100-7-10-21-110.035 Salaries Town Clerk/Treasurer	41,849.60	41,849.60	43,105.00	21,548.80	45,252.00	
100-7-10-21-110.041 Selectboard Secretary	1,500.00	1,687.50	1,500.00	812.50	1,500.00	
100-7-10-21-110.050 Selectboard Admin Assistant	24,712.00	2,648.49	0.00	2,613.60	0.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>102,978.00</b>	<b>86,724.62</b>	<b>88,108.00</b>	<b>42,268.66</b>	<b>92,909.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-25 General Office Expenses</b>						
100-7-10-25-330.000 Outside Audit	8,950.00	9,400.00	16,000.00	9,875.00	15,675.00	
100-7-10-25-330.005 Domain Host	525.00	323.40	500.00	42.34	500.00	
100-7-10-25-333.000 Legal Services	5,000.00	2,249.14	5,000.00	300.00	3,000.00	
100-7-10-25-340.000 Tax Mapping	1,750.00	1,750.00	1,975.00	0.00	2,100.00	
100-7-10-25-410.000 Electricity	1,500.00	1,679.38	1,500.00	948.64	1,700.00	
100-7-10-25-411.000 Water & Sewer	520.00	390.00	520.00	260.00	400.00	
100-7-10-25-440.000 Equipment/Repair/Rental	3,000.00	2,348.02	3,000.00	1,133.58	2,500.00	
100-7-10-25-530.000 Telephone	1,280.00	1,650.40	1,800.00	752.62	1,700.00	
100-7-10-25-531.000 Postage	3,000.00	2,386.10	3,000.00	2,166.12	3,200.00	
100-7-10-25-540.000 Printing & Advertising	3,000.00	4,385.58	4,000.00	330.98	4,500.00	
100-7-10-25-565.000 Meetings/Education	500.00	483.82	600.00	572.51	750.00	
100-7-10-25-610.000 Supplies	2,500.00	2,523.11	2,500.00	1,846.30	2,800.00	
100-7-10-25-624.000 Fuel	2,500.00	2,475.08	2,000.00	0.00	2,500.00	
100-7-10-25-641.000 IT Services & Software	10,000.00	5,417.58	10,000.00	805.85	7,020.00	
100-7-10-25-641.005 NEMRC	5,360.00	6,660.80	5,789.00	879.01	6,700.00	
100-7-10-25-740.000 Equipment	1,000.00	634.58	1,000.00	0.00	1,500.00	
100-7-10-25-740.001 Elevator Maintenance	800.00	525.00	800.00	0.00	600.00	
100-7-10-25-990.000 Miscellaneous	0.00	45.05	100.00	0.00	100.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>51,185.00</b>	<b>45,327.04</b>	<b>60,084.00</b>	<b>19,912.95</b>	<b>57,245.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-26 Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>						
100-7-10-26-422.000 Sidewalk Plowing	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	6,000.00	18,000.00	
100-7-10-26-430.000 Grounds - General M/R	0.00	550.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	
100-7-10-26-430.005 Athletic Fields	3,060.00	3,346.67	3,060.00	2,040.00	3,060.00	
100-7-10-26-430.025 Office Repairs	500.00	192.00	500.00	318.88	500.00	
100-7-10-26-430.026 Office Mowing	1,224.00	1,510.67	1,224.00	816.00	1,224.00	
100-7-10-26-430.035 Window Cleaning	500.00	335.00	500.00	0.00	400.00	
100-7-10-26-430.040 Town Trash	1,000.00	1,170.00	1,000.00	550.00	1,000.00	
100-7-10-26-440.000 Porta Toilets	3,334.00	4,158.50	3,334.00	3,225.00	3,334.00	
100-7-10-26-532.000 Alarm Monitoring	300.00	272.50	300.00	0.00	300.00	
100-7-10-26-622.000 Street Lights	7,977.00	8,031.00	7,977.00	4,165.42	8,000.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>35,895.00</b>	<b>37,566.34</b>	<b>35,895.00</b>	<b>17,415.30</b>	<b>36,118.00</b>	

TOWN OF ROCHESTER GENERAL FUND - SELECTBOARD BUDGET

		July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
		FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	6 months	Budget	
<b>100-7-10-27 Solid Waste</b>							
100-7-10-27-421.000	Solid Waste (Bethel/Royalton)	14,590.00	14,590.08	14,590.00	14,590.08	14,590.00	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>14,590.00</b>	<b>14,590.08</b>	<b>14,590.00</b>	<b>14,590.08</b>	<b>14,590.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-28 General Employee Expenses</b>							
100-7-10-28-210.000	Health Insurance	20,863.00	23,263.53	24,978.00	13,303.40	34,751.00	
100-7-10-28-210.001	HRA 720 Excise Tax Exp	0.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-7-10-28-210.002	Hickock & Boardman Mgmt.	590.00	1,510.00	840.00	240.00	1,220.00	
100-7-10-28-210.005	Life & Disability Ins. Madison	395.00	704.64	720.00	415.60	750.00	
100-7-10-28-210.010	MVP Select Care	1,300.00	559.76	1,300.00	66.69	1,300.00	
100-7-10-28-220.000	Social Security	7,313.00	7,913.21	6,989.00	4,910.01	7,414.00	
100-7-10-28-230.000	VMERS Retirement	4,771.00	5,060.42	5,416.00	2,842.69	6,598.00	
100-7-10-28-250.000	Unemployment Compensation	224.00	784.00	225.00	388.00	322.00	
100-7-10-28-260.000	Worker's Compensation	571.00	351.66	552.00	148.14	769.00	
100-7-10-28-270.000	Insurance Discounts & Credits	-2,276.00	120.00	-1,200.00	0.00	-1,200.00	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>33,751.00</b>	<b>40,279.22</b>	<b>39,820.00</b>	<b>22,314.53</b>	<b>51,924.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-29 Dues &amp; Fees</b>							
100-7-10-29-490.000	County Tax	7,814.00	7,813.56	8,403.00	8,220.98	10,499.00	
100-7-10-29-560.000	Green Mtn Economic Dev	544.00	544.00	544.00	544.00	544.00	
100-7-10-29-560.005	Two Rivers - Ottawaquechee	1,736.00	1,736.00	1,791.00	1,791.00	1,846.00	
100-7-10-29-560.010	VLCT Dues	2,466.00	2,546.00	2,546.00	0.00	2,625.00	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,560.00</b>	<b>12,639.56</b>	<b>13,284.00</b>	<b>10,555.98</b>	<b>15,514.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-30 General Town Expenses</b>							
100-7-10-30-310.000	Dog Tags/Control	300.00	133.00	200.00	121.21	200.00	
100-7-10-30-340.000	Generator Maint	1,700.00	1,056.00	1,100.00	0.00	1,200.00	
100-7-10-30-424.000	Cemetery Upkeep	27,500.00	26,845.04	31,478.00	12,940.02	see below	
100-7-10-30-495.001	Repeater Expenses	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
100-7-10-30-520.000	Property Insurance	9,465.00	4,235.35	5,000.00	2,398.96	5,000.00	
100-7-10-30-950.000	Kirkpatrick Scholarship	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>41,165.00</b>	<b>33,469.39</b>	<b>39,978.00</b>	<b>16,660.19</b>	<b>7,600.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-31 Emergency Services/Ambulance</b>							
100-7-10-31-000.001	WRVA Rescue Services	71,435.00	72,252.00	79,128.00	50,169.00	86,821.00	
100-7-10-31-000.002	Valley Rescue Squad	6,748.00	6,748.00	6,748.00	6,748.00	10,137.00	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>78,183.00</b>	<b>79,000.00</b>	<b>85,876.00</b>	<b>56,917.00</b>	<b>96,958.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-32 Shelter Team/Emergency Management</b>							
100-7-10-32-540.000	Printing/Postage					100.00	
100-7-10-32-565.000	Shelter Education					200.00	
100-7-10-32-565.001	CPR Courses					440.00	
100-7-10-32-565.002	Emerg. Mgmt. Education					250.00	
100-7-10-32-565.003	Annual Meeting					250.00	
100-7-10-32-610.000	Supplies					100.00	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,340.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-42 Cemetery Expenses</b>							
100-7-10-42-110.000	Commissioner Stipend					1,000.00	
100-7-10-42-430.000	Mowing & Landcare					24,440.00	
100-7-10-42-430.001	Tree & Brush Maintenance					2,500.00	
100-7-10-42-430.002	Road Maintenance					500.00	
100-7-10-42-430.003	Boundry & Fence Maintenance					2,000.00	
100-7-10-42-990.000	Misc. Expense					1,620.00	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>32,060.00</b>	

## TOWN OF ROCHESTER GENERAL FUND - SELECTBOARD BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	6 months	Budget	
<b>100-7-10-43 Park Expenses</b>						
100-7-10-43-430.000 Repairs	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	
100-7-10-43-430.001 Mowing	2,652.00	2,938.66	2,652.00	1,768.00	2,652.00	
100-7-10-43-430.002 Tree Maintenance	2,000.00	1,700.00	1,750.00	190.00	500.00	
100-7-10-43-430.003 Lawn Maintenance	500.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	750.00	
100-7-10-43-430.006 Electricity	400.00	369.89	400.00	166.79	400.00	
100-7-10-43-430.007 Miscellaneous Expense	500.00	60.96	500.00	0.00	500.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,152.00</b>	<b>5,069.51</b>	<b>6,402.00</b>	<b>2,124.79</b>	<b>4,902.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-44 Recreation Dept</b>						
100-7-10-44-220.000 Social Security	92.00	0.00	107.00	0.00	107.00	
100-7-10-44-250.000 Unemployment	6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	8.00	
100-7-10-44-260.000 Work Comp	9.00	142.06	64.00	74.07	62.00	
100-7-10-44-346.001 Summer Concerts	2,600.00	2,700.00	2,600.00	3,149.00	3,300.00	
100-7-10-44-346.002 July 4th Parade	150.00	311.10	500.00	619.05	590.00	
100-7-10-44-346.003 Youth Sports	2,000.00	3,779.23	2,000.00	607.03	2,000.00	
100-7-10-44-346.004 Miscellaneous Expense	400.00	233.49	400.00	0.00	700.00	
100-7-10-44-346.005 Salaries	1,200.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	
100-7-10-44-346.007 One Planet Program	3,125.00	3,125.00	3,125.00	3,125.00	3,125.00	
100-7-10-44-346.008 Skatespace/Winterfest	2,800.00	1,847.63	2,800.00	0.00	2,800.00	
100-7-10-44-346.009 Youth Sports donations to reserve		4,235.41				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,382.00</b>	<b>17,733.92</b>	<b>13,002.00</b>	<b>7,574.15</b>	<b>14,092.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-60 Constable Expenses</b>						
100-7-10-60-115.000 Windsor County Sheriff	26,000.00	28,422.00	30,000.00	14,386.40	32,500.00	
100-7-10-60-520.000 Constable/Animal Control W/C Liaison	0.00	484.95	500.00	281.67	500.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>	<b>28,906.95</b>	<b>30,500.00</b>	<b>14,668.07</b>	<b>33,000.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-70 Fire Dept. Expenses</b>						
100-7-10-70-110.000 Salaries	6,500.00	6,090.00	7,500.00	7,739.00	9,000.00	
100-7-10-70-110.001 Workers Compensation	500.00	1,219.00	1,280.00	609.50	1,300.00	
100-7-10-70-430.000 Building Repair/Maintenance	500.00	1,228.82	500.00	0.00	1,000.00	
100-7-10-70-430.001 Sprinkler Alarm	350.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00	
100-7-10-70-431.000 Air Compressor	1,000.00	1,395.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,400.00	
100-7-10-70-431.001 Air Pack Replacement	4,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	1,040.76	2,000.00	
100-7-10-70-432.000 Truck Maintenance	2,000.00	12,096.35	2,500.00	499.35	2,500.00	
100-7-10-70-520.000 Property/Auto Insurance	7,561.00	6,985.67	7,000.00	3,561.34	7,000.00	
100-7-10-70-530.000 Phone/Public Safety	1,800.00	2,315.75	2,700.00	690.45	2,600.00	
100-7-10-70-532.000 Water & Sewer	650.00	397.20	700.00	268.40	500.00	
100-7-10-70-540.000 Printing/Advertising	200.00	237.76	200.00	0.00	250.00	
100-7-10-70-560.000 Dues	800.00	323.00	900.00	409.00	400.00	
100-7-10-70-565.000 Meetings/Education	1,000.00	832.69	1,000.00	0.00	1,500.00	
100-7-10-70-610.000 Hoses	3,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	
100-7-10-70-610.005 Bunker Gear	6,000.00	1,420.95	6,000.00	10,807.96	6,300.00	
100-7-10-70-610.020 Supplies/Repair	7,500.00	11,813.18	8,000.00	6,814.13	8,500.00	
100-7-10-70-622.000 Electricity	1,500.00	1,673.37	1,800.00	865.71	1,800.00	
100-7-10-70-626.000 Gas/Oil/Grease	1,800.00	1,347.42	2,000.00	171.89	2,000.00	
100-7-10-70-626.001 Heat	2,500.00	1,539.34	3,000.00	311.64	2,000.00	
100-7-10-70-740.000 Radios/Pagers	3,000.00	7,188.55	2,500.00	0.00	3,000.00	
100-7-10-70-990.000 Miscellaneous	100.00	149.28	100.00	0.00	100.00	
100-7-10-70-999.000 Capital Outlay		65,165.00				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>52,761.00</b>	<b>123,418.33</b>	<b>55,580.00</b>	<b>33,789.13</b>	<b>58,050.00</b>	

TOWN OF ROCHESTER GENERAL FUND - SELECTBOARD BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	6 months	Budget	
<b>100-7-10-80 Listers Expenses</b>						
100-7-10-80-110.000 Salaries	2,000.00	3,948.75	3,500.00	1,245.00	4,000.00	
100-7-10-80-220.000 Social Security	268.00	298.07	268.00	95.24	306.00	
100-7-10-80-260.000 Work Comp	15.00	0.00	17.00	0.00	29.00	
100-7-10-80-565.000 Meetings/Education	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	
100-7-10-80-580.000 Mileage	55.00	95.51	55.00	17.79	55.00	
100-7-10-80-610.000 Supplies	500.00	550.29	500.00	345.32	550.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,038.00</b>	<b>4,892.62</b>	<b>4,540.00</b>	<b>1,703.35</b>	<b>4,940.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-82 Planning &amp; Zoning Expenses</b>						
100-7-10-82-220.000 Social Security	27.00	0.00	46.00	0.00	77.00	
100-7-10-82-540.000 Printing/Advertising	350.00	67.74	350.00	197.51	350.00	
100-7-10-82-540.010 Clerk/Assistant	350.00	457.50	650.00	48.00	1,000.00	
100-7-10-82-610.000 Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-7-10-99-110.006 TRORC Zoning Regs. Agreement	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7,227.00</b>	<b>7,025.24</b>	<b>1,046.00</b>	<b>245.51</b>	<b>1,427.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-99 Grant Expenses</b>						
100-7-10-99-999.000 Transfer out Grants Match						
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>633,349.00</b>	<b>692,353.10</b>	<b>637,626.00</b>	<b>371,449.71</b>	<b>672,019.00</b>	

TOWN OF ROCHESTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - SELECTBOARD BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	6 months	Budget	
<b>HIGHWAY INCOME</b>						
100-6-10-00-300.005 Current Taxes	506,411.00	506,411.00	511,578.00	307,577.91	553,768.00	
100-6-10-00-300.040 State Aid to Roads	120,000.00	116,779.31	130,000.00	120,254.38	120,000.00	
100-6-10-00-300.055 Forest Service Rd. Agree.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-6-10-00-300.205 Pittsfield W/M	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	
100-6-10-00-300.210 Fed PILT FS Land-Hwy	33,500.00	37,388.00	35,000.00	0.00	38,000.00	
Subtotal non tax income	155,700.00	156,367.31	167,500.00	120,254.38	160,500.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY INCOME	662,111.00	662,778.31	679,078.00	427,832.29	714,268.00	
<b>HIGHWAY EXPENSES</b>						
100-7-10-50-110.000 Highway Regular Time	147,748.00	146,844.49	152,175.00	70,922.47	156,759.00	
100-7-10-50-130.000 Highway Overtime	31,500.00	22,092.22	30,900.00	6,391.41	30,900.00	
100-7-10-50-210.000 Highway Health Insurance	16,341.00	17,995.06	19,563.00	9,527.71	22,072.00	
100-7-10-50-210.002 Health Ins Opt Out	4,962.00	5,531.26	5,955.00	2,785.35	6,200.00	
100-7-10-50-210.005 Life/Disability Ins Madison	1,357.00	1,410.92	1,425.00	722.30	1,460.00	
100-7-10-50-210.010 MVP Select Care	1,300.00	652.00	1,300.00	3.59	1,300.00	
100-7-10-50-220.000 Social Security	13,712.00	12,926.37	14,005.00	6,012.12	14,356.00	
100-7-10-50-230.000 Municipal Retirement	12,099.00	11,219.02	12,358.00	5,462.32	13,136.00	
100-7-10-50-250.000 Unemployment	282.00	0.00	282.00	0.00	315.00	
100-7-10-50-260.000 Work Comp	13,533.00	11,012.78	13,895.00	5,739.11	13,605.00	
100-7-10-50-411.000 Garage-Water/Sewer	600.00	542.40	720.00	387.20	800.00	
100-7-10-50-411.005 Town of Braintree W/M	6,500.00	9,295.00	7,000.00	0.00	9,500.00	
100-7-10-50-424.000 Mowing/Brush Removal	18,000.00	17,526.27	18,000.00	16,548.99	19,000.00	
100-7-10-50-430.000 Garage-Bldg Maint/Repair	3,000.00	2,750.84	3,000.00	64.39	3,000.00	
100-7-10-50-431.000 EQ Parts/Repairs/Supplies	62,000.00	86,264.60	63,000.00	59,567.94	70,000.00	
100-7-10-50-431.005 Town Garage Radio Expense	1,000.00	1,836.86	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
100-7-10-50-441.010 Town of Stockbridge W/M	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,700.00	0.00	1,700.00	
100-7-10-50-442.000 Contracted Services/Rental	15,000.00	17,805.00	15,000.00	6,580.00	20,000.00	
100-7-10-50-460.005 Culverts & Bands	7,000.00	10,859.78	7,000.00	7,664.08	13,000.00	
100-7-10-50-460-014 Erosion Control/Seed					2,000.00	
100-7-10-50-460.015 Resurfacing	40,000.00	41,800.12	50,000.00	1,659.66	40,000.00	
100-7-10-50-520.000 Hwy Prop/Auto/Liab Ins	10,877.00	11,917.69	12,700.00	5,941.71	12,700.00	
100-7-10-50-530.000 Garage-Telephone	900.00	1,278.18	1,200.00	651.95	1,300.00	
100-7-10-50-540.000 Advertising	0.00	70.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	

TOWN OF ROCHESTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - SELECTBOARD BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	6 months	Budget	
100-7-10-50-565.000 Highway - Education	0.00	45.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	
100-7-10-50-610.000 Gas. Oil. Grease	34,000.00	58,233.77	68,000.00	21,250.58	72,000.00	
100-7-10-50-610.005 Small Tools	3,000.00	1,057.90	3,000.00	175.39	2,000.00	
100-7-10-50-610.010 Supplies	2,000.00	875.64	1,000.00	254.43	2,000.00	
100-7-10-50-610.015 Clothing Allowance	1,800.00	1,306.68	1,800.00	551.53	1,800.00	
100-7-10-50-611.000 Chloride	9,000.00	4,260.00	9,900.00	5,909.50	12,000.00	
100-7-10-50-611.005 Salt	42,000.00	46,406.46	49,000.00	9,519.33	53,900.00	
100-7-10-50-622.000 Garage-Electricity	1,800.00	1,620.92	2,000.00	713.07	2,000.00	
100-7-10-50-624.000 Garage-Heat	4,000.00	2,157.35	5,000.00	254.97	4,000.00	
100-7-10-50-650.000 Gravel	60,000.00	44,313.09	60,000.00	23,328.52	60,000.00	
100-7-10-50-650.005 Sand	40,000.00	38,024.25	41,000.00	29,122.71	42,000.00	
100-7-10-50-651.000 Paint Crosswalks	500.00	1,901.78	500.00	0.00	1,500.00	
100-7-10-50-651.005 Road Signs & Posts	1,500.00	2,721.36	1,500.00	1,002.48	2,000.00	
100-7-10-50-651.015 Municipal Road Permit/Fee	1,600.00	1,765.00	1,600.00	0.00	1,765.00	
100-7-10-50-651.020 Gravel Pit Lease Exp	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	3,000.00	
100-7-10-50-990.000 Miscellaneous Expenses	200.00	9,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
100-7-10-50-999.001 Grant Over Expenditure	40,000.00	1,187.50	0.00	-3,184.00	0.00	
100-7-10-50-999.100 7/10/23 Flood				9,647.10	0.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>653,011.00</b>	<b>650,707.90</b>	<b>679,078.00</b>	<b>307,577.91</b>	<b>714,268.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY EXPENSES</b>	<b>653,011.00</b>	<b>650,707.90</b>	<b>679,078.00</b>	<b>307,577.91</b>	<b>714,268.00</b>	



TOWN OF ROCHESTER  
WATER COMMISSIONER'S BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	6 months	Budget	
<b>Water Income</b>						
300-6-00-20-020.005 Water Current Fees	44,000.00	56,536.91	56,000.00	28,794.07	56,000.00	
300-6-00-20-020.010 Water Delinquent Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
300-6-00-20-020.015 Water Connection Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
300-6-00-10-000.007 Water Res. Bank Interest	0.00	179.58	0.00	135.49	0.00	
300-6-00-20-020.020 Water Bank Interest	0.00	310.46	0.00	231.36	0.00	
300-6-00-20-020.025 Water Misc Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>TOTAL WATER INCOME</b>	<b>44,000.00</b>	<b>57,026.95</b>	<b>56,000.00</b>	<b>29,160.92</b>	<b>56,000.00</b>	
<b>Water Expenses</b>						
300-7-10-20-110.000 Water Operator	16,000.00	15,974.74	18,000.00	8,865.84	18,000.00	
300-7-10-20-110.005 Water Operator Asst	3,000.00	607.50	1,500.00	630.00	3,000.00	
300-7-10-20-220.000 FICA/MEDI Expense	1,500.00	1,168.24	1,500.00	657.49	1,400.00	
300-7-10-20-220.001 W/C, Unempl Exp	1,000.00	1,278.50	1,380.00	628.61	1,380.00	
300-7-10-20-340.000 Water Telemetry	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	
300-7-10-20-340.005 Water Testing/Samples	1,800.00	1,440.00	1,500.00	725.00	2,000.00	
300-7-10-20-424.000 Water Grounds Maint	816.00	816.00	850.00	614.00	1,000.00	
300-7-10-20-424.001 Water Truck Use Reimburse	1,400.00	1,480.00	1,560.00	780.00	1,560.00	
300-7-10-20-430.000 Water Building Maint	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	
300-7-10-20-431.000 Water Equip Maint	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	5,639.43	4,000.00	
300-7-10-20-431.015 Generator Expense	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	150.00	
300-7-10-20-520.000 Water Prop/Liab Ins	338.00	337.80	350.00	169.72	350.00	
300-7-10-20-531.000 Water Postage	200.00	200.00	250.00	200.00	300.00	
300-7-10-20-531.005 Water Heat-Pump H	1,300.00	997.62	1,500.00	469.09	1,200.00	
300-7-10-20-560.000 Water Dues/Memberships	300.00	250.00	350.00	0.00	300.00	
300-7-10-20-565.000 Water Education	500.00	56.00	500.00	126.00	500.00	
300-7-10-20-570.000 Water Permit/Licenses	500.00	1,189.35	700.00	418.20	1,200.00	
300-7-10-20-610.000 Water Billing	500.00	500.00	600.00	500.00	600.00	
300-7-10-20-610.005 Water Supplies	2,000.00	1,174.96	2,500.00	1,369.82	2,500.00	
300-7-10-20-622.000 Water Electricity	3,000.00	2,759.42	3,500.00	1,502.04	3,200.00	
300-7-10-20-655.000 Water Special Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
300-7-10-20-740.000 Water Equipment	100.00	0.00	100.00	1,040.00	100.00	
300-7-10-20-990.000 Water Misc Expense	100.00	89.68	100.00	0.00	100.00	
<b>TOTAL WATER EXPENSES</b>	<b>39,954.00</b>	<b>30,319.81</b>	<b>42,440.00</b>	<b>24,335.24</b>	<b>44,440.00</b>	

TOWN OF ROCHESTER  
SEWER COMMISSIONER'S BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY23		FY24		FY25	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	6 months	Budget	
<b>Sewer Income</b>						
300-6-00-10-000.005 Bank Interest	0.00	665.84		601.90	0.00	
300-6-00-10-000.006 Sewer Res. Bank Int.	0.00	128.00		96.57	0.00	
300-6-00-10-010.005 Sewer Current Fees	0.00	79,857.72	80,000.00	40,823.21	80,000.00	
300-6-00-10-010.010 Sewer Delinquent Fees	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
300-6-00-10-010.015 Sewer Connection Fees	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
300-6-00-10-010.020 Sewer Interest	0.00	512.01		402.37	0.00	
300-6-00-10-010.030 Sewer Misc Income	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
300-6-00-10-010.035 Special Project Income	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
<b>TOTAL SEWER INCOME</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>81,163.57</b>	<b>80,000.00</b>	<b>41,924.05</b>	<b>80,000.00</b>	
<b>Sewer Expenses</b>						
300-7-10-10-110.000 Sewer Operator	17,000.00	14,974.63	18,000.00	8,392.82	18,000.00	
300-7-10-10-110.005 Sewer Operator Asst	3,000.00	658.36	1,500.00	720.53	2,500.00	
300-7-10-10-220.000 FICA/MEDI Expense	1,400.00	1,097.78	1,400.00	674.58	1,200.00	
300-7-10-10-220.001 W/C, Unempl Exp	800.00	1,170.20	1,280.00	592.51	1,280.00	
300-7-10-10-330.000 Sewer Engineering	4,000.00	6,200.00	3,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	
300-7-10-10-340.000 Sewer Testing/Samples	3,000.00	2,627.89	3,300.00	1,191.97	3,000.00	
300-7-10-10-340.001 Sewer Telemetering	1,500.00	1,653.60	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00	
300-7-10-10-424.000 Sewer Grounds Maint	2,448.00	2,448.00	3,000.00	1,632.00	3,000.00	
300-7-10-10-424.001 Sewer Truck Use Reimburse	1,400.00	1,480.00	1,560.00	780.00	1,560.00	
300-7-10-10-431.000 Sewer Repairs	3,000.00	240.00	3,000.00	1,579.00	3,000.00	
300-7-10-10-431.005 Sewer Tanks Maint	16,000.00	14,523.74	18,000.00	7,319.18	17,000.00	
300-7-10-10-431.015 Sewer Generator	100.00	146.98	100.00	0.00	150.00	
300-7-10-10-520.000 Sewer Prop/Liab Ins	1,020.00	1,013.41	1,300.00	509.17	1,200.00	
300-7-10-10-531.000 Sewer Postage	200.00	200.00	250.00	200.00	300.00	
300-7-10-10-565.000 Sewer Education	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
300-7-10-10-570.000 Sewer Permits/Licenses	2,500.00	2,700.25	2,600.00	460.00	2,700.00	
300-7-10-10-610.000 Sewer Billing	500.00	500.00	600.00	500.00	600.00	
300-7-10-10-610.005 Sewer Supplies	500.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	
300-7-10-10-622.000 Sewer Electricity	2,300.00	2,267.08	2,500.00	1,335.36	2,400.00	
300-7-10-10-655.000 Sewer Special Projects	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	10,000.00	
300-7-10-10-990.000 Sewer Misc Expense	100.00	72.50	100.00	0.00	100.00	
<b>TOTAL SEWER EXPENSES</b>	<b>61,368.00</b>	<b>53,974.42</b>	<b>65,090.00</b>	<b>25,887.12</b>	<b>74,090.00</b>	

TOWN OF ROCHESTER APPROPRIATIONS AND VOTED ARTICLES - SELECTBOARD BUDGET

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	6 months	Budget	
<b>100-7-10-91 Appropriations</b>						
100-7-10-91-950.015 Central VT Council on Aging	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
100-7-10-91-950.020 Clara Martin Center	2,066.00	2,066.00	2,066.00	2,066.00	2,066.00	
100-7-10-91-950.025 Green Up Vermont	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
100-7-10-91-950.029 Orange Cty Parent Child C	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
100-7-10-91-950.030 Quintown Senior Center	9,849.00	9,849.00	9,849.00	9,849.00	9,849.00	
100-7-10-91-950.035 Tri -Valley Transit	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
100-7-10-91-950.045 Visiting Nurses VT/NH	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	
100-7-10-91-950.050 White River Partnership	875.00	875.00	875.00	875.00	875.00	
100-7-10-91-950.060 Women Safe Inc	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
100-7-10-91-950.064 VACD Dry Hydrant Program	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
100-7-10-91-950.070 Safeline	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>22,840.00</b>	<b>22,840.00</b>	<b>22,840.00</b>	<b>22,840.00</b>	<b>22,840.00</b>	
<b>100-7-10-92 Rsrv Transfrs/Voted Articles</b>						
100-7-10-92-000-005 Hwy Equip Reserve Trsf Out	0.00			0.00		
100-7-10-92-000-010 Tennis Rsv Trsf Out	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
100-7-10-92-000-014 Town Building Res Trsf Ou	9,000.00	9,000.00		0.00		
100-7-10-92-000-015 Reappraisal Res Trsf Out			8,000.00	8,000.00		
100-7-10-92-000-018 Library Transfer Out	48,314.00	48,314.00	49,935.00	24,967.50	50,790.00	
100-7-10-92-000-019 Fast Trash and Recycling	20,400.00	18,700.00	21,420.00	10,625.00	21,420.00	
100-7-10-92-000-020 Hwy Grant Prjct Res Trsf Out			12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	
100-7-10-92-000-021 SkateSpace Res Trst Out				41,550.09		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>78,714.00</b>	<b>77,014.00</b>	<b>92,355.00</b>	<b>98,142.59</b>	<b>85,210.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL ARTICLES and APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>101,554.00</b>	<b>99,854.00</b>	<b>115,195.00</b>	<b>120,982.59</b>	<b>108,050.00</b>	

**ROCHESTER TOWN GENERAL ACCOUNT**  
Summary of Budget, Revenue and Expense

Rochester Town	FY 23		FY 24		FY 25	
	Voted Budget	Actual 12 months	Voted Budget	Actual 6 months	Proposed Budget	difference vs FY23
<b>REVENUE:</b>						
Property Taxes:	358,396	199,978	410,389	282,142	459,616	11%
Non-Tax Revenue:	274,953	441,948	223,810	139,822	212,402	-5%
<b>X. TOTAL REVENUE: [Prop + Non-tax rev]</b>	<b>633,349</b>	<b>641,926</b>	<b>634,199</b>	<b>421,965</b>	<b>672,018</b>	6%
<b>EXPENSE:</b>						
Total Finance Expenses:	102,397	100,824	94,076	69,906	113,539	17%
Total Capital Purchase Expense:	53,085	54,846	54,845	40,804	35,811	-53%
Total General Town Salaries:	102,978	86,725	88,108	42,269	92,909	5%
General Office Expense:	51,185	45,327	60,084	19,913	57,245	-5%
Buildings and Grounds:	35,895	37,566	35,895	17,415	36,118	1%
Solid Waste:	14,590	14,590	14,590	14,590	14,590	0%
General Employee Expenses:	33,751	40,279	39,820	22,315	51,924	23%
Dues and Fees:	12,560	12,640	13,284	10,556	15,514	14%
General Town Expenses:	41,165	33,469	39,978	16,660	7,600	-426%
Emergency Services	78,183	79,000	85,876	56,917	96,958	11%
Shelter Team/Emergency Management:	0	0	0	0	1,340	100%
Cemetery:	0	0	0	0	32,060	100%
Park Expenses:	6,152	5,070	6,402	2,125	4,902	-31%
Recreation Dept. Expenses:	12,382	17,774	13,002	7,574	14,092	8%
Constable Expenses:	26,000	28,907	30,500	14,668	33,000	8%
Fire Department Expenses:	52,761	123,418	55,580	33,789	58,050	4%
Listers Expenses:	3,038	4,893	4,540	1,703	4,940	8%
Planning/Zoning Expenses:	7,227	7,025	1,046	246	1,427	27%
Transfer out Grants Match		0				
<b>A. Grand Total GEN. FUND EXPENSE:</b>	<b>633,349</b>	<b>692,353</b>	<b>637,626</b>	<b>371,450</b>	<b>672,019</b>	5%

<b>HIGHWAY:</b>						
<b>REVENUE:</b>						
Property Taxes:	506,411	506,411	511,578	307,578	553,768	8%
Non-Tax Revenue:	155,700	156,367	167,500	120,254	160,500	-4%
<b>Y. Total REVENUE:</b>	<b>662,111</b>	<b>662,778</b>	<b>679,078</b>	<b>427,832</b>	<b>714,268</b>	5%
<b>EXPENSE:</b>						
Highway Expenses	653,011	650,708	679,078	226,686	714,268	
Highway Grant Expense	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>B. Total HIGHWAY EXPENSE:</b>	<b>653,011</b>	<b>650,708</b>	<b>679,078</b>	<b>307,578</b>	<b>714,268</b>	5%

<b>APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:</b>						
Total Community Requests:	22,840	22,840	22,840	22,840	22,840	0%
Total Voted Articles:	78,714	77,014	92,355	98,143	85,210	-8%
<b>C. TOTAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:</b>	<b>101,554</b>	<b>99,854</b>	<b>115,195</b>	<b>120,983</b>	<b>108,050</b>	-7%

<b>Total Income: X + Y + C</b>	<b>1,397,014</b>	<b>1,404,558</b>	<b>1,428,472</b>	<b>970,779</b>	<b>1,494,336</b>	4%
<b>Total Expense : A + B + C</b>	<b>1,387,914</b>	<b>1,442,915</b>	<b>1,431,899</b>	<b>800,010</b>	<b>1,494,337</b>	4%

<b>Audit Reconciliation FY 23</b>	Total Income	\$ 1,404,558	\$ 1,442,915	\$ 1,428,472	\$ 970,779	Total Expense
	Notes Payable	\$ (65,165)				(1,000) Tennis Reserve
	Cemetery funds	(2,500)				(9,000) Town Build. Res.
	Transfers in	(5,000)				(48,314) Library
	<b>Audited Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,331,893</b>	<b>\$ 1,384,601</b>	<b>\$ 1,384,601</b>	<b>\$ 1,384,601</b>	<b>Audited Exp</b>

BUDGET AND TAX SUMMARY						
	FY23	FY24	FY25	Proposed More or (Less) than last Year's Budget		
	<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>	<b>2024-2025 Budget</b>			
<b>General Town Budget</b>	633,349	634,199	672,018	37,819		6.0%
General Town Revenue (non-tax)	(274,953)	(223,810)	(212,402)	11,408		-5.1%
<b>Town Funds Required</b>	<b>\$ 358,396</b>	<b>\$ 410,389</b>	<b>\$ 459,616</b>	<b>49,227</b>		<b>12.0%</b>
<b>Highway Budget</b>						
Highway Revenue (non-tax)	662,111	679,078	714,268	35,190		5.2%
<b>Highway Funds Required</b>	<b>\$ 506,411</b>	<b>\$ 511,578</b>	<b>\$ 553,768</b>	<b>42,190</b>		<b>8.2%</b>
Community Agencies Requests	22,840	22,840	22,840	0		0.0%
Voted Articles	78,714	92,355	85,210	(7,145)		-7.7%
<b>Appropriation Funds Required</b>	<b>\$ 101,554</b>	<b>\$ 115,195</b>	<b>\$ 108,050</b>	<b>(7,145)</b>		<b>-6.2%</b>
<b>Grand Total Budget and Appropriations: X + Y + C</b>	<b>\$ 1,397,014</b>	<b>\$ 1,428,472</b>	<b>\$ 1,494,336</b>	<b>\$ 65,864</b>		<b>4.6%</b>
<b>Grand Total Property Tax Required: A + B + C</b>	<b>\$ 966,361</b>	<b>\$ 1,037,162</b>	<b>\$ 1,121,434</b>	<b>\$ 84,272</b>		<b>8.1%</b>
<b>FY 25 Budget Article and Property Tax Summary</b>						
<b>Town and Highway Budget Article:</b>						
X. General Town Budget:	672,018					459,616
Y. Highway Budget:	714,268					553,768
Total amount for Town Budget Article:	<b>\$ 1,386,286</b>					<b>\$ 1,013,384</b>
C. Proposed Appropriations and Voted Articles:	<b>\$ 108,050</b>					<b>\$ 108,050</b>
<b>Grand Total Appropriations, Town, and Highway Budgets:</b>	<b>\$ 1,494,336</b>					<b>\$ 1,121,434</b>
<b>To raise from taxes:</b>						
A. Town Funds Required:						
B. Highway funds required:						
Total amount to raise from taxes for Town and Highway:						
C. Proposed Appropriations and Voted Articles:						
Grand Total of Property Tax to be raised:						

Annual Report of the Rochester Public Library  
Grateful for your support!

By now, many of you have stopped by the library and met our new director, Maya Newroot. Maya has been working to maintain the beautiful library collection and space she now has the pleasure of nurturing on behalf of you, the Rochester residents. If you haven't yet, stop in and say hello!

There have been several big improvements to the library building: a new roof, and some new exterior paint. Both were badly needed, and we are so grateful that this work has been done, and done well!

Earlier in the year, Jeannette (the retired director) asked for donations of works by local artists. There is a lovely collection in the library's main room; please do come by to see it.

We've had many successful programs over the course of the year, with programming for families and children growing quickly. There are plans for more wonderful programs to come, including more for adults.

The Library of Things continues to be well-used and appreciated by patrons. If you are considering the purchase of a new item, or need something short-term, check the Library of Things first! Chances are good that, in our collection of 400+ items, you will find what you are looking for--to borrow for free!

We trust you will support your library by voting "yes" on the article providing funding for our budget at Town Meeting. If you have any questions about our budget, just stop by any Tuesday & Thursday 11-6 or Saturday 9-12.

The Trustees look forward to working with the Select Board in 2024.

Thank you for your support!

Your Library Trustees: Tony Goupee, Doreen Jones, Kelly Kelly, Sandy Lincoln, and Barbara Shenton

## Rochester Public Library Budget

[illegible]

## Rochester Public Library Budget

[illegible]



Rochester Public Library Budget

	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025
	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>200-7-10-35 Media/Books</b>			
200-7-10-35-640.000 Adult Books	2,116.00	6,063.82	2,000.00
200-7-10-35-640.001 Memorial Fund Pymt	400.00	365.05	400.00
200-7-10-35-640.005 Audio/DVDs/Kanopy	1,000.00	1,025.58	1,200.00
200-7-10-35-640.010 Childrens Books	350.00	1,150.94	700.00
200-7-10-35-640.015 Magazines/Subscriptions	120.00	167.34	100.00
200-7-10-35-655.000 Adopt an Author	1,200.00	1,129.39	1,200.00
<b>Total Media/Books Exp</b>	<b>5,186.00</b>	<b>9,902.12</b>	<b>5,600.00</b>
<b>200-7-10-37 Investment transfer out</b>			
200-7-00-37-000.005 Infinex Transfer Out WING		10,000.00	
200-7-00-37-000.006 Infinex Transfer Out KIRK		5,000.00	
<b>Total Investment transfer out</b>		<b>15,000.00</b>	
<b>200-7-10-40 Payroll Expenses/Reimb</b>			
200-7-10-40-110.000 Librarian Salaries	25,200.00	26,734.50	22,880.00
200-7-10-40-110.005 Asst Librarian	1,665.00	701.25	752.00
200-7-10-40-110.010 Childrens Library Salaries	2,400.00	3,945.00	3,200.00
200-7-10-40-110.015 Custodial Salaries	2,340.00	2,310.00	2,496.00
200-7-10-40-110.016 Consulting		0.00	5,654.00
200-7-10-40-210.002 Work Comp Expense	225.00	142.06	175.00
200-7-10-40-210.003 Unemployment Comp Exp	112.00	0.00	112.00
200-7-10-40-220.000 FICA/MEDI	2,030.00	2,260.15	2,030.00
200-7-10-40-220.050 HRA Employers Cont.	5,654.00	5,017.62	0.00
200-7-10-40-230.000 VMERS			571.53
<b>Total Payroll/Reimb Exp</b>	<b>39,626.00</b>	<b>41,110.58</b>	<b>37,299.00</b>
<b>200-7-10-45 Maintenance and Repairs</b>			
200-7-10-45-120.020 Landscaping-summer maint	500.00	500.00	500.00
200-7-10-45-120.025 Snow Remove-winter maint	500.00	500.00	500.00
200-7-10-45-419.000 Library Bldg Ins. Exp	3,000.00	3,810.37	4,200.00
200-7-10-45-420.000 General Repairs/Maint.	1,200.00	1,390.72	2,000.00
200-7-10-45-420.001 Boiler Maintenance	634.00	598.00	750.00
200-7-10-45-420.002 Elevator Inspect/Maint	750.00	255.00	750.00
200-7-10-45-420.005 Window Cleaning	200.00	0.00	0.00
200-7-10-45-420.010 Carpet Cleaning	250.00	0.00	0.00
200-7-10-45-420.011 New Roof donated FY23		41,825.00	0.00
200-7-10-45-420.015 Maintenance Supplies	500.00	343.44	500.00
200-7-10-45-532.000 Annual Alarm Monitoring	400.00	272.50	1,400.00
200-7-10-55-655.000 Annual Campaign purchases	5,000.00	6,780.49	5,000.00
200-7-10-55-990.000 Misc Expenses		823.32	0.00
<b>Total Maint &amp; Repairs</b>	<b>12,934.00</b>	<b>57,098.84</b>	<b>15,600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>70,280.00</b>	<b>136,873.61</b>	<b>72,578.32</b>
			<b>80,698.48</b>

# Valley Rescue Squad

5051 VT Route 100  
Granville, VT 05747  
Tel.: (802) 967-5556



*"Proudly serving Granville, Hancock, and Rochester, Vermont."*

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**Re: Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget**

**To: Rochester Residents**

December 19, 2023

Greetings;

Many changes have taken place this year in emergency medical first response for our community. As you are aware, the Granville Volunteer Fire Department has been providing this service to our community since 2015. In that time, we have experienced a need for a transport ambulance to be re-introduced to our area as a back-up option if White River Valley Ambulance is overwhelmed by emergency calls or is otherwise unable to respond. Currently, the next available ambulance resources are at least 45-minutes away.

We have opted to adopt a new but familiar name; Valley Rescue Squad, to begin our journey to providing a secondary ambulance service to our community. Since this announcement in April 2023, we have recruited additional personnel and sent others to additional training to boost our capability to operate as an ambulance crew. If you are interested in serving our community in this unique way, please contact us for more information.

In May, we acquired an ambulance which we are currently outfitting with the equipment required by the State of Vermont Department of Emergency Medical Services for us to operate as a transport service. The remaining equipment necessary for our ambulance will cost about \$35,000. We currently have \$12,000 on hand to allocate for this purpose. The rest we hope to acquire through fundraising activities. Anyone who would like to contribute to our mission may make donations to the address above.

Our original timeline to begin transporting patients was in the Summer of 2026. This project has been moving much faster than we anticipated. With your continued support, we could be fully operational much sooner. For now, we will be continuing to provide emergency medical first response services as we work towards our new goal.

Thank you and stay safe.

Danial Sargeant, EMS Chief;  
**Valley Rescue Squad**

Email: [danial.sargeant@granvillevolunteerfire.org](mailto:danial.sargeant@granvillevolunteerfire.org)  
Cell phone: (802) 349-5774

## WHITE RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE

Thank you, neighbors, for your continued support of White River Valley Ambulance. We are a non-profit, professional emergency medical service and ambulance transport agency serving the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Randolph, Rochester and Stockbridge, an area of over 500 square miles with numerous hiking and biking trails. We are designated as a Vermont Critical Care Paramedic service, the highest licensed skill level that the state recognizes. With our 14 full-time staff and several part-time staff we maintain two ALS level staffed ambulances 24/7, 365 days a year. From January 1, 2023, through November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, White River Valley Ambulance responded to 1,411 emergency calls and transfers.

Training in emergency medical response is also an important part of our mission. We are a regional American Heart Association Training Center, providing CPR and First Aid courses to community members across central Vermont. WRVA is proud to be celebrating 50 years of service in 2024, this would not be possible without support from our community partners like yourself.

Funding for WRVA comes from billed insurance and budget allocations from the towns we serve. Every town pays the same amount per capita. In 2024, the per capita amount will increase from \$72.00 to \$79.00 (increase of 9.72%). Town contributions pay for about 54% of the cost of ambulance activities. I, and the Board of Directors have tried to keep the cost increase to a minimum, however with inflation and an overall pay scale change across the profession; an increase in per capita is needed.

Looking back on 2023 and ahead to 2024, we are ever grateful for the numerous first responders and fire departments with whom we work with and who volunteer their time to help a neighbor in need. Your dedication and commitment to serve makes a difference in the lives of those who call for help. For that, we can never thank you enough. **3190 Pleasant St., Bethel, VT 05032 802-234-6800 [www.wrva.org](http://www.wrva.org)**

**Matthew Parrish,  
Executive Director**

<b>WRVA - 2024 BUDGET</b>					<b>PAGE 4A</b>
<b>DRAFT 1.0</b>					
<b>WHITE RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE: 2024 FUNDING REQUEST</b>					
	<b>2023 BUDGET</b>	<b>2023 EST. ACTUAL</b>	<b>2024 BUDGET</b>	<b>% CHANGE FROM 2023 BUDGET TO 2024 BUDGET</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>Total Runs</b>	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	
<b>Billable Runs</b>	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0%	No apparent basis to expect volume change
<b>NET REVENUE (net of town contributions)</b>	\$818,458	\$818,548	\$804,895	-1.7%	This decrease in revenue is due to, Ins companies not paying full cost of care, (57%) along with a decrease in transfer request from Gifford due to other services adding transfers to their services to help offset there budgets.
<b>Wages &amp; Salaries</b>	\$1,159,745	\$1,167,426	\$1,160,670	0.1%	Pay scale based on level of service and years at that level.
<b>Benefits</b>	\$236,601	\$208,873	\$183,747	-22.3%	Continued with VT BVBS for 2024. There is a 12.76% increase for 2024 with BCBS. The number of subscribers used was for the budget was 9, in 2023 the number of subscribers used was 13. This is why the figure is lower with the increase this year.
<b>W/C and Payroll Taxes</b>	\$146,624	\$154,473	\$150,907	2.9%	Largely a function of the increased payroll cost.
<b>Administrative Expense</b>	\$166,065	\$154,468	\$176,102	6.0%	Increase from Property & Liability ins, IT security increase, and other increases from inflation.
<b>Depreciation</b>	\$97,988	\$197,776	\$93,141	-4.9%	Depreciation for several expensive items was completed in 2022. No new depreciable equipment was placed in service in 2023.
<b>Other Expense</b>	\$197,312	\$179,565	\$158,362	-19.7%	The costs of of diesel and heating fuel have risen though some other expenses moderated.
<b>Non-income statement and non-cash items</b>	-\$238,362	-\$427,397	-\$195,365	-18.0%	This figure is lower in budget year 2023 due to the WRVA board voted to use funds from the reserves to help offset the per capita increase from payroll adjustment. WRVA used \$112,800 in 22/23 budget. We have also not added and funds to the equipment/ambulance fund for 3 budgets.
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$1,765,973	\$1,542,113	\$1,832,987	3.8%	
<b>CASH DEFICIT</b>	-\$947,515	-\$947,514	-\$1,028,092	8.5%	Difference between revenue received from insurers, Medicare, etc. and the cost to operate WRVA.
<b>TO BE BILLED TO TOWNS</b>	\$903,960	\$903,960	\$991,845		
<b>REMAINING DEFICIT</b>	-\$43,555	-\$43,554	-\$36,247		WRVA will plan to absorb the remaining deficit in order to hold the per capita increase to \$7.00.
<b>Total Service Population</b>	12,555.00	12,555.00	12,555.00	0.0%	2020 census
<b>PER CAPITA REQUEST TO FUND DEFICIT</b>	\$72.00	\$72.00	\$79.00	9.7%	A \$7.00 increase in the per capita request from 2023 to 2024

## **Emergency Management 2023**

Emergency Management is about communication, resources, and mobility. It is also about building connections. This year connections were forged with the Shelter Team, Selectboard, Two Rivers Ottaquechee, several area fire chiefs, WRVA (thanks for the ride) and Vermont Emergency Management (VEM).

This past year also involved a lot of catching up to speed. First step was taking the EM 101 course and receiving the basic Emergency Management certification. That completed, the next priority was to update our Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). This was done and sent back to the State in a timely manner.

Having an updated and properly filed LEMP qualified Rochester for an additional 11% in FEMA disaster reimbursement related to the flooding events we experienced just two months later in July 2023. It pays to be prepared.

The July flooding and local near disaster served as an excellent real life emergency training exercise. Suzuki Music Camp was in town that week. Accurate travel information needed to be conveyed and anxious parents needed reassurance. Mikaela Richardson (Emergency Management Co-Ordinator) worked alongside members of the Shelter Team to look after the real and potential needs of our many visitors that week. During the height of the storm area campgrounds were checked to insure no one was stranded by rising waters and the potential flooding of small bridges.

During the month following the flood I virtually attended numerous statewide situational briefings. These were very educational in understanding both the EM process, and the resources available when a major event exceeds a town's ability to deal with its aftermath on their own.

Communication is a big part of Emergency Management. Both the Shelter Team and EM are now able to access some of the extra radios maintained by the Fire Department. This greatly enhances our ability to receive and convey timely information during atypical times.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve our town as Emergency Management

Director. Larry Plesent

## **Shelter Team 2023**

The Rochester Shelter Team has had a busy year. We had a table at the Farmer's Market on the Park one Friday a month during the summer, with our mission to educate you, our residents, and keep you up to date with valuable information packets. Our volunteers staffed a booth at the Harvest Fair and distributed printed information to Fair goers.

We have a core group of 12 volunteers who are trained and ready to set up a shelter at the Rochester Elementary School should the need arise. Rochester residents are reminded to call your Select Board members and Town Clerk for help if you have a shelter emergency and cannot shelter in place.

Eight team members were CPR and AED trained this fall and two members are pursuing their training. Eleven members were trained in emergency Narcan use.

We thank you for your continued support. We would like to extend thanks to all town volunteers who work hard to carry on the good work of the Shelter Team and all of our community organizations.

Jan McCann and Leslie Straus, Shelter Team co-leaders

# Local Emergency Management Plan Municipal Adoption Form

## Town/City of Rochester

67 School Street Rochester,

The Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) must be (re)adopted annually, after town meeting day, and submitted to the appropriate Regional Planning Commission (RPC) by May 1st.

At a warned public meeting (regular selectboard/city council meeting), the municipality adopted the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) on the date shown at right.

At a warned public meeting (regular selectboard/city council meeting), the municipality adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) on the date shown at right.

If Vermont Emergency Management needs to contact municipal leaders to determine status and support requirements during an emergency, the Emergency Management Director (EMD) and two other local Points of Contact (POCs) who should have authoritative local information are listed at right.

☐ Mark this block if a readopted plan has no changes since the previous year.

Municipality	Rochester
LEMP Adoption Date	April 10, 2023
NIMS Adoption Date	April 22, 2019
EMD Name	Larry Plesent
Position	EMD
Primary Phone	802-349-5848
Alternate Phone	none
Email	larry@vtsoap.com
POC 2 Name	Doon Hinderyckx
Position	Selectboard Chair
Primary Phone	802-349-2042
Alternate Phone	802-767-4464
Email	doon@greenmountainbikes.com
POC 3 Name	Patricia Harvey
Position	selectboard member
Primary Phone	802-767-3280
Alternate Phone	none
Email	selectboardharvey@gmail.com

I hereby certify that the LEMP meets Vermont National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements and current LEMP Implementation Guidance as on page 2:

Signed\*

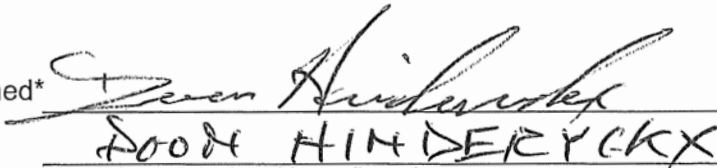


Larry Plesent

Printed Name/certifying individual must have taken, at a minimum, ICS402 or ICS100/IS-100 training

I hereby attest that the municipality has adopted NIMS and the LEMP as stated above:

Signed\*



Doon Hinderyckx

Printed Name, Selectboard / council member

Once completed, send adoption form (2 pages) and copy of Local Emergency Management Plan to Regional Planning Commission.

\*A typed name is acceptable as an electronic signature if it represents an act of that person in accordance with 9 V.S.A. § 278.

# Feeding the Valley Alliance

PO Box 285 | Rochester, VT, 05767

This past year, 2023, Feeding the Valley Alliance has continued to provide fresh food to local families. The mission of Feeding the Valley Alliance (FVA) is to:

- Help connect community members to resources to overcome food insecurity
- Help develop a robust local food system
- To serve as a resource for information and ideas about the local food system and food security
- To coordinate with other agencies and organizations devoted to food security and food sovereignty.

In cooperation with **Veggie-Van-Go, a program of the VT Food Bank**, and local farms, this past year we

- Held **12 distributions** during which we served **an average of 81 individuals** - **an average of 34 households each month** though our numbers have been increasing as of October.
- In 2023, we served **a total of 971 Valley residents** and **delivered 406 bags** of fresh food. Approximately **8,200 pounds of produce including Veggie Van Go produce and fresh local vegetables** and approximately **300 dozen fresh local eggs from Birdsong Farm**
- **54 frozen turkeys** at Thanksgiving with the help of the a generous local donor, **VT Food Bank**, the **Bethel Food Shelf**, and the **Village Grocery**, along with Thanksgiving dinner ingredients
- **55 Hams** in December with the help of a local donor and the Village Grocery

We continue to be involved with the Vermont Farm To Plate Network's State Food Security Plan which will be presented to the Legislature in January 2024, and with the Upper Valley Resilience Network through Vital Communities and the Working Communities Challenge grant. We, in turn, received a small grant (\$800) through that program to fund the purchase of local eggs and produce to supplement the Veggie Van Go bags.

Many thanks to the following local partners: **the Town of Rochester** for the use of their basement to house our freezer and refrigerator; **the Town of Hancock** for the use of their Town Hall for distributions; the **Bethel Food Shelf** for their continued support; our farm partners **Uphill Farm**, and **Birdsong Farm**, **The Village Grocer**, and of course **our volunteers**, who make this work possible.

In 2024, we would like to develop programming to address long term solutions to hunger and the associated stigma and would love to find a permanent location. No one should ever have to worry about their next meal. We will continue our monthly distributions and look forward to expanding our programming.

Our members participated in discussions surrounding the closure of Mac's. These community discussions brought forth many interesting ideas. Although the immediate issue of a grocery store for the community has been resolved, there is still room for local food system resilience work. We encourage Valley towns to include Food Security in their community planning. The Farm To Plate Network published a useful toolkit for including food system resilience in Town Plans. It is available here: <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/resources/local-planning-food-access>. If towns are interested in exploring this further, please contact Monica Collins.

We appreciate the support and participation from the Valley community during 2023. If you are interested in joining us or in donating to our work, please email us at [feedingthevalleyalliance@gmail.com](mailto:feedingthevalleyalliance@gmail.com), or reach out to one of our board members. You can also send donations to FVA, PO Box 285, Rochester VT 05767. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Thank you,

*Linda Anderson (Hancock) | Monica Collins (Hancock) | Linda Crosby (Rochester) | Anna Isaacson (Hancock) | Victor Ribauda (Rochester) | Deborah Sherrer (Rochester)*

# Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

**White River Junction Local Health Office | 118 Prospect Street, White River Junction, VT  
802-295-8820 | [AHS.VDHWhiteRiverJct@Vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHWhiteRiverJct@Vermont.gov)**

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The White River Junction Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Northern Windsor and Southern Orange counties.** Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit [HealthVermont.gov/local/white-river-junction](https://HealthVermont.gov/local/white-river-junction)



## Collaboration with Partners

The White River Junction (WRJ) staff works with over 30 diverse health care and social service organizations in the Greater Upper Valley Integrated Services Team (GUVIST). **GUVIST is making services and support for community members of all ages more efficient, effective, responsive and appropriate to the desires of those in need.** To learn more about this initiative, visit [uvpublichealth.org/guvist/](https://uvpublichealth.org/guvist/)



## Addressing Health Equity

Our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program helps pregnant people and families with children under age 5. We provide healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to community resources. Our office understands that not having transportation can make it difficult to get services. **Our office has the most access points in the state with our nutritionists hosting clinics at seven satellite sites.** If you would like to learn more visit [www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction/wic-white-river-junction](https://www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction/wic-white-river-junction)



## Planning For and Responding to Emergencies

Our Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Immunization Nurse, Epidemiologist and other staff have worked with the Upper Valley Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to help our communities. They have spent hundreds of hours **conducting COVID testing, administering COVID and Mpox vaccinations, investigating over 210 infectious disease cases and collecting kits for water testing during flood recovery.** Learn more about the MRC at [uvpublichealth.org/featured-partner-upper-valley-medical-reserve-corps/](https://uvpublichealth.org/featured-partner-upper-valley-medical-reserve-corps/)





## **ECFiber and the Town of Rochester**

Rochester is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide world-class fiber-optic based internet service to all on-grid homes and businesses in its member towns. The District consists of 31 member towns, and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber. The business added over 800 new customers despite critical labor shortages, and now serves over 8,500 customer locations via 1,700 miles of network, which, when fully built out, will bring fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) to about 32,000 premises over more than 2,000 miles network.

In June, ECFiber celebrated the completion of its original 23 town network when it activated its operation center in White River Junction. In August, the District was awarded a \$13 million construction grant that will support the first three or four stages of its \$30 million, nine stage, network completion plan. In November, its Series 2023A municipal revenue bond received a "BB" rating from Standard & Poor's Global Credit arm, a historic moment in US financial history: the first time a municipal revenue bond not backed by taxes, and not for a regulated utility or exclusive service territory, received a rating. This was extended to the six earlier bonds as well.

The ECFiber network is complete in our town. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber, and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged anything until we start service.

The District contracts with Great Works Internet (GWI) of Vermont to operate the business. The biggest challenges we face now are not funding, but rather finding enough folks to construct the networks – people who know how to operate bucket trucks, splice fiber while 40 feet above the ground, and be willing to work outside in difficult weather. ECFiber is actively participating in state and regional workforce development efforts. If you are or know of someone who may be interested in these well-paid jobs, please let us know!

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber, and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged anything until we start service.

John White, Rochester Representative to ECFiber  
802-767-3105 or at [zensmithvt@gmail.com](mailto:zensmithvt@gmail.com)

# Energy Coordinator's Report FY 2023-24

## **Resiliency Island**

A Resiliency Island is an electricity generator comprised of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, commercial battery storage, and controls. In the event of a loss of electric power in the village, the Resiliency Island would supply power for most of Rochester village from its battery storage and/or solar panels. Green Mountain Power (GMP) would also have the ability to tap the stored power in the batteries during periods of peak electrical demand to reduce the need to purchase more expensive peak power.

On December 5, 2023, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC) issued Certificates of Public Good (CPG), authorizing the installation and operation of a 1 megawatt (MW) solar electric generation facility and a 2 MW energy storage battery system in Rochester. The Resiliency Island will be located in the North Hollow Farm gravel quarry off Route 73. The array is designed to structurally provide access for cattle to graze under the PV panels. Construction of the Resiliency Island is in the pipeline for 2024.

## **GMP Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging**

GMP now has a fully operational electric vehicle (EV) charging station located in Rochester's Park and Ride on the east side of Route 100 across from the fire station. The charging station is equipped with four, Level 3 DC fast-chargers two on each pedestal and it can provide compatible vehicles with an 80% charge in 30-60 minutes by converting high voltage AC power to DC power for direct storage in EV batteries.

Each pedestal has one CCS Type 1 and one CHAdeMO plug. Tesla owners can use CCS Type 1 plugs with the appropriate Tesla adapter. Nissan and Mitsubishi EVs use CHAdeMO plugs while current and upcoming vehicles from US and European manufacturers have SAE CCS ports. Level 3 DC fast charging will be very useful to travelers passing through the valley, and the charger's location and use should result in increased commerce in the village for stores, lodging, and restaurants.

## **WindowDressers**

In 2023 the Valley Energy & Climate Action Committee (Quintown area) collaborated with energy committees in Randolph and Bethel to conduct a local *WindowDressers* campaign and Community Build at the Bethel Town Hall. WindowDressers, a non-profit from Maine, helps communities (in ME, NH, and VT) use their systems for marketing, measuring customer windows, assembling, and installing low cost to no cost, two-layer, interior storm window inserts assembled by volunteers at a local Community Build. Our White River Valley Community Build assembled a total of 245 storm window inserts for 39 households (in Rochester, Hancock, and Stockbridge 17 households received 134 inserts).

Savings vary depending on many factors, including the quality of the existing windows, the type of heating fuel used, fuel price, and heating system type. In a typical house, one medium 11 sq. ft. insert (30" x 52") may save an average of 8.5 gallons of heating oil (0.8 gallons/sq. ft.) every year, for an estimated savings of \$15 – \$43 per year. These storm inserts generally pay for themselves in two heating seasons or less and can vastly improve home comfort levels WindowDressers, is a three-year commitment. During 2024, this program will again be promoted and we look forward to helping more valley residents and businesses save energy and money through this volunteer community building effort.

Vermont's state and our Town Plan call on us to transform our society such that 90% of our energy is supplied by electricity derived from renewable sources by 2050 (90 by 50). Right now, money is available from the Federal government through the State but we must act quickly to attain the resources we need to make this transformation. This is a big lift for our little towns but it is one that when achieved will provide us greater comfort, health, safety, and affordability.

One function of an Energy Coordinator is to support local energy committees. The Valley Energy & Climate Action Committee (VECAC) welcomes members from Granville, Hancock, Rochester, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield. The VECAC has a small but very dedicated and amazing core. We need those who share concerns about climate change to become locally engaged. We need you!

We must significantly accelerate our response to climate change or as the author Kurt Vonnegut has said, 'We'll go down in history as the first society that wouldn't save itself because it wasn't cost effective.'

The VECAC has regular meetings on the second Thursday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 PM by ZOOM. To learn more about how you can help or how we can help you, please contact Jeff Gephart, Rochester's Energy Coordinator (phone: 802-767-3042 or email: [vtwise@together.net](mailto:vtwise@together.net)).

## **Housing Committee Report 2023**

The Rochester Housing Committee met 9 times this past year and hosted 3 events. The purpose of the Housing Committee is to provide information to the community regarding incentives for creating affordable housing and contact information for the appropriate agencies and experts.

We sponsored the “Hey Neighbor “event in March 2023 with the generous support of the Rochester Fire Department. There were 37 organizations represented by 68 people. Some organizations like the RVFD sprang into action to assist with set up and cleanup, which was greatly appreciated. Organizations had multiple neighbors pitching in over the 4-hour time period to present their resources. Overall, more than 200 neighbors participated in the event, visiting the tables, and checking out the community resources.

The Rochester Housing Committee hosted a D.I.Y. Home Creators panel on October 19, 2023. A dozen community members attended to hear from 2 people that have created housing in their communities and from Kevin Geiger, TRORC staff. The link to the Orca media presentation is on the town website.

The Housing Committee postponed the third event until January 31, 2024. This event will allow interested people to go table to table within a short timeframe to meet vendors providing resources for creating new housing in our community. Resources include help with planning and development of possible projects, local banks, energy efficiency management, state grants, planning commission members, contractors.

We are a group of volunteers, and our purpose is to simply get information out and point interested parties towards experts who can help them. We do not offer advice. Sarah Danly from White River Valley Consortium Working Communities Challenge Program Manager has been a tremendous resource in our group.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Matthews, Beth Kennett, Carolyn Cruikshank, Dean Mendell, Sandy Haas, Linda Anderson, Deb Moore, Sarah Danly

**White River Solid Waste Alliance**  
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

The Town of Royalton owns a 22-acre parcel of land on Waterman Road in Royalton which provides facilities for aggregation and shipment of municipal solid waste, recyclables, and a variety of Household Hazardous Waste Materials. The site also contains the now closed landfill which served area towns from 1970 to 1993. By contractual arrangement, other member towns also utilize the Waste Management Program: Barnard, Bethel, Granville, Hancock, Rochester, and Stockbridge.

In May 2016, the VT Department of Environmental Conservation approved the program's new "Solid Waste Implementation Plan" (SWIP) for the purpose of managing solid waste and recyclables in accordance with objectives of current local/state/national priorities. The new SWIP which began July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, will run Through June 2025.

Our facility operates under a license (or certification) which is renewed every 10 years. An application to renew was submitted to the Vermont Solid Waste Management Division in February 2014, and approval was issued May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The certification is valid until March 31, 2024.

From July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a total of 2,721.28 tons of solid waste and 321.02 tons of recycling were collected. The solid waste was collected at the Transfer Station "Tipping Floor". This material was loaded into trailers for shipment to an in-state lined landfill. Recycling was directed to various facilities for processing. Various special wastes are regularly collected in addition to the usual recyclables. These include paint, fluorescent bulbs, used motor oil, antifreeze, lead acid batteries and electronic waste. All fees vary depending on the material involved and the current expenses to the program for handling the materials. From February 2022 through December 2022, the Tipping Floor was closed for repair, so all solid waste was being shipped out in open top 30-yard containers. The Tipping Floor opened back up in January 2023 and the Transfer Station is back to full capacity.

Collection events for Household Hazardous Waste were held in April 2023 at the Royalton Transfer Station and in September 2023 at the Rochester Town Hall parking lot. A total of 198 families participated in the two events. These events provided a means for citizens of the member towns to safely dispose of materials, particularly those not normally taken at the facility such as pesticides, various cleaning compounds, acids, bases, contaminated fluids, etc. The events are open to all member towns at no cost for up to 10 pounds or 10 gallons of materials. Small Quantities of materials generated by businesses are also acceptable at collection events, but a fee corresponding to program costs is assessed on business participants and an appointment must be made in advance. There will be 2 events in 2024. One at the Royalton Transfer Station in April and one in Rochester in the Town Hall parking lot in September. This will allow access for towns not located near the Transfer Station.

Public Hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7-1 and Saturday 7-2

Facility Staff are onsite on Wednesday's (closed to the public) from 7-1 for operations and maintenance.

Information may be obtained during those hours by calling 802-763-2232

Web Address: [whiteriveralliancesolidwaste.org](http://whiteriveralliancesolidwaste.org)

Submission by John Leighton, White River Alliance/Facility Manager



## GREEN MOUNTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation (GMEDC) is one of twelve statewide Regional Development Corporations (RDCs), serving a 30-town region in Orange and northern Windsor counties. Our primary function is to develop economic vitality and prosperity consistent with the goals of the communities we serve.

In FY2023, dues from member towns contributed \$19,273 of our annual operating budget of \$220,183. Town dues are assessed at \$0.50/resident, as determined by population data from the VT Department of Health and the U.S. Census Bureau. Further operating revenue comes from business memberships and federal, state, and other funding sources.

***Your support helps provide client-specific economic development services free of charge and available to municipalities, new entrepreneurs, established and expanding businesses.*** Services include business development guidance, relocation support, and project development; for requests that are beyond our level of expertise, GMEDC has a ready referral network to meet client needs. Additionally, the RDCs work collectively throughout the legislative session to promote the needs and interests of the business community across the state. GMEDC and our local partners have assisted 100+ businesses and municipalities seeking additional information on economic development activities, local business projects, funding opportunities, legislative action and more.

FY2023 activities included:

- Supporting numerous funding applications for capital investment, brownfield assessment and redevelopment, project planning and pre-development, totaling **over \$5 million in funding to our service area.**
- Securing state funding to implement a third round of the successful small business technical assistance program, providing small grants and administrative support to match specific business needs with service providers.
- Leveraging a \$1.5 million Economic Development Administration partnership for the Randolph Innovation Hub to hire staff and rebrand as Cultivator: Where Community Collaborates, gathering community input to map the way forward.
- Continued support of the \$300,000 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Working Communities Challenge White River Valley Consortium project, working to improve housing opportunities in 14 towns in the White River Valley.
- Ongoing partnership with Orange County Parent and Child Center to develop a new, \$6 million childcare facility offering 88 new seats in the Randolph region.
- Closeout of \$500,000+ Environmental Protection Agency-funded brownfield clean-up of former Valley Motors site in Bethel.

On behalf of the GMEDC Board of Directors and all of our members, I would like to thank the Town of Rochester for your continued support and partnership. For further information, call us at (802) 295-3710 or visit our website at [www.gmedc.com](http://www.gmedc.com)

Erika C. Hoffman-Kiess, Executive Director

## **TRORC 2023 YEAR-END REPORT**

The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2023.

### **Technical Assistance on Planning Issues**

Our staff support your local officials by being a wealth of information on many subjects, enabling them to serve you better. We provide advice on zoning, capital budgeting, and preventing flood damage; review solar and cell tower projects; stay abreast of state and federal initiatives so that local government can take advantage of these; and have worked hard to address the region's housing crisis. The Municipal Technical Assistance Program has supported eligible towns in identifying project opportunities and funding sources to undertake those projects. TRORC staff have also assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies.

### **Economy and Public Health**

This year, TRORC supported the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid-19, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC also helps identify and clean contaminated parcels of land for reuse.

### **Emergency Management and Preparedness**

TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping to reduce future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they do happen. When disasters happen, we actively become part of the state and local long-term recovery process and have done so most recently with the July floods.

### **Energy/Climate Change**

TRORC assisted towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support member towns through assessing town buildings for energy conservation upgrades. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

### **Transportation**

TRORC also worked with towns to get funding to implement road improvement projects. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Rochester this past year, TRORC provided assistance on bylaw modernization to facilitate housing development. Staff also worked with the Town to complete the Local Emergency Management Plan. For transportation, staff assisted the town with a Better Roads grant to replace an undersized culvert on Bethel Mountain Road. TRORC also provided funding and technical assistance for the environmental assessment of two brownfields sites.

*We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director*

*William B. Emmons III, Chairperson, Pomfret*

## Vermont League of Cities and Towns

*Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government*

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

**Member Benefits** - All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 142 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. Staff responds to thousands of member questions and publishes guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2023, VLCT specialists provided government-specific finance training as well as resources and consultation that help Vermont's cities and towns comply with federal rules for receiving federal ARPA and infrastructure funding. Staff also provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to local officials.** The League provides training via webinars, classes at members' locations, and its annual member conference, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. In the wake of the 2023 floods, VLCT became a crucial information hub for local officials. VLCT's Equity Committee assists local officials in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their municipalities' decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal concerns are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped cities and towns access additional resources to respond to the pandemic, repair roads and bridges, enact cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2023 includes securing \$3 million for towns to expand their capacity to access state and federal grants through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, fighting to balance changes to local zoning laws with state land use laws to facilitate housing construction, elevating awareness of the financial difficulties rural emergency medical services face, amplifying municipal concerns as the Legislature contemplates moving toward a state-led reappraisal system, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- **Access to insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also offers members group rates on important benefits for municipal employees: life, disability, dental, and vision insurance. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.

Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions and to access resources to help them carry out the important work of local government. **To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit [vlct.org](https://vlct.org).** Recent audited financial statements are available at [vlct.org/AuditReports](https://vlct.org/AuditReports).



## **Windsor County Courthouse**

The County has experienced some changes this year, the first one is the bond that the county taxpayers had approved for the Court House renovation has been paid off as of November 01, 2023. Thank you to all the taxpayers for supporting this renovation.

Assistant Judge Ellen Terie decided not to run for re-election last year and retired as of January 31, 2023. Assistant Judge Terie was a valued member of the county, and we certainly thank her for the 8 years she served Windsor County residents.

We also thank Assistant Judge Michael Ricci, who was also a valued member of the county and served the Windsor County residents for almost 2 years after being appointed by Governor Scott.

Our Deputy Clerk, Dianne Bumps decided to retire from her county position in May of 2023. We thank Dianne for her dedication during her 5 years with Windsor County.

The County Building Superintendent, Bruce Page, who has taken care of both county building since July of 2017 decided to retire from his county position at the end of November 2023. We thank Bruce for all his dedication and hard work.

We thank Mike Chamberlain for the many years he served Windsor County as Sheriff. We wish him well and hope he is enjoying himself.

We wish them all well in their new adventures!

Windsor County residents elected Ryan Palmer as the County Sheriff. Sheriff Palmer has been approaching his new responsibility with a lot of enthusiasm.

Windsor County residents elected two (2) new Assistant Judges, Alison Johannensen and David Singer who assumed office as of February 01, 2023. We welcome both of the assistant judges.

The Assistant Judges are working hard on securing an energy efficiency grant to be used to replace the old boiler in the county building. If the county is successful in securing the grant, we hope the boiler can be replaced within the next year.

The Windsor County Final Budget Hearing is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2024 at the County Building in Woodstock, Vermont at 5:00 P.M.

## **Windsor County Sheriff's Department Report**

The Windsor County Sheriff's Department would like to thank the town residents for providing the department the opportunity to serve the Town of Rochester. Sheriff Ryan Palmer assumed the position as Windsor County Sheriff on February 01, 2023. Since taking office, Sheriff Palmer has increased the department manpower to twenty three deputies.

The department is transitioning to a full service department. Deputy training and transparency were two of the hallmarks of Sheriff Palmer's administration. Please stop and converse with our deputies that you may see while they are on patrol. Rochester citizens are a primary source of valuable information as to ongoing activities in the town. Information that the deputies receive from you are a major source of valuable intelligence in keeping Rochester citizens safe.

During this holiday season, please remain vigilant and stay safe when traveling on Vermont highways. Thanks for having the Windsor County Sheriff's Department provide your Law Enforcement Needs.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Battista-Lieutenant  
Windsor County Sheriff

## TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

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

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

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

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

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

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP      Executive Director: VVSA

## Green Mountain National Forest

### Town Meeting Report

The Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depends heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors, and thanks you and your community for your support and interest in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000-acre GMNF. Receiving several million outdoor recreation enthusiast visits annually, these visitors seek enjoyment in a natural setting while providing a benefit to our local economies. The GMNF is one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management to meet the diverse needs of all. We have worked hard to support new opportunities on the National Forest that benefit the people and communities we serve.

**Our New Office** ~ The new Forest Supervisor's Headquarters is located at 4387 U.S. Route 4 East in Mendon, VT! Our visitor center is staffed and open to the public over the winter months on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. In the spring, we will be open Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. The main office number is (802) 747-6700 (press 9) to search our employee directory, or to make an appointment with a member of our staff.

**Land Acquisition** ~ In March 2023 the GMNF acquired 2,744 acres in Mendon, Chittenden, and Killington through the Rolston Rest acquisition. The addition of these public lands was made possible with assistance from The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund, and our local communities. The Forest is beginning the process of its first Small Tracts Act (STA) case located in Winhall. The STA was enacted to help the Forest Service resolve land disputes and boundary management problems for parcels that generally are small in size. In 2020, the Act was amended to include the authority to sell, exchange, or interchange small parcels of land that are 40 acres or less, and that are physically isolated, inaccessible, or lack National Forest character.

**Heritage Program** ~ Heritage completed review for 53 projects. 88 recorded or updated archaeological sites were in Goshen and Rochester. The Heritage program also surveyed over 2,000 acres, completed three Determinations of Eligibilities for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and one Memorandum of Agreement. GMNF Archaeologist, Sarah Skinner, gave a presentation to the Chittenden Historical Society on the history within the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project (IRP) area.

**Road & Facility Construction & Maintenance** ~ In cooperation with federal, state, and local governments, private contractors, and non-profit organizations, the GMNF Engineering staff repaired and maintained many roads, bridges, and other facilities throughout the Forest. Some highlights are as follows:

**Forest Road Cooperative Aid to Towns** ~ The GMNF completed important road improvement and maintenance projects in Goshen, improved access to the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area. Construction of the West Hill Road Bridge in Rochester was completed through a partnership between the town of Rochester, Forest Service, FHWA Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, and the Vermont AOT. Hancock, in cooperation with the GMNF, was selected for a grant from FHWA Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division through their Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) which will replace a bridge that accesses both the Texas Falls recreation area and improve access to the GMNF.

**Forest Road Improvement & Maintenance Projects** ~ The GMNF improved National Forest System roads in Chittenden, Goshen, Granville, Hancock, and Rochester. Improvements included replacement of culverts and gates, stabilization of embankments, repairing storm damage, and resurfacing of roads.

**Recreation Programs** ~ The GMNF provides a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities, connecting people with nature. Outdoor recreation is valued as both an important part of Vermont's economy and a crucial component of physical and mental well-being. The Forest Service recreation program seeks to identify and understand people's connections and barriers to the outdoors to ensure the GMNF has a place for everyone to feel welcome. It encourages participation in outdoor recreational activities and asks users to recreate responsibly by packing out all trash you bring in, adhering to site or trail closures, and seeking alternative locations when encountering packed parking lots or sites.

**Forest-wide Activity** ~ We have a united constituency among our partners, local communities, and interested publics to support and maintain outdoor recreation opportunities. By joining together federal land-management agencies, state agencies, local communities, nongovernmental organizations, volunteers, and partners, we can address shared issues and align to provide services requested by the public. One example is the successful effort to secure money in Congressionally Directed Spending dollars for accessible upgrades to be completed over the next several years at Texas Falls (Hancock). The "Local Efforts" noted below highlight 2023 Recreation and Trail Program successes in acknowledgement of the outstanding collaboration between Forest Service employees, partner organizations, volunteers, state and local government representatives, and local businesses. Forest-wide efforts include allocating \$2.2 million to 41 partner agreements with local community, government, and non-profit organizations. Partner contributions totaled over \$440,000 in these agreements, enhancing the Forest Service's capacity to meet our mission and engage new partners. Enhanced amenities include scan and pay QR codes, an automated fee machine, and expanded options for paying entry fees at select sites. Over \$135,000 in fee collections in 2023 will be used towards future improvements, such as new toilets.

**Local Efforts** ~ Ridgeline Outdoor Collective de-brushed backcountry areas near Brandon Gap, while the Forest Service worked with partner organizations to complete the Chitty Bang Bang accessible trail near Chittenden Brook Campground and sections of Velomont called Perspiration and Swan Dive. Forest Service employees repaired trail bridges on the Chittenden Brook Trail system and performed de-brushing of portions of the trail network.

Hancock: Installed new picnic grills at the Texas Falls picnic area and refurbished picnic tables. Resealed the Texas Falls Observation Site and the picnic pavilion parking lots. Installed a new interpretive sign at Hancock Overlook.

Pittsfield: With Ridgeline Outdoor Collective reconstructed portions of the Contest Trail and with a VAST partner to completed work on Bloodroot Gap Trail, moved a gate closer to Upper Michigan Road, replaced 5 culverts.

**Rochester:** Completed small relocations of the Atlas Trail and Bean's Bridge to the Tunnel Ridge section of the Velomont and Swan's Mill Trail. Installed a new interpretive sign at Liberty Hill Trailhead and repaired the vandalized trailhead kiosk.

**Wilderness** ~ For the second year visitor use has increased in the eight designated Wildernesses on the GMNF, meeting the National Standard for Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP) and preserving Wilderness character since a new monitoring protocol was adopted in 2015. WSP places heightened emphasis on the interdisciplinary responsibilities of wilderness stewardship and potential linkages with other program areas

**Breadloaf Wilderness** located in Granville, Hancock, Lincoln, Ripton, and Warren. Trail maintenance and improvements were conducted along the Long Trail and side trails. Dispersed recreation sites/campsites were monitored for impacts to protect natural resources while maintaining opportunities for recreation. Backcountry skiing activity has been monitored and some illegal tree cutting to improve skiing lines has been observed.

**Joseph Battell Wilderness** located in Chittenden, Goshen, Hancock, Ripton, and Rochester. Trail maintenance and improvements were conducted along the AT/LT and side trails. Dispersed recreation sites/campsites were monitored for impacts to protect natural resources while maintaining opportunities for recreation. The Great Cliffs on Mount Horrid were monitored to protect peregrine falcons during the nesting season.

**Special Uses ~ Recreation** ~ In 2023 there were 40 active recreation special use permits, including isolated cabins, huts, outfitters and guides, recreation events and ski areas. 24 Outfitters and Guides operated on the Forest, providing recreational experiences to those who may not be comfortable or experienced enough to seek those experiences on their own, and four endurance running events occurred. 95% of the fees collected from permits issued under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act return to the National Forest, to be used to improve the Special Uses Permit program.

**Lands** ~ There were 111 active Land Special Use Permits on GMFL, including private right of ways, power and telephone lines, water systems, communication sites and maple tapping. 7 applications were processed to a decision. As required by Congress the land use fees paid by special use holders are re-distributed to the states/counties where the special use is authorized for essential services, roads, schools, wildfire protection plans, and emergency services.

**Botany Program** ~ Botanical inventory for rare plants and/or non-native invasive plants was completed in support of the following. As a result of inventory, new Regional Forester Sensitive Species (RFSS) occurrences were detected for round-leaved orchis, ginseng and large yellow lady's-slipper. When rare plants not currently designated as RFSS are found on the Forest, they are evaluated for future inclusion on the RFSS list. A 3-week project aimed at treating large-scale non-native invasive plant (NNIP) infestations was achieved in the Upper White River watershed and Robinson Integrated Resource Project timber sale area as follows: In Rochester (27 acres) of wild chervil and wild parsnip infestations were manually removed, and (0.1 acres) of wild chervil was treated with herbicide. In Hancock (25 acres) of wild chervil was manually removed.

**Town of Warren Japanese Knotweed Project:** In July, a partnership designed to manage Japanese knotweed infestations on Forest Service lands within the Town of Warren (and on adjacent lands in the Granville Gulf at the tops of the Mad River watershed), was initiated. A partnership collectively removed knotweed from 32 sites in Warren (0.2 acres).

A new **Pollinator Pathways** initiative was developed to facilitate local dialogue about the global pollinator crisis. Presentations that explained the crisis, its ecological ramifications, and the concept of creating "pollinator pathways", were delivered in Rochester. Resources about pollinator decline and native plant lists for creating pollinator gardens were offered and posted online for public use. Rochester: 0.2 acres of Japanese barberry were manually removed from the Sap Boiler Trail. Staff and students engaged in discussion about how land management, wildlife and conservation issues can be impacted by invasive species.

**Forest Vegetation Management** ~ Accomplishments for calendar year 2023 included:

- Awarded timber sale contracts in Hancock and Pittsfield.
- Prepared timber sales in Pittsfield and Rochester to be offered in 2024-25. These sales are associated with the Robinson Integrated Resource Project.
- Prepared sites for forest regeneration by removing damaged or diseased trees in Hancock and Rochester.
- Planted trees in Hancock and Rochester to restore riparian areas and to reforest plantations of non-native tree species following harvest.
- Provided maple tapping opportunities to six permit and contract holders.
- Awarded a timber sale contract and prepared 2 additional sales as part of the Robinson Integrated Resource Project, which includes restoration activities and timber harvest on 10,000 acres in Rochester, Hancock, Goshen, Pittsfield and Chittenden.
- Analyzed potential vegetation management activities in support of the planned Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project in the towns of Chittenden, Mendon, Killington, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Goshen, Brandon, and Pittsford.
- Sold permits for the collection of firewood, wild apples, and fungi.
- Treated ash trees at 24 locations to make those trees more resilient to emerald ash borer infestation. Survival of treated trees will conserve genetic diversity of local populations, contribute to genetic diversity across the landscape, and provide a seed source for future restoration efforts.
- Continued work restoring native trees (including butternut, American chestnut and beech) with research partners. A white oak planting was established to support white oak genetics research. This planting will begin as a scientific study and transition to a seed orchard over time.
- Cooperated with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and Middlebury College in the maintenance of Butternut Seed Orchards in Brandon and Middlebury. Seedlings were cultured from disease resistant trees found on state, private, and National Forest locations and were cross pollinated to further research and efforts to develop disease resistance.

**Environmental Planning** ~ Forest staff completed 21 site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision and analysis documents for resource projects designed to implement the GMNF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). Although not a completed decision, a major highlight includes the near completion of the preliminary environmental assessment for Telephone Gap Integrated Resource. First initiated in 2019 with field surveys and public input, the proposed action is designed to change the existing conditions within the project area to meet Forest Plan goals, objectives, and desired future conditions of forest resources. The preliminary environmental assessment addresses public concerns and is expected to be released for public review and comments in mid-2024.

Other highlights include:

- Ash Treatment – Emerald Ash Borer Project -- control of emerald ash borer with the use of insecticide (*emamectin benzoate*) in ash trees at 14 separate sites across 36 separate stands to make those trees more resilient to infestation, conserve genetic diversity and maintain a seed source for future ash regeneration. The sites are located across the Forest within multiple towns totaling 1,361 acres.
- Bear Brook Winter Parking Lot Construction Project -- renovation of the former Bear Brook Picnic Ground parking area in Rochester to provide parking for users of the Brandon Gap Backcountry Ski Zones and to address safety concerns with existing parking areas along VT Route 73. Texas Falls Observation Site Renovation Project - renovations at the Texas Falls Observation Site in Hancock including observation platforms, fully accessible trails, a bridge, and benches.
- Multiple special use permits issued for use of National Forest System lands primarily for various recreation events and outfitter guide operations across the Forest.

**Fisheries Improvement** ~ Forest staff monitored fish populations throughout the GMNF. This monitoring is part of a long-term data collection effort to understand fish population trends on the Forest. Streams in Rochester were sampled during the 2023 field season. The Forest maintains a network of water temperature monitoring sites in the Rochester/Middlebury and Manchester Ranger Districts. The Forest Service continued work with partners on identifying and eliminating barriers to aquatic organism passage. These projects restore connectivity to important aquatic habitat and provide infrastructure resilience to flooding. Adding large wood material improves habitat conditions for aquatic organisms and restores stream processes. Riparian planting occurred at sites on the GMNF to help restore aquatic habitat. The Forest assisted the White River Partnership, and CorpThat, in Rochester, and Stockbridge. The GMNF, in cooperation with the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife, continued the aerial stocking of brook trout to high elevation ponds. This stocking provides a unique fishing opportunity.

**Wildlife Habitat Improvement & Monitoring** ~ Wildlife habitat was improved and maintained through maintenance of upland openings on the Forest, maintained by mowing in Granville, Hancock, Rochester, Stockbridge, and Barnard. In addition, apple trees, which provide high-value wildlife food, were “released” by cutting competing vegetation in old orchards in Rochester and Pittsfield. Songbird surveys using new recording technology were conducted in wetlands associated with future chop-and-drop treatments and paired uplands. Peregrine falcon nest sites on or near the GMNF in Rochester, Salisbury, Stockbridge, and Wallingford continue to be monitored, and closures to protect sensitive nesting habitat continue seasonally from March 15<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> each year at all sites except Wallingford. The peregrine falcon was removed from the federal list of endangered and threatened species in 1999 and the VT State list of endangered species in the spring of 2005; however, the species remains on the Regional Forester Sensitive Species list. In partnership with the GMNF and VT Fish & Wildlife Department, a 2-year study on the effects of habitat, density, and climate on moose and winter tick ecology in the northeastern U.S. was developed. The primary objectives are to develop and assess approaches for monitoring moose and winter ticks in the northeastern U.S. Secondary objectives will focus on 1) improving data management and workflow, 2) further refining the camera method to collect climate and ecological data, and 3) identifying the extent to which climate, habitat availability, and density-dependence influence moose-tick dynamics. Cameras and snow stakes were placed across the Forest which ties to a greater camera array stretching from New York to Maine under the auspices of NEWMN (Northeast Wildlife Monitoring Network). Additionally, the Vermont-based NEWMN group along with the Ruffed Grouse Society received a grant from the FEMC (Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative) to expand on the original moose study by deploying ARU’s (Autonomous Recording Units) to understand multi-species response to forest change, and to support long term comprehensive multi-species monitoring needs.

**Soil/Water Monitoring** ~ For much of 2023, the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests have been without a permanent soil scientist. A temporary soil scientist position was filled for the summer months, and assisted with moving the Telephone Gap environmental analysis forward, assisted other programs with soil condition verification, and worked collaboratively to better quantify long-term impacts to soils from timber harvest activities on the GMNF. Our Soil Program also hired two college students via the Pathways Internship Program who will be invited back to complete their internship during their summers and after graduation. Upon completion of internship requirements, they will have the opportunity to be converted to permanent seasonal soil technicians. The interns benefitted from learning more about the work the Forest Service does by spending time in the field with our silviculture, heritage, engineering, and other programs. An agreement was funded and renewed with the VT Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation to partner in monitoring water quality around the Forest to track long term trends as well as potential impacts from permitted forest uses. Under this agreement, the State monitored physical and chemical parameters (e.g., temperature, pH, metals, etc.) as well biological parameters (e.g., macroinvertebrates) in Rochester (Bingo Brook and Smith Brook). The Forest provided additional fish monitoring at these sites. Once these water quality data are approved by the state, they are added to the Vermont Integrated Watershed Information System, an online database that allows for public review of water quality data around the state.

**Research & Inventory Activities**~The following research and inventory were approved and conducted:

- A team from USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research conducted stream-transect dipnet surveys in a study of stream salamanders. Numerous species were found. Data will be used to develop Dynamic Probabilistic Species Distribution Maps.
- Researchers with Hexagon Bio, Inc. continued research on biodiversity of fungi across the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests by collecting soil samples to study genetic diversity of the fungal communities on sites throughout the GMNF.
- The GMNF wildlife team is collaborating with Vermont Center for EcoStudies on the Second Vermont Butterfly Atlas (VBA2), a five-year survey of Vermont's butterfly communities. GMNF adopted several survey blocks, hosting staff training on VBA2 protocol. Butterfly Surveys were in Hancock and Rochester.
- A team from Northern Research Station is studying the effects of climate and pollution on ash growth in VT. The team collected tree cores from ash trees in Goshen to establish historical climate-growth relations.
- A GMNF interdisciplinary team conducted fire history investigations in Middlebury and Salisbury. Field work documented fire scars, fire-adapted natural communities, potential sites for paleo-ecology charcoal coring, and sample extraction for later tree ring analysis.
- The Vermont Center for EcoStudies conducted an inventory of insects at the candidate Research Natural Area of Blue Ridge Fen in Chittenden, surveying moth communities and ground beetles to contribute to our understanding of this unique natural community. 169 unique taxa were recorded.

### **Wildfire & Prescribed Fire Activities ~ Prescribed Fire**

Fire management personnel on the GMNF had a successful and active prescribed fire season. The GMNF Fire program collaborated with Job Corp Students to provide training opportunities and accomplish GMNF prescribed fire objectives which were focused on hazardous fuel reduction in the Forest, improving wildlife habitat, stimulating oak regeneration, and reinvigorating blueberry patches. Prescribed burns were at Lyons Bridge Meadow in Rochester and Rob Ford Upper and Middle Meadows in Granville.

### **Public Outreach / Conservation Education**

Employees of the GMNF spend time each year at local and state-wide fairs. This is a fun and refreshing way for staff to be out and about with members of the community in full force. These venues are wonderful opportunities for us to discuss GMNF related issues with our partners and gather information from the people that we interact with. In August, GMNF staff and the [Urban Connections program](#) continued their relationship with patients and staff at Boston Children's Hospital by hosting our annual Forest Service Bingo game with Smokey Bear. Kids played in person and remotely from their hospital rooms in Boston while our staff led the event. Forest Service employees provided clues for things that you might find in the forest, and players marked them on their bingo cards. Winners were treated to their choice of Smokey Bear items. In addition, we offered our in person and remote *Skins & Skulls* interpretive program which has been a big hit with the patients at the hospital. These special events were made possible by Seacrest Studios, which broadcasts a weekly bingo game at Boston Children's.

We are open to working with local towns and organizations that hold events that Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and our staff can be a part of. This fall we launched our "[Fire in Our Forests](#)" program, introducing over school age kids to northeast fire ecology and differentiating between harmful wildfires and helpful prescribed fires. The "Fire in Our Forests" team intends to be back in classrooms every October, and they've started brainstorming changes for next year. Teachers can reach out to their local Ranger District to be added to the fun. The Vermont Envirothon helps students focus on Vermont's environmental issues related to forestry, wildlife, soils, and water resources through real-world learning in a teamwork environment. Thanks to the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts for coordinating this important program and the many agencies and natural resource and conservation partner organizations that work hard to make the Vermont Envirothon possible. We hope to again offer new and exciting educational opportunities and guided hikes this year at Branbury State Park and in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area.

You can also visit us and learn more about the GMNF at our website online: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl>. Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenMountainFingerLakesNF/> and follow us on X: [https://twitter.com/gmfl\\_nfs](https://twitter.com/gmfl_nfs)

<b>Martina Barnes</b> District Ranger, South Half -- Manchester Ranger District 802-362-2307	<b>Christopher Mattrick</b> District Ranger, North Half -- Rochester & Middlebury Ranger Districts 802-767-4261
<b>/s/ John A. Sinclair; January 8, 2024</b>	
<b>JOHN A. SINCLAIR</b> <b>Forest Supervisor</b> Mendon -- Supervisor's Office 802-747-6700	
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.	



## **Rochester Historical Society**

We would like to give you an update on the progress of installing a monument at the entrance to Woodlawn Cemetery to recognize and honor those members of the Armed Services from Rochester who are or who have served the United States of America since World War II.

Fundraising continues with donations received from individuals and the returnable bottles and cans left at Rochester's Saturday morning trash and recycling day at the Town Office parking lot. The actual monument of Rochester verde antique is a gift to Rochester from the Fabboli family who own Vermont Verde Antique of Rochester and Barre. The strength of Verde Antique symbolizes the many service members who grew up in our Valley and the Green Mountains. Our monument has been cut into the shape of Vermont and appropriate lettering has been engraved. An ADA patio has been designed; pavers and an installer have been selected. A flagpole has been donated and ground preparation is awaiting workable weather. We're hoping for the actual installation and dedication to take place around Memorial Day, 2024. We are grateful to those individuals who have made personal contributions to the project, and all who weekly contribute their returnable bottles and cans.

We hope for your continued enthusiasm and invite you to join with us in making this project a reality with your monetary contribution which can be sent to Rochester Historical Society, PO Box 428, Rochester, VT 05767. Questions you might have can be directed to members of the Rochester Historical Society at [admin@rochesterhistorical.org](mailto:admin@rochesterhistorical.org).

Thank you to all who continue to donate Rochester photographs and artifacts and purchase our history book, greeting cards and prints. After a 4-year absence from the Museum on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Library, we are planning to re-open this spring with new exhibits. We are also grateful for an anonymous donation given through the Vermont Community Foundation.

We would be delighted to have you join the RHS membership (\$10.00 annually), and become actively involved with Rochester's long and interesting heritage. For information, visit our website, [www.rochesterhistorical.org](http://www.rochesterhistorical.org), or write to the Rochester Historical Society, POB 428, Rochester, VT 05767.





PO Box 86 • 38 Main Street • Rochester, Vermont 05767 • (802) 767-5021

[piercehallcommunitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:piercehallcommunitycenter@gmail.com)



## 2023 TOWN REPORT

We feel honored, blessed, and do not take for granted the support of the Rochester community and the other valley towns we serve.

As activities increased in 2023, Pierce Hall saw a year of fundraisers (Park House and Granville Fire Department 1st responders), private parties, meetings (Great Hawk Owner's Association, Women's International League for Peace, Gifford Listening Tour, Ridgeline Outdoor Collective [ROC]), a movie premiere, Red Cross blood drives, Green Mountain Suzuki camp and WRVP performing arts camp classes, and a memorial reception. We love seeing our beautiful auditorium and balcony space filled with people of all ages gathering together in fellowship and learning, in remembrance of important and beloved community members, and in planning for the future.

Pierce Hall's own hosted events included the summer Ice Cream Social and Historic Car Show; the 4th of July 5K walk/run, (jointly with the ROC); the 4th of July Chicken BBQ, serving up 180 meals; our community Halloween party; and co-sponsorship of the Rochester Farmer's Market and Exchange Winter Market.

Pierce Hall is also the rain site for the Rochester Farmer's Market as well as the town's Summer Concert series on the park. It's wonderful to collaborate with other organizations to help support these events. Our many community resources strengthen each other—we are even more successful together.

2023 also marked another wonderful contingency of members taking advantage of our Fitness Center's fully equipped gym and yoga/exercise/dance studio. The studio is currently offering three different yoga classes by Charles Martley, Alexis Houston, and Sara Martire; aerobics by Muffie Harvey; and a 70" smart TV in the studio for members to stream other fitness options. We are always on the lookout for more teachers to offer classes, so please spread the word. Fitness Center members can choose 1-month, 3-month, or 12-month memberships or our 10-day Daily Usage contract—all with key fob access 6 days a week. We give enormous thanks to our volunteer staff that keeps the center up and running and sparkling clean: Janet Brown, Denise Chapin, Becky Donnet, Bruce Flewelling, Muffie Harvey, and Ross Parker.

Restoration work at the hall also continues. This year's focus has been the windows of our auditorium and the balcony, helping us keep the drafts out and hold the heat in the building, while returning the windows to their original historic state.

We remain proud to provide a physical space where good health and fitness, creative arts and learning, good times and fellowship, and the joy of being in community can happen. We give our heartfelt thanks for your continuing moral and financial support, and we look forward to future times when we will gather together in Pierce Hall in 2024!

### The 2023 Board of Directors

President Jeanie Levitan; VPs: Bruce Flewelling and Frank Rea; Treasurer and Rental Manager Becky Donnet;  
Directors Janet Brown, Ross Parker, Sandy Pierce, Hannah Rice, and Nancy Sanz

### with supporting team members

Jeff Brown, Denise Chapin, Norm Christiansen, Muffie Harvey, Mette Rea, and Lesley Straus





December 2023

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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16 Park Row  
Rochester, VT 05767

Follow PH



# Annual Fund Drive

## Mission Accomplished?

### PARK HOUSE MISSION STATEMENT

To provide and operate a congregate home in our 5-town area for seniors and other qualifying adults where they can live independently with dignity in a safe, pleasant, and positive environment. Park House strives to offer residents a vibrant atmosphere where they can be engaged with their families and community. The staff of Park House endeavors to maintain full occupancy in order to be fiscally robust and offer opportunities for a variety of social interactions for the residents.

We're working at it! Park House is on a path of continuous quality improvement.

Our residents include both homebodies and out-and-abouters. Each private room is furnished and decorated by its own unique occupant. Folks can take part in our many in-house activities. Exercise sessions, knitting classes, bingo competitions name just a few. One of our fun excursions was lunch at Lawson's in Waitsfield - where we received a check for \$15,000. As a result, we have visions of kitchen renovations to benefit both residents and staff.

Resident meetings are well attended and provide a forum for information and idea sharing. Our ever popular mocktail parties attract family and other community members. Watch for the next mocktail date and join us!

Our tiny staff is big on productivity. Our house is appealing. Kitchen wizardry abounds. Lolly, our director, keeps countless wheels in motion.

This coming year, new windows will add warmth and fuel efficiency. New doors will enhance safety. At this writing, 15 of our 16 rooms are occupied. The other is getting spiffed up for our next resident. Yes, we have a waiting list!

Our hands-on board members might be spotted preparing a meal, plugging a late night leak, or pulling weeds from our gardens. We plan. We fund raise. We invest.

We can't do this without you. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation, we stay afloat only with your contributions, big and small. Please help us keep our Mission moving forward.

Sincerest thanks for your support,

Nancy Vadnais  
President, Board of Trustees

*P.S. Please give as generously as you are able – your contribution is tax deductible. Donations can be made by mailed check or made by credit card through our website, [www.parkhousevt.org](http://www.parkhousevt.org).*

*Rochester Community Care Home, Inc. (Park House) is recognized as a 501 (c) corporation under the Internal Revenue Code. Our Federal ID number is 22-2672836)*

**RHS REPURPOSING PROJECT 2023 Town Report**  
Submitted by Kathryn Schenkman and Vic Ribaud

Below is a listing that highlights the RHS Repurposing Committee's progress in 2023:

**Environmental Assessment (BRELLA) Update:** Phase 1 of the BRELLA assessment was completed in March and a report provided to the Town. In May, the project was awarded \$32,000 in funding for a Phase II site investigation from the Dept. Economic Conservation (DEC), with funding from the EPA that required a Site Specific Quality Assurance Project Plan (SSQUAPP). The scope of work was submitted by contractor VHB to DEC and approved. Phase II work of testing and sampling began in September, and a report will be available on completion. To date we have received a total of \$48,377 in BRELLA funding.

**Removal of HS Underground Fuel Tank:** In July, Superintendant Jamie Kinnarney met with Committee members, Sarah Wraight of Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC), and RSUD Facility Adviser Lyall Smith to discuss alternatives to the cost prohibitive \$175,000 quotes for installing an interim above ground exterior fuel tank. The high cost is due to the need for a large double walled tank with sensors built on a concrete pad, and the need for a heater for an above ground oil line to building. Everyone agreed to the impracticality of this investment, which would likely be temporary, as we do not expect to be heating the repurposed building primarily with oil.

Sarah Wraight advised that if the underground tank currently in use is not removed now, and the sub-tank soil not examined by the environmental consultants, then the state could issue a "Certificate of Completion" with an exclusion of possible tank leakage. She confirmed that the state determined TRORC can use their funds to cover the cost of tank removal at this time, but could not guarantee these funds will be available at a later date when the project is ready to remove the tank.

If the underground tank removal is delayed until such time as a new heating system is installed, and oil is found to have leaked from the HS tank, the state will force the owner to clean it up. Therefore the current or any future property owner would be liable for cleanup of oil. Therefore, if the Town acquires the HS building, a clause in the purchase and sale agreement is needed that RSUD would be responsible for tank removal and any required cleanup. Kinnarney agreed that the RSUD would assume that responsibility, stating 3 underground tanks were removed from school properties in the last year, including the Rochester Elementary School, with no oil leakage found.

The Rochester SB and the RSUD were informed and agreed to Kinnarney's request that Phase 2 soil examination proceed without the installation of an interim above ground oil tank; that removal of the underground tank currently in use will be delayed until a new heating system is in place, and RSUD will assume the cost of the eventual tank removal, and liability for any potential site clean up.

**Floodway resolved/Floodplain mitigation update:** The location of the property in the floodway has been resolved by a boundary adjustment; and an approved waiver obtained for any wastewater permit for the boundary adjustment. Dubois & King engineer Andy Hoak submitted floodplain mitigation design proposals, paid for with remaining funds from our original \$50,000 VT Community Development Board (VCDB) planning grant. In September, Committee members met with Jamie Kinnarney and Andrew Hoak with a consensus on option 3 of the submitted proposals. RSUD approved covering the entire cost. Kinnarney expects the installation work will be completed by January 2024.

**HS Winter Heat Drive:** In September 2022 the Repurposing Committee launched a RHS winter heat fundraising drive that by April 2023 raised \$12,426, for a total amount of \$27,436 in raised heat funds. The fundraising drive hosted numerous events including: tables at Harvest Fair and the PHCC Winter Market, an all-day Holiday Jumble at the Hancock Town Hall, a WRVP benefit variety show entitled "*Turn Up the Heat*," and letters of appeal. Committee members have paid for the purchase and installation of heat sensors that will help to monitor and conserve energy during the winter months.

**Establishment of nonprofit entity:** In June, members of the Committee participated in a meeting with VT Law School (VLS) faculty via the VLS Community Navigator Pilot Project on the incorporation process, including creation of Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, and IRS filing for 501 (c) (3) tax-exemption

status. The Valley Hub, Inc. (VHI) nonprofit is established and Committee members are currently working with an attorney, paid with private funds, to finalize VHI Bylaws and the IRS filing of a 501 (c) 3 application. VHI board development is in progress.

**State Delegation Reception:** In April members of the RHS Repurposing Committee worked with PHCC and the Town to host a public reception for VT State delegation at PHCC that included public outreach, facility set up and clean up, and homemade refreshments. The purpose of the presentation was to heighten awareness of government funding opportunities to the more rural areas and included: Secretary Lindsay Kurrle (ACCD), Abbie Sherman (Executive Director, VEPC), Comm. Josh Hanford (DHCD), Dep. Commissioner Brett Long (DED), Stephanie Smith (Vermont Emergency Management), Todd Eaton (Agency of Transportation), Sec. Julie Moore (Agency of Natural Resources), Commissioner Jennifer Fitch (BGS), Catherine Deleno (Dept of Libraries), Sec. Anson Tebbetts (Agency of Agriculture).

**HS Building Clean up:** In June, members of the Committee led an extensive high-energy effort to clean up the HS building in preparation for the summer residency program of Green Mountain Suzuki Institute (GMSI) that began on July 9, and the Summer Music for Kids Program.

**Congressional Directed Spending:** Senator Sanders supported the project with a Congressionally Directed Spending earmark that passed the Senate Appropriations Committee, as reported to the Committee by Will Stevens. The funding is not guaranteed until the Congress passes the bill. If received, this funding would go toward the estimated \$3.1 million projected cost of building upgrades.

**Repurposing Committee Retreat:** In July, the Committee held a retreat in which we reviewed the project to date, defined the steps going forward, and identified which committee members would work on which phase. Areas of development include: Development of the VHI, Public education in preparation for the vote, Preliminary Architectural Plan, completion and installation of floodplain mitigation design, securing of tenant commitments, ongoing search of anchor tenants, and NEPA compliance completion.

**Planning Grant Extension:** Nathan Cleveland, ACCD Community Development Specialist, emailed that VCDB approved our request for an additional \$10,000 to our original \$50,000 planning grant to cover architectural work, approved by Commissioner Alex Farrell and ACCD Secretary Lindsay Kurrie.

**NEPA Compliance:** Yvonne Benney Basque from VT Dept. of Housing and Community Development sent an approved Section 106 Preliminary Review Form from Historic Preservation, approving our request for a waiver from Historic Review.

**Acquisition Vote:** In order to meet the mandated advance notice period to schedule the acquisition vote, and assure the availability of the Phase II report, and confirmation of Congressional funding, the acquisition vote will be scheduled after the Annual Town Meeting. Should the Town vote to acquire the building, the property tax increase to cover \$60,000/yr is projected by the Rochester Finance and Budget Committee to be \$60.00 per \$100,000 of assessed property value per year.

**Public Outreach:** The Committee created a *Current Facts Card* about the project that was distributed at the Harvest Fair, and later updated and mailed to every Rochester resident. A Power Point presentation has been developed for public outreach presentations. Committee members accepted 2 invitations to present project information on 10/27 and on 11/2; invitations to present are directed to the Committee co-chairs. Please visit to our website—RHS Repurposing Project.org—for more details, project updates, and RRC committee members.

#### **2023 Project media coverage:**

WCAX TV

[VT communities give new life vacant school buildings](#)

Melissa Cooney | March 9, 2023

Jamie Kinnarney, Superintendent of Schools  
Anda Adams, Chief Academic Officer of MTSS  
Annette Rhoades, Director of Special Services  
Tara Weatherell, Business Manager  
Raymond Ballou, Director of Technology  
and Communications



wrvsu.org

461 Waterman Road, Royalton, VT 05068  
Phone: 802-763-8840 Fax: 802-763-3235

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To the Constituents of Rochester:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Rochester/Stockbridge Unified District (RSUD) to provide the constituents of Rochester with updates specific to the unified school district; while reminding everyone that we will also be providing an annual school district report later in the spring prior to the annual school district meeting/budget vote in May.

It is my pleasure to report that the students of RSUD continue to make steady gains in academic and social/emotional achievement. To this end, we are realizing a decreased need for academic interventions, and increasing academic achievement as measured by our supervisory union benchmark assessments. This is the result of the faculty and staff's systematic approach to ensuring that our students are receiving high-quality universal instruction and interventions with fidelity across your two elementary schools. I can't praise Principal Stetson and her faculty/staff enough for their continued efforts in making certain all students receive the highest quality instruction and supports available to help support students in reaching their greatest potential.

We have once again built the RSUD Fiscal Year 2024-25 (FY 25) budget from the approach and philosophy of zero-based budgeting. It's important to note that we anticipate announced tuition from many of our secondary receiving schools to be up as high as 10% for the FY 25 school year, while also navigating health insurance premiums that are also up 16.4%. Therefore, we are going to work on preparing a budget for RSUD that is fiscally responsible, while prioritizing the support needed to continue our progress towards increasing student outcomes. That isn't an easy task this budget season, but I encourage you to visit our website to review our budget process and to learn more about the current state of the FY 25 RSUD budget.

In addition, Education funding has once again fundamentally changed in the State of Vermont due to Act 127. Therefore, I strongly urge everyone to visit the WRVSU website ([wrvsu.org](http://wrvsu.org)) to review the Act 127 fact sheet that we've provided. I also encourage you to contact either Business Manager, Tara Weatherell, or me directly with questions and concerns. The bottom line for WRVSU is that we have gained tax capacity in most of our districts, but we anticipate a significant Ed Fund shortfall in the state this upcoming fiscal year. Therefore, we expect the Yield to drop significantly, which will result in an increase in property taxes and probably impact all or most of the tax capacity gained through Act 127. The Act 127 fact sheet explains what is in our control locally, and what isn't in our control due to the ramification of the state-wide Ed Fund.

I would be remiss if I didn't highlight the work that has occurred over the past twelve months by the High School Repurposing Committee to continue steady progress on the highly anticipated vote this upcoming spring by the Town of Rochester to acquire the high school building from the unified school district. There has been an incredible amount of effort to secure federal grants and to create a sustainability plan for the building once it is acquired by the Town of Rochester. That specific information can also be found within your Town Report as submitted by the Repurposing Committee.

Finally, I would like to highlight that we were able to complete significant capital improvements at the Rochester and Stockbridge Elementary Schools this summer through the leveraging of federal grants and performance contracting through Energy Efficient Investments. This resulted in new lighting at both schools, increased heating and HVAC controls at both schools and a newly installed wood pellet boiler and propane backup (to create redundancy) at the Rochester Elementary School. This was all completed without needing to approach the citizens of Stockbridge and Rochester about a bond. I'm incredibly proud that we have addressed these deferred maintenance issues at both of our schools. We will also be rolling out a preventative maintenance and capital facilities plan for the district this spring prior to your annual school district meeting to provide a proactive road map for our infrastructure over the next five to ten years.

With great enthusiasm and optimism,

Jamie Kinnarney,  
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU

Serving the Schools and Communities of  
Bethel - Chelsea - Granville - Hancock - Rochester - Royalton - Sharon - Stockbridge - Strafford - Tunbridge



## One Planet Afterschool Program

Bethel, Chelsea, Newton, Sharon, Stockbridge,  
Rochester, Royalton, Tunbridge

Dear Town of Rochester,

We want to thank you for your support of \$3,125 for our 2023 summer camp. Please see our report below. In addition, we would like to officially request a town appropriation of \$3,125 for fiscal year 24-25 to support our 2024 summer camp.

### **REPORT:**

*One Planet's mission is to create a dynamic learning environment after school and during the summer that inspires and supports students in becoming compassionate global citizens and lifelong learners.*

*This summer Rockbridge (Rochester/Stockbridge) One Planet Summer Camp engaged 32 children in grades K-6<sup>th</sup> with exciting theme-based projects for 5 weeks. Activities ranged widely this summer depending on the week's theme. The 5 themes this year included Fairy & Fantasy, Let's Create, Under the Sea, Rocks Rock!, and Camping Week. Students also participated in a number of exciting field trips. This summer campers traveled to Tip Top Pottery, The Bethel Pool, Bowlerama, Circus Smirkus, The Ben & Jerry's Factory, and Lots 'o Balls. Finally, we continued to offer our Counselors-in-Training program which gives local middle school students the opportunity to join the program giving them leadership roles and the power to make decisions and employed local high school students as high school aides. Our high school aides bridge the gap between adult staff, CITs, and campers, bring wonderful energy to our program, and are strong role models for our elementary students.*

*Thanks to the support of the Town of Rochester, we were able to continue to offer families reduced summer pricing. We also provided a sliding scale and scholarships for those families in need. Parents were truly grateful to see their kids smiling, connecting with their peers and having a summer camp experience.*

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to continuing to serve the local community in partnership with the Town of Rochester.

Sincerely,

Hayley Zoerheide, One Planet Program Director  
[hzoerheide@wrvsu.org](mailto:hzoerheide@wrvsu.org) - 802-763-3812

# Rochester Recreation Department

## SkateSpace

### Success!

### We've received 50K in Grants!

The grantwriting phase of our project is essentially completed, and we have reached our fundraising goal. We've received grants from various corporate and private foundations in our region, as well as a grant from the State of Vermont (The Vermont Recreational Grant).

Thank you again for your generous individual donations which totalled \$16,857 and served as a springboard for us to acquire matching grants to reach our goal.

### Sources of Financing

Individual Donations	\$16,857
Corporate/Private Grants	\$35,000
State of VT Grants	\$15,000
<hr/>	
Total	\$66,957

### Refurbishing to Begin Next Spring

This winter we plan on putting the SkateSpace project up for bid to contractors, and expect to begin work in the spring.

Thank You to Dean Mendell who spearheaded this project and to Janice McCann who helped with grant writing. Also thank you to Connie Mendell, Jola Labeszja, and Kinley Tener for helping at events and raising awareness.

*Norm Christiansen and Dean Mendell receiving a \$5000 check from Jennifer Eastman of Mascoma Savings Bank as a grant to SkateSpace.*



[gofundme.com/skatespace](https://gofundme.com/skatespace)

### Help Needed:

### Youth Baseball Director

Baseball is just around the corner and we are in great need of a new baseball director for our local youth teams. There are 3 to 4 teams each year, ranging from t-ball to Cal Ripken league, ages 4 to 12.

We thank Mickaela Richardson who, after several years, is stepping down from the position. Mickaela will help teach the new director what's needed to make it a successful year for our young players.

Duties include collecting registrations and fees, rostering, attending league meetings, managing equipment and fields, and essentially meeting the needs of the teams. This is a paid position by the Town of Rochester. If you are interested please contact Norm ([norm@blindpigment.com](mailto:norm@blindpigment.com)) or Mickaela ([mickaelarichardson@gmail.com](mailto:mickaelarichardson@gmail.com))

### Mission

The Rochester Recreation Department's mission is to provide fun activities, opportunities, and events to our residents of Rochester and its neighbors. We want to get people outside and engaged, meeting friends, and staying fit and healthy in an active lifestyle. Our department has to be creative because it works on a very limited yearly budget, which alleviates any large burden to the taxpayers.

### Get Involved!

There is strength in numbers: Rochester's Recreation Department is always seeking more volunteers. Become part of a team that can improve everybody's lives. We are always seeking input and fresh ideas from our residents to make Rochester vibrant.

Volunteers are needed to assist various activities such as fundraising, grant writing, working with contractors, and to become involved in other projects and events such as the Summer Concert Series or the July 4th Parade. If you are interested or want to talk more about it, please contact Norm at [norm@blindpigment.com](mailto:norm@blindpigment.com).



[facebook.com/RecreateinRochesterVT](https://facebook.com/RecreateinRochesterVT)



## **Rochester Park**

Rochester's 4-acre park has an inventory of 49 trees, which include a variety of maples and oaks, green ash, white pine, birch and linden all with differing ages and condition. 50+ years ago, in cooperation with the Rochester School and a State grant, new trees, primarily green ash and oak, were planted around the perimeter of the park. In the years since, these trees have grown upward and outward. News of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation caused concern for an attack on the ash trees which would require elimination. The oaks are rather unruly, suffering from exposure to road salts.

The Town in the summer of 2022 coordinated with Vermont's Forests, Parks and Recreation Urban & Community Forestry Program and students from the University of Vermont for technical assistance in evaluating the health of the park trees. It was suggested that the Town apply for a tree grant in anticipation of the expected loss of the ash. Six Vermont grown trees (Maple, American Sycamore and American Hornbeam) that would be adaptable to Rochester's climate were purchased from Cobble Creek Nursery. An arborist and landscape architect volunteered to place the trees. Arrival of the leafed out trees coincided with the fateful frost of May 17, but we proceeded with placement and planting, hoping that the trees would survive! Volunteers turned out to assist with planting, mulching, watering and fencing. Watering continued regularly throughout the summer, and the trees leafed out beautifully. Fall brought wonderful and lasting color to our new trees. Success!

This year the Town has again been offered the opportunity to apply for a Community Caring for Canopy matching grant from Vermont Parks, Forests & Recreation Department to address many trees which are either dead or not doing well and need to be removed. The Town is applying for this 1.1 matching Grant, and purchasing 6 trees through the Grant, and an additional 3 trees with money received from memorial contributions. The Town will be advised in the early spring if it has been approved for this Grant. With assistance from a professional arborist, a variety of species which is felt will do well on our park have been selected.

The Town is grateful to those individuals who volunteered last year to plant, mulch and water our new trees, and is hopeful that a group will come through this next spring to assist with planting and maintenance of the new selection.



A Vermont Domestic Non-Profit Corporation  
Email: [summermusicforkids@gmail.com](mailto:summermusicforkids@gmail.com)  
Mailing address: PO Box 134, Gaysville, VT 05746

Thanks to the many generous donors including the Rochester Trustees of Public Funds, local businesses and residents, our second summer of **Summer Music For Kids** day camp was extremely successful! Nineteen students in grades 4-8 (including homeschoolers) from Rochester, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Granville, and Hancock were able to attend and continue learning, play and care for their instruments. They also received fun exposure to theater, and visual arts. Eleven of the students attending were from Rochester.

The aim of Summer Music for Kids continues to be to provide access to instrumental music education to all students in the Valley communities regardless of financial constraints or other barriers. Instrumental private lessons with top-notch area teachers, instrument rentals, and snacks were offered free of charge to campers.

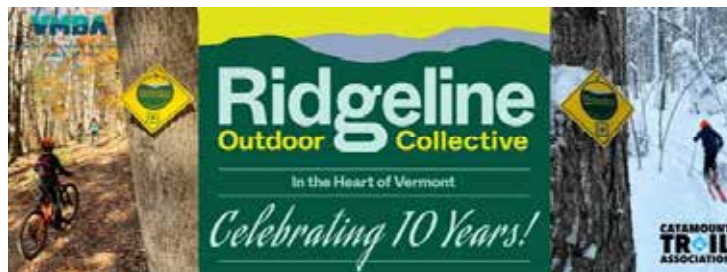
Because our Board of Directors is comprised entirely of volunteers, we can maximize the services our teachers and enrichment staff offer. This year, we were able to add seven, teen counselors (most of them musical) with a diverse array of talents ranging from instrumental expertise to volleyball and soccer to theatre and crafts. For several of the teen counselors, this was their first employment opportunity and kids, counselors and staff are already looking forward to summer 2024!

We have continued to offer private lessons on early release days during the 2023/2024 academic year. Our participating Kids tell us this certainly has helped keep their instrumental musical success going.

Our teachers for 2024 will be Scott Paulson (percussion, trumpet, trombone), Barbara Smith (flute, clarinet, saxophone), and Emerson Gale (violin and cello).

For more information, please send an e-mail to [summermusicforkids@gmail.com](mailto:summermusicforkids@gmail.com), or talk with Susan Bushnell (Rochester) or Bill Edgerton (Stockbridge).





Despite the wet summer season this year, there were many notable events, projects, and milestones that really made our tenth year a big one! The incredible opportunities we have today built around ideas from years past coming to fruition are all because of the great community rallying around common goals and interests. We have so many to thank! Our board and staff, volunteers, coaches, trail builders, members, donors, sponsors, land partners, land owners, community partners and so many more! Below are some major highlights from our 10th year as an organization.

- Summer camps, after school and community programs, and the Ridge Rider Race team served well over 100 kids throughout our trail communities.
- The Ridgeline scholarship program served ten kids to assist in attending summer camp sessions. Our "Fix-it Fund" was utilized by over 20 families for minor repairs and maintenance.
- The Ridge Riders hosted Vermont Youth Cycling for a season kick-off social ride in Rochester in June. Over 60 youth riders from around the state attended.
- Our dedicated volunteers invested over 1,500+ hours throughout our multi-use trail networks.
- Thanks to hundreds of volunteer hours we were able to successfully clear and repair the trails that were affected by the July flooding and relentless rain throughout the summer.
- Thanks to Velomont Trail Collective, Vermont Huts Association, Vermont Mountain Bike Association, trail builders, and volunteers, several Velomont Trail segments were completed along with Contest Trail improvements, creating some notable connectivity within Ridgeline's trail network.
- We continue to work with Vermont Adaptive and Vermont Mountain Bike Association to explore and implement ways to make our trails more accessible to all trail users, including adaptive riders.
- On December 16th we hosted a Search & Rescue Discussion and Drills session in Rochester at the Ranger station. Over 50 local volunteers and first responders gathered to review Ridgeline's SAR plans and practice some essential extraction techniques. Thanks to Rescue Inc., White River Valley Ambulance, Hancock Fire Department, Bethel Fire Dept., Randolph Fire Dept., Rochester Fire Dept., Brandon Fire Dept., and Ridgeline volunteers for participating in this work!
- In May we hosted the 2nd Annual Peavine Whitewater Race with over 40 participants competing.
- In June we hosted the first ever 'Ridgefest', starting the day with hikes, bikes, and great camaraderie followed by a 10 year celebratory cookout at Green Mountain Bikes.
- We co-hosted the 4th of July 5k run/walk in Rochester with Pierce Hall Community Center.
- Through the summer and into fall the group ride series in Randolph continued including the 6th season of the popular Thursday Night Women's Ride.
- We partnered with Chandler Music Hall and Braintree Historical Society to carry on the Braintree Bluegrass Brunch on the last Sunday's in June, July, and August, with rides hosted before the music and our fleet of kids' bikes available during the event for kiddos roll around on and get exposure to our youth bike programming.
- In November we were delighted to bring the Vermont Backcountry Forum back to the Pierce Hall in Rochester. The evening included a presentation by Backcountry guru, author and journalist, David Goodman, as well as informative presentations from CTA and Vermont SAR.

Again, none of this would be possible without the incredible people throughout our great Central Vermont communities. We are so grateful for all the involved and passionate folks, it takes all kinds! From the Ridgeline Board, Staff and Membership, we thank you! And we look forward to another year of collaboration and fun in the great outdoors!



**Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) 2023 Report for Town of Rochester:**

**Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. CVCOA services are available to those age 60 and up, caregivers, and families. For more than 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters to remain independent for as long as possible. CVCOA serves 54 towns throughout the Central Vermont region.**

CVCOA makes a difference in the lives of older Vermonters by connecting them to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive, free of charge. CVCOA utilizes town funding to provide individualized support to Rochester residents through case management, information and assistance, options counseling, resource and benefit enrollment (nutrition, transportation, mental health counseling, legal services, etc), long-term care planning, health insurance counseling, family caregiver support, connection to wellness and social activities, and more.

**CVCOA supported 80 residents of Rochester. CVCOA Case Manager Kathryn Schenkman worked directly with clients in Rochester.**

CVCOA served 4,040 unduplicated clients from 07/01/2022 through 06/30/2023. CVCOA mobilized 497 volunteers through our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP and general volunteer programs. These volunteers served over 40,000 hours, providing direct service, delivering meals on wheels, supporting nutrition sites, leading wellness classes, offering companionship and creative encouragement, and more.

All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of **Rochester for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters in the Rochester community.**





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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



## Orange County Parent Child Center

One of 15 parent child centers in Vermont, the Orange County Parent Child Center strengthens families with young children and connects them to their communities. We accomplish this through an array of different support including in home, community and center based. We serve families regardless of income.

OCPCC's programs include: Children's Integrated Services Family Support and Family Support Nursing, Welcome Baby visits, free community playgroups, Early Care & Education, parent education, concrete supports and resource & referral services. We are a public pre-k partner under Act 166. You can learn more at [www.orangecountypcc.org](http://www.orangecountypcc.org).

Last year, with the continued support of your community, we were able to provide 21 services to Rochester residents

Lindsey Trombley

Executive Director

**Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens**  
**PO Box 113**  
**1097 Route 100**  
**Hancock, VT 05748**

**802-767-3763**  
**quintownsc@gmail.com**

11/20/23

To the Town of Rochester Select Board/Budget Committee and Community Members:

Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens is based in Hancock and since 1972 has given senior citizens in the area a place to go for on-site meals each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon. We also provide nutritionally balanced meals delivered to homebound members through our Meals on Wheels Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our senior center. To keep our clients safe, we have had to temporarily change our onsite dining, currently serving onsite meals on Wednesdays. However, we continue to provide nutritionally balanced meals to help meet the dietary requirements of our seniors by offering our To-Go Meals Program and continue delivering Meals on Wheels each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Our Meals on Wheels Program not only provides healthy meals to seniors, but also provides us with an opportunity to perform a wellness check for our senior neighbors.

The Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens is requesting a donation from each of our surrounding towns. Our request from Rochester is **\$9849.00** for the coming year. The donation is well spent. We have supplied nearly 5,000 meals this past year to seniors at the center including our To-Go Meals Program and our Meals on Wheels Program. This year we have served 20 Rochester residents, 7 days a week. The recent increased need for food in the community aggravated by this summer catastrophic flooding, builds on the devastation caused by COVID-19 Pandemic, as record inflation in 2022.

Your donation will cover a portion of our operating budget not reimbursed by our contract with the Central Vermont Council on Aging. Therefore, each contributing town and its citizens become participants in the successful operation of our program that provides quality meals and social enrichment for our aging neighbors and relatives.

We continue to supplement our funds with a very successful annual appeal each fall and have increased our search for grants and other fundraising events. We would be glad to meet with you if you have any questions. Thank you for your generous support in the past and for considering our current request.

Sincerely,

Quin-Town Board of Directors

**Board of Directors**

**~ Natalie Clook, Acting President/Assistant Cook ~ Kent Butterfield, Vice President & Treasurer**  
**~ Beverly Allen, Secretary ~**  
**Members: Annette West**  
**Phyllis Deering, Executive Director/Cook ~**



## ROCHESTER TOWN REPORT October 2023

Thank you for the Town of Rochester's generous support last year. During the past four years, your support helped us provide an annual average of **918 free Dial-A-Ride trips for Rochester residents** either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles. An additional **941 riders boarded public buses at Rochester bus stops**. TVT's Dial-A-Ride and Public Bus Systems provided a total of 180,335 rides for the year. All of TVT's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment, and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

**Dial-A-Ride Programs** – Focus on specialized populations including elders, persons with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who are unable to access the bus system. Dial-A-Ride offers direct access from home to: medical treatments, meal site/senior programs, adult day care services, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, radiation & dialysis, substance abuse treatment, and other destinations that enhance riders' quality of life.



**Bus System** – Promotes economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence and quality of life. Rochester residents can access the 89'er Commuter Route to access stops along the I-89 corridor to the Lebanon, Hanover, White River Jct. area for employment opportunities, medical appointments, and shopping. Residents can also use the weekly Randolph Shopper to access pharmacies and grocery stores, and local businesses in Randolph.

The state and local grants through which we provide these services require us to raise up to 20% "local match" dollars. TVT's requests from towns account for approximately 5% of the match requirement.

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*Please include this in your town report as space allows. Thank you!*



## **Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire** **Home Health, Hospice and Pediatric Services**

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is one of the oldest and largest non-profit providers of in-home healthcare services in the region. VNH is committed to providing the highest quality care throughout all stages of life, from maternal child care to end of life hospice care, and everything in between. Providing individuals and families with the care they need within the comfort of their own home allows them to maintain comfort and dignity throughout their time of care.

VNH services reduce cost associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, VNH made 299 in-home visits.

- **Home Health Care:** 17 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Hospice Services:** 3 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.
- **Long-Term Care:** 1 residents with chronic medical problems who need extended care in home to avoid admission to a nursing home.
- 

VNH serves many of Rochester's most vulnerable citizens – the frail elderly and disabled, at-risk families, people with terminal illnesses, children with chronic medical needs and the uninsured and underinsured. We are dedicated to delivering outstanding home health and hospice services that enrich the lives of the people we serve.

It is with your help that we are able to provide services like this to those in need. Rochester's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*Anthony Knox*

Anthony Knox  
Community Relations Manager



## White River Partnership 2023 Annual Report to Rochester

The White River Partnership (WRP) is a membership-based, nonprofit organization formed in 1996 by a group of local people who shared an interest in keeping the White River healthy. The WRP envisions a White River watershed in which individuals and communities work together to make informed decisions that result in clean water, fewer flood damages, improved access to the river, and more. Here are some highlights from our work in 2023:

- WRP staff and 35 volunteers completed the 6th year of our White River Water Trail Stewardship Program, **monitoring river access sites every month during the summer** to remove trash and to report hazardous conditions. We started the season and ended the season with river cleanup events – in sum, 125 volunteers **removed 5,000 pounds of trash** from the river in Bethel, Hartford, Pomfret, Randolph, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge, and Tunbridge.
- WRP staff and 25 trained volunteers **completed the 23rd year of our water quality monitoring program**, testing bacteria, conductivity, and turbidity at 22 swimming holes in 13 towns – including Lions Club Park-Rochester – every two weeks from late-May through early-September. We shared results via email, our website, and our Facebook and Instagram pages.
- The WRP worked with willing landowners, partners, and a youth work crew to **plant 4,140 native trees and shrubs along the White River and its tributaries** at 4 sites to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and flood resilience.
- The WRP engaged 1,400 students and teachers from 32 schools – including Rochester Elementary School – in **hands-on education programs that raise awareness about watershed health**, including crayfish sampling & identification, Freshwater Snorkeling with the Green Mountain National Forest, Trout in the Classroom with Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited, waterbugs sampling & identification, wildlife track & sign monitoring along the river, and more!

### For more information

White River Partnership  
PO Box 705, S. Royalton, VT 05068  
(802) 763-7733, [info@whiteriverpartnership.org](mailto:info@whiteriverpartnership.org)  
[www.whiteriverpartnership.org](http://www.whiteriverpartnership.org) and [www.facebook.com/WhiteRiverPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/WhiteRiverPartnership)

**Atria Collective, Inc, formerly WomenSafe**

**Elyssa Boisselle, Executive Director**

24-hour Hotline: 802-388-4205

Business: 802-388-9180

[general@atriavt.org](mailto:general@atriavt.org)

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

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023\*, Atria Collective staff and volunteers provided the following total services:

- 601 total adults and children served through advocacy and supervised visitation services.
- 8,907 total direct service contacts through in-person meetings, remote meetings, and web-based communications.
- 255 supervised visits and orientation meetings for 20 families including 27 children.
- Worked with the parents/caregivers of a total of 361 children exposed to violence.
- Provided 857 presentations and outreach events as part of our Education & Prevention programming, reaching over 5,988 youth and adults.
- 78 volunteers donated 6,816 hours of services.

*\*Numbers are unaudited*

**ROCHESTER**

In Rochester, Atria Collective provided:

- Advocacy services to at least 1\* resident.

*\* For safety, some people do not share their town of residence.*

**SAFELINE, INC.**  
P.O. Box 368, Chelsea, VT 05038  
safelineinfo@safelinevt.org  
(802) 685-7900 office  
(800) 639-7933 24/7 hotline

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

In FY2023, Safeline provided 2,325 services for 262 victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual abuse.

8 services were provided for a victim who identified themselves as a resident of Rochester. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7 days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development and financial management education.

Safeline provides free and confidential services, including: crisis support, safety planning, medical advocacy, economic empowerment, financial education and legal advocacy. Day shelter services, a resource library and information and referrals are also available.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource to the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence in our society. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full-range of prevention education activities for community organizations, faith communities, youth groups and other groups seeking information about domestic and sexual violence.

We thank the voters for your support as we strive to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Rochester.

## Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

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 systems, designs installations, and finds financial resources to support the costs of construction. During the **26+ years** of the program, **1,177 grants** totaling nearly **\$2.8 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for the 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 in recent years, 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 (\$15,000 for a couple special case projects). 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 2023 was **\$199,158** of which **\$82,374** was paid in grants to support the construction and repair of **17 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 the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program receives 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. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

**235** 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.

Tom Maclay, Chair

Rural Fire Protection Task Force  
(802) 426-3265 | [83creameryst@fairpoint.net](mailto:83creameryst@fairpoint.net)

Troy Dare, Program Manager & contact person for Town Appropriation business  
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program  
(802) 828-4582 | [dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com](mailto:dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com)

Jill Arace, Executive Director  
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)  
(802) 496-5162 | [jill.arace@vacd.org](mailto:jill.arace@vacd.org)

TOWN OF ROCHESTER  
DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES AS OF JANUARY 19, 2024

NAME	TAX YEAR	TOTAL DUE
141 Great Hawk LLC	2021-2022	1,430.25
141 Great Hawk LLC	2022-2023	7,952.10
Adluri, Vishwa Trust	2021-2022	639.97
Adluri, Vishwa Trust	2022-2023	2169.96
Anderson, Paul and Sharon	2022-2023	394.68
BHR, Inc.	2022-2023	940.45
Calnan, James	2022-2023	669.69
Carter, Harry	2022-2023	1,399.08
Cole Meredith	2022-2023	6,507.02
Duclos, Lila	2022-2023	1,105.18
Drougas, James	2022-2023	1,776.56
Gendron, Oscar	2018-2019	3,824.03
Gendron, Oscar	2019-2020	4,685.49
Gendron, Oscar	2020-2021	4,236.04
Gendron, Oscar	2021-2022	3,887.57
Gendron, Oscar	2022-2023	3,355.74
Kennett, David G	2022-2023	2,277.76
McCarty, Katharina	2022-2023	1,859.84
McCarty, Katharina	2022-2023	735.96
McIntyre, Earl Estate	2021-2022	539.35
McIntyre, Earl Estate	2022-2023	4,830.46
McIntyre, Earl Estate	2021-2022	2,008.62
McIntyre, Earl Estate	2022-2023	1,746.86
Mill, William and Cheryl	2022-2023	7.60
Miller, Daniel J.	2020-2021	748.22
Miller, Daniel J.	2021-2022	697.53
Miller, Daniel J.	2022-2023	606.34
Montgomery, Barbara	2022-2023	1,522.50
Mulcahy, Marjorie	2022-2023	1,496.22
Rainwater, Camden	2022-2023	6,094.62
Shabelski, Alex	2022-2023	24.48
Shebairo, Brian	2022-2023	10,551.33
Shepard, Linda	2022-2023	45.71
Tanner, David	2022-2023	103.56
Toro, Jose	2022-2023	2,532.17
Van Steen, Alex	2021-2022	439.96
Van Steen, Alex	2021-2022	2,164.46
White, John & Ruzicka, Carol	2021-2022	1,966.10 *
White, John & Ruzicka, Carol	2022-2023	1,413.16 *
<b>TOTAL TAXES DUE</b>		<b>\$ 89,386.62</b>

\*Payment plan

DELINQUENT UTILITIES AS OF JANUARY 22, 2024

NAME	TOTAL DUE
Banas, Susan	861.88
Bates, Graham	698.18
BHR, INC	407.33
Holaday, Duncan	769.40
Homick, Spencer	283.02
Meagher, Chrisine	86.30
Paige, Tony	3,058.46
Piccicuto, Nick	274.50
Sterling, Pam	133.84
Shea Property Services	923.52
Wildt, Frederick	265.20
<b>TOTAL UTILITIES DUE</b>	<b>\$ 7,847.93</b>

## **Vital Statistics ~ 2023**

### **BIRTHS**

Lakelyn Rose Bowen  
Iver Joseph Danek  
Oakley Alex Downs  
Eidan Leonel Garcia-Gomez  
Colton Oliver Hildebrand  
Caspar Lee Mengedoht

### **DEATHS**

Kristy Lee Bisson  
Teresa Marie Bowen  
Deborah Jean Coffman  
Linda J. Gaudette  
Stanley C. Holmquist  
Charles Eugene LaFountain  
Jason M. Leno  
Mary Anne Martin  
John C. Warner  
Charles Woolley

### **MARRIAGES**

Lawrence Franklin Jacques Jr. & Laurie Ann Ainsworth  
Tammy Lynn Kimball & Leo Francis Hotte Jr  
Rebecca Lee Goldman & Daniel Fischer Morse  
Jeffrey Lee Gephart & Maureen Alison Young  
Derick William Gendron & Kristina Marie Kaufman  
Douglas Bruce McCarty & Terri Lynn Phelps

## Property Transfers - 2023

<b><u>GRANTOR</u></b>	<b><u>GRANTEE</u></b>	<b><u>#</u></b>	<b><u>PRICE</u></b>
Poulin, Gail	Waldeck, Michael & Deborah	23-01	\$90,000.00
Catchapaw, Elijah N.	Toepel, Michelle P.	23-02	\$30,900.00
Bowen, Myron ; Brown, Julie Ann	Bowen, Timothy & Kelly	23-03	\$3,000.00
Bowen, Myron ; Brown, Julie Ann	Pontious, Wendell E. & Joan L.	23-04	\$2,000.00
Carlson, Leslie	Carlson, Leslie B. TTE	23-05	\$0.00
Parrish, Nancy H.	Parrish, Kevin S; Parrish, Linda N.; Parrish, Peter K.; Parrish, Susan L.	23-06	\$0.00
Ruderman, Brad M. & Lisa M.	Jones, Barton & Ann Marie	23-07	\$8,000.00
Armstrong, Rebecca	Armstrong, Airon	23-08	\$0.00
Toepel, Michelle P.	Anderson, Paul B. & Sharon C.	23-09	\$207,700.00
Newell, Carol A.	Eckler, Joshua R. & Ann M.	23-10	\$232,500.00
2007 Revocable Living Trust of Nancy Maston	Yara, Jake M. & Cara B.	23-11	\$0.00
Stansfield, John	Stansfield, Kimberly	23-12	\$3,000.00
Gossamer Trust; Dugger, John Jr. TTE	BHR, INC.	23-13	\$100,000.00
Deering, Phyllis E. & James F.	Deering, Phyllis E. & James F.; Richardson, Chad G.	23-14	\$0.00
Deering, Phyllis E.	Deering, Phyllis E. & James F.; Richardson, Chad G.	23-15	\$0.00
Parrish, Peter K. & Penny D.	Khalsa Market, Inc.	23-16	\$298,500.00
Kennett, Robert & Elizabeth	Patrick, Justin & Carly	23-17	\$330,000.00
Flewelling, Bruce K. & Susan C.	Huntley, Samantha; Flewelling, Joel	23-18	\$0.00
Wengel, Walter & Patricia	Christopher, Leah A. & Proekish, Diane R.	23-19	\$339,000.00
Andrews, Michael P.	Warner, Hannah S.	23-20	\$115,000.00
Mann, Jeffrey D. & Karen M.	Cassidy, R A & Natalie D.	23-21	\$367,500.00
Labejsza, Zygmunt & Jolanta	Labejsza, Michael; Labejsza, Anna; Labejsza, Daniel; Kennett, Joanna	23-22	\$0.00
Evans, Dorie	Evans, Dorie L.TTE; Dorie L. Evans Family Revocable Trust	23-23	\$0.00
Sherman V. Allen Real Estate, LLC	All Adirondack Real Estate Inc.	23-24	\$419,047.50
Nelson, Jeffrey R. & Whitney	Albert, Brett D.	23-25	\$485,000.00
Third Branch Investment Company LLC	Eramo, Michael J.	23-26	\$0.00
Gorton, Douglas W. & Deborah A	Gorton, Stephanie A. & Lary, Dane M.	23-27	\$331,500.00
Mills, Richard E.	Mills, Richard E.; Mills, Earl	23-28	\$19,450.00
Mignucci, Andres	Rogge, Michelle	23-29	\$64,000.00
Reimer, Gerda E	Carbone Family Revocable Trust	23-30	\$24,500.00

Parker, Raymon	Parker, Jacob R. ; Parker, Luke H.	23-31	\$0.00
Sanders, Susan E. & Kennedy, Charlene E.	Bennette, Caroline S. & Nicholas B.	23-32	\$85,000.00
Greene, Terence R. & Kristen	Levine, Justin & McCready, Jessica	23-33	\$476,900.00
Stainbrook, Steven J.; Gonzales, Guillermo Ernest	Nault, James R. & Bonnie	23-34	\$0.00
Pierce, Judith G.	Pierce, Judith G. & Harvey, William F.	23-35	\$0.00
Pierce, Judith G. & Harvey, William F	Pierce, Judith & Harvey, William F; Duval, Daniel G.; Duval, Douglas P.; Badger, Sarah D.	23-36	\$0.00
Brosnihan, Mary Ellen P.	Mary Ellen Brosnihan Irrevocable Trust; Brosnihan, Mary EllenTTE; Brosnihan , William TTE	23-37	\$0.00
Walton, Victoria J.	Collyer, David & Kelly	23-38	\$483,300.00
Hoerig, Carol L.	Negeri, Gemechu & Tenpow-Negeri, Alicia	23-39	\$300,000.00
Stiebris, Peter & Sylvia	Martinez, Vincent & Lam, Helena	23-40	\$649,900.00
Stainbrook, Steven J.; Gonzales, Guillermo Ernest	Nault, James R. & Bonnie A	23-41	\$480,000.00
McKirryher, Harland	Wildey, Timothy & Bolduc-Wildey, Lisa	23-42	\$20,000.00
Brouillard, Randy J	Brouillard, Debra A.	23-43	\$0.00
Weinstein, Josh	Weinstein, Jennifer	23-44	\$0.00
Carlson, Leslie	Bellows, Christine B.	23-45	\$320,000.00
Double U Investments, LLC	Walker, Clay	23-46	\$18,000.00
Stringer, Thomas W. & Kay M.	Stringer, Thomas W. & KayM. ; Stringer, Andrew W.; Stringer- Grimsley, Rachel E.	23-47	\$0.00
Hays, Sonya	Hays, Sonya; Allen, Aubrey	23-48	\$0.00
Mills, Ann K.	Kline, Noelle F. & McCormick, Meaghan E.	23-49	\$500,000.00
Barn Yard Realty, LLC	Three Gufs, LLC	23-50	\$430,000.00
Medeiros, Ramona	Keown, Kyle C.	23-51	\$145,000.00
Estate of Thomas B. Pierce Trust, Pierce, Ann B.TTE	Thomas B Pierce 1997 Restated Trust; Pierce, Ann B. TTE	23-52	\$0.00
Pierce, Ann B. TTE; Thomas B. Pierce 1997 Restated Trust	Pierce, Dean T.	23-53	\$0.00
Lyman Hall, Inc	Armstrong, Julia Simone	23-54	\$59,400.00
Gail M. Proctor Revocable Trust	Harvey, Benjamin	23-55	\$0.00
Lamar-Sterling, Chris & Sarah	Esslinger, Joben	23-56	\$218,000.00
Warner, Jay N. & Kathy A.	Johanson, Lesley A.	23-56a	\$365,000.00
Woolley, Nancy P	Woolley, Nancy P tte; The Nancy N. Woolley Trust	23-57	\$0.00
Bertrand, Harvey; Estate of Marcel Gerald Proulx	Hays, Sonya; Allen, Aubrey	23-57a	\$0.00

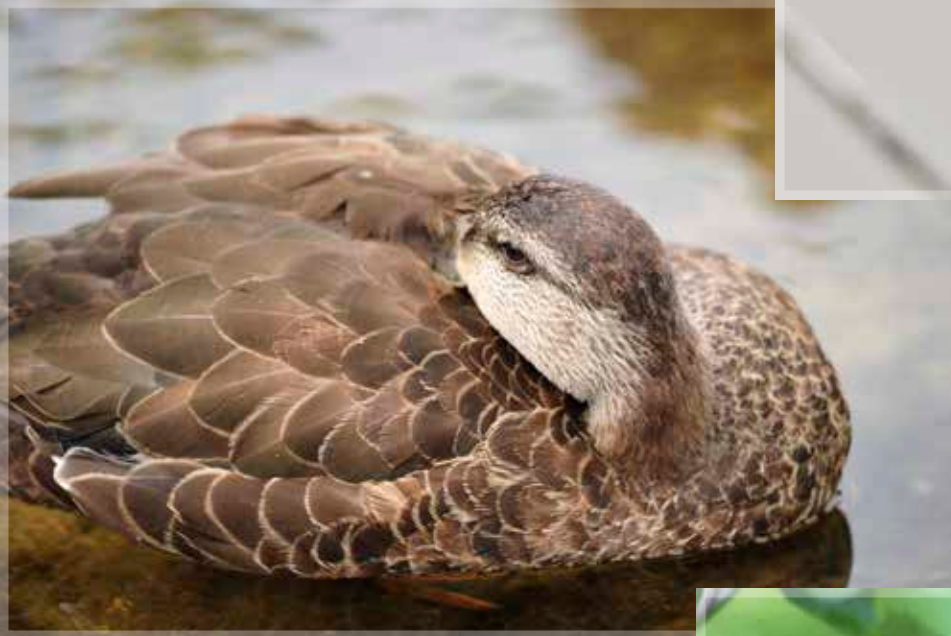


Woolley, Nancy N.	Woolley, Nancy P tte; The Nancy N. Woolley Trust	23-58	\$0.00
Pierce, Judith G	Pierce, Judith G; Duval, Daniel G.; Duval, Douglas P.; Badger, Sarah D.	23-59	\$0.00
Haley, Brenda S.	Ryan, Gregory P.	23-60	\$0.00
Ryan, Gregory P.	Ryan, Gregory P.	23-61	\$0.00
Ryan, Gregory P.	Caterisano, Michael & Kridler, Adda	23-62	\$400,000.00
Wright, Beverly A.	Wright, Adam J.; Wright, Joel S.; Wright, Justin A.	23-63	\$0.00
Pratt, Wendy	Slyvka, Yukhym & Veronika	23-64	\$57,500.00
Lee, Lynn L tte, Lydia Shui-Yen Shen Lee Trust	Drumm, Michael Richard	23-65	\$23,000.00
Martin, Julia & Charles	Harvey, Jody M.; Martin Julia & Charles	23-66	\$0.00
Redfearn, Karen tte	Baron, Shelia	23-67	\$12,867.75
Sorensen, Linda tte	Mozzicato, Daniel M.& Kira A.	23-68	\$750,000.00
Schlenker, Michael C. & Reiter, Juliette	The Michael Schlenker Trust, The Juliette Reiter Trust	23-69	\$0.00
Smolen, Susan E.	Smolen, Susan E.	23-70	\$0.00

Mourning dove (*Jeff Mather*)



Merlin (*Remy Lary*)



Mallard (*Jerry LeBlond*)

Robins (*Jeff Mather*)

Savannah sparrow (*Remy Lary*)



Back Cover:  
Bald eagle by tennis courts, black bear, chipmunk (*Jeff Mather*)  
American bittern in flight by Marsh Brook Rd. (*Remy Lary*)  
Wild turkeys sauntering (*Jerry LeBlond*)

All photos © Copyrighted by the photographer.



## PRE-TOWN MEETING

**In person and Zoom**

**Monday  
February 26<sup>th</sup> 2024  
6:00 PM**

**Town Office  
Conference Room**

**Call Town Clerk at  
(802) 767-3631  
for Zoom invitation**

## TOWN MEETING

**No Zoom**

**Monday  
March 4<sup>th</sup> 2024  
7:00 PM**

**Rochester School  
Auditorium**

**No Zoom  
available  
for town meeting**



PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Rochester, VT 05767  
Permit No. 28