

Annual Town Report  
for  
**Hancock, Vermont**



Town Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

**Town Meeting at the Hancock Town Hall  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM**

**PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO TOWN MEETING**

# Town of Hancock

## Informational Sheet

### **Town Office Hours**

10-4 Monday; 9-3 Tuesday; 9-3 Wednesday

(please schedule an appointment)

### **Selectboard Meetings**

6 PM 1st and 3rd Tuesday at the Town Office

### **Contact Information**

Town Clerk & Town Treasurer 767-3660

Email: [townclerk@hancockvt.org](mailto:townclerk@hancockvt.org)

### **Recycling**

Company: North Star Rubbish Removal, 802-672-3372

Location of Dropoff: Rochester Town Office

Time/Date of Dropoff: Every Saturday 8 AM-11AM

## **Town Website**

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

Please visit our Town Website to keep up to date with agendas, meeting minutes, contact information, and forms.

AUDITORS' STATEMENT We reviewed the outside audit report for FY 22/23 and found no discrepancies.  
Thank you to Becky Klein for her valuable knowledge.

*Geraldine K. Twitchell, Chair; and Rose Juliano*

The contents of this town report were requested and approved by the Hancock Select Board.

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## **A Note about This Year's Meeting**

This year's town meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM in the Hancock Town Hall. All are welcomed to attend, however, only registered voters of Hancock may vote in the meeting.

## **FLAP Grant for Texas Falls Rd. Bridge No.1**

The Town has been awarded \$1,210,000 grant funding by the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) to replace Bridge No.1 (at VT RT125) on Texas Falls Rd. The structure of this grant requires the town to complete the project prior to reimbursement by the federal government. As such, the selectboard asks the voters to approve Article 4, which asks permission to borrow the amount of the grant award, in lieu of the expected grant funding.

The selectboard feels this is an important project, in that the full cost of the bridge is expected to be covered by the grant. Bridge No.1 is an old bridge with a weight limit that precludes legal operation of fuel, dump, and logging trucks. The bridge will eventually need replacement, whether through age, accident, natural disaster, or changes in VTRANS codes and standards. In the anticipation that the grant will cover everything but the short term borrowing costs, the selectboard believes it wise to take advantage of this funding opportunity.

## **Budget Increase Due to Road Expenses**

The storm on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 did major damage to three town roads- Fassett Hill Rd., Tucker Brook Rd., and Shampeny Hill Rd. The Town was required to repair those roads back to VTRANS codes and standards, and has done so. The town is currently working with FEMA on getting the cost of those repairs covered. In the short term, the Selectboard was required to borrow money to cover the cost of the repairs. The Selectboard estimates that the financing cost for that loan for fiscal year 24/25 will be \$10,199.

Additionally, the Town received a grant to replace the culvert at the intersection of Shampeny Hill Rd. and Tucker Brook Rd. in the amount of \$175,000. The Town put the project out to bid, and the lowest bid was \$579,454. The Selectboard rejected all the bids, as they were well over budget for the project. Unfortunately, the August 3<sup>rd</sup> storm damaged the culvert. While FEMA would have paid to repair the culvert to its original condition, the culvert no longer meets VTRANS codes and standards. As such, it must be removed and replaced with a new culvert that meets state standards. The Town is working with FEMA to see if the cost of the culvert can be covered by a FEMA mitigation grant. In the short term, the town will have to borrow money to cover the cost of replacement. It may turn out that FEMA will not cover the replacement, turning this into a long term debt. The Selectboard anticipates the borrowing cost for FY24/25 to be \$35,224.

The Selectboard highlights that these costs are not optional. We are required by law to keep the roads to codes and standards. Our highway budget depends on state grants in aid. Those grants are conditioned on the town keeping the roads to state standards.

Lastly, as mentioned above, the financing costs for the loan to cover the replacement of Texas Falls Rd. Bridge No.1 are estimated to be \$56,870.00 for FY24/25. This line item is at the discretion of the voters.

## **Public Safety Budget**

The Selectboard has had many discussions over the past year regarding the cost effectiveness of our contract with the Addison County Sheriff's Department (ACSD). The town contracts with ACSD for traffic control and police presence at a rate of \$39/hr, plus \$0.655 per mile of travel. The budget for ACSD was \$15,000 for the current fiscal year. In years past, the cost of this line item was mostly covered by the Town's share of traffic fines. That is no longer the case.

The Selectboard has heard complaints from many residents about speeding cars in the village. We have asked ACSD to make speed enforcement a priority, with punitive fines as leverage. The selectboard has been disappointed by the dearth of fines issued, as well as no discernable decrease in dangerous driving in the village.

As such, the Selectboard has decided to end our contract with ACSD. The budget reflects this. We have set the budget to \$1 for FY24/25. If the voters prefer to amend this line item and continue service with ACSD, they may opt to do so with a floor amendment to the budget at Town Meeting.

## **Declaration of Inclusion**

The Selectboard was approached by Vermont Declaration of Inclusion, a not-for-profit organization whose expressed purpose is "to provide the information necessary for each Vermont municipality to adopt and implement a Declaration of Inclusion. Adopt means formal approval by the municipality's governing body. Implement means the enactment and furtherance of plans, policies, programs, procedures, and relevant training that support and advance the intent and spirit of the Declaration."

The selectboard solicited comments on the language of the declaration from the public. The feedback we received was in support of the language as written. The selectboard puts the decision regarding the adoption of this declaration before the voters. Should the voters approve, the selectboard will adopt the declaration.

## **Budget and Appropriations**

PLEASE NOTE that the Appropriation requests in Article 3 are NOT included in the final budget amount in Article 10.

#### 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 (VWSA). 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: VWSA

#### ORDINANCE FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS Town of Hancock, VT

Adopted June 6, 2023

Pursuant to Article 24 VSA §2291 (10) and 24 VSA §1974 (a), the Selectboard of the Town of Hancock hereby adopt the following ordinance relating to the regulation of keeping dogs and providing for their leashing or restraint within the Town of Hancock.

**DEFINITIONS:** A dog "running at-large" shall mean a dog which is (a) not on a leash, or (b) not on or within a vehicle, or (c) not on the property of its owners or their agent, or (d) not clearly under the verbal command of its owner or their agent, or (e) not hunting with its owner or their agent.

All dogs resident within the Town of Hancock shall be registered with the Town Clerk.

All dogs resident within the Town of Hancock shall be vaccinated against rabies, with certification of such vaccination a prerequisite for registration with the Town Clerk.

A person shall not allow a dog to run at-large within the Town of Hancock.

A person shall not permit any un-sprayed dog in estrus to be outside a building or outside a fenced enclosure.

A person shall not permit a dog to bark excessively, or to otherwise become a public nuisance, or to create a disturbance.

The Hancock Town Animal Control Officer shall be the chief enforcement officer for this Ordinance.

The Animal Control Officer and any law enforcement officer may use all reasonable methods for catching and impounding a dog in violation of this Ordinance, including the use of tranquilizing and marking apparatus.

The Animal Control Officer or any law enforcement officer may impound a dog found in violation of this Ordinance at the pound, and upon complaint, shall impound any dog found in violation of this Ordinance.

The procedure for claiming or releasing a dog from the pound shall be as follows:

- A) Upon delivery to the pound, the pound attendant shall notify the dog's owner, if the dog is licensed. The dog shall be held for three (3) days after the owner is notified, unless claimed earlier.
- B) If the dog is unlicensed, the pound attendant shall notify the radio station of the dog's description, and the dog shall be held for three (3) days after the first broadcasting of the dog's description, unless claimed earlier.
- C) If the owner does not claim the dog within the three (3) day period, the dog shall be given to whoever pays the pound fees, rabies shots, and any other necessary fees.
- D) If no person claims the dog, the dog may be humanely destroyed, and the Town shall pay all necessary fees.
- E) No dog shall be released from the pound until it is properly licensed, and all pound and other charges paid.

A person claiming the dog from the pound shall pay a reasonable fee for the dog's board, all fees for licensing, and all other necessary charges and expenses incurred by the pound. In addition, such person shall pay the pound for the benefit of the Town the sum of Sixty Dollars (\$60) to compensate the Town for its reasonable expenses in enforcing this Ordinance.

A person who violates this Ordinance shall be fined Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) per violation.

If any part of this Ordinance is held to be invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

This Ordinance shall be effective as agreed April 28, 2023 and adopted by the Hancock Selectboard for the Town of Hancock herein.

**TOWN OFFICERS OF HANCOCK, VT  
2023-2024**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Auditors (3 year)**

First, expires 2024  
Second, expires 2025  
Third, expires 2026

**Budget Committee (3 year)**

First, expires 2024  
Second, expires 2025  
Third, expires 2026

**Cemetery Commission (3 year)**

First, expires 2024  
Second, expires 2025  
Third, expires 2026

**Constable (1 year)**

**Delinquent Tax Collector (1 year)**

**Justices of the Peace**

Rose Juliano  
VACANT  
Geraldine K. Twitchell

Maurice Eaton  
Marjorie Ross  
Eva M. Jesso

Larry Bettis  
Geraldine K. Twitchell  
Maurice Eaton  
VACANT

Jaime Morin

Roger Comes  
Maurice Eaton  
John Ross

Margorie Ross  
Monica Collins

Gretchen Perera

Rose Juliano  
Eva M. Jesso

Jody Jesso  
Margi Rogal

OFFICE ELIMINATED TM 2022

James Leno

Dan Perera

**ELECTED AT GHUD MEETING**

Stacey Peters

Sara Deering

Samantha Sheehan

Dan Perera (Clerk)  
James Leno

Scott Gillette (Chair)

**Town Clerk (3 year) expires 2025**  
**Town Treasurer (3 year) expires 2025**

Jody Jesso  
Jody Jesso

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS:**

**WRVA Board Member**

**E-911 Coordinator**

**Asst. Town Clerk/Treasurer**

**Asst. Town Clerks**

**Civil Defense**

**Emergency Management**

**Energy Coordinator**

**Fence Viewers**

VACANT  
Scott Gillette  
Janet Jesso  
Eva Jesso and Marjorie Ross  
James Leno  
Renée Veilleux  
Eduardo Angulo Alvarez

Daniel Perera

John Ross

Garrett Troumbley

Jonathan Deering

VACANT

Dan Perera

James Leno

Scott Gillette

Thomas Patterson

Kolleen Scaff

James Leno

VACANT

Wendell Thurston

VACANT

Garrett Troumbley

John Ross

VACANT

VACANT

VACANT

VACANT

Stacey Peters

VACANT

Monica Collins

Stacey Peters

Dan Perera



WARNING OF  
TOWN OF HANCOCK, VERMONT ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2024, 10:00AM

The legal voters of the Town of Hancock, VT, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Hancock Town Hall in said town to transact the following business by floor vote:

Article 1: To elect a Town Moderator for the next year ensuing.

Article 2: To elect all Town Officers as required by law:

- Selectboard Member – three year term
- Auditor- three year term
- Constable - one year term
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes – one year term
- Cemetery Commissioner - three year term
- Road Commissioner – one year term
- Library Trustee – five year term
- Advisory Budget Committee – three year term

Article 3: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$8,509.00 to the following social service agencies pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

<b>Green-Up Vermont</b> – Supports Green Up Day	\$50.00
<b>Atria (WomenSafe)</b> – Provides assistance related to sexual and domestic violence for people of all genders	\$500.00
<b>Tri Valley Transit (Stagecoach)</b> – Provides regional mass transit	\$558.00
<b>Central Vermont Council on Aging</b> – Provides services to seniors	\$800.00
<b>Park House</b> – Senior housing non-profit	\$700.00
<b>Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT/NH, Inc.</b> – Non-profit that provides home healthcare and hospice services	\$1,475.00
<b>Quin-Town Senior Center</b> – non-profit providing Meals on Wheels services to valley seniors.	\$2,716.00
<b>Hancock Town Pride</b>	\$1,000.00
<b>Vermont Adult Learning</b>	\$115.00
<b>Clara Martin Center</b>	\$595.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$8,509.00

Article 4: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow \$1,210,000 for temporary funding in lieu of federal FLAP grant reimbursement upon project completion, for the replacement of Texas Falls Rd. bridge No.1?



- Article 5: Shall the voters adopt the following Declaration of Inclusion? "The Town of Hancock 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 Hancock has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions."
- Article 6: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to apply the remaining balance in the General Fund of FY 23-24 to reducing the next fiscal year's amount to be raised by taxes?
- Article 7: Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to transfer the balance from the Road Commissioner Fund FY23/24 to the Highway Capital Fund?
- Article 8: Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to transfer the balance from the Fire Department budget into the Fire Department Equipment Fund?
- Article 9: Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to collect current taxes pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791, and if so, to set the payment dates. The dates being of four equal installments dated August 15, 2024; November 15, 2024; February 15, 2025; and May 15, 2025?
- Article 10: Shall the Town of Hancock appropriate the sum of \$483,915.00 to pay the current expenses for the general and highway funds for the ensuing twelve months, with 2024 – 2025 taxes becoming delinquent after May 15th, 2025, and with the County and State taxes to be paid from the general fund.
- Article 11: To transact any non-binding business.

Dated this 16th day of January, 2024

By the Selectboard of the Town of Hancock

Scott Gillette, Chair



Daniel Perera



Jim Leno

**HANCOCK TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
THIS 30 DAY OF Jan A.D. 2024  
AT 2 O'CLOCK        MINUTES P M  
RECORDED IN Town RECORDS  
IN VOLUME 9 PAGE 197-198  
ATTEST Joey Bz TOWN CLERK

## FY2025 Town of Hancock General Fund -- Selectboard Budget

Account	Budget FY-2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY-2024	Budget FY-2025
<b>10-4-00 TAX REVENUE</b>				
10-4-00-011.00 Current Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 237,689.93	\$ 227,191.00	\$ -
10-4-00-011.01 Current Tax Interest	\$ -	\$ 579.36	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 500.00
10-4-00-012.00 Delinquent Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 38,798.70	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
10-4-00-012.01 Delinquent Tax Interest	\$ -	\$ 6,408.19	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 400.00
10-4-00-014.00 Delinquent Tax Penalty	\$ -	\$ 2,791.17	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 240.00
10-4-00-031.00 PILOT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
10-4-00-032.00 Current Use	\$ -	\$ 10,899.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
<b>Total TAX REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 297,166.35</b>	<b>\$ 302,831.00</b>	<b>\$ 60,640.00</b>
<b>10-4-01 INTEREST INCOME</b>				
10-4-01-041.00 Gen. Fund Bank Interest	\$ -	\$ 1,468.70	\$ 100.00	\$ -
10-4-01-051.00 Money Market Interest	\$ -	\$ 33.91	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000.00
10-4-01-061.00 Town Savings Interest	\$ -	\$ 0.01	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total INTEREST REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,502.62</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>10-4-11 TOWN CLERK REVENUE</b>				
10-4-11-021.00 Dog Licenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
10-4-11-022.00 Liquor Licenses	\$ -	\$ 485.00	\$ 370.00	\$ 450.00
10-4-11-023.00 Marriage Licenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ -
10-4-11-041.00 Town Clerk Fees	\$ -	\$ 5,111.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
<b>Total TOWN CLERK REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,796.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,130.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,150.00</b>
<b>10-4-19 OTHER REVENUE</b>				
10-4-19-070.01 Cemetery Lot	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
10-4-19-080.02 State Equalization Payment	\$ -	\$ 263.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 260.00
10-4-19-090.00 Quin Town Rent	\$ -	\$ 3,050.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,600.00
10-4-19-090.01 Town Hall & Town Green Rent	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
10-4-19-090.02 Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -
10-4-19-345.00 LHMP Grant	\$ -	\$ 2,224.68	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total OTHER REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,797.68</b>	<b>\$ 3,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,060.00</b>
<b>10-4-22 PUBLIC SAFETY</b>				
10-4-22-031.00 Police Patrol Income	\$ -	\$ 1,569.03	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total PUBLIC SAFETY REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,569.03</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
<b>Total REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 311,831.68</b>	<b>\$ 311,961.00</b>	<b>\$ 72,350.00</b>
<b>10-5-00-101 WAGES TOWN EMPLOYEES</b>				
10-5-00-101.00 Select Board	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
10-5-00-101.01 Select Board Clerk Wages	\$ 500.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
10-5-00-101.02 Auditors	\$ 700.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
10-5-00-101.03 Laborers	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,942.50	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,600.00

Account	Budget FY-2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY-2024	Budget FY-2025
10-5-00-101.04 Listers	\$ 5,140.00	\$ 5,136.00	\$ 5,140.00	\$ -
10-5-00-101.05 Animal Control	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
10-5-00-101.06 Flood Plain Administrator	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
10-5-00-101.07 Emergency Mgmt Coodinator	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
10-5-00-101.08 Health Officer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
10-5-00-101.09 Delinquent Tax Collector	\$ -	\$ 2,809.13	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 240.00
10-5-00-101.10 Land & Vital Rec Organization	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
10-5-00-101.11 Road Comm Stipend	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total TOWN WAGES TOWN EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>\$ 16,940.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,302.63</b>	<b>\$ 15,340.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,890.00</b>

#### 10-5-10 TOWN EXPENSES

10-5-10-220.00 Payroll Taxes - FICA	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,757.74	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
10-5-10-220.01 Unemployment tax	\$ 200.00	\$ 121.94	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
10-5-10-313.00 Short Term Interest	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
10-5-10-331.00 Legal Fees	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 15,345.96	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
10-5-10-332.01 Professional Audit	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,785.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
10-5-10-333.00 Accessor Contract	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,608.00
10-5-10-340.00 Service Contracts/Tech	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 4,022.87	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
10-5-10-342.00 Tax Mapping	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700.00
10-5-10-345.00 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -
10-5-10-350.00 Training	\$ 250.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
10-5-10-400.00 Town Winter Roads	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 56,467.04	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
10-5-10-431.00 Summer Mowing Contract	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00
10-5-10-432.00 Sand Pit Rental	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
10-5-10-540.00 Postage	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 973.75	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
10-5-10-550.00 Printing	\$ 500.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
10-5-10-583.00 Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 100.00	\$ 23.20	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
10-5-10-610.00 Office Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,313.31	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
10-5-10-731.00 Office Equipment	\$ 500.00	\$ 135.88	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00
10-5-10-750.00 Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
10-5-10-999.00 One Time - Prior Year Exp	\$ -	\$ 61.20	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total TOWN EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 99,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 103,182.89</b>	<b>\$ 112,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 106,558.00</b>

#### 10-5-11 TOWN CLERK

10-5-11-101.00 Town Clerk/Treasurer Wages	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,750.00	\$ 32,288.00
10-5-11-101.01 Asst. TC/TR Wages	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,391.25	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,800.00
10-5-11-101.02 Ballot Clerks	\$ 550.00	\$ 502.50	\$ 300.00	\$ 900.00
<b>Total TOWN CLERK</b>	<b>\$ 33,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 31,893.75</b>	<b>\$ 33,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,988.00</b>

#### 10-5-18 GENERAL OFFICE

10-5-18-410.00 Trash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
10-5-18-410.01 Recycling	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00
10-5-18-442.00 Copier Lease	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,200.20	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
10-5-18-540.00 Advertising	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 960.42	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,000.00
10-5-18-650.00 Computer	\$ 500.00	\$ 149.90	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00

Account	Budget FY-2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY-2024	Budget FY-2025
<b>Total GENERAL OFFICE</b>	<b>\$ 10,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,910.52</b>	<b>\$ 9,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,100.00</b>
<b>10-5-19-8 DUES/ASSESSMENTS</b>				
10-5-19-810.00 Royaltown Transfer Station	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 4,465.53	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 4,466.00
10-5-19-811.00 County Taxes	\$ 1,819.00	\$ 1,722.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,184.00
10-5-19-812.00 VLCT Dues	\$ 1,526.00	\$ -	\$ 1,569.00	\$ 2,748.00
10-5-19-812.01 VMCTA	\$ 100.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 140.00
10-5-19-812.02 Two Rivers Ottaquechee	\$ 567.00	\$ 567.00	\$ 585.00	\$ 603.00
10-5-19-812.03 Homeward Bound	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
<b>Total DUES/ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 8,562.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,299.53</b>	<b>\$ 8,654.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,641.00</b>
<b>10-5-22 PUBLIC SAFETY</b>				
10-5-22-360.00 Sheriff Patrol	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,254.14	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1.00
10-5-22-360.01 White River Valley Ambulance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,848.00	\$ 31,670.00
10-5-22-360.02 Granville Volunteer FD	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,204.00	\$ 2,310.00
<b>Total PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,254.14</b>	<b>\$ 43,052.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,981.00</b>
<b>10-5-61 MUNICIPAL BUILDING</b>				
10-5-61-431.00 Maint/Repairs/Wtr Testing	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 7,880.74	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,500.00
10-5-61-530.00 Telephone	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,487.38	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
10-5-61-530.01 Internet	\$ 864.00	\$ 864.00	\$ 864.00	\$ 864.00
10-5-61-622.00 Electricity	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,556.55	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
10-5-61-622.01 Street Lights	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,869.64	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
10-5-61-624.00 Fuel Oil	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,212.71	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
<b>Total MUNICIPAL BUILDING</b>	<b>\$ 31,764.00</b>	<b>\$ 31,871.02</b>	<b>\$ 39,564.00</b>	<b>\$ 38,064.00</b>
<b>10-5-65 INSURANCE</b>				
10-5-65-521.00 Insurance	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,247.33	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 14,500.00
10-5-65-521.01 Health Care Contribution	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -
10-5-65-521.02 Retirement Contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
10-5-65-526.00 Workers Comp Insurance	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,632.67	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,700.00
<b>Total INSURANCE</b>	<b>\$ 21,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,880.00</b>	<b>\$ 24,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,200.00</b>
<b>10-5-70 LONG TERM DEBT PAYMENTS</b>				
10-5-70-313.00 Flood Loan - Principal	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 21,504.40	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 23,349.00
10-5-70-313.01 Flood Loan - Interest	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,495.60	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,651.00
10-5-70-313.02 Fire Station - Principal	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 79,889.35	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -
10-5-70-313.03 Fire Station - Interest	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,146.13	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
10-5-70-313.04 2023 Flood LOC Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,199.00
10-5-70-313.05 Shampeny Culvert LOC Int.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,224.00
10-5-70-313.06 Texas Falls Bridge LOC Int.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,870.00
<b>Total LONG TERM DEBT PAYMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 44,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 107,035.48</b>	<b>\$ 44,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 127,293.00</b>
<b>Total APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 35,035.54</b>	<b>\$ 40,432.19</b>	<b>\$ 6,789.54</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Account	Budget FY-2023	Actual FY-2023	Budget FY-2024	Budget FY-2025
<b>10-5-96 TRANSFERS OUT</b>				
10-5-96-815.00 Cemetery Commission	\$ 7,600.00	\$ 7,600.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 12,000.00
10-5-96-815.01 Fire Department	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
10-5-96-815.03 Library Fund	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 18,000.00
10-5-96-815.04 Building Maint Capital Fund	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 18,501.69	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
10-5-96-815.06 Reappraisal Fund	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
10-5-96-815.07 Highway Capial Project	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
10-5-96-815.08 Tax Mapping	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -
10-5-96-815.09 Road Comm PILOT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00
<b>Total TRANSFERS OUT</b>	<b>\$ 51,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 60,301.69</b>	<b>\$ 45,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 94,200.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 367,151.54</b>	<b>\$ 431,363.84</b>	<b>\$ 383,949.54</b>	<b>\$ 483,915.00</b>

**\*\* \*TO BE VOTED ON AND ADDED TO THE BUDGET AFTER ARTICLE IS APPROVED\*\*\***

**10-5-95 Appropriations**

10-5-95-950.00 Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
10-5-95-950.01 Vermont Adult Learning	\$ 115.00	\$ 115.00	\$ -	\$ 115.00
10-5-95-950.02 Atria (WomenSafe)	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
10-5-95-950.03 John Graham Shelter	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ -
10-5-95-950.05 Tri-Valley Transit, INC	\$ 558.00	\$ 558.00	\$ 558.00	\$ 558.00
10-5-95-950.07 Central VT Council on Aging	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
10-5-95-950.08 Park House	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 700.00
10-5-95-950.09 Clara Martin Center	\$ 595.00	\$ 595.00	\$ -	\$ 595.00
10-5-95-950.10 VNA of VT/NH, Inc	\$ 1,475.00	\$ 1,475.00	\$ 1,475.00	\$ 1,475.00
10-5-95-950.11 Quin-Town Senior Center	\$ 2,716.00	\$ 2,716.00	\$ 2,716.00	\$ 2,716.00
10-5-95-950.12 White River Valley Ambulance	\$ 23,335.00	\$ 28,731.65	\$ -	\$ -
10-5-95-950.13 Granville Volunteer FD	\$ 2,101.00	\$ 2,101.00	\$ -	\$ -
10-5-95-950.14 VT Rural Fire Protection	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
10-5-95-950.15 Addison Restorative Justice	\$ 90.54	\$ 90.54	\$ 90.54	\$ -
10-5-95-950.16 Vermont Family Center	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -
10-5-95-950.17 Hancock Town Pride	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 35,035.54</b>	<b>\$ 40,432.19</b>	<b>\$ 6,789.54</b>	<b>\$ 8,509.00</b>

## APPROVAL OF TAX RATE FOR HANCOCK FY24

Grand List:

Tax Rate:

Total:


Municipal	\$365,209.00			0.8246		\$301,131.88
Local Agree. Vets Exemption	\$365,209.00			0.0022		\$793.50
Total Municipal Tax Rate				0.8268		

School Homestead	\$136,679.00			1.3225		\$180,757.97
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School- Non Homestead	\$211,079.70			1.6980		\$358,413.33
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Total Taxes to be Raised						\$841,096.68
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Total 23-24 Tax Rate:	\$2.1493	Homestead
Total 23-24 Tax Rate:	\$2.5248	Non-Homestead



Select Board, Dated July 5, 2023

### GOVERNMENT BONDS REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

Series HH Bonds:

D3963456HH \$500.00

D3963457HH \$500.00

Currency: \$7.50

### Hancock's U. S. GOVERNMENT BONDS: a short history

Up until 1965 the following paragraph was included with the bonds report giving a short explanation of how they came into being -

"Because all, or parts, of various lease lots have been sold to the federal government to be incorporated in the Green Mt. National Forest, the selectmen have seen fit to set up the following trust fund. The revenue received from this fund is expected to reimburse the town for the loss of the annual lease money."

The funds began around 1940. The cash balance shown above also comes from the sale of the lease lots.

### SURETY BONDS FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

Through the Town's insurance policy with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, all town officials and town employees are covered under a blanket policy for up to \$500,000.00 for the fiscal year of July 2022 through June 2023.



## FUND REPORTS FY JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

### LIBRARY REPORT

**BEGINNING BALANCE:** \$ 5,506.93  
 Income Received:  
     Hancock (Budgeted) \$ 17,500.00  
**Total Income:** \$ 17,500.00  
**Total Expenses:** \$ 20,875.08  
**ENDING BALANCE:** \$ 2,151.91

### RECREATION COM. REPORT

**NOT TOWN FUNDED**  
**BEGINNING BALANCE** \$694.07  
 Income Received  
     Donations \$552.50  
     Fundraisers \$0.00  
**Total Income** \$552.50  
  
**Total Expenses** \$0.00  
  
**ENDING BALANCE** \$1,246.57

### CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

**Beginning Balance** \$ -  
 Income  
     Hancock Budget \$ 7,600.00  
**Total Income** \$ 7,600.00  
**Expenses**  
     Labor \$ 4,485.00  
     Maintenance \$ 255.00  
     Equipment Rental \$ 2,280.00  
     Stone Repair/Cleaning \$ 995.00  
     Misc \$ 429.99  
**Total Expenses** \$ 8,444.99  
**Ending Balance** \$ (844.99)  
 Cem Comm Transferred  
 money to cover expenses \$ 845.00  
**Ending Balance** \$0.00

### ROAD COMMISSIONER FUND

**BEGINNING BALANCE:** \$ 58,785.86  
 Income Received:  
     Forestry Receipts 62,601.00  
     State of VT Trans. Aid 13,631.43  
     Grants in Aid 4,500.00  
     Interest 434.86  
**Total Income:** 81,167.29

### **Expenses:**

    Labor 502.50  
     Equipment rentals 210.00  
     Road Commission Salary -  
     Equipment and Supplies 271.83  
     Road Maintenance 37,242.50  
     Road improvements 2,502.50  
     Transferred to Highway Capital Project 36,127.99  
     Misc. 38.97  
**Total Expenses:** \$ 76,896.29  
**ENDING BALANCE:** 63,056.86

### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

**Beginning Balance** \$0.00  
**Income Received:** \$ 12,000.00  
     Town of Hancock (Budgeted)  
**Total Income:** \$ 12,000.00  
**Expenses:**  
     911 Phone Charges \$ 1,079.36  
     Gas/Repairs 1,118.69  
     Equip/Supplies 1,359.51  
     Radio/Radio Repairs 877.01  
     Attendance 855.00  
     Sub Total 5,289.57  
     Fire Dept. Bldg./Equip. Fund Transfer Out 6,710.43  
**Total Expenses** 12,000.00  
**ENDING BALANCE** \$0.00

### TOWN MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

**Beginning Balance** \$91,506.70  
     Interest \$33.92  
     Deposit 62,601.00  
     Deposit for service charge 30  
     Transfer Out Forestry Receipts \$ (62,601.00)  
     Transfer Out FD & BM \$ (90,537.17)  
     Service charges \$ (30.00)  
**ENDING BALANCE** \$1,003.45



# RESTRICTED ASSETS FY JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

## PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Beginning Balance:	\$	(787.73)
Income: Interest Earned	\$	-
Expenses:	\$	-
Ending Balance:	\$	(787.73)

## HONOR ROLL REPORT

Beginning Balance:	\$	2,192.62
Income: Interest Earned	\$	22.04
Deposit	\$	62.50
Expenses:	\$	(124.94)
Ending Balance:	\$	2,152.22

## LIBRARY

Beginning Balance:	\$	4,067.12
Income: Interest Earned	\$	44.46
Grants	\$	800.00
Expenses: Transfer to Library Fu	\$	(20.83)
Ending Balance:	\$	4,890.75

## SANCTUARY ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance:	\$	2,617.40
Income: Interest Earned	\$	25.97
Expenses:	\$	-
Ending Balance:	\$	2,643.37

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Beginning Balance	\$	662.54
Interest Accumulated	\$	6.58
Ending Balance	\$	669.12

## FIRE DEPT BUILDING/EQUIP FUND

Beginning Balance	\$	23,123.51
Interest	\$	237.40
D/O fr FD Budget	\$	6,710.43
Ending Balance	\$	30,071.34

## TAX MAPPING

Beginning Balance	\$	(1,234.00)
Transfer In	\$	700.00
Expenses	\$	(700.00)
Ending Balance	\$	(1,234.00)

## REAPPRAISAL FUND

Beginning Balance	\$	23,375.73
Interest Accumulated	\$	244.71
Deposit	\$	4,235.50
Ending Balance	\$	27,855.94

## FIRE DEPT FUNDRAISING (account held by FD)

Beginning Balance	\$	\$0.00
Deposits	\$	\$25,569.24
Expenses	\$	(4,829.97)
ENDING BALANCE	\$	20,739.27

## HIGHWAY CAPITAL FUND

Beginning Balance	\$	313,876.09
Income:		
Interest Accumulated	\$	2,775.30
Grant - Shampeny Hill	\$	17,047.32
Town Contribution	\$	2,000.00
RD Comm drawoff	\$	36,127.99
Total Income:	\$	57,950.61
Expenses:		
Road Improvements	\$	46,613.13
Capital Projects	\$	15,139.00
Transfer to Bldg. Main	\$	8,501.69
Total Expense	\$	70,253.82
Ending Balance	\$	301,572.88

## BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

Beginning Balance	\$	55,852.03
Income:		
Interest	\$	343.69
Town Contribution	\$	10,000.00
Rollover from Money Market	\$	8,501.69
Total Income:	\$	18,845.38
Expenses:		
Expenses (Generator)	\$	(34,664.60)
Ending Balance	\$	40,032.81

## CEMETERY TRUST FUND REPORT

Certificate of Deposit		
Beginning Balance	\$	13,810.19
Interest Accumulated		126.66
Moved to Savings	\$	(4,391.39)
Ending Balance	\$	9,545.46

## Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$	1,225.06
Perpetual Care	\$	-
Deposit from CD	\$	4,391.39
Interest Accumulated	\$	6.63
Expense to cover overbudget	\$	(845.00)
Ending Balance	\$	4,778.08

## ARPA FUND

Beginning Balance	\$	49,771.18
Income and Interest	\$	50,288.79
Expenses (FD and Generators)	\$	(34,737.20)
Ending Balance	\$	65,322.77

## RECORDS REST.

Beginning Balance	\$	3,208.96
Income	\$	1,331.00
Expense	\$	(602.74)
Ending Balance	\$	3,937.96

Parcel	Name	Tax Year	Total		
01-1055-	MANNING MATTHEW	22-23	737.39		
01-1120-	BUKER JERRY	FY21-22	320.30		
		22-23	3024.58		
			-----		
			3344.88		
01-1215-	CROSSGROVE CHRISTO	22-23	963.63		
01-1225-	CURTIS LELAND LIFE	14-15	3872.46		
		15-16	5341.88		
		16-17	4926.68		
		17-18	5282.34		
		18-19	3523.07		
		2019-2020	2912.58		
		20-21	1697.94		
		FY21-22	1560.49		
		22-23	1347.23		
			-----		
			30464.67		
01-1310-	BROWN TIMOTHY	22-23	1168.04		
01-1410-	LAPLANTE SHELLIE	22-23	702.50		
01-1450-	HILLIKER ANDREW CA	22-23	313.73		
01-1545-	AUSTINE ROSE, LLC	22-23	6562.52		
01-1575-100	KINSLEY ROY D.	22-23	1122.38		
01-1690-	ASKIN JILL V.	22-23	2440.18		
01-1780-	BYRNE MARY KATHLEE	22-23	4708.67		
01-1870-	REED MAYNARD	22-23	1489.10		
01-2000-	SHAW NANCY	22-23	1087.85		
01-2005-	MERRILL GORDON	22-23	87.95		
01-2080-	SHAWN BRANDON	FY21-22	1752.99		
		22-23	1432.25		
			-----		
			3185.24		
				<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
				-----	-----
				<b>14-15</b>	<b>3,872.46</b>
				<b>15-16</b>	<b>5,341.88</b>
				<b>16-17</b>	<b>4,926.68</b>
				<b>17-18</b>	<b>5,282.34</b>
				<b>18-19</b>	<b>3,523.07</b>
				<b>20-21</b>	<b>1,697.94</b>
				<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2,912.58</b>
				<b>22-23</b>	<b>27,188.00</b>
				<b>FY21-22</b>	<b>3,633.78</b>
				<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>58,378.73</b>

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Select Board  
Town of Hancock, Vermont

**Qualified and Unmodified Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Hancock, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Qualified Opinions on the Governmental Activities and General Fund

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter discussed in the Basis for Qualified Opinions and Unmodified Opinions section of our report, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities and General Fund of the Town of Hancock, Vermont as of June 30, 2023, and the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Unmodified Opinions on the ARPA Fund, Highway Capital Fund and Aggregate Remaining Fund Information

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the ARPA Fund, Highway Capital Fund and Aggregate Remaining Fund Information of the Town of Hancock, Vermont, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

**Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards 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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Hancock, Vermont and to meet other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit qualified and unmodified audit opinions.

Matters Giving Rise to the Qualified Opinions on the Governmental Activities and General Fund.

The Town's fire department and delinquent tax collector maintains a separate bank account which are not under the supervision of the Treasurer. The beginning and ending balances of the delinquent tax collector account and related activity were not included in the Town's financial statements. The beginning fire department bank account was added to the financial statements as a current year income. The amount by which these bank accounts would affect the assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenues and expenditures of the governmental activities and General Fund has not been determined.

**Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of these financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Hancock, Vermont's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Hancock, Vermont's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

**Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Hancock, Vermont's basic financial statements. The combining schedules of nonmajor governmental funds are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*. In our opinion, the combining schedules of nonmajor governmental funds are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

# Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated, October 3, 2023, on our consideration of the Town of Hancock, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Hancock, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Pace & Hawley, LLC*

Berlin, Vermont  
October 3, 2023

## Long-term liabilities

Consistent with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.C, the Town has not reported long-term liabilities in its governmental activities. The Town's outstanding notes payable as of June 30, 2023, were as follows:

### Governmental activities:

Mascoma Savings Bank, flood loan note payable,  
interest at 2.75%. Annual principal and interest payments of  
\$25,000 through March 2026 and one final payment of \$14,349  
on April 2027.

Certain outstanding notes from direct borrowings related to governmental activities contain a provision that in the event of default, outstanding amounts become immediately due if the Town is unable to make payment.

## TOWN OF HANCOCK, VERMONT Statement of Net Position - Modified Cash Basis June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
<b>Assets</b>	
Current assets:	
Cash	\$ 620,807
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current liabilities:	
Other liabilities	93
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>	
Property taxes received in advance	18,406
<b>Net position</b>	
Restricted	147,180
Unrestricted	455,128
Total net position	\$ 602,308

## TOWN OF HANCOCK, VERMONT Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Modified Cash Basis - Governmental Funds For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General Fund	ARPA Fund	Highway Capital Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues</b>					
Property taxes	\$ 276,489	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 276,489
Penalties and interest on					
delinquent taxes	9,779	-	-	-	9,779
Intergovernmental	94,149	-	-	-	94,149
License permits and fines	8,254	-	-	-	8,254
Charges for services	8,411	-	-	-	8,411
Interest on cash deposit	1,939	-	-	-	1,939
Donations	-	484	2,775	1,060	6,268
Miscellaneous	25,577	-	-	616	616
Total revenues	416,558	50,290	19,822	6,042	492,712
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Current:					
General government	146,373	-	-	13,456	159,829
Highways, streets and bridges	108,435	-	61,751	-	170,186
Public safety	20,374	12,800	-	-	33,174
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	20,875	20,875
Cemetery	-	-	-	8,444	8,444
Capital outlay	40,432	-	-	-	40,432
Debt service - principal	101,394	21,938	-	-	123,332
Debt service - interest	5,642	-	-	-	5,642
Total expenditures	422,650	34,738	61,751	64,713	583,852
Excess of revenues or (expenditures)	(4,082)	15,552	(41,929)	(58,671)	(89,130)
Other financing sources (uses)					
Transfers in (out)	(90,440)	-	39,128	52,312	-
Net change in fund balances	(94,522)	15,552	(3,801)	(6,359)	(89,130)
Fund balances, beginning of year	188,849	49,771	313,876	136,942	689,438
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 94,327	\$ 65,323	\$ 310,075	\$ 130,583	\$ 600,308

## TOWN OF HANCOCK, VERMONT Balance Sheet - Modified Cash Basis - Governmental Funds June 30, 2023

	General Fund	ARPA Fund	Highway Capital Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash	\$ 112,038	\$ 65,323	\$ 310,075	\$ 133,371	\$ 620,807
Due from other funds	788	-	-	-	788
Total assets	\$ 112,826	\$ 65,323	\$ 310,075	\$ 133,371	\$ 621,595
<b>Liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances</b>					
Liabilities:					
Other liabilities	\$ 93	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 93
Due to other funds	-	-	-	788	788
Total liabilities	93	-	-	788	881
<b>Deferred inflows of resources:</b>					
Property taxes received in advance	18,406	-	-	-	18,406
Fund balances:					
Restricted	20,739	65,323	-	61,118	147,180
Committed	-	-	310,075	72,253	382,328
Unassigned	73,586	-	-	(788)	72,800
Total fund balances	94,327	65,323	310,075	132,583	602,308
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	\$ 112,826	\$ 65,323	\$ 310,075	\$ 133,371	\$ 621,595

## **Road Commissioner's Report**

**December 2023**

It has been an active year for Hancock town roads and there is more coming in FY24-25.

### **Regular Operations:**

Prior to the July and August flood events, Hancock was able to utilize some of the ARPA funds in combination with Highway Capital Funds to repave certain roads in town that most needed pavement maintenance. Roads repaved include Churchville Road, Virgin Avenue, Recreation Drive, and Killooleet Road. Paved aprons were also added to Bettis Road and Blair Hill Road. No new taxpayer money was used for these projects.

Ditches on Churchville Road were reshaped and relined with partial grant funding from the State.

### **Texas Falls Grant Award:**

The town has been awarded a \$1,210,000 grant from the Federal Government to replace the first bridge on the Texas Falls Road. This grant is for all engineering, project management, and projected construction costs for a new bridge. If this project moves forward, the town will need to fund these costs but will be reimbursed by the grant when the project is complete. As a result, the proposed FY24-25 budget has a loan interest line item for \$56,870. This is the projected interest cost for the project for one year. Details on this loan are provided below.

The Select Board is still working with the Federal Government on the terms of this grant to determine how to handle costs if the construction bids come in higher than the projected costs. The Board is aware that without this grant the cost of this project would be entirely the responsibility of the town in the event the bridge needed to be replaced.

### **July and August Flood Event - Roads:**

Hancock roads were significantly damaged in both the July and August flood events. Both events were classified as FEMA events, which makes the Town of Hancock eligible for reimbursement of up to 75% of the repair costs. The State of Vermont will contribute another 12%, leaving the town to fund the remaining approximately 13% of total costs.

Flood-damaged roads included Churchville Road, Buttles Road, Blair Hill, Tucker Brook Road, Shampeny Hill Road, and Fassett Hill Road. The Tunnel Brook stream also required emergency work. All roads were repaired prior to heavy snowfall to facilitate plowing and winter maintenance. The costs for all repairs were approximately \$421,500. While the town waits for FEMA and State reimbursements for repair costs, the town has funded the repairs with a Flood Line of Credit. This loan has a balance of \$217,000 as of December 2023. This loan would have been higher; however, there were still funds in the Highway Capital Fund to cover some of the flood repair costs. It is anticipated that when all reimbursements are received this loan will be



paid off in full with some funds returning to the Highway Capital Fund. Details regarding this loan are provided below.

#### **August Flood Event – Shampeny Hill Culvert**

During the August flooding, the culvert at the intersection of Shampeny Hill Road and Tucker Brook Road was damaged. The culvert must be replaced. This is a significant project as it involves a temporary bridge and resizing and realigning a new culvert. The lower part of Tucker Brook Road will receive new pavement as part of this project, beyond the area of flood damage. This project is not presented as an Article in the Warning for Town Meeting as the town is obligated to replace this culvert due to public safety concerns.

The estimate for this project is approximately \$749,454. The town is working with FEMA to make this project eligible for at least 75% reimbursement as well as State reimbursement of 12%. Like the other FEMA projects, the town will be required to fund this project and then submit for reimbursement. The proposed FY24-25 budget has a line item for the interest on this culvert loan in the amount of \$35,244. It is anticipated that after reimbursements there may be a remaining balance of approximately \$179,544, which will be converted to a term loan at the best available loan rates. Details regarding this loan are provided below.

#### **Summary:**

Voters can expect to see three new line items for loan interest in the FY24-25 budget. One for flood damage repair costs, one for culvert replacement costs, and one for the Texas Falls bridge project. All three of these budget items are projected to be eliminated or significantly reduced in future budgets as reimbursements are received from FEMA, the State of Vermont, and a federal government grant.

The Texas Falls bridge project is presented as an Article at Town Meeting as the town is not obligated to replace the bridge at this time. However, this bridge will need to be replaced at some point in time either due to age or flood damage. If this bridge needs to be replaced and no grant is available, the cost of at least \$1,210,000 would be the sole responsibility of the Town and would require significant loan debt to fund the replacement.

#### **Loan Details:**

##### **Flood Repair Loan Taken Out in 2023**

Loan Balance as of 12/13/23	\$ 217,000	Annual Interest @ 4.7%	\$ 10,199
Potential FEMA reimbursement:	\$ 316,143	Resulting tax increase:	\$ 0.0280/\$100
Potential State reimbursement:	<u>\$ 50,583</u>		
Estimated Amount to go back into Highway Capital Fund	\$ 149,726 with loan paid off in full		

**Shampeny Hill Culvert Replacement**

Lowest bid received	\$ 579,454		
Paving Upper (FEMA eligible)	\$ 38,200		
Paving Lower (Town pays)	\$ 101,800		
Engineering & Other (est.)	<u>\$ 30,000</u>		
Total Loan Estimate	\$ 749,454	Annual Interest @ 4.7%	\$ 35,224
Potential FEMA reimbursement:	\$ 485,741	Resulting tax increase:	\$ 0.0966/\$100
Potential State reimbursement:	\$ 84,169		
Estimated Town long-term debt:	\$ 179,544		

**Replace Texas Falls Bridge / Federal Grant**

Est. cost to replace (loan amount)	\$ 1,210,000	Annual Interest @ 4.7%	\$ 56,870
Grant reimbursement	\$ 1,210,000	Resulting tax increase:	\$ 0.1559/\$100
Estimated Town long-term debt	\$ 0		

NOTE : Total interest cost impact on taxes in FY24-25 is \$ 0.2805 per \$100 of assessed real estate value. These interest charges will be mostly eliminated within 12-24 months as reimbursements are received from FEMA, the State of Vermont, and a federal government grant.

*Dan Perera*

Road Commissioner

December, 2023



## **Town Clerk's Report**

Thank you to our dedicated selectboard members, committee members, trustees, and community members for working together to navigate business each day. Our selectboard members and road commissioner logged many volunteer hours to help our town recover from the July and August floods. Thank you very much! A special thank you to my assistants for always being ready to lend a hand! Your hard work is noticed and appreciated, as always!

Hancock vital statistics for 2023 include 2 marriages, 4 births, and no deaths. We recorded 19 property transfer returns in 2023. We held our annual Town Meeting, the Granville Hancock Unified School District meeting, and a special Town Meeting this year. We recorded 161 pages of town records and 307 pages of land records! Another busy year!

The office is open by appointment during regular business hours: Monday 10AM–4PM, Tuesday 9AM–3PM, Wednesday 9AM–3PM. Please call 767-3660 for an appointment. Our front door remains locked for security reasons, so please knock on the door when you arrive so we know you're out there!

Much work takes place behind the scenes here at the office, and appointments continue to be available outside normal business hours for residents needing to conduct business in person; simply call to make arrangements for this service.

Please remember you can use our secure drop box for items that need to be left after hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jody Jesso*

Town Clerk/Treasurer

### **Hancock Vital Statistics Calendar Year 2023**

#### **Births**

Silas Denis

Ronan Hamilton

Isla Mayo

Corey Santamore

#### **Marriages**

Lawrence Jacques Jr. to Laurie Ainsworth

Tammy Kimball to Leo Hotte Sr.

### **Hancock Dog License Report 2023**

Fees Collected: \$354

Number of Dogs Licensed: 36

Fees Sent to the State: \$180

## Assessor Report

The Governor signed Bill H480 which will change the way real estate is assessed for tax purposes in Vermont. In summary, the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) will no longer be used as a metric to determine if a town must reappraise. The Coefficient of Dispersion will be used, a more stable metric when real estate prices increase significantly over short periods of time. The COD indicates how fairly distributed property taxes are within a town. A figure above 20 requires a town wide reappraisal. The COD for Hancock in 2023 was 15.48.

Beginning in 2026, Bill H480 requires municipalities to conduct full reappraisals every six years regardless of a town's Coefficient of Dispersion. The town's last reappraisal was done in 2016. Property Valuation and Review will take an active role in contracting with appraisal firms on behalf of municipalities beginning in 2026. How this will be accomplished at the state level is unclear at this time. Ironically, the state has sent out a Request for Proposal to appraisal companies that would be interested in providing guidelines to the state on how best to implement this new Bill.

Another change beginning in 2026 is the elimination of state payments made to towns each year for Grand List maintenance and reappraisal funding. This cost will be the responsibility of the municipality.

I have started to develop a sales book of properties sold over the past five years that will be a supplement to the existing property record cards available at the town office. A sales book is useful in several ways. First, it is a reference for individuals who want to compare their existing values to current market conditions. Second, it supports any change of appraisal values sent to individuals in any given year.

Property values continued to rise over the past year. There were three single family homes that sold for an average of 89 percent above their grand list value. In addition, a small camp on Windigo Road with thirty-five acres sold for \$376,000, 317 percent over the grand list value.



Richard Favor

Town Assessor

## **Hancock Free Public Library - Town Report 2022-2023**

Hancock Free Public Library continues to adapt to serve the needs of our patrons. We have been open for browsing. Our WIFI is also available 24/7 from the parking lot and does not require a password.

We have been privileged to receive grants to continue our existing programs and establish new ones. We received a grant from the State of Vermont Department of Libraries.

The Green Mountain Consortium (better known as Listen Up Vermont) provided Hancock patrons, both readers and listeners, with 792 books for their enjoyment.

Inter Library Loan (ILL) provides for our patrons' books that are not in our collection.

Our Adopt an Author Program continues to provide the latest book releases from authors Chris Bohjalian, Janet Evanovich, John Grisham and David Rosenfelt. If you have a favorite author and would like to donate their newest release to the library, please call the library to make arrangements for the Adopt an Author Program.

Summer Family Packets containing information from four libraries (Belcher, Hancock, Rochester and Roger Clark) were distributed to Pre K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the two community schools, Hancock home schooled students and students attended other schools. These packets promoted events in the four communities. They also provided information on summer programs, Vermont Reads programs and a list of museum passes.

Seed Library made vegetable, herb and flower seeds packets available to our patrons.

Museum passes are available year-round. Through cooperation with the Belcher, Rochester and the Roger Clark Libraries all our patrons can access a greater number of passes. Depending on the venue, passes are either free and at a discounted rate. Call the library for more information.

Halloween Trunk or Treat Event – Free books, stickers and bookmarks were give out to all children that attended.

Middlebury Snow Bowl was generous in providing two ski passes for the winter season.

Valley Readers Book Group met with a mix of Zoom and in person discussions. Their monthly meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Discussion books are provided by the Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library and Inter Library Loan. Call the library to reserve your copy.

To contact the Hancock Free Public Library you can call (802-767-4651) or email:  
[Hancockvtlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:Hancockvtlibrary@gmail.com).

### **Hancock Library Trustees:**

Eva Jesso, Chair

Margi Rogal, Treasurer

Gretchen Perera, Secretary

Rose Juliano

Jody Jesso

Caroline Meagher, Librarian

## **Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library - 2023 Report**

The Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library formed in 2012 to support the Hancock Free Public Library (HFPL). During this time, we've shown that support in a variety of ways including holding programs and events and buying books and materials.

While the Friends haven't held workshops and events due to the pandemic, our book discussion group, Valley Readers, has continued to meet on Zoom. The group meets at 6pm the second Thursday of these months - January-June & September-November.

If you'd like to help support the Friends, there are many ways to do so:

- There is a book discussion group, Valley Readers, which has been going strong for 10 years. The group meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm and anyone is welcome to join. Currently the meetings take place over Zoom, so please reach out if you'd like to be included.
- Our Adopt an Author program is in its sixth year and is a fun way to expand the collection. Ask at the HFPL how you can take part.
- A nice way to remember a loved one, or honor a friend or family member, is to donate to the Friends. The money is used for books and programs to support the HFPL. Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library has a Facebook so please "like" the page to keep up with the latest happenings.
- Consider joining the Friends group. Donation levels start as low as \$10/year.

If you'd like more information on the Friends, please contact Jill Jesso-White, President, at 767-4128.

## HANCOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

7/1/22 – 6/30/23

### CALLS

Motor vehicle ~ 8	Mutual aid ~ 5
Lift assist ~ 1	Co detectors ~ 1
Alarms ~ 1	Structure fire ~ 1
Brush fire ~ 3	TOTAL CALLS ~ 20

We have lost 4 members the last couple years due to them moving out of town

Andrew Bordonaro

Kevin Hewitt

Ken Troumbley

Garrett Troumbley (work related/still a resident)

The fire department thanks you for your service. As always, we are looking for new members. Day time help is short as a lot of the guys work out or town.

We are doing fund raisers such as selling hot dogs at the concerts, gun raffles, coin drops and our bi-annual auction. We are in hopes of getting a 4x4 rescue truck as we are getting more motor vehicle calls. When we go up 125 in the winter and the road conditions are slippery, we can not take the rescue truck.

We are hoping to purchase one with our fund raising money and equipment fund money we have. Hoping no new tax money.

Thank you for your support

Jacques Veilleux

Chief

## Cemetery Report

In the fall of 2022, we hired Green Valley Memorials of Randolph to straighten and repair many stones in the village cemeteries.

This fall we have made new policies regarding grave openings.

Also, included in this report are the current policies and prices for cemetery lots. The prices will be reviewed and revised in the season of 2024.

Please contact the Cemetery Commissioners for your needs at the cemetery.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Geraldine "Jakey" Twitchell  
Maurice "June" Eaton  
Larry Bettis

## Cemetery Regulations for Meadowbrook Cemetery, Hancock VT

1. The right to plant permanent herbage, flowers, shrubs or trees shall be the authority of the Commission and any planting done without permission will give the Commission the right to remove.
2. No earth fill, grading, sodding or seeding is permitted without the consent of the Commission and then only in accordance with their recommendations.
3. All grave decorations will be removed when they become unsightly. All flowers, real or artificial, should be in moveable containers.
4. The American Flag may be displayed on graves of persons who have served honorably in the military service of the United States of America and out of respect it should be removed when it becomes faded or tattered.
5. The base for the monument and cornerstones shall not be more than one-half inch above ground. Base around monument should be four inches larger on all four sides than the monument. Cornerstones should be set at the time of purchase.
6. All burials except cremations shall be in cement liners or vaults.
7. No burials after December 1, unless conditions permit.
8. All graves will be permanently marked.

## Prices for Lots

<b>Resident</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Lot</b>	<b>Perpetual Care</b>		<b>Non-Resident</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Lot</b>	<b>Perpetual Care</b>
<b>full lot</b>	\$250.00	\$50.00	\$200.00		<b>full lot</b>	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
<b>1/2 lot</b>	\$130.00	\$50.00	\$80.00		<b>1/2 lot</b>	\$155.00	\$75.00	\$80.00
<b>1/4 lot</b>	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$40.00		<b>1/4 lot</b>	\$90.00	\$30.00	\$25.00
<b>1/8 lot</b>	\$40.00	\$20.00	\$20.00		<b>1/8 lot</b>	\$55.00	\$30.00	\$25.00

Town of Hancock, Vermont  
Cemetery Commission

Conduct Policy

The sexton will open a grave at the request of the Cemetery Commissioners. The sexton will act in a compassionate manner. The sexton will witness the placement of the human remains into the grave. The sexton will receive the cremation certificate (if applicable) and take it to the Town Clerk later to be recorded. The sexton will remove himself from the gravesite and will not return to the gravesite until the family has left the gravesite. The sexton will then close the grave. The sexton will not receive money at the gravesite or directly from the family.

Cemetery Commissioners

Margaret R. Twitchell chair  
Mavis Eaton  
Larry Bettis

Date: Nov 1, 2023

Signed 11/30/2023

HANCOCK TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
THIS 8 DAY OF November 23 2023  
AT 9 O'CLOCK TOWN MINUTES P.M.  
RECORDED IN TOWN RECORDS  
IN VOLUME 185 PAGE 191  
ATTEST Mavis Eaton TOWN CLERK

Town of Hancock, Vermont  
Cemetery Commission

Policies

Requests for Grave Openings

As of 9/18/2023 requests for grave openings will go to the Cemetery Commissioners and be approved by the Cemetery Commissioners.

Costs for Grave Openings with the Cemeteries of the Town of Hancock

The fee for a grave opening will be set by the Cemetery Commissioner. The fee for the grave opening will be paid to the Cemetery Commission ONLY.

The Cemetery Commissioners will pay the sexton following the grave opening on their next bi-monthly pay order with their signatures.

The fees for the grave opening have been reviewed and revised as follows, set 9/18/2023 hereafter until revised and signed by the Cemetery Commission.

Cremation opening \$200

Full Casket Opening \$600 (with the exception of a difficult opening by permission of the Cemetery Commission only)

Cemetery Commissioners

HANCOCK TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
THIS 11 DAY OF Oct. 11 2023  
AT 10 O'CLOCK TOWN MINUTES P.M.  
RECORDED IN TOWN RECORDS  
IN VOLUME 185 PAGE 185  
ATTEST Mavis Eaton TOWN CLERK



# Hancock Town Pride - Annual Report for 2023

Hancock Town Pride has been working consistently for 13 years on these three goals: beautifying the town, holding events and activities and fostering community spirit. These past several years have made it challenging to hold events and activities, but we were still able to do things to meet our goals.

We continued our annual tradition of distributing sunflower seeds to anyone interested on Memorial Day. Thanks to Ross Parker and Denise Chapin for the donation of seeds. We also handed out sunflower seedlings planted and donated by Meg Brown, so a big thanks to her as well. Volunteers planted the wooden barrels with flowers at various locations around town. Planters were sponsored by the following people: Corner of the Town Green: Tracy Beers, Hancock Town Office: Jack's Greenhouse (Jack & Marge Ross) and the Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library, Killooleet Sign: Gretchen & Tom Perera), Junction of Routes 100/125: Sue & Vic Ribaodo, and the Hancock Historical Society: Dorothy & Dick Robson. Thanks also to all our volunteer waterers who helped with the flowers all summer. All the sunflowers around town also looked great.

Hancock Town Pride presented six concerts during the summer of 2023 by the following artists:

**July 6:** Bloodroot Gap (traditional bluegrass string trio with vocals)

**July 13:** Scott Forrest (singer-songwriter, vocals with guitar)

**July 20:** Greg Ryan and Jodi Ingram (singer-songwriter duo, vocals with guitars)

**July 27:** Hancock Coffee House Singers (area musicians, vocals and instruments)

**August 3:** Pete Seeger Memorial Concert (Camp Killooleet staff and local musicians singing and playing music in the tradition of Pete Seeger)

**August 10:** Rick Redington and The Luv (Rick Redington, singer-songwriter, and his band)

Concerts were held in the bandstand on the Hancock Town Green, and when the weather didn't cooperate, the concerts were held in the Hancock Town Hall. Refreshments were sold at the outdoor concerts by The Hancock Volunteer Fire Department and the Hancock Recreation Committee. Thanks to Renee and Jacques Veilleux, Linda Anderson, and others for making refreshments available.

A new addition this year was due to the generosity of two Hancock businesses, Hubbard's General Store and Heart of Hancock. Names were drawn and two gift certificates for pizza, baked goods and other food items were given at each concert. Thanks to Sarah Deering and Meg Brown for these donations.

All concerts were presented free of charge, with a jar available for voluntary donations at each concert. Audience members from many other towns as well as Hancock residents were appreciative of the live music performed on our beautiful Town Green. We encourage all to bring a lawn chair and enjoy a relaxing summer evening.

In early December we purchased wreaths to hang on our municipal buildings and the bandstand. They looked very festive through the holiday season.

We always welcome new members to join us! We have a Facebook page where we post announcements. Please "like" our page! We would love to hear your ideas and feedback as we work toward adding to the beauty and community spirit of our town.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hancock Town Pride, Jill Jesso-White, President

## 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](http://vlct.org). Recent audited financial statements are available at [vlct.org/AuditReports](http://vlct.org/AuditReports).

## TRORC 2023 YEAR-END REPORT

The Two Rivers-Ottawa-Quebec 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 Hancock this past year, TRORC assisted the town with updating its Local Emergency Management Plan. TRORC also supported the town in a Better Roads grant application for riverbank armoring along Killbuck Road. Staff also assisted the town with applying for and receiving energy assessment grants for the Town Hall and Town Offices.

*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*





## East Central Vermont Telecommunications District

[www.ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net)

### ECFiber and the Town of Hancock

Hancock 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 "BBB" 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.

Scott Gillette and Dan Perera, Delegates  
[hancock@ecfiber.net](mailto:hancock@ecfiber.net) | [www.ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net) | 802-ECFiber

415 Waterman Rd Unit 2, South Royalton, Vermont 05068-5418 (802)-ECFIBER (802-323-3427)  
**YOUR COMMUNITY-OWNED CONNECTION TO THE WORLD**

### 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 new 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

## 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.

## 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



White River Valley Ambulance, Inc.

2024 Budget DRAFT 1.0

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MONTHLY PAYMENTS BY TOWN FOR JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024

Month	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
Assessments	78,368.00	153,418.00	95,353.00	52,061.00	23,779.00	28,361.00	39,816.00	377,146.00	86,821.00	56,722.00	991,845.00
January	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
February	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
March	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
April	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
May	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
June	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
July	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
August	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
September	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
October	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
November	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
December	7,011.14	12,815.67	8,046.36	4,368.83	2,072.36	2,639.14	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
Total	78,367.96	153,418.02	95,353.04	52,060.98	23,779.04	28,360.96	39,816.00	377,146.02	86,821.02	56,721.96	991,845.00

32

Months	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
Jan - June	36,301.02	76,524.00	47,074.98	25,848.00	11,344.98	12,526.02	19,908.00	181,536.00	43,002.00	28,360.98	482,425.98
July - Dec	42,066.94	76,894.02	48,278.06	26,212.98	12,434.06	15,834.94	19,908.00	195,610.02	43,819.02	28,360.98	509,419.02
Total	78,367.96	153,418.02	95,353.04	52,060.98	23,779.04	28,360.96	39,816.00	377,146.02	86,821.02	56,721.96	991,845.00
2023 Budget	78,368.00	153,418.00	95,353.00	52,061.00	23,779.00	28,361.00	39,816.00	377,146.00	86,821.00	56,722.00	991,845.00
Difference	-0.04	0.02	0.04	-0.02	0.04	-0.04	0.00	0.02	0.02	-0.04	0.00

OPTIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS BY TOWN FOR THE SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING DECEMBER 31, 2024 (No increase at least until July 1, 2025)

Month	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
January 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
February 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
March 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
April 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
May 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
June 2023	7,011.14	12,815.67	8,046.36	4,368.83	2,072.36	2,639.14		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
Total	42,066.94	76,894.02	48,278.06	26,212.98	12,434.06	15,834.94		195,610.02	43,819.02		461,150.04

AMOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR TOWNS' BUDGETS FOR FY 2023-2024

Months	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
July - Dec 2023	42,066.94	76,894.02	48,278.06	26,212.98	12,434.06	15,834.94		195,610.02	43,819.02		461,150.04
Jan - June 2024	42,066.94	76,894.02	48,278.06	26,212.98	12,434.06	15,834.94		195,610.02	43,819.02		461,150.04
Total	84,133.88	153,788.04	96,556.12	52,425.96	24,868.12	31,669.88		391,220.04	87,638.04		922,300.08



## TOWN FUNDS REQUEST

AGENCY NAME:  
ADDRESS:  
99 Maple Street, #18 Marble Works  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

CONTACT PERSON:  
CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Natalie Reigle, Regional Director  
nreigle@vtadultlearning.org  
802-388-4392, ext. 1008

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: We provide adults with basic skills instruction in reading, writing and math, GED prep and testing, a high school diploma program, and classes for English Language Learners.

AMOUNT REQUESTED FY22: \$115.00  
AMOUNT REQUESTED FY23: \$115.00  
HANCOCK RESIDENTS SERVED: 1  
TOTAL SERVED STATEWIDE (FY23): 1,125

### SOURCES OF INCOME/EXPENSES IN PERCENTAGES\* (FY23: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023):

Sources of Income	532,133	%	Major Expenses	481,325	%
Rec'd from federal taxes:	101,264	19.03	Salaries and benefits	387,245	80.45
Rec'd from state taxes:	282,461	53.08	Office expenses	6,308	1.31
Rec'd from municipal tax:	9,566	1.80	Facilities	36,530	7.59
Rec'd from donations:	0.0		Programs	25,333	5.26
Rec'd from United Way	20,992	3.94	Other	25,910	5.38
Rec'd from grants & other:	117,850**	22.15	Net gain	50,808	
TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%	TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%

\*This data pertains to the Middlebury site only, not VAL as a whole.

\*\* Includes Covid Employee Retention Tax Credit

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) offers a variety of learning opportunities to help adults achieve their educational goals and enhance their quality of life. We work with each student to develop an individualized learning plan that includes a transition to further education or employment. We offer GED testing, programs for completing a high school diploma, basic skills instruction in reading, writing, and math and classes for English Language Learners (ELL). Instruction is also available to students who need skill preparation for college or employment purposes.

In addition, we are contracted by the Vermont Department of Children and Families to place and support Reach-Up participants in unsubsidized work experiences. Our programs are free and confidential

## CLARA MARTIN CENTER

Community Support Services  
24 South Main St., Randolph, VT 05060  
(802) 728-6000

East Valley Academy  
579 VT Rte. 14 So., East Randolph, VT 05041  
(802) 728-3896

Regional Alternative Program  
Norwich Avenue, Wilder, VT 05088  
(802) 295-8628

Wilder  
PO Box 816, Wilder VT 05088  
(802) 295-1311

Clara Martin Center provides a multitude of services throughout Orange County to best meet the needs of community members in a holistic approach. These include individual, couples, and group therapy and services for co-occurring mental health and substance use. We also offer psychiatric consultations and evaluations and medication management services. Services are confidential and include:

- Outpatient Counseling
- Psychiatric Services
- Short-term crisis intervention
- School and Home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Hospital Diversion
- Walk-in Clinic
- Vocational Services
- Alcohol and other drug treatment
- Respite Care
- 24-hour emergency system

Clara Martin Center is your local community mental health agency, providing behavioral health and substance use services to the greater Orange County and the greater Upper Valley area for the last 57 years.

Clara Martin Center's broad range of programs serve children, families, couples, and individuals. Services are confidential and include counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short term crisis intervention, school and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, alternatives to hospital care, respite care, housing, vocational services, substance use treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services. We strive to meet the care needs of the communities we serve, and provide services that meet the needs of the individuals that have entrusted their care to us.

FY23 TOTAL SERVED AT CMC	463	TOTAL SERVED HANCOCK	
Children & Family Services	102	Children & Family Services	2
School Services	71	School Services	2
JOBS	677	JOBS	2
Adult Services	160	Adult Services	
CSP Services	15	CSP Services	
Supportive & Transitional Housing	284	Supportive & Transitional Housing	
Substance Abuse Services	94	Substance Abuse Services	
Corrections Services	293	Corrections Services	2
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	662	Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	1
Access	1,081	Access	1
CCBHC Services	2,191	CCBHC Services	5
Total Served - unduplicated	258	Total seen:	
CVSAS		CVSAS	

## HANCOCK TOWN PRIDE

December 12, 2023

Town of Hancock  
PO Box 100  
Hancock, VT 05748

Dear Hancock Selectboard:

Hancock Town Pride formed in 2012 with three primary goals. These include holding events and activities, beautifying the town and fostering a sense of pride in the town. Since our start we have done fundraising and grant writing. However, with the pandemic we haven't been able to do fundraising. This means that after filling the flower barrels and holding our summer concert series our funds are greatly diminished. Unless something changes, we won't have the funds to hold a 2024 summer concert series.

We are requesting that funding of \$1,000 be added to the list of appropriations for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. A petition with the required number of signatures has been submitted.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

*Jill Jesso-White*

Jill Jesso-White  
President, Hancock Town Pride

## Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens

PO Box 113  
1097 Route 100  
Hancock, VT 05748

802-767-3763  
quintownsc@gmail.com

11/20/2023

To the Town of Hancock 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 Hancock is \$2716.00 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. The past year we have served 5 Hancock residents thru the Meals on Wheels program, 7 days a week, totaling 1,826 meals. The recent increased need for food in the community aggravated by this summers catastrophic flooding, builds on the economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, as a 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.

### Board of Directors

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





Town of Hancock  
P.O. Box 100  
Hancock, VT 5748

October 9, 2023

Dear Council Members and Citizens of Hancock;

We at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) would like to offer our heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to have our appropriation request included in 2023 funding. VNH respectfully requests 1475. This represents level funding from last year's request.

As an integral part of the community healthcare system in Hancock, VNH serves to breach an otherwise significant gap in the community's continuum of care. Last year, VNH provided 58 visits to 6 residents of all ages and at all stages of life. VNH is also the foremost team of hospice and home health experts for over 140 communities in Vermont and New Hampshire. We deliver nursing, hospice and rehabilitation services at home with proven effectiveness, integrity and compassion. Just as local families have counted on us since 1907, you can count on us today.

Having our patients maintain their independence is key. Our nurses, therapists and social workers provide assessments, medical care and education to assist people in leading a more self-sufficient life. This includes patients who are frail, elderly and disabled, people with terminal illness, those recovering from major surgery or illness and children with chronic medical needs. They all benefit by receiving the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home.

Town funding is what allows us to bring down the cost of services provided to those in need. With adequate town funding, we are able to provide an affordable option for home healthcare in the community. To continue meeting these needs, we urge the Town of Hancock to budget continued financial support of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire.

On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

With kind regards,

*Anthony Knox*

Anthony Knox  
Community Relations Manager  
aknox@vnhcare.org  
(603) 790-3172



2023-2024

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy Vadnais  
President

Anthony Goupee  
Vice President

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Jakey Twitchell

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#### STAFF

Lolly Lindsey  
Executive Director

Kristi Fuller  
Lead Cook

Phyllis Deering  
Cook

Susan Leary  
Housekeeper

Dawn Cieniewicz  
Housekeeper



Thank you for your support!

Dear Friends,

Park House is many things to many people— a historical landmark, a community center, a place to serve others—but above all, it is home to up to 16 seniors seeking companionship, assistance, comfort, and community. The residents of Park House are as diverse as our communities are. Some live on fixed incomes while others are somewhat more financially comfortable; some are healthy and vibrant while others are more physically or mentally challenged. While a good number of residents hail from the Quin-Town valley area, some have come to us from further away in order to live closer to family here.

Park House has managed to maintain its commitment to provide affordable housing to seniors in our community over the past 30 years. Each year the costs for utilities, food and basic necessities continue to increase. These past few years, that increase has been even more dramatic. The staff and Board of Trustees have continued to work hard to keep expenses in check and to maintain that commitment to affordability. Our non-profit organization relies on grants, fundraising events and on your generous contributions and appropriations to cover our expenses and to remain an affordable Home.

We currently have all of our 16 rooms rented out and have been maintaining an extensive waiting list. Multiple calls are received weekly from people looking for an elder residence for a family member or for themselves. Most Vermonters are well aware of the housing crisis in our state, and we at Park House can attest that the crisis extends to senior housing as well. We are confident we could fill another Park House sized building in a blink of an eye.

Our dedicated service to this community and it's elders would not have been possible without generous community support. We sincerely thank you for your past support and hope that you will vote to continue that support again this year.

Drop by for a visit sometime. We would love to see you here at the house for a brown bag lunch, a musical performance, or just a good old rocking chair porch chat!

With our best wishes,

Lolly Lindsey



Supporting Central Vermonters to Age with Dignity and Choice  
CVCOA Helpline: 1-802-477-1364



## HANCOCK TOWN REPORT October 2023

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

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 Hancock 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 17 residents of Hancock. CVCOA Case Manager Kathryn Schenkman was designated to serve older adults in Hancock.

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 Hancock for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters in the Hancock community.

Thank you for the Town of Hancock's generous support last year. During the past four years, your support helped us provide an annual average of 329 free Dial-A-Ride trips for Hancock residents either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles. In FY23 a total of 1,182 bus rides initiated from Hancock, primarily from the Middlebury College Snow Bowl. *TVT's Dial-A-Ride and Public Bus Systems provided a total of 1,803,335 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. Hancock residents can access the 89'er Commuter Route to Lebanon, Hanover, and White River Jct., as well as more nearby locations in Sharon and South Royalton, from stops in nearby Rochester.

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.

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

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:

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

\*Numbers are unaudited

#### HANCOCK

In Hancock, Atria Collective provided advocacy services to at least 8\* residents including adults and children.

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



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

**MINUTES OF  
ANNUAL MEETING  
TOWN OF HANCOCK, VERMONT**

**MARCH 7, 2023**

James Leno calls the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and reads the Warning.

The legal voters of the Town of Hancock, VT, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Hancock Town Hall in said town to transact the following business by floor vote.

**Article 1: To elect a Town Moderator for the next year ensuing.**

Geraldine Twitchell nominates Jim Leno. So voted.

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

- Selectboard Member – three year term  
Dan Perera nominates Scott Gillette. So voted.
- Auditor- three year term  
Marge Ross nominates Geraldine Twitchell. So voted.
- Constable – one year term  
No nominations. VACANT.
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes – one year term  
Marge Ross nominates Jamie Morin. So voted.
- Cemetery Commissioner - three year term  
Marge Ross nominates Maurice Eaton. So voted.
- Road Commissioner – one year term  
Janet Jesso nominates Dan Perera. So voted.
- Library Trustee – five year term  
Janet Jesso nominates Margi Rogal. So voted.
- Advisory Budget Committee – three year term  
Marge Ross nominates Eva Jesso. So voted.

**Article 3: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$6789.54 to the following social service agencies pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691:**

<b>Green-Up Vermont</b> – Supports Green Up Day	\$50.00
<b>WomenSafe</b> – Provides assistance related to sexual and domestic violence for people of all genders	\$500.00
<b>Tri Valley Transit (Stagecoach)</b> – Provides regional mass transit	\$558.00
<b>Central Vermont Council on Aging</b> – Provides services to seniors	\$800.00



Park House – Senior housing non-profit	\$600.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT/NH, Inc. – Non-profit that provides home healthcare and hospice services	\$1475.00
Quin–Town Senior Center – non-profit providing Meals on Wheels services to valley seniors.	\$2,716.00
Addison County Restorative Justice – provides restorative justice programs to Addison County residents (court diversion, etc.)	\$90.54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6789.54</b>

Geraldine Twitchell moves to approve; Dan Perera seconds. Motion carries.

**Article 4:** Shall the voters authorize the Cemetery Commission to roll over surplus funds from one budget year to the next budget year, in perpetuity, until otherwise amended by the voters.

Geraldine Twitchell moves to approve; Cindy Leno seconds. Motion carries.

**Article 5:** A. Shall the voters authorize the Select Board to move \$90,325.89 (Dollars) from a Money Market Account to the General Fund for the purpose of reducing Property Taxes for Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

Geraldine Twitchell moves to approve; Dan Perera seconds. Derek Dzhugashvili starts discussion on possible uses. Dan Perera states that the funds will go toward reducing taxes if this Article 5A passes. Discussion ensues regarding other options that may have a longer term advantage. Richard Andrews calls the vote.

No votes = 15; Yes = 5

**B. In the event Article 5(a) does not pass, what shall the voters authorize the Select Board do with \$90,325.89 (Dollars) being held in a Money Market Account?**

Derek Dzhugashvili makes a motion proposing that the town pay off the Fire Department loan and apply the balance toward a discretionary fund; Cody Griffin seconds. Discussion. Derek withdraws his motion; Cody withdraws his second. Derek makes a motion to pay off the Fire Department loan with remainder going into Capital Building Maintenance fund; Dan Perera seconds. Jeannette Bair calls the vote.

Motion carries.

**Article 6:** Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to apply the remaining balance in the General Fund of FY 22-23 to reducing the next fiscal year's amount to be raised by taxes.

Geraldine Twitchell moves to approve; Nancy Shaw seconds. Motion carries.

**Article 7:** Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to transfer the balance from the Road Commissioner's Money Market Account to the Highway Capital Fund.

Geraldine Twitchell moves to approve; Dan Perera seconds. Motion carries.

**Article 8:** Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to transfer the balance from the Fire Department budget into the Fire Department Equipment Fund.

Richard Andrews moves to approve; Dan Perera seconds. Janet Jesso calls the vote. Motion carries.

**Article 9:** Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to collect current taxes pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791, and if so, to set the payment dates. The dates being of four equal installments dated August 15, 2023; November 15, 2023; February 15, 2024; and May 15, 2024.

Geraldine Twitchell moves to approve; Monica Collins seconds. Motion carries.

**Article 10:** Shall the Town of Hancock appropriate the sum of \$415,160.00 to pay the current expenses for the general and highway funds for the ensuing twelve months, with 2023 – 2024 taxes becoming delinquent after May 15th, 2024, and with the County and State taxes to be paid from the general fund.

Dan Perera makes a motion to amend the amount to include appropriations voted above. New amount totals \$421,949.54. Monica Collins seconds. Voters ask how paying off the FD loan will affect this number. Jim Leno explains that money will be paid out this fiscal year.

Jeannette Bair makes a motion to amend the amount to \$406,949.54 to account for \$15,000 of the FD loan payoff; Jim Denis seconds. Discussion. Motion carries.

**[Article 10 amended to: Shall the Town of Hancock appropriate the sum of \$406,949.54 to pay the current expenses for the general and highway funds for the ensuing twelve months, with 2023 – 2024 taxes becoming delinquent after May 15th, 2024, and with the County and State taxes to be paid from the general fund.]**



**Article 11: To transact any non-binding business.**

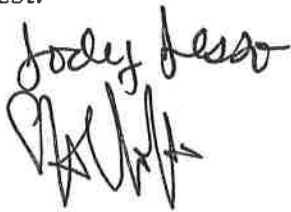
Rep. Kirk White requests time to introduce himself as our new representative and provide an update on upcoming legislative business as well as to field comments from voters.

Dan Perera informs the voters that the select board has given approval for cannabis sales in town, but there will need to be a town vote and then state approval.

Stacey Peters reminds voters about the annual school vote on May 9.

**Meeting adjourns at 11:46 a.m.**

Attest:

Two handwritten signatures are present. The top signature is 'Jody Lasso' in cursive. Below it is another signature, possibly 'Kirk White', also in cursive.

# Hancock Special Town Meeting Nov. 7, 2023

## Meeting Minutes

The legal voters of the Town of Hancock were warned and notified to meet in the Hancock Town Office, 1027 VT RT100 in said Town on Tuesday, NOVEMBER 7, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business by Australian ballot:

### Article 1:

"Shall the town of Hancock authorize the operation of cannabis retailers and retail portions of integrated licensee establishments that are licensed by the State of Vermont pursuant to 7 V.S.A. §863, such sales also being subject to any municipal ordinances or regulations that the Town may lawfully adopt?"

YES 16

NO 23

Total Votes 39

The article did not pass!



Respectfully submitted,



Jody Jesso, Town Clerk

HANCOCK TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
THIS 8 DAY OF November AD 23  
AT 9 O'CLOCK AM  
RECORDED IN Town RECORDS  
IN VOLUME 9 PAGE 189  
ATTEST Marjorie Bass TOWN CLERK  
ass.

## Note Paper/Ballot Paper